

# 2020 Convention – Nominations Report 147AC–R07

All Nominations Submitted as of the LATE Nominations Deadline on June 18th, 2021.

Contact John A. King, Secretary of Convention, for further details.  
(973)430-9919 or [jkings@dioceseofnewark.org](mailto:jkings@dioceseofnewark.org)

Submit nominations online via <https://dioceseofnewark.org/form/convention-nominations>

## ACTS/VIM Board

To be Elected: Class of 2024 - 1 Clergy/ 2 Lay (Elect 1 Clergy & 2 Lay for 3 year terms)

### In the Lay Order:

#### Brigid Dwyer, St. George's, Maplewood



I have enjoyed working in and with Diocesan committees over the last several years, and I hope to put my 10 years experience reviewing grants and financials at the US Department of HUD's Office of Community Planning and Development to good use here in the Diocese of Newark. I was a deputy to Diocesan Convention from 2018-2020, and served on the Convention Design committee for 2020. Currently, I'm serving on the diocesan Racial History committee, and have been Vice President of the Newark chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians since 2019.

ACTSVIM

#### Denneze Nelson, St. Agnes & St. Paul's, East Orange



Served in the following positions:

Faith based communities

1. Co-founder and Vice President of the Board of African Diaspora Leadership Conference, (a non-profit) managing a budget of over \$300,000.
2. Co-Founder and Vice President of One World Peace Association (non-profit) currently managing a budget of over \$100,000
3. Board Member of Kean University Dept. of SW

Employment

Program Manager:

Resource Center for Women and Their Families - managing a budget of over \$400,000

Program Manager - Department of Veterans Affairs - Managing a budget of over \$520,000

With a long history of service in faith and interfaith communities and projects both locally and abroad, I am willing to share my talent and experience to represent my faith community, St. Agnes and St. Pauls by serving on this team to enhance the entire work of the Diocese.

Thank you.

ACTSVIM

#### Arnold Peinado, Christ Church, Short Hills



I have served on the ACTS/VIM and Alleluia Fund boards since the Fall of 2016, having been appointed to fill out a vacancy. I currently also serve on the Executive Committee of these boards. I hope to continue serving on these boards for an additional full term as I believe the mission of making grants in the diocese to needy faith-based organizations is an important ministry.

I have been chairman of the Christ Church, Short Hills Outreach Grants Committee for over 25 years, so I understand the grants making process and am familiar with many of the entities that are applying to these diocese funds. As a member of these diocesan boards and my church's grants committee, I have felt a keen responsibility to thoroughly review grant requests, research funding needs and intelligently allocate annual grants moneys. As additional relevant experience, I have been a business attorney in a large Wall Street law firm for 35 years and recently retired as a senior partner. I believe my many years of transaction practice provide me with the analytical skills to thoughtfully consider grants applications.

In sum, I have enjoyed my experience on these two grant making boards and look forward to continuing to assist the diocese by being elected to serve a full term as part of the class of 2024.

ACTSVIM

### In the Clergy Order:

#### The Rev. Cathie Studwell, St. Bartholomew's, Ho-Ho-Kus



I am completing my first term as an ACTS/VIM Board member and it has been a pleasure to be able to learn about the wonderful outreach work that is being offered in our diocese.

I am a graduate of The Foundation Center Grant Writing program and enjoy using the knowledge that I obtained during my study with churches that are working to learn how to write grants.

I would like a second term on the ACTS/VIM Board to continue to do this important work and help congregations get the financial as well as practical support they need to grow their ministries.

ACTSVIM

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## Disciplinary Board

To be Elected: **CLERGY Class of 2027 (Elect 1 Clergy for a 6 year term)**  
**LAY Class of 2026 (Elect 1 Lay for a 5 year term)**

### In the Lay Order:

#### Thomas A. Bisdale, Grace Church, Westwood



During my term as a member of the Disciplinary Board, I have been called upon to chair a Hearing Board and a Conference Panel in separate proceedings. My experience would be of benefit to the Board in a second term. As ever, when serving on the Board and previously on the Ecclesiastical Court, my prayer is to have nothing to do.

DISBOARD

### In the Clergy Order:

#### The Rev. Raul E. Ausa, Trinity, Allendale



Apart from my seminary and diocesan training in Title IV, I have a background prior to ordination as a social worker and child protective investigator for DCF which instilled in me a deep sensitivity to and passion for the work of protecting our vulnerable populations and holding ourselves accountable to our ethical standards.

As a young priest hoping to gain some experience in the administration and work of the church beyond the parish, it would be an honor to have this opportunity to serve and help work to make and maintain our diocese as a safe place for all, in which we can take pride in the excellence of our leadership.

DISBOARD

#### Fr. Kevin PJ Coffey, Atonement, Fair Lawn



To this important canonical ministry, I bring an appreciation for our Church's method of promoting healing, repentance, forgiveness, restitution, justice, amendment of life, and reconciliation among all involved or affected by allegations of clergy misconduct.

DISBOARD

## Trinity & St. Philip's Cathedral Chapter

To be Elected: **Class of 2024 - 1 Clergy/ 1 Lay (Elect 1 of Each for 3 year terms)**

### In the Lay Order:

#### John C. Garde, Grace Church, Madison



The needs of the Cathedral in relation to property issues and others interact closely with property issues facing the Diocese. As a lawyer and President of the Trustees it is important to provide a bridge between the Cathedral and Trustees. I am a partner at McCarter & English, President of the Diocesan Trustees, previous member of the Standing Committee, former Presiding Judge of the Title IV court, former Vice Chancellor, former Senior Warden at Grace Madison and long standing member of the Committee on Constitutions and Canons

CATHCHAP

### In the Clergy Order:

#### The Rev. Anthony Puca, Jr., Holy Trinity, Hillsdale



I serve currently as rector of Grace Church in Westwood and priest-in-charge at Holy Trinity Church in Hillsdale. I have served one term on Diocesan Council. Trinity and St. Philip's Cathedral plays an important role in the diocese and in the city of Newark. It is my hope to support the cathedral in its ministry by serving as a member of the Cathedral Chapter.

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CATHCHAP

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## The Standing Committee

To be Elected: **CLERGY Class of 2025 (Elect 1 Clergy to a 4 year term)**  
**LAY Class of 2025 (Elect 1 Lay to a 4 year term)**

### In the Lay Order:

#### Nerissa Boccino, St. Peter's, Morristown



Experience: I have been an active member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Morristown for the past 27 years. Prior to St. Peter's, I attended All Saints' Episcopal Church, Richmond Hill, NY for 12 years after immigrating to the US. I most recently served as Senior Warden from 2016 to 2021, during an interim period and the current Pandemic. Currently I serve on the Building and Grounds Committee, am Chair of the Reopening Committee, and an Altar Guild Lead. Over the years I have served in a variety of parish ministries including: Chair for Congregational Development, Co-Chairperson for the Annual Fundraiser, Vestry, Silent Auction Chair, Rota scheduler, Delegate to Convention, Rector Search Committee, IT Project Manager, & greeter. At my prior parish, I was the Altar Guild Secretary and a Lector. Within the Diocese I was a member of the Diocese of Newark XI Bishop's Search Committee.

Professionally: Vice President of IT Applications for a large insurance company with responsibility for developing and establishing best practices for software delivery; oversee and coordinate the delivery of multiple IT projects with accountability for change, incident, and problem management processes. I have over 30 years of experience in various IT positions with excellent leadership, collaboration, organizational and analytical skills. I've demonstrated proven process improvement and problem resolution skills and I am experienced in building strong relationships.

Personal Statement: After attending Diocesan Convention for over a decade, I find myself praying and reflecting over the last few years on how I might use my experience to serve in a broader capacity within the Diocese. Having recently completed the anti-racism and anti-sexism programs, I feel called to continue God's work within the Diocese as a member of the Standing Committee.

I feel a new sense of call to use my leadership skills, the knowledge gained as a Warden and from my business experience that I can bring a strong sense of commitment, professionalism, and service as a Standing Committee member. As we are at a crossroads, moving from over a year of limited contact in our professional, personal, and spiritual lives and being hopeful for a post-pandemic transition, I would like to be a committed partner in the Diocese and supporting the Bishop in our "new way of being".

I ask for your prayerful consideration as you select the lay member for the Standing Committee class of 2025. As with everything I do, I commit to give 100% of myself to God's work.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration. I will continue to ask God's guidance and strive do my best to fulfill a call to serve as a lay member on the Standing Committee, my Bishop, and the Diocese.

STANDING

### In the Clergy Order:

#### The Rev. Nathaniel Darville, St. Peter's, Essex Fells



1) From 2018 to 2020, I served as rector of Grace Episcopal Church in Pike Road, a parish well-known in the Diocese of Alabama for its extensive gardens along 14 acres. During my tenure there, we were able to turn around a series of budget deficits into a surplus in one year. On the diocesan level, I was on the planning committee for the annual clergy retreat. Since September 2020, I have been rector of St. Peter's in Essex Fells, where I oversee a parish staff, a nursery school, and a thrift shop.

2) I thoroughly believe the diocese is at the heart of our Anglican identity, and seek to honor my ordination vow to take my share in the councils of the Church. I am certain that one of my spiritual gifts is in administration - particularly organizational management and finances - which fits well with the duties of the Standing Committee. God has great things planned for the Diocese of Newark, and I would very much like to work with lay and clerical members of our diocesan family in advising the bishop as we discern together how we can rebuild our community and continue to be Christ's Body in northern NJ and beyond for many years to come. Perhaps most importantly, the Standing Committee should have as many NY Mets fans as possible.

STANDING

#### The Rev. Robert F. Solon, Jr., St. John's, Passaic



I'm the Rev. Robert Solon, currently Priest-in-Charge at St. John's in Passaic, longtime supply priest, former Rector of Church of the Advent, Baltimore and Vicar of St. Thomas Vernon. I'm also the Director of Finance and HR for Christ Church Bloomfield Glen Ridge. I've been associated with the Diocese of Newark since June of 2006. Both my M.Div. and S.T.M. are from General Seminary, and my MBA is from Anderson University in Indiana.

I'm offering my service to the Diocese as a member of the Standing Committee in order to more directly exercise my ordination vow to "take my share in the councils of the Church." I can offer my non-profit and parish financial experience as the Committee reviews property encumbrances and sales, and my experience in small parishes and as part-time clergy to ensure those backgrounds are well represented on the Committee itself. I'm always interested in increasing the diversity with our own clergy and House of Bishops, and would be pleased to be asked to review such as part of the Committee's role in reviewing and consenting to ordinations in the Diocese and for the wider Church. Thank you in advance for considering me for the Standing Committee of the Diocese.

STANDING

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## Constitution & Canons Committee

To be Elected: Class of 2022 - 10 Members (Clergy or Lay, not specified) to a one year term

### Thomas A. Bisdale, Grace Church, Westwood



I have been a member of the committee for many years and also serve as a Trustee of the Diocese and member of the Disciplinary Board. In addition to serving the Diocese in other capacities I have also served multiple terms as warden and vestry member at Grace Westwood. I hope to bring my experience in the church and the law to remain a useful member of the committee.

CONCAN

### Patricia Arlin Bradley, Holy Trinity, Hillsdale



As an active member of both Holy Trinity and the Diocese of Newark, I would like to continue to serve as a member of the Constitutions and Canons Committee. I have served as past co-chair of the diocesan Human Resources committee, and am completing my first term on Constitutions and Canons. I have served as Chief Business Officer at St. Peter's, Morristown, and Director of Communications at Christ Church in Ridgewood. I have served in many capacities at Holy Trinity, including warden and vestryperson, and chair of our unification committee. I am also currently a sacristan and member of the choir.

CONCAN

In my professional life, I have spent 35 years as a Human Resources professional, primarily in the life sciences space.

### T. Donald Cairns, St. Clement's, Hawthorne



I would like to continue to serve.

CONCAN

### Fr Kevin PJ Coffey, Atonement, Fair Lawn



This important ministry requires someone to ask, "But what about ...?" and I love that question!

CONCAN

### John C. Garde, Grace Church, Madison



I look forward to continuing service on this important committee as we continue to move the church forward and address a variety of issues including church status, discipline, accountability and the structure and mission of the Diocese. My experience both as a lawyer and in various capacities in the Diocese and at the church level brings an important perspective to this Committee.

Experience:

Trustee - Member and President, Trustees of Episcopal Funds and Diocesan Properties, 2000 to 2021

Standing Committee 2018- 2021

Vice Chancellor - 1998 to 2018

Committee on Constitutions and Canons - 1998 to present

Convention Deputy - 1992 to present

Senior Warden and Vestry Member Grace Madison and St Thomas Lyndhurst

Ward J. Herbert Board - present

Presiding Judge Ecclesiastical Court 1987 to 2002

Attorney and Partner - McCarter & English, 1986 to present

CONCAN

### Laura A. Russell, Esq., All Saints, Hoboken



Deputy, 2012, 2015, 2018 and 2022 General Conventions,  
President, Disciplinary Board,

Former Member, Constitutions and Canons Committee,

Supervising attorney at a large not-for-profit,

Former Warden, All Saints, Hoboken,

Board, Jubilee Center, All Saints,

Board, Care on the Corner, St. John the Divine

CONCAN

I welcome the opportunity to serve on this committee. As a practicing attorney with over twenty-five years of litigation experience, I hope to bring my knowledge of the canons, together with my experience in governance, to this committee.

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## John L Smith, Trinity & St. Philip's Cathedral, Newark



I am a former Warden Trinity and Saint Philip's Cathedral, current Vestry Member. Business Certificate Monroe Business College, Bronx NY. Undergraduate Degrees, Bloomfield College Graduate Degree, Seton Hall University. NJ Supreme Court, Office of Attorney Ethics, 12th District, Community Member. Essex Newark Legal Service, Community Member, Board Treasurer Retired Law Enforcement Officer, 26 years. Educator Essex County College, since 1993. I am seeking this office to gain additional information about Episcopal Services and church. Essex Newark Legal

CONCAN

## Bernice E. Vanderpool, Grace Church Van Vorst, Jersey City



I have been a proud Episcopalian since birth. I have served on Grace Van Vorst Vestry of Jersey City for over 8 years. Where I just finished my last term as the Senior Warden in January 2021. I also served on the founding Board of Episcopal Jersey City (EJC). During 2016-17 whereas I worked closely as a member of the EJC Outreach Committee in strategizing a plan of action for opening the Triangle Park Community Center.

I completed my Bachelors's from Fairleigh Dickinson University in 2019 and I am currently a Juris Doctorate candidate.

I believe that my eight years of Vestry experience will allow me to make valuable contributions to the Constitution and Canons Committee.

CONCAN

## John G. Webb, III, St. Luke and St. Mary, Hope and Belvidere



Having served on this Committee, I will be pleased to serve another term.

CONCAN

## The Rev. Paul Yoon, St. Agnes', Little Falls



I am currently serving as Priest-in-Charge at Saint Agnes Church, Little Falls and as Chaplain Coordinator of the Department of Pastoral Care & Education at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital-Weill Cornell Medical Center, assigned to provide spiritual care at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC). Having served as a member of the Commission on Ministry, I am familiar with the nature of diocesan leadership. Outside the parish and diocese, I am a member of the Ethics Committee at Weill Cornell and MSKCC.

CONCAN

## **Trustees of The Episcopal Fund & Diocesan Properties**

**To be Elected: Class of 2026 - (Elect 3 for a 5 year term)**

Please note: Only one candidate submitted a nomination form.

## Patrice Henderson, St. Andrew & Holy Communion, South Orange



1. President of the Standing Committee where I served for 10 years, Chair of the Resolutions Committee, Member of the Bishop Search Committee, Architect of the Asset Reallocation Policy as well as Co-Chair of Rolls & Responsibilities and others.
2. Having served the Diocese in various leadership positions over the past 14 years, I believe that I have history, insight, gifts and skills that make me qualified to be boldly audacious in the process of helping the DON to define the path to a "New Life".

TRUSTEE

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## The Diocesan Council

To be Elected: **Class of 2024 - 3 clergy/3 Lay (Elect 3 Clergy & 3 Lay for 3 year terms)**  
Also electing to fill Clergy Vacancies in Class of 2023 & 2022, Lay Vacancy in Class of 2023

### In the Lay Order:

#### Larysa Cohen, St. Luke's, Montclair



As a member of the Diocese's Arrangement committee for approximately five years, an Operations Leader at Toni's Kitchen for over 10 years, and 2021 marking my 40th year as a Saint Luke's Montclair parishioner, I am honored to be nominated for the Diocesan Council LAY Class of 2024 (or sooner, as need be.)

As a procurement expert by profession with the ability to drive fact-based and data-driven results, I believe I would be an asset to Council to help ensure clear, concise, and balanced decision-support for program financial oversight.

#### Robert Cottingham, Jr., Epiphany and Christ Church, Orange



For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.-JEREMIAH 29:11

I am a proud member of The Church of the Epiphany and Christ Church where we have faced many challenges, one of our most recent is our consolidation. As a member of the Consolidation Committee, I have participated in and witnessed how despite coming from different places and backgrounds each set of parishioners was able to assume the responsibility of looking forward without retreating from the task; we gave a nod to the past while embracing the future. A major aspect of our past includes the establishment of an African-American Episcopal mission turned church by African-Americans themselves.

The Church of the Epiphany, like so many other African-American churches was born out of a desire to worship as a community. We were disheartened but not dissuaded when we were told in the years leading up to our establishment in 1905 that as African-Americans we could not worship with white parishioners who were worshipping the same God at Grace Church on Main Street. Then as now we strove to serve the community by providing a safe space for those within and outside the church doors. I am a proud African-American who is a part of that tradition and am seeking to help shape the Diocese's journey towards the equitable application of its policies towards historically underserved congregations and parishioners.

At the Church of the Epiphany and Christ Church I serve as the Finance Committee chair and have previously served on the vestry, church consolidation committee and the Rector's Ad Hoc strategic planning committee. Through these experiences I have learned to manage the overall business of the church as well as specific project-based issues.

Thirty years ago some of my closest friends and I founded the Peter Westbrook Foundation (PWF) where we teach children the sport of fencing. I serve as Chairman with other volunteers who hold the same passion as I, to share the sport with children who otherwise would not know the sport. As a not-for-profit organization, the PWF requires us to be creative with how we support and prioritize our programs. For my day job I founded and am CEO of Sabre88, LLC. At Sabre88 I manage the day-to-day operations and strategic planning of the company. Sabre88 has enabled me to exist within an environment where teamwork is essential and collaboration is critical to see a project to completion.

I seek to serve on the Diocese of Newark Diocesan Council to share in the vision of the future utilizing the hope that God has given us.

#### Dennis j Piccirillo, St. Dunstan's, Succasunna



I have been on Diocesan council for many years. I am part of Marge Christy committee. I am very happy to serve for the council. Former Vestry member and Warden for St. Dunstans Church. Currently, I am the ZOOM coordinator during the pandemic. Three generations of the Piccirillo family attend St. Dunstans for last 46 years.

#### Robert C. Ross, St. Agnes & St. Paul's, East Orange



Personal Statement: I have given my life to Christ and experienced the power of his resurrection in my life. This office will give me another opportunity to live my baptismal promise to give my time, talent and treasure for growing the kingdom of God.

Church Leadership: Completed Worship Leader Training; Lead Virtual Morning and Evening Prayer Services; Work with Youth to participate in Services; Attended Workshop on Preparing Parochial Reports.

Education: BS Accounting; MBA International Business: Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

Job Experience: 30 years of financial management specializing in Strategic Planning; Budgeting/Forecasting; Expense Management and Auditing. Currently retired but do tax consulting/preparation seasonally.

Other Affiliation: Active member of the Rotary Club of Irvington (international and community volunteer organization).

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## Jerrick Rutherford, St. Andrew & Holy Communion, South Orange



I have been an active Episcopalian at St. Andrew and Holy Communion for the past twelve years. During this time, I served on the Altar Guild and Lay Readers ministry, serving also as the Coordinator. I served as a member of the Vestry, Clerk of the Vestry, Junior Warden, and am currently the Senior Warden. I am also have the privilege to be a part of the Namaste Commission. I am a lifelong educator by profession, and has been a teacher, and educational leader in my native Guyana, Botswana, and the USA. Currently I am the Assistant Principal at Bronx Bridges High School in New York City, which requires me to manage and distribute resources to students and families of my school. Ensuring they receive a high quality educational experience to beat life's odds is a charge I do not take lightly.

I offer myself to serve on the Diocesan Council to support the prudent management and distribution of our resources as we fulfill our ministries and service. My experience at the Parish level and beyond will allow me to bring valuable insight to the work of the Council

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## Vanessa Wigfall, Trinity & St. Philip's Cathedral, Newark

I have served as Church Treasurer. I am currently serving on Vestry, Worship committee and Finance committee. I would be honored to serve on Diocesan Council.



## Ross Wisnewski, St. Mary's, Sparta



I am seeking election to the Diocesan Council, lay class of 2024. As a member of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Sparta for the past 25 years, I have served as youth leader, vestry member, treasurer, and warden. On the Diocesan level, I led the Stewardship Commission for 10 years under Bishop Croneburger and Bishop Beckwith, and I now am a member of the Diocesan Stewardship Teaching Team. I previously chaired the Butts Board and served on Ecclesiastical Court.

My professional life as an economist gives me a strong background in planning, forecasting, budgeting and analytical reporting. And my passion for stewardship gives me the perspective of how we might generously and gratefully use the resources we have at hand to better serve the Lord.

### CAVEAT:

Zoom has allowed me to continue attending my church over the past 16 months, while missing only 1 Sunday. It also allows me to serve on my vestry, with responsibility for building and grounds. It has required a major adaptation, however it has worked amazingly well. Zoom will continue to be an access point for me for church and meetings because I live in New Orleans 6 months out of the year.

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## **In the Clergy Order:**

### The Rev. Raul E. Ausa, Trinity, Allendale



As a recently-ordained priest, I'm eager to involve myself in the workings of the Church beyond the parish level and contribute to the support of the Diocese. While I do feel quite humble in terms of my experience and expertise, I hope that I may provide a voice in Council that resonates with and helps to highlight the perspectives of young people and young clergy in the Church, particularly those whom have not historically been represented in our highest decision-making bodies (POC, Latin, LGBTQI+ Episcopalians).

I hope that my particular perspective, along with my love for the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Newark, along with the working of the Holy Spirit, may help to make me a useful member of our council. I appreciate your consideration.

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### The Rev. Deacon Nancy Hansen, Good Shepherd, Lincoln Park & Montville



It's been a pleasure to serve on the Diocesan Council. I have been on the Empowering Committee during my time at Council. In that capacity, I have assisted with Convention programs. I am active on the Marge Christie and the CLU (Church Leaders University) committees. One of my current ministries is hospital spiritual care.

I would like to continue to serve on the Diocesan Council.

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### The Rev. Kathryn King, St. Alban's, Oakland/Franklin Lakes



I have lived and served in the Diocese of Newark for most of my life. I have offered my ministry on many Diocesan bodies including Council, Acts Vim, Cross Roads, Youth Ministry, Clergy Conference Planning, Christian Formation, Newark Clergy Association, Advisor to Youth Delegation to General Convention and Nation Episcopal Youth Event, Human Resources. I take seriously and with joy the call of my Ordination vows to take my place in the councils of the Church. As the rector of a small and thriving congregation I bring that perspective and the experience to represent in the larger diocese the experience, gifts, and challenges present in the daily ministries of many of the parishes in our diverse diocese.

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## **The Rev. Grant Mansfield, St. George's, Maplewood**



Greetings! I am honored to be considered to serve on our Diocesan Council! As we all have learned this past year, the world and the Church is changing. The Holy Spirit is doing a new thing, requiring us to be bold in proclaiming the Good News of Jesus and creative in how we embody our ministry. I believe my experiences will be an asset to our Diocesan Council as we continue to go about this sacred work together.

Since joining the Diocese in 2020, I have actively engaged the formation of disciples through leading workshops through Church Leadership University- one on discernment and one on Episcopal Evangelism. Collaborating with diocesan leadership, we developed and led a formation event on how to begin a faith group ministry. Within St. George's, we formed a small group ministry that actively engages about 40 people in our parish. We developed and led our own discernment ministry during the pandemic, with the goal of creating new mission, vision, and values statements. Our parish has completed this work and has developed these important guiding documents.

Previously, I served in the Diocese of Virginia. There, I facilitated conversations with our Bishop about the experiences and needs of the LGBTQ community. From that conversation, I gathered a team and developed and led a Diocesan-wide LGBTQ retreat, the first of which was held online this past summer. I collaborated on the Church-wide level with a group of lay and clergy leaders to create the Embracing Evangelism resource. This is a free program offered by the Episcopal Church that helps people reclaim the spiritual practice of evangelism and sharing the Good News of Jesus in a loving, joy-filled way.

Racial justice is permanent in my ministry. I participated in the Episcopal Young Adult Pilgrimage to Ferguson, MO in 2015, which transformed my understanding of race in the United States. Since then, I actively engage uprooting the systems of race in our Church-- creating and leading Lenten book studies, co-developing a Hip-Hop worship service with colleagues, currently engaging the Sacred Ground series at St. George's, and encouraging mutual ministry with our broader community over charity work.

We are called to form strong disciples who are unafraid of evangelism. We are called to discern what the Holy Spirit is up to and engage our communities in mutual partnerships for God's purposes. We are called to embody God's justice for all and engage the hard work of healing and restoration. We must embody this intentionally - in our budgets, in our programming, and in our planning. I would be honored to serve on our Diocesan Council and co-labor with you all as we live into what the Spirit is doing today.

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## **The Rev. Dcn. Lorna Woodham, St. Andrew & Holy Communion, South Orange**



On May 8th, I was ordained a transitional deacon in the Diocese of Newark. I was confirmed in Christ Episcopal Church, East Orange where I was an acolyte, choir member and youth group member and leader. Most recently, I have served as a ministry intern at St. Paul and Incarnation, Jersey City. My home parish is St. Andrews and Holy Communion, South Orange.

Before starting my own consulting agency—Interdisciplinary Reentry Initiative for Empowerment (IRIE)—I spent 3 decades as a litigation paralegal. I currently consult for the District of New Jersey's four problem solving courts – a multi-discipline reentry program incorporating social work practice and serving persons on federal probation.

I strongly believe in a faith inspired, human rights approach to healing vulnerable persons and undervalued communities. Through paid positions, fellowships, and volunteer work, I have supported justice initiatives involving youth, including transgender and gender non-conforming youth, and supported justice involved people leaving incarceration and their families.

I hold a STM and an M.Div. from Union Theological Seminary; a MSSW from Columbia School of Social Work; and a BA cum laude in Anthropology from Columbia University.

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!" (Isaiah 6:8)

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## 2021 General Convention Clergy (3&4) Alternates

To be Elected: 2 Clergy Alternates (3rd & 4th) to complete the Clergy Deputation to General Convention (Delayed until 2022)

### In the Clergy Order:

#### The Rev. Dr. J. Brent Bates, Grace Church, Newark



I was elected as an alternate to the 2018 General Convention. I have been a member of the Commission on Ministry from 2014 to Present. Rector, Grace Church in Newark, 2011-Present; Associate Rector, Calvary Church in Summit, 2008-2011. I hope to represent the Diocese of Newark by taking a Christ-centered approach in the work of the Convention. Prayerfully dedicating myself to the preparation, participation, and reporting of Convention, I will faithfully serve to uphold the reconciling mission of the Church.

GC2021

#### The Rev. Sharon Sheridan Hausman, Christ Church, Newton



I believe my in-depth experience at General Convention, work as a church journalist, and involvement in the diocese will help me serve as a knowledgeable and faithful deputy of the Diocese of Newark. I am priest associate at Christ Church, Newton, and a member of the diocese since 1986. I attended the last 8 General Conventions: in 2018 as first alternate lay deputy, and the 7 previous conventions as a journalist with the Episcopal Church news team. As part of our diocesan Prison Ministry, I serve as volunteer chaplain in two state prisons and coordinate an enrichment program for children of incarcerated parents. I also am an active member of the Union of Black Episcopalians.

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I believe my knowledge and experience will be helpful in addressing important issues facing our church, including prayer book revision, new liturgies, and social justice concerns, particularly racial reconciliation and mass incarceration. As a General Convention reporter, I extensively covered prayer book and liturgy legislation, as well as a wide range of other topics, from gun violence to children's ministry to provincial structure.

#### The Rev. Tom Mathews, Christ Church, Ridgewood



It would be a tremendous honor and privilege to represent OUR diocese at the 2021 General Convention in Baltimore. I am a lifelong member of this diocese, which has been the center of my ministry as a leader of youth groups, as a member of Vestry, as a member serving on numerous committees (Diocesan Council, Bishop Search Committee, ACTS/VIM, Alleluia Fund, Budget & Finance, and the former Youth Commission and Stewardship Commission) and as an ordained Clergy member for over 16 years.

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I respect both the history & tradition of the Episcopal Church coupled with an openness to new ideas and an optimism about the future. As a Deputy, I would work from a basis of our commitment to Scripture, Tradition, Reason, and Experience and the vital importance of working TOGETHER through the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for the denomination we love and the faith we share.

#### The Rev. Andy Olivo, St. Elizabeth's, Ridgewood



Andy has been privileged to serve the larger church in a variety of roles. In the Diocese of East Tennessee he was a member of Diocesan Council, the Diocesan Young Adults Task Force, and an elected deputy to General Convention. He also served as the chair of the Episcopal Campus Ministries board at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga. During his time in the Diocese of Washington, he was a member of the Planning Committee for the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes, a field education seminarian supervisor, and a member of the Washington Interfaith Network.

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Andy is passionate about evangelism, church growth, & stewardship, to name a few areas. He offers the perspective of one with many years of experience working for the church as well as one who will be serving as a priest in 20, 30, and maybe even 40 years from now. Decisions made at the 2021 General Convention will impact the church's future, and Andy seeks to be one of the many voices at the table.

#### The Rev. Dcn. Erik Soldwedel, St. Paul's, Paterson



I have had the privilege and honor to be elected deputy to General Convention twice representing the Diocese of Newark. I have shared my voice and yours before committees working with other deputies to pass meaningful legislation that supports the mission of the church in the 21st century. I have been blessed to work with many congregations as a Consultant; Member of Diocesan Council; Bishop's Staff; Deacon of Christ Hospital; Trustee of the Diocese of Newark and as clergy with the opportunity to experience life in the Episcopal Church in many areas. This is coupled with a network of The Episcopal Service Corps and Interim Clergy colleagues from the Appreciative Way Institute provide me a platform to share our experiences of ministry. Our collective shared stories are beneficial as we strive to support and grow our church. The Diocese of Newark has long been a voice for those who have no place at the table. Many now are at that table and I will continue to provide more room to welcome all. I wish to continue to be one of the voices and represent this diocese to General convention.

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#### The Rev. Elaine Ellis Thomas, All Saints, Hoboken



A lifelong Episcopalian, I love God and I love this church. I have a keen understanding of organizational dynamics and how those dynamics affect decision-making and leadership, and I genuinely enjoy digging into governance and the actions of Convention (even as a spectator!). I believe that the organizational and leadership skills that I have developed in the church and in the not-for-profit worlds, including my experience working in three different dioceses in the Episcopal Church as well as serving on the Standing Committees of the Dioceses of Virginia and Newark, would serve me well as a deputy to General Convention. At ordination, I promised to take my "share in the councils of the Church," and I believe that putting my name forward as a deputy is one way of fulfilling that promise faithfully.

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