

BIOGRAPHIES OF NOMINEES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Three laypersons to be elected to three-year terms ending in 2021

Name: Florence Atwood

Church: Calvary, East Liberty

Occupation: Home business and property manager

As a life-long Episcopalian, graduate of Sewanee, and member of Calvary and the Diocese of Pittsburgh for the past 27 years, I have been involved in almost all aspects of parish life and governance. Initially at Calvary, I served as a choir member, pastoral care committee member, and on the board of Beginnings preschool, eventually serving as its president. Subsequently, I completed the EfM course and began to serve as a lay reader, chalice bearer, and altar guild member. I have served as chair of the Stewardship Committee; as president of Parish Council; as a delegate to the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes and to Diocesan Convention; as a member of the Endowment Committee and Finance Committee; on three separate search committees, including that of the most recent rector search; as a member of the vestry; and as senior warden. Outside of the church, I have served as a board member of Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute (PPI) and in various volunteer positions within my school district.

I believe I can be of service to the diocese, bringing a variety of experiences and a common sense approach to current and future challenges.

Name: Kathleen Farrington

Church: Calvary, East Liberty

Occupation: Retired

We moved back to Pittsburgh from Dublin, Ireland, in 2005, and I have been a member of Calvary Episcopal Church for nine years. During that time, I have served as chair of the Women of Calvary Steering Committee, volunteer at the church bookstore and am on the Counting Team (tabulating the Sunday collections and preparing them for a bank deposit). I was also a member of the Calling Committee, which helped select our current rector, Jonathon Jensen. I am a member of the church vestry. I have just completed the four-year Education for Ministry program.

Although I am now retired, my background is in civil and software engineering. I was born in New York, but I have moved several times and have lived in San Francisco and Sonoma, California; upstate New York; and Dublin, Ireland. I am widowed and now regard Pittsburgh my home as my daughter, son-in-law, and grandchildren live nearby.

I feel I am qualified to serve on the Board of Trustees as I have some experience in finance in nonprofit groups and have a MPM from Carnegie Mellon (1994). Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

CATHEDRAL CHAPTER

One clergy and one layperson to be elected to three-year terms ending in 2021

Name: Kathy Baird

Church: St. Peter's, Blairsville

Occupation: Retired

Raised as a Roman Catholic, but away from the church since high school, my life took a turn in 2006. I began attending St. Peter's in Blairsville and shortly after that, at St. Paul's on Nantucket where we have a summer home. In 2008, I was received into the Episcopal Church and was married to Joseph Baird at St. Peter's in 2009. After long and serious consideration, Joe answered the call to the diaconate and then

priesthood and I took on a new and fulfilling role as a clergy spouse in 2017. I continue to serve St. Peter's as a lay deputy to convention, vestry secretary, District 4 representative to Diocesan Council, chair of the Budget and Assessment Working Group, was past Judge of Audits, and will complete my term on the Standing Committee at the end of 2018. After a long search for a local mission that our very small parish could support, I founded the first Laundry Love mission in western Pennsylvania, where we provide quarters, detergent, dryer sheets and Christian fellowship to Blairsville residents who struggle financially to keep clean clothes and bedding for their families.

I retired in 2015 as the VP & GM for a division of a company delivering IT services to state and local governments nationwide, focusing on Children's Protective Services. This role has blessed me with a wide array of experience in leadership, fiscal management/budgeting, interpersonal relationships, negotiations and strategic planning.

I am looking to continue to serve the diocese that has served us so well, in whatever capacity is most needed and appropriate for my skills.

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

One member to be elected to a three-year term ending in 2021

Name: Gloriana St. Clair

Church: Redeemer, Squirrel Hill

Occupation: Retired

I am an active member of Redeemer's progressive book group, have also served on its vestry, in its choir, and as a lay reader. I am the Dean Emerita of Carnegie Mellon University's Libraries (not the Carnegie Public Library) and advocate for a digital future for knowledge. An early tug towards ordained service ceded to a stronger call into lay ministry, both pointed towards an inclusive community. When I am, at last, freed from my electric wheelchair, I will join my beloved in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd at Chautauqua Institute. When listening to others, I am sensitive to what is helpful and will move people to live into their gifts. Currently, I am working to strengthen my prayer muscle.

COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND CANONS

One clergy and one layperson to be elected to three-year terms ending in 2021

Name: Joan Gundersen

Church: Redeemer, Squirrel Hill

Occupation: Retired professor and archivist

A lifelong Episcopalian, active in parishes around the country, I have been on three vestries (doing stints as parish treasurer and vestry clerk), worship committees, taught Sunday School, sung in and directed church choirs, and organized events. When I came to Pittsburgh in 2000, I joined Church of the Redeemer. After several years of trying to prevent the split that occurred in 2008, I spent the next eight years working for the diocese as it rebuilt. Now retired from all diocesan assignments, I serve Redeemer as parish archivist, choir member, lector, and member of a team that has provided a midweek worship service for a decade at UPMC Heritage Place. I also volunteer as the parish financial person for St. James, Penn Hills.

As a college professor I taught courses in legal and constitutional history for 30 years, and wrote extensively on the Episcopal Church. From 2009 to 2018, I've been a deputy or alternate to the General Convention. Having served on the Committee on Constitution and Canons from 2009 to 2015, I am willing to serve again if the diocese needs me.

DISCIPLINARY BOARD

One clergy and two laypersons to be elected to three-year terms ending in 2021

Name: Michael B. Foley

Church: Redeemer, Squirrel Hill

Occupation: Priest

I have served as the rector of the Church of the Redeemer, Squirrel Hill, for five years, and prior I had a career in mental health, serving adults, children, and families for twenty-two years. I have always sought a ministry of healing in people's lives. When issues arise that require the Title IV Canons of The Episcopal Church, I would seek the balance between justice and mercy to address the situation. I have professional skills in conflict resolution and systems theory, which will help me in understanding the nature of the disciplinary processes and outcomes.

I am married to Chad Tanaka Pack, an ordained minister in the Reformed Church in America, and we belong to our dog, Buster.

Name: Sandra Collins

Church: Christ Church, North Hills

Occupation: Faculty

I have a Ph.D. in religion from the University of Pittsburgh. I also have a library degree as well as an M.A. from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. I currently serve as Professor of Sacred Scripture as well as Director of Information Services at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Ss. Cyril and Methodius in Pittsburgh.

I am a cradle Episcopalian, raised in high church Illinois but now a member of Christ Church, North Hills, for 20 years (Calvary, Shadyside, the ten years prior to that). I taught in the diocese's Deacon Formation program in the 1990s. I have served on the vestry at Christ Church as well as volunteering for various church groups like the rummage sale and cooking for the Jubilee Soup Kitchen.

I want to help the diocese by providing service through the various committees. The Disciplinary Board interests me as this is a key issue in my workplace, one that is constantly evaluated and discussed in faculty meetings. For that reason, I believe I have a modicum of perspective on church discipline. However, my time can be wide open sometimes, incredibly constrained at others. Since the Disciplinary Board meets only when necessary it further seemed a good place to start.

GROWTH FUND

One member to be elected to a three-year term ending 2021

Name: Nancy Travis Bolden

Church: Redeemer, Squirrel Hill

Occupation: Retired social worker

At Redeemer, I have served on vestry (two terms), senior warden, Music and Worship Committee, Search Committee (Rector), Social Justice Committee, usher, deputy or alternate to Diocesan Convention (several times), and member of Book Group. At the diocesan level, I have served on the Growth Fund twice and am the former chair of the Commission on Race and Reconciliation. At the provincial level, I am the Province III Coordinator of Anti-Racism Ministry.

I have served as a member of the Growth Fund twice, and have always and continue to be impressed with the commitment and ability of the members of this committee to help parishes with solving problems regarding their places of worship. The problems that parishes bring to the Growth Fund in some instances may affect their ability to function. I am grateful for the opportunity to continue to be a part of the ministry for another three-year term.

Name: Dawna Byrom

Church: St. Andrew's, Highland Park

Occupation: Retired registered nurse

I believe that in my nursing career, I have developed a clear understanding of responsibility and accountability, as well as compassion to assess the needs of others. I am currently in charge of collecting sets of bath and kitchen towels for Off the Floor Pittsburgh for our St. Andrew's Outreach Committee. I am a member of St. Andrew's Music guild, and have served as a lay deputy to Diocesan Convention since 2016. In the past, I have been in the choir, served a three-year term on vestry, and was an alternate lay deputy to Diocesan Convention in 2015. I am the spouse of the pastoral assistant for our rector.

I have attended St. Andrew's since 2011 and was confirmed in 2012. I have been a United Methodist pastor's wife for more than 32 years. As a pastor's wife, I taught adult Sunday School, was in charge of summer Bible school, led the children's choir and sang in the choir in multiple churches, and was on multiple church committees and organizations.

I understand the need for grants and loans requested by churches struggling to meet their individual needs for ministry and growth. I understand why small and/or struggling parishes, in order to assist with physical repairs or improvements with current structures, make financial requests to assist them in ministry.

Name: Thomas Koehler

Church: Christ Church, North Hills

Occupation: Accounting/finance, semi-retired

At Christ Church, North Hills, I currently serve as an acolyte and on the Rectory Development Committee. In the past, I have served on the vestry and as a lay deputy to the 2012 special diocesan convention. In the Diocese of Maryland from 1987 until 2007, I served on the vestry of two parishes as well as on the finance, endowment, outreach, columbarium, and building and grounds committees. At the diocesan level, I served two terms on the board of trustees of the Bishop Claggett Center (ECCC) and also on their building and grounds committee during the construction of two new buildings. I was also a member of the Crozier and All Saints Societies. From 1977 to 1982, I was an acolyte at Calvary, East Liberty.

I have a background in banking, accounting and hotel development. I also oversee a family fund at the Pittsburgh Foundation in memory of my mother, Dr. Lucille M. Koehler, a long-time member of Calvary, East Liberty. She taught me the importance of giving back – financially and with your time and talents. I would be honored to serve the diocese on the Growth Fund Committee if elected.

STANDING COMMITTEE

One clergy and one layperson to be elected to four-year terms ending 2022

Name: Don Block

Church: St. Stephen's, Wilkinsburg

Occupation: Nonprofit executive

I have been a member and lay leader at St. Stephen's, Wilkinsburg, for over 30 years. I have served as a vestry member and senior warden. I have served on two search committees for rectors, including acting as chair for the search that brought the Rev. Nancy Chalfant-Walker to the parish. I have led a weekly Bible study at the church for over 25 years. I volunteer in other capacities, including choir member, lay Eucharistic minister, and lay preacher. I have also served on discernment committees that helped to bring the Rev. Anne Bump and the Rev. Eric McIntosh into the ordained ministry. I carried out audits of parish finances in the past. I hold a B.A. degree from Yale University and an M.A. from Indiana University, Bloomington. I have been active locally and nationally as a trainer on issues of nonprofit management.

My retirement from a career as a nonprofit executive allows me the time to serve the diocese for the first time. The work of the Standing Committee is similar in some ways to the work of the board of directors that I have supported in my career. It would be an honor to serve in this role.

Name: Lisa Brown

Church: St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon

Occupation: Director of Digital Ministry, Membership Vision

My service to the church includes: deputy to General Convention (2018); Province III Council (2018); Evangelism Revival Team (2016-2017); Children's Ministry Team (2009-2016); St. Paul's Director of Children's Ministry/Communications Coordinator (2009-2016), Nursery School Board (2000-2005; 2009-2016), and Vestry (2017-present).

Through my professional and personal experiences, I have a unique depth and breadth of perspective which I would be honored to use in service to the diocese. I bring awareness of the broader church as well as opportunities to promote our diocese, thereby magnifying our influence. My experience includes participation in many conferences where I have taught formation and digital ministry workshops: Forma, (2016, 2017, 2018); Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes (CEEP) (2017, 2018); Kanuga Formation (2016, 2017, 2018); eFormation (2016, 2017); Diocesan Convention (2016), Lenten Learning Day (2017), Diocese of Pittsburgh; and learning days for the Dioceses of Alabama (2017), Massachusetts, Western Massachusetts (2018), Virginia (2018), and Georgia (2019). I am the author of *The Best VBS Workbook Ever!*; and a contributor to Building Faith (formation website); the Facilitator's Guide for the Anglican Communion's *Thy Kingdom Come* Prayer Initiative; John Roberto's *Faith for a New Generation*; and InsideOut Camp Curriculum. I grow in personal faith through Education for Ministry and hold a Certificate in Leadership in Lifelong Faith Formation from Virginia Theological Seminary.