

122nd Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia

Nominees for Election

Standing Committee

The Standing Committee is composed of three members of the clergy and three members of the laity. It acts as a Council of Advice to the Bishop and assumes many Episcopal duties for the diocese if there is a vacancy in the Bishop's Office, as outlined in the Diocesan Constitution Article XV, Diocesan Canon V and in the Canons of the National Church.

Lay Nominees, *One member to be elected.*

Isabel Ware Burch, Bruton Parish, Williamsburg



I am a lifelong Episcopalian and have been active in the Episcopal Church wherever I have resided. For the past 12 years that has been at Bruton Parish Church in Williamsburg. If elected to the Standing Committee, I would bring skills and experience gained in a variety of roles at Bruton Parish, among them chair of the Rector Search Committee, chair of the 300th Anniversary Committee, member of the Mission and Outreach Committees, and vestry officer. I also serve as a Lay Eucharistic Minister. The second place of meaningful involvement in my life is Virginia Theological Seminary, where I was formerly employed. I am a member of its Buildings and Grounds Committee and the Lettie Pate Whitehead Evans Award

Committee. For the Diocese of Southern Virginia, I was privileged to serve on the Church Planting Task Force. Now I would again like to offer my best efforts and support to the Diocese by contributing to the important work of the Standing Committee.

Clergy Nominees, *One member to be elected.*

The Rev. John Rohrs, St. Andrew's, Norfolk



I have been the Rector of St. Andrew's, Norfolk since 2009, after previously serving as an Associate Rector at Christ Church, Raleigh (Diocese of North Carolina). In our Diocese, I currently serve as the Dean of Convocation III and as a member of the Property Committee. I previously served on the Resolutions and Memorials Committee. Prior to seminary, I worked for several years in the field of economic and community development. I am a sincere collaborator who is hopeful about the mission of our church in the world. I would be honored to serve on the Standing Committee.

Disciplinary Board

The Disciplinary Board is composed of nine members elected for three year terms, five members of the clergy and four lay persons. The Board, defined in Canon XXII of our Diocesan Canons, serves as the trial body for any member of the clergy charged under Title IV of the Canons of the Episcopal Church, which defines causes for which a member of the clergy may be brought to trial and outlines the rules and procedures that will be followed if such an action is initiated.

Lay Nominees, One member to be elected.

Larry D. Clark, Trinity, South Boston



I am a confirmed member of Trinity Episcopal Church, South Boston, Virginia, since 1991. During that time, I have served on the Vestry as Senior Warden and a member of the Search Committee when we were seeking a rector. My professional career was in public education serving the Halifax County Public School Division for over forty years. I began my career as a classroom teacher and guidance counselor. Later I served as the high school principal for fifteen years and ended my career in 2011 as the Deputy Superintendent of Schools. In the community I have been active in several civic organizations including the local National Day of

Prayer planning committee, the Halifax County Public Schools Education Foundation and the Community Criminal Justice Board. I also currently serve as a lay member of the Virginia Bar Association's Ninth District Committee on Lawyer Discipline. I welcome the opportunity to serve the Diocese in this capacity.

Helen Sarrett, St. Michael's, Bon Air



I have more than forty years of experience and service with the Diocese of Southern Virginia, first as a member of Eastern Shore Chapel in Virginia Beach, and currently at St. Michael's Bon Air. I have held numerous leadership positions starting with being elected as the first female Senior Warden for the Diocese, participating as a member of the Vestry for three terms, and working as Senior Warden twice. I have also served on the Vestry since moving to Bon Air eight years ago, and have been a delegate to Diocesan Council. Through the years I have been a member of numerous committees including: Altar Guild, Finance, Cemetery and

Discernment. In addition, I have been active in working with numerous rectors, with respect to training and education, by being involved with starting a seminary training program, and a Stephen Ministry program at Eastern Shore Chapel. I have also participated in EfM. I believe that my active participation in church leadership, and experience in programs designed to support and educate rectors, would help me to faithfully serve on this committee. I would welcome an opportunity to serve our Diocese, and should such occasions arise, I would prayerfully and carefully offer my comments and opinions.

Clergy Nominees, Two members to be elected.

The Rev. Sandra Kerner, St. Luke's, Powhatan



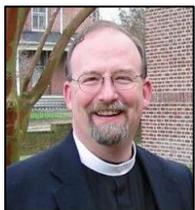
I have served as Rector of St. Luke's, Powhatan (2011-) and St. Luke's, Blackstone (2005-11); as Chair of the Commission on Ministry – Diocesan Formation and Dean of Convocation VIII, both for 3 years. Currently, I am Assistant Spiritual Director for Cursillo in our diocese. With many years of experience in social services and education, along with Christian healing ministry, I believe I can be of service as a member of the Disciplinary Board.

The Rev. Charles Moore, Merchants Hope, Prince George



I believe I have acquired skills and insights that would enable me to be a productive member. I have had a broad exposure to the tensions attached to being a priest, having worked as a supply priest, interim priest and rector. I have over 30 years' experience in pastoral psychotherapy, pastoral counseling and forensic psychology in a church setting, in private practice and in the state hospital. I have also taught graduate courses in Ethics.

The Rev. Ed Pickup, Emmanuel, Franklin

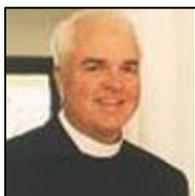


Education and Employment: Bachelor of Arts, UNC-Chapel Hill, 1974 Juris Doctorate, UNC-Chapel Hill, 1976; Master of Divinity, Nashotah House, 1988; Associate of the Royal School of Church Music, 2011 (ARSCM); Rector, Emmanuel Church, Franklin Virginia, February 1991 to present. Curate, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, High Point, NC, July 1988 to January 1991.

Current Diocesan Service: Standing Committee (2011-2014; President 2013), Executive Board (2007-2011), Talbot Hall Conveyance Committee (2011- present, co-chair), Diocesan

Relocation Committee (2011- present, co-chair) Talbot Hall Property Committee (2010), Constitution and Canons Committee (1992-present), Chair of Examining Chaplains (certifies academic proficiencies prior to ordination; 2006-present). Current National Church Service: General Ordination Examination Reader 2001-2013, Chaplain to The Royal School of Church Music in America 2004-2013. Previous Diocesan Service: Chair Jamestown 2007 Worship Planning Committee, Diocesan Organization Committee (DOC) 2003-2004, Chair Liturgical Commission 1993-2001, Spiritual Director for Cursillo 1997-2004, Chanco Board 1992-1997, Judge Ecclesiastical Court 2000-2003, Chair Resolutions and Memorials 1992-1994. Community Service: Commissioner for the Franklin Redevelopment and Housing Authority (2012 to present) Writer of the weekly religion column in *The Tidewater News* (2010 to present). Member of the Franklin Rotary Club (President, 2005-2006) Statement: I hope that my diocesan service and previous experience as an attorney would be helpful to the Disciplinary Board. I have served previously as a judge on the Ecclesiastical Court, the predecessor to the Disciplinary Board. Under previous canons, I was also involved in ecclesiastical disciplinary proceedings twice: once as author of Articles of Presentment (prosecutor) and once as liaison between the respondent's attorney and the court. I believe that the current canonical model is much better suited to the church and our mission "to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world." [BCP 855].

The Very Rev. Stan Sawyer, All Saints', Virginia Beach



I have served in the Diocese of Southern Virginia for 38 years. My past positions include two terms on the Standing Committee, member of the Executive Board, Chairman of the Department of Christian Education, Chairman of the Department of College Work, member of the Chanco Board, Camp Director for Camp Wakonda, member of the Ecclesiastical Court, Deputy to General Convention, and Chairman of the Board of Westminster-Canterbury on the Chesapeake Bay. I currently serve as Rector of All Saints', Virginia Beach, Dean of

Convocation II, and member of the Board of Trustees of the Virginia Theological Seminary. All these experiences have deepened my understanding of our Episcopal Church and my appreciation for and support of the clergy and laity who serve our Lord with such dedication.

The Very Rev. Shirley Smith-Graham, St. Martin's, Williamsburg



Ed. and Empl.: M.Div. Virginia Seminary, B.A. and graduate studies in English with teaching emphasis, California State University, Sacramento. Rector, St. Martin's 2007 to present; Associate Rector, Christ Church, Alexandria 2003-2007; Outreach Associate, Church of the Epiphany, Washington D.C. and Christ Church 2002-2003. Church and Community Service: Member of the Disciplinary Board, facilitator for vestry and spiritual retreats, board member of Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center. Former appointments & elected offices: Dean, Convocation V 2010-2013. Youth Transition Team, Mission and Ministry Foundation.

While currently serving on the Disciplinary Board, I have appreciated the deeply caring and responsible way we as a diocese have implemented this new approach. Our commitment to the health and safety of parishioners has been balanced with caring for clergy while also being willing to discipline clergy when substantial matters arise. If elected, I would be pleased to continue to serve the diocese in this role.

Provincial Synod

Our Diocese has three deputies to Provincial Synod (two lay persons and one cleric) who serve three-year terms. They are responsible to the Bishop and the Executive Board and report to the Board following Synod meetings. One of these deputies is also appointed by the bishop to serve a three year term on the Provincial Council.

Lay Nominees, *One member to be elected.*

Cleo Shield, John's Memorial, Farmville



As an active member of John's Memorial in Convocation 8, I feel I bring a needed perspective to the provincial synod. Smaller churches need representation at the diocesan and provincial levels in order to keep abreast of new services, knowledge, expertise, and resources the Church has to offer. And vice versa, smaller churches are adept at making the most of their resources and knowledge, a talent that is always useful. I look forward to serving the diocese if I am elected.

General Convention

Our Diocese has four lay and four clergy deputies, and four lay and four clergy alternate deputies. Deputies will attend the 78th General Convention, June 25 – July 3, 2015 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Deputies are not elected to represent the views of their diocese or constituency, but should reflect the will of the whole Church, act for the whole Church, and speak to the whole Church.

Lay Nominees, Eight to be elected.

Cynthia O. Barnes, St. Michael's, Bon Air



Growing up in Southside Virginia, living in Richmond and working with parishes across the diocese has provided me with a wonderful view of who we are as a diocese. General Convention 2012: Committee on the Consecration of Bishops. Diocese: Transition Consultant, Member of the Crisis Team. St. Michael's, Bon Air: Choir, Editor for LINK, the parish newsletter. Goal: to return to General Convention as a Deputy to continue the work begun in 2012

Mary Lou Crifasi, Eastern Shore Chapel, Virginia Beach



Background: As a lifelong Episcopalian I have a strong commitment to serve God and the Episcopal Church. I am Director of Christian Formation for Children & Youth at Eastern Shore Chapel. Within the diocese, I have served on CE-Net (Christian Education Network), the Chanco Board of Directors and the Shrine Mont Adult Education Conference planning team. I have served as the Convocation II Youth Director. I was an alternate on our diocesan deputation for the last General Convention and observed the education committee meetings. Statement: As a Deputy to General Convention I will bring my love of God, my experience in this diocese and my understanding of the polity of the Episcopal Church. I will do my best to

network and share important GC information throughout the diocese.

H. Carlyle Gravely, St. George's, Newport News



Biography: Carlyle was a Deputy to the 2009 General Convention and served on the Board of Episcopal Communicators. He has been St. George's treasurer since 1990 and also served on the Vestry and as a Warden. He is active in outreach and Christian Formation programs, in Cursillo and as a LEM/LEV. He was the Editor of *the Jamestown Cross* from 1993 until 2011 and served on the Diocese's Executive Board, Stewardship and PB&R Committees. For 12 years, he was the Secretary of Province 3. He retired in 2013 after a 42-1/2 year career at Newport News Shipbuilding. In the community, he is a long-time Board Member of the Boys and Girls Club of the Virginia Peninsula and has served on the Boards of the Peninsula Food Bank and Peninsula United Way Funding Committee. Statement: My experience at all levels of the Church and attendance at all or part of 5 General Conventions has given me a wide breadth of knowledge and experience. I have developed an understanding of the processes our Church follows as we seek to discern God's call to us. I feel that my background and experience would make me an effective member of the Diocese's delegation to the 2015 General Convention. Recently retired, I have the time to go with the interest and experience to support the church's efforts as we move into the future.

Toni Hogg, St. John's, Hampton



I was privileged to serve Southern Virginia as a General Convention Deputy in 2006 & 2009: Diocesan Youth Delegation Leader at General Conventions '94, '97, '00, and '03; and attended General Convention 2012 as a volunteer in the House of Deputies. Additional opportunities afforded me include: 1. Diocesan: Standing Committee '02-'05; Executive Board '07-'11 (2 years vice-chair); Bishop's Consecration Committee; Jamestown 400th Celebration Committee, and, 2. Personal (Global): Co-hosted Episcopal church groups to: Israel (3x), Jordan, Egypt, Greece, Italy, Spain, England, Scotland, Russia, China. I believe that my experience, acquired insights and skills are well-suited to the continuing challenges of General Convention and its committees' work. I have been blessed to witness and learn from so many others in The Church, and this has left me well-versed in discernment, listening and dialogue skills as part of an inclusive perspective of The Episcopal Church.

Chris O'Brien, Ascension, Norfolk



A "cradle" Episcopalian, I attended William & Mary and after graduation, lived in Washington for over a decade. I returned to Hampton Roads two years ago. I am enthusiastic about the positive changes happening in our Church. However, change should not be a wedge that drives us apart—we must discern together the Spirit moving through the wisdom of Scripture, our history and tradition, and prayerful and reasoned dialogue. I strongly advocate advancing the Church's ministry to youth and young adults by lifting up the most innovative practices inside our own walls and embracing successful strategies from other denominations.

Tony Robinson, St. Thomas', Chesapeake



Since becoming an Episcopalian in 2005, I have constantly sought opportunities to serve this church that I love. Besides serving as a deputy to General Convention in 2012, I have served in many other diocesan and parish ministries. I have participated in 4 search committees beginning with the Bishop search and including the search for the Youth Missioner, and two rector search committees (both of which I chaired). I was chair of the Commission on Ministry – Ministry of the Baptized, an eight-time delegate to Annual Council, and a member of the executive board. At the parish level, I have been senior warden and led the adult forum committee for the past two years. I am most excited by the possibility of participating in the election of our next Presiding Bishop in 2015.

Alice Webley, All Saints', Virginia Beach



I love this Church of ours and would be both humbled and honored to serve the Diocese of Southern Virginia as a Lay Deputy to General Convention (GC). I am able to meet the requirements outlined for this position. My experience with GC goes back to 1987. I have served as an Alternate Deputy, volunteer and as a legislative aide. In 2012 I served as a volunteer to the House of Bishops. I understand the polity and discipline of the church and I am versed in parliamentary procedures.

Samuel Webster, Ascension, Norfolk



Raised an Episcopalian, I have developed over the years a love of and growing appreciation for the larger Church. My parish involvement – warden, vestry, various committees (what would our Church be without committees!) – and my Diocesan involvement – Council delegate, Executive Board, Committee on Constitution and Canons, Chancellor – have caused me increasingly to seek God’s will for the Church. I feel called to engage in this dialogue in the larger Body of Christ – the General Convention.

Clergy Nominees, *Eight to be elected.*

The Rev. Dale Custer, St. John’s, Chester



A priest for thirteen years and privileged to have served the people of St. John’s Chester for nine years, I would feel honored to serve the Diocese as a deputy to General Convection. Presently, I am a member of the Commission on Ministry, Repairers of the Breach, and Disciplinary Board. Happily married to Doris for nine years, we have two children and one grandchild and share a home with two cats. If it is too cold to be outside, gardening or hiking, I can be found reading a book with a cat at my side.

The Rev. Keith Emerson, St. Paul’s, Suffolk



I have served in the ordained ministry for 26 years in five different congregations, the last seven as Rector of St. Paul’s, Suffolk. Currently I serve as Dean of Convocation IV, Diocesan Representative to Episcopal Relief & Development, and on the Commission on Ministry. I have been honored to serve the diocese through various other planning groups; most recently as the Chair of the Holy Living Task Force. I am drawn to this General Convention through its work of reimagining the Episcopal Church and its attempt to bridge the gap between national church structures and parish ministry.

The Rev. Willis R. Foster, Sr., St. Stephen’s, Petersburg



I am the Rector of St. Stephen’s, Petersburg, and have been since my ordination in 2010. Also I serve in the following capacities: the Board of the Virginia Leadership Program for Musicians, teaching the “Liturgy and Music: Foundations for Christian Worship” course that is a part of that program; Repairers of the Breach Commission; the Mission Network. In addition to these responsibilities I coordinate the yearly celebration of Absalom Jones and participate in the yearly celebrations of James Solomon Russell, local saint of the Diocese of Southern Virginia. The Diocese of Southern Virginia is environmentally, culturally, economically, and racially diverse. Consequently our representation at provincial and nation arenas should reflect this diversity. As we go forward from the Diocesan Service of Repentance, Reconciliation, and Healing for the sin of racism, I am hopeful that we be able to maintain the momentum from this service and allow for the participation of all in the governance of the diocese and the national Church.

The Rev. Henry McQueen, Hickory Neck, Toano



With an M.B.A. and over 20 years of corporate experience I have recently come to the Diocese of Southern Virginia after earning my MDiv. from Virginia Theological Seminary. I am currently serving as Associate Rector at Hickory Neck Episcopal Church in Toano. Within the diocese I serve on the Board of Chanco as well as the Diocesan Foundation. I have experienced the breadth of the Anglican Communion and now feel called to serve the greater Episcopal Church.

The Rev. Charles Robinson, Bruton Parish, Williamsburg



I was privileged to serve as First Alternate Deputy to General Convention 2012. In that capacity, I had a number of opportunities to participate on the convention floor and in sessions on specific issues for consideration. I hope to expand that experience as a Deputy in this coming Convention. As issues of reimagining and reorganization as well as the election of a new Presiding Bishop are pending, strong and trusted leadership is vital. I have served in a wide variety of leadership positions in this Diocese. These varied experiences have prepared me as an effective leader with a reputation for consensus building. I served 6 years on the Commission on Ministry – Seminary Formation, with 3 years as the Chair. I have been a Fresh Start Program Facilitator, a member of the former Disciplinary Board finishing my term during the transition to Title IV. I served on the Congregational Development Commission and the Commission of Status of Missions and Small Parishes. I proudly serve as a member of Repairers of the Breach – the Diocesan task force addressing the sins of racism and slavery. I am a member of the Diocesan Center Re-location sub-committee. I am the Dean of Convocation Five. I am entering my third year on the Standing Committee and will assume the Presidency at this Diocesan Council.

The Rev. Robin Teasley, St. Luke's, Blackstone



I have been an active part of this diocese since 1989, serving the church in both lay and ordained capacities, and as a Council delegate. One of my joys is experiencing the larger Church at Council. It would be an honor and privilege to serve our diocese at General Convention. My hope for the Episcopal Church is that it form a vision for effectively sharing the Gospel with an ever-changing world and I am passionate about working toward this vision.

The Rev. Samantha Vincent-Alexander, St. John's, Hampton



It was an honor to serve as a deputy to the 2012 General Convention. Since then I have gained more experience in the diocese serving on the Executive Board and as Chair of the Commission on Ministry. I am currently serving my second church (St. John's, Hampton) in the diocese. I feel that my experience in the parish and the diocese has equipped me with a new appreciation of the needs of the people of Southern Virginia. The Episcopal Church has enormous potential to thrive in this new era. I believe that requires a commitment both locally and nationally.

The Rev. Mark Wilkinson, St. Aidan's, Virginia Beach



I am seeking to serve as a deputy to the next General Convention. This is a critical time for the church where we will be electing our next Presiding Bishop and setting the course for the church in the future. I have served this diocese as a member of the Executive Board for two terms and am very aware of the problems that face our parishes both city and rural. We are a microcosm for the entire church and I bring a wealth of experience to this role. As an executive board member I served on the steering committee when we went through our Strategic Planning Process that has transformed the way our Executive Board helps lead the diocese. I have attended General Convention as an observer and while I have not been a deputy I understand how the process works. I believe that can make a very positive contribution for our delegation.