Bio - Nina Vest Salmon

I am a long-time English professor and a fairly recently ordained (2019) priest. I teach at the University of Lynchburg and serve as the Associate Rector for Youth and Families at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, located in Lynchburg, Virginia’s city center. I love my work and the overlapping worlds that permit me to pursue lifelong interests as I live into my (bi)vocations.

My academic scholarship has focused on Lynchburg’s Harlem Renaissance poet, Anne Spencer, and my doctoral dissertation titled *Paved with Good Intentions: The Road to Racial Unity in the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia* focused on integration and the closing of the diocese’s historically black churches. One of those churches, Chapel of the Good Shepherd, was in the neighborhood where Anne Spencer lived—a neighborhood that welcomed such visitors as James Weldon Johnson, Marion Anderson, Langston Hughes, and W.E.B. Du Bois. In addition to the usual college composition classes, I currently teach a capstone class for our juniors and seniors titled *Black Heroes: How Did Harlem Get to Pierce Street?,* which amplifies the voices of Harlem Renaissance luminaries and this Lynchburg neighborhood well-known for its accomplished African-American residents and visitors.

In the church, I served as a lay deputy to General Convention from 2006-2015. While in seminary, I attended General Convention as a member of the secretariat, taking minutes for the House of Bishops. I returned as a clergy deputy in 2022. At the previous convention, I was the secretary for the 2022 committee for Racial Justice and Reconciliation. I served on this committee in its earlier iterations from 2009-2015 and am on the 2024 committee for Racial Truth-Telling, Reckoning & Healing**.** I have had the privilege of serving on two interim bodies: the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop and the State of the Church committee. My participation in these committees has enriched my life and deepened my faith. Working alongside people of God for the benefit of God’s people and the church gives purpose and meaning to collaborations with a (usually) kinder, gentler shared focus that can be absent in secular committee work.

My husband is a retired high school history teacher, who supports me unfailingly, fixes my coffee each morning, takes care of our (high-maintenance) standard poodle, and keeps tabs on our one daughter-in-law and three adult sons.

I was previously on the Executive Council slate at General Convention in 2015 but removed my name when it became clear that I would soon be in seminary. It would be a privilege to serve as the Executive Council member elected by Province III. I offer whole-hearted commitment to full engagement in the work and mission of the Church.