



*The Episcopal Church
in Wyoming*



Name: Camie Dewey
Church: St. Mark's Casper
Applying for: Foundation Board (3 year term)

A brief summary of current and past volunteer positions within the church?

I currently serve on the Standing Committee, where I have been privileged to witness the growth and development of the elected leadership in this diocese over the last year, both on the diocesan side and on the Foundation. I would very much like to be part of the exciting work the Foundation is doing now.

I am the chaplain for St. Mark's chapter of Daughters of the King. I served on the Commission on Ministry in the Diocese of Missouri for two years, first as member and then as chair, sat on the board of Episcopal City Mission in St. Louis, and was a trainer for Safeguarding God's Children for many years in the Diocese of Colorado.

Prior to ordination and throughout my life, I have served on outreach committees, altar guilds, and youth delegations; served as acolyte, Eucharistic Minister, Eucharistic Visitor, and in Diocesan Youth Event staff positions right here in Wyoming during high school and college.

What do you want to accomplish in this leadership role?

My hope in serving as a member of the Foundation board is to be a champion for how the Foundation can best live into its mission, which is to assist the mission and ministry of The Episcopal Church in Wyoming.

The financial resources controlled by the Foundation ultimately belong to the diocese and the good work of its people, and it is my belief that the members of the Foundation board are mere stewards of these funds, called to see that the churches benefit in the best ways from these funds, trusting the churches to instruct the Foundation in how this might be accomplished.

While fiscal responsibility is vitally important for the life of the Foundation and ensuring that it will be here for the generations that will come after us, the vast wealth this foundation possesses does not dictate that we cling to every cent at the expense of the immediate needs of our churches. When parishes apply for grants, the money ought to be there with little debate. What good is a hundred million dollars if there is no diocese to support?

If you have served on other boards, what is your greatest accomplishment and greatest disappointment?

Through the Holy Spirit and the wisdom of the people, the Standing Committee has been able to come together and accomplish so much good, given what this diocese has been through this year. Though our time as acting Ecclesiastical Authority has been rife with challenges and hard decisions, we have also grown into our responsibilities and taken on the role with determination, despite it not being the reason any of us initially ran for these positions. Our accomplishments are many – some obvious, many subtle and perhaps undeserving of fanfare, but still satisfying.

One of the disappointments I've seen serving on boards, certainly before returning to the Diocese of Wyoming, is when a board agrees on something unanimously and it is vetoed by the highest authority. The collaboration you hope to see between boards and authority figures or other boards is essential to the success and vitality of a healthy diocese and the people served by those called into those positions.

How do you invite God's Presence? When is God most present to you in your work?

I best invite God's presence by getting out of my own way and sitting in silence. I spend the first part of every day comfortably quiet and open to what God needs to say (or not say). I have been recently inviting new spiritual disciplines into my daily life as well, including fasting and journaling, which have opened new channels for me to feel God's presence in new ways.

I also experience God's presence in Eucharist and music – these are most obvious as my work is as a priest. I still feel the same way I did the first time I celebrated the Eucharist every time I step up to the altar, and it is something I stay aware of.