



2025 DIOCESAN CONVENTION

GOVERNANCE ELECTIONS

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 meeting, 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 follow.

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.

GOVERNANCE NOMINEES | BOARD OF TRUSTEES | SHELLY CARLSON

Two at-large positions – lay or clergy; three-year term



SHELLY CARLSON

LAY NOMINEE ST.

JOHN'S,
ROSEVILLE

NOMINATED BY:
SELF

INCUMBENT: NO

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHY

Please write a short biography about yourself including diocesan and/or congregational level positions held currently or previously.

I have been a member at St. John's Roseville since 2010. I have served on the vestry 3 terms and currently serve as the Vestry Clerk. I have served as president of the Nor. Cal Diocesan DOK board for 2 terms, president of the Province VIII DOK board, president of the secretariat and Rectora for Cursillo Ministry of No. California. I serve 4 times as a lay delegate to N. California General Convention. I am called to serve God's people in this life. I always try to lead by the example Jesus gave us to serve all people. I am married, have wonderful adult children and even more wonderful grandchildren. I am retired and enjoying the life God has blessed me with. I am originally from the Western Slope of Colorado where my extended family still resides. I enjoy knitting, crocheting, playing cards, serving, and family time. Giving of my time, talent and treasure is my mission in this life.

NOMINEE STATEMENT

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

I have served on several boards through out my life. I am a dedicated servant in all I set out to do. I am prayerful in all I do, discerning for the guidance from God and the Holy Spirit in all decisions large and small. I am opened minded in all situations looking to obtain all information, points of view and spend time in prayer, prior to stepping forward with any decision. I believe everyone should voice their thoughts and opinions while discussing matters at hand. It is also critical to be respectful of everyone, listening to other voices especially when they don't line up with my own views. The dynamic between any board, team, committee is important to be successful. This process brings healthy discussions and final decisions guided through the direction of God. I love to roll up my sleeves and work with leaders to accomplish the goals for God's people through the resources He provides.

GOVERNANCE NOMINEES | BOARD OF TRUSTEES | MARGIE HARRISON-SMITH

Two at-large positions – lay or clergy; three-year term



MARGIE HARRISON-SMITH

LAY NOMINEE

ALL SAINTS, REDDING

NOMINATED BY:

SELF

INCUMBENT: YES

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHY

Please write a short biography about yourself including diocesan and/or congregational level positions held currently or previously.

For the Diocese of Northern California, I have served 4 years on the Board of Trustees, completing a one-year and 3-year term. I am eligible to serve 2 more years. I have served as Vice President of the Board for the last 3 years. I have also served on the Disaster Resilience Team, Employee Practices & Benefits Committee, Convention Planning, Communications, Revival Planning and have served as a Faith X mentor. My husband and I belong to All Saints' Redding, where I have served as Rector's Warden, People's Warden, Clerk as well as my current role as an eucharistic minister, acolyte and vergers. I also chaired the communications team, the operations team, the endowment committee and am currently the team lead for worship on the Ministry Council.

NOMINEE STATEMENT

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

I have experience working with people from different perspectives and being able to identify and create common priorities. I bring my consensus building and communication skills to every aspect of Board of Trustees work. I can keep track of a variety of projects – a key skill for a busy board. I am able to think strategically about the needs and desires of all areas of the diocese. I am willing to try something new and learn from the projects we have completed. I care about the people who currently make up the Diocese and will work hard to make the diocese stronger and more vibrant for those we serve now and those we will serve in the future.

GOVERNANCE NOMINEES | BOARD OF TRUSTEES | **BRET HAYS**

Two at-large positions – lay or clergy; three-year term



REV. BRET HAYS

CLERGY NOMINEE

TRINITY, FOLSOM

NOMINATED BY: SELF

INCUMBENT: YES

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHY

Please write a short biography about yourself including diocesan and/or congregational level positions held currently or previously.

A lifelong Episcopalian, the Rev. Bret B. Hays discerned a vocation to ordained ministry as an undergrad at UPenn, graduating from Virginia Theological Seminary in 2008.

Bret completed the ordination process in the Diocese of Connecticut, but his first call was to serve as Curate at St. John's Cathedral, Denver. After short-term positions at Christ the King, Arvada and Christ Church, Aspen, Fr. Bret was elected rector of St. John's, Gloucester, MA, serving there from 2011 to 2021. After three years as rector of Advent Episcopal Church in Tallahassee, Fr. Bret joyfully accepted a call to Trinity, Folsom. He is passionate about helping everyone to put, or keep, God at the center of their lives, and to grow into the full stature of Christ.

Having previously accepted an invitation from the Bishop of Massachusetts to serve on the search committee for Regional Canons in that diocese, he was happy to accept an invitation from our Bishop to fill a vacant seat on the Board of Trustees, as this aligns with his care for the support and development of churches of all sizes and situations. Being impressed with the Board's work and composition, he now seeks a full term.

NOMINEE STATEMENT

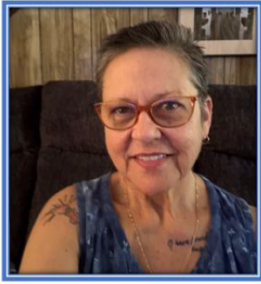
What talents and spiritual gifts do you bring to the Board of Trustees?

I have been learning about congregational development since before I was ordained, doing my seminary fieldwork in the only church plant in the Diocese of Washington. I am knowledgeable, organized, thoughtful, dedicated, and loyal. I completed the Congregational Development Institute during my curacy and have continued to learn about the subject, with increasing focus on evidence-based approaches.

Although I began my ordained ministry in a large church and serve one now, most of my work has been in small churches, so I am knowledgeable about, and sympathetic to, their challenges, opportunities, and dynamics. But all of this is underlaid by a theological understanding that the Holy Spirit has always been active in the church, and God has blessed every congregation with everything they need to thrive in their mission, although these things might not be within the congregation. Our diocese, through its Board, should be understood and experienced as a blessing to every constituent church.

GOVERNANCE NOMINEES | STANDING COMMITTEE

Three positions – one lay; four-year term; two clergy; three-year term and four-year term



DONNIE WALLACE

LAY NOMINEE

ST. BARNABAS, MT.
SHASTA

NOMINATED BY:
REV. MARK DIBELKA

INCUMBENT: NO

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHY

Please write a short biography about yourself including diocesan and/or congregational level positions held currently or previously.

My name is Donnie Wallace, and I have been a member of St Barnabas Episcopal Church in Mt. Shasta since 2012. Over the past decade, I have been deeply shaped by this faith community-through worship, service, and the quiet yet powerful work of shared discernment. My years at St. Barnabas have included clerk for two years, Mission Council for two years, one year as Junior Warden. Lay Worship Leader, Eucharistic Minister, ECW and also as a lay member of the Standing Committee, all of which have deepened my understanding of what it means to walk together in faith.

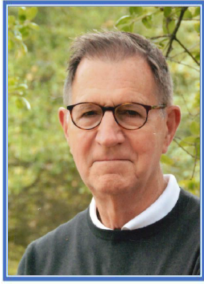
NOMINEE STATEMENT

What talents and spiritual gifts do you bring to the Standing Committee?

I am offering myself for election to the Standing Committee because I believe in the work of shared governance, spiritual oversight, and prayerful decision-making that this body is called to carry out. I feel drawn to this ministry out of a desire to serve the wider diocese with integrity, humility, and an open heart. I would bring to the Standing Committee a commitment to listening, collaborative leadership, and a grounded sense of discernment rooted in prayer and scripture. I would be honored to help steward the mission and values of our diocese as we continue navigating both challenges and opportunities in the life of the church. Thank you for your consideration.

GOVERNANCE NOMINEES | STANDING COMMITTEE

Three positions – one lay; four-year term; two clergy; three-year term and four-year term



**REV. WILLIAM
GLENN**

CLERGY NOMINEE

INCARNATION,
SANTA ROSA

NOMINATED BY:
REV. STEPHEN
SHAVER

INCUMBENT: NO

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHY

Please write a short biography about yourself including diocesan and/or congregational level positions held currently or previously.

Born/raised in Omaha NE, large (10) Irish Catholic family, Jesuit educated from high school through university, entered the Society of Jesus immediately afterwards. I was a Jesuit for nine+ years, as teacher, spiritual director, graduate student, worker in various social ministries. I loved the Jesuits and the brotherhood, and was tutored in Ignation spirituality. Nonetheless, I departed shortly before my ordination, as I got sober (47+ years) and came out as myself. It became abundantly clear that the Roman Church would not abide an openly gay priest, nor would my integrity abide the requisite condemnation (intrinsically disordered, sinful and aberrant, etc.). I have lived a sober and self-owning life since, not withstanding my large share of faults and shortcomings and willful ignorances.

Institutional autobiography: BA, history, Creighton University MA, St. Louis University, American Studies MA, University of San Francisco, Clinical Psychology M Div, Jesuit School of Theology and Pacific School of Religion (PSR), Licensed psychotherapist, clinical practice, 35 years, retired, past president, San Francisco AIDS Foundation, past vice-president, KQED, San Francisco, past member, board of trustees (PSR), past executive director, Continuum HIV Services, San Francisco Co-founder, Center for Queer Studies in Ministry and Religion, PSR, past trustee, Morris K. Stulsaft (philanthropic) Foundation, San Francisco, past chair, board/trustees, Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, past vestry member/senior warden, Incarnation, Santa Rosa, Co-chair, Imagine Incarnation Capital Campaign, recently ordained priest, Sacramento Associate pastor, Incarnation Santa Rosa. Married to Scott Hafner 44 years

NOMINEE STATEMENT

What talents and spiritual gifts do you bring to the Standing Committee?

I have deep not-for-profit management experience as a executive and as development lead. I have been the principal or lead administrator of two Catholic schools, elementary and high school (all girls) I have been on several boards in lead positions. I'm familiar with most aspects of institutional leadership. I was a theology teacher at Marquette University High School, Milwaukee, principal and senior administrator of both an RC elementary (St. Columba's Berkeley and and Mercy, all-girls high school in San Francisco. I have been a spiritual director for many years, trained for such work as a member of the Society of Jesus (nine years+). I worked as a volunteer counselor for lifers at San Quentin, also for nine+ years. I led a house church (prayer community) for seven years during the AIDS epidemic, and performed anointing, blessings and funerals for many beloved men, dear friends and men formerly unknown to me. I am deeply intuitive and have a regular prayer life, with an abiding love for Jesus, present in the Eucharist, in the world, and in the mystery of creation.. I have loved and been very engaged in the many ministries in which I have been called to serve. I published my spiritual autobiography three years ago: *I Came Here Seeking a Person* (NYC: Paulist Press, 2022). That person has been found. I am most grateful for my life, my life in the Episcopal Church, centered at Church of the Incarnation, Santa Rosa.

GOVERNANCE NOMINEES | STANDING COMMITTEE

Three positions – one lay; four-year term; two clergy; three-year term and four-year term



**REV. NANCY
STREUFERT**

CLERGY NOMINEE

CHRIST CHURCH,
EUREKA

NOMINATED BY:
REV. DR. DANIEL
LONDON
INCUMBENT: NO

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHY

Please write a short biography about yourself including diocesan and/or congregational level positions held currently or previously.

Born and raised in Davenport, Iowa, I migrated in 1979 to Santa Barbara, California where I began an engineering career in defense electronics with Delco Electronics and later, Raytheon in El Segundo. Toward the end of that career (2003), I became an attorney, moved to Humboldt County, and started a law practice in the areas of small business, intellectual property, and nonprofit law. Since then, I have served as a director/trustee on multiple community nonprofit boards, the Vestry at Christ Church, the EDNC Board of Trustees (2018-2023), and the Episcopal Foundation of Northern California (EFNC). After graduating from Education for Ministry (EfM), I discerned a call to Holy Orders and was ordained a priest at Christ Episcopal Church, Eureka in January 2015. As an Associate Priest, I have served both Christ Church and St. Alban's in Arcata and as a supply priest to area Episcopal congregations. Since 2017, I have been an EfM mentor and currently serve on the EFNC Board, chair the Convention Resolution Committee, coordinate the Semper Virens Regional Discernment Group, and am a Title IV Intake Officer for the diocese. I am also a graduate of the "Best Skills Best Churches" program offered by Arizona State University. Besides preaching and presiding for services, my ministries are focused on liturgy, music, adult Christian formation, spiritual practice, and evangelism. Music is an essential part of my life, and I play flute and piano, and sing in the Christ Church Choir and the Eureka Symphony Chorus.

NOMINEE STATEMENT

What talents and spiritual gifts do you bring to the Standing Committee?

That we are made in the image of God means in part that we are creative and loving beings. Creativity and reconciliation are important values that drew me into careers that fostered them. From each of my careers in engineering and law and ministry, I have learned and practiced the skills that I believe are not only important for our careers, but for our lives as God's people. Having worked for years with engineers, entrepreneurs, and artists, I learned and practiced the skills of problem-solving and innovation and patience that are required to deal with unexpected complications. As a law student and practicing attorney, I learned the necessity of looking at all sides of an issue before making judgments. And I discovered through reading thousands of legal cases that human relationships are messy and complex, and that misunderstanding is almost always at the core of any dispute. In my mediation training, I learned that the parties to a disagreement often have different priorities and so are willing to compromise on others. And as a pastor and in my Clinical Pastoral Education and hospital/hospice chaplaincy training, I learned the importance of listening. The Standing Committee does important work, and with my temperament and the skills I have developed over many years, I intend to be a voice of calm, reason, and consistency as we work together collaboratively as friends and colleagues, with trust and affection, on a common mission from God. Thank you for your consideration!

ELECTION TERM

General Convention deputies and alternates are elected by Diocesan Convention every three years and serve until the next diocesan election. General Convention deputies, along with bishops, participate in the governance and discernment of The Episcopal Church through activities before, during, and after the General Convention for which they are elected. By tradition, first elected L1 or C1 serve as Deputation chair.

ALTERNATES FULLY PARTICIPATE

All deputation members, including all alternates, are expected to participate fully in the work before and after General Convention. Changes in status, residence, employment and the desire to continuously raise up and train leaders prompts the full participation of alternates so that they are able to step into the role of deputy effectively, as needed.

Before General Convention

About 6 months prior to General Convention, the deputation meets monthly in person or by electronic means at times and places convenient to the members. Deputation members summarize reports and proposed resolutions from Task Forces and Committees, Commissions, Agencies, and Boards (CCABs) of The Episcopal Church. The deputation may choose to offer pre-GC Listening Sessions. Some deputies may be appointed by the President of the House of Deputies to serve on a committee during Convention.

DURING GENERAL CONVENTION

The 82nd General Convention of The Episcopal Church will be held in Phoenix Arizona during June and July 2027. Deputies and alternates are expected to give full and prayerful attention to all matters that will come before Convention. Responsibilities of the House of Deputies with the House of Bishops include adopting legislation of concern to the Church; amending the Book of Common Prayer, the Constitution, or the Canons of the Church; adopting a triennial budget for The Episcopal Church; and electing candidates to offices and committees for the upcoming triennium. Deputies and Alternates should be present on the House of Deputies floor to listen to debate, vote, and track the progress of legislation. Each deputy votes his/her conscience.

Everyone is encouraged to post to the Deputation Blog and expected to participate in evening deputation meetings.

AFTER GENERAL CONVENTION

After General Convention, the deputation or some members and the bishop provide Reporting Sessions to the diocese and at the Diocesan Convention. Some deputies or alternates may report to congregations or convocations. The General Convention also refers a number of its passed resolutions to dioceses and congregations, and the deputation takes some responsibility for discussing and tracking these resolutions, including preparing appropriate resolutions for Diocesan Convention.

TIME COMMITMENT

To be a faithful and effective deputation member, the time commitment is substantial. The rewards of participation are immense. As ministers in Christ's church, we are called to participate and take our place in the councils of the church in accordance with our individual gifts and calling. A combination of interest and passion in the governance and future of the church as both Body of Christ and institution are necessary. Expect at least five pre-convention deputation meetings, several pre-convention Listening Sessions, possible convention committee appointment, 8 to 10 long days at convention, several post-convention reporting sessions and post-convention planning meetings.

2025 GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTY | LAY NOMINEES

Four delegates, four alternates

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHY

I grew up in the diocese and am an active member of St. Mary's in Napa where I currently am on the vestry serving as People's Warden, am involved with communications (social media and our website), Invite Welcome Connect chair, serve on the tech team, and am a member of the choir. I have had the pleasure of representing St. Mary's at Diocesan Convention the last several years. I am completing my first year on the board for Episcopal Community Services.

I have been active as an adult in Girl Scouts, first as a leader for 13 years while my daughter was in the program, and now 3 years later am head of our county-wide service unit, helping to mentor new leaders and plan programs and activities for girls and gender-expansive youth in the Napa Valley.

Professionally, I have been a customer service specialist for 17 years with a packaging company where I am a master of multi-tasking, handling requests from both my customers and sales representatives. I have experience with both happy customers and not-so-happy customers (though it seems to me customers in my field have been nicer since 2020) and specialize in packaging for the wine industry. In prior positions I worked in accounting and staffing which exposed me to Human resource laws and procedures.

Through my role in communications at St. Mary's I have been learning and exploring more about The Episcopal Church at a national level than ever before. I am interested in continuing that path and contributing at a higher level.

NOMINEE STATEMENT

I believe that my organizational skills and ability to work with others from a variety of backgrounds would serve me well as a deputy to General Convention. When I commit to something I follow through and tend to dive in to the greatest extent of my ability with a willingness to learn what I do not yet know how to do. As a deputy I would ensure to discuss the issues with many different people so that I can make an informed decision that not only represents my personal feelings, but what I conclude are those of the people and in the best interest of the Church.



LIZ BULL

ST. MARY'S,
NAPA

NOMINATED BY:
SELF

2025 GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTY | LAY NOMINEES

Four delegates, four alternates

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHY

A lifelong Episcopalian, I was baptized and confirmed in the Diocese of Ohio.

My wife Hilary and I were married at Transfiguration, San Mateo, in 1978 and have lived in the Diocese of Northern California since 1979. We have been members of St. John's, Chico; St. Michael's and St. George's, Carmichael; St. Clement's, Rancho Cordova; and since 1996 the Cathedral.

I have sung in and/or provided accompaniment to church choirs since 1963, including a 26-year ministry at Trinity that featured singing services in Canterbury and Norwich Cathedrals and Westminster Abbey. I currently co-lead the Children and Youth Ensemble.

I was privileged to serve on the Bishop Nominating Committee that eventually led to the election of +Barry Beisner in 2006.

Past service includes several years on the Cathedral's Parish Commission on Ministry, working with several current clergy as they went through the discernment process. For several years, I was a Vestry-appointed Board member of St. Michael's School. I also was a Vestry member and Senior Warden of St. George's.

Currently I am Treasurer of the Cathedral and am the Vice-Chair of the EDNC's Investment Committee.

My BA is in English from UC Santa Barbara and MBA from CSU Sacramento, where I teach as an adjunct instructor in the College of Business. My career was in risk management and insurance, and it's a joy to teach that subject matter to undergrads.

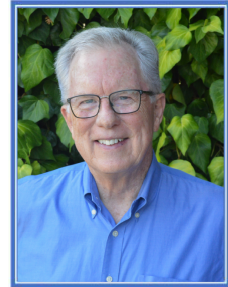
NOMINEE STATEMENT

I would bring to role of convention lay deputy:

A strong grasp of Episcopal sacramental, liturgical worship;

Financial literacy as well as a solid understanding of fiduciary responsibilities;

Prayerful attention to and timely execution of the deputy's roles and duties.



RIC BURWELL

TRINITY
CATHEDRAL,
SACRAMENTO

NOMINATED BY:
SELF

2025 GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTY | LAY NOMINEES

Four delegates, four alternates

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHY

Bob was saved in college, through the Navigators Ministry and baptized in 1977. He moved to St Helena in 2018 and has since been confirmed, served as an usher, a leman and Grace's Jr. Warden. Bob's ministry extends beyond Grace, out into the wider community, in his retirement. He volunteers at the Redwood Gospel Mission, he is the head track and field coach at St Helena High School and he operates the St. Helena Track Club for youth and masters alike. Bob's deep commitment to giving back for all that he has been given is evident in his approach to life.

NOMINEE STATEMENT

I had never considered serving at the Deanery, Diocesan or General level of the church. At Grace's annual meeting last year they asked for volunteers to attend the Diocesan Convention, and I don't know what happened next, but I found my hand up and my name was recorded. Sitting in the Wingfield Deanery Convocation I was moved in the same way when I heard that they were still looking for five lay deputies for the general convention so here I am again. Yes Lord, how may I serve you but to follow your calling and obey.



BOB CANTRALL

GRACE,
ST. HELENA

NOMINATED BY:
REV. AMY DENNEY
ZUNIGA

2025 GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTY | LAY NOMINEES

Four delegates, four alternates

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHY

My name is Shelly Carlson. I attend St. John's in Roseville, CA. I share a home with my husband, Shawn. We have 4 children and 7 of the best looking and nicest acting grandchildren you will ever meet. I am originally from a town called Montrose in Colorado. I worked in my parent's business for 34 years. I have served as President of The Esther chapter of the Daughters of the King for 2 three years terms. I served as diocesan President for the Daughters of the King for 1 three years term. I am Province VIII President on the National Council of the Daughters of the King. I am Daughters of the King representative on the Episcopal Church Women board. I served as President for Cursillo of Northern California. I have served as Jr. Daughters of the King Directress. I have served on several non-profits and 25 years as President of our family business. I love to knit and crotchet, spend time with my family, and serve God and the His people.



SHELLY CARLSON

ST. JOHN'S,
ROSEVILLE

NOMINATED BY:
SELF

NOMINEE STATEMENT

I bring faith grounded in experience of my congregation, diocese, and the people who shaped my faith. My insights help ensure the church's national decisions reflect real-life ministry, not just theoretical theology debated in air-conditioned rooms. I will speak, question and help decide on resolutions that guide the church's future. I am not a rubber-stamp type of person. I am here to represent, discern, and sometimes respectfully disagree. Deputies are both mirrors and messengers of the wider church. I am spiritually grounded and listen for the guidance of the Holy Spirit amid the chaos of parliamentary procedure and committee reports. I know when to stay silent and when to speak. I work well with clergy, lay deputies, bishops across wildly different perspectives and opinions. It is part diplomacy, part endurance all done in the name and unity of Christ. I have a moral compass that will help me as a deputy through conversations about justice, inclusion, theology, and mission. Sometimes that means standing up, sometimes it means sitting down and listening hard and with an open mind. I bring loyalty to the beautiful, messy, evolving body that is the Episcopal Church. I care enough to show up, read resolutions, endure committee meetings, and believe that God still work through us, despite us. I am blessed beyond words to have served in the capacities I have served. I have a deep love for the Episcopal Church and continue to feel called to serve God and His people in any way I can.

2025 GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTY | LAY NOMINEES

Four delegates, four alternates

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHY

Charlie Heermans is an active member of St. Paul's in Sacramento, where he serves on the Vestry and as Stewardship Director. He is a firm upholder of the ministry of all believers, putting this into practice as Sacristan of St. Paul's Guild of St. Mary, leading the guild in supporting the parish's liturgical life. His ministry focuses on fostering worship that is reverent, beautiful, and welcoming. Charlie also works to connect the parish with the wider community, building partnerships with organizations such as the California Native Plant Society, the Sacramento City Cemetery, Midtown Heart, and more. Through this outreach, he seeks to strengthen the church's wider witness as a partner in civic and cultural life.

On a wider level, he is a member of the Episcopal Young Adult Caucus, and the General Convention Under 40 Caucus, engaging in conversations that will shape the future of the church for generations.

He brings to his candidacy a love of tradition balanced with hope for the future, and a passion for, and commitment to, making the Episcopal Church a place of inclusion, justice, and faithful witness. He lives his life striving to uphold two foundational values "to show hospitality to strangers for by doing so you have shown hospitality to angels" (Hebrew 13:2) and "[to] strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being" (BCP p. 305) He would be honored to represent the Diocese of Northern California at General Convention.

NOMINEE STATEMENT

As deputy, I would bring the perspective of a young lay leader actively engaged in parish life. My experience as a member of the vestry, Stewardship Director, and Sacristan have grounded me in the daily life of the church. My work with outreach and community partnerships have given me a vision for how Episcopal Church can remain a vital presence in the world as a worldwide mission regardless of parochial status. As a member of both the Young Adult Caucus and the GCunder40, I am committed to ensuring that younger voices are represented in church governance. I would bring dedication collaboration, and a deep love for Episcopal (and wider Anglican) tradition, working to help the church live fully into its baptismal covenant.



CHARLES HEERMANS

ST. PAUL'S,
SACRAMENTO

NOMINATED BY:
MARK KANE

2025 GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTY | LAY NOMINEES

Four delegates, four alternates

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHY

My professional career includes 34 years with a Fortune 10 energy company in accounting, compliance and managerial roles. I am married. Nancy, my wife, and I have 3 adult children. On moving to Napa in 1995 we began worshipping at Saint Mary's church. I have been active in many parish ministries serving in a variety of roles such as Sunday School teacher, EfM mentor, feeding ministries, Finance Committee, Foundation Committee, Profile Committee, and Vestry.

My diocesan level service began as a board member on the Episcopal Foundation of Northern California in 2015. I served for 6 years, the last 3 as chair. I rejoined the board in 2024.

I also am a member of the diocesan Investment Committee. I joined the Investment Committee in 2019.

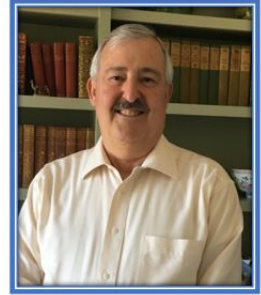
I was a lay deputy to the 80th and 81st General Conventions and served as a member of the Legislative Committee for Stewardship and Socially Responsible Investing for both General Conventions.

I served as a member of and then convener of Province VIII Network on Stewardship, Planned Giving, Grants, Investments and Endowments.

Within the Napa community, I serve as an advisory board member to a local non-profit organization providing services to those dealing with homeless, addiction, food insecurity, emergency services in times of disaster and workforce training programs.

NOMINEE STATEMENT

I believe my professional career and my service to my parish, diocese, Province 8 and prior General Conventions provide important background and experience to be effective in the role of deputy. I feel this governance ministry and role is important in the life of the Church, especially in the chaotic period of our time. I have been transformed by service to my community, parish and diocese. As chair of my parish's Profile Committee, the importance of inclusion, welcoming all to the table, and listening were key factors to our successful rector search. Serving with the Investment Committee informs me on the importance of sound policy and procedures to safeguard and grow your assets to support your parishes' ministries. My service with stewardship committees in Province 8 and the 80th and 81st General Conventions, increased my awareness of the broader Church, the importance to develop relationships across diocesan boundaries, and having a voice in the governance process. I feel the lessons learned through my past experience and current service can be put to good and effective use as deputy to the 82nd General Convention to shepherd issues important to the Diocese of Northern California and the universal Church.



PETER JUVE

ST. MARY'S, NAPA

NOMINATED BY:
REV. ROBIN
DENNEY

2025 GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTY | LAY NOMINEES

Four delegates, four alternates

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHY

I am a lifelong Episcopalian, worshipping at St. Michael's Carmichael, my church home since the late 1980's. I serve my church in many capacities to fulfill my call to be the hands and feet of Christ.

I have been Rector's Warden and served 4 terms on the Vestry. I currently serve as both Lay Eucharistic Minister and Visitor, as well as Lector. I have been a member of the Community of Hope Pastoral Care program since 2013 and am currently in my third year of Education for Ministry. I felt a strong call to serve on five Regional Discernment Groups, once as Chair, and I currently serve on the Commission on Ministry. I am deeply connected to Centering Prayer, Morning Prayer, and Healing Circles ministry. In 2021 I was privileged to become a Spiritual Director and continue to serve in that capacity. Additionally, I have served as Bookkeeper for St. Michael's since 2017. I ran to be a Delegate 5 times to our Diocesan Conventions because I want to be informed of our governance policies and of the wider views and issues of our church. This is why I now offer myself in nomination for the honor to be a Deputy to General Convention.

NOMINEE STATEMENT

My commitment to the life of our local and diocesan congregations comes from an understanding at an early age that each of us has spiritual gifts that God desires us to use to support and grow His kingdom. Living overseas during my formative years allowed me a wider lens of humanity in all its flaws and graces and planted the seeds of my deep knowing that we are all one in God's creation. My careers in the insurance and healthcare industries have provided me with substantial business and administrative skills. I managed my late husband's optometric practice for thirty years. Over the years, I developed the communication, listening, and leadership skills in the work world that easily transfer to the world of church. The training for Community of Hope and Spiritual Direction allows me to be with others in groups and one-on-one in a focused, intentional way to discern where God is calling us. My experience in leadership includes the ability to collaborate with others, and to listen without judgment.

If affirmed, I will bring my business and spiritual gifts to General Convention which I believe are crucial to the role of Deputy.



KATE MURIS

ST. MICHAEL'S,
CARMICHAEL

NOMINATED BY:

REV. MEGAN
ANDERSON GARTIN

2025 GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTY | LAY NOMINEES

Four delegates, four alternates

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHY

My journey as an Episcopalian began at birth, when I was baptized at Trinity Church in San Francisco. However, the first church I remember was St. Stephen's in Ferguson, MO, where I served as an acolyte, choir member, and lay reader. I was active in Sunday School and youth group. In college, I attended Grace Episcopal in Galesburg, IL, where I was cantor. After college, I returned to California and found a home at Church of the Incarnation in Santa Rosa. In the 38 years thus far, I have participated in several ministries: choir, Altar Guild, Eucharistic Minister, Welcome Committee, and Daughters of the King. I also completed Education for Ministry in 2024.

In addition, I have served on Vestry three times, with two years as Rector's Warden, have been a delegate for many years to our diocesan conventions, and had the honor of serving as a deputy in the 81st General Convention.

Outside of church, I am a librarian for Sonoma County, President and co-newsletter writer of the Sonoma County chapter of NOW, and co-chair of the Education committee with the Santa Rosa-Sonoma County NAACP branch. The greatest gift I have received, ironically, is the onset of the lockdown in 2020. I began really looking at myself, my prejudices, and world views, in addition to reading voraciously about history that I never learned in school, immersing myself in social and racial justice organizations, participating in Sacred Ground, and trying to become a better human.

NOMINEE STATEMENT

If elected, my goal for serving as a General Convention Deputy in 2027 would be to further the work the Episcopal church is doing to "respect the dignity of every human being" through being part of the social or racial justice committees who move forward recommendations for equitable solutions on which the deputies and Bishops will vote. This is my passion.



AMY NYKAMP

INCARNATION,
SANTA ROSA

NOMINATED BY:
REV. STEPHEN SHAVER

2025 GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTY | LAY NOMINEES

Four delegates, four alternates

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHY

Steven Preston has a Theology degree in Pastoral Studies, was in active professional parachurch ministry by and for gay and lesbian evangelical Christians in Southern California for 15 years, was active there in HIV/AIDS ministry and interdenominational organizations, and co-owned and ran a business for 30 years. Steve and his husband Daniel Hafer moved from Los Angeles to Eureka in 2019, quickly finding a home at Christ Church, where they were confirmed by Bishop Megan on July 24, 2021. Steve's husband died in October 2024 after 49 years together, including 16 years of marriage.

Steve served on Vestry at Christ Church Eureka from 2021-2023 and was Senior Warden in 2022 and 2023 as we emerged from the pandemic shutdown and we experienced the Rector's successful Sabbatical. He is in the first year of his second term on the Vestry, and currently chairs the Green Team and the Stewardship Committee, serves on the Family Ministries Team, the Labyrinth Committee, the Livestream Team, is one of the Readers/Intercessors, and is an Usher. He also leads the church's weekly Centering Prayer group.

Steve was the Coordinator for the Christ Church Remote Location Events for the 2024 Diocesan Revival, and was the Deanery Representative for the local parish phase of the Diocesan Racial Justice Audit. He attends the monthly Diocesan Leadership Calls, the Commission on the Environment, and the Commission for Intercultural Ministries. Steve is the Convener of the Diocesan Rainbow Ministry for 2S/LGBTQIA+ persons, along with five other leadership team members. Steve has been a delegate to Diocesan Convention twice, and is an Alternate this year.

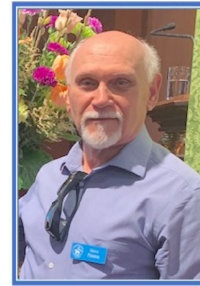
NOMINEE STATEMENT

With my theological training in pastoral studies, my interdenominational ministerial leadership in Southern California, my business experience, and my extensive involvement in parish and diocesan lay ministries, I will bring a deeply rooted commitment to the inclusive Gospel of Christ to the deliberations of General Convention.

Over the years I have developed a keen understanding of organizational dynamics and the fine intricacies of church polity and procedures. This was sharpened and refreshed by my successful completion of the Best Skills, Best Churches course in 2022-2023.

I am very much an organizer by nature and a pastor at heart.

As our beloved Church faces renewed challenges within, in our society, and in the world, I look forward to the possibility of representing the Diocese of Northern California as a Lay Deputy or Alternate before, during, and after the General Convention.



STEVEN PRESTON

CHRIST CHURCH,
EUREKA

NOMINATED BY:
REV. DANIEL LONDON

2025 GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTY | LAY NOMINEES

Four delegates, four alternates

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHY

I joined Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in 1991 a few months after I moved to Sacramento to take up a faculty position at California State University, Sacramento. The clergy welcomed me and my family to Trinity as our home that makes and nourishes disciples as followers of Christ. My faith in Christ has been deeply embedded since birth in the Anglican communion with my infant baptism at All Saints Church, Kissy Road, Freetown, Sierra Leone, West Africa. The land on which the church still stands and some of the substantial funds used to construct the church were donated by my paternal grandfather---a lineage that bound our family to the principles, canons and varied liturgies of the worldwide Anglican and later Episcopal Dioceses where we have domiciled in Freetown, London, Sheffield, Leeds, (in the UK) and Kent (Ohio), and Sacramento (California, USA).

At Trinity Cathedral I have served in several roles in the life of the church for over 30 years including as a member of the Vestry, and as Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Verger, and Priest assistant as well as on various committees including strategic planning, Land Acknowledgment, and the Liturgical Excellence Committee to name a few. In these roles I am committed to our baptismal covenant to love and follow Christ with all peoples everywhere and at the same time to respect the canons and doctrines of our church. Eventually, I accepted to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California where I am entering the third year of my first term. In this role, I have served on the Task Force to review the Racial Justice Audit, and on the Strategic Committee on Missionality.

Over the years, I have found a way to foster the harmonic convergence between my work in the professoriate and in the life of the church to serve Christ with honor and dignity. Building on my academic discipline of communication Studies with an emphasis on intercultural, interpersonal, mediated, and communication research methods have helped me situate my commitment to love all and follow Christ and to do His will.

It is against this background that if elected as a Lay Delegate I will serve with the same values and commitments prayerfully striving to take the church to its next level of growth as we expand God's vineyard through the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California.

NOMINEE STATEMENT

If elected to be a Deputy at General Convention, I will actively participate in all deliberations guided by the Canons of the Church and as inspired by my diocese of Northern California, both the emerging and settled views of the members of the diocese and in consonance with our baptismal covenant. Clearly, I am aware that the National church is dealing with very serious societal issues that require faith and sufficient insight and perspicuity such that we grow and build missionality around issues of race relations, the unhoused, public advocacy, the broader contours of diversity, including our positions on baptism.



DONALD TAYLOR

TRINITY CATHEDRAL,
SACRAMENTO

NOMINATED BY:
REV. JIM RICHARDSON

2025 GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTY | LAY NOMINEES

Four delegates, four alternates

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHY

Greetings, I am John I Torres. My pronouns are he/him. I identify as queer and Latinx. My home church of the last three years is the Church of the Incarnation in Santa Rosa. I am currently completing my second year on the Vestry and my first year on the Diocese Standing Committee. I was baptized Roman Catholic and in my youth, became an Evangelical. I attended Azusa Pacific College/University and Asbury Theological Seminary. I was ordained in Metropolitan Community Churches serving in ministry for almost 20 years, (1982 -2002). I worked as a front line employee for Kaiser Permanente for over twenty five years. While in that job, I was a Union Shop Steward for over fifteen years. I have been an active volunteer in various nonprofits in the bay area including: Queer men's groups, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) committees and Interfaith groups. I am currently serving on Kaiser Permanente's only LGBTQIA+ Patient Advisory Committee. Besides serving on the Vestry, I am on the Finance Committee, past member of the Development Committee, the Incarnation Choir, Pride Team and the Green Team. I've been an active participant in the Diocese Rainbow ministries group. My partner, Tim Webb of forty-seven years, I live in Sonoma County with our two dogs, Penny & Connie.

NOMINEE STATEMENT

What I bring to the Episcopal Convention is a history of a voice for presence in Christ's community. I strive to embrace a joy and hope for greater inclusion for Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) in the Episcopal Church. I have a great love for our smaller congregations. I value consensus decision-making process. I embrace the gifts of authenticity and discernment. I live a life of daily spiritual practice with a commitment to wholeness in body, mind and spirit. My favorite form of prayer is silence.



JOHN TORRES

INCARNATION,
SANTA ROSA

NOMINATED BY:
MIRIAM LW CASEY &
BOB WOHLSEN

2025 GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTY | LAY NOMINEES

Four delegates, four alternates

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHY

I worked for UC Davis Health for 17 years as a Human Resources Supervisor. The most challenging aspect was representing management during union grievance meetings, but it helped me to grow and understand both sides of issues and work to try to resolve them.

I co-founded and co-facilitated a national group for The Episcopal Church, the Sacred Ground Facilitators of Color Support Network. It was a safe place to discuss facilitation experiences.

On the Board of Trustees, I serve on the Employee Practices & Benefits Committee and a committee that developed a new diocesan webpage so lay people can navigate and find resources. We also work with the Bishop's Office on Safe Church training. I co-chair the diocesan Commission for Intercultural Ministries, co-facilitate racial reconciliation trainings, and am editor of Cl M's Beloved Community Resource Newsletter. I co-chair the diocesan Racial Justice Audit performed by the Mission Institute during the last two years. Teams are being formed to address the audit. As a member of the diocesan Tule Lake planning committee, our planning efforts culminated with the September pilgrimage to Tule Lake Concentration Camp within our diocese. Much was learned about the incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII. The pilgrimage was featured by Episcopal News Service.

I served on the Commission on Ministry for nine years administratively assisting postulants during their call to ordination. I served on the St. John's, Roseville, vestry twice, two years as senior warden. I chaired the search for our current rector. I am a Sacred Ground facilitator, a lector, and a founding group member of the church's Faith & Democracy task force.

NOMINEE STATEMENT

When I was a child and through many years of my adult life, I traveled to many locations stateside and overseas, first as a child and teenager of my Air Force father, then as spouse to my Air Force husband. This helped shape my view of the world which formed an openness to embrace new experiences, people, and cultures. I would bring this openness as a General Convention Deputy, eager to learn the business of The Episcopal Church to help The Church live into its mission "to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ."

When I joined the diocesan Commission for Intercultural Ministries, I feel I found my calling and am thankful to God every day for the work we do. Working towards racial reconciliation is a long-term, meaningful commitment as we live into the Baptismal Covenant to strive for justice and peace and respect the dignity of every human being. I would bring this passion for racial and social justice as a Deputy.

I believe my skills as a human resources professional would also be an asset, in addition to my three terms as a Commission on Ministry liaison which required listening and discerning through the Holy Spirit about the postulants' sacred paths toward ordination. As a Deputy, I would bring my skills to listen and discern to the business of The Episcopal Church.



JO ANN WILLIAMS

ST. JOHN'S,
ROSEVILLE

NOMINATED BY:
SELF

2025 GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTY | LAY NOMINEES

Four delegates, four alternates

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHY

I am an eighteen year old nonbinary Episcopalian from Northern California. Growing up around nature and agriculture has made me passionate about Creation care and building an equitable sustainable food system. I am an artist at the core of my soul. For me, art is a form of prayer, be it embroidery, painting or linoleum carving. I care about others' perspectives and seek to listen and reconcile with those around me, even if they have differing worldviews.

NOMINEE STATEMENT

I believe I would bring a valuable fresh perspective to the position of General Convention Deputy. I am a young person who is committed and enthusiastic. I enjoy seeing the workings behind the organization and I have a unique perspective to bring to the table. I am committed, engaged and eager to take on another layer of responsibility in the church I have called home for all my life. I believe this experience will grow me as a person and give me a new perspective. More importantly, I believe that I can have a positive impact as a deputy at General Convention. I believe that as a young person in the church, I can provide a unique insight on where we need to head to ensure the thriving of the Episcopal Church.



JACOB ZUNIGA

GRACE,
ST. HELENA

NOMINATED BY:
REV. AMY DENNEY
ZUNIGA

2025 GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTY | CLERGY NOMINEES

Four delegates, four alternates

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHY

Baptized in 1951 at St. Paul's, Burlingame, and later raised at St. Matthew's, San Mateo, I began to live into my baptismal vows with the grateful support of Rev. John Easton as he offered pastoral support in my high school application for conscientious objection during the Vietnam War, and Mr's Val Ritchie and David Rothe (now organist at St. John's, Chico) who ably provided me with a musical and liturgical education. Upon this very traditional foundation, I grew to love the rich, diverse, multicultural strains of Christian worship and hymnody, and the great prophetic tradition of justice, peace, and nonviolence: what Dr. King called "building the Beloved Community" and Bp. Tutu called "the Rainbow People of God".

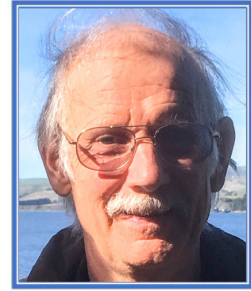
After graduating from UC Davis, I spent 10 years as a home health/nurse's aide, 15+ years as a social worker (MSW from CSUS), and 13 years as a healthcare/hospice chaplain (MDiv from CDSP). I was ordained a deacon in February 2018 by Bp. Beisner, and a priest on October 26 of the same year as I continued as a long-term care chaplain and priest associate at St. Clement's Rancho Cordova, I then assisted in bilingual/multicultural ministry through the pandemic at St. Matthew's Sacramento for over three years, retiring in November 2023.

Today, as an Associate Priest at Trinity Cathedral, I sing in the choir, participate in "lectio divina" and environmental "TREE" ministries, and offer an origami peace crane and postcard ministry for legislative advocacy through the Episcopal Public Policy Network. As a member of our diocesan Refugee Relief Team and Commission on Intercultural Ministry, I advocate for refugee families, recently joining Trinity Cathedral's "Good Neighbor Team." Having participated in two prior General Conventions with the Episcopal Peace Fellowship, today I seek your support as a diocesan deputy to General Convention in Phoenix, July 1-8, 2027.

NOMINEE STATEMENT

What can I bring to our church as a Deputy to General Convention? First, my love and respect for our "Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement", as former Bishop Curry would say. For almost 70 years I have been pleased to be an active participant in the ongoing reform and greater inclusivity of our Episcopal Now, as a Deputy, I hope to contribute to and learn more from my many pastoral colleagues and advocates with reference to indigenous, multicultural, LGBT+, homeless, disabled, and immigrant/refugee ministries, as we continue to grow in celebrating the goodness of creation and diversity of human beings made in God's image, redeemed in Christ Jesus, and sanctified by the wondrous Holy Spirit.

As a member of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship and Anglican Pacifist Fellowship, I will also bring my passion for justice and peacemaking, following the way of nonviolence as embodied and taught by Jesus himself and practiced by the first three centuries of Christ's Church. Having also given online testimony before the 80th convention with respect to resolution C-027 (the international "Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons") I will continue to follow, speak to, and support resolutions pertaining to nuclear weapons abolition, conscientious objection to taxation for weapons of unjust warmaking, and in support of nonviolent alternatives and practices with respect to all dimensions of conflict resolution, reconciliation, and peacemaking.



**REV. GRANT
BAKEWELL**

TRINITY
CATHEDRAL,
SACRAMENTO

NOMINATED BY:
REV. ANNE
MCKEEVER

2025 GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTY | CLERGY NOMINEES

Four delegates, four alternates

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHY

When I was seven years old and living on a small island in what was then the Trust Territories of Micronesia, I received my first Holy Communion on Christmas Eve. In that instant I felt that I'd made a momentous discovery and that Jesus was my best friend. It was quite a journey from that naive but profound childhood experience to when I was ordained a priest in St. Louis, Missouri, in 2010, but through it all, my love for Jesus and the sacraments, and the Church that connects us to both, has never waned.

Since moving to the Diocese of Northern California in 2017 to join the Church of St. Martin in Davis as their rector, I have served on the Bishop Search Committee, the Board of Trustees, and the Commission on the Environment. I was a deputy to General Convention for the first time in 2024. I currently serve as Dean of the Wingfield Deanery. I have also worked on churchwide endeavors to encourage care for creation through sustainable agriculture, church gardens, and similar efforts. I am the author of the book *Contemplative Gardening* (Morehouse, 2022) and have led retreats and workshops around the country. I hold degrees from UC Berkeley, Harvard Divinity School, and Sewanee, the University of the South.

In my spare time I like to cook, garden, ramble, and generally enjoy life in rural Yolo County. My household consists of three generations of humans, plus one dog, one cat, and an elderly guinea pig named Mabel.

NOMINEE STATEMENT

People warned me that going to General Convention for the first time would be like drinking from a fire hose, and they were right! I am grateful for the people on our deputation in 2024 who were willing to help guide me through the experience of being a first-time deputy. Despite being a complete newbie, I was able to actively participate both in the leadup activities and in Louisville, where I testified at committee meetings and in front of both Houses (Deputies and Bishops, in a joint session on the budget).

I also had the satisfaction of seeing a resolution I proposed be passed by the House of Bishops and concurred by the House of Deputies—and ultimately be funded by Executive Council, which was a remarkable outcome. That resolution was a direct outgrowth of the work done by our Diocese, which passed a similar resolution back in 2022. It was a joy to tell our story to the wider church and have it meet with such positive feedback.

It would be an honor to return to General Convention as a Deputy for the Diocese of Northern California, this time with some experience to add to my enthusiasm, commitment, and collegiality. I have learned that doing your homework and listening deeply are the keys to a successful Convention. And I believe that I will be more effective the second time around, especially when it comes to sharing the work of General Convention with our Diocese after we return home.



**THE VERY REV. DR.
PAMELA DOLAN**

CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,
DAVIS

NOMINATED BY: REV. JIM
RICHARDSON

2025 GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTY | CLERGY NOMINEES

Four delegates, four alternates

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHY

A lifelong Episcopalian, the Rev. Bret B. Hays discerned a vocation to ordained ministry as an undergrad at UPenn, graduating from Virginia Theological Seminary in 2008.

Bret completed the ordination process in the Diocese of Connecticut, but his first call was to serve as Curate at St. John's Cathedral, Denver. After short-term positions at Christ the King, Arvada and Christ Church, Aspen, Fr. Bret was elected rector of St. John's, Gloucester, MA, serving there from 2011 to 2021. After three years as rector of Advent Episcopal Church in Tallahassee, Fr. Bret joyfully accepted a call to Trinity, Folsom. He is passionate about helping everyone to put, or keep, God at the center of their lives, and to grow into the full stature of Christ.

Having previously accepted an invitation from the Bishop of Massachusetts to serve on the search committee for Regional Canons in that diocese, he was happy to accept an invitation from our Bishop to fill a vacant seat on the Board of Trustees, as this aligns with his care for the support and development of churches of all sizes and situations. He is enthusiastic about the many ways in which the Episcopal Church can meet the needs of individuals and society.

NOMINEE STATEMENT

I would bring knowledge, experience, thoughtfulness, diligence, faithfulness, and above all, love of God, neighbor, and church. In particular, my experience in corporate, pastoral, and program-sized churches, in different cultural and geographical contexts, gives me awareness and perspective that should be valuable in a churchwide context. I have personally been grateful for how the church has made my life better, in every stage of life, and I firmly believe that The Episcopal Church offers things that are desperately needed in our society today, but seldom available: a passionate witness for the vulnerable and marginalized, a loving and all-inclusive community that exists for a transcendent purpose, an alternative to the glorification of money and power that takes as a premise the inherent worth of every person, and a custodian making available the best of sacred tradition and culture. All of that being said, I tend to be drawn to the quiet and unglamorous tasks that are essential to keeping and nurturing our church and content to leave the bold, ideological side to others.



REV. BRET HAYS

TRINITY,
FOLSOM

NOMINATED BY:
SELF

2025 GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTY | CLERGY NOMINEES

Four delegates, four alternates

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHY

I grew up in Ithaca NY and Los Altos CA and became an “Evangelical on the Canterbury Trail” while studying at Westmont College. Although I served as a short-term missionary in Romania and led urban mission trips in SF, it was my experience as a multifaith chaplain to AIDS patients in the SF General Hospital in 2004 that ultimately led me to the Episcopal Church. In 2007, I was confirmed at All Saints Pasadena while working as an Episcopal youth minister. I was priested by Bishop Mary Glasspool in 2014 and continued working as a youth minister for five Episcopal parishes in Marin County while pursuing a PhD in Christian Spirituality at the Graduate Theological Union. Since 2013, I’ve been teaching courses on Anglicanism, Spirituality, and the Bible at CDSP; and recently taught a Diaconal Theology course for Bexley-Seabury. After completing my PhD in 2016, I served as a priest-in-charge of a small mission church in San Rafael. Soon after being called as the rector of Christ Church Eureka in 2018, I began serving on the Commission on Ministry, as the co-chair of the Academic Committee; and then later, as an Instructor for the Center for Bible Study and member of the Revival Worship Planning Team as well as host of the satellite Revival site in Eureka. I served as an active Alternate at General Convention in 2024 and was then appointed as the Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical & Interreligious Officer (EDEIO) and more recently as the Province 8 EDEIO Coordinator.

NOMINEE STATEMENT

I was thrilled to attend General Convention in 2024 and to be entrusted to serve so frequently on the floor of the House of Deputies, which gave me the opportunity to speak in favor of alternative texts for the Good Friday liturgy (A115), which are less prone to antisemitic interpretation. I attended numerous legislative meetings before and during General Convention and posted brief summaries each day of Convention, highlighting key resolutions, discussions, and events; a practice that I would gladly resume.

As the Ecumenical & Interreligious Officer for the Diocese and the EDEIO Coordinator for Province 8 (including all states West of the Rockies as well as Navajoland, Hawaii, and Taiwan), I feel especially compelled to participate in this upcoming General Convention when the Episcopal Church will make decisions about moving forward towards full communion with the United Methodist Church.

I would bring a familiarity with the legislative process, a readiness to serve on the floor as well as an eager willingness to step down to let others participate. I would bring a commitment to faithfully serve our deputation and to attend prayerfully to our communal discernment. I would also underscore the importance of pacing ourselves throughout Convention and prioritizing our health. It would indeed be an honor to once again be part of conversations and resolutions that reaffirm our commitment to inclusivity, climate justice, racial reconciliation, and ecumenical relations.

Finally, I would ensure that Sassy the Sasquatch, our diocesan mascot, would join our deputation once again!



**REV. DR. DANIEL
DEFOREST LONDON**

CHRIST CHURCH,
EUREKA

NOMINATED BY: SELF

2025 GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTY | CLERGY NOMINEES

Four delegates, four alternates

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHY

Currently, I serve as the secretary of Diocesan Convention. I've also been a member of the congregational development committee for several years, and helped the Diocese execute our FaithX grant among other projects. Prior to my role as secretary of convention, I was the convention nominations chair.

NOMINEE STATEMENT

As the secretary of convention, I've had the unique opportunity to observe church governance close-up. In doing that, I've discovered that it's actually quite fun (for me!). Sitting in a room of devoted Christians who love the church enough to tend to it, change it, and make it better fills me with hope. If we can hold civil, productive conversations at the Diocesan level, perhaps other deliberative bodies can too! Thanks be to God, this true of our national church.

Having served as a delegate to the most recent convention in 2024, I am prepared to serve in this role, but am still enough of a "newbie" to bring a fresh perspective. I'm most interested in joining committees about the role of AI and new technology in the church, as well as the intersection of faith and public policy.

I plan to bring this energy and these interests to this work, but, more importantly, I plan to bring all I've learned back home to this Diocese.



REV. ANNIE MERTZ

ST. PAUL'S,
BENICIA

NOMINATED BY:
BARBARA JEWELL

2025 GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTY | CLERGY NOMINEES

Four delegates, four alternates

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHY

I am the Rector of St. Alban's Episcopal Church of Arcata, CA having served in this position since April 2008. In the 1990s I was a member of St. Martin's, Davis, a staff member of the Belfy Lutheran and Episcopal Campus Ministry at UC Davis and later a member of St. Andrew's Episcopal Mission in Monte Rio, CA. In the years between my earlier time in the diocese and returning as Rector of St. Alban's, I served as a US Peace Corps Volunteer in Paraguay, attended Yale Divinity School and served as the Curate at Calvary Episcopal Church in Stonington, CT.

Since becoming Rector of St. Albans, I have served the Diocese in several capacities. In 2009 I served as a member of the Generous Pastoral Response team for the Diocese of Northern California, helping to identify liturgies for the blessing of Holy Unions and rubrics for their use in this Diocese, per resolution C056 from General Convention in 2009. From 2010 - 2022 I served as a Fresh Start facilitator mentoring newly ordained clergy and clergy new to the diocese. From 2012 - 2022 I served as the Dean of the Semper Virens Deanery of this Diocese. I served as a deputy from the Diocese of Northern California to General Convention in 2018. I have been the co-facilitator four times for Sacred Ground for the Semper Virens Deanery beginning in the fall of 2020. In 2020 I co-led a workshop on Becoming Beloved Community with Miriam Casey for Diocesan Convention.

NOMINEE STATEMENT

Having served once before, I have a sense of the scope and work involved in being a deputy to General Convention. I bring the perspective of family, pastoral and program size congregations to the work of convention having worshiped and worked in all three sizes over the course of my adult life. Our Church is at a cross roads and I want to be part of the efforts to strengthen the Church at all levels and seek faithfulness in these perilous times. I believe I work well with others and would contribute in a positive way to the deliberations of our deputation. It would be my honor to serve again in the role Deputy to General Convention in 2027 on behalf of the Diocese of Northern California.



REV. SARA POTTER

ST. ALBAN'S,
ARCATA

NOMINATED BY:
SELF

2025 GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTY | CLERGY NOMINEES

Four delegates, four alternates

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHY

I was born in California into an Air Force family; this meant that I grew up comfortable moving and traveling and enjoy a wide variety of places and people. I have a Master's Degree in Developmental Therapy, and spent much of my adult life working with children with disabilities and their families.

In addition to working as a Developmental Therapist and college educator, I have worked as a case manager and social worker at North Bay Regional Center, helping families and children with developmental disabilities find services and become strong self-advocates. I have retired from full time work, but currently work part-time as a Services Navigator for West County Community Services with people who are or have been unsheltered.

Since 1998, when my 3 children and I joined the parish, I have enjoyed singing in the St. Stephen's choir, serving on the vestry and attending Diocesan Conventions as a delegate. Under the tutelage of the rector, Rev. Rod McAulay, I received a lay preaching license and continue to enjoy reading and preaching as part of my ongoing formation.

In 2011, I began feeling a call to explore becoming a deacon. With the support of Deacon David Steadman, Rev. Christy and many others I was ordained to the Episcopal Diaconate in 2016. I've been privileged to serve on the Diocesan Commission on Ministry, as chaplain to the Bishop on visits to various congregations, and as a Mentor with the West Coast Collaborative/Iona program for those in training to become deacons.

NOMINEE STATEMENT

I hope to bring to any working group my perspective as a Deacon, a servant leader and bridge between the Church and the needs of the wider community.

As part of being a conduit between Church and local community, I currently work part time at a Permanent Supportive Housing site with folks who need support to remain housed and in community. Recently, I am excited about a new project (Redwood Food Delivery Network) which will address the needs of people who may be afraid/unable to go to their food banks due to the presence of ICE.

As a parent of special needs children, and as a professional in the fields of child development and advocacy, my social work experience and paradigm have given me a foundation of understanding differing needs and perspectives. I have the ability to communicate well, to work in collaboration with people of various backgrounds and opinions.

My love for the Church itself, as well as my trust in the love of God embodied in the presence of Jesus Christ both provide me with a belief in long range change for good. I come to any group and discussion with the firm knowledge that we are all beloved and all of great value, and even in disagreement or confusion are all critical parts of important and lasting change and formation.



REV. KATE SEFTON

ST. STEPHEN'S,
SEBASTOPOL

NOMINATED BY:
MARGARET
NALLEY

2025 GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTY | CLERGY NOMINEES

Four delegates, four alternates

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHY

It was my privilege to be one of eight deputies representing our diocese at General Convention in Louisville in 2024. We worked as a team advancing proposals on climate change, immigration, and issues of church inclusion. We still have much work to do at the next General Convention in Phoenix.

I was ordained a priest in our diocese by Bishop Jerry Lamb in 2001 and served on the staff at Trinity Cathedral for six years. I left to become Rector of St. Paul's Memorial Church in Charlottesville, Virginia. I returned to Northern California in 2015 as the Priest-In-Charge of the Church of the Incarnation in Santa Rosa and then served as the Interim Dean of Trinity Cathedral in 2018. I am now a priest associate at the cathedral and serve in other congregations in our diocese as a substitute "supply" priest.

I have served in several leadership positions in our diocese, including on the Standing Committee and as the Capital Deanery representative on the Diocesan Board of Trustees. I chaired a task force that clarified the roles in our governance structures with the Office of the Bishop.

I am the author of "The Abolitionist's Journal: Memories of an American Antislavery Family" about my abolitionist ancestors and how their story still shapes me and my family.

My wife, Lori, and I volunteer at an organic farm in Sutter County growing fresh fruits and vegetables for Community Supported Agriculture distribution and for food banks and meals for the unhoused.

NOMINEE STATEMENT

Before I was a priest, I was a journalist. My passion then, as now, is finding people on the margins, listening to their stories, and opening avenues for inclusion and justice in the wider world. I bring this passion to General Convention.

I served at the last General Convention as a member (and officer) of the "Racial Truth Telling, Reckoning and Reconciliation" Committee that considered all resolutions related to racial justice. I learned a great deal about many issues in the wider church. I hope to again serve on this committee at the next General Convention.

I am the primary author of our diocesan proposal to add civil rights leader and theologian Howard Thurman to The Episcopal Church calendar of saints. I believe how we tell the stories of our forebearers shapes who we are as God's people.

Our proposal to add Thurman to the calendar began several years ago at our diocesan convention and has grown into a national effort. We won an initial vote at General Convention in Louisville, but we must receive a second approval at the next General Convention. I hope to shepherd this in Phoenix.

One of the major strengths of our Northern California deputation is the mix of experienced deputies with new deputies who bring a fresh perspective. We supported each other through the long days and evenings of General Convention — and in committee work beginning months before convention. I would be greatly honored to serve again as a deputy to continue this work.



REV. JIM RICHARDSON

TRINITY
CATHEDRAL,
SACRAMENTO

NOMINATED BY:
SELF

2025 GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTY | CLERGY NOMINEES

Four delegates, four alternates

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHY

I was raised Pentecostal in England and became an enthusiastic Episcopalian after some time in the Church of England. The Episcopal Tradition has a unique contribution to make regarding faith in our culture. We are faithful and thoughtful, open to science and mystery, and we praise God with our hearts, souls and minds.

I studied theology at the London School of Theology, King's College London and Westcott House in Cambridge. I have also undertaken a sabbatical semester of study at Church Divinity School of the Pacific focusing on episcopal liturgy and leadership. My academic interests lie in early childhood spirituality and lifelong christian formation. My practical experience is in understanding complex systems and working with churches on change and transformation.

I love Sci-fi and cooking. I parent an Australian Shepherd mix rescue pup: River. My favorite color is red, my favorite thing to cook is Coq Au Vin and my favorite bible verse is 1 John 4:7, which tells us that: God is love.

I serve as Dean of Trinity Cathedral in Sacramento, I am Vice President of the Standing Committee, I am Vice President of the board of Sacramento ACT. I am a founding board member of the Sacramento Area Rainbow Faith Alliance. When I served in the Diocese of California I was on Diocesan Executive Committee, was a Deanery President, and a member of the Diocesan Finance Committee.

NOMINEE STATEMENT

As a convention deputy I would bring my passion for life long learning and family ministry to general convention. I would also bring experience with ministries of justice and mercy, specifically working with the unhoused and with migrants. I also love our liturgy and would advocate for the beauty of its tradition, with accessibility for contemporary congregations.

I have worked in various levels of church governance, and have an aptitude for understanding how systems work. I look for consensus, and I think that our church has a real gift to offer US culture in this moment of polarization. We have a gift for looking for the middle way, not as a compromise, but as a habit of mind that always looks for creative solutions.

I love to work with teams of people who want to share and live good news. I would relish the opportunity to work with our convention deputation, and speak to the issues we face. As a church we have taken a stand of human sexuality, reproductive health rights, the dignity of migrants and the needs of the unhoused. I have worked on all of these issues and am keen to pursue them further at this general convention.

I ask for your vote so that I may serve the Diocese of Northern California in this important forum.



**VERY REV. MATTHEW
WOODWARD**

TRINITY
CATHEDRAL,
SACRAMENTO

NOMINATED BY:
SELF