

BIOGRAPHIES OF NOMINEES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Two laypersons to be elected to three-year terms ending in 2022



Name: Dana Phillips
Church: St. Thomas, Oakmont
Occupation: Retired

I have submitted my name as a candidate for a position on the Board of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh. I previously served as a trustee of the diocese from December 2008 through December 2012. As a trustee, I served on the finance and audit committees and was one of two trustees who reviewed all the documents returned to the diocese that related to funds held by the diocese, collating this information in ways that enabled us to restart payments to parishes and other donor intended uses.

I believe that a key responsibility of diocesan trustees is to ensure that all assets of the diocese continue to be available to future generations of Episcopalians to use for the missions to which God is calling us and, if elected, would work toward that end.

My other service within the diocese includes serving as a vestry member, clerk, senior warden, and treasurer for my parish, St. Thomas', Oakmont; chairing the most recent Bishop Search/Nominating Committee; serving for a term on the Standing Committee; and serving as a volunteer planning coordinator for Bishops Johnson and Price during the re-building of our diocese. I appreciate your consideration of my candidacy.



Name: Sheila Stagnitta
Church: St. Andrew's, Highland Park
Occupation: Retired Engineer

I joined the Episcopal Church in about 1982, first at Fox Chapel Episcopal Church and, for the last ten years, at St. Andrew's Highland Park. I believe that a person should, as they are able, take a turn at leadership in groups they are a part of. I had an excellent example in my Dad, who served for many years as a Trustee for the Baptist church I was raised in.

In the parish church, I've been parish treasurer, Vestry, layreader, junior warden, deputy to diocesan convention, and various ad hoc committees. At the diocesan level, I'm the Judge of Audits and a volunteer auditor for parishes that request one. I'm on the CREED Communication team, Diocesan Council, Growth Fund, and Diocesan Finance Committee. The diocesan efforts have given me a perspective of the various strengths and needs that exist in our diocese.

My recent retirement from a career in engineering and management now allows me the time to serve the diocese in roles that didn't fit with my prior schedule. I look for opportunities to apply the skills I learned at work to new situations. I'm a good steward of resources, budget conscious, detail oriented, and able to lay out a workable plan to achieve a goal. I've mentored people to speed their development and celebrated with them when their goals are reached. I would be honored to serve the diocese on the Board of Trustees.



Name: Andrew Thiros
Church: St. Stephen's, Wilkinsburg
Occupation: Lawyer

Raised as a Greek Orthodox, my faith journey brought me to Trinity Cathedral where my family and I were received into the Episcopal Church in 2007. From 2010 to 2014, I served on the Cathedral Chapter to help with legal, financial and other challenges. Since 2017, I have been a parishioner at St. Stephen's where I have enjoyed from worship experiencing inner peace and fellowship.

I was raised in the South Hills of Pittsburgh. I received a B.A. degree from Indiana University, Bloomington and a J.D. from Villanova University School of Law. My career has included serving as a judicial law clerk, assistant district attorney and deputy attorney general, as well as working as a law firm associate. Since 2007, I have worked as an in-house counsel for a steel company headquartered in Pittsburgh. My primary area of practice is environmental law, and I have served as a council chairperson of a bar association.

I am accustomed to collaborating with others from various professional disciplines to achieve practical solutions to challenging issues. Recognizing that everyone has a special talent, I believe that the best approaches often come from participation that is diverse. I wish to serve on the Board of Trustees to contribute to its camaraderie and, with God's guidance, manage responsibly the property of the Diocese. Your prayerful consideration would be appreciated.

CATHEDRAL CHAPTER

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



Name: Joseph P. Baird
Church: St. Peter's, Blairsville
Occupation: Retired Ceramic Engineer/Part-Time Clergy

Present: Vicar, St. Peter's, Blairsville. Cathedral Chapter, Committee on Constitution and Canons; Two terms on Diocesan Council (one as a lay delegate and one as a clergy delegate; Two terms on the Budget and Assessment Working Group, Two terms (one as lay and one as clergy) representative for District 4 at Diocesan Convention **Past:** Judge of Audits; Bishop Nominating Committee; and Senior Warden (8 years).

Statement of interest: My name is Joseph Baird, and I have served as a parishioner/LEM for 20 years at St. Barnabas, Brackenridge and 13 years as parishioner, Senior Warden, Deacon then Curate serving under Father Arthur Dilg, at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Blairsville. I assumed the assignment as Vicar when Father Dilg retired in 2018. Most of my 30+ years in the Episcopal Church have been spent in smaller parishes, far from diocesan affairs. That ended when I joined the Bishop Search Committee. As part of my training for Holy Orders, I served six months at Christ Church, North Hills, with Father Shoucair, six months at St. Thomas, Oakmont, with Father Murph and six months as a chaplain at Shadyside Hospital under Father Charlie Starr. I was ordained in 2016 and am completing my first 3-year term as a member of Cathedral Chapter.

I see the cathedral as the center of our gathered faith. Serving on Cathedral Chapter has allowed me to continue to be involved in the community of the diocese, learn about the challenges of city ministry, and to contribute as I am able. I would like to continue my service as we move forward to ensure our Cathedral can serve the entire diocese as well as be an urban parish in a sustainable financial model.



Name: Brandon P. Cooper
Church: St. Andrew’s, Highland Park
Occupation: Criminal Justice Adjunct

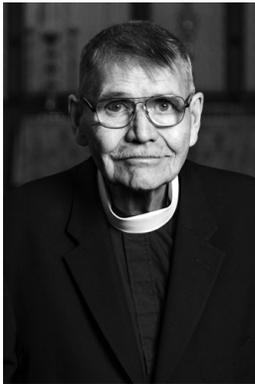
I am a lifelong Episcopalian, having been raised at St. Clement’s in Greenville, PA. I have been a member of St. Andrew’s, Highland Park for twelve years. During that time, I served three years on vestry as Junior Warden, and have been Church School Director for the last 3 plus years.

Since January, I have been assisting as a lay worship leader at All Saint’s, Brighton Heights, in addition to my work at St. Andrew’s. Currently I am enrolled at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and am also a postulant for ordination in the Diocese.

I was approached regarding nomination to, and am interested in serving on both the Cathedral Chapter, and the Committee on Constitution and Canons.

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

One member to be elected to a three-year term ending in 2022



Name: Howard D. Gillette
Church: St. Peter’s, Brentwood
Occupation: Associate Priest

The reason why I went to seminary and sought ordination to the priesthood was because I observed that small churches could not afford a full-time priest. These churches were not able to have the sacraments regularly. In the Diocese where I served as a deacon, deacons were prohibited from presiding at pre-sanctified Holy Communion services.

The reason I am running for a seat on the Commission on Ministry (COM) is because our Diocese is faced with a shortage of priests to serve smaller churches. The traditional model of attending seminary for three or four years to obtain a MDiv is not practical. It costs about \$90,000 to \$100,000 to attend seminary. We have shepherded people through the ordination process and insured they meet the requirements for ordination.



Name: Wesley M. Rohrer
Church: St. Andrew’s, Highland Park
Occupation: Retired Educator

Active participation in lay ministry in the Church has been the common thread in my life, integrating my commitments to God, my family, profession as an educator and community service. Although baptized in the Methodist Church of my grandparents in Johnstown, PA, I was confirmed in Glenshaw Valley Presbyterian Church after my parents moved to Pittsburgh. While serving as a VISTA Volunteer in community development in distressed neighborhoods in Detroit MI in the 1960s, I had a spiritual renewal influenced by my roommate, a former seminarian whose deep faith was exemplified by his Christ-centered behavior. I converted to Roman Catholicism, intended to enter the priesthood, but met and fell in love with the woman with whom I’ve been happily married for 44 years. Due largely to the failings of Church hierarchy when facing the scandals of priestly abuse of children, I decided to search for a new spiritual home and “discovered” Anglicanism. I was received in St. Andrew’s Church, Highland Park in 2004, subsequently serving on the Vestry, as senior Warden, lay reader, chalice and on the Outreach team

I have recently retired as Associate Professor Emeritus of Public Health Education at the University of Pittsburgh after 43 years as a teacher, mentor and academic program director.

In my retirement I am committed to continue my active lay ministry and believe that I can contribute at the Diocesan level. Although I initiated the process of discernment for the Diaconate, I decided that my other community service commitments would preclude full and effective participation as Deacon. I continue to serve as Chair of the Board of Off-The-Floor Pittsburgh, a nonprofit agency that provides gently used and new furniture and household furnishings to families and individuals in housing crisis and transition and as a long-time member of the Board of CLASS (formerly UCP of Pittsburgh). I am confident that my diverse experiences in lay ministry, community service, and higher education and my own discernment for the ordained ministry will allow me to offer sound judgment and an informed lay perspective on the Commission for Ministry should I have this opportunity.

COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND CANONS

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



Name: Nancy Threadgill

Church: St. Mark's, Johnstown

Occupation: Priest-in-Charge

Service to the church: Priest-in-Charge, St. Mark's (five years). Past: Rector, the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Mobile, AL (eight years); and Curate, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Mobile, AL (two years). Alternate clergy deputy to 2018 General Convention, Chairman, District 4

Statement of Interest: I was unable to participate in Project Creed for many reasons which is a big disappointment for me. The Committee on Constitution and Canons will be a busy one with the changes that will come about following this convention. I write well and would be an asset to this committee because of a keen interest in moving the Diocese of Pittsburgh forward.



Name: William Bevan III

Church: St. Andrew's, Highland Park

Occupation: Attorney and Counsel at DeForest Koscelnik Yokitis & Berardinelli

Service to the church: Present: Confirmed in the Episcopal Church with my wife Gail in 1972, raised our family in the Episcopal Church at Fox Chapel Episcopal Church (now Christ Church Fox Chapel ACNA). After several difficult years of prayerful consideration, we are now members of St. Andrews in Highland Park. Since 2013, I have been a member of the Board of Directors at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and Chairman of the Audit Committee since June 2016.

Past: Served at Fox Chapel Episcopal and Christ Church Fox Chapel in a number of capacities: two terms on the Vestry and several terms as Stewardship Chairman; Choir member (2005-2018); Usher (1978-2005). Served as Parish Counsel for 18 years (1992-2010), but resigned after the split.

Statement of interest: I am humbled by my nomination as one of three lay persons to serve on the Diocesan Committees for Constitution and Canons, and would be honored to accept appointment to that committee if selected to do so. I have held a number of positions at the parish level, but never at the Diocesan level. As a long-time parish counsel, I dealt with several delicate issues at the parish level that involved looking at the Constitution and Canons, but I would sincerely welcome the opportunity to serve in a review and policy formulation capacity for the Diocese when it comes to governance and structure. Based on my

long-time experience in labor law and labor relations, including negotiating a significant number of collective bargaining agreements, I believe that I can bring a sense of objectivity as well as an ability to work with others to resolve conflict where it might exist. I have practiced law as a traditional labor lawyer, working at the National Labor Relations Board from 1971-1982 and at Reed Smith LLP, from 1982 until my retirement in 2017. I am a transplanted Kansan, and was educated at Kansas State University (B.A. Magna Cum Laude 1967) and the University of Kansas School of Law (J.D. 1970).

I ask your prayers for me as I endeavor to serve you, our diocese and our Church.



Name: Brandon P. Cooper
Church: St. Andrew's, Highland Park
Occupation: Criminal Justice Adjunct

I am a lifelong Episcopalian, having been raised at St. Clement's in Greenville, PA. I have been a member of St. Andrew's, Highland Park for twelve years. During that time, I served three years on vestry as Junior Warden, and have been Church School Director for the last 3 plus years. Since January. I have been assisting as a lay worship leader at All Saint's, Brighton Heights, in addition to my work at St. Andrew's. Currently I am enrolled at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and am also a postulant for ordination in the Diocese.

I was approached regarding nomination to, and am interested in serving on both the Cathedral Chapter, and the Committee on Constitution and Canons.

DEPUTIES TO GENERAL CONVENTION

Four clergy and four lay deputies to be elected to a three-year term ending in 2022

Four clergy and four lay alternate deputies to be elected to a three-year term ending in 2022



Name: Noah H. Evans
Church: St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon
Occupation: Rector

Biography: In the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh, he currently serves on the Standing Committee. Ordained in 2004, previously, Noah served as the Rector of Grace Episcopal Church, Medford, Massachusetts and as the Associate Rector of St. Anne's in the Fields Episcopal Church in Lincoln Massachusetts. He is a graduate of Washington University in Saint Louis and The General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church. Raised in East Lansing, Michigan, Noah is a lifelong Episcopalian and lives in Mt. Lebanon, with his wife, the Reverend Sara Irwin and their children Isaiah and Adah. Sara is also an Episcopal priest, and serves as the Pastor of St. John Lutheran Church in Carnegie. Noah was the co-founder of Life Together: the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts Young Adult Internship Program and has served on the boards of a number of faith based social-justice non-profits. In 2016, Noah received the first Wallace H. Kountze Community Service Award by the Mystic Valley NAACP for his work on multicultural issues. He is passionate about the ministry of all the baptized, living the life of the church for the sake of the world and building vibrant communities of faith which help us to "grow into the full stature of Christ."

Statement: I would like to join the deputation representing the Diocese of Pittsburgh at General Convention to share our experience as a smaller diocese that values its theological diversity, the ministry of parishes of all sizes and is working to be a church of reconciliation in our communities as we share the Good News of Jesus Christ.



Name: Eric McIntosh
Church: St. James, Penn Hills
Occupation: Priest-in-Charge

I would like the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh to consider my nomination for General Convention Clergy Deputy. I am currently the Priest-in-charge of St. James' Episcopal Church of Penn Hills where I have served as church planter for six years building a worshipping community. Thus far we have grown from zero to fifty worshippers with an average Sunday attendance of roughly 20 -25. During these six years we have baptized over twenty children and adults. St. James is also engaged in a more expansive vision as we develop a Family Resource Wellness Center, located at the church and focused on youth ages 8 to 21 and their families.

I have previously served as Parish Administrator, Executive Director and Assistant to the priest at St. Stephen's in Wilkinsburg. I have also developed and taught an evangelism class for the Episcopal Church Foundation as an ECF Fellow and have served as chaplain for the ECF Board retreat. Additionally, I have developed and taught classes at the Metro Urban Institute of the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary for their Church Leadership Certificate program. I am currently serving or have served on the Standing Committee, the Commission on Ministry, the Commission on Race and Reconciliation, and Diocesan Council.

Eleven years ago, while in seminary, I found the Episcopal Church. I fell in love with the prayer book. I stand as a testimony that our prayer book is a gift to those with fresh eyes. I am watching firsthand how our theology, prayer and the love of Jesus Christ ignites something awesome in those who have never been exposed to love, Jesus or a church like ours. I believe I am well suited to be a Clergy Deputy and, if for no other reason, to bring the blessing of fresh eyes while representing our Diocese at General Convention.



Name: Jeffrey D. Murph
Church: St. Thomas, Oakmont
Occupation: Priest

I have been a priest in the Diocese of Pittsburgh for twenty-five years, serving twice on the Standing Committee (as President in the final year of both terms), as chair of the Bishop's Task Force on Strategic Planning I and as a member of the Bishop's Task Force on Strategic Planning II (on The Listening Committee subgroup). While on The Listening Committee, I visited nearly half of the congregations in our Diocese to learn and report to the bishop on local parish ministry. Twice I have served as a clergy deputy to General Convention. For the same time, I have served as rector of St. Thomas Church in Oakmont and, for nearly fourteen years, as chaplain of UPMC St. Margaret.

My wife and I are married nearly thirty-three years, with four children (the youngest in college). A decade ago, after the division in our Diocese, it became even more important to me to serve not only my parish but also the Diocese and the Episcopal Church. For that reason, I first agreed to be nominated as a deputy to General Convention and continue to wish to serve.



Name: Kris Opat
Church: St. David's, Peters Township
Occupation: Clergy

The Rev. Kris Opat was ordained in 2008 and has been serving as the Priest in Charge of the parish of St. David's, Peters Township, for the past seven years. Prior to that he was the Associate Rector at St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon. In that time, he has served on the Standing Committee and in a number of other diocesan positions including deputy to General Convention in 2018. The Rev. Opat is also currently serving as the Chairperson of the Commission on Ministry.

The Rev. Opat was a bit hesitant about General Convention when he attended in 2018. Church politics was never something he sought out, but he also knew that it was a very important part of our governance and was honored when he was elected to serve. Attending the convention in 2018 was transformative. Where he expected an unwieldy and divided legislature, he instead found a well-run and loving group of deputies devoted to our church.

The Rev. Opat is running in this year's election for the privilege to serve once again as a deputy in 2021. The sheer size and complexity of the Convention requires a lot of experience to understand and to function effectively. His desire is to build on his previous experience to help him to serve better this convention and, God willing, in the years to come.



Name: Neil K. Raman
Church: Calvary, East Liberty
Occupation: Associate Rector

Service to the Church: Present: Diocese of Pittsburgh: Clergy Association Board, Clergy Conference Planning Committee. Past: Diocese of West Tennessee: Happening Steering Committee; Diocese of Long Island Alternate General Convention Deputy; National: Intern for Life Long Formation, Episcopal Church Center.

Statement of Interest: Over the last year and a half it has been a joy to get to know the Diocese of Pittsburgh and Calvary, East Liberty. The parish, the Diocese, and Western PA have quickly become home. In the years before coming to Pittsburgh I have had the opportunity to serve the church as a lay person and as a priest at the parish, diocesan, and national levels. Over this time, I have been active in six dioceses. Some of these dioceses have had very different contexts while others share much in common with the Diocese of Pittsburgh. I believe that the breadth of my experience these last few years can be an asset to the Diocese of Pittsburgh Deputation in 2021.



Name: Bruce M. Robison
Church: St. Andrew's, Highland Park
Occupation: Rector

My wife Susy and I—with our children Daniel and Linnea—moved to Pittsburgh in the summer of 1994 from Bloomsburg in the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, and since then I've served as Rector of St. Andrew's in Highland Park. Over the years I've served the diocese on the Standing Committee, the Diocesan Council, the Committee on Constitution and Canons, and the Clergy Association board. This year I have been a member of the Governance Working Group in the diocesan CREED initiative. I have served as Deputy (2009, 2015) or Alternate Deputy (2012, 2018) to the General Convention, and at Convention in

2015 I was appointed to serve on the Committee on the Church Pension Fund.

Service at General Convention is an opportunity to make a constructive contribution to the well-being of our wider Episcopal Church. My particular interest has focused on how our church at the denominational level can better support dioceses and parishes in the rapidly-changing landscape of ministry in the 21st century. I believe that the wider church can learn a good deal from what we have learned and from what we continue to learn on the ground here in Pittsburgh, especially since 2008, and I am honored to be considered for election to our deputation.



Name: James Shoucair
Church: Christ Church, North Hills
Occupation: Rector

I have had the privilege of serving in many capacities in this Diocese. In terms of parochial ministry, I have served at Church of the Nativity, Crafton (Assistant Rector), Trinity Cathedral (Canon Pastor/Priest-in-Charge) and Christ Church, North Hills (Rector). I am currently an Intake Officer for the Diocese; a member of Cathedral Chapter; and I am also the Secretary to Convention, a position I have held for the past 11 years. I am a past member of the following committees: Constitution and Canons; Disciplinary; Board of Examining Chaplains for the Priesthood; Continuing Education Committee.

I am excited at the prospect of serving this Diocese as a part of the deputation to General Convention. As both a priest and retired lawyer, I believe I have the background and training to be of assistance to this Diocese in the context of the issues and happenings of our denomination and to help us remain both current and connected to the wider church and society.



Name: James Simons
Church: St. Michael's of the Valley, Ligonier
Occupation: Rector

I have been a deputy to the past ten conventions. At the last four I have served as the Chair of Dispatch of Business which is responsible for moving legislation through the House of Deputies. I was a member of Executive Council (National Board of Trustees) from 2011-2018 serving on the Committee for World Mission. I was also a member of Planning and Arrangements for the General Convention from 2009-2018. I have served on the Council of Advice for three Presidents of the House. I have been a member of the Diocesan Standing Committee three times and served for over a decade as the Chair of The Commission on Ministry in the late

nineties and early two thousands. I have been the Rector of St. Michael's of the Valley, Ligonier, since 1988.



Name: Nancy Threadgill
Church: St. Mark's, Johnstown
Occupation: Priest-in-Charge

Service to the Church: Priest-in-Charge, St. Mark's (five years). Past: Rector, the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Mobile, AL (eight years); and Curate, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Mobile, AL (two years). Alternate clergy deputy to 2018 General Convention, Chairman, District 4

Statement of Interest: I had the awesome privilege of being an alternate deputy to the 2018 General Convention in Austin, Texas. Circumstances allowed me to be a regular deputy during several crucial votes in the House of Deputies. Knowing that I was participating in historical actions of the church made me aware of how important General Convention is. I would gladly participate again if given the opportunity.



Name: Shahnaz Alam-Denlinger
Church: St. Thomas, Oakmont
Occupation: Teacher

I have always felt that I was called to some sort of service. Serving on the Standing Committee and participating in the General Convention in Baltimore would be an honor for me. It is through service one can honor the Lord and His teachings.

I grew up in a Muslim household, where I was taught early that it is better to always give rather than receive. I have been the recipient of other's generosity at my lowest moments and feel it is my duty to return that generosity to others. I believe that my close relationship to family, my strong connection to heritage, my personal experiences with poverty, my Muslim faith and then my Christian conversion all led to a better understanding of what it means to be a servant of the Lord.

There are many talents or gifts I feel I could bring to the Committee and at General Convention because of all that I have seen and experienced. I believe that my knowledge of five different languages (Bengali, Hindi, French, Arabic and English), my educational background, my professional experiences, my love for socializing with others and bringing them to my supper table and finally my clear understanding of the immense love my God has for me through the sacrifice of His Son, gives me a strong foundation.

My spiritual life consists of daily prayer, leading and attending weekly bible studies, morning Sunday school classes, serving as a Lay Eucharistic Minister at the altar of Christ, giving communion to members of the congregation, serving on the Vestry of our church, serving on the Race and Relations Committee for the Diocese of Pittsburgh, writing grants to assist my congregation, and other parishes in the Diocese, meeting congregational needs for the future of our church and doing missions and volunteer work in my local community and globally. I feel my service to the parish and my immediate and global community shows my desire to serve and grow in my faith to draw closer to Christ.



Name: Michael E. Braxton
Church: Calvary, East Liberty
Occupation: Director of Development

“The Jesus Movement” as our Presiding Bishop has described our work in the Episcopal Church, binds us together in common purpose and mission. I have been honored and humbled to have been chosen to help Pittsburgh play its part in the life of the church.

I served as a lay deputy at the most recent General Convention and was elected by our to chair our deputation. I also served on the Legislative Committee on Ministry at General Convention. At Convention, I was elected to serve a three-year term on the Board of Trustees of the General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church and have been appointed by the President of the House of Deputies to serve on the Standing Committee on Program, Budget & Finance for the Church. I served as an alternate deputy from this diocese at the preceding 78th and 77th General Conventions.

In our diocese, I served for four years on the Constitutions & Canons Committee during which time I held the positions of secretary and later chair of the committee.

I am a parishioner of Calvary Church, where I first came over 25 years ago, transferring from my previous parish in New York City, after earning degrees from Princeton and Columbia Law School. For 16 years I was a verger at Calvary, which transformed my worship experience. Over the course of my life at Calvary, I have held many roles including service on the vestry, parish council, rector search committee and as a lay reader.

I am a fundraiser by profession, currently the Director of Development at Pittsburgh Opera, after spending 14 years as a development officer at Carnegie Mellon University. I ask for your continued prayer and support and hope that you will continue to allow me to serve you in this capacity.



Name: Lisa Brown
Church: St. Paul’s, Mt. Lebanon
Occupation: Director of Digital Ministry, Membership Vision

Service to the Church: Evangelism Masterclass participant (2019); Standing Committee (2019); Deputy to General Convention (2018); Province III (2018, 2019); Evangelism Revival Team (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), Vestry (2017-2019);

Statement of Interest: In addition to roots in Pittsburgh, my churchwide connections facilitate opportunities to engage our diocese in the broader work of the church and vice-versa. I love networking, learning and teaching, all in service to building the kingdom of God. My experiences include attending conferences as a both workshop leader and attendee: Forma, (2015-2019); The CEEP Network (2017-2019); Kanuga Formation (2016-2019); eFormation (2016, 2017); Diocesan Convention (2016) and Lenten Learning Day (2017); and keynoting conferences for the Dioceses of Alabama (2017), Massachusetts (2018), Virginia (2018), and Atlanta (2019). I am the author of *The Best VBS Workbook Ever!*; a contributor Building Faith, 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. My faith grows through Education for Ministry and I hold a Certificate in Leadership in Lifelong Faith Formation (Virginia Theological Seminary).



Name: Jon Delano

Church: St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon

Occupation: Money & Politics Editor, KDKA-TV (CBS); Adjunct Professor, Carnegie-Mellon University, Heinz College

Service to the church: Present: President, Diocesan Council; Deputy to General Convention (member of the Social Justice & U.S. Policy Committee); Coordinator, Project CREED; Judge of Elections (Diocesan Convention); Parish Lay Eucharistic Minister Coordinator. Past: Standing Committee; District 3 Chair; Senior Warden & Vestry; Co-chair, Diocesan Convention Planning Committee; Co-chair, Diocesan Nominating Committee; Chair, St. Paul's Worship Committee & Stewardship Committee; Chair, St. Paul's Bylaws Revision Committee.

Statement of interest: Having served a number of years in various diocesan positions (Diocesan Council, Standing Committee, District Chair, etc.) and grounded with parish service and worship (Senior Warden, Vestry, Lay Eucharistic Minister coordinator, etc.), I think my experience and background in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, coupled with my skills in communication, law, and mediation, are helpful as we strengthen the Episcopal Church in a challenging world. As a Deputy to General Convention, my goal has been to strive to make sound judgments on all matters before General Convention, always tempered by the counsel and wisdom of the clergy and lay people in this diocese. At the last Convention, I was appointed to serve on the Social Justice & U.S. Policy Committee where we drafted a number of key policy positions on immigration, women's & minority rights, social justice, and economic rights. Our worship together as Episcopalians in the greater Anglican Communion depends on our ability to transcend and navigate differences in a public environment while remaining true to our core beliefs as Christians who value the diversity led by the Holy Spirit that is the ever-evolving American experience of this Church.



Name: Joan R. Gundersen

Church: Redeemer, Squirrel Hill

Occupation: Retired Historian

I would be honored to serve again as a deputy to General Convention. As a professional historian, my research and writing has been largely on the Episcopal Church, especially its women. That work has given me knowledge and visibility that has proved useful to the diocese at General Convention. I have served the Episcopal Church in each of the ten parishes in nine dioceses where I have lived, with roles as varied as choir and vestry member, parish and guild treasurer, Sunday school teacher and event coordinator. After five years actively trying to prevent the split in this diocese, and ten years on diocesan staff of the rebuilding diocese, I'm

now retired.

My diocesan service currently is on the Constitution and Canons Committee, and the Committee to Re-imagine the Diocese. At Church of Redeemer I'm a choir member, lector, archivist and on the worship committee, and at St. James Penn Hills act as bookkeeper/treasurer. For 12 years I have also been part of a weekly ministry at Heritage Place nursing home.



Name: Jamie McMahon
Church: Calvary, East Liberty
Occupation: Fundraising

I would be honored to serve the diocese again as a deputy to the General Convention in 2021. I currently serve at Calvary Episcopal Church as Senior Warden, as a verger, and as a member of the choir. In addition, I am the parliamentarian for Diocesan Convention.

I attended the General Convention as part of the Diocese of Pittsburgh's deputation in 2018, 2015, and 2012; in 2009 as part of General Convention management staff; and in 2003 as a member of the Young Adult Festival. During both the 2018 and 2015 General Conventions I was a member of the Legislative Committee on Stewardship & Socially Responsible Investing. In the Episcopal Church, I am currently a board member of Forward Movement, served on the church-wide Standing Commission on Stewardship and Development from 2009-2015 with three years as chair, and on the Standing Commission on Communications and Technology from 2003 to 2006.

In my professional life, I am the chief executive officer of the Educational Foundation at the Community College of Allegheny County. Over the past decade, I have worked with several parishes as well as with the Diocese of Pittsburgh itself to assist with fundraising strategy and efforts.



Name: Martha Shelby
Church: Holy Cross, Homewood
Occupation: Business Banker

Born in Tanzania, Africa, Martha Shelby is a lifelong member of the Anglican Church. Her mother, Mary Boma is a retired educator and her father, Alfred Boma is a retired Tanzanian diplomat assigned to the United States. Martha spent most of her childhood traveling internationally and came to the United States as a pre-teen after her father took an assignment in Washington, DC. Martha is bilingual and fluent in Swahili.

Martha serves as the Junior Warden at the Historic Church of the Holy Cross - Episcopal in Homewood - Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where she has been a member for over 20 years. In addition, she is the President of the Rectors' Guild, a Co-Director of the Altar and Acolyte Guilds, and serves as a Lay License Eucharistic leader. Martha is a supporter of the liturgical dance ministry and is a very proud "acolyte parent" serving alongside her children at the Altar of the Lord.

Martha has a passion for youth and young adult ministries and a deep and fervent zeal for community service. She serves as the Secretary on the Board of Directors of the Episcopal Lutheran Alliance and recently was certified and completed the Pittsburgh Diocesan Leadership Training, "Love, Teach, and Heal."

Martha is currently Vice President of Banking at JP Morgan Chase and has nearly 20 years of business banking solutions which includes operations and fiscal management control, encompassing oversight and regulations, audit and risk management, recruiting, evaluation, process and systems control, and overall trends and market analysis. She is a member the American Banker's Association and Pennsylvania Banker's Association.

Martha holds an Masters in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix and a Bachelor's of Science in Informational Technology from Point Park University. Martha has been honored as the Top Five Revenue Producer, (3.5 Million in Consumer Lending), Top Regional Lead Branch Manager in

Consumer Lending for the past two years. She was responsible for moving a nonperforming bank branch – in one year – to top performing. Martha has received the Service of Excellence Award, Best Rated Top Regional customer service employee for four consecutive years, the Top Regional Business Banking Advocate, and Top Regional Best Investment referral generator.

Martha is the proud mother of two daughters, Paige and Larissa, and one son, Jewell. She is a Penn Hills High School Athletics Booster Club member but her single greatest accomplishment is having two of her children completing their final years of college.



Name: Steve Stagnitta
Church: St. Andrew's, Highland Park
Occupation: Retired

I have been a member of St Andrews Church in Highland Park for the past 10 years. Most recently I have been a member of the committee envisioning the future of St Andrews. This group looked at where the parish is today and where it would like to be in the future. The results are being used to create a parish profile that will be used in calling our next rector. In the diocese I have been on a number of committees, most recently Board of Trustees, and have also been a lay deputy to General Convention multiple times. This gives me a great deal of experience working with people both at the diocesan and national level. I would like to continue representing our diocese to bring back ideas to make it stronger. While a deputy to General Convention I have worked on the Congregational Vitality legislative committee and have brought back ways to provide funding for parishes in the diocese of Pittsburgh. I also worked on the Evangelism committee to find ways to grow our parishes. If elected I hope to represent our diocese and develop ways to build it and make it stronger through the coming years. I pray that I might have your support to do this work.

DISCIPLINARY BOARD

One clergy and two laypersons to be elected to three-year terms ending in 2022



Name: Jean S. Adams
Church: Calvary, East Liberty
Occupation: Office Manager

I was elected to the Disciplinary Board in 2016 and am nominated for a second term. Serving on the Disciplinary Board is that unusual situation where one hopes not to be needed and yet, if we are needed, it is important to be prepared to serve.

I am an active member of Calvary, East Liberty, and over many years have served on the parish's Vestry, Finance Committee, Parish Council, Personnel Committee, Rector Search Committee, and as Junior Warden. I currently sing in the parish choir and am also serving on the Diocesan Commission on Ministry.

For a number of years, I have worked as an independent technical writer and editor with clients in science and business. I also manage a small professional office in downtown Pittsburgh.



Name: Amy Shelley
Church: St. David's, Peters Township
Occupation: Director of Estimating

I am currently member at St. David's Peter's Township and completing my sixth year as a member of the Board of Trustees where she serves on the Property Committee and chairs the Growth Fund Committee.

The Disciplinary Board is a committee everyone hopes never has to meet, but if needed I hope my willingness to speak out and high standard of ethics and willing to work hard will help me make a valuable contribution to the Board.



Name: James Simons
Church: St. Michael's of the Valley, Ligonier
Occupation: Rector

I have been a priest in the Diocese of Pittsburgh for 34 years. For the past 31 years I have served as the Rector of St. Michael's of the Valley Episcopal Church in Ligonier. I have served three terms on the Standing Committee been a member of Diocesan Council and was the Chair of the Commission on Ministry for 10 years. I have served in various other capacities as well.

At the National level I served 8 years on Executive council, been a ten time Deputy to General Convention and served on the Councils of Advice for three different Presidents of the House.



Name: Aidan Smith
Church: Trinity Cathedral, Pittsburgh
Occupation: Provost

I am currently serving as the Provost of Trinity Cathedral. This is a relatively new call, as I have only had the privilege of ministering downtown since last May. Prior to this, I was an assisting priest at All Saints, Brighton Heights and the Dean of Advancement and Church Relations at Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry in Ambridge. Before attending seminary, I was employed in the fields of social work and juvenile justice in northwest Alaska. There, I was trained in utilizing a restorative model of justice when working with clients and adjudicating cases. The goal in the process was always the restoration of wholeness and wellness for both the offended party, the offender, and the wider community. Should an issue arise that would require an application of the Title IV Canons of The Episcopal Church, I would seek to employ similar principles to achieve similar goals. I am married to Melanie and we have two children, Felicity and Solomon. We share a home in an unintentional community with a friend, Wesley and two dogs, Coho and Karl Bark.



Name: Douglas Starr
Church: St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon
Occupation: Music Minister

I am Director of Music of Arts at St. Paul's Episcopal, Mt. Lebanon where I have served since 1993. I have also recently served two terms on the Trinity Cathedral Chapter (Vestry). I have taught in and been an administrator in higher education since 1974 serving at Kenyon College, Central Michigan University, Bellarmine University and LaRoche and Westminster Colleges. At the same time, I have been a church musician since 1974 in part time capacities and, since 2000, full time. Chiefly as university administrator and organizational leader; e.g. ACE Fellow and Dean, American Guild of Organists, Pittsburgh Chapter, I have adjudicated disciplinary hearings and negotiated several successful conflict resolutions. I would appreciate election to service on the Disciplinary Board of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh.

STANDING COMMITTEE

One clergy and one layperson to be elected to four-year terms ending 2023



Name: Jonathon Jensen
Church: Calvary, East Liberty
Occupation: Rector

The Rev. Jonathon Jensen has been the Rector of Calvary Church since 2014. Ordained in 1996, he most recently served as the Dean of Trinity Cathedral in Little Rock.

In the parish, Jonathon has passions for teaching, pastoral care, administration, and helping imagine where God is leading the congregation to serve our neighbors. Recently, he formed a partnership with the Tree of Life Congregation of Pittsburgh to welcome them to Calvary as host for their high holy day services and welcomed Tarana Burke, founder of the #metoo movement, to

speak at Calvary.

In the Diocese of Pittsburgh, Jonathon created and co-facilitates a formation course for new clergy entitled, Leadership and Servanthood. He also serves on the Commission on Ministry.

In other dioceses, Jonathon has served as Canon Theologian, on a Standing Committee, as Chair of an Evangelism Committee, on two capital campaign planning committees, on a college ministry task force, and on a task force that created the Bishop Kemper School for Ministry in which he also taught.

Statement of why the nominee wishes to serve on the Standing Committee: I offer myself for consideration on the Standing Committee because I believe our Lord has already brought signs of resurrection in the Diocese of Pittsburgh with many more to come. I am excited and proud to be a part of this new life in our diocese and want to help recognize, welcome, and embrace it.



Name: Regis Smolko
Church: St. Brendan's, Franklin Park
Occupation: Priest-in-Charge

Serving on the Standing Committee was not on my radar screen until a call from someone with knowledge of the diocese and knowledge of me suggesting I do so. As one of the newer-received priests (former RC priest) serving in the diocese, a lot of our diocese may not know me well. I have been serving as priest-in-charge of St. Brendan's, Franklin Park about 2 years. I also serve on the Diocesan Council and am an active member of The Opioid Response Task Force of Province III.

I left the Roman Catholic priesthood 30+ years ago and my career path, fueled by 3 MA's (English, Church Law & Community Counseling), drew me to teaching positions at Duquesne, Pitt and Penn State. Health Care consumed a significant portion of my career; I worked as Clinical Director at Greenbriar Treatment Center in Washington, PA; I started the IOPs (Intensive Outpatient Treatment Programs--alternatives to inpatient care). The last 18 years of my career, prior to priesthood, were spent as the president of my own consulting company. In this role, I became a national, then international public speaker and management consultant serving clients throughout the world. I was certified as a Dale Carnegie Trainer. My S/O and eventual husband of 30+ years, Ken Parsons and I had the awesome responsibility of raising a niece and nephew during crucial stages of their lives. Bridget is now a nurse at Johns Hopkins, and Kenny is with the Lord—he died suddenly 7 years ago. These quasi-parental relationships have shaped us for the most meaningful parts of our ministry and service.

My "later-than-other's" return to priesthood and Episcopal service is blessed by a unique combination of seasoning due to real-life experience for many years mixed with the energy and creativity of a newly ordained. My sense is that this will bring a sense of practical, whole-picture-oriented energy and insight to the work of the Standing Committee.



Name: Shahnaz Alam-Denlinger
Church: St. Thomas, Oakmont
Occupation: Teacher

I have always felt that I was called to some sort of service. Serving on the Standing Committee and participating in the General Convention in Baltimore would be an honor for me. It is through service one can honor the Lord and His teachings.

I grew up in a Muslim household, where I was taught early that it is better to always give rather than receive. I have been the recipient of other's generosity at my lowest moments and feel it is my duty to return that generosity to others. I believe that my close relationship to family, my strong connection to heritage, my personal experiences with poverty, my Muslim faith and then my Christian conversion all led to a better understanding of what it means to be a servant of the Lord.

There are many talents or gifts I feel I could bring to the Committee and at General Convention because of all that I have seen and experienced. I believe that my knowledge of five different languages (Bengali, Hindi, French, Arabic and English), my educational background, my professional experiences, my love for socializing with others and bringing them to my supper table and finally my clear understanding of the immense love my God has for me through the sacrifice of His Son, gives me a strong foundation.

My spiritual life consists of daily prayer, leading and attending weekly bible studies, morning Sunday school classes, serving as a Lay Eucharistic Minister at the altar of Christ, giving communion to members of the congregation, serving on the Vestry of our church, serving on the Race and Relations Committee for

the Diocese of Pittsburgh, writing grants to assist my congregation, and other parishes in the Diocese, meeting congregational needs for the future of our church and doing missions and volunteer work in my local community and globally. I feel my service to the parish and my immediate and global community shows my desire to serve and grow in my faith to draw closer to Christ.



Name: Steve Stagnitta
Church: St. Andrew's, Highland Park
Occupation: Retired

I have been a member of St Andrews Church in Highland Park for more than 10 years. Most recently I have been a member of the committee envisioning the future of St Andrews. We looked at where the parish is today and where it would like to be in the future. The results are being used to create a parish profile that will be used in calling our next rector. I have also been a lay reader and previously was on the vestry. At the diocesan level I have been on the Board of Trustees where I was part of the finance committee and the head of the audit committee. Being on the Board of Trustees has given me a solid knowledge of the workings of the diocese and some of the challenges that it has faced over the years. I have also been on the Commission on Ministry, Growth Fund, and Diocesan Council, as well as represented the diocese at General Convention. With these experiences that I have amassed over the years I feel that I can be an effective member of the Standing Committee. I pray that I might have your support to do the work of this committee.