

Lay Leadership

from Vestry February 2023 to Vestry February 2024



People's Wardens — Elected

Warden Catherine Nicholson

Deputy Warden Leonard Wong

Past Warden Janine White

Rector's Wardens — Appointed

Warden Bay Ryley

Deputy Warden Neil Zacharjewicz

Past Warden n/a

Treasurer — Appointed

John Swinden

Lay Delegates to Synod — Elected

Delegate Kiran Ghanekar

Delegate Ehsan Hemmatzadeh

Delegate Zexia Hylton

Delegate Westmore Smith

Alternate Paul Nielsen

People's Wardens



Catherine Nicholson
Warden

Catherine joined St. Clement's at age eight when her family moved to the neighbourhood. As the daughter of choir members, she has fond memories of playing with her brother in the pews during the choir warm up and many choir Christmas parties at her house. Catherine and her husband, Shane, were married at St. Clement's in 2003. Their boys, Ewan and Liam, were baptized at the church and have spent many years building Lego creations while enjoying the service.

Catherine has practised law since 2004. Catherine practised tax law at two national firms and then tax and corporate law at a leading mid-market Toronto firm. In 2017, Catherine joined Manulife where she advises on corporate, regulatory, M&A, trademarks, and reinsurance matters. Her favourite aspects of work are making complex concepts understandable for different audiences and mentoring colleagues. Catherine is delighted to serve as a warden of St. Clement's.

Throughout her life, St. Clement's has been a place of sustenance, reflection, and grace. Catherine is looking forward to supporting the mission of St. Clement's and continuing to make St. Clement's a supportive and compassionate place for the entire community.



Leonard Wong
Deputy Warden

Leonard and his family moved into the neighbourhood in 2015 and joined St. Clement's shortly after. Leonard grew up attending Anglican schools in Hong Kong and joined different Anglican churches after moving to Canada in 1993. While trying to find a new church for the family after moving into the area, Leonard was moved by the music and people in St. Clement's, and the vision statement, "We are choosing authenticity and embracing the unexpected over achieving the illusion of perfection." Over these few years, Leonard and his family have been blessed to have St. Clement's become a key part of building the family in a new neighbourhood, with strong ministries supporting the parishioners, especially the Youth and Small Group Ministries. Leonard has served in other Anglican churches before and is looking forward to contributing to the growth of St. Clement's parish.



Janine White
Past Warden

Janine and her family have been part of St. Clement's since moving into the neighbourhood in 2007. While somewhat familiar with the St. Clement's community through her mother-in-law, Jean Lee, it was through the baptism of their two younger children in 2007 and 2010 that the welcoming and open nature of the church was truly felt, particularly through the baptism courses and church community sponsors. With the ebb and flow of family and work life through the years, the family has increasingly gotten to know St. Clement's and its offerings to further spiritual growth of both the individual and the community as a whole. Janine has previously assisted on the Strategic Advisory Board and helped define the communications requirements to ensure it supports the fulfillment of St. Clement's strategic 3-year plan. Professionally, Janine has spent 20+ years in the digital insurance space with a focus on strategic planning, operational execution and communications, and looks forward to contributing these talents in any way to help continue and strengthen the reach of the church.

Rector's Wardens



**Bay Ryley
Warden**

The Ryley family have been part of St. Clement's parish for about 100 years! Bay is an employment and human rights lawyer and President of Ryley Learning – a digital workplace learning company with a focus on anti-sexual harassment and anti-racism training. As a lawyer, Bay provides strategic advice and litigation support to both employers and employees in respect of a range of workplace law matters. She draws on many years of advocacy and policy work in human rights and employment law, professional regulation, and public inquiries.

Bay has counsel to: Human Rights Legal Support Centre; Ontario Human Rights Commission; Constitutional Law Branch (MAG) MFP/Computer Leasing Inquiry; College of Physicians & Surgeons of Ontario, Walkerton (Tainted Water) Inquiry. Bay was called to the bar in 2001 and articulated at Borden Ladner Gervais LLP. She holds an LL.B from Dalhousie Law School, and a B.A. and M.A. in History from Queen's University.

Bay looks forward to supporting the leadership at St. Clement's, in whom she has great trust and faith. Self-proclaimed as someone with a "patchy" attendance record spanning 5 decades, Bay is particularly interested in the question of "Why don't 'people' go to church anymore? Are there ways for today's Anglican church to re-engage those who were formerly more active, and attract new members?"



**Neil Zacharjewicz
Deputy Warden**

Neil first became connected to St. Clement's in 2009 through his wife Christie's family. Having moved away and subsequently returned to the neighbourhood, he and his family rekindled their relationship with St. Clement's prior to the start of the pandemic in 2020. They have been regular attendees ever since, drawn by the welcoming atmosphere and friendly congregation.

Neil's strong belief in public service has been a guiding factor in his career choices. He currently works in the Ontario Public Service as a communicator for the Ministry of Health where he has taken on a number of roles including manager, team lead, speechwriter, and project manager. Prior to this, he served as the Director of Communications to the Minister of Children and Youth Services, as a Special Assistant

to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, as a Strategic Communications Advisor to the Ontario Provincial Police Association, and as a communications assistant to the Ontario Liberal caucus. Born and raised in Lively, Ontario, Neil is a proud northerner and spent nearly a decade as a reporter and editor in communities across Northern Ontario prior to arriving in Toronto. Neil is thankful for the opportunity to share his skills and enthusiasm with his church community.

Treasurer



John Swinden
Treasurer

John joined St. Clement's in 2019 after he and his wife Helen returned to Toronto (they left in 1996). After a search for a new church home, they chose St. Clement's because they perceived a strong, active and diverse leadership to whom the congregation seemed to respond to, and was supported by wonderful music. John and Helen always actively assisted in churches they have attended; Helen has decades of service as an organist and choir director and a term as Warden at St. James, Caledon East. John has been board chair of a three-point charge among other church duties.

John's career was as a partner with Ernst & Young in Toronto where he had many different assignments over the years including, five years as the Canadian firm's chief financial officer. In 1995 he moved to the Ernst & Young International firm as the world-wide director to establish the new function of Risk Management. He is Fellow of the CPA Institute and a Certified Fraud Examiner. He is the founding Treasurer of Toronto Summer Music, was a director and board chair of an Ontario hospital and a director and Audit Committee chair of Infrastructure Ontario (an Ontario Crown corporation).

Lay Delegates to Synod



Kiran Ghanekar
Delegate

Kiran started attending St. Clement's in the summer of 2017. He was confirmed at St. Clement's in the fall of 2021. He is involved in the AV Team and helps stream services when others are unavailable. He is a grade 11 student and enjoys studying Math and Latin. Even though this takes up much of his time, he enjoys taking care of an aquarium, a number of plants, and a dog. He is excited to participate more in the church in this way and increase the amount of youth representation in the lay leadership.



Ehsan Hemmatzadeh
Delegate

Ehsan has been a part of St. Clement's since 2019 when he came to Canada from Iran. Since then, he started attending the Sunday Services and Christianity courses with his wife (Sorour). Ehsan and Sorour were baptized in November 2019. Ehsan finds that St. Clement's Church is a community that helps him in the continuation of his journey in following Jesus. He has been involved in different roles in sidesteam ministry and he enjoys it.

In his professional life he worked as an automation and control engineer back home in Iran for almost 9 years, and currently he is doing electronics engineering in Markham.

He works on robotics, avionics, and medical projects. He also has a side job at home repairing industrial electrical/electronic devices. Ehsan likes soccer and volleyball. In his spare time, he enjoys watching soccer matches, exercise and spending time with family and friends.



Zexia Hylton
Delegate

Zexia has been a member of St. Clement's for about twelve years. She is from Jamaica and came to Canada in 1969. She worked with the federal government for thirty-six years. She retired from being a CBSA officer in 2006. She was always active in any Anglican Church she attended, including playing the organ and piano for services, as well as other active duties. At St. Clement's, she has been a floral designer/decorator and really enjoys this. She also does prayers of the people when necessary. She has three sons and eight grandchildren. Her

hope for St. Clement's is for love and unity in the church.



Westmore Smith
Delegate

Westmore joined St. Clement's around April 2019. He knew about this church as Fr. Andrew was the Rector at his previous parish at St. David's Church prior to arriving at St. Clement's. Since joining, he has felt nothing but warmth and acceptance when entering the church and seeing nothing but smiling faces.

The connection he experiences with other young families at this church has made him feel like a part of this community.

At his former church, he was sitting on the Advisory Committee, the Saturday Tutoring program and also was involved with the Youth Group. He really enjoyed the experience of being part of a team in doing Christ's work in the management of the church operations. His role as a teacher, father and part-time graduate student has shifted his responsibilities away from church work for some time. The opportunity to do parish work through the role as a Lay Delegate to Synod is a welcoming return to performing the Lord's work in his church community.

A proud father to 2 active young boys, Philippe and Raphaël, ages 6 and 4 respectively. He works as an elementary school teacher with the Toronto District School Board. He is also a part-time graduate student working on his M.Ed in Education and Digital Technology.



Paul Nielsen
Alternate Delegate

Paul first set foot in St. Clements Church 21 years ago and soon felt compelled to get confirmed. Paul is a part time student at the University of Toronto, majoring in African Studies and minoring in English and Human Geography. He works part time at his brother-in-law's bicycle shop. Paul loves to play guitar and enjoys spending time with his two nephews.

Paul feels truly blessed to be a part of St. Clement's and is grateful to be a part of its community. Paul experiences a great sense of peace whenever entering St. Clement's. He calls it is a wonderful, redeeming and tranquil place where love and compassion are well apparent.