

2022 Diocesan Convention BIOGRAPHIES OF NOMINEES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

One layperson to be elected to a three-year term ending in 2025



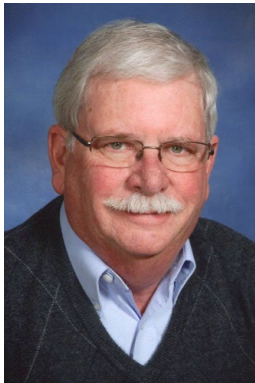
Name: Sheila Stagnitta
Church: St. Andrew's, Highland Park
Occupation: Retired Engineer

I've served as President of the Board of Trustees since January 2022, and as a member since 2020. As President, I lead the monthly meetings and am a member of each Board committee, with the Property and the Finance and Investment committees being most active. I'm running for reelection to continue serving the important mission of the Trustees.

I joined the Episcopal Church in 1982 and presently attend 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. 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 was Judge of Audits, a volunteer parish auditor, 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 career in engineering and management provided me with skills that I look to apply in volunteer 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: Thomas G. Weiss, Jr.
Church: Calvary, East Liberty
Occupation: Retired

I am a so-called "cradle" Episcopalian, beginning over seven decades ago. I have been a member of parishes in the Diocese of Pittsburgh for a total of forty-four years. I have served in a number of capacities, including choir member and choir director, Acolyte Director, lector, chalice bearer, head of Worship Committee, youth group sponsor, and volunteer in the parish bookstore.

I retired with thirty-three years of service with Westinghouse, including twenty-two years in management. My responsibilities at Westinghouse included responsibility for management of over \$20 million of capital assets. I also served twenty-six years in the U. S. Army and Army Reserves, retiring with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

I came to Calvary Episcopal Church as a direct result of the split in 2008. Over the next few years, I was exposed to the issues concerning the property and assets of the Diocese, and the critical role played by Board of Trustees in maintaining the rightful ownership of them. The recent call for nominees moved me, and I decided to run for the open position. I feel that my lifetime in the Episcopal Church and my management experience at Westinghouse would serve me in good stead on the Board of Trustees.

CATHEDRAL CHAPTER

One clergy and one layperson to be elected to three-year terms ending in 2025



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

In the past few years I have become more interested in the ministry of the Cathedral downtown. Until this past year I was the chair of the Commission on Ministry and was not comfortable taking on more diocesan responsibilities, but now that I no longer serve on the Commission I would like to invest some of my energy in the work and life of the cathedral and the unique opportunities its downtown location offers. In particular, I would like to find ways to partner with the many harm reduction services that are getting started in the city to minister to the housing insecure and those who struggle with problematic drug use.



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

It would be an honor to serve on the Cathedral Chapter. I currently serve as the program coordinator of Beloved Community Initiative for the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh alongside Canon Eric McIntosh. I am a first generation Asian-American who was born in Bangladesh and came to Pittsburgh as a child. Aside from living in Jordan for 11 years as a teenager and young college student, Pittsburgh has been my home. I am a graduate of Jordan University of Science and Technology with a degree in architectural engineering. I received my Masters in Education and Principal Certification from Point Park University. I am married with a son and daughter-in-law.

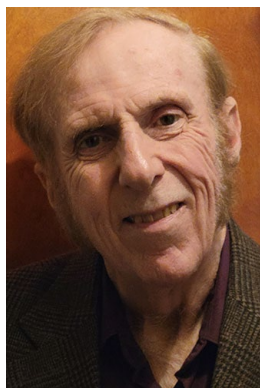
I have over 21 years of experience in teaching all levels of 7-12 mathematics in urban and private schools. I have also developed curriculum and trained new educators and have taught as an adjunct in local colleges and universities. I am assisting in developing better strategies for Diversity Equity and Inclusion within the school I teach in. I am also working to create a better understanding of our Asian community in Pittsburgh through the National Association of Independent Schools and Beloved Community.

I converted to Christianity through relational experiences. I have a deep desire to help others see the "grace" that has been given to me. I have been a member of the Episcopal church since my conversion and am an active member of St. Thomas Memorial Church in Oakmont, Pa. I am also on the Race and Reconciliation Commission. I am a member of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Oakmont, Pennsylvania. I serve in my parish as a Lay Eucharistic Minister, led and continue to lead bible studies in the church and/or home studies and serve on the Women's Group for my church. I served as a vestry member for a number of years.

Due to my immigrant background and travel experience, I have a deep respect for other cultures. My experience as a woman of color in a multicultural family, raising a biracial son, and growing up as an immigrant in the United States, gives me a deep desire to reach out to others who experience adversity due to their diversity and perceived differences.

COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND CANONS

One clergy and one layperson to be elected to three-year terms ending in 2025



Name: Charles C. Bell
Church: St. Matthew's, Homestead
Occupation: Attorney

I am a practicing attorney, and was admitted to the bar in Pennsylvania when Gerald Ford was President.

I am a cradle Episcopalian, having been a member of this faith and denomination since Harry Truman was President. Throughout my life I have served in various capacities at several Episcopal churches. Currently, it is my privilege to worship and to volunteer my time and talent at St. Matthew's Church in Homestead.

I feel called to now assist the Diocesan leadership by running for an office commensurate with my skills.

In short, I have an extensive layperson ecclesiastical background and a lengthy legal experience. With these talents, I believe I would be able to contribute as a committee person to evaluate and respond to any issues that arise with the diocesan Constitution and Canons



Name: The Rev. Carter Hawley
Church: Currently Unassigned
Occupation: Deacon

I am a deacon, living in Homestead. I am not currently assigned to a congregation but am assisting the Diocese in a variety of ways. I currently serve as the executive director of the Association for Episcopal Deacons. I have served as the Canon for Administration in the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon and worked on local government management for 25 years.

I am interested in serving on the Constitution and Canons Committee because these documents can either hinder and hamstring the Diocese, or they can provide the structure to allow the Diocese to flourish in its ministry to love God and love our neighbors. My deep hope is that these governing documents can be crafted in a way that is aspirational as we minister in the church and the world.

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

One member to be elected to a three-year term ending in 2025



Name: Dr. Patricia Dunkis
Church: St. Paul’s, Mt. Lebanon
Occupation: Retired Educator

Dr. Patricia B. Dunkis is a retired educator, and presently a part-time educational consultant. She worked in the Upper St. Clair School District for 31 years, serving as classroom teacher, curriculum leader, elementary principal, and district administrator. Currently, she serves as a member of the Steering Committee for the Educational Leadership Academy, a regional initiative that provides continuing education for principals and other school leaders, sponsored by the Grable Foundation.

A member of St. Paul’s, Mt. Lebanon, Pat chairs the Social Justice and Anti-Racism Commission, is President of Claudia Circle, and serves on the St. Paul’s Episcopal Nursery School Board of Trustees. She is also a member of the altar guild and is a greeter and lector. To assist her spiritual formation, Pat participates in the Rector’s Bible Study and the Wednesday Evening Small Group.

While serving as a member of the Transition Committee and Shepherd to Rev. Dr. Ketlen Solak for Meet and Greet Week (during summer 2021, prior to her election as bishop), I learned much about the church at the diocesan level. I would like to deepen my knowledge and extend my service by participating as a member of the Diocesan Commission on Ministry.

REGIONAL DISCIPLINARY BOARD

One clergy and one layperson to be elected to a three-year terms ending 2025



Name: Ian Everhart
Church: Calvary, East Liberty
Occupation: Attorney

Biographical Information: Ian Everhart was born and raised in Pittsburgh, attended Rice University in Houston, then served in western Honduras with the Peace Corps before graduate school brought him back to Pittsburgh (law school at Pitt and a master’s degree at Carnegie Mellon). He worked in state government for four years in Harrisburg before again boomeranging to his hometown, where he serves as law clerk to Judge Patrick Connelly on the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas. When he met his wife Laura in a singing group, Ian became the third generation in a row of Everhart men to have met his wife in a choir. They have sung together in several church choirs (including St. Andrew’s parish choir, Calvary’s schola cantorum, and St. Stephen’s in Harrisburg) and other ensembles. At Calvary, Ian serves as an usher and has also participated in Education for Ministry (EfM) and the young adults group. He and Laura are parents of Clare, born in the fall of 2021.

Statement of Interest: Lots of rules hover in the background of our lives and do not seem very relevant or interesting, until all of a sudden, they are of extreme importance. Our recent experiences as a diocese, both in questions of governance in the national church, and in addressing the COVID pandemic, have shown the importance of having well-drafted constitutions and canons in place, to help weather any stressful moments, rather than (intentionally or unintentionally) hindering a response. Working closely with a judge, I have also appreciated the importance of impartial and speedy resolution of allegations, balancing the interests of both the accused and victims. I want to bring my experience in the secular world (reading and drafting the language of statutes, regulations and contracts, and playing a role in the judicial process) to support the diocese, its parishes and its people.



Name: Joseph Mackin II
Church: Trinity Cathedral, Pittsburgh
Occupation: Attorney/Housing Stabilization Specialist

Having moved to the area in August 2014 to attend the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, I’m an attorney by trade, and I currently work for ACTION-Housing, Inc., as a housing stabilization specialist. I am interested in serving the Diocese of Pittsburgh as a member of the Regional Disciplinary Board because I’m mindful of the fact that at the very heart of discipline is God’s love, and I do my best to keep that reality at the forefront of everything I do. When we admonish or discipline someone for the wrongs they’ve committed, it’s important to cultivate an atmosphere of grace and love because our ultimate goal should be to ensure that all parties involved in the controversy are, with God’s help, restored to right relationship with God and one another.

In a previous life, I worked as a parent advocate attorney, representing parents who were accused of neglect or abuse and whose children were often removed from their care because of these allegations. In many circumstances, it was evident that my clients had committed the acts of which they were accused, but many of my clients were genuinely repentant, able to commit to change and growth, and ultimately reunited with their children. I’m happy to say I was able to walk with these folks when they were deep in their struggles and able to come out better and stronger on the other side of their ordeal (they did the work – all I did was talk when necessary). I view the Regional Disciplinary Board’s ministry in much the same light. In circumstances where clergy have been accused of misconduct, it’s important that everything be done to ensure survivors that their concerns are being heard and to prevent future similar harms from occurring to them or anyone else. It’s equally important and appropriate to help those who are repentant to be restored to right relationship with God and, when possible, the individuals and communities that have been harmed. I intend to reflect prayerfully upon the matters brought before the Regional Disciplinary Board, and I intend to be guided by a sense of Godly justice as I exercise my duties.

I currently serve as the Secretary of Cathedral Chapter and as an acolyte during worship. I also recently served on the Bishop Nominating Committee and as a member of the diocesan Social Justice and Outreach Committee.

STANDING COMMITTEE

One clergy and one layperson to be elected to four-year terms ending 2025



Name: The Rev. Laura Di Panfilo
Church: St. Paul’s, Mt. Lebanon
Occupation: Priest

I have been in the Diocese of Pittsburgh since the summer of 2019 and serve as Associate Rector at St Paul’s Episcopal Church. I was ordained a Deacon in the Diocese of New Jersey and ordained to the Priesthood at St. Paul’s in December 2019. Currently I serve on Trinity’s Cathedral Chapter and was also on the Bishop Nominating Committee. I grew up in Massachusetts and am a graduate of Emory University where I completed a BA in Women’s Studies and Religious Studies. I earned my Master of Divinity at Princeton Theological Seminary and my Master of Arts in Ministry from General Theological Seminary. Prior to my time at St. Paul’s I worked as a chaplain at a trauma hospital in Trenton, New Jersey. I live with my husband Luke who is also a priest in the diocese, a pug, and our infant.

Through my experience at St. Paul’s, Trinity’s Cathedral Chapter, and the Bishop’s Nominating Committee I have come to better know our diocese and the wonderful things God is doing here. The Diocese

of Pittsburgh has a unique history and I think this next chapter offers an amazing opportunity to continue to share God's love with our community in new and exciting ways. I would be honored to serve Christ on the Standing Committee.



Name: Wesley M. Rohrer

Church: St. Andrew's, Highland Park

Occupation: Retired Public Health Educator

Profile: Retired Public Health Educator Dr. Rohrer has served as an educator in both the Graduate School of Public Health and the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh. Throughout his career, Dr. Rohrer has taught and published in the areas of organizational studies and management, leadership theory and managerial ethics, human resources management, strategic and financial management as applied to health care and later in his career, global health policy. Dr. Rohrer has taught and mentored over one thousand students in these areas primarily at the graduate level for almost 40 years.

Although he officially retired as Associate Professor Emeritus, Health Policy and Management Education, in June 2019, Wes continued to advise MPH students, mentor Doctoral dissertation research, and Master's degree field placement projects. Among his most valued recognitions, Dr. Rohrer has received an award for Distinguished Service to the University Senate in 2018 and the Craig Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2017.

Dr. Rohrer's currently serves as President of the Board of CLASS (formerly UCP of Pittsburgh) one of the leading service providers and advocates for people with physical and cognitive disabilities in the Pittsburgh Region having served on the Board and its committees since the mid-1980s. He received the Cohen/Bolden award for service to CLASS in 2019. In addition to his service to CLASS, Dr. Rohrer has been active in both School and University governance and various community service nonprofit organizations for over 40 years. Recently he stepped down after serving for four years as the Chair of the Board of Off-the-Floor Pittsburgh, a faith-based furniture bank that delivers gently used furniture and household furnishings to families and individuals in housing crisis and transition.

Wes has been an active lay leader in St. Andrew's Parish in Highland Park for the past 20 years, having served on the Vestry, as a chaliceist, lay Eucharistic visiting minister and lay reader. Currently he is serving as Treasurer and Chair of the Investment Committee, having served three full terms on the Vestry. Wes has led several adult Bible studies and serves on the Outreach Committee. His volunteer activities include servings with the St. Andrew's team to provide meals for the EECM homeless shelter, preparing apartments for refugee families for Hello Neighbor, and backpacks for students at The Neighborhood Academy. Wes previously served on the Commission on Ministry and as lay Chair of District 2 and currently on the Social Justice & Outreach Committee of the Diocese.

Statement of Interest: I wish to serve on the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Pittsburgh as an expression of my commitment to lay ministry and service. I believe that guided by the Holy Spirit and drawing upon my long experience in nonprofit governance and leadership, predisposition to collegiality and balanced judgment, I can make a modest contribution to deliberation and decision making in support of the Bishop and the faithful people of the Diocese.

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: The Rev. Brandon Cooper
Church: Christ Church, North Hills & St. Paul's, Kittanning
Occupation: Priest

I am a lifelong Episcopalian, having been raised at St. Clement's in Greenville, PA. I am currently the Assistant Rector at Christ Church, North Hills, the Priest-in-charge at St. Paul's, Kittanning, and long-term supply priest at St. Michael's, Rural Valley.

I have served on several diocesan committees and offices and want to not only represent our diocese as a Deputy at General Convention, but also the breadth of our membership as I am currently serving at quite a cross section of parishes. Being able to represent a small rural parish, a smallish urban parish, and a large suburban one, all allows me to draw insight from a wide range of experiences and interactions. Further with the push from our last General Convention for younger involvement, my status as a Gen-Xer, not only moves that age needle a bit, but can serve as a bridge between the truly younger folks and those of the older generations.



Name: The Rev. Noah Evans
Church: St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon
Occupation: Priest

The Rev. Noah H. Evans is the Rector of St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon. In the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh, he has served on the Standing Committee, 2018-2021, and as its President during 2021 during the Episcopal transition. 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 religious, ethnic, and racial diversity in the wider community. Noah also serves on the Community Relations Commission of Mt. Lebanon Township, which oversees the municipality's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion work. 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 that help us to "grow into the full stature of Christ."

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: The Rev. Charles L Fischer III
Church: St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon
Occupation: Seminary Administrator

I am an Honorary Priest Associate at St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon and a member of the Commission of Ministry. My other vocation is the Vice President for Seminary Advancement at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. I was recently nominated to the board of TENS the Episcopal Network for Stewardship. Previously served in the Dioceses of Atlanta, Maryland, and Washington. Prior to relocating to Pittsburgh, I sat on the board of Holy Innocents' Episcopal School, Atlanta (largest Episcopal day school); and worked at St. Augustine University, an Episcopal HBCU, focusing on reestablishing and strengthening relationships between the University and the Episcopal Church.

I am interested in serving the wider Church as a Deputy to General Convention. This upcoming General Convention will be important for the future of the denomination as a new Presiding Bishop is elected, the first with a new President of the House of Deputies, and prayerful conversations about our Church. Having lived in other dioceses and Provinces, I would be an asset to our delegation from Pittsburgh having relations throughout our Church, across the Anglican Communion and numerous ecclesiastical communities.

I am a graduate of Morehouse College, Virginia Theological Seminary and working on a DMin at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.



Name: The Rev. Canon Eric McIntosh
Church: St. James, Penn Hills
Occupation: Canon/Priest in Charge

I would like the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh to consider my nomination for General Convention Clergy Deputy. I am currently the Canon for the Beloved Community Initiative for our diocese. The Beloved Community Initiative (BCI) seeks to promote the liberating and reconciling love of Jesus Christ, particularly as it relates to racial justice and reconciliation. I am also, currently the Priest-in-charge of St. James' Episcopal Church of Penn Hills where "we love you to life!" I have served as church planter for nine years. I was asked to build a worshipping community. During these 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 currently am serving or have served on the Standing Committee, the Commission on Ministry, 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 having served as deputy at the 2022 General Convention, I would like to serve Pittsburgh in this way again.



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

For twenty-eight years, I have served in the Diocese of Pittsburgh in a variety of different ways: twice on the Standing Committee, on the Bishop's Task Force for Strategic Planning, on the Bishop's Listening Committee (when I visited nearly of the congregations of our Diocese to learn about local ministry), on the Bishop's Clergy Conference Planning Committee (under Bishops Hathaway, McConnell and Solak), on the board of the Clergy Association and three times as clergy deputy to General Convention. In each of these roles, my aim was to serve the Diocese and its people and to strengthen the church in its ministry. One benefit this time has given me is a long and deep appreciation of the Diocese of Pittsburgh and its congregations.

I have been blessed to have served at St. Thomas Church in Oakmont during all that time and, for seventeen years as Chaplain of UPMC St. Margaret (the Episcopal hospital of Pittsburgh).

My wife and I have been married thirty-six years and have four children, two who live in Pittsburgh and two live in North Carolina.

I am still dedicated to the Church in Pittsburgh and eager to serve as a deputy to General Convention.



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

I have had the opportunity to serve as a deputy to General Convention for the Diocese of Pittsburgh since 2016. In some ways I find it a surprise that I enjoy being a deputy so much as I am not particularly drawn to politics, policies, and procedure. However, my time at General Convention has taught me that it is about much more than the nuts and bolts of church life, but also the place where the community of the Episcopal Church thrives and connects. I would like to continue in the role of deputy in order to further grow in my leadership in our beloved church and to represent the good work that is done here in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. Each time I attend Convention I am moved by a roomful of people who, while they may often disagree on the approach, are all committed to the life and ministry of the Episcopal Church. I am proud to have served with them and I hope to continue to do so again in 2024.



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

Biography: Neil Raman has served at Calvary Church in Pittsburgh since 2018. Prior to coming to Pittsburgh, he served as Curate in Memphis, Tennessee. He was raised on Long Island and was ordained there in 2016. In the Diocese of Pittsburgh, he serves as President of the Standing Committee, as a member of Diocesan Council, the Compensation Committee, and the Clergy Conference Planning Committee. In the past he has served the Diocese as a Deputy to General Convention (2022) and as a member of the Clergy Association Board.

Statement of Interest: I had the privilege of serving the Diocese of Pittsburgh as a Deputy to General Convention in 2022. I am excited at the prospect of serving the Diocese of Pittsburgh and the wider church in this capacity again in 2024. I believe that the breadth of experience that I have gained here over the last few years and in other parts of the church prior to my arrival in Pittsburgh can be an asset to our Deputation in 2024.



Name: The Rev. Bonnie-Marie Yager-Wiggan

Church: Trinity Cathedral, Pittsburgh

Occupation: Assisting Priest

Originally from East Tennessee, I have lived, studied, and served in Pittsburgh for over seven years. During my ordination process, I had the privilege to serve at many parishes in our diocese including Church of the Nativity, Crafton, St. James, Penn Hills, and Calvary, East Liberty. I was ordained to the diaconate in March 2021 and the priesthood in September 2021 at Trinity Cathedral by Bishop Dorsey McConnell.

I serve as the Assisting Priest at Trinity Cathedral and serve the Bishop in building local formation opportunities. I served as Diocesan Convention Manager from 2018-2021 and I currently serve on the Clergy Association Board. I am interested in serving as a delegate to General Convention to learn more about the national church and continue to serve our diocese.

I like to travel and cook and I am a huge college football fan (Go Vols!). Jamie (my husband and I enjoy exploring local coffee shops and parks with our Scottish terrier, Greyfriar.



Name: Florence Atwood

Church: Calvary, East Liberty

Occupation: Home Business & Property Manager

As a life long Episcopalian, I am happy to offer my service to the Diocese of Pittsburgh as a Lay Deputy to General Convention. I was born in North Carolina where I was baptized, confirmed, and married at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Hayesville, NC. Following college at Sewanee, I lived in Birmingham, Alabama and attended the Cathedral Church of the Advent for 8 years. In 1991, I moved to Pittsburgh and have been a member at Calvary Episcopal Church, East Liberty for the past 31 years. My husband Charles and I have two grown daughters, Catherine and Sarah.

Parish experience at Calvary:

- Senior Warden and Vestry member
- Parish Council President and member
- Stewardship Committee chair and member
- Search Committee member for 4 positions including rector
- Building Committee member
- Finance Committee chair and member
- Deputy to Diocesan Convention
- Endowment Committee member
- Representative to the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Churches
- Beginnings Pre-school Board President and member
- Pastoral Care Committee member
- Altar Guild
- Lay Reader
- Chalice Bearer
- Christian Education Teacher
- Choir

Diocesan experience:

- Standing committee, currently
- Diocesan Convention Manager, currently
- Transition Committee, vice chair, 2021
- Board of Trustees, 2019 to 2022

- Growth Committee, 2020 to 2021
- Project CREED Communications Task Force, 2019

Given my experience and love of the Episcopal Church and this diocese, I feel called to serve as a Lay Deputy to the General Convention. The Episcopal Church is poised for renewal and growth over the next decade and I look forward to being an instrumental part of that work.



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

I hope to serve our diocese offering my experience that God brings us through unforeseen circumstances to learn new ways of working together and fulfilling ministry.

As chair of the Nominating Committee for our ninth bishop, I saw how the pandemic acutely affected all of us in a lengthened discernment journey. As a deputy to the 80th General Convention on Program, Budget & Finance, I worked remotely with committee members across the church to prepare the budget for approval by Convention during the uncertainty of lockdown.

At the 79th General Convention, I served as deputation chair, was appointed to the Legislative Committee on Ministry, and was elected to serve as a lay trustee of the General Theological Seminary. I was an alternate deputy at the 78th and 77th General Conventions.

In our diocese, I served on the Constitutions & Canons Committee and was secretary and chair.

Since 1993, I have been a Calvary parishioner, serving on vestry, parish council, the rector search committee, lector, and a vergers.

Professionally I work in non-profit fundraising and am educated as a lawyer. I ask for your prayer 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, church digital communications specialist

My interest in serving again as a Deputy for General Convention comes from my vocational commitment to the betterment of the Episcopal Church. In addition to having served on the staff of St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon for over a decade, on its vestry, and then as a member of the Standing Committee, professionally, I work with over 90 Episcopal churches, cathedrals, dioceses, and organizations in crafting their digital ministry and communication strategies. This often includes working with them on congregational development, evangelism, formation, and stewardship.

During the past triennium, I also served on the Task Force for the Formation and Ministry of the Baptized. As we move toward a new understanding of church in which all are called to live more fully into our baptized ministry, I believe the actions of General Convention will be crucial. I would be honored to represent the unique perspective of the Diocese of Pittsburgh while being mindful of the particular characteristics, challenges and opportunities that we face as we consider our role as part of the broader church.



Name: Jon Delano

Church: St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon

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

Service to the church: Deputy to General Convention (Present & Member, Social Justice & U.S. International Policy Committee), Chair, Diocesan Transition Committee (2020-21); President, Diocesan Council (2018-2021); Secretary & Member, Standing Committee; Coordinator, Project CREED; Judge of Elections (Diocesan Convention); Parish Lay Eucharistic Minister Coordinator; 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: It's been a great honor to represent this Diocese at General Convention, and I would be pleased to do so again. Having served many years in various diocesan positions (Transition Committee, 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 two Conventions, I was appointed to serve on the Social Justice & U.S. Policy Committee and then the Social Justice & U.S. International Policy 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. Virginia Theological Seminary honored me in 1919 with an honorary degree for my work in history and for the Church. 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.

Recent service has included 8 years as volunteer treasurer for St. James, Penn Hills and 12 years on a team providing weekly ministry at Heritage Place nursing home. During the pandemic, I served Church of Redeemer as Zoom host for on-line services and produced regular virtual choir music for the service. At Church of Redeemer I'm a choir member, lector, archivist and work with an English language conversation group on-line. My diocesan service currently is on the Constitution and Canons Committee. I was the lay alternate deputy present throughout the recent delayed General Convention.



Name: Jamie McMahon
Church: Calvary, East Liberty
Occupation: CEO, CCAC Educational Foundation

I would be honored to serve our diocese again as a deputy to General Convention in 2024. I served as the chair of Pittsburgh's deputation to the 80th General Convention this past summer in Baltimore and have attended five conventions prior to that, including as a member of the Episcopal Church's Young Adult Festival in 2003. For the past three conventions I was appointed by the President of the House of Deputies as a member of the Legislative Committee on Stewardship & Socially Responsible Investing. In the wider 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 2003-2006.

In my professional life, I am the chief executive officer of the Educational Foundation at the Community College of Allegheny County, and have worked with several parishes as well as the diocese on fundraising projects in the past. I am a member of Calvary Episcopal Church in East Liberty, where I recently served as Senior Warden and remain a verger and member of the choir.



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

I am a lifelong Episcopalian and have been a member of St Andrew's in Highland Park since 2008 where I am a member the choir and have been a lay reader.

As part of the diocesan leadership, I am currently a member of the Standing Committee as well as Diocesan Council and I am the chair of the Budget and Assessment Working Group. I have also been a member of many diocesan committees in the past including Board of Trustees and Commission on Ministry.

I have been a lay deputy to the General Convention for three previous conventions, and as an alternate deputy in four other conventions. I was the lay chair of our deputation in 2015. My interest has been finding ways to help build up the Diocese of Pittsburgh through working with the national church. While a deputy to general convention, I have worked on legislative committees for Evangelism as well as Congregational Vitality. While on those committees I was able to formulate legislation that was helpful to providing funding for parishes in the Diocese of Pittsburgh. In addition, I also helped to put together legislation and funding for planting new churches in inner city areas. If elected I hope to continue to work at the national church level to develop methods to build up our diocese and make it stronger through the coming years. I pray that I might have your support to do this work.