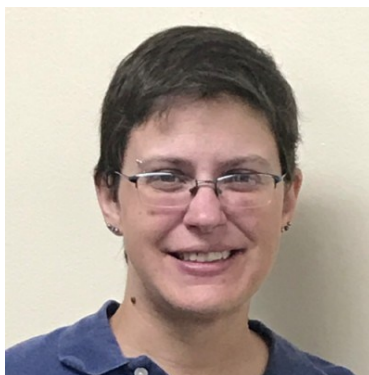


# Episcopal Diocese of Western New York

## Nominees for Diocesan Offices at the 187th Convention

### Standing Committee - Lay (Elect One to a 4 Year Term)



#### **Elisabeth Brauza-Hughes (St. Andrew's, Buffalo)**

I have worked/volunteered within the Diocese of WNY in a number of different roles over the last 20+ years. I have served various terms as Vestry member & clerk (primarily in a small parish); 7 years Diocesan Council, during which I headed the Governance subcommittee, served as Vice Chair of Council, and served on the diocesan Finance Committee; 8 years as a member (7 as Chair) of the Resolutions committee; and I've been elected as a General Convention Deputy/Alternate 4 times. Most recently, I served at the churchwide level as a member of the Task Force to Revise the Parochial Report Finance Page. I love Western New York, and I love the Episcopal Church. As we discern our next steps in Western New York, I feel called to seek a seat on the Standing Committee, where I

can put both loves to work for the good of our diocese.



#### **James Isaac (St. James, Batavia)**

I have served on Standing Committee twice in the past. The last time was when we were in the process of forming the partnership with NWPA. Both WNY and NWPA are again at a critical turning point with Bishop Sean's election to the position of Presiding Bishop. I look forward to WNY's continued relationship with NWPA, and both Standing Committee's working together in the calling of a new bishop. My past Standing Committee experience, I hope and pray, will help with the important work that will now have to be done, to continue God's will for WNY and the Partnership. I learned as a delegate to the National Convention, that many eyes have been watching what the Partnership has accomplished in the past, and will continue to watch us in the future. I hope that I will be able to continue that work in the future for WNY and NWPA as a member of the Standing Committee of WNY.

### Standing Committee - Clergy (Elect One to a 4 Year Term)



#### **The Rev. Diana Leiker (St. James, Batavia)**

I am so excited about the future of the church and look forward to experiencing whatever and wherever the Holy Spirit is calling and leading us to become. As we navigate the tension between "what was" and "what will be", we need to identify the needs of the present moment and how they can be met. I previously served on the SC as a deacon and the Arch Deacon while engaging with the wider partnership, our Deacons, and multiple congregations. My experiences equip me with a unique perspective and the skills to listen, discern, and advise the partnership in the absence of a Bishop and lead our dioceses into the unknown. I feel called at this time in the church's history to be part of the process again, part of the governing council, as we write a new chapter of our story.



**The Rev. John Marshall (St. Mark's, Orchard Park)**

I sense the Holy Spirit in our conversations at the grassroots level. I feel called to this office, to listen, to dialog, and to encourage the spiritual gift of discernment; understanding of the will of our people and the promptings of the Holy Spirit. My talents seem to be in conversations, in listening and probing below the surface of comments; to understand not only the words but the emotions at the heart of the issue being discussed, without openness and honest dialog we have the temptation to merely push our own agenda. My experiences as a Mercy Hospital Mission Effectiveness Director, Vicar, Rector, Dean, a member of the Diocesan Council and a Director for Niagara Hospice have given me some real experience on the parochial and corporate levels. As a member of the Diocese of Bethlehem for six years, I understand the culture and the nature of Pennsylvania religious Incorporation practice.



**The Rev. Claudia Scheda (St. David, West Seneca & St. John's -Grace, Buffalo)**

Working simultaneously with multiple congregations undergoing transition, staffing vacancies, clergy sharing or building new models in times of rapid change, I've realized a call to serve on Standing Committee. I served two consecutive terms on Diocesan Council, and with that recent experience feel prepared to approach Partnership evaluation and episcopal transition—along with the expanded workload this requires in the coming seasons. In addition to my congregational ministry, I've earned Interim credentials through Interim Ministry Network, and completed work in Family Systems and Conflict Resolution through the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center, Center for Family Systems Theory, and Kaleidoscope Institute—all of which help me understand the dynamics

and demands of this work, while building relationships with staff, committee members, and parishioners effectively. Elected twice as a General Convention deputy, my experience in church governance has grown by representing Western New York in 2022 in Baltimore and 2024 in Louisville.

**Diocesan Council - Lay (Elect Two to a 3 Year Term)**



**Cheri Maytum-Krull (St. Luke's, Jamestown)**

I feel called to continue serving on the Diocesan Council for another term because I want to contribute to the growth and guidance of the Diocese of WNY. My experience on the Council and the Partnership Grants Committee has equipped me to help the Diocese navigate challenges and seize opportunities. I have a strong sense of responsibility to support the spiritual and organizational direction of the Diocese and to ensure our commitment to faith, service, and outreach continues to flourish.



### **Robert Petersen (St. John's-Grace, Buffalo)**

Mr. Petersen has served on the Vestry at St. John's-Grace and, and before that, at Grace Church, Buffalo. He has also served as the St. John's-Grace Treasurer for more than 24 year. At various times, during rector transitions periods, he has acted as the person responsible to arrange for supply clergy for Sunday Eucharist. He has expressed an interest in finding way to overcome the trend in shrinking church membership and the shortage of parochial clergy. He hopes that by serving on the Diocesan Council he will come to understand and contribute to the work already begun to address these concerns be it at the mission, parish, or diocesan levels.

### **Diocesan Council - Clergy (Elect One to a 3 Year Term)**



### **The Rev. Diane Cox (St. James, Batavia)**

Diane has been instrumental in support of the Genesee Regional Initiative often serving at two distinct congregations per Sunday. Using her creativity and keen sense for the needs of small rural congregations, Diane is well-versed in the challenges facing many of our congregations. Her "boots on the ground" knowledge base, as well as her passion for bringing the church into the real world of Genesee, Orleans, and Niagara County, is a perspective that will benefit our Diocesan Council.



### **The Rev. Jessica Frederick (St. Luke's, Jamestown)**

As a new priest, the vows I took at my ordination in February are fresh, new, and very near to me. On that day, I vowed to "take my share in the councils of the Church." I have done this, as faithfully as possible, on a local level at St. Luke's. Since completing seminary, I have continued learning and practicing my passion for leadership through participation in the Trinity Leadership Fellows program. With this formation experience, I feel prepared and called to participate in the "councils of the Church" on a diocesan level during this season of transition. I will bring to this position my love for people and the Church, an enthusiasm for thinking about creating sustainable systems, the energy of a fresh perspective, and a creative vision for serving God and our communities in the ever-changing 21st century.

## Trustees - Lay ((Elect Two to a 3 Year Term)



### **Patricia Lalonde (Good Shepherd, Buffalo)**

I feel it is important it is to encourage participation from the laity so people in the pews can feel represented. As a former Roman Catholic, (Episcopalian for 42 years now) i see how the Roman Church is driving people away as they feel they have no voice in decisions. I have an accounting background so I'm comfortable with the financial aspects dealt with.



### **Ed Walker (St. Paul's, Lewiston)**

I have been growing more and more intentional about learning how our two Dioceses are becoming a functional and spiritual organization. I have been involved in leadership at my home parish for many years and attended Diocesan convention as a delegate and/or guest the last 10 years. I believe that serving as trustee will allow me to become more familiar with the functioning of our Dioceses. I look forward eagerly to assisting our continued growth as we look ahead in faith and hope.