

2025 Convention – Nominations Report 151AC–R07

Contact John A. King, Secretary of Convention, for further details.
(973)430-9919 or jking@dioceseofnewark.org

2027 General Convention Lay Deputy

To be Elected: 4 Deputies and 4 Alternates (Deputies & 1st Alternate Expenses Covered by Diocese)

In the Lay Order:

Leslie Boston, St. Mary's, Sparta



I have been an active member in the Diocese of Newark for over 40 years, serving in leadership roles at St. John's, Ramsey for 35 years and for the past several years at St. Mary's, Sparta. Currently I serve as Sr. Warden. Through the years, I have lead church school, served on vestries, rector search committees, convention delgate, stewardship chair, altar guild, Outreach and LEM. I am retired from Cigna, where I managed people and projects responsible to deliver communications; transitioning to electronic delivery. In addition to my work at the church I volunteer at Bristol Glen senior living as a sewing volunter and working for the Sparta Food Pantry. I am passionate about the history and future of the church; and God's will for us.

GC2027

Paula Cappel, St. Andrew & Holy Communion, South Orange



My experiences from the 80th. and 81st. General Conventions gave me valuable insight into how the Episcopal Church makes decisions about mission, budget, policies, and governance. With two conventions behind me, I am prepared to serve effectively from day one and to ensure our Diocese has a strong, experienced voice at the table.

At my parish, I serve as a Worship Leader, Lector, hospitality and Outreach Ministries. I also sit on Diocesan Council and the Constitution and Canons Committee of the Diocese. I ask for your vote to continue representing our Diocese faithfully, speaking up for all people, especially the marginalized, vulnerable, and stigmatized.

GC2027

Rhonda Lutz, Saviour, Denville



I have been an active member of the Church of the Saviour, Denville since 2008. Currently, I have served as Senior Warden, Treasurer, Vestry member, Chair of Parish Life, chair of the Welcome Committee and president of St. Martha's guild. On a diocesan level, I am currently a member of the Diocesan Council and past member of the Trustees Committee and the Assistant Treasurer of past Diocesan Convention. I had the pleasure to be the first lay alternate for the 81st General Convention in June 2024. I would be honored to be a lay deputy to the 82nd General Convention now that I know "the ropes" of what being a deputy entails. I look forward to representing our Diocese again.

GC2027

Meredith McKeever, Grace Church, Madison



During the 2024 General Convention, I served on the Official Youth Presence, where I got to sit in on the House of Deputies, learn how Convention works, and engage in important conversations with leaders of the church. As an official voting deputy to Convention, I could have a bigger impact on the Church and help highlight youth voices and opinions.

GC2027

Jewels Quelly, St. James', Hackettstown



I believe in turning vision into action—and I've done just that in the Episcopal Diocese of Newark. Since 2018, I've served on Diocesan Council, the Diocesan Visioning Team (Congregational Collaboration), and represented our diocese as a Lay Deputy to the 81st General Convention. At that Convention, I felt a strong call to advocate for neurodiverse individuals and their caregivers in the Episcopal Church. With the support of our diocesan convention, I launched BOOST, a task force dedicated to exploring parish life through the lens of neurodiversity. I continue to work tirelessly across the diocese to raise awareness and build resources. With your vote, I will bring this same passion, leadership, and dedication to the 82nd GenCon.

GC2027

Laura Russell, All Saints, Hoboken



Having been a Deputy to the last five General Conventions and currently on Executive Council of the Episcopal Church and the Task Force to Reimagine General Convention, I feel I have an understanding of the wider Church and a passion for church governance. Working as a public interest attorney for those who are marginalized, such as low-income domestic violence survivors, has helped me to have a greater understanding of our mission. At General Convention my past experiences, such as serving on Legislative Committees, help me craft and advocate for policies that welcome all. I am grateful this Diocese has previously elected me to serve and would be humbled to serve again as a Deputy, bringing my passions back to General Convention.

GC2027

2025 Convention – Nominations Report 151AC–R07

All Nominations Submitted by the "Late" Nominations Deadline on November 8th, 2025

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



For the past fifteen years, I have been an active member of the Church of St. Andrew and Holy Communion in South Orange. Currently a Postulant for the Priesthood, I serve as a Seminarian Intern at All Saints, Glen Rock, for my field placement. At St. Andrew and Holy Communion, I have served in ministries such as the Altar Guild, as Coordinator of Lay Leaders and Lay Eucharistic Ministers, and in Church Safety. My Vestry leadership includes service as Member, Clerk, and Senior Warden. At the diocesan level, I have contributed through the Diocesan Council, Anti-Racism Commission, and the Bishop's Commission for Racial Justice and Healing. These experiences have deepened my faith and commitment to the Church's mission of justice and

GC2027

Kathleen Simon, St. Paul & Incarnation, Jersey City



It was an enjoyable experience serving on Diocesan Council in the Diocese of Newark for two consecutive terms and on the Steering Committee for a term. As a member of the now closed Church of the Incarnation and a current member of the unified St. Paul and Incarnation, I have served in various leadership roles including Vestry member, Associate Treasurer, Treasurer, member of the Finance Committee, member of the choir, the Audit Committee, President of the International Committee, Clerk of the Vestry, and a member of ECW. I am also currently serving as a member of the Nomination Committee for the 151st Convention for the Diocese of Newark.

It would be an honor to be elected to be part of the team representing the Deputies of the Diocese t

GC2027

2027 General Convention Clergy Deputy

To be Elected: 4 Deputies and 4 Alternates (Deputies & 1st Alternate Expenses Covered by Diocese)

In the Clergy Order:

The Rev. Danielle Baker, St. Paul's, Morris Plains



Greetings, good people of the Diocese of Newark! I prayerfully submit my name for consideration as a Deputy to the 2027 General Convention. My ministry is grounded in lay formation and Spirit-led leadership. Before ordination, I served at St. Peter's, Morristown, as youth leader, stewardship chair, warden, and worship leader—while building a career in strategic planning and business development at IBM and Microsoft. I now bring that same clarity and collaboration to my priestly ministry. In our Diocese, I serve as the President of the UBE, Property Chair of the Standing Committee, and Associate and Board Member of the Community of St. John Baptist. Church, God is calling us to a new thing, and I look forward to the holy work before us.

GC2027

The Rev. Cynthia Black, Non-Parochial



One of my greatest joys in ministry has been serving as a General Convention Deputy. My experience at all levels of church governance has helped me to understand how our governance can help us live out the greater gospel message of love, and how the church gets things done. I currently serve the Episcopal Church as the Chair of the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music. While our diocesan canons have no official mechanism for electing someone as an Alternate Deputy (without their name having previously been on the Deputy ballot), that is what I would like to do. I would like to encourage new Deputy leadership but still be of service to the diocese. Please vote for me for ALTERNATE DEPUTY (after the Deputies are elected).

GC2027

The Rev. Lynne Bleich Weber, Atonement, Tenafly



Over the 30 years I've served in our diocese, first in Ridgewood and since 2000 in Tenafly, I have been a Deputy to General Convention once and an Alternate three times. I have enjoyed this sometimes hard but always fulfilling work of representing our diocese. For 27 years I've been Newark's Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officer, and now am President of EDEIO (the network of ecumenical officers appointed by bishops across our worldwide Church) and shared in hosting ecumenical and interfaith guests at Convention. In the Diocese, I have served on Diocesan Council and a number of other committees and groups, some (in the 1990s!) seeking the full inclusion of women and LGBTQIA persons in the life of Christ's Body, the Church.

GC2027

The Rev. Dcn. Ken Boccino, Saviour, Denville



I ask for your support to serve as a Deputy to the 2027 General Convention. With over 35 years of active service in the Diocese of Newark, I feel a strong call to this important role. As a Deacon, I have served at the Church of the Saviour since 2020 and at St. George's from 2015-2020. My ministries include Warden, Vestry Member, Stephen's Minister, co-chaired the Commission on Ministry, currently co-convene the Constance & Her Companions Regional Ministry Network, and chaired the Marge Christie Congregational Growth & Vitality Fund. I also served as Board Treasurer for First Friends of NJ & NY, caring for the needs of asylum seekers and migrants in detention. I am an IT and Finance Project Manager specializing in organization.

GC2027

2025 Convention – Nominations Report 151AC–R07

All Nominations Submitted by the "Late" Nominations Deadline on November 8th, 2025

The Rev. William Cruse, St. John's Memorial, Ramsey



From the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) I found TEC as a chorister, sensed a spiritual and liturgical home, Confirmed at age 30. I've served in 3 dioceses (NY, NH, Newark): convention deputy, Council, Pride, parish growth; and in parishes: Treasurer, Vestry, Stewardship, Music Dir, LEM, and EfM. My skills include facilitation, visioning, and empowering shared-leadership. For EDON, I serve YOU as a parish priest, on Council and Steering Committee, co-convenor of the Anti-Racism Commission, Racial Justice pilgrimages, and Title IV chaplain. With the Kaleidoscope Institute I consult in multiple dioceses and denominations (Americas & Europe). At GC I will offer my diverse gifts, faith & experience to renew Spirit-led parishes & people.

GC2027

The Rev. George Dredden, Christ Church, Short Hills



I humbly request your support to serve on Diocesan Council. My background spans diocesan, public, private, non-profit and government sectors. I currently serve as Priest, Community Engagement, Christ Church in Short Hills; I served for 3 1/2 as Priest-in-Charge, Trinity & St. Philips Cathedral; currently Co-Chair of the Justice, Peace and Racial Reconciliation Commission and Vice President of the Union of Black Episcopalians; the Anti-Sexism Taskforce; the NJPAC Black/Jewish Dialogue Cohort; and served on the Vestry at St. Peter's Mountain Lakes. My professional experience includes leadership positions in NJ state government, the NJ Legislature, Kaiser Permanente and Prudential Insurance. Working together, we can serve God's Beloved!

GC2027

The Rev. Sharon Hausman, Non-Parochial



Today, when the church's witness is needed more than ever & our Church is undergoing great change, my experience & background would contribute to meeting these challenges. As a supply priest working across the diocese, and as former editor of The VOICE, I have a broad understanding of the diocese's past & present and its possibilities for the future. I have extensive knowledge of General Convention & church polity after serving as diocesan alternate clergy & alternate lay deputy, & as a reporter on the Episcopal Church's official news team for 7 General Conventions. As a prison chaplain, I am passionate about social justice. I also love liturgy & spent many years as a church journalist reporting on the church's ongoing prayer book revision.

GC2027

The Rev. Elizabeth Ivell, St. Mary's, Sparta



I have been very grateful to be a part of the Diocese of Newark for the last four years. I have been a member of the ACTS/VIM Board and as a Alternate for the Clergy Delegation to General Convention in 2024. I have served at St. Peter's in Morristown, and now Church of the Messiah in Chester and St. Mary's in Sparta. In the past I have served as a Clergy Deputy to the General Convention in 2018 for the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania and was an assistant secretary for a legislative committee during that time.

I am very interested in the governance of the Episcopal Church, especially when it comes to the future of congregations. I am studying how we can have strong, healthy congregations in the doctorate program at Drew.

GC2027

The Rev. Anne Kitch, St. Luke's, Phillipsburg



Having served our Diocese as a deputy in 2022 and 2024, I would like to continue to use my gifts and skills as a deputy to the 82nd General Convention. I bring leadership, vision, an understanding of governance and the polity of the Episcopal Church, and a conviction that grounding the work and ministry of the church in the love of Christ can transform lives.

In our diocese, I share my ministry gifts as a rector, a member of the Anti-Racism Commission, a Title IV intake officer, and as a consultant for leadership development.

At the Churchwide level, I am currently a consultant for the Presiding Bishop's Office, Chair of the Conant Grant Committee, and the facilitator for the Virtual Curacy program at Berkely Seminary. Previously, I se

GC2027

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



Greetings Diocese of Newark! I humbly offer my name for consideration as one of your deputy to the 82nd General Convention. I currently serve on the Cathedral Chapter, am a member of the Commission on Ministry, and involved with our local chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians. Previously, I served at a deputy to the 81st General Convention and on Diocesan Counsel. I am thankful for the opportunities to have served the diocese in these roles and hope to continue in service to our diocesan community.

GC2027

2025 Convention – Nominations Report 151AC–R07

All Nominations Submitted by the "Late" Nominations Deadline on November 8th, 2025

The Rev. Tom Mathews, Christ Church, Ridgewood



I'm honored for you to consider me to serve as a Deputy to GC. Over 25 years as a Seminarian and Rector, I have served parishes in a wide array of sizes and settings. In each church, as well my elected roles as a Regional Coordinator and Diocesan Council member, I have always been moved by the joint work of Parishioners, Layleaders & Clergy to advance the work of Discipleship. As a cradle member of the Episcopal faith we share, it's my intention to serve as a Deputy for this reason- to continue advancing the dynamic and welcoming work of our Church while helping to situate it for growth in the 21st century and beyond, with a focus on enabling the success and vitality of parishes, since they are the lifeblood and conduit for our growth.

GC2027

The Rev. Dr. Paul Rajan, Good Shepherd, Wantage



I am already member of the standing commission on World Missiion. I wish to represent our Diocese as Global Mission Advocate to the General Convention.

GC2027

ACTS/VIM Board

To be Elected: Class of 2028 - 1 Clergy/ 2 Lay (Elect 1 Clergy & 2 Lay for 3 year terms)

In the Clergy Order:

The Rev. Elizabeth Ivell, Messiah, Chester



I have been very grateful to be a part of the Diocese of Newark for the last four years. I have been a member of the ACTS/VIM Board and as a Alternate for the Clergy Delegation to General Convention in 2024. I have served at St. Peter's in Morristown, and now Church of the Messiah in Chester and St. Mary's in Sparta. In the past I have served as a Clergy Deputy to the General Convention in 2018 for the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania and was an assistant secretary for a legislative committee during that time.

I am very interested in the mission of the Episcopal Church, especially when it comes to the future of congregations. I am studying how we can have strong, healthy congregations in the doctorate program at Drew.

ACTSVIM

In the Lay Order:

Leslie Boston, St. Mary's, Sparta



I have been an active member in the Diocese of Newark for over 40 years, serving in leadership roles at St. John's, Ramsey for 35 years and for the past several years at St. Mary's, Sparta. Currently I serve as Sr. Warden. Through the years, I have lead church school, served on vestries, rector search committees, convention delgate, stewardship chair, altar guild, Outreach and LEM. I am retired from Cigna, where I managed people and projects responsible to deliver communications; transitioning to electronic delivery. In addition to my work at the church I volunteer at Bristol Glen senior living as a sewing volunter and working for the Sparta Food Pantry. I am passionate about the history and future of the church; and God's will for us.

ACTSVIM

Adrienne Harrison-Surgeon, Christ Church, Short Hills



I am seeking to serve on the Acts-VIM Committee as I enter a new chapter of life, recently retired and widowed, and eager to devote my time to meaningful service. At Christ Church Short Hills, I served two terms on the Vestry, chaired Education, and helped launch Episcopal Relief and Development as our first chairperson. I also contributed to the Outreach Grants Committee and remain active in the Altar Guild and Parish Choir. Professionally, I co-founded a nonprofit serving all 21 New Jersey counties, hold a Doctor of Education in Leadership and Management, and bring extensive experience in grant writing and program leadership.

ACTSVIM

Kirk Petersen, St. George's, Maplewood



I previously served on the ACTS/VIM Board and am eager to have that experience again. I am deeply steeped in Episcopal culture and governance, at the parish, diocesan and denominational levels. My wife Nina Nicholson and I joined St. George's Maplewood more than 25 years ago, and I have served on the vestry, as property chair, and participated in two rector searches. For eight years I covered The Episcopal Church for The Living Church magazine, first as a freelancer and then as a staff member. Currently I work as a communications consultant for the denominational headquarters.

ACTSVIM

2025 Convention – Nominations Report 151AC–R07

All Nominations Submitted by the "Late" Nominations Deadline on November 8th, 2025

Constitution & Canons Committee

To be Elected: Class of 2026 - 10 Members (Clergy or Lay, not specified) to a one year term

Patricia Arlin Bradley, Holy Trinity, Hillsdale



I am currently a member of the Committee and would be honored to continue serving in this capacity. I am a longstanding member of Holy Trinity, Hillsdale, where I have contributed in various roles, including vestry member and warden. Additionally, I serve on the board of Hillsdale's interfaith food pantry, the Helping Hands Food Pantry.

Professionally, I am a senior human resources executive with extensive and diverse experience across multiple industries, including finance, publishing, genomics, biotech, and pharmaceuticals.

CONCAN

Thomas Bisdale, Grace Church, Westwood



I have served on the committee for over 2 decades which might suggest to some that it is time for new blood, However, on this particular committee that is outweighed by the benefits of experience and institutional knowledge. Currently a member of the Trustees and the Disciplinary Board, I have also served the Diocese and my parish in many capacities. I am a member of the NJ and NY Bars.

CONCAN

Leslie Boston, St. Mary's, Sparta



I have been an active member in the Diocese of Newark for over 40 years, serving in leadership roles at St. John's, Ramsey for 35 years and for the past several years at St. Mary's, Sparta. Currently I serve as Sr. Warden. Through the years, I have lead church school, served on vestries, rector search committees, convention delegate, stewardship chair, altar guild, Outreach and LEM. I am retired from Cigna, where I managed people and projects responsible to deliver communications; transitioning to electronic delivery. In addition to my work at the church I volunteer at Bristol Glen senior living as a sewing volunteer and working for the Sparta Food Pantry. I am passionate about the history and future of the church; and God's will for us.

CONCAN

The Rev. Asa David Coulson, Grace Church, Nutley



Ongoing review of & reflection on the polity and procedures of our common life are important to a thriving and growing community - so I would be glad to be a part of that process in our diocese. I have been blessed to serve alongside the saints that gather at Grace Church, Nutley since January 2024; before that I ministered alongside the wonderful folks at Grace Church, Madison from July 2019 to January 2024. I am honored to co-chair the First Third of Life Commission (previously Youth Commission) since 2020 and previously served on the Diocesan Council from 2020-2024. I also co-led the LGBTQ+ TaskForce that developed at the direction of our bishop at the 2024 convention, and have since worked alongside the leaders of The Oasis commission.

CONCAN

The Rev. Nate Darville, St. Peter's, Essex Fells



I have served on the Constitution & Canons committee for two terms and I am seeking another term because I believe that like all ministries, the Diocese of Newark is a work-in-progress as the Holy Spirit hammers us into the people God has called us to be, and part of this requires the constant examination, reflection, and revision of our Constitutions & Canons. In a time where rules, norms, and laws are constantly being tested, we need to ensure our polity fits our time and place.

CONCAN

John Garde, Grace Church, Madison



As a lawyer and person historically active in the Diocese and in my church I look forward to continuing to serve on this critical committee. 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 and Vestry member at Grace Madison and long standing member of the Committee on Constitutions and Canons

CONCAN

2025 Convention – Nominations Report 151AC–R07

All Nominations Submitted by the "Late" Nominations Deadline on November 8th, 2025

The Rev. Dr. Paul Rajan, Good Shepherd, Wantage



I bring experience in establishing 501c3 here in NJ and operate it for the last 10 years and serve as Treasurer on the Board of Association of Episcopal Chaplain and as President for Global Episcopal Mission Network. I am currently doing PhD in Christian Leadership. I did recently a DMin level course on nonprofit management at the Bexley Seabury Seminary. I wish to be of help to our Diocese.

CONCAN

Laura Russell, All Saints, Hoboken



As a practicing attorney with over thirty years' experience, I hope to continue to bring my knowledge of the Canons, together with my experience in governance, to this committee. My experience on the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church, and as a Deputy to General Convention, as well as a vestry member and former warden, bring an important church governance perspective to this committee.

CONCAN

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



I am presently an active member of Trinity and Saint Philip's Cathedral for several decades, and have served the church as Warden and presently a member of Vestry.
I served as a Newark Detective Investigator for twenty-six plus years.
I educated students at Essex County College, Newark and West Caldwell Campuses for thirty-one years, after earning a Graduate Degree from Seton Hall University, South Orange.
I serve as a Community Member of Essex/Newark Legal Services Board, serving as Treasurer for several years.
I am also a Community Member of the Essex Ethics Committee, appointed by the New Jersey Supreme Court.

CONCAN

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



I have served on the Constitution and Canons Committee since 2017 and would be delighted to continue serving this year. I am Priest-in-Charge at St. Agnes' Episcopal Church in Little Falls and Manager of Spiritual Care at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. Previously, I served for seven years on the Commission on Ministry. I am also a member of the Ethics Committee at NewYork-Presbyterian Weill Cornell Medical Center and serve on a board certification committee for the Association of Professional Chaplains.

CONCAN

2025 Convention – Nominations Report 151AC–R07

Contact John A. King, Secretary of Convention, for further details.
(973)430-9919 or jking@dioceseofnewark.org

The Diocesan Council

To be Elected: Class of 2028 - 3 Clergy/3 Lay (Elect 3 Clergy & 3 Lay for 3 year terms)
two Vacancies in Clergy Class of 2026, One in Lay Class of 2026

In the Clergy Order:

The Rev. Joan Conley, St. Mark's, Teaneck



Since 2019, I have been serving as rector of St. Mark's Church in Teaneck. Over the years, I have welcomed opportunities to serve the diocese in such capacities as a member of the board of the urban service program Newark ACTS, as well as a member and chair of the Education Committee for the Commission on Priesthood of the Commission on Ministry. I have learned a great deal over my past three years on Diocesan Council, and I would welcome the opportunity to continue to serve the diocese and support its mission with a second term as a member of the Council.

The Rev. George Dredden, Christ Church, Short Hills



I humbly ask for your support to represent you at the 82nd General Convention. Service at General Convention really matters! The delegates set the direction for our Episcopal Church, and during these uncertain and tumultuous times, it becomes critically important. I served as your deputy at the 81st General Convention and was a member of the Social Justice & U.S. Policy Committee, where I worked on legislation and testified before the General body. In addition, I currently serve our diocese as Co-Chair of the Justice, Peace & Racial Reconciliation Commission; Vice-President of the Union of Black Episcopalians, Newark Chapter; member Anti-Sexism Taskforce; and member of the NJPAC Black/Jewish Dialogue Cohort. Your support is appreciated!

The Rev. Dcn. Virginia Jenkins-Whatley, St. Peter's, Essex Fells



I am presently completing a one- year term on the Diocesan Council, in which I had been appointed by the Bishop to complete a term that had recently become vacant. I would like to continue the work we had begun as part of collaborative leadership. Being elected to a seat on the Diocese Council will enable me the opportunity to continue as part of the team that navigates challenges and makes decisions to shepherd missional and budget priorities.

I am currently serving as Deacon at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Essex Fells. I volunteer at the Lighthouse and Interfaith Rise, two programs that faithfully engage in providing services to support immigrants and refugees. I also volunteer with the Prison Ministry PATCH Program.

The Rev. Dcn. Gail Kertland, St. Mary's, Sparta



In 27 years as a Deacon in the Episcopal Church, I have served in 18 parishes in seven dioceses. I have learned and grown with every experience. I served on the board of the School for Deacons in the Diocese of California and Mercer School of Theology in the Diocese of Long Island. I currently serve as a mentor for Bexley-Seabury diaconal students and facilitator for the preaching course in our diocese. My experience includes serving on the Commission on Ministry, Commission for Hispanic Ministry, and Parish Health Commission, as well as being the Head Spiritual Director for the Cursillo Board of Directors in Long Island. I am a Spiritual Director, Registered Nurse, Captain of the Army Reserve: a varied background and willingness to serve.

The Rev. Dcn. Dr. Leonard Roberts, Grace Church, Westwood



As a Deacon in the Episcopal Church, I seek your support to allow me to continue my work on the Diocesan Council, which I have served on since 2022 to date. Also, I serve on the Steering Committee that develops the agenda for each Council meeting as well as Co-Chair of the Council's Granting Subcommittee. My continued focus is to improve the Granting approval process to help our churches utilize the various funds offered through the Diocese. I have served as a Deacon for Grace Church in Westwood since 2022, work currently as a Hospice Chaplain in Bergen and Passaic counties, and served professionally as a college administrator for 35 years. Your support will help me to continue the work that I believe God is calling me to complete.

2025 Convention – Nominations Report 151AC–R07

Contact John A. King, Secretary of Convention, for further details.
(973)430-9919 or jking@dioceseofnewark.org

The Diocesan Council

To be Elected: **Class of 2028 - 3 Clergy/3 Lay (Elect 3 Clergy & 3 Lay for 3 year terms)**
two Vacancies in Clergy Class of 2026, One in Lay Class of 2026

In the Lay Order:

Susan Cancelosi, St. James, Upper Montclair



I have been at St James for over 30 years where I have served on the Stewardship, Search, Capital Campaign, Property and Finance Committees, and several terms as Treasurer and Junior and Senior Warden.

Although my education was in science, my involvement as a principal in a family business, lead to my being an incorporator of Franklin Bank in Nutley. In addition of being on the Board of Directors, I served on the executive and audit committees. (The bank was ultimately merged into TD Bank).

I have enjoyed being on the Budget & Finance Sub Committee of the Council and would be honored to continue.

Barbara Monahan, Christ Church, Ridgewood



I am interested in being apart of the Diocesan Council to use my talents, education and experience in the leadership of the Diocese.

I am a vestry member, Women's group leader and train Acolytes to serve at the altar @ Christ Church Ridgewood. I am a member of Valley Toastmasters where I help member develop their speaking and administrative skills.

I was an Accountant for a major car company where I lead a team to achieve tight deadlines while developing and implementing efficiency projects. I was a founding member of the company's Toastmasters group and Women's networking group where I held the President position for several years. Please note that I am a Candidate for Holy Orders to the priesthood.

Nick Orichio, Christ Church, Newton



After serving my first year on Diocesan Council I feel that I have more to contribute and learn. As a CPA and a financial leader in industry, I bring strong organizational skills and integrity to this position.

Kathleen Simon, St. Paul & Incarnation, Jersey City



It was an enjoyable experience serving on Diocesan Council in the Diocese of Newark for two consecutive terms and on the Steering Committee for a term. As a member of the now closed Church of the Incarnation and a current member of the unified St. Paul and Incarnation, I have served in various leadership roles including Vestry member, Associate Treasurer, Treasurer, member of the Finance Committee, member of the choir, the Audit Committee, President of the International Committee, Clerk of the Vestry, and a member of ECW. I am also currently serving as a member of the Nomination Committee for the 151st Convention for the Diocese of Newark.

I ask for your support in helping me to serve in this Diocese on the Diocesan Council where I can con

John Van Der Tuin, Christ Church, Short Hills



In my professional life I am an attorney practicing in Manhattan for 30+ years, including both appeals and trials of commercial and real estate matters, and experience in writing and applying by-laws for non-profit membership organizations and residential cooperative corporations. In my ecclesiastical life, I have been a member at Christ Church Short Hills for 35+ years and have served on the Vestry, and various committees including finance, investment, audit and out-reach grants committees. I have also served as a board member for the Episcopal Preaching Foundation. I welcome the opportunity to be of service if chosen.

Ross Wisnewski, St. Mary's, Sparta



I have enjoyed serving on Diocesan Council as well as serving on the Council Finance Committee and the Steering Committee of Diocesan Council. Each of those roles have allowed me to see How the larger church equips itself to do ministry by drawing upon the talents and gifts available throughout the Diocese. In turn, I have grown in my awareness of how I might better Contribute to mission and ministry in my church, and in my day to day life.

2025 Convention – Nominations Report 151AC–R07

All Nominations Submitted by the "Late" Nominations Deadline on November 8th, 2025

Disciplinary Board

To be Elected: CLERGY Class of 2031 (Elect 1 Clergy for a 6 year term) Plus Vacancies for classes of 2027 & 2030
LAY Class of 2030 (Elect 1 Lay for a 5 year term)

In the Clergy Order:

The Rev. Raul E. Ausa, Trinity, Allendale



I am honored to have been invited to consider serving on the Disciplinary Board. I have always felt that the Board's ministry is a vital one which is central to the health of the Church. Our communities are built and rest upon foundations of trust and vulnerability with one another and I have been heartbroken to see the way parishes and individuals have been deeply wounded when this trust has been broken. I have also seen that these wounds can be further compounded upon when these breaches of trust are not dealt with responsibly and diligently. I would very much consider it a privilege to serve with my fellow clergy and lay leaders in working to faithfully and mindfully address the challenges facing our Church.

DISBOARD

The Rev. Dr. Paul Rajan, Good Shepherd, Wantage



I bring education and experience in clinical pastoral education and spiritual direction. I wish to offer pastoral heart and holy listening to any struggles that our fellow clergies go through as there is always two sides to any story. I also have special education in Domestic Violence and peace building, currently I am doing PhD in Christian Leadership. I am an Oblate with community of Saint John Baptist.

DISBOARD

The Rev. Diana Wilcox, Christ Church, Bloomfield/Glen Ridge



I served on the Diocesan Disciplinary Board previously, as well as the Provincial Court of Appeal, and the Provincial Court of Review. I find this to be holy work to which I feel deeply called. These are difficult moments in the life of the body of Christ for all involved, as we seek "accountability, justice, reconciliation, restoration and pastoral response." I would be humbled to serve in this role again on behalf of the Diocese of Newark.

DISBOARD

In the Lay Order:

Laura Russell, All Saints, Hoboken



I have always felt called to Church governance. Currently, I am the President of this Disciplinary Board, and the President of the Court of Review of The Episcopal Church, which is the appellate court for clergy discipline. I have also served as a Deputy to General Convention. I am a supervising attorney at a public interest law firm. As a public interest attorney specializing in helping clients in crisis, I feel that my sense of justice, understanding of the law and Church Canons, and compassion for individuals brings support to this Committee and its work. I am also on the board of several not-for-profits, and on the vestry of my parish. I would be honored to continue serving on this board.

DISBOARD

2025 Convention – Nominations Report 151AC–R07

Contact John A. King, Secretary of Convention, for further details.
(973)430-9919 or jkking@dioceseofnewark.org

Trinity & St. Philip's Cathedral Chapter

To be Elected: Class of 2028 - 1 Clergy/ 1 Lay (Elect 1 of Each for 3 year terms)

In the Clergy Order:

The Rev. Asa David Coulson, Grace Church, Nutley



I strongly believe in the importance and role of a cathedral in a diocese; I would love to be able to support their current work and determine if there are ways we may together increase the centrality of a cathedral in the spiritual life of our diocese. I am currently serving at Grace Church in Nutley, a neighboring community to the cathedral in Newark; I have been a priest in our diocese since 2019. I am honored to co-chair the First Third of Life Commission (previously Youth Commission) since 2020 and previously served on Diocesan Council from 2020-2024. I have also been honored to co-lead the LGBTQ+ TaskForce that developed at our last convention, and to work alongside the leaders of Oasis as we seek to revitalize and expand their work.

CATHCHAP

In the Lay Order:

Sheila Barcus, St. Andrew's, Newark



My name is Sheila Barcus, I am currently seeking to be elected to the Cathedral Chapter LAY Class of 2028. I am a lifelong member of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Newark, NJ. I have served on various positions in my church. I have served as a Sunday school teacher, Clerk of the Vestry, Warden, Treasurer, and Deputy to Diocesan Convention. I serve on other Zoom ministries for the church, like Wardens and Treasurers, Small Church Congregations, Churches without a Priest, and Bible Study. On the Diocesan level, I have served two terms on ACTS/VIM, and two terms on Diocesan Council and currently I am on the nominating committee for Diocesan Convention. I feel called to help, and use my gifts, especially with my background experiences

CATHCHAP

The Standing Committee

To be Elected: CLERGY Class of 2029 Elect 1 Clergy to a 4 year term)
LAY Class of 2029 (Elect 1 Lay to a 4 year term)

In the Clergy Order:

The Rev. Nate Darville, St. Peter's, Essex Fells



I am seeking another term as a member of the Standing Committee because I am deeply committed to serving the Church on a diocesan level. More specifically, I enjoy the work of the Standing Committee in collaborating with the bishop's office and the national Episcopal Church. The strong relationships we have built within the Committee are especially rewarding for me.

Here's a summary of my recent experience:

- Rector of St. Peter's since 2020
- Constitution & Canons Committee
- Cross Roads Camp Trustee
- Facilitator of Preaching at the Diocesan School of Ministry
- Class of 2025 Standing Committee (current president and liaison to Commission on Ministry)

Most importantly, I am a Mets fan and we need as much of us as possible on the SC.

STANDING

In the Lay Order:

Nerissa Boccino, St. Peter's, Morristown



I prayerfully ask for your support as I stand for election as a Lay Member of the Standing Committee. I have just completed a full term, serving as Secretary during part of my term. My recent diocesan involvement includes serving as Co-Chair of the 150th Anniversary Celebration and as a member of the Communications & Technology Working Team sub-committee. At St. Peter's, Morristown, I have served in a variety of leadership roles, including Warden, Buildings & Grounds Committee, Investment Committee and IT. I have also been a Delegate to Convention and chaired the Congregation Development Committee, among other roles. I would be honored to continue serving our Diocese.

STANDING

2025 Convention – Nominations Report 151AC–R07

Contact John A. King, Secretary of Convention, for further details.
(973)430-9919 or jking@dioceseofnewark.org

Secretary of Convention

To be Elected: Class of 2026 - (1 - one year term)

John A. King, St. Andrew's, Harrington Park



I consider myself privileged to serve the congregations and people of the Diocese of Newark, I have always felt a call to serve and assist the good work of this Convention and its committees. I am proud to be part of this community, and I look forward to continuing in this role.

SECRETARY

Treasurer of Convention

To be Elected: Class of 2026 - (1 - one year term)

Samuel P. Reckford, Christ Church, Short Hills



As the CFO of the diocese, it probably makes sense for me to serve as the Treasurer of Convention.

TREASURER

Assistant Treasurer of Convention

To be Elected: Class of 2026 - (1 - one year term)

Rhonda Lutz, Saviour, Denville



I have been an active member of the Church of the Saviour, Denville since 2008. Currently, I have served as Senior Warden, Treasurer, Vestry member, Chair of Parish Life, chair of the Welcome Committee and president of St. Martha's guild. On a diocesan level, I am currently a member of the Diocesan Council and past member of the Trustees Committee and the Assistant Treasurer of past Diocesan Convention. In addition, I had the pleasure to be the first lay alternate for the 81st General Convention in June 2024. Professionally, I am the Manager of Data and Finance for Cooperman Barnabas Medical Center's Renal and Pancreas Transplant Center. I would my pleasure to serve as the Assistant Treasure of Convention.

ASST.
TREAS.