

## **Appendix II**

### **Chapter Candidate ~ Nominee Biography and Statement**

#### **Allen Mutchler**

##### **What brought you to St. Paul's Cathedral and why did you stay?**

For many, the wonderful music of the Cathedral is what brought them to St. Paul's. This is not the case for me. When my daughter was born, my husband wanted her to be baptized. As a Catholic, this was important to him. For me, being raised Southern Baptist, I had a different view. I left the church years ago, after planning to become a preacher. This exodus was due to no longer being welcomed by my denomination due to my coming to terms with my sexuality. When I walked into the service to get her baptized the welcome I received and the love of Christ that permeates the Cathedral allowed the Holy Spirit to tell my heart that it was home. This feeling was reinforced by Bishop Katherine right before she received me into the Episcopal Church, I told her a little of my story, and her reply was simply "Welcome home." It is the love of Christ that I see at the Cathedral and in this denomination that brings me back.

##### **With what activities or ministries have you been involved and how?**

Over the past year, my ministry and involvement at St. Paul's has drastically changed for the better. Serving a one-year term on Chapter has taught me the business side of running such a magnificent church. Serving as an usher on the third Sunday has allowed me the opportunity to meet many more parishioners and has allowed me to welcome newcomers to this house of God. In addition, as a lector reader, I have had the honor of sharing the word of God with others during the 10:30 service. This year I was also honored to serve as a delegate to the ESDS convention allowed me to see the bigger picture that the diocese plays in serving God's community. It also gave me a better understanding of the important role that St. Paul's plays in the vision of our Bishop.

##### **To which strategic goal area would you most want to be a Chapter Liaison (Cathedral for the City, Community, Formation, Music & Arts, Outreach & Justice, or Worship)? Why?**

I currently serve as a Chapter Liaison to the Evangelism Committee, and the Peace and Social Justice Committee, two ministries that are essential to sharing the love of Christ with our neighbors. If I am reelected to a full term; I will remain involved with these communities as well as continue to help the church balance its budget going forward.

##### **What attributes and gifts do you bring to the ministry of Chapter?**

First and foremost, I bring an understanding of how Chapter works, having served for the past year. In addition, I have an MBA and a Master of Teaching and Learning with Technology, from the University of Arizona Global Campus and have been working on the business side of education for several years. I have used the skills I learned from this over the past years when helping make decisions faced by the Cathedral. Both degrees have helped prepare me for this pivotal role. Having an understanding of the business structure of both the Cathedral and the diocese also helps prepare me for the work ahead. I would be excited if you allowed me to continue this for the next three years.

##### **Why do you feel called to serve on Chapter?**

As with every member of God's church, I try to live my life in a way that is pleasing to Him. My love for Christ is shown in my raising my daughter in the family ministry program here at St. Paul's. Bringing her up to know Christ is one of the main reasons that I have continued to attend church. Growing up in church, myself, I was able to hold on to the love of God, even when the church turned its back on me years ago. While I walked away from Him, he never left my side.

My life has been dedicated to the service of others. Working in Higher Education for the past 17 years has allowed me to help others reach their goals and obtain their dream. I also serve others through the different ministries I have become involved with at St. Paul's.

Welcoming others into the body of Christ is what we are all called to do when we are baptized as members of the family of God. Serving as an usher allows me to welcome others to the Cathedral on Sundays and serving on Chapter allows me to make sure that welcoming remains a central concept in all that we do as a church.

I feel called to serve on Chapter, as over the past year, I have been humbled and honored to serve the Cathedral in this role. I have seen the work that God has laid before me, and how he has used me to serve him over the past year. I believe that He is calling me to continue to serve Him in many ways, and if reelected I pray that His spirit will continue to guide me in my service to Him on Chapter.