

Vestry Candidates



Ruth Boeder

Ruth has been attending Christ Church and singing in the choir since about 2016. Born in St. Louis, MO, she moved to Michigan to attend school. Ruth has earned two masters' degrees and a PhD at Wayne State, where she now works as a Lecturer in the English Department.

Christ Church has become a home to Ruth, and after experiencing some heartbreak over the choices that her childhood denomination made, she was grateful to find welcome and healing in a church that was affirming and open to her and others.

She has been extra grateful for Christ Church over the last year; she and her husband were looking for a place to celebrate and consecrate our marriage, and Rev. Emily was there to help make that happen!

As a new-ish member, Ruth is excited to serve as a Vestry representative with energy, enthusiasm, and her sheep-dog-like love of organizing, and to learn more about Christ Church as we grow into the future God has for us together.



Claire Brown

Claire has been a member of Christ Church Detroit for decades and has been a LEM, usher, lector, vestry member, and member of two search committees. She is presently a member of Emily's Angels, and began a birthday card ministry at least 15 years ago.

She practiced law in Detroit for 20 years, most recently in Wayne County Juvenile Court (which she loved) before retiring. In the winter months, Claire volunteers at Phoenix Children's Hospital where she is lucky enough to get to play with ill kids and hopefully distract them from their bad fortune.

Claire welcomes the opportunity for a one-year period as a vestry member. As she puts it, Christ Church is presently flourishing against all odds because of Emily's talent and hard work and the cooperation of so many of us whom she inspires, and Claire would like to be more a part of our amazing church.



Mary Brown

When Christ Church is in full swing, Mary Brown is usually found in the choir loft. She comes from a long line of pastors, musicians, and educators, and chose to become a music educator, teaching classroom and choral music, K-12, in public schools for forty years. Her mother and father, both clergy, served in the United Church of Christ and the Lutheran Church, respectively.

As an adult, Mary lived and taught in Indiana, Tennessee, and Germany prior to moving here. She has two daughters, Katie, a middle school orchestra director, and Allie, a transplant social worker.

Mary became an Episcopalian in 1992 and, after being a member of St. James, Birmingham, and of St. David's, Southfield where she served on the vestry, she found her way to Christ Church. A friend brought her to Evensong, and she knew that CCD was where she wanted to worship. Mary is so grateful to have made that decision about fifteen years ago! She finds this parish to be populated with warm, broad-minded people of goodwill, and values this unique community whose members are eager to work for the common good. Mary thinks that our spiritual experiences together during these difficult times foreshadow even better days to come. She looks forward to doing the meaningful work of being on the vestry and to supporting the mission of Christ Church in our Detroit community and in the wider world.



John Leney

John has been a member of Christ Church since he was married here in 1985. He attends with his wife, Lauren. They have three daughters, Marisa (29), Dana (24), and Erin (22) who grew up in the church.

Throughout the years John has helped with various parish activities, including Shelter Week, Grand Prix parties, and the church picnics. He has also been involved with the youth of the church, participating in many Sunday School activities and co-leading (with Megan Norris) two J2A classes (2002-2004 and 2008-2011).

He has served two terms on the Vestry:

- 2003-2005 where he led the Capital Campaign Feasibility Study team and participated on the Capital Campaign Committee.
- 2009-2011 where he served one year as Treasurer and two years as Junior Warden

More about John Leney

John grew up in Pittsburgh, PA. He graduated from the University of Michigan in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering and has spent his career working in the Information Technology and Management Consulting field. John enjoys sports, playing hockey and outdoor activities such as camping, fishing, and skiing.



Anthony Mitchell

Anthony came to Christ Church Detroit in late March 2020 and has regularly attended both online and in-person ever since. Anthony has participated in Episcopal 101 and has been particularly involved in CCD's outreach and community engagement ministries, including volunteering with the Pope Francis Center and playing an active role in the pilot program for facilitating racial justice.

Anthony is eager to explore and expand his gifts for leadership in the Episcopal Church. His interest in and preparation for broader ministry also includes full-time enrollment for a Master of Divinity in Christian Leadership & Church Ministries through Liberty University's Rawlings School of Divinity, which he expects to complete in May 2022.

A Chicago native, Anthony planted roots in Detroit two years ago, and has been working in a variety of roles since, including most recently as an elementary, middle, and special education substitute teacher for the Romulus and Ecorse school districts. He also works for Lucki's Gourmet Cheesecake – a woman-owned, African American, and community-supporting Detroit small business serving individual, retail, and wholesale customers across the greater metro area.



José Rodríguez

José Rodríguez was born in Detroit and has lived in the area his whole life. He grew up speaking Spanish, his first language. José is married to Renée and they have a son, Nico, and a dog, Lola.

He found Christ Church Detroit after deciding to make a spiritual change, and found that it was a good fit for him. After coming into the Episcopal tradition, Jose's sense of love, justice, and caring for others was further reinforced. One of his biggest motivators is being mindful of what he does and what he hasn't done.

José has a Bachelors in English from the University of Michigan-Dearborn. He used to edit *Mi Estilo* Magazine, an online lifestyle and culture publication for Latinos and people interested in Latino culture. For the last eight years, José has worked in the financial counseling and finance sectors.



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