



Mrs. Sonya Shannon
Candidate for Diocesan Board
Lay Order

Born in Tyler, Texas, I was confirmed at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Grand Prairie, Texas. I met my husband, Colin, in high school and we were married at St. Andrews in 1990. We joined The Cathedral Church of St. Luke when we moved to Orlando in 1993. Today we are the proud parents of three beautiful cradle Episcopalians-Shelby is 20, Erin is 16, and Kendall is 13. I seek to secure a safe place for my girls to grow in their love of the Lord.

I currently work at the Cathedral as the Nursery Coordinator. In diocesan work I have served on Diocesan Board and currently serve on the Standing Committee and the Congregational Development Committee. In July I will serve as a lay deputy to the General Convention 2015 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

As a diocese, in fact, as the Church, we face a culture that is increasingly non-Christian. We routinely encounter individuals who have only a limited knowledge of Jesus Christ. They are looking for answers and meaning but have no idea of where to turn for grace and hope. Our first challenge, therefore, is to renew our own faith and find ways to articulate those personal stories of faith and encounters with the Lord. Our call to evangelism is to step out of our comfort zone. Our comfort zone for many years has been to stay within the confines of our parish, even literally within our very church buildings. We can no longer wait for people to come to us.

As strong as our witness is right now, we can become even stronger in our faith. We should continue to develop programs that teach the basics of the faith, renew the spiritual life of the individual members of the diocese, and provide the tools for growth in the life of the Church.

I believe the Diocese offers a unique opportunity for those who would seek to know our Lord and deepen their relationship. I will continue to work to make a difference in the life of the church by helping to maintain the continuity and integrity throughout the churches in the Diocese of Central Florida.

I am committed to serve as best I can to help the bishop fulfill his vision of raising up new leaders and restoring lives in our community I believe I can be effective in this effort as a member of the Diocesan Board.