



# *You*

have a place  
in the Councils  
of the Church!

*Learn more inside!*

2009 Edition

***Grace and peace be with you.***

Please consider submitting your name for an elected office of the Diocese of Minnesota. Or, if you read the position descriptions and someone's name comes to mind as an excellent candidate with the right gift and skill set, please ask that person to consider running.

There are two outstanding reasons to consider running for an office this year, unlike any other year:

1. The Diocese of Minnesota is in the midst of a profound change as it imagines a new way of being the church through our mission strategy work. Participation by and from the grassroots is paramount to our success -- and to the building up of the Kingdom of God.
2. God willing, the IX Bishop of Minnesota will be elected on October 31, 2009. In partnership with the ongoing mission strategy work, holding an elected position and working with the IX Bishop during the first years of the episcopate will be a wonderful opportunity to make a new impact and continue the sense of mission that this diocese holds at its very foundation.

***Do you feel called? Will you pray about it and discern how you might play a role?***

The deadline for nominations is June 30, 2009, but we will be happy to accept them any time. After the deadline, if there are insufficient nominations, the nominations committee will solicit names. The process must be finalized by September 18, 2009 so that complete information may be sent to convention delegates.

My prayers are with all of you that we may have the grace and courage to begin to live in a new day, while remembering the grace and courage that have allowed us to be here today -- serving God and building disciples in the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota.



Canon Karen Olson  
Secretary to Convention and Executive Officer

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](http://www.episcopalmn.org). If you’d like more information, please contact Canon Karen Olson at [karen.o@episcopalmn.org](mailto:karen.o@episcopalmn.org) or 612-870-3312.

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](http://www.episcopalmn.org). If you'd like more information, please contact Canon Karen Olson at [karen.o@episcopalmn.org](mailto:karen.o@episcopalmn.org) or 612-870-3312.

**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](http://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 at Convention:

## **TRUSTEE OF SEABURY-WESTERN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY (Lay)**

### **Description**

The “Seabury” portion of Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois, was founded in 1858 in Faribault, Minnesota, by the Rev. James Lloyd Breck. When it merged with the Chicago’s Western Seminary and moved out of state, it retained its connections with the Diocese of Minnesota. The Bishop of Minnesota serves on its Board, and two Trustees are elected by our Diocesan Convention. The Trustees of Seabury-Western are responsible for both academic and administrative oversight at the seminary.

### **Who makes a good member?**

Those interested in the higher education and administrative work involved in a major seminary. Often the Trustees are alumni, but this is by no means a requirement.

### **Membership and Meeting Times**

There are two Minnesota representatives - one clergy and one lay - elected to three-year terms at Diocesan Convention on a rotating basis. One lay person is elected every three years, and one clergy person every three years.

The Seabury-Western Trustees meet several times a year in Evanston, Illinois. Travel expenses are reimbursed.

### **Nomination Information**

If you have a desire to serve as a Seabury-Western Trustee, fill out the nomination form found in the center of this booklet or at [www.episcopalmn.org](http://www.episcopalmn.org). If you’d like more information, please contact Canon Karen Olson at [karen.o@episcopalmn.org](mailto:karen.o@episcopalmn.org), 612-870-3312.

**Elected in Regions:**

## **DIOCESAN COUNCIL**

### **Description**

Diocesan Council oversees the programs, policies, and financial resources of the diocese. Unlike other committees and commissions 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."

### **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 in rotation every three years at winter Region meetings. Electing in 2010 are Regions 3, 6, and 9. Electing in 2011 are Regions 1, 4, and 7. Electing in 2012 are Regions 2, 5, and 8.

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.