2026 DIOCESAN CONVENTION

GOVERNANCE ELECTIONS

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Board of Trustees

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.

Member Expectations

- 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

CANON 16

Diocesan Council, also known as Board of Trustees

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.

16.2.4.2. 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.



FERNANDO DIZON

LAY NOMINEE

CHURCH OF THE INCARNATION, SANTA ROSA

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.

I have worshiped at the Church of the Incarnation in Santa Rosa since 2008, serving twice on its vestry as junior warden. I was involved in two clergy searches that culminated in calls for a priest-in-charge and rector, respectively. At Incarnation, I currently serve on three ministries: Becoming Beloved Community, Welcome, and Ushers. I have been participating in EfM (Education for Ministry) for over 10 years and continue to find this experience spiritually rewarding. In the diocese, I have served on the Board of Trustees for three years and, starting four years ago, continue to serve on the Commission on Ministry. As part of my service on the Board, I am currently involved in efforts to assess congregational vitality in conjunction with my participation in the Congregational Development Team sponsored by the Office of the Bishop. My wife and I have lived in the same home in Santa Rosa for over 45 years and enjoy living in Sonoma County. I retired ten years ago from a career in engineering. It appears that my second career after retiring is being involved in the church. Upon retiring, I took up running for exercise and have completed three half-marathons. I continue to enjoy cooking, and I seem to need plentiful storage for equipment I've accumulated over the years. My wife and I enjoy visiting our two grandchildren who have recently moved to Ohio.

NOMINEE STATEMENT

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

I wish to stand for election to the Board of Trustees for a second three-year term as I believe that I can carefully and thoughtfully consider the issues that will come before the board in the next few years. Having served on the Board the past three years, I have a better understanding of the complex interplay of congregational and diocesan concerns. As a guiding principle, I try to keep in mind that fostering community and dialogue is always in alignment with God's plan for His creation.

Standing Committee

The Role of a 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. 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. 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.

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. 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. The Standing Committee attends with full participation.



JIM RICHARDSON

CLERGY NOMINEE

TRINITY CATHEDRAL, SACRAMENTO

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 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, and returned to Northern California in 2015 as the Priest-In-Charge of the Church of the Incarnation in Santa Rosa. I then served as Interim Dean of Trinity Cathedral in 2018-2020. I am now a priest associate at the cathedral.Before I was a priest, I was a professional journalist, including a decade as a senior writer at The Sacramento Bee newspaper.I am the author of "The Abolitionist's Journal: Memories of an American Antislavery Family" about my abolitionist ancestors and how their story shapes me. I am also the author of a full-length biography of California politician Willie Brown. I am a native of Northern California, graduate of UCLA and I have an M.Div. from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific.My wife, Lori, and I volunteer at an organic farm in Sutter County growing fresh fruits and vegetables for Community Supported Agriculture distribution and to food banks and meals for the unhoused.

NOMINEE STATEMENT

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

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've had wide experience in our diocese leading two congregations, serving as a supply priest in many locations, and as a member of several diocesan committees and commissions. I would bring this experience and perspective to the Standing Committee.I am familiar with the role and responsibilities of the Standing Committee. I served on the Standing Committee during the election and transition of our current bishop. I've taken a three-year break from diocesan work, and should I be elected, I look forward to serving again.



ELISE KEDDIE

LAY NOMINEE

ST. MARTIN'S,

DAVIS

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've been a member of St. Martin's Davis for more than 25 years. A cradle Episcopalian, I grew up in the San Joaquin Valley and lived in the Southeast for graduate school but most of my adult life has been in Northern California. I am an active choir member and am currently Junior Warden on our Vestry. I have served as a Diocesan Convention delegate many times and supported the Belfry Campus Ministry Council as Chair during two separate terms. On a diocesan level, I participated on the Fearless Faith Revival planning team and have provided logistics support at past Diocesan Conventions.

I am involved at a national level with the General Convention Office as a Coordinator working with teams of volunteers staffing logistics and technical support areas, a role I have held for over 20 years (7 General Conventions and Phoenix in 2027). I am an Education for Ministry graduate and a Companion of the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross, an international group of women committed to intercessory prayer and thanksgiving, spiritual growth, and simplicity of life.

NOMINEE STATEMENT

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

I am thoughtful, curious, and diligent thanks to my training and career as a scientist. I am an active listener and respectful of all aspects of a topic or issue under discussion. I have strong analytical skills coupled with a gift of discernment. These talents have been applied by serving on several nonprofit boards and work-related committee.



PATRICIA SHURTZ

LAY NOMINEE

HOLY TRINITY,

NEVADA CITY

NOMINATED BY: SUMMER GREEN

INCUMBENT: NO

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHY

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

Born in San Francisco, I grew up in Sonoma County, attended Chico State, studying Business and Computer Science, and have made my home in Marin and now Nevada Counties with my husband of 42 years, Barry. We have one son, Neil, who now lives in Spokane with his wife, whom we love to visit.

My professional career focused on high-tech as both an engineer and a project manager. I have volunteered extensively with the Scouting organization, in no small part because our son Neil achieved Eagle Scout in 2009. That process also led me to begin my own spiritual journey with him at that time. I had not ever thought of myself as a "church person", but Neil had identified the Episcopal church as a balance of both history and liturgy and pragmatic inclusiveness. He and I were baptized together that year and then confirmed together in 2014.

I was blessed to become quite involved quickly at Nativity in San Rafael: joining Altar Guild, leading Evening Prayer, joining Vestry, and serving two terms as Senior Warden. I also attended the Diocese of California Convention twice.

More recently, I served as Clerk at Holy Trinity in Nevada City from 2022 to 2024 and have led communications efforts there since 2016. I attended the NorCA Dio Convention in 2023 as a Delegate.

NOMINEE STATEMENT

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

I see my participation on the Standing Committee as an opportunity to leverage my spiritual journey and organizational experience to help our Diocese function at the highest level possible. I have been told I have a talent for organizing people, seeing opportunities, and solving problems of all kinds. My professional experience with proposals and grants has helped in many aspects of my volunteering, and I believe it could do the same for the Standing Committee. Having served on non-profit Boards for almost 20 years, I understand how an organization like our Diocese works, with both "professional" and "volunteer" resources working together toward predetermined goals guided by specific policies. At Holy Trinity, as well as previously at Nativity in San Rafael, I also brought a perspective of someone who came to church worship "later in life", and with that, perhaps more of an appreciation of how our spiritual life can be lived: both personally, within our communities, and globally. At age 43, I

chose to be baptized into this faith, and I've been blessed since then with many opportunities to support The Episcopal Church. Serving on the Northern California Diocese Standing Committee feels like the next logical step in my journey.