



*the Episcopal Church  
in Wyoming*



**Name:** Christian Basel  
**Church:** St. Mark's in Cheyenne  
**Applying for:** Standing Committee (3-year term)

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

Since arriving in Wyoming in June 2024, I have been serving as Rector of St. Mark's (Cheyenne), and in the past year have volunteered to serve with the diocese as a member of the Commission on Ministry. Prior to serving in Wyoming, I participated in Pastoral Care ministries and on Stewardship Committees in my previous role and volunteered to assist with many different ministry groups in different capacities.

Before my ordained ministry, I have a long history of volunteer service in parish life. I have regularly led the Daily Office, served as a Lay Eucharistic Minister, and worked extensively with youth in both leadership and volunteer roles in several different churches, both at a parish and diocesan level.

As I continue to settle into Wyoming, I look forward to becoming more deeply involved in the life and mission of the diocese.

**What do you want to accomplish in this leadership role?**

I hope to bring a combination of church leadership, firsthand experience of diocesan transition, and a varied professional background to the work of the Standing Committee. When I began my own discernment to the priesthood in the Diocese of South Carolina, we were going through our own long transition and search with a Bishop Provisional. While not in a decision making role, I experienced in a very real way the uncertainty, the hope, and the difficulty of that time, and it shaped me as a priest with empathy for both clergy and laity navigating such a transition.

In addition, my background is primarily in large church systems where I gained experience with the practices of communication, structure, and transparency that are necessary for church leadership to be effective. I hope that my perspective as someone new to this diocese and with a varied background in church leadership and volunteer roles will bring fresh ideas and thoughtful discernment to the future of our diocese.

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

My formal “board” service is limited, apart from my recent work with the Commission on Ministry and being heavily involved in all aspects of Parish ministry in general. However, within that parish and diocesan ministry, I have consistently sought to bring energy, joy, and creativity to the work of the Church. What I feel most accomplished about is helping communities discover that reverence and “fun” are not opposites but can flourish together. Whether that is in liturgy, formation, or parish-wide events, I strive to make ministry something that excites people and draws them deeper into faith.

I feel especially accomplished in creating parish-wide art projects and community events that bring together people of different ages and backgrounds. Having an outlook that thinks outside the box, building community in unexpected ways, and approaching serious work with hope and imagination are how I like to operate.

As for disappointment, there’s no disappointment in giving something a try!

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

For me, I think inviting God’s presence often happens in moments of rest. Since moving to Wyoming, I’ve loved having such amazing access to the outdoors. And in both the stillness and silence, and the beauty of my surroundings, I feel that presence showing up in creation.

As someone who is very visual, I also encounter God through art. Both appreciating and creating art are moments of prayer and reflection that help me to feel grounded in God’s presence.

In ministry, I think I most often sense God’s presence in Christian Formation. I love teaching, and when I’m leading a bible study or book study, or a class on a broader topic, I feel that the Spirit breaks in when someone asks or shares a surprising or challenging question. Those are the moments that remind me that God is at work in the lives of others and constantly stirring curiosity and transformation right in front of us.

Mostly, inviting God’s presence to me is more about paying attention. And when I don’t pay attention, I usually get a friendly reminder that I need to take a break!

## FAITH ON THE NEW FRONTIER

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