Candidates for Office
Balloting Instructions

The 192nd Convention of the Diocese of Michigan
October 23-24, 2026
Novi, Michigan

Episcopal
DIOCESE OF MICHIGAN

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DIOCESE OF MICHIGAN

To: Voting Clergy & Lay Delegates to the 192nd Annual Diocesan Convention

From: The Rev. Rev. Joyce Matthews, Secretary of Convention

Subject: Balloting Instructions

We look forward to seeing you at the 192nd 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 23
8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., Saturday, October 24

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

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SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE
DIOCESE OF MICHIGAN FOR THE 192ND ANNUAL CONVENTION

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

Lay: Karen Brown, Grace, Detroit

Clergy: The Rev. Joe LaVela, Church of the Resurrection, Clarkston

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

Lay: John Chaney – St. Andrew's, Waterford

Clergy: The Rev. Andrew Armond – All Saints, East Lansing

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

Lay: Barb Kelley – St. Andrew's, Ann Arbor
Robin Broadnax – St. Clement's, Inkster
John Weslowski – All Saints, East Lansing

Clergy: The Rev. Dan Martin – St. Andrew's, Waterford
The Rev. Rachel Baird – St. Aidan's, Ann Arbor

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

Lay: Scott Armstrong, St. Stephen's, Troy

Clergy: The Rev. Erica Benson – St. Thomas, Trenton
The Very Rev. Andrea Morrow – St. Stephen's, Wyandotte

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

Lay: Blane Hansknecht – St. Paul's, Brighton
Marc Robinson – Christ Church Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills

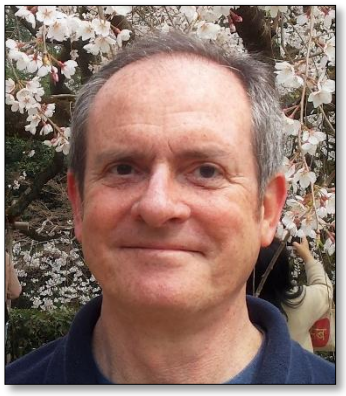
Clergy: The Rev. Dan Martin – St. Andrew's, Waterford

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.*

CATHEDRAL CHAPTER
LAY CANDIDATE

Karen Brown
Grace, Detroit

CATHEDRAL CHAPTER
CLERGY CANDIDATE



The Rev. Joe LaVela
Church of the Resurrection, Clarkston

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.)*** Priest-in-Charge at Church of the Resurrection – Clarkston. I completed Anti-Racism training with Sister Vee in 2024.

Previous Service: ***(Congregation, Deanery, Diocese)*** Field Education at Church of the Holy Cross – Novi and at Trinity in the Woods – Farmington Hills.

Service in Community: Co-Founder of All the Way Up Adult Education Center in Newark (GED tutoring/ESL/Job readiness), Board member and officer at Interweave, Inc. (Interfaith learning center) and at Dorcas Aid America (International relief and development NGO).

Other Qualifications: Retired corporate attorney with varied experience including commercial real estate.

What gifts, talents and experience do you bring to this office? Contract negotiation, conflict resolution.

During your term in office, what do you think should be your primary focus? Ensuring that our facilities not only continue fully to serve the needs of the Diocese but be a welcoming and supportive presence for the surrounding community.

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.*

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY
LAY CANDIDATE



John Chaney
St. Andrew's, Waterford

I am a cradle Episcopalian. I have served several appointments to our Vestry and held the position of Sr. Warden on two occasions. I was suggested to submit my request by our new Priest in Charge. He told me I am very good with the discernment process and pose very appropriate questions.

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY
CLERGY CANDIDATE



The Rev. Andrew Armond
All Saints', East Lansing

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 at All Saints, East Lansing for approximately one year. In that time, I have been active in leading a varied and stimulating curriculum for our Adult Forum series, including classes on Advent Poetry, on books by Julia Gatta and Richard Rohr, and two iterations of Episcopal 101. I have instituted a new website and visual identity for the parish, and we are in the process of instituting a Folk Mass on Sunday evenings. I am active in Deanery meetings and I completed a year of our new Fresh Start program, Leading with Impact. In addition, I was involved in the Institute for Advanced Pastoral Studies. My anti-racism training was part of my seminary education at Church Divinity School of the Pacific, and then again as part of my two-year Curate Cohort program in the Diocese of Texas

Previous Service: ***(Congregation, Deanery, Diocese)***
I served previously in the Diocese of Texas in two parishes: Trinity Episcopal Church in Longview, TX, for one year as a curate, and St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Waco, TX, for three years as Senior Associate Rector. I was heavily involved in St. Alban's in Christian Formation and oversaw five weekly Sunday liturgies.

Service in Community:
I have joined several civic and religious (interfaith) organizations since arriving in East Lansing last year. My wife and I are active in supporting the public school system in East Lansing through volunteering.

Other Qualifications:
I have been active in the discernment and postulancy process; at St. Alban's, I helped shepherd four different individuals through the process, and I now have one person in the process at All Saints.

What gifts, talents and experience do you bring to this office?
I will be teaching in the Whitaker School, our Diocesan school for formation, this fall, and I bring many years of experience as a teacher to this office. Those experiences have helped me understand how, when, and why to develop leadership qualities in individuals for specific callings and purposes. I have many relationships with priests and deacons and laypeople across the church and understand that there are many ways to serve, many ways to develop, many ways to understand vocation and calling.

During your term in office, what do you think should be your primary focus?
Highlighting the diversity of callings within our Diocese, bringing attention to all the many ways in which we are already alive and active in ministry, and helping those who are discerning Holy Orders to understand the demands and responsibilities, as well as the deep joy and purpose, of these offices in the Church.

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.

DISCIPLINARY BOARD
LAY CANDIDATE



Robin Broadnax
St. Clement's, Inkster

Present Service: I am currently the Junior Warden at St. Clement's Episcopal Church. I have also Assisted with Vacation School for over 5 yrs for St. Clement's Episcopal Church. I have completed all my Anti-Racism classes as well as Safe Church Training.

Service in Community: I have helped distribute food for Gleaners in previous years.

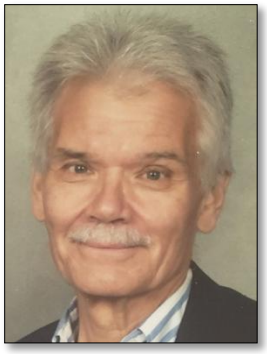
Qualifications: I have a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Psychology from Eastern Michigan University. I have 14 years of experience working with at risk youth at the juvenile detention facility of Wayne County.

During your term in office, what do you think the primary focus should be?
I believe the primary focus should be to protect the members of the Diocese and to maintain the integrity of our organization with God's love and mercy.

DISCIPLINARY BOARD
LAY CANDIDATE

Barb Kelley
St. Andrew's, Ann Arbor

DISCIPLINARY BOARD
LAY CANDIDATE



John Weslowski
All Saints', East Lansing

Member, District Character & Fitness Committee, State Bar of Michigan ||Attorney at Law (49 years)||(former) Assistant Bar Counsel, Attorney Grievance Commission of the State of Maryland||Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) [Detroit Medical Center; St Eluzabeths Hospital, Washington DC; MCV/VCU Hospital, Richmond Va)|||||S.T.D. (Doctor of Sacred Theology)(abd) |(Catholic University of America, Washington DC)||S.T.L. (Licentiate in Sacred Theology) |(Catholic University of America, Washington DC)||S.T.B. (Bachelor of Sacred Theology) |(Catholic University of America, Washington DC)||Member, District Character & Fitness Committee, State Bar of Michigan ||Attorney at Law (49 years)||(former) Assistant Bar Counsel, Attorney Grievance Commission of the State of Maryland||Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) [Detroit Medical Center; St Eluzabeths Hospital, Washington DC; MCV/VCU Hospital, Richmond Va)|||Member, District Character & Fitness Committee, State Bar of Michigan ||Attorney at Law (49 years)||(former) Assistant Bar Counsel, Attorney Grievance Commission of the State of Maryland||Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) [Detroit Medical Center; St Eluzabeths Hospital, Washington DC; MCV/VCU Hospital, Richmond Va)|||||S.T.D. (Doctor of Sacred Theology)(abd) |(Catholic University of America, Washington DC)||S.T.L. (Licentiate in Sacred Theology) |(Catholic University of America, Washington DC)||S.T.B. (Bachelor of Sacred Theology) |(Catholic University of America, Washington DC)||J.D. , Wayne State University Law School, Detroit||Lay Reader, Usher/Greeter,|All Saints, East Lansing|||||||

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.*

STANDING COMMITTEE
LAY CANDIDATE

Scott Armstrong
St. Stephen's, Troy

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.)
LEM, Hospitality, Youth Group, Received Diocesan Anti-Racism Training 2024

Previous Service: (Congregation , Deanery, Diocese)
Sr Warden 2024 and 2025
Jr Warden 2023
Sr Warden 2019-2021
Service in Community:
VP, EPOA (Eddington Property Owners Association) 2014 - pres

Other Qualifications/Experience:
God has a sense of humor and calls us to service when least expected and typically when not seeking. Both terms as Senior Warden taught me how to navigate conflict between a Rector and the parish and a Priest in Charge and the parish. Both were extreme situations by God's grace and guidance that showed me a path and vision for the future of St Stephen's. In both situations support of the Bishop and Diocese was essential and provided tools and assistance for God's work. I assumed the Leadership position of the church and worked with the Vestry to hold us together and provide a sense of purpose for the local community. I was able to negotiate a Long Term Supply In both my terms as Senior Warden as I felt this was necessary for continuity for the parish family. In my first term as Senior Warden, without a Rector, I visited shut ins, nursing homes, sat beside parishioners recovering in hospital, and sat with families saying goodbye to loved ones as they passed this life to be with our maker. Worked with Buildings and Grounds to keep our parish home in good repair, supported Outreach, staff, Hospitality, parish family and worked to be an example to our church community of love and understanding giving them a voice. In both terms as Senior Warden I had two full time jobs, the church and my daytime job. It was both exhausting and fulfilling.

What gifts, talents and experience do you bring to this office?
Strong Christian Values - Strong Communicator – Listening – Leadership – Decisive – Inclusive - Collaborative - Empathy

During your term in office, what do you think should be your primary focus?
To be an unbiased presence, listen and understand the motions before us, provide necessary feedback and support the Bishop in her vision for our Diocesan families.

STANDING COMMITTEE
CLERGY CANDIDATE

The Rev. Erica Benson
St. Thomas, Trenton

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 Vicar of St. Thomas, Trenton, in the Downriver Deanery, where I am completing my first year of ordained ministry. This year has been focused on recognizing and sharing our gifts, listening more deeply to the needs of our congregation and community, and cultivating a genuine and mutual love for one another as we discern how God is calling us to be the Church in our particular place.

My anti-racism education and formation is an ongoing practice of listening, learning, and self-examination. I participated in a two-year Anglican Social Justice course through Episcopal Divinity School with a Diocese of Michigan cohort and completed intercultural competency training at Virginia Theological Seminary, where I also participated in annual Martin Luther King Jr. conferences. I have continued this formation through a Womanist Theology Conference, including learning from Rev. Renita Weems and the Rev. Cheryl Gilkes, and through visiting the National Museum of African American History and Culture while living in Washington, D.C. I look forward to continuing this work through the Diocese, including the 2027 pilgrimage to Montgomery, Alabama.

Previous Service: ***(Congregation , Deanery, Diocese)*** I attended Virginia Theological Seminary from Fall 2022 until Spring of 2025 while I was there I served St. John's Georgetown. Prior to seminary I was an active member and lay leader at St. James, Grosse Ile since 2014. The last three years at St. James I served as the children's ministry director.

Service in Community: This past year has been one of listening—to the needs and hopes of our community—and seeking opportunities to respond faithfully. I served on the Trenton Superintendent's Parent Advisory Board, which gave me an opportunity to listen to families and better understand the needs of our local schools and community. I have also been building relationships with our local Pride in Downriver support group. It was a joy this past year to partner with the Downriver Deanery churches to offer blessings, encouragement, and a visible presence of welcome at Downriver Pride.

I have also been involved with End Gun Violence since its beginnings. Through these experiences, I have sought to build relationships beyond the walls of the church and to understand more deeply the community we are called to serve.

Other Qualifications: College for Congregational Development certification. My deep and abiding love for diocesan work, particularly for the Diocese of Michigan, and my genuine desire to be part of the work of discerning and building our common future.

What gifts, talents and experience do you bring to this office? I bring theological curiosity, pastoral experience, thoughtful listening, and a deep commitment to collaborative leadership. My experience in the Church began long before ordination, through years of lay leadership, service, and formation. Becoming a priest has built upon that experience, deepening my understanding of the Church and broadening the ways I am able to serve it.

The Rev. Erica Benson
St. Thomas, Trenton *(continued)*

I enjoy bringing people and ideas together, asking questions, and making space for different perspectives. I am comfortable sitting with complexity and discerning rather than rushing toward easy answers. I believe these gifts would serve the Standing Committee well as it offers counsel to the Bishop and helps the diocese navigate decisions that require both wisdom and care.

My experience in parish ministry, both as a layperson and now as a priest, has taught me to listen carefully, recognize the gifts and needs of a community, and work collaboratively toward decisions that support its life and ministry. Having recently experienced the discernment and formation process myself, I would also bring a perspective that is attentive to those in progress toward ordination, offering both encouragement and thoughtful, honest questions. My experience with parish leadership and stewardship would inform my approach to the Committee's responsibility for diocesan and parish property, understanding that these decisions affect the life, ministry, and future of congregations.

During your term in office, what do you think should be your primary focus? I believe our primary focus should be discerning together what God is calling the Diocese of Michigan to become in this next season of the Church's life. We are living in a time when many of our congregations are navigating changing demographics, financial pressures, declining participation, and uncertainty about what the future holds. At the same time, there are tremendous gifts, creativity, and signs of new life throughout our diocese.

For me, the question is not simply how we preserve the Church we have inherited, nor is it how we change for the sake of change. It is how we remain deeply rooted in our Episcopal tradition while becoming increasingly attentive to the people and communities God is placing before us.

STANDING COMMITTEE
CLERGY CANDIDATE



The Very Rev. Andrea Morrow
St. Stephen's, Wyandotte

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)***

Rector, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Wyandotte (2015-present). Creator and leader of our Fourth Saturday community meals, which serve over 120 hot meals and bag lunches. Coordinator of a Downriver Pride booth for three years, with volunteers from 4 churches. Developer of and worship leader at Trans Day of Remembrance and Trans Day of Visibility services and other liturgies for the community. My anti-racism training includes extensive graduate work at the University of Michigan and Ecumenical Theological Seminary in Detroit, as well as workplace training through the University of Michigan.

Previous Service: ***(Congregation , Deanery, Diocese)*** Dean, Downriver Deanery (2019-2025); Commission on Ministry (2019-2024); Treasurer, Whitaker Institute (2018-2020); Trustee of the Diocese (2015-2018, 2019-2022); Spiritual Director, Happening Youth Event (2015); First Alternate Deputy to General Convention (2012); Chair, Mission Budget Committee (2010-2012); Diocesan Council Member (2008-2011); Head of Task Force to Re-Open in 2009 and Chair of the Advisory Board, Emrich Retreat Center (2008-2015)

Service in Community: Coordinator, Wyandotte Ministerial Association's Brown Bag Blessings program, which provides food for kids on the weekend in the summer. A group of 7 churches purchases items for, packs, and sends out around 1,000 grocery bags full of nutritious, kid-friendly food

Other Qualifications: For 32 years, I have been a faculty member at the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan. Teaching at a top ranked global business school and serving as a consultant to companies like Sunoco, Whirlpool, and Microsoft gave me insight into strategy and governance for nonprofits and corporate entities. I also learned to work effectively with people from many different backgrounds. As a building manager for a nonprofit company that provided subsidized rent and education to nonprofits, I learned about building management, cost allocation, and lease negotiation. This helped me at St. Stephen's as we have completed one major renovation project and are embarking on another this fall.

What gifts, talents and experience do you bring to this office? My experience is wide ranging and deep in working within church, nonprofit, and corporate governance. In addition, my demonstrated ability to create connections and encourage collaboration will help me work effectively within the committee structure.

During your term in office, what do you think should be your primary focus? Ensuring well-coordinated, timely, and appropriate action on the issues facing the Standing Committee will be my priority. My experience gives me the experience and background to understand building and finance issues, as well as the ordination process and other matters brought before the committee. Having worked closely with others from around the diocese on committees and boards will help me collaborate effectively and efficiently.

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.*

TRUSTEES OF THE DIOCESE
LAY CANDIDATE



Blane Hansknecht
St. Paul's, Brighton

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 presently serve as the head of Buildings & Grounds at St Pauls Brighton. I have taken diocesan safe church and anti-racism training, as well as D&I training at work.

Previous Service: ***(Congregation, Deanery, Diocese)***
I have previously served on the Board of Trustees for the diocese. I also served previously as Treasurer the for Canterbury house Ann Arbor, vestry member and warden at Trinity Belleville, and head of youth programs at Trinity Belleville.

Service in Community:
I support Habitat for Humanity builds annually and regularly donate blood to Red Cross.

Other Qualifications:
I have a solid education background including two masters degrees.

In what ways do you feel the investment policies of the Trustees should reflect the goals of the Diocese?
Money is one of the tools by which the church enacts change in our community to realize the kingdom of God.
What would influence you most in making decisions about the investment and distribution of funds from diocesan trusts?
Prayerful discernment to balance current and future needs and opportunities, with consideration of market trends and moral investment.

TRUSTEES OF THE DIOCESE
LAY CANDIDATE

Marc Robinson
Christ Church Cranbrook, Birmingham

TRUSTEES OF THE DIOCESE
CLERGY CANDIDATE

The Rev. Dan Martin
St. Andrew's, Waterford


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