

The Episcopal Diocese  
*of Northern California*

**ELECTIONS**



**2024 DIOCESAN CONVENTION | ELECTIONS**

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### THE ROLE OF A TRUSTEE

A member of the Board of Trustees shall be a confirmed member of The Episcopal Church, resident in The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California, and a communicant in good standing of a congregation of The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California.

#### Trustees will:

- Through a Mutual Ministry process with the Bishop, help set goals for the diocese and periodically evaluate progress toward goals.
- Help develop Diocesan Policy and Strategy in support of mission priorities and operations priorities established by Diocesan Convention.
- Contribute to Strategic Planning for the diocese, looking ahead and helping develop policy options to meet changing circumstances.
- Help oversee Diocesan Finance and Administration in support of mission priorities, including the development and adoption of the annual operating budget of the diocese.
- Serve as Directors of the Diocesan Corporation, the civil legal face of the diocese, with duties set forth in State law, the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of the Corporation, and in acts of Convention.
- Help oversee Diocesan Property and Development in support of mission priorities.
- The Diocesan Corporation is the owner of all of the assets of the diocese, including all real property, funds and other assets of the Missions in the diocese, with rights and responsibilities of such ownership.
- The Trustees shall use diligence to increase the principal funds of the endowments of the diocese.
- Trustees may expect monthly meetings augmented by the diocese's communications network. They may be invited to work on subcommittees. They are asked to participate in a planning retreat, in January each year.

#### Board of Trustees members shall:

- Pray for and actively support the mission of the diocese.
- Attend regular meetings, planning meetings, and/or committee meetings.
- Comply with applicable canons, laws, policies and code of ethics.
- Accept the legal duties of loyalty and care while serving.
- Believe that all power rests with the full Board or Council, not individual members.
- Share wisdom and insights to help the Board and Council make good decisions and policy.
- Prepare well for all meetings.
- Be an advocate for programs and decisions.
- Seek opportunities to expand knowledge of the diocese.
- Regularly self-evaluate personal performance and determine need for improvement.
- Maintain confidentiality when necessary.

**16.1. Creation.** There shall be a Board of Trustees (“Trustees”) which shall be composed of the Bishop, who shall serve as President, seven elected deanery members, three appointed members, five elected at large members, the Chancellor, and the Treasurer of the Diocese. Unless serving as elected members, the Deans of the Deaneries shall be associate members without vote.

**16.1.1. Selection.** Elected and appointed members shall be selected as follows:

**16.1.1.1. Elected Deanery Members.** The elected deanery members shall be elected at Convention by a caucus of the convention delegates from the deanery they represent.

**16.1.1.2. Appointed Members.** The appointed members shall be appointed by the Bishop or the Ecclesiastical Authority if there is no Diocesan Bishop. The appointments shall be made before December 1 of each year.

**16.1.1.3. Elected At Large Members.** The elected at large members shall be elected by Convention.

**16.1.1.4 Clergy and Lay Members.** Of the elected and appointed members it is a goal that five shall be members of the clergy and that ten shall be members of the laity.

**16.1.2. Terms.** Each elected or appointed member shall serve a three-year term, each term to begin on the December 1 following election or appointment. No elected or appointed member may serve more than two successive three year terms without an intervening lapse of at least one year.

**16.1.3. Qualifications.** Subject to the provisions of Canon 23, a member of the Trustees shall be a confirmed member of The Episcopal Church, resident in the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California, and a communicant in good standing of a congregation of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California. The elected deanery members shall be communicants in good standing of a congregation located in the deanery that they represent; or they shall be clergy associated with such a congregation; or they shall be the Dean of the deanery they represent.

**16.1.4. Vacancies.** The Board of Trustees shall have the power to fill vacancies in the elected membership of the Board until the next annual

Convention. Convention or caucus (whichever is appropriate) shall then elect a member to serve for the remaining unexpired term. The Bishop, or the Ecclesiastical Authority if there is no Diocesan Bishop, shall fill vacancies in the appointed membership by appointment for the remainder of the unexpired term.

**16.1.5. Quorum.** A majority of the members serving shall constitute a quorum.

**16.2. Duties.** The duties of the Trustees are as follows:

**16.2.1. Policy and Strategy.** The Trustees shall develop Diocesan policy and strategy in support of mission priorities and operations priorities established by Convention.

**16.2.2. Strategic Planning.** The Trustees shall act as strategic planner, looking ahead and developing policy options to meet changing circumstances.

**16.2.3. Finance and Administration.** The Trustees shall oversee finance and administration in support of mission priorities.

**16.2.3.1. Department of Finance.** The Trustees shall serve as the Department of Finance of the Diocese, as provided by the Canons of The Episcopal Church.

**16.2.4. Property.** The Trustees shall oversee property and development in support of mission priorities.

**6.2.4.2. Assets.** The Diocesan Corporation shall be the owner of all of the assets of the Diocese, including all real property, funds and other assets of the Missions in the Diocese, with rights and responsibilities of such ownership.

**16.2.4.3. Endowments.** The Trustees shall use diligence to increase the principal funds of the endowments of the Diocese.

**16.2.5. Diocesan Corporation.** The Trustees shall serve as the Board of Directors of the Diocesan Corporation, and their duties shall be those set forth in state law for directors of such a corporation, in the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of the Corporation, or in acts of Convention. Any reference to the “Corporation” in the Constitution, Canons, Resolutions, or policies of the Diocese shall be deemed to refer to the Trustees.

**16.3. Authority.** Authority, whether delegated to the Trustees by Canons or by resolution of the Convention, or otherwise, shall belong to the Board of Trustees as a whole. The Trustees may create organizational substructures from their membership and others and may assign to its organizational substructures, by resolution or bylaw, such powers and responsibilities as it is able, and sees fit to assign. A permanent or irrevocable grant of powers to any such substructure is not authorized. Duties imposed upon and authority delegated to the former Board of Directors shall be deemed to be delegated to the Trustees.



**JO ANN WILLIAMS**

**LAY NOMINEE | BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

ST. JOHN'S | ROSEVILLE

NOMINATED BY: SELF

INCUMBENT: NO

**Biographical Statement**

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

- Racial Justice Audit Co-Chair. Two-year audit of the diocese for 2023 and 2024. Working with two Mission Institute consultants and team from Board of Trustees, Standing Committee and Commission for Intercultural Ministries (CIM).
- Invited by the Canon to the Ordinary to draft the diocese's first Diversity Statement which was further developed by the Board of Trustees. I presented the statement with the Canon at the 2023 Diocesan Convention.
- CIM leadership team member, anti-racism workshop facilitator, and newsletter editor. Plan and strategize with CIM Co-Chairs regarding CIM diversity work. Actively working toward training all vestry and mission committee members in the diocese to complete anti-racism training. CIM's Beloved Community Resource Newsletter has an average email open rate of 70% which is 26% above the national average email open rate of 44% for faith-based organizations according to Constant Contact.
- Member of diocesan Tule Lake planning committee. Planning post-revival webinar and pilgrimage to Tule Lake in the northern part of diocese for next year.
- Member of Commission on Ministry, 2010-2019. Administratively assisted postulants through the ordination process.

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ROSEVILLE

- Sacred Ground facilitator since 2020 facilitating mostly all-White dialogue circles.
- Served on vestry for three 3-year nonconsecutive terms. Senior warden for two years during first term.

**EDUCATION**

- Completed 4-year Education for Ministry program in 2011.
- Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with concentration in Human Resources Management, Cum Laude, California State University, Sacramento, 1995

**What talents and spiritual gifts do you bring to the Board of Trustees?**

I can assist the Board of Trustees to implement racial reconciliation strategies and policies that are much needed in our diocese. We have many good and faithful people in our majority White diocese, but we can be more effective Christians when we learn about and develop relationships with other people who are not like us. Most importantly, this allows us to live more fully into our Baptismal Covenant. I facilitate the one-day racial healing workshop at diocesan level and Sacred Ground at my local church. In addition, Katrina Browne, The Episcopal Church's original curriculum developer for Sacred Ground, invited me to co-found and co-facilitate with another Sacred Ground facilitator a national Sacred Ground Facilitators of Color monthly meeting which I have done since 2022.

I was a member of the diocesan Commission on Ministry for nine years (2010-2019) and administratively assisted many postulants through the ordination process. It was a joy to have been a part of their journey toward priesthood or the diaconate.

I served on my church's vestry for three 3-year nonconsecutive terms and was senior warden for two years during my first term.

Finally, I was a Human Resources Supervisor at UC Davis for 14 years. I am happy to bring my skills and experience gained at the university which is known for its strong culture of diversity. I also supervised the payroll for the department.



**ROBIN CARDONA**

**LAY NOMINEE | BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**CHRIST CHURCH | EUREKA**

**NOMINATED BY: DR. DANIEL DEFOREST LONDON**

**INCUMBENT: NO**

**Biographical Statement**

Greetings! My name is Robin Cardona. My home church is Christ Church Eureka here in beautiful Humboldt County, where I have lived for 10 years. I have been attending Christ Church for 4 of those years. I was baptized and confirmed in the Episcopal Church in 2021, making me a newer member. I am finishing up a 3-year vestry term and currently serve on altar guild, our diversity committee, and help coordinate our children's Joy Mass service. I am a stay-at-home mom to my 2 young boys and work part-time in higher education. I have a sweet 8-year-old rescue dog and supportive husband who helps me get it all done. In my limited spare time I enjoy reading, watching movies, crocheting, cooking, hiking, and playing card games.

**What talents and spiritual gifts do you bring to the Board of Trustees?**

I hope to bring my strong work ethic, personable attitude, passionate drive, and faithfulness to the Board of Trustees. I feel strongly about helping others and giving back to the church that has been a healing haven for me these past four years. I consider my hospitality, service, and encouraging attitude to be amongst my best spiritual gifts that I have to offer the board. I strive to be open-minded and fair; I like to examine an issue from as many sides as possible before acting. I truly enjoy discourse and working with a team of like-minded individuals towards a common goal. I hope to bring a fresh voice to the Board of Trustees if I am so humbly elected. Thank you.





**STEVE MERSHON**

**LAY NOMINEE | BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

ST. AUGUSTINE'S | ROCKLIN

NOMINATED BY: REV ANNY GENATO

INCUMBENT: NO

**Biographical Statement**

Steve Mershon is certified as a Project Management Professional® from the Project Management Institute® and certified Scrum Master with a Master of Science in Computer Information Systems and a Master of Business Administration. He holds a Six Sigma Black Belt. Currently retired, Steve's work experience included 25 years in the Semiconductor Industry with roles as Product Marketing Engineer, Engineering Manager, and Business Process Development Manager. He finished his career in the Sacramento area as a Senior Management Consultant.

He is a former Communications Leader for the Sacramento Valley Project Management Institution Chapter and the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California, a former spiritual care volunteer for Kaiser Hospital, and a six-year member of the Advisory Council for the Kairos Prison Ministry for California State Prison in Folsom. He was the Senior Warden for St. Augustine for four formative years as the church transitioned from the warehouse on Cincinnati Blvd to MMCA school. He led the effort on that transition and assembled the team and structured the vision (as a gift from the Spirit) to build St. Augustine's first church building. Steve led the effort to become a parish. He has been involved in congregation development efforts including Natural Church Development, missio:Engage!, the College of Congregational Development, and ASU Best Skills, Best Churches. He serves St. Augustine in various groups including leading weekly Centering Prayer, the Outreach team, Stewardship team, tech team, the Brotherhood of St. Andrew,

and Marketing/Communications team. He is the current Grant Chair for the Episcopal Church Services board.

**What talents and spiritual gifts do you bring to the Board of Trustees?**

Please see above.

### **THE ROLE OF A STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBER**

A member of the Standing Committee (SC) shall be a confirmed member of The Episcopal Church, resident in The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California, and a communicant in good standing of a congregation of The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California.

There are eight positions on the SC, four clergy and four lay. All member terms are for four years. Diocesan Convention elects two members each year in November, one clergy and one lay. The standard diocesan process for applying to be elected is announced in June each year by the Office of the Bishop. The president and secretary are elected at the November meeting after Convention. The Constitution specifies how to fill a midterm vacancy. The president will produce and distribute the agenda a week before each meeting. The secretary will record the minutes and the president will distribute the document before or with the following month's agenda. Approved minutes and a list of members' names are located on the diocesan website under Governance.

Members may expect to attend monthly meetings, augmented by the diocese's communications network. Meetings are customarily held on the third Friday morning of each month, at St. Martin's Church, Davis. Members may be invited to work on subcommittees. The bishop customarily attends SC meetings unless away at House of Bishops' meetings or on other necessary absences.

#### **The Standing Committee:**

Serves as the Bishop's Council of Advice, meeting on request of the Bishop or on the Committee's own accord;

Acts in matters such as recognizing new missions and missions becoming parishes, consenting to alienation or hypothecation of congregational or institutional property, consulting upon differences between a rector and vestry, approving the progress of individuals through the process for ordination to the diaconate or priesthood, approving the release

and removal of individuals from the ordained ministry, consenting to the deconsecration of churches, and, consenting, along with other standing committees (consent of a majority of standing committees being required), to the election of bishops of other dioceses or filling a vacancy in the office of presiding bishop;

Serves as Ecclesiastical Authority for the exercise of specified episcopal functions when no bishop is authorized to act by reason of vacancy in office, bishop's absence from the diocese for more than six months, request of the bishop, or bishop's incapacity or suspension.

Acts according to the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church.

#### **What SC does by custom in this diocese:**

**Discernment:** The Diocesan Commission on Ministry (DCOM) holds two or more discernment weekends with ordination nominees each year, usually at Mercy Center, Auburn. SC members are invited and expected to participate actively. The Ordination Process Coordinator of the Office of the Bishop works with the DCOM co-chairs and the SC president to facilitate the documentation of ordinands and their interviews.

**Interface with Board of Trustees (BOT):** The BOT holds a planning retreat in January of each year, usually at Mercy Center, Auburn. The president of the Standing Committee, or one member appointed by SC in his/her place, attends with full participation.



**JOHN TORRES**

**LAY NOMINEE | STANDING COMMITTEE**

**INCARNATION | SANTA ROSA**

**NOMINATED BY: MIRIAM CASEY AND BOB WOHLSEN**

**INCUMBENT: NO**

**Biographical Statement**

Greetings, I am John I Torres. My home church of the last two years is the Church of the Incarnation in Santa Rosa. I am currently completing my first year on the Vestry. My partner, Tim Webb and I have lived in Sonoma County for forty years. I was baptized Roman Catholic, became an Evangelical, attended a Methodist related college, B.A. and seminary, MA. I found my way to Metropolitan Community Church and served as a minister for almost 20 years. I worked as a front line employee for Kaiser Permanente. While in that job, I was a Union Shop Steward for over fifteen years. I have volunteered for various nonprofits in Sonoma County and have volunteered with Queer men's groups, DEI - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion committees and Interfaith groups. I am currently serving on Kaiser's LGBTQIA+ Patient Advisory Committee and Kaiser's Northern California Regional Compliance and Safety Patient Advisory Committee. Besides serving on the Vestry, I am on the Finance Committee, the Development Committee, the Incarnation Choir and the Green Team.

**What talents and spiritual gifts do you bring to the Board of Trustees?**

What I bring to the Standing Committee is a history of a voice for presence in Christ's community. I strive to embrace a consistent hope for greater inclusion for BIPOC in the Episcopal Church. I live a life of daily spiritual practice with a commitment to prayer. I have a love for our smaller congregations. I value process and the gift of discernment.



**DONNIE WALLACE**

**LAY NOMINEE | STANDING COMMITTEE**

**ST. BARNABAS | MT. SHASTA**

**NOMINATED BY: SELF**

**INCUMBENT: NO**

**Biographical Statement**

I was previously elected to the Standing Committee, however due to health issues, I felt it would be best for the diocese to resign my position. I have also been on the Mission Council for a number of years as well as being a diocesan convention delegate.

**What talents and spiritual gifts do you bring to the Board of Trustees?**

As a previous elected member of the Standing Committee I have worked and experienced all aspects that are required of the members.

I am diligent in thought and prayer for the work and decisions that need to be made. It has been an honor to serve, and I hope to do so again.



**NICHOLAS WILCOX**

**LAY NOMINEE | STANDING COMMITTEE**

**ST. GEORGE'S | CARMICHAEL**

**NOMINATED BY: SELF**

**INCUMBENT: NO**

**Biographical Statement**

My Church Home is St. George's Episcopal Church, Carmichael, where I currently serve as Senior Warden in year 2 of a three year term. I have been a member of St. George's for over five years, and have been Episcopalian ever since I joined. I was confirmed into the Church by Bishop Megan in February of 2020, shortly before the pandemic.

In addition to serving on the Vestry and as Senior Warden, I am a regular reader for my community, and I serve on the tech/streaming team for our remote congregants.

Outside of the Church, I am currently an attorney at Powers Miller, practicing civil insurance defense.

**What talents and spiritual gifts do you bring to the Board of Trustees?**

As an attorney, I have to pay attention to the fine details of various situations that my clients find themselves in. Additionally, as someone who is on the younger side, I can bring a fresh perspective to the Standing Committee and bring that to various issues that come up under the Standing Committee's purview.

Additionally, I have a strong gift of faith, and that God will bring us forward as the years go on.