

Name: The Rev. Amber Sturgess

Order: Clergy

Congregation: All Saints', Carmel-by-the-Sea

Nominated for: Standing Committee

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

I was elected to the SC in March to replace some one and I have enjoyed serving these past several months. I do feel called to continue particularly because we are at such a transitional time in our world which involves all institutions. Given the radical changes already taking place learning to follow the movement of the spirit is of utmost importance even when it challenges our traditions. We will have to step out of the boat and walk on water to follow Jesus Christ. Radical faith, adaptability, abundant creativity, and a deep abiding trust are our companions.

Please give some brief background on your church activities.

On Ramp for 6 years; Liturgical Commission for 5 years; Mentor for candidates for ordination (diaconal & priesthood); Certified Spiritual Director; Transitional ministry; Spiritual Formation & Congregational Development; Feeding & homeless programs; Retreat leader for Mercy Center & Centering Prayer Facilitator with Contemplative Outreach; work with Episcopal School & Campground; Certified Enneagram Coach; Co-Chair Companion Diocese Relationship (DioCal); Community Organizing & Walks Against Violence (DioCal). Served 4 churches (Urban and Suburban)

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

Aging members and declining membership and church buildings. Finding new and creative ways to use our property; expanding our understanding of what it means to be church; redefining "success" which used to be measured in numbers and move towards a model of discipleship, spiritual formation and practice, personal growth and transformation; learning to speak the spiritual language of the surrounding communities in which we live and meet them where they are. Doing our own inner work to change ourselves rather than trying to change others and thereby change the world. New and innovative ways of doing worship and ministry that we genuinely feel called to do.