

EPISCOPAL COMMUNICATORS

Board Nominees

Two nominees will be elected to three-year terms; one will be elected to complete one-year of a full term (and eligible for re-election in 2019).



Charis Bhagianathan
Director of Communications
Episcopal Church Foundation, New York City

Charis Bhagianathan serves as Director of Communications and Editor of ECF Vital Practices at the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF). At ECF, she is responsible for strategic communications, and content on Vital Practices, including Vestry Papers, a monthly digital publication. During her time at ECF, Charis has formulated a mission-focused communications strategy, started a monthly e-newsletter, invigorated social media efforts, and worked to create more visual content. Her favorite projects to work on include social media campaigns and researching/writing stories about ECF's impact.

Before moving to New York, Charis worked at the Council for World Mission in Singapore as Communications Manager. Her job took her around the world to places like Taiwan, New Zealand, Amsterdam, Malaysia and Tahiti to work on communication issues with local Christian communities.

Prior to that, she worked at Dorling Kindersley Publishers (part of Penguin Books) in New Delhi, India as Senior Editor, where she edited and designed books on a variety of subjects. She also served as Secretary on the board of the World Association for Christian Communication (Asia region). Charis has a master's degree in communications, and a master's and bachelor's degree in literature. Three things Charis wishes there was more of in the world: cupcake kiosks, big dogs who think they're tiny, and communicators around every table.



Katie Forsyth
Canon for Evangelism and Networking
Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan

Katie Forsyth was appointed Canon for Evangelism and Networking for the Episcopal Dioceses of Eastern Michigan and Western Michigan in March of 2018. Prior to this new position, she served as Eastern Michigan's Director of Communications and Public Engagement for almost five years, where she built a communications ministry from scratch, including the development of an updated website, social media, e-newsletters, print

magazine, weekly web video series, and the “EpiscoColoring Book”. As Canon for Evangelism and Networking, Katie oversees all communication and evangelism strategy for the two dioceses, with special attention to equipping congregational and diocesan leaders to be the Church in words and in action within their local communities.

Before her ministry in Episcopal communications, Katie worked in university and museum fundraising and in a DC lobbying firm. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Public and Nonprofit Administration and Political Science from Grand Valley State University.

Katie loves to spend time exploring new cities and spending time outdoors, especially along the lake in northern Michigan.



Natalee Hill
Associate for Communications & Administration
Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Philadelphia

Natalee Hill is associate for communications & administration at the Episcopal Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields in Philadelphia. At St. Martin’s she has developed regular electronic and print publications, launched a social media presence, revised the website, worked on event planning and promotion especially for the refugee resettlement ministry, and branded new outreach programs. One of these programs is SUPPER, a meal ministry which has expanded to three additional Episcopal churches in the diocese and was recently filmed by the Episcopal Church.

Prior to St. Martin’s, Natalee was communications manager at the Theatre Alliance of Greater Philadelphia. At the Theatre Alliance, her work included marketing and advocacy for the local theatre community, including annual events such as the Barrymore Awards for Excellence in Theatre and Spark Showcase. Natalee holds a BA in Liberal Arts for Theatre from Muhlenberg College.

Natalee is currently a member of Trinity Episcopal Church in Swarthmore where she serves on the stewardship committee and assists with children’s ministry and communications. Natalee also previously worked as a part-time youth director and served a term as administrative council chair at a United Methodist church. Natalee’s hobbies include reading, singing, The Daily Office with Natalee Facebook group, painting, and photography.



Heidi Pitts
Director of Communications
Episcopal Diocese of Oregon

“When I was a wee 21 years old, I spent a few weeks volunteering with the Sisters of Charity in Kolkata, India. This was the era when the internet was just opening to the world, and I spent hours each week in a dial-up internet café uploading pictures from my new three megapixel digital camera and writing a blog of my experiences.

When I returned home, people were eager to talk about the stories I had shared; through my posts, they felt the grief of entrenched poverty, the mercy of a compassionate touch, and the confusion of navigating an unknown language and culture.

I'm a little older now, with a husband and a child and an appreciation for occasionally camping beyond the range of cell phone towers, but more than ever I value the power of our stories to create connection and community. Amazingly, I actually get paid to spread this passion! My ministry as Director of Communications for the Diocese of Oregon is to encourage and train our people and parishes to share their words, images, and sounds, using the many communications tools available today. (Which, in small coastal Oregon towns, may still include dial-up internet...)"



Seth Reese
Director of Communications
Saint John's Cathedral, Denver

Seth Reese is the Director of Communications for Saint John's Cathedral in Denver, Colorado. He came to the cathedral during its transition between deans. During the past two years, he has worked to build a cohesive visual brand that helps tell the story of the cathedral. Seth has also spent the last two years taking a self-taught crash course in video production, from lights and cameras to editing and story-telling. In the next year, he is working to engage parishioners in the work of communications by offering opportunities for skilled parishioners to share their talents in photography, graphic design, public relations, as well as others. Seth is also working with cathedral leadership to cast a vision for who we can be in our neighborhood of Capitol Hill, our city of Denver, and as the cathedral for the Episcopal Church in Colorado.

Prior to his work at the cathedral, Seth was the director of Saint Hilda's House, an Episcopal Service Corps site in New Haven, Connecticut. There he worked with recent college graduates in faith formation, vocational discernment, and social justice engagement. Seth received his Bachelors of Arts in Philosophy and Religion from Piedmont College, and he received his Master of Arts in Religion from Yale Divinity School.