

**Name:** Rita Welsh

**Order:** Lay

**Congregation:** St. Thomas, Sunnyvale, CA

**Nominated for:** Commission on Ministry

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

I was elected to the PCOM for a one year term beginning in January 2023. From that experience I have found a spot where I feel i can best serve our diocese best.

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

Currently on my congregation's Vestry and the subcommittee called Finding a Tenant taskforce. Also serve on the Altar Guild. in the past have been on Vestry's and search committees to find and seat, a dean at Trinity Cathedral, our current rector at St Thomas and our current Bishop. As a young adult in the Lutheran and the Episcopal Church, taught K through Jr. High School Sunday School.

**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 see the most pressing problem to be the loss of long-time members and their contributions to our congregations, both economically and spiritually. Our long-term leaders are becoming too old to serve on committees and boards. I would reach out to our untapped community (such as the large Asian population in Silicon Valley) and young adults by hosting events on our campus that would draw outside participants. We now have a monthly concert series and can start by spreading the word to our community. Two from our congregation are members of a community interest group. One of our concerts benefited that group. Several from the group attended our concert. An updated website has also produced a new member last week. What does this have to do with PCom? When new people walk in the door, we need priest, deacons and lay members who will warmly welcome newcomers.