

## **Chris Alvarez**

When my late wife and I first walked through the doors of St. Michael and All Angels, we knew instantly that we had found a spiritual home. I was raised Catholic and had a strong Catholic education, but as a woman and member of the LGBTQ+ community I had grown deeply estranged from the Roman church. I've come to believe God called me to the Episcopal communion because, from a young age, I kept being thrown into truly lovely engagements with Episcopal parishes and people, including my Episcopalian wife and my first teaching job at a spirit-filled Episcopal school in California. So when I responded to that call and was received into the church—right here at St. Michael's a decade ago—it felt like coming home, and I am proud of my Episcopal identity.

St. Michael's has given me so much that I would like to try to give something back by serving on the Vestry. I've been involved in the Eucharistic Visitors, Hospitality, and Children's Chapel ministries, and offering to serve on the Vestry feels like another excellent way to contribute.

I've sat on two different (non-church-related) boards in the past, and I served for several years on the liturgy committee at Santa María de la Paz Catholic Community in Santa Fe, including two terms as chair.

I've been an educator my whole career, and I currently teach Latin and Humanities at a school here in Albuquerque, so my great passion in church work is offering a safe and growthful place for kids and youth. I am also committed to the work of deconstructing inequity, especially racial and gender inequity, both in church and in the wider world. Besides church and work, I love spending time with family and friends, being outdoors in our truly extraordinary state, and reading whenever I can find the time!

