

# St. John's Episcopal Church 2021 Vestry Candidates

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## Rachel Andrews

I started attending the Episcopal Church in San Francisco by singing in the choir of All Saints' Parish in the Haight Ashbury in 1990, and I was officially confirmed in 2006 at St. Luke's in Granville, OH. I first came to St. John's in 2006, drawn by the inclusivity that was clearly apparent all around me in the pews. I took a break from church from 2010-2016, after death of my father. Coming back was deeply important to my healing from this loss. Since returning to St. John's I have joined the Eucharistic Lay Minister Ministry. I was on the search committee for the new music director this past year. I co-taught a bread baking class with Tim Spannaus for the Lenten Series in 2019, and taught Vacation Bible School how to make communion bread that summer. Mostly recently I have become a lector for Zoom services, and I have been participating in the Sacred Ground series and joined the Social Justice Group.

I live in Royal Oak with Kathy, my partner of 27 years, and our three cats. I have a doctorate in music from U. of M., and currently teach voice and piano privately. I am on the board of the Greater Royal Oak Democratic Club, and I am the founding director of the (one of a kind) choir of the club. I am also an avid bread baker, a budding yogi, and novice gardener.

My singing world has been deeply disrupted by COVID-19. I am looking forward to the time when we can gather together and make a joyful noise, both in and outside of church. Music, theater, and art are of utmost importance to me, and I will always be a champion for them in the life of St. John's. In addition, I have been deeply affected by the racial divides which have been exposed this country in recent years, and I feel that, with my unique life experiences, I have a responsibility to work, in all parts of my life, for equality.

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## Sharon Martin

My formative years, from nursery days through high school, were spent at St. John's along with my parents, Chuck and Joyce Simmons and three siblings. Church was an essential part of my family's life, including the years my mother spent as church secretary to Bob Eidson. I have many good memories from those years, but the best times are when I returned to St. John's with my mom around 2016 for what would be her last years. We were welcomed back to a church that is much more accepting of all people than the one I grew up in. It's a continuation of that spirit of "all means all" that encourages me to help St. John's be the best church family for all of its members in pursuit of faith, welcoming, and community outreach.

I spent almost 40 years as the Newspapers in Education manager for the Detroit Free Press and then Detroit Newspapers with the mission of creating an informed citizenry through fact-based understanding of the news that drives our society. I recently retired from a part-time position I held for more than six years at Citizens Research Council of Michigan, a nonpartisan nonprofit organization dedicated to providing the research needed to help legislators and citizens alike to make informed decisions that lead to better government.

On a more personal note, I'm currently single (but dating a lovely man I was introduced to by Kevin McLogan and Marie Donigan!) and live in Clawson. I have a son who is attending university in Idaho and a daughter, son-in-law, grandson, and granddaughter in Cincinnati. I have enjoyed volunteering at the New to You Shop and hope this community mission will return in safer times. I also continue to serve on the Capital Campaign Reach Committee and joined the 2020 Stewardship Team. And I've been privileged to meet and learn with a new group of people as we explore the 10-part Sacred Ground series on race and faith. My St. John's family has been there for me during good times and the sadness of loss. I would be honored to serve on the vestry.



### **Kevin McLogan**

I was born in Royal Oak and have lived here all of my life. I have been a member at St. John's since 2002, and I married Marie Donigan here on the last Sunday of 2003.

At St John's, I am involved in several ministries, including Verger, Eucharistic Minister, Eucharistic Visitor, Acolyte, Reader, Healing Ministry, Lay Preacher but most importantly, Youth Leader, where I have worked closely in the Christian formation of the youth of this parish for over ten years.

I was a Trustee on the Royal Oak School Board from 1997 to 2009 and served on several education-related boards and associations for many years. Now, my focus is on training youth and adults.

My work with The Whitaker Institute, which is the educational arm of the Diocese of Michigan, includes teaching Exploring your Spiritual Journey and Safe Church. I served on the Whitaker Advisory Board from 2017-2019.

I have a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and a master's degree in Management from Walsh College.

I have two adult sons, Ian is married and lives in Seattle, and Ross lives in Hamtramck.

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### **Tim Morgan**

A lifelong Episcopalian, I have been attending St. John's with my wife LeeAnn for almost 40 years. Our three children grew up here and occasionally attend with their children.

My participation has included parking lot attendant, helping with Church School and Youth Groups, Vestry, and Maintenance. All of these experiences have been a blessing as being a part of the St. John's community.

My working career was in the mechanical field including automotive fabrication, along with automotive and building maintenance and repair.

Most an 8 o'clock service family now, I enjoy racing sports cars and mountain bikes on weekends.

I am honored to offer my experience and "nut and bolt" knowledge as a candidate for Vestry.

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### **Jelane Richardson Oginsky**

I'm a newlywed to an incredible human named John. I'm a passionate mother of two strong and inspiring girls, ages 10 and 12. And I'm now full time mommying two more beautiful and courageous girls, ages 12 and 14.

We've just moved to Bloomfield Hills Michigan and working on settling in. I was a Detroitter for over 10 years and recently moved from Harper Woods. Social justice and equality are very important values in my life and I'm often searching for new ways to give voice to the voiceless.

I love Jesus in a very modern manner. My praying often takes the form of art making which I've dedicated over half of my life working with children and teens as an art educator.

In the last 10 years of being a part of our St. John's family I've painted murals for our church, made art installations for Lent/Easter, facilitated the art in Vacation Bible School, taught art in the library on Wednesday nights, taught Sunday school, served meals when we hosted the South Oakland Shelter, and served on a committee to establish our welcoming and affirming status among parishes.

I'm currently in the Sacred Ground class and since it's January 2021 who knows what church opportunities lay ahead.

Our church has served as an arc for me and my family and I love you all, even those of you I haven't been able to know yet.



### **Nicole Stewart**

Andy, Eliza, and I moved back to Huntington Woods six years ago. We wanted a church that was welcoming to all and focused on social justice, deep spiritual reflection, and a strong youth program. We found all of that and more at St. John's! The support of this community was particularly evident when Andy was laid off in 2016. We have met many wonderful people and formed strong friendships here. At St. John's, I have been a co-chair to DRIVE (now called Faith in Justice), a Sunday School teacher, a Lector, a volunteer for Open Hands, and a participant in Bible Study. It is important to me that we continue to embrace the ideals and actions of social justice, expand volunteerism, and commit ourselves to the financial task of retaining our newer employees, including Beth Bingham (Associate Rector) and Holly McNeal (Director of Children & Youth Formation), who bring so much to our

community.

Professionally, I have been a speech-language pathologist for nearly 15 years. I opened my own practice, Stewart SLP, in 2015 and manage all business, clinical, and employee details. I am passionate about improving the lives of children with communication disorders and their families. I advocate for early identification and intervention of childhood communication disorders through education programs and by offering free screenings to children in the community. When the pandemic began, I pivoted to facilitate Eliza's remote education along with virtual client services, which required creativity, organization, and cooperation. Despite this challenging time, my business, clients, and daughter are all thriving.

In my free time, I love reading for my book clubs, serving as the co-leader for Eliza's Girl Scout Troop and the PTA Room Parent, and dedicating time to social-justice efforts. In the pandemic, I have treasured the gift of more family time with Andy and Eliza. We enjoy walks, games, movies, cuddles, and deep conversations while we are all cozy at home.



### **Melissa Thompson**

St John's Episcopal Church has been a spiritual home to our family since 2017. After relocating from Florida, we were in search of a church home and we found St. John's through our children, Amina, and Bear's friendships with the Miliotto family. Growing up in the Bahamas, I have been a member and involved in the Anglican church since childhood, serving as a youth leader, alter server as well as being educated in an Anglican High School. Throughout my life, my faith has been the bedrock of my being.

I hold a BS in Psychology and an MS in Adult Education and Human Resource Development. Professionally, and I am the Director of the Department of Pediatrics at Wayne State University Medical School and the Clinical Administrator for Wayne Pediatrics, Inc. At St. John's I have served as a member of the Civil Rights Pilgrimage Committee and volunteered with my children at the Open Hands Garden and Pantry. My leadership style is driven by a need to serve, thus I would describe myself as a servant leader. I am a big picture thinker with the ability to listen to the needs of others, demonstrate compassion, and support the mission of the organization. Unafraid to voice my concerns, I usually offer different perspectives, especially of those not widely represented in the group.

I am excited to have this opportunity to run for a seat on the Vestry. My motivation to serve, helping to envision what is possible and needed, and advocating for those whose needs are sometimes left out or overlooked are all virtues I would bring to the vestry. Specifically, I would like to focus on the growth of the emerging and middle adulthood ministry. If elected I will strive to make prayerful decisions and demonstrate God's love through purposeful action.