

Hamilton “H.L.” Norwich Bio

St. David’s has been my spiritual home since early 2020. During this time, I served as a delegate for St. David’s to the Diocese of Virginia Conventions for three years, was appointed to fill a brief vacancy on the vestry shortly before Rev. Mary Kay’s departure, and served on the Discernment Committee that recommended Rev. Stephen Hagerty to become our Rector. Last year, I was elected to a one-year term on the vestry, and now I am running for a full three-year term.

In my professional life, I am an independent Certified Financial Planner and a tax and estate planning attorney, so I know my way around budgets, contracts, and planned giving strategies. I am a proud graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law, and have lived in Virginia since 1998, after growing up and going to college in the Midwest. I’m even prouder of my two teenage children, one of whom will be attending Shenandoah University in the fall, and the other of whom attends Loudoun’s Academy of Engineering & Technology.

I’ve served on many boards over the past 15 or so years. What I frequently bring to the table is careful listening to different members’ concerns and coming up with alternative solutions that address those concerns and garner consensus from the whole group. What makes serving on the St. David’s vestry unique and fulfilling to me is seeing how the Holy Spirit works through all of us to reach decisions that help our whole community flourish.

This past year has established a firm foundation for St. David’s future. Paying off the mortgage and exceeding our budget expectations was wonderful. But just as important, we’ve set group norms and meeting and communication practices that have really enhanced the quality of our work together.

I believe the next step on our journey should be focused discernment of our vision and mission moving into the future. We need to explore ways to expand and deepen our engagement with current and potential members, particularly with younger generations and our neighbors in the new developments surrounding our beautiful campus. This will probably require some trial and error, with patience. Even more, I think we need to have a compelling answer to the question, “Why should I spend some of my precious time coming to St. David’s?” That is what I hope the St. David’s clergy and vestry will be able to discern together over the next year.