



You

have a place
in the Councils
of the Church!

Learn more inside!

Grace and peace be with you.

Believe it or not, the filing period is now open for elections for the 2008 Diocesan Convention! As you visit with candidates for and members of diocesan organizations, I hope that you may be inspired to seek membership yourself next year.

In this booklet you will find detailed information about the various opportunities. Please read it and consider prayerfully whether you might be willing to serve in one of these capacities.

Your committee and officers of convention along with the electronic balloting service will greatly appreciate your early response to this call.

The deadline for nominations is June 30, 2008, but we will be happy to accept them at any time. After the deadline, if there are insufficient nominations, the nominations committee will begin to solicit names. The process must be finalized by September 10, 2008, so that complete information may be sent to convention delegates.

There is a special convention link on the diocesan website at www.episcopalmn.org so you can stay current on all information related to this gathering. We expect to keep a running list of candidates as nominations are received, so that you can monitor this as well.

My staff and I are committed to serving the people of the Diocese of Minnesota, and to insuring the approved procedures for Diocesan Convention are carried out in a timely manner. Your help will be appreciated, and, as always, please call me with any questions or comments you have.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Gleason". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Canon Gary F. Gleason

Secretary to Convention and Executive Officer

**CANDIDATE INFORMATION AND NOMINATION FORM
FOR ELECTIONS AT DIOCESAN CONVENTION**

PLUS

**CANDIDATE INFORMATION FOR DIOCESAN COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVES AND YOUTH DELEGATES
ELECTED WITHIN THE REGIONS**

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Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Elected at Convention:

STANDING COMMITTEE

Description

The Standing Committee is responsible for approving ordinations of clergy in the Diocese of Minnesota, consenting to elections of bishops in other diocese of the Episcopal Church, and advising and consenting to various official actions of the Bishop. In the absence of an elected Bishop in the diocese the Standing Committee “stands” as the ecclesiastical authority until a new Bishop is elected and consecrated.

The *Standing* Committee actually *sits*. It’s called the Standing Committee because it’s a permanent committee existing even in the absence of an elected Bishop. Patricia Dibble, a former president of the Standing Committee, reflects, “I think the involvement in the ordination process is the most rewarding work.”

Who makes a good member?

People who are good listeners, who after listening can ask insightful questions; people who have a background in Human Resources; and people who have a good business perspective because some of the committee’s work involves consenting to the “encumbrance of property” (mortgages).

Membership and meeting times

There are twelve members with four (two clergy, two lay) elected at Diocesan Convention each year for three-year terms.

The Standing Committee meets six times a year with the possibility of meeting more frequently should matters arise that require the committee’s attention. Meetings begin at 9:30am and end at 3:00pm on weekdays. Regular attendance at the meetings is vital because consents require a majority of the committee’s full number.

Nomination information

If you think the Standing Committee is a place where you might best offer the skills and talents God has entrusted to you, fill out the nomination form found in the center of this booklet or at www.episcopalmn.org. If you’d like more information, please contact a member of the Standing Committee, as listed in the Diocesan Journal.

Elected at Convention:

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

Description

The Commission on Ministry assists the Bishop in recruiting and discerning persons for holy orders, facilitating clergy wellness, and lay ministries. It writes and updates handbooks for holy orders to reflect changes in Canon law. It acts as a council of advice to the Bishop regarding all aspects of ministry.

Ted Nelson tells how he has benefited from serving on the Commission: “Wow! First of all you get an entirely different perspective on the mission of the whole Church. When you see the enormity of the mission that is taking place outside the borders of your own parish, it is truly both humbling and energizing. Plus, you get to meet and work with some of the greatest folks there are.”

Who makes a good member?

Anyone who has a high degree of interest in (yes, even a passion for) both the lay and ordained ministries of the Church; anyone skilled at facilitating persons in discerning ordained ministries; anyone who works effectively with others, is attuned to the relational aspects of ministry, and likes to explore the meaning of ministry.

Membership and meeting times

One clergy and one lay representative are elected each year at Diocesan Convention for three-year terms.

The Commission on Ministry meets quarterly, usually on the second Thursday of March, June, September, and December. Members can become involved in sub-committees and task forces for special projects.

Nomination information

If you have an interest in the Commission on Ministry, fill out the nomination form found in the center of this booklet or at www.episcopalmn.org. If you'd like more information, please contact a member of the Commission on Ministry, as listed in the Diocesan Journal.

Elected at Convention:

TRUSTEES OF THE DIOCESE

Description

The Trustees of the Diocese of Minnesota oversee the financial assets of the diocese, including real estate, investments, loan funds, and planned giving. Each Trustee also serves on one or more of the following committees: Investment, Real Estate, Loan, or Audit.

Renee Carlson, Legal Coordinator for the diocese, says, “People in this organization benefit the congregations and the diocese by overseeing the financial health of the diocese. And they get to vote on matters relating to the Pooled Investment Fund, church loans, clergy grants, real estate transactions, and other financial transactions of the diocese.”

Who makes a good member?

Anyone with a strong background in the areas of real estate (preferably commercial), finance (including Certified Public Accountants), business, or law is an ideal candidate. A knowledge of diocesan structure is helpful as well.

Membership and meeting times

Three trustees, either clergy or lay, are elected each year at Diocesan Convention for three-year terms.

The Trustees presently meet six times a year, generally in January, March, May, July, September, and November on a weekday afternoon. One or more of these meetings may be a joint one with Diocesan Council. The various committees also meet on a regular basis, but some meet more often than the full group.

Nomination information

If you believe your gifts are in the area of the Trustees, fill out the nomination form found in the center of this booklet or at www.episcopalmn.org. If you'd like more information about the work of the Trustees, call Jeff Langaard, Principal Financial Officer, at 612-870-3313.

Elected in Regions:

DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Description

Diocesan Council oversees the programs, policies, and financial resources of the diocese. Unlike other committees and commission of the diocese, Diocesan Council is made up of the Bishop, the Canon to the Ordinary, and clergy and lay representatives from each of the nine Regions of the diocese. Members are elected from within their own Regions rather than at Diocesan Convention.

Council members act as the Vestry of the diocese and are responsible for directing the life of the diocese. Kathy Pluhar, a former First Vice President of Council, says, "There are loads of benefits from serving on Diocesan Council. Perhaps the most important is getting a complete education in the inner workings and personalities of the Diocese, and being able to have an impact on the day-to-day life of the Diocese. One additional, and very important, benefit are the new relationships formed and friendships made with men and women from throughout the Diocese."

Who makes a good member?

Anyone who has served on a parish Vestry, or as a Vestry Warden will be comfortable serving on Diocesan Council. The responsibilities are much the same – just on larger scope. Anyone with a management background would also find Diocesan Council a good fit.

Membership and meeting times

There are eighteen regional representatives on the Council and they are elected every three years at the winter Region meeting.

Diocesan Council usually meets eight times a year on the third Thursday in February, March, April, May, June, July, September, and December. One or more of these meetings may be a joint one with the Trustees of the Diocese. Meetings generally start at 9:00 am and end at 3:00 pm.

Nomination information

If you're interested in serving on Diocesan Council, please speak with your priest to learn the name of your Regional Dean so that you can learn more about the work of Diocesan Council and express your interest to be a candidate for election.

Elected in Regions:

REGIONAL YOUTH DELEGATE

Description

The Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota values the participation of young people in the life of the church. In order to be intentional about this value, each region of the Diocese, as determined by Council and ratified by Convention, is entitled to be represented at Convention by one Youth Delegate. A young person eligible for consideration as such a representative must be a communicant in good standing in a congregation within the geographical boundaries of that region, and must be at least 16 years old but not yet graduated from high school on the date of selection as a delegate. Each region should elect one youth delegate and one alternate to send to convention, preferably one male and one female. Elections must be in compliance with Canon 207.1b, which states that the Youth Delegate of each Region elected under Canon 205.2 is elected for a one-year, and not a three-year term, by the Regional Board. Regional Youth Delegates must be elected not later than the regional meeting before Annual Convention, as stipulated in Canon 224.8.

Who makes a good member?

Youth with a passion for policy and church governance, and with a desire to represent the views of their peers would serve well as Regional Youth Delegates. Those who have served as youth members of Vestries and Bishop's Committees can expect some familiarity in convention processes. Self confident and articulate individuals who don't mind being the minority age group will serve well.

Membership and meeting times

Youth Delegates should plan to attend their Region Meetings regularly and should plan to participate in Lay Leader Seminars and Fall Forums to receive helpful information about procedures and anticipated legislation. They will need to miss school on the Friday of Convention, and must coordinate adult supervision with their parents, their congregations, and their regions.

Nomination information

If you are interested in serving as a Regional Youth Delegate, or know of a young person who would serve well, please submit names for nomination to the Regional Dean. Once an election takes place the Region Dean must provide the information to the Convention Registrar to initiate the Delegate Certification process.