



Mr. Parker Bauer
Candidate for Trustee, University of the South
Lay Order

Often someone will say to me, with a shake of the head, “You love Sewanee so much, why don’t you just move up there?” It’s true.

I do love the place, my fondness only growing with time over the three terms I’ve served as trustee. I feel a deep commitment to the purpose of the university and to its people, especially the students. I love the mountaintop Domain that God made. Living there, I’d save a lot of mileage on my car, six or seven trips a year. Only one drawback: I couldn’t serve Sewanee as a trustee from this diocese. And that makes all the difference.

As one of Sewanee’s 28 owning dioceses – a minority in the Church – we’re gifted by God with the ongoing opportunity to do great things for his Kingdom. The undergraduate College is our point of engagement with some 1500 young people each year, eager to gain knowledge and wisdom in a setting enlightened by Christian faith. The School of Theology plays a major role in shaping the ministry of the whole Church, with some 160 seminarians presently on degree tracks. And Education for Ministry extends to laypersons nationwide, with a record current enrollment of more than 4,250. All this is part of the mission and outreach of our own diocese.

Seen another way, Sewanee is the largest corporation within the Episcopal Church, so we have a tremendous fiduciary responsibility. Sewanee is flourishing – and God, I must think, is glad.

A cradle Episcopalian, I’ve been a member of churches in this diocese since the mid-1980s. I serve on the vestry of Holy Trinity, Fruitland Park, where previously I was Senior Warden. God saw me through The Ohio State University and the U. S. Marine Corps. My wife, Charlotte, and I have three daughters, Katie, a 2003 Sewanee graduate; Stephanie; and Valerie.