

I appreciate the opportunity to stand for election to the Board of the VGEC so that I may contribute in a direct way to the continued strength and viability of this Guild. As lay ministers to our parishes and clergy, we strive to quietly assist with a servant's heart of humility and grace, both administratively and tactically, singularly and with others, the work of the church in its many facets. Our goal is to help with the worship of God that we may all be drawn together in that experience. I see the role of a Board Member is to also serve and support our membership through the Guild so that we may better serve our parishes and the church as a whole - so that we all may be strengthened in the unity of Christ through our worship and our work. As the Westminster Catechism says, "Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever."

As a VGEC Board Member, I feel that my work and volunteer experiences would help me to contribute with support to financial oversight and board governance.

I was raised in Chattanooga, Tennessee as a Presbyterian, and discovered the Episcopal Church when attending Sewanee. Today, I am a Mortgage Banker of twenty years with the same bank in Nashville. I have served as a President of the Nashville Association of Mortgage Bankers, and am currently on the Board of the Better Business Bureau of Middle Tennessee. I am the husband of Anne Byrn Whitaker, and father of Kathleen (25), Litton (21), and John, III (17). Below is a brief *curriculum vitae*.

Education:

The University of the South, Sewanee; *B.A.*, English Literature

Georgia State University, Atlanta; *MBA*, Marketing

Anglican Formation:

- Confirmed December 2nd, 1992 at St James in Thrapston, Northamptonshire by Bishop William Westwood, Bishop of the Diocese of Peterborough (UK)
- Parish Church Council (Vestry), *St Mary the Virgin*, Higham Ferrars, Northamptonshire, 1993
- Graduate, *Education for Ministry* (Sewanee School of Theology), May 2000
- Secretary, *Episcopal Churchmen of Tennessee* Conference, 2009-2010
- **Christ Church Cathedral**, Nashville, TN:
 - Lay Reader, 1995 – Present
 - Eucharistic Minister, 1996 – Present
 - EM Trainer & Service Scheduler
 - Verger/Sacristan/Thurifer, 1997 – Present
 - Stewardship Chair, 2001
 - Vestry, 2002-2004; 2009-2011
 - Cathedral Chapter, 2003
 - Discernment Committee, 2002; 2004; 2010
 - Sunday School Teacher, 2005 – 2011
 - Sunday School New Curriculum Committee 2007

- Member *VGEC*, 2008 – Present
 - 25th Annual Conference Host Committee; Treasurer, 2013
 - Audit Committee, 2014-2015
 - Member of Diocese of Tennessee Chapter of the VGEC

Thank you again for your kind consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,

John T. Whitaker