

Nominees for Open Board Positions

Henry Burt, Diocese of Virginia



Henry Burt started his career at the Diocese as the first Bishop's Clerk after graduating from the University of the South in 1987 with a double major in philosophy and religion. He then went on to serve as Assistant to the Bishop and diocesan deployment officer. He left the diocesan staff in 1999 to attend law school at the College of William and Mary's Marshall Wythe School of Law. He practiced law as an intellectual property and business litigator at Troutman Sanders LLP. He then joined CarMax's legal department as corporate counsel and government affairs manager, handling regulatory, consumer litigation and intellectual property matters while also serving as CarMax's lobbyist.

Henry was appointed Secretary of the Diocese in 2008 and serves also as chief of staff. In addition to that role, Henry serves as editor of the Virginia Episcopalian and as spokesman of the Diocese. Other duties include serving as secretary to Annual Council, secretary of the Shrine Mont Board, and coordinator of the Executive Board and the General Convention delegation. A long-time member of the Diocese of Virginia, Henry grew up as a member of the Falls Church and has long been active at Shrine Mont. Henry and his wife, Mitzi van der Veer, have two sons, Bachelor and Radcliffe. Henry is a musician, playing bass in a rock band called Hoss.

Mary Goetz, Episcopal Public Policy Network



Mary Getz began her career as an Episcopal Communicator at age 8 when she was paid a nickel an hour to help her father with the Sunday pew bulletins.

Taking a hiatus from her pew bulletin duties, Getz studied chemistry and political science at the University of the South, Sewanee. Not surprisingly she has been known to say, "If it isn't challenging, it probably won't be as much fun."

After graduating from college, Getz worked for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee assisting priority campaigns across the country with fundraising, organizing and communications.

Getz was excited to be able to apply her communications and organizing experience to the church when she started work for the Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations. During her tenure in the office, the Episcopal Public Policy Network has grown more than 150% and is now a strong voice for peace and justice advocacy on Capitol Hill. She has moved the network from a postcard driven organization to a thriving online network that utilizes new media to do advocacy in real time.

Kat Lehman, Diocese of Bethlehem



Kat Lehman received her B.A. in art from Davidson College in 1987 and got her first "real job" as a weekend reporter and photographer for *Lake Norman Magazine* in the summer of that same year. In 1988, Kat was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army Signal Corps which resulted in a 20 year career in communications for the National Guard. She is one of only a handful of U.S. Army officers that has worked at all levels of communications from front line combat units to multi-national coalition communications.

Kat began her work for the Episcopal Church as a parish administrator for St. George's Episcopal Church in Hellertown, Pennsylvania during the summer of 2001. In 2004, she was recruited to work for the diocese as well on a part-time basis as the Information Technology Coordinator. Her work with the diocese morphed into a full-time position in 2007. Kat earned her M.B.A. in Information Systems from City University in 2008.

As part of her duties, Kat manages all the communication and computer systems, the web site, Facebook group and Twitter account. She also contributes to the newSpin blog, and co-edits *Diocesan Life* with Bill Lewellis who semi-retired this past year. In addition, Kat is the staff photographer for all diocesan events.

Kat is a member of the IEEE Computer Society and a life member of the Signal Corps Regimental Society. She also serves on the Information Technology Committee for St. Theresa's School where her daughter attends and does some consulting for parishes and churches with regard to communication needs.

Richelle Thompson, Diocese of Southern Ohio



Richelle Thompson planned on writing as a hobby and medicine as her full-time job -- that is, until she suffered through pre-med biology and chemistry in the same semester. With a move into writing and journalism, she soon discovered that it had some of the same perks as being a doctor: adrenaline rushes, tight deadlines, making a difference and dealing with crazy people. And, there was a big difference: Ah, the money.

She spent about a decade in secular journalism, covering Senate races in northern Indiana and race riots for the Cincinnati Enquirer. In 2002, she joined the staff of the Diocese of Southern Ohio as the director of communications.

She is currently filling an unexpired term on the board for Episcopal Communicators and was recently appointed by the Presiding Bishop to the board of Forward Movement Publications. She served for eight years on the Standing Commission for Communications.

Richelle believes communicators play a critical role in the life and vibrancy of the wider church. Members of Episcopal Communicators have the skill and passion to be important voices at the table. At the same time, those voices need to be reasoned and compassionate. All too often, members strike out at each other, on the listserv or in whispered cliques. In Richelle's opinion, the communicators group is at a critical juncture. She hopes it will be a place for support, for sharing of ideas and expertise, for being a resource to local congregations, dioceses and the wider church, and for telling the stories of ministry at all levels. She hopes to be a part of such a group.

Nominees for Board President

Nancy Davidge



Nancy Davidge is director of communications and marketing and adjunct faculty at Episcopal Divinity School. She is a member of the senior management team with responsibility for developing strategic marketing, communications, and outreach programs. Nancy teaches 'Religion & the Media: The Ministry of Communications in Uncertain Times,' with Ian Douglas, as well as workshops on strategic marketing and developing communications and marketing plans for evangelism.

She has served on the School's strategic planning, communications and marketing, and development committees, as well as the search committee for EDS' new president and dean. Nancy is the convener of the School's informal External Relations team comprised of the School's admissions, communications, continuing education, and development staff. She also serves on the board of Episcopal Communicators and is chair of their 2010 conference committee. As part of the Church Center's media team at this summer's General Convention of The Episcopal Church, Nancy served as liaison between the communications office and offsite and onsite credentialed media.

Nancy joined EDS in 2002. Previously, Nancy held senior marketing communications positions for national companies specializing in health care, real estate and development, and investment, managing multimillion dollar budgets. She also served as principal in an independent marketing and communications company specializing in developing solutions in the areas of education, health care, printing and publications, real estate, and technology.

Melodie Woerman



Everything I know about my job I've learned from Episcopal Communicators. I've gained skills from the workshops at our conferences. I've learned tricks and tips from the examples of talented colleagues. And from our founders I've gained a new appreciation for the value of our group, working together, to support the communications ministry we share.

I spent 10 years as the part-time, contract newspaper editor for the Diocese of Kansas, and for the past six years I've been diocesan director of communications, first part-time and now full-time. I'm in charge of everything from news releases to the website, from social media to marketing, from publications to PR. They also made me the information technology manager, just to keep me on my toes.

I've been fortunate to serve Episcopal Communicators during this time, including six years as treasurer and three years on the board. I helped organize the Communicators mission trip to New Orleans in 2007, and most recently I've been membership chair. It would be an incredible honor to serve with all of you as president.

This is a time of great change in our profession, and by working together we'll be better able to manage the transitions so many of us face. We're part of a nearly 40-year legacy as Communicators, as those who served before us strove to make communications a key element of the ministry of the Episcopal Church. Together we carry on that effort, and we can help the church tell its story in new and exciting ways.