



# CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE BALLOTING INSTRUCTIONS

*The 191<sup>st</sup> Convention of the Diocese of Michigan*  
*October 24-25, 2025*  
*Novi, Michigan*





To: Voting Clergy & Lay Delegates to the 191<sup>st</sup> Annual Diocesan Convention

From: The Rev. Dr. W. Richard Hamlin, Secretary of Convention

Date: September 30, 2025

Subject: Balloting Instructions

We look forward to seeing you at the 191<sup>st</sup> Convention of the Diocese of Michigan!

This booklet includes the slate of candidates for office, and biographical information submitted by each candidate.

When you arrive at the registration area at the Suburban Collection Diamond Center, please complete a registration card and present it to a convention staff member. Cards will be available throughout the registration area. You will receive your name badge and OFFICIAL BALLOT at that time. Members of the Election Commission will be on hand to answer your questions and give whatever assistance is needed.

Please mark your ballot with black pen or #2 pencil, (extras will be available) then proceed to the electronic vote counting machine. Members of the Election Commission or polling assistant will verify your voting status and assist you in “feeding your ballot into the machine.” If there is a queue at the voting machine, you may leave your ballot with a member of the Election commission who will insert your ballot at a later time.

The polls will be open the following hours:

5:45 p.m.\* – 6:30 p.m., Friday, October 24  
8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., Saturday, October 25

*\*Time is approximate. Polls will open immediately following opening session.*



## SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE DIOCESE OF MICHIGAN FOR THE 191<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION

### Cathedral Chapter (1 clergy, 1 lay to be elected)

Lay: No Candidates

Clergy: The Rev. Dr. W. Richard Hamlin – St. Paul's, Lansing

### Commission on Ministry (1 clergy, 1 lay to be elected)

Lay: Jacki Klein - St. Thomas, Trenton  
Jessica Reinstra - St. David's, Southfield

Clergy: The Rev. Ben Adams - All.together Campus Ministry  
The Very Rev. Barry Randolph - Church of the Messiah, Detroit

### Deputy to General Convention (4 clergy, 4 lay to be elected)

Lay: Laurent Chappuis - St. James, Grosse Ile  
Gwyneth Dugliss - St. James, Grosse Ile  
Jennifer Dukarski - St. John's, Plymouth  
Cedric A. Flounory - St. Clement's, Inkster  
Stephen J. Ott - Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Detroit  
Luke-Adrian Thompson - St. Andrew's, Ann Arbor

Clergy: The Rev. Gerardo Aponte-Safe - St. Andrew's, Troy  
The Rev. Dr. Phil Dinwiddie - St. James, Grosse Ile  
The Very Rev. Chris Fentress-Gannon - St. John's, Plymouth  
The Rev. Dr. Annie Lawson - St. Peter's, Detroit

### Disciplinary Board (1 clergy, 1 lay to be elected)

Lay: Leslie Hall - St. Paul's, Lansing  
John Weslowski - All Saints, East Lansing

Clergy: The Rev. Chip Dischinger - Trinity, Belleville  
The Rev. Melissa Congleton - St. Katherine's, Williamston

### Standing Committee (1 clergy, 1 lay to be elected)

Lay: No Candidates

Clergy: The Very Rev. Jeanne Hansknecht – St. Paul's, Brighton

**Trustees of the Diocese** *(1 clergy, 3 lay to be elected)*

Lay: No Candidates

Clergy: The Very Rev. Chris Yaw - St. David's, Southfield

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The **Cathedral Chapter** - consists of eighteen people representing the Bishop, the Diocesan Convention, and the Vestry of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Detroit. They have the responsibility to oversee those activities at the Diocesan-Cathedral Center which are not those of a parish church. This includes property matters, tenant relationships, activities not intended for parochial purposes, and supporting the activities of the Diocese. It is the agency which operates the common space of the Diocesan-Cathedral Center at 4800 Woodward Avenue in Detroit. **The term of office is 3 years.** The Chapter meets virtually for most meetings. *See Canon 2.5.3.*

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## CATHEDRAL CHAPTER CLERGY CANDIDATE

**The Rev. Dr. W. Richard Hamlin**  
**St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Lansing**

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**Present Service:** *(Congregation, Deanery, Diocese, etc. – Pursuant to Canon I.8.5, you must include a brief summary of your Anti-Racism education and training.)*

I am Secretary of Diocesan Convention.

My most recent Anti-Racism training was Sacred Ground at St. Paul's, Lansing, 2024–2025.



**Previous Service:** *(Congregation, Deanery, Diocese)* I retired after serving as Rector of parishes in Central New York and of St. Michael's, Lansing. I was a member and President of the Standing Committee in both Dioceses; a Deputy to 5 General Conventions; a member the Whitaker Advisory Board (as well as teaching for them), and chaired the committee that developed recommendations for the return to the common cup after Covid. I am an Emeritus member of the Board of Bexley Seabury Seminary and a Member of the North American Academy of Liturgy.

### **Service in Community:**

I am treasurer for the Farmington Hills Chapter of the Embroiderers' Guild of America.

**What gifts, talents and experience do you bring to this office?** I have wide experience in the Church from the parish to the national level, including stewardship leadership at all those levels. I have broad ecumenical experience including serving for 8 years on a TEC ecumenical discussion.

**During your term in office, what do you think should be your primary focus?** As an Honorary Canon, I would work to promote the ministries of the Cathedral both in its own setting and as the Cathedral Church of the Diocese. I would like to find ways to help every member of the Diocese to feel that they are connected to the Cathedral.

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The **Commission on Ministry** - assists the Bishop in development and affirmation of the ministry of all baptized persons. Among the duties of the Commission is the design and oversight of the ongoing process for recruitment, discernment, formation for ministry and assessment of readiness for it. It is to support and nurture persons accepted as postulants through ordination. This body has broad responsibilities for lifting up the opportunities for ministry of the word in this Diocese and the world. The Commission consists of the Bishop and 20 other members - 10 clergy who are entitled to vote at convention and 10 laypersons each of whom must be confirmed adult communicants in good standing of a congregation entitled to vote at convention. One-half are elected by members of convention, and the other half are appointed by the Bishop. One member of clergy and one layperson will be elected. **The term of office is 5 years.** The Commission meets virtually monthly except in July and August, and the November meeting when there is an in person at a central location. *See Canon 2.3.4..*

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## COMMISSION ON MINISTRY LAY CANDIDATE

**Jacki Klein**  
**St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Trenton**

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**Present service:** I have been a member at St. Thomas Church for 30 years. For the past two years I have been the Administrative Assistant. Other involvements I enjoy are working on the Altar Guild, Buildings & Grounds Committee, Worship Committee and leading the Usher team. Most recently I had the honor of working on a discernment committee with the team at St. James, Grosse Ile. This experience has led me to a different path of service that I find very rewarding. Being with this group and the candidate, was so different from the responsibilities and commitments I have had previously.



I have not yet completed the Anti Racism education and training. As soon as the training is available again, I will start the courses and readings.

**Previous service:** In the years at St. Thomas I have also served on the Vestry/Bishop's Committee several terms, the finance committee, audit committees and the Deanery,

**Service in the community:** I have supported many of the outreach programs through St. Thomas. This includes clothing and food drives, local food pantries and meal prep with other churches and agencies.

**Other qualifications:** My employment background is in banking and management. As a manager, I was involved with staffing the bank offices, which included interviewing, hiring, training and onboarding many candidates. In general, I am organized, willing to learn, responsible and open to new experiences. I am told that I am a good listener, have a unique perspective, ask pertinent questions and remain focused on the task at hand.

**Gifts, talents and experiences:** I spent my childhood in the front row, Gospel side, of St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Detroit. Next to the Dairy Queen. My mother thought the six of us would behave if we were in the front row. She said "we could see better." Sitting in the front at the church where we were baptized, confirmed, married, I developed a deep respect for the building, the traditions, the rituals and for the clergy who felt called to bring this to us. To my family.

Jacki Klein  
St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Trenton (*continued*)

Serving in the church has always been important to me. Having the opportunity to continue my calling through the Discernment Committee and the Commission on Ministry, being involved in a candidate's journey to their ministry calling, would be very spiritually rewarding.

**During your term in office, what do you think should be your primary focus?** My focus would be two-fold. I will be open to learn from the other members of the commission and how the commission serves its candidates. Also, I will be focused on what I can do to serve the commission and the candidates, respectfully and helpfully.

## COMMISSION ON MINISTRY LAY CANDIDATE

Jessica Reinstra  
St. David's Episcopal Church, Southfield

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**Present service:** (*congregation, deanery, diocese, etc. – pursuant to canon i.8.5, you must include a brief summary of your anti-racism education and training.*) I serve on the adult formation committee at St. David's, helping plan speakers and other service projects for the congregation. I recently arranged a transgender speaker who spoke on her experiences of being transgender in today's political landscape.

I have facilitated gun destruction/buyback events at churches in the Diocese of Michigan and the Diocese of Ohio. This includes working with the individual church's rector/priest and their leadership team, helping plan the events, recruiting and training volunteers, assisting with fundraising and promotion, ensuring proper safety procedures are followed, and helping run the events. I continue this work today and am currently helping plan an event at St. John's in Plymouth.

Regarding anti-racism education, I have participated in several groups on anti racism with St. David's including book clubs on "White Fragility" and "Why are all the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria". Outside of the diocese, I have been to a number of training sessions in regard to transracial adoption.

**Previous service:** (*congregation, deanery, diocese*) I have served on the St. David's vestry.

### **Service in community:**

I am an executive board member for disarmory ministries, an ongoing gun buyback program in Berkley, Michigan that destroys unwanted guns on site in exchange for gift cards. I also continue to serve as a congregation liaison, helping congregations plan gun destruction events as noted above.

I have volunteered with the adoptive family support network for eight years. This includes mentoring and supporting adoptive parents around the state of Michigan as they navigate the unique challenges of parenting adopted children who have severe mental illness and behavior disorders.

### **Other qualifications:**

As a parish administrator I have experience working with a rector and knowing what qualities assist with success in that role. I have experience with Microsoft office and other administrative work and excellent note taking capabilities.

### **What gifts, talents and experience do you bring to this office?**

I am very detail oriented and can efficiently read and summarize material. I have experience working with people from many different backgrounds and life experiences. I am patient and bring a non-anxious presence to groups.

### **During your term in office, what do you think should be your primary focus?**

To meet each candidate with non-judgmental compassion, knowing that this is a vulnerable time for them.



## COMMISSION ON MINISTRY CLERGY CANDIDATE

**The Rev. Ben Adams**  
**All.together Campus Ministry, Dearborn & Detroit**

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**Present Service:** Currently I serve as Campus Chaplain for All.together Campus Ministry, in the Detroit Deanery of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan. We are a Lutheran/Episcopal community of faith serving the students, staff, and faculty of Wayne State University, Henry Ford College, and the University of Michigan-Dearborn. My anti-racism training in the Diocese is in process as I have completed Module 1. In the past I have attended two different 2.5 day Anti-racism trainings, I have led a Civil Rights Pilgrimage with my Campus Ministry in 2024, and I help lead a summer camp each year at Stony Lake Camp (Living Water Ministries) called Bridge Builders. This camp equips High School youth with leadership skills and Anti-racism Training.

**Previous Service:** Previous to my current call I served in the Diocese of Chicago with the South Loop Campus Ministry, a Lutheran/Episcopal community of faith at Roosevelt University, Columbia College, and DePaul University's Loop Campus.

**Service in Community:** In addition to my Pastoral duties with All.together, I am a member of the Southeast Michigan Synod Building Racial Reconciliation in Christ's Kingdom (BRRICK, Anti-racism) Team, I am a temporary board member for the Intercultural Community Center in Dearborn (ICCD), I am a leader with our Dearborn Area Interfaith Network (DAIN), and I am active with the Detroit chapter of Christians For a Free Palestine (CFP).

**Other Qualifications:** I have a passion for pouring into new, young, and diverse leaders in our church through my campus ministry work.

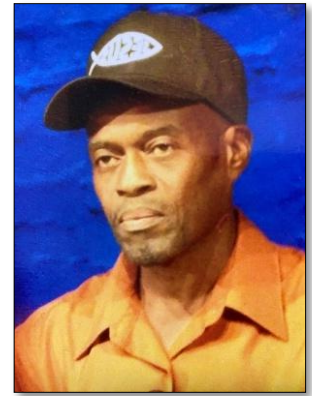
**What gifts, talents and experience do you bring to this office?** I walk with students daily in their moments of discernment and can bring their experiences and insights to the table.

**During your term in office, what do you think should be your primary focus?** Engaging young adults in the discernment process and creating events and opportunities for them to reflect on God's call in their life.

## COMMISSION ON MINISTRY CLERGY CANDIDATE

**The Very Rev. Barry Randolph**  
**Church of the Messiah, Detroit**

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Service  
Detroit Deanery  
Church of the Messiah Detroit  
Episcopal Diocese of Michigan

I serve in the community that I live and worship in. Messiah is a mixed-race church. We live racial reconciliation to the max. Our diversity is our strength and has always been. We don't leave our community getting in our cars to drive somewhere else. We live where we serve. Part of the privilege I have serving at Messiah is that I don't get to just learn about racial reconciliation, I get to practice it every day in my church and community. Through training to become a priest and through total ministry, and even safe church training -all have been beneficial in building the body of Christ.

For years in partnership with Christ Church Grosse Point and now with St Paul's Brighton we have been working on the issue of racial reconciliation. We were part of a racial reconciliation program called the Jubilee project with Christ Church many years ago. That training taught me how vital it is to see the Christ in each of us that surpasses race and ethnicity. The program was powerful and painful it taught me how to listen and at the same time be heard while providing a safe space for healing. Just recently through our partnership with St Paul's Brighton I had the opportunity to share this space again. Members of both churches returned from the diocesan wide pilgrimage to the south. We gathered in Brighton on a Sunday morning for fellowship. Members shared their experiences from the trip others spoke of life experiences that were relevant to the topic. It became a safe space for listening, reflecting, and hearing! We listened, we cried, and we heard.

My service to community-I serve my community in many ways. Since 2013 I host a monthly community stakeholders meeting called 5 Alive it brings together churches, activists, law enforcement, political leaders, and developers to showcase wants happening in the community and promote unity and cooperation.

I am the founder of Silence the Violence-honoring the innocent victims of gun violence and bring together those who are working towards its eradication. I am a Chaplain and work with the police and fire department during emergencies.

I am a community activist who works directly with political leaders, law enforcement, clergy, and the media to help build and uplift my community when necessary.

Other qualifications- Every other month I host the state of the hood meeting. At each gathering I teach pastors and churches how to work in community. How to host town hall meetings, how to adopt a neighborhood school, how to work in partnership with other churches, how to engage your political leaders, etc.. Also, I am a chaplain.

**The Very Rev. Barry Randolph**  
**Church of the Messiah, Detroit (*continued*)**

Gifts talent experience- one of my many talents is that I do know how to help get a congregation to grow. I did take Messiah from 40 people in 2002 to over 200 right when Covid hit. 60% of these new members were African American males under the age of 30. Working with young people is what I'm good at doing. Teaching them about spiritual activism during times of community upheaval is something I like to teach. This is activating the Jesus movement. Combining spiritually and activism speaks to many young people.

Primary goal during my term- I would like to focus on the future of the Church through spiritually and activism. In all these uncertain times this is the opportunity for so many people to make their voices heard. The Episcopal church has long been ahead of the curve when it comes to the voice of good and the voice of God. It is the Episcopal church that stands of for racial reconciliation, for marriage equality, for gun violence prevention, for the marginalized, the refugee, etc.. We are that voice and I believe we should invite those who believe in the same cause to join forces with us.

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**Deputy to General Convention** - At the Annual Convention occurring at least 12, but not more than 24 months prior to the next scheduled triennial General Convention of the Episcopal Church, the Members of Convention shall elect four (4) members of the clergy eligible to vote at Convention and four (4) laypersons, each of whom is a confirmed adult communicant in good standing in a congregation that has been admitted as a Voting Congregation, as deputies and alternate deputies from the Diocese to the General Convention, each of whom, as a condition of acceptance of nomination for deputy, shall have committed to attend all sessions of the General Convention if elected. Four clergy and lay alternate deputies will also be elected. **The 82nd General Convention of the Episcopal Church will take place July 3 – 8, 2027 in Phoenix, Arizona.** Deputies will be in session from July 1, 2027 - July 8, 2027. Persons elected shall serve until their successors are elected.

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## DEPUTY TO GENERAL CONVENTION LAY CANDIDATE

**Laurent B. Chappuis**  
**St. James Episcopal Church, Grosse Ile**

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**Present Service:** Senior Warden 2024, 2025

**Previous Service:** Vestry member 2018, 2019, 2020, 2023

**Service In Community:** President New Grosse Ile Democratic Club 2017->

**Other Qualifications:** Served as Trustee/Power of Attorney for my Mother-in-Law from 2014-through her death in Jan 2017, then as executor until 2019.

**Gifts/Talents:** Have been an independent consultant with international clients since 2016, before that 30 years at Ford, management roll. I know how to handle budgets and long-term planning, I have taught a Graduate class at the University of British Columbia from 2016 through 2022, taught two special lectures at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor, etc...

**Primary Focus during term of office:** Church relevance in the present.



## DEPUTY TO GENERAL CONVENTION LAY CANDIDATE

Gwyneth Dugliss  
St. James Episcopal Church, Grosse Ile

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### Present Service:

- Warden of Diocesan Council for the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan
- Member of the Commission on Ministry for the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan
- Parish Representative to the Downriver Deanery
- Four-time Parish Delegate to Diocesan Convention
- Vestry Member, St. James Grosse Ile
- Co-Chair Altar Guild for St. James Grosse Ile
- Usher and Greeter for St. James Grosse Ile

### Anti-Racism Training:

My commitment to anti-racism has been an important part of living out my faith. For ten years, while serving in management for Delta Air Lines, I participated in annual anti-racism courses that shaped and both my understanding and sense of responsibility as a Christian. In 2023, I deepened this journey by attending the Diocese of Michigan's anti-racism course with Sister Vee, an experience that grounded my call to seek justice and reconciliation as part of my walk with Christ.

### Past Service:

- Co-Chair Commission on Ministry for the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan
- Member of the Reparations and Reconciliation Committee for the Diocese of Michigan
- Volunteer to the Diocesan Convention
- Member of Community Discernment Committee, St. James Grosse Ile
- Member of the Senior Choir and SPD Bell Choir, St. James Grosse Ile
- Coordinated and Chaired a Grief Support Group, St. James Grosse Ile

### Service in Community:

Each Christmas season for past twelve years, I have organized and volunteered and initiative sponsored by Wayne County Airport Authority and Delta Air Lines called "Karaoke for a Cause" with all proceeds benefitting the Toys for Tots program for the United States Marines Corps. I also served for ten years as Director of Habitat for Humanity program for Delta Air Lines Detroit, where I coordinated large-scale volunteer efforts and contributed to building homes locally in Detroit as well as internationally in Santiago, Chile, and Guangzhou, China.

### What gifts or skills do you bring to this office:

With over twenty plus years of experience at Delta Air Lines in Detroit, I managed hiring, staffing and payroll for 600-700 Customer Service Agents, who were on property and managed several hundred Flight Attendants, all of whom worked in an off-site capacity. These responsibilities honed my organizational abilities, and strengthened my listening and interpersonal skills.

Gwyneth Dugliss

St. James Episcopal Church, Grosse Ile (*continued*)

**During your term in office what should be your primary focus:**

I believe the primary responsibility of a representative to the General Convention is to review and discern information with care and integrity. In fulfilling this role, I am committed to seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all interactions and exercising patience, humility, and grace when encountering matters that require a deeper understanding.

DEPUTY TO GENERAL CONVENTION  
LAY CANDIDATE

Jennifer A. Dukarski  
St. John's Episcopal Church, Plymouth



**Present Service:** (*Congregation, Deanery, Diocese, etc. – Pursuant to Canon I.8.5, you must include a brief summary of your Anti-Racism education and training.*)

I serve as a lay minister at St. John's Plymouth for just short of two years and I attend Bexley Seabury Seminary, having matriculated into the program this August.

Although 2025 will be my first governance experience within the Diocese of Michigan at the diocesan convention, I am passionate about the work of the Episcopal Church, notably its work in inclusion, harnessing prayerful advocacy, and navigation of the modern challenges to faith communities. To that end, I have fully engaged in many ministry opportunities within my congregation including serving as a lector, Eucharistic minister and visitor, worship leader, and choir member while working or actively leading in adult formation and advocacy, technology and social media, and working with our intergenerational Disciples and Dragons group. During this time, I have worked collaboratively with my Rector on the needs of our congregation by assisting in additional planning and execution. I stay connected to the national advocacy work of the Episcopal Public Policy Network by regularly attending the weekly calls with the Office of Government Relations and the Immigration Update calls.

I have completed 2 of 3 modules in the 2025 Diocesan Anti-Racism Curriculum and will have completed the third by September 20, 2025.

**Previous Service:** (*Congregation, Deanery, Diocese*) I have served outside of the Episcopal Church in significant leadership roles, including at Blessed Trinity Catholic Church in Frankenmuth, Michigan as a member of Parish Council, a youth teacher (2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades), choir member and cantor, as well as a lector and Eucharistic Minister. Prior to Blessed Trinity, I served on choir and as a lector and Eucharistic Minister at St. Ignatius Chapel at the University of Detroit Mercy.

**Service in Community:** I have held many roles within the local, state and national community both supporting local efforts and serving in national leadership positions. Often, these positions involve efforts to defend the First Amendment, promote technology inclusion and safety, and mentoring of young women engineers. These include:

National:

- American Bar Association Forum on Communications Law, Governing Board (2021-2024), Co-Chair, Technology Committee (2024-present); Chair, Nominating Committee (2024); Co-Chair, Diversity Committee (2020-2021), Chair, Women in Communication Law Committee (2018-2020)
- Media Law Resource Center (MLRC) Co-Chair of the Internet and Technology Committee (2022-present)
- American Bar Association President's Cybersecurity Task Force Member (2021-2024)
- National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine - Transportation Research Board's Standing Committee Member on technology law (2022-present)
- Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering Standards Committee Vice Chair of the PAR 1912 Privacy and Security Architecture for Consumer Wireless Devices Working Group (2020-2024)



Jennifer A. Dukarski  
St. John's Episcopal Church, Plymouth (*continued*)

- Named Amicus in the three cases brought by the law firms against the Trump Administration for unconstitutional executive orders: *Perkins Coie v. U.S. Department of Justice*, *Jenner & Block v. U.S. Department of Justice*, and *Wilmer Hale v. U.S. Department of Justice*

State and Local:

- Young Engineer Mentor and Advisory Board Member, Mechanical Engineering Department of the University of Detroit Mercy
- Chair, Southeast Michigan Vehicle Technology Committee, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers

**Other Qualifications:** I worked as an engineer for nearly 15 years, designing products and technology and understanding their impact on the market. In that role, I managed troubled turn-arounds and was responsible for an annualized budget of over \$100 million. In that role, I was responsible for risk mitigation, issue spotting, problem solving, and creative conflict resolution.

Following my engineering experience, I attended law school and admitted to the bar in Michigan, U.S. District Court for the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan, and U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. I bring over 15 years of experience in risk assessment, analysis of issues impacting technology and inclusion, and legislative drafting. I serve as General Counsel to the Michigan Press Association where I interface with lobbying and legislative drafting on a daily basis. I have further drafted, reviewed, and analyzed legislation and regulations in other industries related to technology regularly throughout both my legal and engineering career.

**What gifts, talents and experience do you bring to this office?** In my secular role, I am a First Amendment and technology lawyer with a practice that often feels as much ministry as work. I advocate for freedom of the press, freedom of speech, freedom of association and expression for the LGBTQ+ community and freedom of religion while working to provide context, inclusion, and consideration in the use of technology including AI, social media, digital communications and automated technology and driving systems. I have represented clients as varied as religious organizations, national news media companies, technology companies, and foreign governments. I also teach that message of inclusion and responsibility at both the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law and the University of Michigan Law School where I hope to inspire the next generation to integrate ethical considerations into their practice. In that capacity, I regularly draft legislation and policy, engage in significant and meaningful negotiations and deliberations, and thoughtfully identify and mitigate risk in a multitude of highly delicate and complex situations. These experiences have left me with an appreciation for the dialogue and work required to navigate legislative processes. This work, coupled with my experiences in ministry and especially those while discerning, I know I will be able to contribute in a prayerful manner to the legislative work and critical issues facing our church today.

**During your term in office, what do you think should be your primary focus?** I believe my focus should align with my experience and passion for diversity, equity and inclusion, especially within a church seeking to operate in a world driven by technological advances. In that sense, inclusion and digital ministry and technology would be a natural fit. Within this area, I have significant experience interacting with diverse intergenerational cohorts through social media and other digital platforms, an area I continue to research and am known as a national thought leader within the legal community.



## DEPUTY TO GENERAL CONVENTION LAY CANDIDATE

Cedric A. Flounory  
St. Clement's, Inkster

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**Present Service: (Congregation, Deanery, Diocese, etc. – Pursuant to Canon I.8.5, you must include a brief summary of your Anti-Racism education and training)** Completed the Diocesan Anti-Racism training in February 2016.

Completed the first two anti-racism training session presented by the Diocese of Michigan in 2025 Head Acolyte, Men's Guild Treasurer and Deputy to General Convention in 2024.

### **Previous Service: (Congregation, Deanery, Diocese)**

- Senior Warden – 2006-2007, 2011-2012, 2022-Present
- Junior Warden – 2008
- Church Treasurer – 1985 – 2005
- Trustee of the Diocese – 2009-2011, 2018-2021
- Diocesan Council – 2008 – 2012
- Cathedral Chapter – 2009 – 2014
- First Alternate Deputy to General Convention – 2009
- Deputy to General Convention – 2012, 2015, 2018, 2022, 2024
- Emrich Retreat Center Advisory Board – 2008 to Present
- Participated in the Civil Rights Pilgrimages sponsored by EDOMI in 2024 and 2025.

### **Service in Community:**

- Site Coordinator for Volunteer Income Tax Assistant (VITA) Program 2003 to Present
- Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. 2007 to Present
- National Treasurer for Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. – 2014 – 2020
- Opportunity Resource Fund – 1995 – 2017 – Treasurer
- President of the Board of Directors – St. Clement's Manor (Affordable Housing for Seniors)

### **Other Qualifications:**

Supervisor, IT Program Manager – Internal Revenue Service 1987 to 2019

### **What gifts, talents and experience do you bring to this office?**

As a lifelong Episcopalian, I will bring my knowledge and experience as a faithful member. I have been active in the congregation and on the deanery and diocesan level. As an Alternate Deputy in 2009 and Deputy in 2012, 2015, 2018, 2022 and 2024 to General Convention, I bring all that I learned as I participated on various committees and attended the legislative sessions.

### **During your term in office, what do you think should be your primary focus?**

I think that the primary focus as a Deputy to General Convention would be to make sure that the Episcopal Church continues to grow and becomes increasingly relevant to youth and young adults. It is also critical for the Episcopal Church to seek solutions and provide leadership in the many societal issues that plague our country: housing and food insecurity, racism, voting rights and equal access to a quality education, to name a few.

## DEPUTY TO GENERAL CONVENTION LAY CANDIDATE

Stephen J. Ott  
Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Detroit

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**Present Service:** *(Congregation, Deanery, Diocese, etc. – Pursuant to Canon I.8.5, you must include a brief summary of your Anti-Racism education and training.)* I have served as the Chancellor of the Diocese since 2009, and in that capacity support the work of the Bishop and her staff, the Standing Committee, Diocesan Council and other Diocesan entities in matters involving canon and civil law. I am a member of the Episcopal Chancellors' Network, a national organization of diocesan Chancellors. I am currently counsel to the Hearing Panel in a matter before the Disciplinary Board for Bishops. In my congregation, I serve as a worship leader, lector, lay eucharistic minister, lay healing minister and acolyte. I am a member of the Search Committee for a new Dean. I have received anti-racism training through my law firm and through the City of Northville and am currently completing the requirements of the Diocesan anti-racism training modules.

**Previous Service:** *(Congregation, Deanery, Diocese)* I have had the privilege of being a Deputy or Alternate Deputy to the last four General Conventions, in 2015, 2018, 2022 and 2024. For the last three General Conventions, I was appointed as a member of the House of Deputies Resolution Review Committee. In my congregation I have been a vestry member, Senior and Junior Warden and Chancellor. As a member of the vestry, I was also a member of the Cathedral Chapter. I have served on three search committees, and one discernment committee. During my time in law school, I was a member of board of the Episcopal Ministry at Wayne State University.

**Service in Community:** I am Of Counsel to the law firm of Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone and have been named a "Pro Bono Champion" each year from 2011 to the present. I was previously a Senior Principal, Practice Group Leader and a member of the firm Management Committee. For 35 years I also worked as a Firefighter/EMT for the City of Northville Fire Department, and for the last 7 of those years I was the Chief of the Department, which serves the Cities of Northville and Plymouth. Since retiring from the Fire Department, I now serve the City as a member and Chair of the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Beautification Commission.

**Other Qualifications:** I have dedicated much of my life, as a lawyer, firefighter and EMT, to the service of others. I try to listen to what others have to say, strive to understand their point of view, and find ways in which the best interests of all involved can be respected and realized. The work of General Convention involves listening to others, to discern the call of the Holy Spirit concerning what we should be doing as a church. I believe I have the temperament and experience to serve in this role.

**What gifts, talents and experience do you bring to this office?** I have felt called to be an agent of reconciliation and been fortunate to find ways to carry out that calling in my vocational as well as my personal life. My service as Chancellor and as a Deputy to General Convention have given me a keen understanding of the governance of our church. This experience is very useful in navigating the legislative process that takes place at General Convention, and in that context work to discern what we are being called to do as a church.

Stephen J. Ott  
Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Detroit (*continued*)

**During your term in office, what do you think should be your primary focus?**

Deputies to General Convention need to stay informed about the issues facing the church, work to understand the various positions that exist with respect to those issues and listen to where the Holy Spirit is leading us. Deputies must also listen to the voices in our home communities, bringing our local concerns and successes to the whole church, and then communicating the voices heard and actions taking place at General Convention to those in our Diocese.

## DEPUTY TO GENERAL CONVENTION LAY CANDIDATE

Luke-Adrian Thompson  
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Ann Arbor

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**Present Service:** (*Congregation, Deanery, Diocese, etc. – Pursuant to Canon I.8.5, you must include a brief summary of your Anti-Racism education and training.*)

I am currently an advisor for Diocesan Youth Council where I work with the Canon for Ministry with Young People, Carmen Piggens. We are teaching, inspiring, and guiding young people to be advocates in their communities, and exposing them to how church governance can be helpful, necessary, and fun work when fighting for initiatives that we see as important.

I am the representative to the Province V Executive Board for the Diocese of Michigan where I have a seat at the table when decisions are made regarding where our province is headed. I work with members from ten (10) other dioceses in the midwest along with our own Bishop Perry to make sure we know what is going on in our wider Episcopal Church, and can relay such information back.

Regarding Anti-Racism education and training, having done and continue to live this everyday as a young African-American man under the age of 30 in the United States. As I continue to work with others in and around our diocese for stronger, impactful, and systemically binding Anti-Racism training and education I continue to live and operate in a system that is not designed to work for people who look like me. I am inspired to work towards a more just future in the positions I have held, and currently hold, and am hopeful for a more just future for all of us.

**Previous Service:** (*Congregation, Deanery, Diocese*) I served on the Vestry at St. Andrew's as the youngest member during the covid-19 pandemic. We improved the church's infrastructure, launched our Youtube channel, tackled anti-racism initiatives within our community, and continued support for our Breakfast Program. I completed the canonically required terms for Diocesan Council as a Bishop's appointee, being appointed twice by Bishop Gibbs, and Bishop Perry (I was also the youngest member of Council during my terms).

For the 81st General Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, I was voted in by the delegates to our own Diocesan Convention as Deputy #1. I was the youngest member of our deputation. My work began before April of that year when I was appointed as the youngest member of the Social Justice and International Policy Committee where I worked with deputies from around the world to craft and present resolutions to the General Convention. These resolutions were important and showed the Episcopal Church bearing witness in the world. Most notably we crafted and presented several resolutions addressing the genocide in the Middle East. My committee held hearings over several months and during the General Convention. We heard testimonies from people in the regions affected, Episcopalians from around the country and the world, as well as international lawyers sworn to uphold international law. Our debates were emotional, spiritually heavy, and filled with prayer. I was active in writing two of the resolutions presented, and had a hand in several more. As a result I had the opportunity to address the House of Deputies for two minutes about why our resolutions must be passed, and why we, as the Episcopal Church must speak out and uphold our baptismal covenant to "strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being" to which we respond, "I will with God's help." I thank God for the voice that I am growing into, and the opportunities I have to advocate for people whose voices are not heard.

**Luke-Adrian Thompson**  
**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Ann Arbor (continued)**

**Service in Community:** My service in the community has included, but was not limited to extracurricular activities I actively participated in at my school (Eastern Michigan University). This included Student Government (where I was a student Senator for three years), membership on university committees where I was the student representative speaking with members of the Board of Regents, the President's office, and other higher-ups, and lobbying on behalf of Eastern Michigan University in Lansing to Republican and Democratic members of the State Legislature to continue to fund higher education in the State of Michigan. I was also a mentor to students from underserved communities who were seeking a second chance in their academic lives. I mentored these students all the way through from freshman year until graduation, or until they found where else their lives might take them.

I continue to serve at St. Andrew's in Ann Arbor as one of the longest serving acolytes, and serve where I am called to do so in other churches where I visit with members of my family.

**Other Qualifications:** I am currently a Political Science major with a minor in History at Eastern Michigan University. I continue to be interested in public policy, the law, and how we can learn from history in order to better shape our collective future.

**What gifts, talents and experience do you bring to this office?** I bring a unique perspective as a young African-American man who has been doing the work of social justice and advocacy, and has proven that my voice can make a difference. I am a thinker and a listener, and I lead by example. I am not the loudest in the room, but I am able to command attention from those with ears to listen. Listening is a key tool in this work. I am proud to have it in my toolbox.

**During your term in office, what do you think should be your primary focus?**

My primary focus will be to continue to listen, act as best I can on what is suggested, and when necessary, advocate for positive change. I will also continue to challenge myself to step out of my comfort zone, and say what needs to be said and support the initiatives of our diocese.

## DEPUTY TO GENERAL CONVENTION CLERGY CANDIDATE

The Rev. Gerardo Aponte Safe  
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Troy

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**Present Service: (Congregation, Deanery, Diocese, etc. – Pursuant to Canon I.8.5, you must include a brief summary of your Anti-Racism education and training.)**

- Associate Rector, St. John's Royal Oak, responsible for leading worship, pastoral care, Christian formation, leadership development, coordinate children and youth ministries, and engage in community outreach.
  - Special attention to formation programming and ministry in the intersection of sexual orientation, gender identity, and faith
- Member, Bexley Seabury Seminary Board of Directors, Chicago, IL
- Program Coordinator, Lay Leadership Development Curriculum for Latino/Hispanic Ministries of The Episcopal Church
- Extensive training in anti-racism, including doctoral coursework at Michigan State University, academic research publications on anti-racism in global education, and anti-racism in spiritual/faith contexts at Bexley-Seabury Seminary Federation

**Previous Service: (Congregation, Deanery, Diocese)**

- Clergy Deputy to the 81<sup>st</sup> General Convention of The Episcopal Church, 2024
- Member, Rules of Order Committee, 81<sup>st</sup> General Convention of The Episcopal Church, 2024
- Clergy Deputy to the Province V Synod, 2024
- Standing against Christian Nationalism work group 2024, Diocese of Michigan—collaborated with diocesan staff and clergy to develop diocese-wide formation opportunities based on Kristin Du Mez' book *Jesus and John Wayne* Standing against Christian Nationalism work group 2024, Diocese of Michigan
- Co-Chair of the Nominations Committee, 190<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese of Michigan, 2024
- Member, Resolutions Committee, 189<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese of Michigan, 2023

**Service in Community:**

- Member of the Human Rights Commission of the City of Royal Oak, Michigan, 2024-Present
- Vice President of the Board of the 7 Rivers LGBTQ Connection, which is dedicated to education, advocacy, and community engagement in western Wisconsin, southeastern Minnesota, and northeastern Iowa, 2020-2022
- Led a community-building and mentoring program for young men of color beginning their college careers at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, 2020-2022
- Participated in community demonstrations in support of Black lives, anti-gun violence, migrant's rights, and women's rights in Michigan, Texas, and Wisconsin

**What gifts, talents and experience do you bring to this office?**

Gerardo is passionate about building beloved community, even when doing so requires navigating and negotiating different, sometimes conflicting perspectives. He has brought this passion to community engagement roles, his middle school and college classrooms, and his ministry at St. John's. Gerardo seeks to listen attentively while ensuring that we are focused on our common goals. During the 81<sup>st</sup> General

The Rev. Gerardo Aponte Safe  
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Troy (*continued*)

Convention, he brought these dispositions to hearings on various issues, from administrative resolutions to social justice resolutions.

**During your term in office, what do you think should be your primary focus?** The General Convention is a time to address the challenges and pressing questions about what it means for The Episcopal Church to be a community, especially in light of the changing world that surrounds us. Pragmatic questions such as health care benefits, ministry questions around the impact of AI, and theological and liturgical questions about our marriage rites and the shape of our Prayer Book will come up at convention and invite us to respond faithfully as a community. Gerardo's primary focus will be on dialogue—both representing our diocese, as well as being stewards of the church as a whole. As a gay, millennial, clergy person with a strong ecumenical background, he brings a perspective that resonates with many people who are finding The Episcopal Church as their spiritual home in recent years. Building on the wisdom of elders from across the Church, he hopes we will strengthen our heritage of via media, of making a space the brings together in diversity.



## DEPUTY TO GENERAL CONVENTION CLERGY CANDIDATE

The Rev. Dr. Phil Dinwiddie  
St. James Episcopal Church, Grosse Ile

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**Present Service: (Congregation, Deanery, Diocese, etc. – Pursuant to Canon I.8.5, you must include a brief summary of your Anti-Racism education and training.** I trained and worked as a Social Worker in Chicago and Pontiac, advocating for incarcerated youth, answering calls at a Crisis Support Hotline, and working at a domestic abuse shelter. I received my MSW from the University of Michigan in 1998 with a focus in counseling and administration. With this training and 23 years in the priesthood I currently serve as Chair of our General Convention Deputation, Chair of the Grosse Ile Pastors Association, Chair of the Grosse Ile Boar's Head Festival, and Rector of St. James, Grosse Ile. My formation in all of this has included extensive anti-racism education and training. As I feel there is always more to learn in this area, I am currently enrolled in Sr. Vee's program in our diocese.

### **Previous Service: (Congregation, Deanery, Diocese)**

- 8x Diocesan Presenter/Preacher
  - Ministry Fair Presenter on Worship Bulletins that WOW - 2023
  - Diocesan Lay Preaching Instructor - 2023
  - Diocesan Ministry Retreat Speaker - 2018
  - Whitaker Institute Graduation Speaker - 2016
  - Diocesan Curate Trainer - 2016
  - Rector Installation Preacher - 2015
  - Diaconal Ordinations Preacher - 2014
  - Whitaker Evangelism Instructor - 2012
- 5x General Convention Deputy - 2012, 2015, 2018, 2022, 2024
  - Prayerbook, Liturgy, and Music Committee - 2024
  - Chair of Lesser Feasts and Fasts Subcommittee - 2024
  - Prayer Book, Liturgy & Music Dispatch Liaison- 2022
  - Officer of the Task Force on the Study of Marriage II - 2015-2018
  - Special Legislative Committee on Marriage - 2015
  - Committee to Receive the Report of A169 - 2018
- 3x Diocesan Council Member - 1990 term, 2007 term, 2010 term
- 3x Whitaker Institute Faculty - 2004, 2013, 2014
- 3x Youth Retreat Chaplain - 2004, 2013, 2022
- 2x Diocesan Strategic Planning Team - 2003, 2008
- 2x Area Dean - 2010-2013, 2014-2016
- 2x E.Y.E. Youth and Adult Leader - 1990, 2011
- 2x Diocesan Budget Committee - 2009, 2010
- Diocesan COVID Worship Guidelines Team - 2020
- Diocesan Trustee and Vice-President of Trustees - 2020-2024
- Author of essays in "Liturgical Resources II" - 2018
- Founder of EPIPHANIES Speaker Series - 2016



The Rev. Dr. Phil Dinwiddie  
St. James Episcopal Church, Grosse Ile (*continued*)

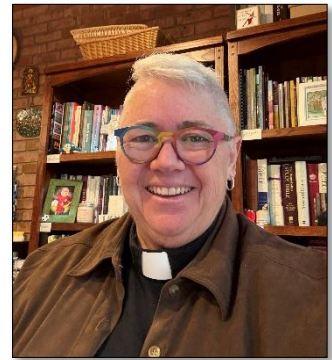
**What gifts, talents and experience do you bring to this office?** Being an experienced five-time General Convention Deputy has enabled me to serve on legislative committees with great impact. I have helped pass the Feast Day for the Philadelphia Eleven (even authoring their official Collect), and helped to vote-in: two Presiding Bishops, Marriage Rites for all, legislation fostering racial reconciliation, budgets that prioritize mission and return resources to dioceses, and candidates who stand up for Love and Justice in the public square. I have co-authored canons, helped guide the development of liturgies, and taken stands for the marginalized. I ask for your support so I can continue to work on your behalf to further the goals of the Diocese of Michigan, the Episcopal Church, and kingdom of God.

**During your term in office, what do you think should be your primary focus?** The 2027 General Convention will be the first one where Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe and President of the House of Deputies Julia Ayala Harris are our seasoned leaders. I expect they will bring forward transformative legislation that we will need to carefully consider. We'll also be asking how best to spend the \$150 Million triennial Episcopal Church budget and how we can (and if we should further) shrink our New York administration to keep more resources in dioceses and churches. Especially importantly, we'll be looking at voting Marriage Rites for all into the physical Book of Common Prayer to give it unequivocally equal status with current marriage liturgies... plus we'll be considering what responses we need to make to address the arising needs of our hurting world. In all of this I will listen to the people of our diocese and vote for those things that represent progress in justice, faith in Christ, and love of all.

## DEPUTY TO GENERAL CONVENTION CLERGY CANDIDATE

**The Very Rev. Chris Fentress-Gannon**  
**St. John's Episcopal Church, Plymouth**

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My calling to serve as a clergy deputy to the 2027 General Convention emerges from both deep personal conviction and substantial experience with the church's legislative process. Having attended four of the last five General Conventions as part of the Diocese of Michigan's youth delegation, I have witnessed firsthand the profound impact of faithful deliberation and collaborative decision-making in shaping our church's witness to the world.

These experiences have provided me with invaluable insight into the convention's procedures, the complexity of issues facing our church, and the delicate balance required to honor both tradition and the Spirit's call toward transformation. I have observed how effective deputies navigate theological differences with grace, build coalitions across diverse perspectives, and remain grounded in prayer throughout the legislative process.

Through my convention attendance, I have developed a deep appreciation for the Episcopal Church's commitment to inclusive dialogue and careful discernment. I have seen how deputies must be prepared to engage substantively with complex theological, social, and administrative matters while maintaining pastoral sensitivity to the diverse constituencies they represent.

My experience has taught me that effective service as a deputy requires theological grounding, procedural knowledge, collaborative spirit, and the ability to listen deeply to both the concerns of one's diocese and the broader needs of the church. I believe my years of observation and participation have prepared me to contribute meaningfully to the important work ahead.

I am committed to representing the Diocese of Michigan faithfully while remaining open to the Holy Spirit's guidance as we collectively discern God's will for our church's future ministry and mission.

## DEPUTY TO GENERAL CONVENTION CLERGY CANDIDATE

**The Rev. Dr. Annie Lawson**  
**St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Detroit**

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### # Present Service:

Transitional Priest-in-charge, St. Peter's, Corktown  
Diocesan: Environmental Justice Action Committee  
Diocesan: Trustees  
Diocesan: Trustees Committee: Tretheway Downs Grants (chair)  
Diocesan: Trustees executive committee  
Diocesan: Church at Crossroads Beloved Community Partner Advisors  
Diocesan: Committee on Constitution and Canons  
Provincial: Big Provincial Gathering planning committee  
Provincial: Province V/VI Women Clergy Retreat planning committee  
Church-wide: TransEpiscopal Steering Committee  
Church-wide: The Consultation Steering Committee (representative of TransEpiscopal)

**Anti-Racism:** I completed a year of the Anglicanism and Social Justice course of study hosted by ETS at Union, in addition to having previously participated in diocesan and other anti-racism training, and written my BA thesis and PhD dissertation on topics related to anti-racism.

### # Previous Service: (Congregation, Deanery, Diocese)

I previously served as interim rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Livonia, regular supply clergy at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Shelby Township and Canterbury-on-the-Lake, Waterford, priest-in-charge and rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Romeo, and as transitional deacon and field placement intern at St. Mary-in-the-Hills Episcopal Church in Lake Orion, all in this diocese.

I served as an alternate deputy to the 2024 General Convention of the Episcopal Church. I served multiple years on the committee on dispatch for this diocese, helping clarify and strengthen resolutions before they came to the convention floor. I have also served a number of years as the assistant custodian of the Diocesan Resource Room.

### # Service in Community:

Professor of Economics, Oakland Community College  
Manna meal soup kitchen volunteer  
Meadow Brook elementary school PTA member  
Meadow Brook elementary school library volunteer  
Oakwood Park homeowners association board secretary  
Campus LGBTQ advisory committee  
Facebook group moderator: prayer book revision discussion

### # Other Qualifications:

My experience as an alternate deputy to the previous General Convention was an excellent education on the work and role of deputies, and I believe it has prepared me to do the substantial work of a convention deputy. I have chaired the Committee on Reference and served on the Constitution and Canons committee for this diocese, and have a good working understanding of how to write resolutions and canonical changes.

The Rev. Dr. Annie Lawson  
St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Detroit *(continued)*

I have served for the past eight years as a moderator of a Facebook discussion group about issues related to potential Prayer Book revision, helping facilitate constructive and civil discourse among internet participants of wide-ranging beliefs about the topic. My experience on the diocesan committee on reference also helps prepare me for this work. I am a good listener and reconciler, and focus on building common ground for shared understandings among people with differences.

**# What gifts, talents and experience do you bring to this office?**

Having followed the legislative process at General Convention fairly closely for the past twenty-five years, I believe I could contribute well to the process, bridging divisions among participants and helping craft amendments and other responses to insights that emerge from the shared prayer and dialogue that happens at convention.

**# During your term in office, what do you think should be your primary focus?**

The activity prescribed for the Church is expressed so well and so clearly in the baptismal covenant. I believe the job of the General Convention is to help keep the Church committed to those five tasks, and as a deputy, I would endeavor to do so.

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The **Disciplinary Board** - has replaced the Ecclesiastical Court and the Diocesan Review Committee under the provisions of the new Title IV Canons of The Episcopal Church which became effective July 1, 2011. The term of office is 2 years. The Disciplinary Board exists to help in cases where clergy have been presented with charges under the Ecclesiastical Canons - Title IV of the Episcopal Church. In the event of a charge of clergy misconduct, members of Disciplinary Board must meet to review the matter. The board meets at least once a year soon after Diocesan Convention to elect a President of the Board and to be trained about their role. If the Disciplinary Board is called upon to consider a disciplinary matter, extended meetings are a possibility. In most years the board will not meet more often than the one time to elect the president. Obviously, if the board gets called into action, the work will be intense. The dioceses of Michigan & Great Lakes have a joint Disciplinary Board.

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## DISCIPLINARY BOARD LAY CANDIDATE

Leslie Hall  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Lansing

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### Special interest or experience related to the office selected:

- Master's level clinical therapist (LMSW)
- Over twenty-five years experience as a Manager for Performance Improvement/Customer Service at a community mental health organization
- Over twenty years of experience providing workshops on ethics to clinical staff and laypeople at CMH
- Adjunct faculty, Lansing Community College
- Private Practice Outpatient Therapist
- Member of St Paul's Episcopal Church, Lansing

DISCIPLINARY BOARD  
LAY CANDIDATE

John Weslowski  
All Saints' Episcopal Church, East Lansing

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- STD (Doctor of Sacred Theology(abd) (moral theology/ethics)
- STL (Licentiate in Sacred Theology) (patristics)
- STB (Bachelor of Sacred Theology)
- CPE (clinical pastoral education) (4 units)
- JD (Doctor of Law): 48 years attorney at law

## DISCIPLINARY BOARD CLERGY CANDIDATE

**The Rev. Melissa Congleton**  
**St. Katherine's Episcopal Church, Williamston**

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**Present Service:** (*Congregation, Deanery, Diocese, etc. – Pursuant to Canon I.8.5, you must include a brief summary of your Anti-Racism education and training.*) I currently serve as Rector of St. Katherine's, Williamston, and am an active member of the Lansing Area Interfaith Clergy Association. Through this role, I remain engaged in the ongoing anti-racism training offered by our diocese. In the past, I participated in a Sacred Ground group and participated in a book study on *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. In addition, I serve as the diocesan liaison for the national Faith & Blue movement, which fosters trust and cooperation between faith communities and law enforcement.

**Previous Service:** (*Congregation, Deanery, Diocese*) I served for two years as Curate Associate at St. Paul's, Jackson, and I am now in my fourth year as Priest in Charge and now Rector of St. Katherine's, Williamston. In addition, I serve as a police chaplain with the Michigan State University Department of Police & Public Safety.

**Service in Community:** I have served my community both inside and outside the Church for nearly three decades. As a police officer at a large public university, I have worked daily to ensure safety, fairness, and the wellbeing of diverse populations. In the Church, I serve as Rector of St. Katherine's Episcopal Church and have been deeply involved in nonprofit governance and volunteer work to include the Michigan Capitol Girl Scout Council, Ele's Place, the United Way, and Forster Woods Adult Day Center. Currently I volunteer for Ski for Light, Inc. on their code of conduct committee. These experiences have given me a deep appreciation for accountability, restorative approaches, and the importance of trust in healthy communities.

**Other Qualifications:** I bring 27 years of law enforcement experience, with particular expertise in investigations, conflict resolution, and creative problem-solving in complex situations. I hold a Master of Public Administration degree, which grounds me in ethics, governance, and policy. I also bring experience serving on nonprofit boards, where discernment, fairness, and careful decision-making were required. As both a priest and a police officer, I have spent my life balancing compassion with accountability, and individual needs with the wellbeing of the wider community.

**What gifts, talents and experience do you bring to this office?** I bring strong investigative skills, the ability to listen with empathy, and the capacity to evaluate situations thoroughly and fairly. I am comfortable working with sensitive information, making difficult decisions, and maintaining confidentiality. My dual vocation as police officer and priest allows me to hold together both justice and mercy. These qualities are essential for the work of the disciplinary board. I am also skilled in working collaboratively in teams where diverse perspectives must be honored.

**During your term in office, what do you think should be your primary focus?** My primary focus will be upholding the integrity of the disciplinary process while ensuring it is carried out with fairness, transparency, and pastoral sensitivity. I believe the goal of Title IV is not only accountability but also healing for individuals, for congregations, and for the Church as a whole. I would be committed to discerning outcomes that protect the vulnerable, honor the dignity of all involved, and support the mission of the Church.

## DISCIPLINARY BOARD CLERGY CANDIDATE

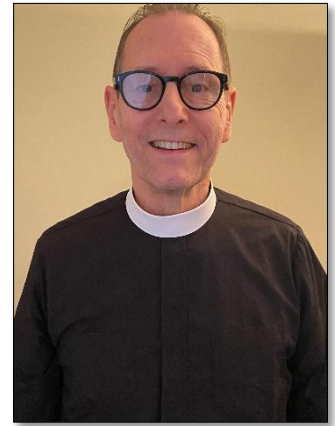
**The Rev. Chip Dischinger**  
**Trinity Episcopal Church, Belleville**

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I feel excited about the opportunity to stand as a clergy candidate for the Disciplinary Board of our Diocese. I was called as Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, Belleville on December 10, 2024 and I am excited about our worship and work, there with God's mission in the church.

I feel I've been led to relationships and experience throughout my life that instill in me anti-racism and inclusion of others. As a middle school student, my family hosted a business exchange student, from Mombasa, Kenya, to live at our home. I learned much about compassion and welcoming from family discussions during this time and individual conversations, with our kind, generous, and loving friend, Naboth. He returned to Kenya and ultimately was ordained to the Priesthood in the Anglican Church of Kenya. He later became Bishop of the Diocese of Mombasa. I graduated from Hood Theological Seminary, which, when I enrolled, was a vibrant part of an HBCU, Livingstone College. A large part of our seminary discussion concerning theology, Christian Church history, AMEZ Church history, and our ethics, came from my classmates's and instructor's perspective as members of historically Black churches. The experience of systemic racism was close at hand and easily accessed. I feel deep gratitude for this opportunity of grace and study.

In John's Gospel, Jesus prays for holiness for disciples in the Word of God, the Truth. My approach as a member of the disciplinary board will be to search for truth. I will participate in conversation, with an open mind, with as many people as possible. I will pray for the Spirit's presence. And, I will keep a spirit of humility knowing that each of us is an imperfect child of God.





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The **Standing Committee** - serves as a council of advice to the Bishop; it examines persons in progress for ordination, and must consent to ordination; and it approves all property transfers and encumbrances of Diocesan property, including parish property. The Standing Committee consists of 8 members, 4 members of the clergy entitled to vote at convention and 4 laypersons who are confirmed adult communicants in good standing of a congregation entitled to vote at convention. Its responsibilities are determined principally by the Canons of General Convention. Two members, one member of the clergy and one layperson, are elected at each Annual Convention. The term of office is 4 years. The Committee meets monthly except July and August, at the Diocesan/Cathedral Center. *See, Canon 2.3.3.*

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## STANDING COMMITTEE CLERGY CANDIDATE

**The Very Rev. Jeanne Hansknecht**  
**St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Brighton**

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**Present Service: (Congregation, Deanery, Diocese, etc. – Pursuant to Canon I.8.5, you must include a brief summary of your Anti-Racism education and training.)** I am currently the rector of St. Paul's Brighton and the dean of Huron Valley Deanery. I have participated in all of the anti-racism training offered by the diocese and continue this important work through independent educational opportunities.

**Previous Service: (Congregation , Deanery, Diocese)** I have served on the Commission on Ministry both here and in the Diocese of Central New York. I have also been very active in youth ministries in both dioceses.

I have held workshops at Diocesan Ministry Fair most recently on the topic of community engagement.

As the rector of St. Paul's, I have served on Emrich's Advisory Board.

**Service in Community:** In the Diocese of Central New York I was on the steering committee for refugee resettlement in our village, working closely with our Episcopal Migration Ministry affiliate, Interfaith Works in Syracuse, NY. I was also a founding member of Cazenovia's Anti-Racism Coalition.

I am currently serving on the steering committee for the Livingston Faith and Justice Network, a branch of the Livingston Diversity Council, and am the clergy representative of their Racial Reconciliation Initiative.

I have cultivated relationships with community organizations both in and out of the county to assist with refugee resettlement, affordable housing, and as a way to emphasize "seasons" of social and environmental justice such as Pride, Disability Pride, and the Season of Creation.

**Other Qualifications:** St. Paul's unique location between the Millpond, the Old Village Cemetery, and a shared parking lot, has provided me with experience regarding property rights and responsibilities and the importance of a good working relationship with second and third parties.

The Very Rev. Jeanne Hansknecht  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Brighton (*continued*)

**What gifts, talents and experience do you bring to this office?**

I have experience in following through with long term projects that require networking with and organizing diverse groups of people.

**During your term in office, what do you think should be your primary focus?**

To support Bishop Bonnie in her vision and ministry for the diocese as well as carrying out the mission of the diocese in these challenging and prophetic times.

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The **Trustees of the Diocese** - receive transfers of property to the Diocese for express purposes, and may receive funds from recognized congregations and other funds of the Diocese for investment purposes, invest such funds as directed or in their discretion as trustees they may determine; and to collect and receive all income from the funds, and pay out the net income for the purposes of the Diocese as established by Diocesan Council in the case of diocesan funds or pursuant and subject to the terms of the trust or trusts or other direction under which property or money has been received by it. The Trustees shall be composed of the Bishop and 15 other members, 3 clergy entitled to vote at convention and 12 laypersons who are communicants in good standing of a congregation admitted as a Voting Congregation. 4 members, one member of the clergy and 3 laypersons, are elected at each Annual Convention, so that their terms are staggered. The term of office is 4 years. The Trustees meet quarterly at the Diocesan/Cathedral Center. See, Canon 2.3.5.

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## TRUSTEES OF THE DIOCESE CLERGY CANDIDATE

The Very Rev. Chris Yaw  
St. David's Episcopal Church, Southfield

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**Present Service:** *(Parish, Deanery, Diocese, etc. – Pursuant to Canon I.8.5, you must include a brief summary of your Anti-Racism education and training.)* I have been the rector of St. David's in Southfield for 18 years. I have been the dean of the McGehee deanery for 8 years, have served on the Cathedral Chapter, the Record board (no longer in existence), led workshops at the Ministry Fair, and served on the Trustees in the past. Anti-racism training remains a crucial part of my life. I am happy to have several books on my shelf both read and waiting to be read that contribute to this. Our congregation has done several parish-wide reads on the topic. I also keep fresh through both our parish (with Sr.Vee) and by taking and producing online classes with ChurchNext.

**Previous Service:** *(Congregation , Deanery, Diocese)* I served as an associate at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Battle Creek from 2001-2007.

**Service in Community:** I currently serve on the boards of Disarmory Ministries, Oakland Housing, ChurchNext, End Gun Violence Michigan, and the Community Liaison board of the University of Michigan's Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention.

**Other Qualifications:** I have a fair knowledge of our parishes, its clergy and people.

**In what ways do you feel the investment policies of the Trustees should reflect the goals of the Diocese?** The Trustees should make sure their work is transparent, their care over our funds is diligent, and that in all things our values as disciples of Jesus Christ are maintained. Working with the Bishop and other leaders I am committed to upholding these principles in our work together.

**What would influence you most in making decisions about the investment and distribution of funds from diocesan trusts?** I would make sure we have consulted the experts, listened to the stakeholders, and sought the Spirit in making our decisions.

