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Who Am I?

I am a 59-year-old American who is also a proud British citizen. After graduating Villanova University back in 1984, I received a Fulbright Scholarship to teach and study in France. Since then, I have been a Manager of Customer Service and Training at Bloomingdale's, a systems engineer at Bell Laboratories and Sun Microsystems, and a partner at Towers Perrin which later became Willis Towers Watson from which I retired in 2016. Although officially retired, I joined Ernst & Young where I am currently working fulltime with global companies to build a more sustainable, diverse and purpose-filled workforce following the U.N.'s sustainable development goals.

I bring my passion, experience and skills around building and executing purpose-driven business strategies that are human-centred. I'd like to think if we can change the way our biggest employers think and operate, we can build a better working world. While I am not ready yet to fully retire, I am seeking to contribute more and more of my time and talent outside of the world of work.

I was baptised and confirmed in the Lutheran Church. In my early adulthood I became actively involved in an independent evangelical church. Each of these expressions of the Church contributed to my Christian development. My Lutheran upbringing gave me an appreciation for the liturgy, which I would only later come to appreciate when I found myself visiting foreign countries and managing to follow along in services in different languages. My early Lutheran education provided me an experience of the Gospel as a gift of God, not of works. I witnessed how clergy and laity could work together to forward the church's mission as articulated in the great commission.

My sojourn in the evangelical, non-denominational church allowed me to appreciate worship without formal liturgy that reached those for whom those traditions and forms were meaningless. My evangelical church emphasised learning and memorising scripture which has been a wonderful gift over the years. While it was hard to draw the line between clergy and laity, the years I spent participating in this faith community bequeathed to me the importance of the mission of the church – to spread the good news of Jesus Christ and the grace of God.

Why Am I Standing?

My varied career has afforded me the wonderful opportunity to live and work all over the world. Hometowns have included: Philadelphia, Toulouse, New York, San Francisco, London (twice), Montréal, and Hong Kong. Moving around in this way taught me the importance of establishing a support network. And I learned, over time, that each local parish or church community where I found myself was truly a godsend to me, the stranger in a strange land. I quickly found a community on which I could rely, but also to which I could make my own contributions. I ended up sitting on parish councils (Anglican, Episcopalian, and Lutheran), chairing property committees, and singing in choirs. Through these parishes, each different, each serving very different communities, I came to appreciate both the power of diversity and the universal centrality of the Eucharist.

Each parish should be encouraged and equipped to serve its unique role in its community. It was the connectedness I experienced through the local ministry of the amazing people at St Paul's, Covent

Garden which directly lead to the decision by me and my husband to seek citizenship in our adopted country and make London our home. And it has always been the local parish where I experience the sacredness of the liturgy, the conviction of the word, the nourishment of the eucharist, and the commission to do love in the world. It is among this community of faith where I get to live in forgiveness, claim my wholeness, and go on in peace.

St Paul's is also an amazing piece of architecture and theatre history. Every week visitors who have come on purpose, tourists who are wandering around, actors who have performed here or who know it as "their church", and our neighbours who have fallen on rough times or who are dealing with addiction or mental illness all find refuge and moments of peace together -- such is this parish's role in its community.

So my professional work and my personal experience have made me appreciate the power of the local community and the the importance of nurturing it, along with the environment that sustains it. Big global corporations that fail to understand this truth are no longer viable. And today, these companies are fast transforming themselves to try to become more lean, more agile, more empowering, and more locally engaged. I think the same must be done by the Church of England. I am sad to observe that, perhaps with the best of intentions, the Church as an organisation has lost its way. Instead of empowering local parishes, they appear to be depriving them of the nutrients they need to survive.

Given that I am a highly-paid consultant, I can say with some confidence that we don't need any more vision statements and programs designed by high-paid consultants such as myself, that need to be overseen by highly paid institutional clergy. What we need is more fulltime, parish-based clergy and staff to serve as the core critical resources in the local communities in which they are physically present.

I know attendance is down. I know the Diocese, like the wider church, is short of funds. I also know we have a bloated bureaucracy and that there are myriad avenues available to change priorities and shift focus and direct budget back to our parishes. Finances may, indeed, be stretched, but the pandemic has created new opportunities as people everywhere re-evaluate the meaning and purpose of their lives.

As a member of the "Save the Parish Network", I support our manifesto:

- **To support the archbishops** in keeping their pledge to support the parish as the best means of evangelism.
- **To put the "frontline first"**, ensuring that resources that properly belong to and are generated by the parishes remain at parish level, freeing up laity and clergy for mission.
- **To ensure that law and projects which initiate from the centre all support and enhance the parochial system** by integrating the Strategic Development Fund into the parish and opposing the revision to the Mission & Pastoral Measure which would make it easier and quicker for the dioceses to close churches, make clergy redundant, and throw clergy out of their homes.
- We believe that effective mission requires the prioritisation of spending on **good theological education** as a crucial investment.
- We will call for a Church-State commission to agree a national plan to **protect and preserve historic parish buildings**.



I'd be honoured to be elected. I ask for your vote. Do feel free to contact me if you would like to learn more.