



2017 Convention Delegate Candidates

Parish Elections
October 29 & 30, 2016

Convention delegates are elected for one-year terms.

Requirements for Candidacy:

- 18 years of age or older
- Confirmed and communicant in good standing
- Faithful steward of record (financial and personal) for at least one year
- Regular attendance in public worship
- Demonstrated commitment, responsibility and experience in Transfiguration parish life
- Able to pass Diocesan criminal background check
- Agree to complete all Safe Church required online training by start of Vestry term

Candidates for Convention Delegate:

14 nominees, 7 open spots

- Gene Bledsoe
- Hal Bybee
- Jim Cates
- Bruce Culver
- Ron Damholt
- Chris Dick
- Sarita Florida
- Linda Horton
- Sam Jackson
- Alan Justice
- Jim Kirkman
- Brian Mazur
- Mason McCamey
- Elaine Sweet

Convention Delegate Candidate: Gene Bledsoe

Years at Transfiguration: 20 Years an Episcopalian: 20
Spouse/Partner name: Cassie Children and ages: None
Delegate for 13 years. Head of Delegate Delegation for several years.



Parish and Diocesan Activities

TRANSFIGURATION: Diocesan Convention delegate for 13 years. Served two terms on Vestry and was Junior Warden in 2014. Past chairman of Green Team, member of Fig Fixers, member of EMF, member Gay and Lesbian Ministry, member St. E's, member Foyer Groups, past member of parish budget & finance committee, and captain of an 11:15 usher team for 10 years. Past activities: co-host of St. Elizabeth's, JTA Youth Sunday school teacher, Stephen's Minister. Co-chairman of CC2000 committee that collected enough pledges to pay off Transfiguration's \$1.2 million debt in 2001.

OTHER CHURCHES: Youth ministries, choir groups and a Baptist preacher's son.

DIOCESAN, NATIONAL CHURCH: Diocesan delegate for 13 years, head of delegation for several years.

COMMUNITY AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES: NFL Players Association, and University of Texas "T" Association. Currently my wife, Cassie, and I sell residential real estate with Dave Perry-Miller Real Estate.

What gifts, talents, and experience would you bring to the job of delegate? I have proven executive management skills and experience. More importantly, I am a team player and a team builder. I care deeply for people and struggle constantly to treat everyone as Christ taught us. The combination of executive leadership, team building experience and the acceptance of the Holy Spirit's guidance is what I have to offer. Also, having experience as a convention delegate gives me an important historical perspective to the convention processes.

Explain your personal vision for the Diocese of Dallas and Transfiguration's role: First, I want to make sure Transfiguration continues as a vigorous, open and spiritual home for all who seek Christ. I want the inclusive, loving warmth of our parish to be felt by all who enter its doors making it a model for other parishes of the dioceses.
I want Transfiguration to take its rightful place as an important parish in the national church and as a leader of the Diocese of Dallas.
My extensive experience as a convention delegate and knowing many of the diocesan clergy, committee members and delegates, will help me better serve Transfiguration, our Rector, the entire dioceses and our new Bishop.

1. What led you to Transfiguration, and why have you stayed?

I grew up in the Baptist church as a preacher's son. I had never heard of liturgy and thought communion was something people did once a year whether they needed to or not. After college, I moved away from the Baptist church and truthfully, away from all churches.
About 20 years ago, due to a tragic event, I attended a funeral at St. Michaels and All Angels of the young son of my best friend in high school. The circumstances of the funeral were very sad and the involvement of the dozens of young people that were there to mourn their friend was even sadder. Yet the service was beautiful. I was pulled into the liturgy and became closer to God in that hour than I had been in the past 30 years. That service touched my soul and I didn't want to lose that feeling, so

Cassie and I decided to visit other Episcopal churches. The first one we went to after Saint Michaels was Transfiguration. We knew immediately that we had found our new spiritual home.

2. In addition to worship services, what do you do to form and inspire your faith?

If one's faith is analogous to the gas tank in one's car, then mine was overflowing as a youth and it ran on fumes for many years afterwards. Upon finding Transfiguration and the Episcopal church, I feel I have been called many times to use my meager talents to serve my church family. After prayerful consideration and conversations with my clergy and church staff, I have undertaken several tasks that have filled my faith tank to overflowing.

Under the direction of the parish nurse, I started a hospice ministry for our parish which resulted in the resurgence of Transfiguration's Stephens Ministers program. Cassie and I became very involved in Transfiguration's fledgling Gay and Lesbian Ministry and I served as co-convenor for 2 years. Three other new Transfiguration members and myself started a movement called CC2000 to pay off the \$1.2 million loan the church had from building Roper Hall. Within eight months, due to the efforts of dozens of volunteers and with God's help, we raised enough to pay off the loan.

I feel my faith calls me to do more than just attend weekly worship services. I pray regularly and read scripture, but it is the tasks to which the Holy Spirit calls me that most strengthen my faith, and fills my heart.

3. How do you seek God's guidance when you make decisions?

I talk to God daily. Most often I pray for Jesus to intercede into someone's life that needs His help. I also pray often for God's guidance and believe strongly that if one prays with an open mind and heart that the Holy Spirit will clearly direct one's actions to where God wants you to go. It has happened to me many, many times.

4. How has your involvement at Transfiguration nurtured your discipleship of Jesus Christ?

I was drawn to Transfiguration by its challenge to "seek and serve Christ in all persons." Living up to that charge has perhaps been the most challenging aspect of being a "living, breathing" Christian. I have disappointed myself many time by not being the Christian I wanted to be and I know I have disappointed Christ many, many more times.

So being a worthy Christian is a struggle for me. Sometimes I am better than other times, but I never seem to get it totally right. What my involvement with the activities and ministries of Transfiguration has allowed me to do is to focus on small things like after school care for latch key children, or being a friend to someone that is dying or being a Sunday school teacher for the Youth of the church. Perhaps, I pray, that by achieving several little things, God will cut me some slack for not being as worthy as He and I would like me to be.

Convention Delegate Candidate: Hal Bybee



Years at Transfiguration: 46

Years an Episcopalian: 48

Spouse/Partner name: widowed

Children and ages: Alice 43

Parish and Diocesan Activities

Transfiguration: Aging and Spirituality Discernment team, Pastoral Care committee, Vestry (twice), Energy and resource initiatives/Green team, Facilities team, ROSES, PES school board (twice), EMF board, Computer committee, Habitat, Summer choir, Liturgy and music commission, and EYC sponsor. Also Legacy Society and PES Loyalty Society recognition for financial giving.

Past churches: Active in youth group in high school.

Diocesan: Diocesan convention delegate 18 times and alternate twice.

Professional Life and Activities

Occupation: Electrical and systems engineer (retired) with 41 years at TI and Raytheon.

Community and professional activities: Computers for Neighborhood Service Council, Regional science fair judge, IEEE, Sigma Xi, and INCOSE.

Personal Vision for relationship of Transfiguration to the Diocese of Dallas.

What do you see as strengths and areas for improvement in this relationship? Are there areas of Diocesan life in which Transfiguration should be more involved?

After working with our new bishop for a year, we still need to find some common ground with him for acceptance of the liberal parishes of the diocese. We need to find a way for him to support us in continuing to serve Christ in all persons without forcing our concepts on conservative parishes.

We need to continue our accomplishment of diocesan support of the national church assessment and its phase in over multiple years. We have made a good start at having candidates for executive council, standing committee, and other diocesan positions and need to expand it.

What led you to Transfiguration, and why have you stayed? When my new wife and I bought a house in Richardson we looked at the near-by parishes. We liked the dignity of the service at Transfiguration. We stayed because of the openness and friendliness of the parish.

In addition to worship services, what do you do to form and inspire your faith? I attend adult formation, men's fellowship, and additional musical events and services. I also spend time volunteering to help others as a way to see myself as a conduit of God's love.

How do you seek God's guidance when you make decisions? Mostly in quiet reflection on what I have learned and experienced over many years but sometimes through clergy and prayer book advice such as in planning my wife's funeral.

How has your involvement at Transfiguration nurtured your discipleship of Jesus Christ? I feel that I am allowed to express and grow my discipleship of Christ by volunteering my time and effort to help others, not only in the parish but also to my friends, family, and neighbors.

Convention Delegate Candidate: Jim Cates

Years at Transfiguration: 39

Years an Episcopalian: 39

Spouse/Partner name: Melissa Cates

Children and ages: Peyton (7); Parker (3)

Parish and Diocesan Activities

Transfiguration: Emcee; Acolyting; Acolyte Warden; Usher; iParent Steering Committee.

Past churches: None

Professional Life and Activities

Occupation: Community Manager for Greystar Real Estate Partners

Community and professional activities: Adult soccer; Previously coached pre-school age soccer; Previously was co-event planner for a previous neighborhood with my wife.

Personal Vision for relationship of Transfiguration to the Diocese of Dallas.

What do you see as strengths and areas for improvement in this relationship? Are there areas of Diocesan life in which Transfiguration should be more involved?

I feel the strength in our church is the focus we put on our youth and younger children. At this time I am not sure of how our church could be more involved with the Diocese.



1. What led you to Transfiguration, and why have you stayed? I was born into this church. The reason I've stayed is the atmosphere and how open people are. It is the perfect environment to raise my children in.

2. In addition to worship services, what do you do to form and inspire your faith? Attempt to answer my kids' questions about God, Jesus, and Episcopal worship in general. It's like a 24/7 Sunday school class where I'm not just answering their questions but also reminding myself of my own beliefs.

3. How do you seek God's guidance when you make decisions?

I kind of meditate on whatever I'm thinking about. Sometimes you have to do this more than once on one subject.

4. How has your involvement at Transfiguration nurtured your discipleship of Jesus Christ? Having our kids in the church has certainly strengthened my discipleship. It felt even more important as my kids watched carry out Emcee duties, and as they now watch me as an Usher and Acolyte Warden. While I'm nurturing their understanding of what it means to serve in our church, I've strengthened my own discipleship.

5. What drew you to consider candidacy for delegate, and what excites you about this possibility? I look forward to the chance of representing our church and what it stands for.

Convention Delegate Candidate: Bruce Culver



Years at Transfiguration: 18
Spouse/Partner name: Elaine
currently at home.

Years an Episcopalian: 75
Children and ages: Four adults, none
currently at home.

Parish and Diocesan Activities

Transfiguration: Tape ministry, vestry, EMF Board, rector's support group, greeter. While on the vestry, I worked on a security assessment analysis to help design and contract for the new security system.

Past churches: Usher, chalice bearer, minister of ceremonies, crucifer, lector, rector's support group, vestry (twice), greeter.

National church: Member of the Episcopal Church for all my life (75 years)

Professional Life and Activities (currently retired)

Occupation: Medical illustrator, editor of a publishing company, defense logistics analyst, writer – currently writing magazine articles in a regular basis.

Community and professional activities: Association of Medical Illustrators, Society of Logistics Engineers, Military Vehicle Preservation Association, Experimental Aircraft Association, Researcher at US National Archives.

Personal Vision for relationship of Transfiguration to the Diocese of Dallas.

What do you see as strengths and areas for improvement in this relationship? Are there areas of Diocesan life in which Transfiguration should be more involved?

In view of the divergence between our parish and diocesan views on church beliefs and practices, it is most important to maintain a good relationship with the diocesan office and staff, while still maintaining our parish commitment to the principles contained in the baptismal covenant. In spite of previous differences with the diocese, we managed to have a cordial relationship with Bishop Stan-

ton and it would be helpful to maintain this with Bishop Sumner, while at the same time working to change the diocesan actions that restrict and hurt many of our members. This is a temporary situation and will eventually be resolved.

Thus we should endeavor to represent our views vigorously and respectfully in diocesan conventions and meetings. As one of the progressive parishes in the Diocese of Dallas, we have the responsibility to represent those who are not heard at the diocesan level – we are their voice in the diocese.

1. What led you to Transfiguration, and why have you stayed? I originally came to Transfiguration by joining the Mid-singles Group and became a member of the church later. I have stayed because we have many friends here and we enjoy the worship and excellent education programs, which are not to be found elsewhere.

2. In addition to worship services, what do you do to form and inspire your faith? In addition to the worship services, we attend the Sunday School classes and have done so for many years. The quality of the education available here is second to none. I have also served on the vestry and the tape ministry. We are also avid readers and have purchased many books from the Kay Andrews bookstore here at the church, an excellent resource.

3. How do you seek God's guidance when you make decisions? I seek guidance in my actions by extensive reading, attending classes and discussing scripture and church history with my wife Elaine who graduated from Perkins School of Theology. I have found that for me, the library is an excellent source of guidance and knowledge.

4. How has your involvement at Transfiguration nurtured your discipleship of Jesus Christ? I must go back to the deeper understanding of scripture and history that attending this church has given me. I am someone who wants to know the deeper meaning of what I study and believe.

5. What drew you to consider candidacy for delegate, and what excites you about this possibility? I have served on vestries three times and wanted to serve again in a different capacity. Being a diocesan convention delegate to me is the best way to represent the church in the diocese. We have an important voice in this diocese, and should use it to represent those who have been marginalized by the actions and policies of the diocesan leadership.

Convention Delegate Candidate: Ron Damholt

Years at Transfiguration: 7

Years an Episcopalian: 33

Spouse/Partner name: Sandy
(combined family)

Children and ages: 37, 37, 36, 33

Parish and Diocesan Activities

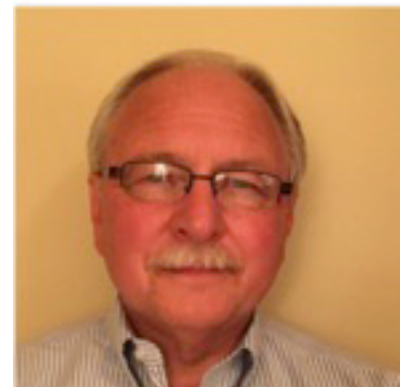
Transfiguration:

2015-present: convener of North Dallas Chapter of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship, meeting at the Fig

2013-present: organizer of Nurturing Faith through Fiction, a group which explores novels and films in an effort to deepen both our understanding of faith and our own faithfulness

2013, 2014: participant in two mission trips to Honduras

2011-2013: liaison between Transfiguration and Neighborhood Service Council, and volunteer at NSC



Past churches:

First Presbyterian Church, Deerfield, IL, 2003-2009: organized and led a parish peacemaking group for 5 years; taught various adult education classes

St. Luke's Episcopal, Evanston, IL, 1998-2003: co-leader of senior high youth group for 3 years; clerk of the vestry for 1 year

St. Augustine's Episcopal, Wilmette, IL, 1978-1998: served 2 terms as a member of the vestry; served as a lay eucharistic minister for 3 years; led or co-led the senior high youth group for 4 years; served as an acolyte for 2 years; taught various adult education classes

Christ Church, Episcopal, Hamilton, MA, 1977-1978: confirmed in the spring of 1978

Professional Life and Activities

Occupation: retired (Former occupations, in chronological order: pipe organ restorer, Realtor, middle school teacher at Good Shepherd Episcopal School)

Community and professional activities: none

What led you to Transfiguration, and why have you stayed?

Before we moved to Dallas from Chicago in 2009, Sandy studied the website of each Episcopal parish in Dallas, concluding that Transfiguration is where we would likely feel most at home. Among other things, we have found deep friendships, a profound sense of mission and many opportunities for service.

In addition to worship services, what do you do to inform and inspire your faith?

For me, encouragement in faithfulness comes largely from discussions with family and friends, and from reading and reflecting on good books, both fiction and nonfiction. I also listen occasionally to recordings by the Franciscan priest Richard Rohr, whom I find a profound guide in the spiritual life.

How do you seek God's guidance in making decisions? Decisions are notoriously difficult for me, so - in addition to prayer and reflection - I rely heavily on conversations with my family and with close friends.

How has your involvement at Transfiguration nurtured your discipleship in Jesus Christ? Nurturing here has taken many forms, including serving on two trips to Honduras alongside profoundly committed Christians, reflecting together with fellow parishioners on novels and films, hearing many challenging and thoughtful sermons, and engaging in discussions during Adult Education and elsewhere.

What drew you to diocesan involvement? My involvement has always been restricted to the parish level, but I've long wondered what it might look like to engage in the political life of a diocese, and what opportunities might present themselves there. In part it's simple curiosity, in part a desire to explore potential engagement with the wider church.

Personal Vision for relationship of Transfiguration to the Diocese of Dallas:

What do you see as strengths and areas for improvement in this relationship? Are there areas of Diocesan life in which Transfiguration should be more involved?

Despite our relatively unpopular stands on a number of issues, we seem to be a respected parish within the diocese. One of the great strengths of the Anglican tradition is its breadth, Christians of many differing opinions confessing one faith and worshipping one Lord using a common prayer book. I believe we at the Fig should continue to give witness to our own convictions of God's leading, entering into diocesan life when and where we believe we are called to that as well.

Convention Delegate Candidate: Chris Dick

Years at Transfiguration: 15 Years an Episcopalian: 13
Spouse/Partner name: Debra Boopsingh
Children and ages: Naomi (9) and Nathaniel (9)



Parish and Diocesan Activities

Transfiguration: iParent; Godly Play Teacher (2011-present); Austin Street (2016-present); Director of Children's Ministry Search Committee (2015 and 2016); Director of Youth Ministry Search Committee (2007); Sound Tech (2007-09); Youth Sponsor J2A (2005-07); Usher (2003-08); neXtgen

Professional Life and Activities

Occupation: Environmental Engineer
Community and professional activities: YMCA Youth Soccer Coach (2012-present); Air & Waste Management Association (2003-present)

Personal Vision for relationship of Transfiguration to the Diocese of Dallas.

What do you see as strengths and areas for improvement in this relationship? Are there areas of Diocesan life in which Transfiguration should be more involved?

The strength in our relationship with the Diocese of Dallas comes from Transfiguration's long history of consistently upholding our baptismal covenant to "seek and serve Christ in all persons" and in being an advocate for diocesan change that aligns with that covenant. At Transfiguration we respectfully offer an alternative to the vast majority of other Episcopal parishes within the diocese while maintaining communion with the diocese as a whole. As a minority voice within the diocese, there are areas for improvement in this relationship. It seems difficult sometimes to practically improve this relationship when it seems that we are either being unheard or worse, being heard and ignored. On our end, one way we can help facilitate improvement in this relationship is with continued dialogue with diocesan representatives, other parishes, and other interested groups.

1. What led you to Transfiguration, and why have you stayed? Deb and I were led from our respective Catholic and Methodist faiths to the Episcopal Church shortly after we got engaged. We tried many Episcopal parishes, but were always called back to Transfiguration. It felt different from the other parishes - more welcoming and warmer, more inviting and friendlier. As we continued to worship at Transfiguration, it became apparent that it was also a good theological fit for us. Why have we stayed? Simply put, the people of Transfiguration are like family, and it's the faith community where we want our family to be a part.

2. In addition to worship services, what do you do to form and inspire your faith? Teaching Godly Play and working with the children of Transfiguration helps form and inspire my faith. When not teaching Godly Play, I try to take full advantage of the wonderful Christian formation offerings that Transfiguration has to offer.

3. How do you seek God's guidance when you make decisions? Prayerful consideration as well as conversation with trusted friends and advisors.

4. How has your involvement at Transfiguration nurtured your discipleship of Jesus Christ? Transfiguration has challenged me to do more, to get more involved, and to move outside of my comfort zone in my discipleship of Christ. I am a work in progress, and I consider discipleship to be a lifelong journey with many opportunities to live out our Baptismal Covenant.

5. What drew you to consider candidacy for delegate, and what excites you about this possibility? I was asked by a friend if I would consider serving as a delegate. After prayerful consideration, I am excited to work with other Transfiguration delegates to represent the Fig at the Diocese convention.

Convention Delegate Candidate: Sarita Florida



Years at Transfiguration: 15

Years an Episcopalian: 15

Spouse/Partner name: N/A

Children and ages: N/A

Parish and Diocesan Activities

Transfiguration: Acolyte, Altar Guild, Eucharistic Minister, neXtgen officer, The Way table leader, Usher

Professional Life and Activities

Occupation: Accountant

Community and professional activities:

Personal Vision for relationship of Transfiguration to the Diocese of Dallas.

What do you see as strengths and areas for improvement in this relationship? Are there areas of Diocesan life in which Transfiguration

should be more involved?

I see Transfiguration's strength in our continued support of the Diocese and the national church even when we have been in the minority camp on certain issues. I would like to see an increase in Transfiguration's involvement in Diocesan committees and boards. We provide a significant amount of the Diocesan budget, we should not be ignored simply because we are more in line with the national church than the Diocese. I would like to see some of the progressive changes that The Episcopal Church has made in recent years realized here in Dallas.

1. What led you to Transfiguration, and why have you stayed? I was looking for a church and Transfiguration was close to my apartment. The liturgy and the preaching had me coming back, now I stay because Transfiguration is home.

2. In addition to worship services, what do you do to form and inspire your faith? Participating in The Way is an annual inspiration, I always learn something new. Our Lenten Wednesday series is also an inspiration.

3. How do you seek God's guidance when you make decisions? Through prayer and meditation, along with conversations with trusted friends and family for the really big decisions.

4. How has your involvement at Transfiguration nurtured your discipleship of Jesus Christ? As I was "unchurched" before I found Transfiguration, it has taught me to try to seek and serve Christ in all persons. I don't always succeed, but I try.

5. What drew you to consider Diocesan Convention Delegacy and excites you about this possibility? Being asked to consider being a delegate was a nice surprise and I look forward to the possibility of representing Transfiguration at the Diocesan convention. It is truly one more way that I can serve our church.

Convention Delegate Candidate: Linda Horton

Years at Transfiguration: 16

Spouse/Partner Name: Becky

Parish and Diocesan Activities

Transfiguration: Stephen Ministry, Stephen Leader, Eucharistic Visitor, Co-Convener for Gay and Lesbian Fellowship (GLF), knitting for Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Professional Life and Activities

Occupation: Licensed Professional Counselor

Community and professional activities: I just started a private practice in North Dallas. I also work as a contract counselor in East Dallas dealing with families involved with Child Protective Services. I also serve as a Court-Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for Dallas CASA.



Personal Vision for relationship of Transfiguration to the Diocese of Dallas.

What do you see as strengths and areas for improvement in this relationship? Are there areas of Diocesan life in which Transfiguration should be more involved?

I see the relationship with the Diocese as very strained. I would like to see the Diocese be more accepting and welcoming. As to strengths, we do a good job of getting ourselves before the bishop and the diocese despite difficulties in the relationship. I think that we need to continue to bring up areas of difference to the Bishop and recruit his support in areas such as marriage equality and serving Christ in all persons.

1. What led you to Transfiguration and why have you stayed? My partner and I were drawn to the Episcopal Church because it appeared to be more thoughtful than churches with which we had previously been involved. We felt welcomed, respected and, finally embraced as we were. We stayed for the same reasons.

2. In addition to worship services, what do you do to inform and inspire your faith? I attend adult formation classes, read inspirational writings and study my Bible to inform my faith. I also get inspiration from interacting with other members of the church and the people we serve.

3. How do you seek God's guidance when you make decisions? Through prayer, but also realizing that God works through his people to help all of us.

4. How has your involvement with Transfiguration nurtured your discipleship of Jesus Christ? Here, I feel closer to Christ than I ever was before. I know more about the Bible than I did in prior churches. At Transfiguration, I am led to serve Christ in all persons.

5. What drew you to consider candidacy for delegate, and what excites you about this possibility? I have served at Transfiguration in various capacities, but have never been involved at the Diocesan level. It is crucial for the Diocese to see Christ in all persons and to welcome and care for all of its members. I don't see this happening now. Acceptance and inclusion is critical at this time. I would like to help make this a reality in our Diocese.

Convention Delegate Candidate: Sam Jackson



Years at Transfiguration: 8 Years an Episcopalian: 15

Spouse/Partner name: Emily

Children and ages: Nathan (17) and Owen (9)

Parish and Diocesan Activities

Transfiguration: Choir (1 year), Parents Council (1 year), Nominating Committee (summer 2013)

Past churches: Epiphany—Vestry member (3 years)

Children's chapel (2 years)

Professional Life and Activities Occupation: Editor at HPE

Community and professional activities: Youth sports coach for Owen

Personal Vision for relationship of Transfiguration to the Diocese of Dallas.

What do you see as strengths and areas for improvement in this relationship? Are there areas of Diocesan life in which Transfiguration should be more involved?

I love the example we set as a church of service to the community and one of inclusivity. We could always do more for both. I hope that we continue to lead the way in each area.

1. What led you to Transfiguration, and why have you stayed? Initially, Emily sought a church environment where she could go with Owen, who at the time wasn't a year old, and loved the mom's group. I'd also served on the vestry of our former church and sat in on a meeting with the Dallas bishop (during the Bishop Robinson kerfuffle) where several members of the church were adamant that they didn't want gay clergymen or women (despite the fact the church had a gay man on staff). We attended Transfiguration shortly afterward and have been here ever since. I couldn't imagine worshipping anywhere else.

2. In addition to worship services, what do you do to form and inspire your faith? I love discovering God in new places and actively seek different ways to challenge my way of thinking about my surroundings and those of others. My experience with the Fig choir has introduced me to a whole new avenue of seeing God's presence in music. Through reading and everyday interactions, I love learning about how the spirit works in different aspects of our world.

3. How do you seek God's guidance when you make decisions? Despite not being raised in a church-going household, I've been a prayerful person since a young age. I put my faith in God that everything will work out as it is supposed to and trust that the spirit will eventually help me understand why things transpire the way they do.

4. How has your involvement at Transfiguration nurtured your discipleship of Jesus Christ? As rewarding as the whole Fig experience is for me personally, the greatest gift I've received has been watching my boys learn so much about what it means to be a responsible Christian. My oldest son, Nathan, has grown so much as a person because of his involvement in the youth program. Owen hasn't gotten to experience everything the church has to offer yet, but he's already taken perhaps the greatest lesson—we are all God's children and should be treated accordingly.

5. What drew you to consider Vestry leadership and excites you about this possibility? I feel blessed that we found the Fig. I'm honored to be part of any group that helps make the church a better place for everyone to attend and strengthens its role of service to the community.

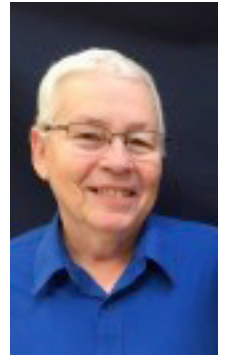
Convention Delegate Candidate: Alan Justice

Years at Transfiguration: 10

Years an Episcopalian: 35

Spouse/Partner name: Darlene

Children and ages: Beth (47)



Parish and Diocesan Activities

Transfiguration: Outreach Committee, Honduras Mission, Food Pantry, Lay Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Sound Technician, Liturgical Ministry Scheduling

Past churches:

Emmanuel Episcopal Church, San Angelo, TX

Saint Alban's Episcopal Church, Arlington, TX

Professional Life and Activities

Occupation: Retired

Community and professional activities: Formerly owner/operator of Nu-Photocomp, a graphic design and typesetting company.

Personal Vision for relationship of Transfiguration to the Diocese of Dallas.

What do you see as strengths and areas for improvement in this relationship? Are there areas of Diocesan life in which Transfiguration should be more involved?

I believe that Transfiguration should be involved in the councils of the Diocese of Dallas as a witness to our commitment to openness and inclusion of all people in the life and mission of the church. We should be full participants in the diocese in order to do this.

1. What led you to Transfiguration, and why have you stayed? I initially came to the Fig to participate in the Honduras mission. At that time, I was a member of St. Albans in Arlington. The atmosphere at Transfiguration was (still is!) open and accepting. Transfiguration has a strong outreach program and an excellent music program. All three elements were important in our decision to stay.

2. In addition to worship services, what do you do to form and inspire your faith? I am a strong believer in the idea that doing the work God has given us to do is in itself a form of prayer, one of the prayers too strong for words that Paul talks about. I have private prayer as well. I read and study, too. Music and writing inspire my faith in ways that defy description.

3. How do you seek God's guidance when you make decisions? I pay attention, try to listen to what God sends me in prayer, in lived experience, and in scripture.

4. How has your involvement at Transfiguration nurtured your discipleship of Jesus Christ? My involvement at the Fig has given me the chance to learn that there are many roads to discipleship. My experience as a mission team leader, liturgical minister, and outreach worker have each shown pathways that I grew to appreciate. Trying to seek and serve Christ in every person has helped me to follow Jesus' commandment to love God and my neighbor. Discipleship is something one learns by doing.

5. What drew you to consider Vestry leadership and excites you about this possibility? I first considered serving as a delegate because I was asked to, pure and simple. As I try to discern a call to this ministry, I feel that Transfiguration's voice needs to be heard in the deliberations of this very conservative diocese.

Convention Delegate Candidate: Jim Kirkman



Years at Transfiguration: 34 Years an Episcopalian: 39
Spouse/Partner name: Tammy
Children and ages: Crystal (44), Shea (41)

Parish and Diocesan Activities

Transfiguration: Vestry (2011-2014, 1998-2001), Search Committee (2013-2014, 1999-2000), Junior Warden (1998), Senior Warden (1999, 2000), Endowment Board of Trustees (2013-2017), Secretary of Endowment Board of Trustees (2015), Chairman of Endowment Board of Trustees (2016), Legacy Society member, EMF President (1996, 1997, 1998), Chairman Youth Commission (1990, 1991), Co Chair Jubilee Capital campaign (2006), Chairman EMF Silent Auction (2002-Present), Usher (2000- Present), Tau Cross and Crown recipient (2003)

Past churches: Not active in any leadership roles in any churches until Transfiguration.

Diocesan: (include number of past times you have been delegate or alternate) Convention Delegate (2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016), Alternate Convention Delegate (2011)

Professional Life and Activities

Occupation: Consultant

Personal Vision for relationship of Transfiguration to the Diocese of Dallas.

What do you see as strengths and areas for improvement in this relationship? Are there areas of Diocesan life in which Transfiguration should be more involved?

I feel that we are not appreciated enough and not represented enough in the Diocese of Dallas. I would like to see us put more people up for consideration for various leadership positions at the Diocesan level for both clergy and lay. Only then can our voice be heard with the type of acceptance that I feel we lack in our role in the Diocese at this time. We have made progress but we still need to keep fighting for this goal. If we can achieve this goal, I believe more inclusion will be accepted in our conservative Diocese.

1. What led you to Transfiguration, and why have you stayed? We started going to Transfiguration in 1982, soon after we moved to Dallas. Transfiguration was the closest church to our home. We enrolled our son in Parish Day School two years later. We have stayed because of the continuing welcoming environment at Transfiguration. Most of our friends now are members of Transfiguration.

2. In addition to worship services, what do you do to form and inspire your faith? I try to get as involved as I can in as many of the activities that I am interested in that are available at our church. Each of these activities inspire my faith as I see how committed the other members are.

3. How do you seek God's guidance when you make decisions? I try to ask God's help to allow me to make whatever decision I make to be given the strength to work to make it the right decision.

4. How has your involvement at Transfiguration nurtured your discipleship of Jesus Christ? I have seen how at Transfiguration you come into this church and then this church comes into you. The more involved I have become in activities at our church, the more I want to encourage any of our un-

churched friends (there are fewer of those now) to have the opportunity to experience what our family has experienced at Transfiguration.

5. What drew you to consider Vestry leadership and excites you about this possibility? I continue to want to have a hand in shaping the direction Transfiguration is continuing to follow in attempting to become a more respected and appreciated part of our Diocese. I am excited to see what steps we have already taken during the time that I have been fortunate enough to have been elected to serve as a delegate. But we are still not there yet!

Convention Delegate Candidate: Brian Mazur

Years at Transfiguration: 8 Years an Episcopalian: 10
Spouse/Partner name: Meghan Mazur
Children and ages: James, 5; Paul, 2; Zach, 14;
new baby due in November!

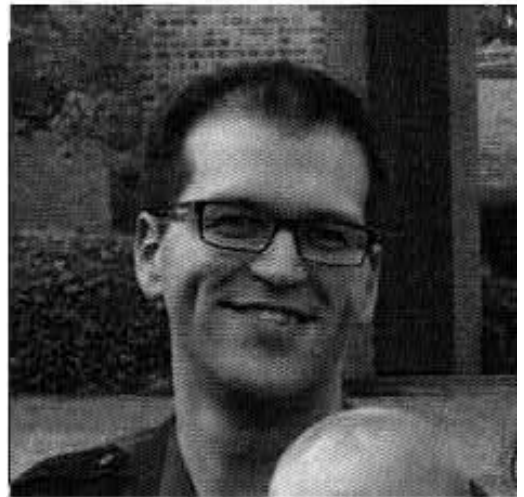
Parish and Diocesan Activities

Transfiguration: Transfiguration Choir, Bella Musica, regularly attend other parish events such as iParent, EMF, etc.

Past churches: Christ Church, Oberlin

Professional Life and Activities

Occupation: Math Teacher in Garland ISD (AP Calculus, Pre-AP Geometry)



Community and professional activities: Avid bowler, music composer

Personal Vision for relationship of Transfiguration to the Diocese of Dallas.

What do you see as strengths and areas for improvement in this relationship? Are there areas of Diocesan life in which Transfiguration should be more involved?

I think that there are many areas where Transfiguration feels at odd with the direction in the diocese. Both sides attaining a greater empathy and understanding of these issues would go far in helping to put forth solutions that will serve toward the betterment of the greater Episcopal community. I do believe the Transfiguration should strive for more representation in Diocesan activities.

1. What led you to Transfiguration, and why have you stayed? I began attending Transfiguration when my wife, Meghan, became the soprano section leader for the Transfiguration choir. I began coming to rehearsals and shortly joined the choir myself, and have been attending ever since! Although the choir got me in the door, the amazingly open, accepting, and tolerant community that Transfiguration fosters is a big reason why we found ourselves "at home" at the Fig.

2. In addition to worship services, what do you do to form and inspire your faith? Being a part of both the Transfiguration choir and Bella Musica have been and continue to be quite inspiring to my faith. Having been a music student and former atheist, I remember listening to some of Bach's works with astonishment, second guessing my atheism by wondering how much of his music could NOT have been divinely inspired. Music is able to reach people and touch people in ways different than any other medium, and I'm proud to be a part of it here at the Fig.

3. How do you seek God's guidance when you make decisions? I think that God basically wants us to do good works and deeds for others; i.e. "Love thy neighbor". I believe that God wants us to be personally responsible stewards with regard to the many resources we have at our disposal, including (but not limited to) time, money, logic, and reason. I believe that by budgeting carefully and living

within my means, I can better help other people with my resources. I use logic and reason to assist me in making my daily decisions, being careful to consider carefully what actions “do” good versus merely “feel” good.

4. How has your involvement at Transfiguration nurtured your discipleship of Jesus Christ? Being a teacher, I'm all too familiar with the importance of being a good positive role model for developing teenagers into good adults. As a disciple of Christ, I look to Jesus as a role model for myself and for all. I know that my own natural instincts and inclinations may not always be to do what “Jesus would do” in a given situation, which is why many times I must battle my own inner self in order to rise nearer to His example.

Convention Delegate Candidate: Mason McCamey



Years at Transfiguration: 3
Years an Episcopalian: 2

Years an Episcopalian: 2

Spouse/Partner name: Alex Irving
NA

Children and ages:

Parish and Diocesan Activities

Transfiguration: Choir member, Co-convener of GLF
Past churches: Park Cities Presbyterian Church (Dallas, TX), Harvest Presbyterian Church (Medina, OH), Central Presbyterian Church (NY, NY)

Professional Life and Activities

Occupation: Licensed Professional Counselor - Psychotherapist
Community and professional activities:

Until recently, worked as a therapist with the Dallas County Juvenile Department, where I trained and worked as a therapist and assessor for children in the juvenile system. Recently began own therapy practice.

Personal Vision for relationship of Transfiguration to the Diocese of Dallas.

What do you see as strengths and areas for improvement in this relationship? Are there areas of Diocesan life in which Transfiguration should be more involved?

Transfiguration seems to be a vibrant member of the diocese, partially because of the deep commitment the parish and members have to the betterment of the members of the diocese and the church, but also because the church is different in many ways that the rest of the Diocese. This could be seen as a strength and weakness, in that it seems we hold to our viewpoints and represent the voice of much of the rest of the Episcopal church, but may be seen as an outlier parish and thus not taken as seriously. I think Transfiguration's role in standing in that often-opposing position is going to be an important one historically, while it works to maintain a strong, loving relationship with the diocese and the Episcopal Church overall.

1. What led you to Transfiguration, and why have you stayed? My partner Alex and I were looking for a community accepting of us as a couple that was also still following of a liturgy and confessing Christ as Lord. This was very difficult to find in Dallas but was readily available and open at the Fig. What keeps us here is the fellowship, the worship, the opportunity to be in the choir (for me), and what seems to be many positive movements in the leadership of the church.

2. In addition to worship services, what do you do to form and inspire your faith? I read spiritual works, speak to others about my faith, sing in the choir (I find singing an especially worshipful part of my life), and attempt to serve others in my life as much as possible.

3. How do you seek God's guidance when you make decisions? Prayerful consideration is the most important aspect, along with seeking counsel from those I trust. I look to see where the Lord is leading me in the arc of my life and work from there.

4. How has your involvement at Transfiguration nurtured your discipleship of Jesus Christ? I have learned a completely new way of interacting with the church during my time at the Fig, in that I feel no topics are off-limit and no group is scorned or displaced in the church's body. I think we do a great job of not just SAYING but truly believing and living the idea that we are seeking and serving Christ in ALL people; this is a very different experience from the church of my upbringing and one I feel I have embraced and have come to a fuller understanding of my faith after being a part of.

5. What drew you to consider being a delegate and excites you about this possibility? I think I work well in a team when we have similar goals and I enjoy following when necessary, as well as leading when necessary. I think I am still new enough to the congregation and to the Episcopal church in general that I bring fresh eyes with a bit of an outsider perspective that could be helpful in some situations.

Convention Delegate Candidate: Elaine Sweet

Years at Transfiguration: 16 Years an Episcopalian: 16
Spouse/Partner name: Milton Sweet
Children and ages: Andrei (23) and Irina (19)

Parish and Diocesan Activities

Transfiguration: Altar Guild, Welcoming Ministries, Hospitality Committee, Parish Breakfast Facilitator, Sunday School Teacher, Daughters of the King, Ministry Fair Organizer.

Previously served on the Endowment Committee and Vestry.

Past churches: Previous member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod



Professional Life and Activities

Occupation: Senior Contract Negotiator with Hewlett Packard

Community and professional activities: Red Cross, Alzheimer's Association, Veterans Affairs, Veterans Hospital

Personal Vision for relationship of Transfiguration to the Diocese of Dallas.

What do you see as strengths and areas for improvement in this relationship? Are there areas of Diocesan life in which Transfiguration should be more involved?

Transfiguration is a cornerstone in the Diocese of Dallas. We need to be more vocal in the needs of the Church and how the Church should serve our community. We at Transfiguration have a strong presence and we should be influencing the Diocese of Dallas. We need to be supporting the rights of all people and I would like to see the day that we support the beliefs and vision of the National Church. Equal rights for all members of the church!

1. What led you to Transfiguration, and why have you stayed? We moved to Dallas in early 2000 and as a couple made a commitment to get active in a church in our new community. We visited Transfiguration and were touched and welcomed by several people in the church. We thought Transfiguration was the most welcoming community. We have stayed because we believe in the mission of the church and really get behind Seeking to serve Christ in all people.

2. In addition to worship services, what do you do to form and inspire your faith? I read a lot of different articles and periodicals. I openly listen to new and educational shows. And I try to lead a purposeful life with Christ as my guide.

3. How do you seek God's guidance when you make decisions? I always think about and pray on things. It is a way that I can come to make decisions. It's like part of my mind is always thinking about the thing of contemplation and the solution ultimately comes to me.

4. How has your involvement at Transfiguration nurtured your discipleship of Jesus Christ? I always strive to be a better person. My participation in organizations at Transfiguration has taught me to glorify God through life and ministry at our beloved church.

5. What drew you to consider Vestry leadership and excites you about this possibility? I would love to represent Transfiguration at the Convention. I think by being there and participating I can understand the Diocese better. I hope to be a positive, purposeful presence at the Convention.