

**Name:** David Howard-Pitney

**Order:** Lay

**Congregation:** St. Andrew's, Saratoga

**Nominated for:** Standing Committee

**Please tell us why you feel called to serve and what you can contribute to this particular body.**

Others tell me that they see in me some of the qualities that are needed to well serve the Standing Committee and its work, and I pray they may be at least partially right. I can state my opinion honestly and forthrightly. I am respectful of the views and feelings of others. I can disagree without being disagreeable. If, after advocating for what I think best to do, the group chooses otherwise, I can accept that and move on without acrimony. I know we all need to pray and do our best to keep our eyes upon Jesus.

**Please give some brief background on your church activities.**

Since I became an Episcopalian in the early eighties, I have been a member of three parishes. I have sung in the choir of all three. I served on the vestry of two of them and was asked to run for vestry in the third but couldn't as I was about to move. I've been a delegate to the EDECR from my home church several times. I have served once on the Commission of Ministry. I am currently chairing a diocesan task force.

**What is the most pressing issue facing the diocese in the next 5 years and how would you work to address it if elected?**

I am torn deciding between two issues. The first is declining membership. I urge parishes to identify their target group(s) for evangelism then strive to make our current worship experience express that group's stylistic preferences more than our own. Second, I believe our members need to learn more about past and present injustices done to subordinate groups by the dominant culture, often including by the church. We need more actions in "truth telling," making possible eventual healing and reconciliation. This requires steady long-term self-education and engagement by parishioners, mainly at the grassroots level. This process may take many years but we need to do all we can now to assist its spread.