



*the Episcopal Church
in Wyoming*



Name: Miranda Marks
Church: Christ Church in Cody
Applying for: General Convention Deputies/Provincial Synod

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

I work at Christ Church as a Lay Ministry Assistant, and have since March 2024. I'm a member of the Mission Committee and Spiritual Education Committee at Christ Church, and am the convener of the Worship Committee. I also serve at Christ Church as a Verger. On the diocesan level, I am a member of the Wyoming Episcopal Justice taskforce, and am co-chair of the LGBTQ+ and Gender Justice subcommittee. This year I am a delegate to our annual convention.

Much of my volunteer positions in other churches and dioceses have been singing in church choirs and leading services. When I lived in the Episcopal Diocese of South Dakota I led weekly compline services at Calvary Cathedral as a teenager, and worked at Thunderhead Episcopal Center in the Black Hills as a camp counsellor for 5 summers. At my last church, St. Luke's Episcopal Church Bethesda in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, I served on the worship committee and was co-chair of their Community Engagement Committee. I also attended vestry and finance meetings to learn more about the processes of church governance.

What do you want to accomplish in this leadership role?

I have lived in four different dioceses in The Episcopal Church, and two dioceses in the Anglican Church of Canada. In all of the different places I have lived and churches I have attended I have built and maintained relationships with people. It has been inspiring to hear from other candidates to be deputies to general convention talk about their desire to bring the needs of Wyoming to the larger church. I hope, as a deputy or alternate, to use the relationships I have with dioceses across the church to not only speak up for the needs of our diocese, but to help other dioceses recognise that we have much more in common than we think. My experiences living in rural, urban, and suburban dioceses gives me a helpful perspective that can help us as a church rise above stereotypes and assumptions, while also allowing me to serve as a bridge between dioceses. As a younger person, I want to see The Episcopal Church continue to exist and serve the needs of the world around us, and am ready to do the work to make that happen however I can.

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

I have not served on other boards before. This year is also my first time being a delegate to convention. But I am a fast learner, and when I commit to something I am very eager. Even in the year and a half that I've lived in Wyoming I've already gotten connected across the diocese in different groups, including WEJust.

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

I experience Gd's Presence through music and other people. It really comes down to moments where I feel a deep connection to other people and the world around me. This might be unusual, but I feel most present to Gd in moments when things go wrong. In services especially, when someone mispronounces a word, or a microphone doesn't work, or something like that, there's something about the joy that can come in those moments helps me remember that Gd is in the midst of what we do.

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123 South Durbin · Casper, WY 82601
(307) 265-5200 · episcopalwy.org