



Name: Melinda Bobo
Church: Trinity, Lander
Applying for: General Convention Deputies/Provincial Synod

A brief summary of current and past volunteer positions within the church?

Board member of the Foundation for the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming, facilitator/mentor for the Wyoming Iona School, member of the Diocesan Disciplinary Board, QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) suicide awareness and prevention trainer, local coordinator of 2017 Diocesan Convention held in Fremont County, deputy to General Convention in 2018, 2021(2022), and 2024, presenter at 2021 Diocesan Convention, member of St. Michael's Revitalization Committee, member of the Wyoming Episcopal Justice Task Force, liaison member of Diocesan Council, member of the Spirit of the Wild Youth and College Backpacking Trip Planning Committee.

What do you want to accomplish in this leadership role?

I want to continue to encourage us to keep bridging the gap between the Diocese and The Episcopal Church that mirrors the gap between congregations and the Diocese. Just as congregations can become so focused on their life and ministry at the local level that they lose sight of the importance of actively participating in a larger body with a wider perspective, so can the Diocese lose sight of the same thing with respect to the larger Episcopal Church. We are living in a time of tremendous change in the Church, with a new emphasis on committing to living into our Baptismal Covenant on not just an individual level, but on organizational and structural levels as well. We cannot make the real change in the world that we say we want unless how we are willing to change what we do.

If you have served on other boards, what is your greatest accomplishment and greatest disappointment?

My greatest accomplishment was a shared accomplishment with the clergy of Fremont County and Diocesan staff, which was coordinating the 2017 Diocesan Convention that was hosted by the Episcopal churches of Fremont County. At the convention when we were to select the site for 2017 there was no prospective site that had been volunteered. The priests-in-charge of the other congregations in Fremont County and I talked about collaborating to host convention and decided we had the ability. I then checked with the Diocesan staff to see what the logistical obstacles might be and how we could address them. They required that we have a single congregation submit the offer of location as per canons, but we all determined that there was no inherent reason the actual convention couldn't be done collaboratively. It ended up being one of the most highly complimented conventions, with the concluding Sunday worship at St. Michael's Circle as the highlight.

I don't remember any really great disappointments. They may infuriate me in the moment, but they all seem to eventually get resolved. For example, at one point lona graduates were not allowed to function as rectors. I felt that to be a very frustrating, arbitrary, and deeply unfair limitation on their ability to serve in Wyoming. However, over time they demonstrated their capabilities and that restriction was eliminated.

How do you invite God's Presence? When is God most present to you in your work?

I invite God's Presence by trying to hear God's voice in all places and at all times. I recognize that God is always trying to get my attention, and it is up to me to be awake to those taps on the shoulder (or bricks on the back of the head, for that matter). I find God is most present when we are all focused on living into the Gospel first and foremost, and letting that lead our conversation and decisions.

FAITH ON THE NEW FRONTIER

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