

## Vestry Candidate Biographies

### ***Kyla A. Chapman-Neal***

I am a life-long Episcopalian, and other than a few years, a life-long member of Emmanuel. My husband, Scott Neal, and I were married at Emmanuel. We have four adult children (Jordan, Amber, Logan, & Elora and their families) who all have been raised with the Emmanuel family. Currently I am active as a Lecture at the 8 a.m. and some other services, plus I co-teach Sunday school. My husband and I set-up the coffee for post 8 a.m. service. Although we have typically had rescue dogs, we have finally agreed on the husky breed. We have Tessa (5), Zoey (3), and Adira (2). We also have two parakeets, Apollo and Artemis, and my fish. I work at Rockford University as the Academic Success Coordinator and as an adjunct faculty. I oversee The HUB: Peer Academic Coaching & Testing Services. I have also been a long-term employee of the Capri Restaurant (30 years). I can still occasionally be seen at the new location.



### ***Todd R. Burton***

Todd has been a member of Emmanuel since he returned to Rockford in 2016. He will retire in January 2025 from the Office of the Secretary of Defense where he served as the Chief of Personnel, Finance, & Administration for the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration. He is a retired Army officer with over 30 years of service with assignments focused on disaster response planning, support to the Department of Homeland Security, and financial management. Todd deployed to Afghanistan in 2011 to provide oversight of finance and contracting operations in the Kabul region. He's an active leader in DoD Pride, a DoD employee resource group for LGBTQ personnel. Todd holds a Ph.D. from Cardinal Stritch University where his research focused on the use of social media in organizing the LGBT military community. Todd will complete his service on the ShelterCare Board in April of 2025. He served as a member of the Commission on Ministry for the Diocese of Chicago from 2019-2024 and chaired the city of Rockford's Community Relations Commission from 2019-2024



### ***Tamara Ross***

Tamara Ohr Ross is a retired graphic designer who has lived in Rockford and attended The Episcopal Church for 21 years. She was first a member at St. Chad in Loves Park, then at Emmanuel, where she served as Parish Administrator in 2009. Her involvement in The Church has included Altar Guild, lector, acolyte/Crucifer, grant writer, chorister, and Emmanuel Guild member. Vestry would be a new and exciting area of service and leadership for her, especially at a time of transition for this vibrant parish.

Outside of church, Tamara enjoys making art, and needlework of diverse kinds. She lives with her husband, Dave, her corgi mutt, Libby.



### ***Mark Baldwin***

Mark Baldwin has served on multiple vestries over the past 25 years. Most recently, he served on the Emmanuel Vestry from 2015 to 2020, including two years as senior warden. Now semiretired, he works part time as communications director for the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ. He is the former executive editor of the Rockford Register Star and before that worked for news organizations in Wisconsin, Kansas, Chicago and Washington, D.C., and was an adjunct lecturer in journalism at Northwestern University. He and his wife, Sydney, are the parents of three adult daughters. They have two grandchildren, with one more on the way.

