REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE: 2021 VESTRY ELECTION

CHRIST CHURCH GROSSE POINTE
Agenda for the Annual Meeting, Jan. 31, 2021

~ To elect five persons to serve on the Vestry of Christ Church for a term of three years.

~ To receive reports on the finances, mission, and ministry of Christ Church.

~ To act upon other matters appropriate to and concerning the life of the parish.

Voting Requirements - Who is eligible to vote?
Eligibility to vote at a Parish meeting, shall be restricted to those Baptized persons of sixteen years of age, or over, who, for six months prior to such meeting, have been regular worshippers at Christ Church Grosse Pointe.

Voting Instructions
Voting for membership of the Vestry shall be by written ballots cast by the eligible voters present at the annual meeting. No ballot shall be counted unless it shall have been voted for the same number of nominees as there are vacancies to be filled on the Vestry.

As required by the Canons of the Diocese of Michigan and the laws of the State of Michigan, no nominee shall be declared elected to the Vestry unless he or she shall have received at least a majority of all the valid votes cast.

If more nominees than necessary to fill the vacancies shall have received a majority of the valid votes cast, the nominees receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. If fewer nominees than necessary to fill the vacancies shall have received a majority of the valid votes cast, then only those candidates receiving a majority of votes shall be declared elected. Additional ballots shall be taken until all of such vacancies shall have been filled.

If additional ballots are required, a number of nominees equal to twice the number of remaining vacancies to be filled shall be eligible for election. These nominees shall be those individuals not elected on the preceding ballot receiving the highest numbers of votes on that ballot. This process shall continue until all vacancies are filled. If after any ballot a vacancy remains to be filled and a tie occurs, balloting shall continue until the tie is broken.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held for the election of Vestry Members, consideration of a temporary amendment to the bylaws, the presentation of the Parish Annual Report, financial statements, and additional church business.
Dear Parish Family,

Service on the Vestry is a personal, prayerfully-considered call. Each year, the Nominating Committee undertakes the careful consideration of those parishioners who may be called to serve on the Vestry. Fr. Drew, with the consent of the Vestry, appointed a nominating committee to choose a slate of those members whom it believes are called to serve on the Vestry during this extraordinary time of pandemic and lead us forward when resolved. The Nominating Committee of 2021: Thom Nealssohn, Amie Sweeney, Bev Curtiss Walsh, Lori Mouton Boeckler, Eric Ash, Betsy Creedon, and Paula Labadie with Fr. Drew as ex officio, accepted that task.

The nominating committee is guided by the charge from the Vestry to consider candidates who meet the Canonical expectations of members in good standing (that is, adult “communicants of this Church who for the previous year have been faithful in corporate worship, unless of good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the kingdom of God”).

The Vestry has identified the following marks of members in good standing, which has been used by the nominating committee for the last several years:

- **Faithful in Worship**: A member in good standing regularly and consistently participates in weekly corporate worship at CCGP.
- **Faithful in Working**: A member in good standing is actively engaged in at least one (1) ministry at Christ Church; is reliable, responsible, and accountable.
- **Faithful in Praying**: A member in good standing leads a life that reflects the life of prayer that is marked by openness, listening, kindness, respect and charity toward their neighbor.
- **Faithful in Giving**: A member in good standing has made a prayerful, sacrificial, annual, and unrestricted financial commitment (commonly called a “pledge”) that reflects our model of spiritually-based giving and the tithe to support the ministry of Christ at CCGP.

There are instances when we are “for good cause prevented” from fulfilling one or more of the common expectations of Christian discipleship. This year being a prime example as we are now heading into early one ear of pandemic worship and thus required other considerations that define Faithful in worship and Service with our doors being closed and opportunities shifted. Our expectation is that we, as members, continue to practice discipleship of service and our Love of one another which are foundational characteristics for Vestry Service and Christian living.

For the last several years, our work has been guided by the words of the Apostle Paul, who describes the Fruit of the Spirit in the book of Galatians — love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control — as attributes of a Christian disciple. The Vestry work has definitely and intentionally been evolving to this normative behavior reflective primarily of discipleship and growth. It has been so rewarding to work within that framework of Christian principles.

We consider how each potential candidate bears evidence of this Fruit in their life as our method of discernment. Each then is called to ministry based on that Vestry model and is able to uphold our Community Norms, offer their skills and experience to support the parish, the staff, and the church leadership. As in prior years, the Nominating Committee has considered candidates from among the entire qualified membership of Christ Church based on the above characteristics and also receiving candidate recommendations from the parish. All such nominations are first reviewed for canonical eligibility and candidate acceptance. This year there have been no recommendations by petition received for your discernment.

The committee identified those members whom it believes are called to the Vestry and they were presented to Fr. Drew. Five candidates accepted our nomination as a Candidate for the Vestry slate. We are excited that this slate brings gifts of leadership, community awareness and involvement, support and desire to grow our programs for children, youth and families and numerous other gifts that will help us through the pandemic and towards parish growth once we are back together.

We all are grateful to each of these outstanding individuals to stand for election in these unusual times, buoyed by God’s grace. Their biographical information is presented below for you to get to know each better. Please continue to support this candidate slate with your prayers for guidance and wisdom.

We encourage you all to join us at the Virtual Annual Meeting, Sunday January 31, 2021. Details to follow.

Walk in Love,

Paula K. Labadie, Senior Warden
I grew up in Englewood, Colorado, and my family attended Christ Episcopal Church in Denver. I attended the University of Kansas, graduated with a Journalism degree, and I joined Ford Motor Company upon graduation where I’ve been employed for almost 23 years in the Marketing, Sales, and Service & Global Customer Experience organizations. I currently serve as the North America Customer Experience Director, and I am active as a mentor and in diversity and inclusion initiatives. Our family has been fortunate to relocate multiple times, living in Detroit (three times), Kansas City, and Detroit. We relocated to Grosse Pointe from Dallas in 2017.

My husband, Dave, and I have been married for fifteen years, and we have two children, Libby (13) and Leigh (10). In addition, we have a golden retriever (Polly), two cats (Hermione & Fleur), and four hermit crabs. Our family enjoys cheering each other on in various sporting endeavors, including: rock climbing, basketball, softball, and sailing at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, as well as traveling to visit family in Denver, Kansas City / Topeka, and Chicago.

I am an avid reader, I love to cook, and I most value connecting with family and friends. Prior to moving to Grosse Pointe, I was active as a room parent in both of my children’s schools, volunteered with the Jr. Leagues of Kansas City, Birmingham, and Dallas, and I am a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority. Post global pandemic, I look forward to enjoying more international travel. Most recently in October 2019, I traveled with my Dad to Vietnam to retrace his Vietnam War journey, which was a life changing experience.

I love being a member of Christ Church Grosse Pointe. It has provided our family a church home, which we value as newer members of the Grosse Pointe community. Prior to the pandemic, we attended in-person worship, and we’re now enjoying virtual worship. This Fall, I found the Sunday morning prayer walks with other women of Christ Church to be life giving. I serve as a Eucharistic Minister, and I co-led the 2019 Christmas Gift Project. I strive to be faithful in praying and in giving of my time and of myself, co-guiding our family members in our faith journeys and relationships with God and our church community.

Prior to our move to Grosse Pointe, Dave and I were active members of SunCreek United Methodist Church, serving as Sunday School teachers in both of our children’s classrooms and participating in church Bible studies and leading neighborhood Bible studies. Dave grew up in the United Methodist Church, and as a lifelong Episcopalian, it broadened my perspective to be part of another Protestant denomination.

Professionally, my team uses Human Centered Design, to create and to implement enhanced customer experiences. This method allows us to set aside our own biases to ensure that multiple voices and perspectives are heard and incorporated in journey design. I welcome the opportunity to share this design process with others and apply it at Christ Church in any way that would better our community.

I also lead and participate in multiple Diversity & Inclusion, culture building, and personnel development initiatives at Ford Motor Company. This has helped me grow as an inclusive leader and as a listener, which I assert are critical competencies for any team member and team leader. I am addicted to personal growth, and I am always happy to visit about books, podcasts, studies, and experiences that shape me.

I am committed to give my time and my participation in stewardship to Christ Church Grosse Pointe. Pre-pandemic, I served as a Eucharistic Minister, I co-led the 2019 Christmas Gift initiative, and I am honored to be considered to serve on the Vestry.

I am honored to be considered to serve on the Christ Church Grosse Pointe Vestry. My family, both immediate and extended, has a legacy of serving on Vestries in their Episcopal Church communities, and they have prayerfully encouraged me to step up to this opportunity. While I hoped to serve this way in the future, I was humbled when recently asked and gave it much prayerful consideration. I am reminded that we are not qualified to lead, but that instead God qualifies us and equips us to lead. I would be delighted to apply my leadership skills, competencies, and behaviors to Christ Church Grosse Pointe, helping to design experiences that grow our church community with a lens to diversity, caring, and inclusion for both families and for individuals.
My names is Joel Anyim. I was born in Nigeria. My parents had eight children. I am fourth on the list. My wife and I have three kids who are grown and doing well in their chosen careers. I also have two wonderful grand children. Unfortunately we lost our wife and mother in 2012.

I have been worshipping at Christ Church for the last five years and I have enjoyed every minute of it.

I have worked in academic, special, and public libraries. My special affection is with the public library because it allows me to impact lives of adults and young adults positively. Working with Pro Literacy Detroit and St. Vincent De Paul Society we have guided many Detroit youth to get their GED and to go on to area Community Colleges. With a grant from the Compuware Corporation, I organized a monthly hour-long music program names the Noon Time Concert. It attracted performers from as far away as California as well many local greats and lasted six years.

I arranged to take 100 to 150 Southwest Detroit Kids to Tiger Stadium to watch a live game - a collaboration with Detroit Tigers Foundation that has gone on seven years. With Focus Hope, we distributed boxes of food to 100 senior citizens in Southwest Detroit. Unfortunately, this food program and last year’s trip to Tiger Stadium were disrupted by the pandemic. I mention these projects to emphasize the need for, and advantage of, seeking collaborators as a means to extend one’s reach.

My ardent prayer and hope is to be in good standing with God. I try to do so through faithfulness to my baptismal vow: to obey Christ's injunction “to love God with our whole heart and my neighbor as myself.” I find it a blessing and joy to worship at Christ Church due to the rich liturgy, incredible music, and depth and diversity of adult and youth formation programs. I have re-learned to pray and I so at least twice a day. I have evidence that God answers prayers. My faith is stronger today than it was five years ago.

I believe that prayer, faith, and worship of God are complemented by discipleship in the church. I currently serve on the Altar Guild and I commit as much time and money as I am able to the work of the church.

In the community, I respect my colleagues at work and in turn, I enjoy their respect. In the small enclave where I live, my neighbors are Indian, Pakistani, Chinese, and black and white Americans. We all get along so well. I see what is possible when we treat everyone as a friend. As my Chinese neighbor put it, “we are all waves from the same sea.”

I believe the mission statement of Christ Church, and I will do all I can to live it and promote it. Qualities of humility, respect, and concern for others comes naturally to me. In the Vestry, I will listen and learn; I will speak, when I must; I will respect the views of other members and always seek to arrive at a consensus through dialog and prayer. I promise to get more involved in our work at Crossroads.
Sarah Bowe

I have been married to my husband, Mike, for 23 years and we have two children, Zach (age 20) and Emma (age 18). We have attended Christ Church since 1995. We were married here, both children were baptized here and sang in the choir. I have previously served on the vestry for one term.

I am a school psychologist in a local school district and also have a degree in marriage and family therapy.

I have many interests/hobbies but the most important ones involve spending time with family and friends. In the midst of this pandemic, we have been blessed to have months of quality time with our college kids (although they may not see it as much of a blessing as we do!). I also love to travel, golf, read, scrapbook, and entertain family and friends.

Mike and I worship regularly (when not in a pandemic) and engage in ministries, such as vestry, choir, funeral, and outreach. We prayerfully and happily pledge and strive to move toward a tithe each year.

As God encourages us to love one another, I try to live that in my daily life. I strive to be respectful and inclusive to everyone I encounter, and care for those that need support or love.

We have pledged, both financially and with our time, for more than 20 years at Christ Church.

Not only do I feel called to serve, but when I previously served on the vestry, my faith and commitment to Christ increased significantly. My spiritual journey was strengthened during that time and I hope to improve my focus again on Christ. Additionally, I enjoyed the fellowship with other vestry members and look forward to reconnecting and creating new relationship within our community.
Christ Church is my family. My family became members of Christ Church in 1931 when the bishop at the cathedral told my maternal grandmother that she needed to start attending “that new Christ Church in Grosse Pointe Farms.” I was born in Hanover NH, to John (Jack) and Elizabeth Williams, when my father was completing his residency at Dartmouth. They drove me to Grosse Pointe in December 1955 through a blizzard to be baptized at Christ Church. We moved back to Grosse Pointe in 1958 and I only left to attend University of Michigan. Christ Church was an integral part of my growing up. I attended church with my grandparents, parents and sisters. I attended Sunday school, confirmation classes (every Tuesday for two years) and sang in the girls choir as a high schooler. My mother was always involved at the church during very controversial times. Discussions at our dinner table included the new prayer book, new hymnal, women as layreaders, vestry members, and women priests. My mother set the bar high for my sisters and I to become involved. I graduated from Grosse Pointe North and attended University of Michigan where I received a BA in American literature, with lots of business classes. I worked for 10 years for a small savings and loan in branch management and then as a technical writer.

Dave and I were married at Christ Church. We have two children. Our son Ken is an architect in Chicago. Our daughter Betsy, lives with her partner Phil and dog Miles, in NYC. We raised our children in the Christ Church community. They both attended Sunday School and participated in middle school youth group. Ken was part of the choir throughout middle school and then became an active acolyte. During that time, I was involved in many youth centered ministries. When my children started school I went back to university and received my Masters in Teaching at Wayne State. In the fall of 2001, I began teaching first grade starting a 19-year career, mostly spent at Poupard School. During my tenure at Poupard, I developed a passion for advocating for kids at risk. I retired from the GP schools in June 2020 as Poupard was closed. My retirement “plan” is unfolding weekly - a path a little different than I originally envisioned in light of the virus. The one aspect of my retirement plan that has come to fruition is increased engagement at Christ Church. For that I am truly thankful.

In my Christ Church journey I have been a communicant in good standing to varying degrees, as different stages in my life have allowed. Dave and I regularly attend worship usually at the 9:00. During Covid, we attended the Saturday evening Eucharist in the fall. I virtually attend the Sunday service, at 9:00 and have been an active participant in the Sacred Conversation series. I have been a regular participant in the morning prayer zoom service, which has helped me develop a daily prayer habit. I have served on numerous ministries throughout the years including, Sunday School teacher, Choir mother, Antique show committee, crossroads volunteer, usher, Vestry in the 1990s and the Altar Guild. Recently I have volunteered as a traffic director at our COVID testing site and loved making sandwiches in the Undercroft for Crossroads. I have been a pledging member at Christ Church most of my life, striving towards a tithe, with a couple of bumps during financial hard times.

My life has been the fullest when I have been actively engaged with the community at Christ Church. I want to share that with others. I feel my experiences teaching at Poupard school, a community much different than the one I grew up in, pushed and allowed me to grow, respect, work, and collaborate with persons of many different cultural backgrounds. I continue to learn, to be thoughtful and respectful of other’s point of view, and actively listen to hear their concerns. At this point in my life, I have more time to devote to the demands of a more active leadership role in the church. I am hoping that I can share my life experiences to help lead our parish to expand its ministry to meet today’s needs.

Peace and Joy are experienced when I am generous. It allows me to move past concern for myself and focus on love for others. Christ Church’s focus on Journey to Generosity provides us an opportunity to be joyfully generous in what ever means is possible: time, talent and treasure. An annual evaluation with a goal to tithe and prayerful, planned estimate of commitment sets a goal for me to try to attain for support of the mission of Christ Church. It provides me a means to give thanks for the blessings God has bestowed on me. A commitment of time and talent provides an opportunity to share God’s love.
Ned Johnson

My wife Liz and I joined Christ Church in 2001. As we had plans of starting a family, we felt it important to have a church home. Since then, all three of our daughters, Laine (18), Ashlyn (17) and Sara (13), were baptized at Christ Church and have grown up there. Our family's bond to Christ Church has only been deepened by my wife's participation in the Guild of the Christ Child and Altar Guild ministries as well as the acolyte service of my children.

I grew up in Grosse Pointe, attending St. Paul Catholic Church, but as we searched for a church home, my wife encouraged me to consider Christ Church as she had attended in her teen years when her family moved to Grosse Pointe. I am thankful to her for that encouragement as Christ Church felt like a welcoming place from my first visit.

I am Director of Project Management at GTB, which is an advertising agency focused on Ford business. I have been in the advertising business for almost 20 years. In my earlier career I worked in corporate communications and corporate libraries. I graduated from Wittenberg University where I earned a BA in English. I also minored in music, playing trumpet in various brass choirs and ensembles. Shortly after earning my BA I earned my master's degree in Information Science from Wayne State, intrigued by the shifting world of data, information and research in the early days of the internet.

In the summer - when borders are not closed because of a global pandemic - we spend as much time as possible at our family cottage in Rondeau Park, Ontario.

In normal times, weekly worship is a regular part of my week and a time I look forward to. The pandemic has obviously prevented us from living as we normally do. I look forward to the day when we can safely return to weekly worship because of the pause it forces us to take, allowing us the space and time to think about our faith, spirituality and the needs of others in our community and world.

I have demonstrated my faithfulness and willingness to work on behalf of the Christ Church community in the work I have done, and plan to continue doing, in Rebuilding Together and Gifts and Greens ministries. These have been key in me developing stronger ties to the Christ Church community.

My initial years at Christ Church were centered only on weekly corporate worship, but as I have been encouraged by others in the church to get involved in other ways, my bond and willingness to work hard for the church and various ministries has grown.

Over the past several years I have played an organizing role in the Gifts and Greens Christmas Tree sale and also acted as a “house captain” for the Rebuilding Together programs. These experiences have been rewarding and demonstrated to me how getting more deeply involved in church activities can help me grow as a person by helping others. In both of these ministries I proudly played a servant leader role - guiding others while at the same time in service to a greater cause.

I believe I model Christian stewardship through my family’s consistent annual giving and my demonstrated willingness to offer my time and talents to Christ Church through various ministries.

I am confident that an opportunity to serve on The Vestry will allow me to use my talents and energy to aid in the Christ Church mission to bring God and people together to know and live the good news of Jesus Christ. The organization and obligations that come with being a Vestry member will give me further focus, insight and opportunity to continue my spiritual growth and in turn help Christ Church thrive.