

**Episcopal Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania**  
**109<sup>th</sup> Convention**  
**Nominees for Diocesan Offices**

General Convention - Lay (Vote by Orders to elect 4 Deputies & 4 Alternates)

**Ed Palattella (Cathedral of St. Paul, Erie)**



One of the Episcopal Church's greatest assets is its democratic governance structure. I would like to continue to be a part of it. I was a deputy to General Convention in 2015, in Salt Lake City, where I learned about the Episcopal Church's workings at the national level. Especially valuable was my service on a committee that explored ways the church can broaden its message through the use of digital media. I would like to get involved in those efforts once again, using my nearly 30 years of experience as a newspaper reporter and author as well as my experience as the senior warden at the Cathedral of St. Paul. Patience, flexibility and curiosity are traits that would serve me well. I want most of all to find ways to let more people know about the Episcopal Church and its unique way of living the Gospel.

**Craig Dressler (St. Mark's, Erie)**



The Episcopal Church has been a great blessing to my family, and it would be a distinct honor to represent our diocese as a deputy to General Convention 2021. Having had the opportunity to represent our diocese at General Convention 2018 and serve as Assistant Secretary to the Legislative Committee on Church wide Leadership, I have discovered a great passion for the governance of our Church. My work in the wider church has continued post-Convention serving as a member of the Task Force on Liturgical & Prayer Book Revision - an interim body of the General Convention. Participating in the powerful witness and work of the Church in the 21st century as we grow and adapt has been one of the most invigorating and life-giving opportunities of my life. I give thanks to God and to you for the opportunity to serve as a deputy to General Convention.

**Kaycee (Kathrin H.) Reib (St. John's, Franklin)**



I feel called to serve as Deputy to the 2021 General Convention. I have previously found the work of the HOD and committees exciting, challenging and satisfying. My spiritual gifts include prayer, discernment, healing, hospitality and faith. My experience includes many terms on Vestry (currently Sr. Warden), co-chair of the Shepherd's Green Community Food Pantry, Tiffany window docent, serving as lector, a LEM and a LEV, previous terms on Standing Committee and Diocesan Council; currently on COM, 5 times Deputy to General Convention, and serving on diocesan discernment groups. I am a Stephen Minister, and a Daughter of the King. I worked 30 years as office manager at a manufacturing facility; and continue to work part-time as a tipstaff for the Venango County Court. I believe I have the skills and experience to be useful, am willing to commit the time necessary, and love The Episcopal Church.

**Sara Nesbitt (St. Mark's, Erie)**



I am a cradle Episcopalian whose love for incense is only eclipsed by my love for worship that that welcomes the breadth of God's kingdom. My time at St. Mark's Erie, where I serve as Warden and on the Outreach (community service) Committee, has shown me new, vibrant, and living ways to be Christ's hands and feet in the world. I am hugely excited by the prospect of using this lens and the good work of this church and these dioceses to help the national church maintain its roots but flower in some new ways.

**James R. (Jim) McDonald, Jr. (St. John's, Franklin)**



I feel called to be a deputy to the 2021 General Convention because of my love for The Episcopal Church and an interest in learning more about where I might serve the Church beyond our home parish in Franklin and our Diocese of NWPA. My spiritual gifts include helps, patience, prayer and faith. I have been a member of St John's in Franklin for 29 years. During that time I have served on the Vestry, currently as Jr. Warden, worked with Vacation Bible School and the Shepherd's Green Community Food Pantry for several years, been a member of the choir and a weekly men's Bible study, served as crucifer and acolyte, and have also been a lay Eucharistic visitor. I volunteer with the local theater, both behind stage and as a performer. I enjoy being with people of all ages. I believe I have the ability to listen to both sides of a discussion and effectively work toward finding a resolution.

**Matthew Ciszek (Cathedral of St. Paul, Erie)**



I feel called to be a Delegate to General Convention due to my knowledge of Episcopal Church governance and polity, leadership in professional and academic organizations, and a desire to increase awareness of the greater Church both nationally and internationally. I currently serve as a Lay Delegate to the Province III Provincial Synod for the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania and have served on the Vestry of St. John's Episcopal Church in Sharon, PA, and have been a delegate and alternate delegate to diocesan convention in the Dioceses of Ohio and Northwestern Pennsylvania. I have held leadership and governance positions in the American Library Association and Faculty Senate of Penn State Shenango and Penn State Behrend. My knowledge of the Church, leadership in professional, academic, and Church bodies, and commitment to furthering connections in the Church have equipped me with the tools necessary to serve in this capacity.

**Anne Bardol (Church of the Holy Cross, North East)**



Many people are working hard to make our diocese be a model for other dioceses our size and larger to follow. That work continues as we open a new chapter with the Diocese of WNY, an example of our willingness to explore new ideas for our benefit as well as that of the wider church. It's an exciting time for us all to get more involved in this work both on the diocesan and national church level. I want to be a part of that and have a strong desire to help.

Treasurer; Bishop's Warden; Vestry; Parish Administrator; Lay Reader; Eucharistic Minister; Eucharistic Visitor; Diocesan Council '90-'02, '04; Standing Committee; Diocesan Audit Committee; Provincial Synod Representative '09, '12, '15 '18; Deputy to General Convention '97, '00, '03, '06, '09, '12, '15, '18; TEC Board of Archives '13-'15, '18; Joint Standing Committee for Program, Budget & Finance-'03,'06, '09; Audit Committee Chair of DFMS for TEC; Diocesan Search

Committee; Tax Accountant; Accountant/auditor, North East Fire Department – Fuller Hose Company and North East Cemetery Association; Treasurer of: The Bible and Common Prayer Book Society of The Episcopal Church and the North East Council of Churches.

**James Steadman (Cathedral of St. Paul, Erie)**



I would appreciate your consideration as a Deputy to the upcoming General Convention.

I have attended the last three General Conventions as a deputy for our Diocese. At my first Convention, I received press credentials enabling me to photograph in both the House of Bishops and House of Deputies to document the proceedings for our diocese.

I served on the Standing Commission for Small Congregations and in 2015 was on the Task Force on the Study of Marriage where I was attending a meeting on June 26, 2015 when the Supreme Court issued its opinion that same sex marriage was constitutional. I was later able to address the entire General Convention on this topic and was interviewed by the local Fox News channel.

At the 2018 Convention, I served as Secretary of the Committee tasked with the responsibility of considering revisions to the BCP, creation liturgies, translations of the BCP, trial use of marriage liturgies and authorization of rites to bless relationships.

In early 2019, my wife and I, at our own expense, traveled with House of Deputies President Gay Jennings to Zambia to review the work being done there the Anglican Church in Zambia in empowering women to meet the challenges of education, nutrition and child care as a result of HIV-Aids and violence in cooperation with Episcopal Relief and Development.

I think I can be useful at the 2021 Convention and would be pleased to serve again if elected.

## General Convention - Clergy (Vote by Orders to elect 4 Deputies & 4 Alternates)

### **The Rev. Elizabeth Yale (St. John's, Franklin)**



I greatly enjoyed being a deputy at General Convention in 2018. I think now that I have experienced one General Convention I can be more of a participant and advocate for the needs and opportunities of our diocese and others like us. I feel called to build bridges between generations and ideas in the Episcopal Church, on many levels.

### **The Rev. Timothy Dyer (Trinity Memorial Church, Warren & St. Francis of Assisi, Youngsville)**



I have been a member of the Diocese of Northwestern PA for most of my life. In the last four years, I have been the Associate Vicar for the Episcopal Mission of Warren County. During this time, I attended seminary as a long-distance student at Church Divinity School of the Pacific in Berkeley, California. This experience afforded me the opportunity to engage others from around the United States in various discussions which concern our church. It also allowed me the occasion to work with others who had differing opinions about issues that may confront the church – all while operating from a position of respect and God's love. I feel called to represent our diocese as a Deputy to the General Convention, engaging in discussions and decisions which concern not only our national church but our diocese as well.

### **The Rev. Adam Trambley (St John's, Sharon)**



I believe I am called to serve as a deputy to General Convention. I have gifts for the canonical and legislative work which is the focus of Convention, and have helped put together past General Convention legislation to provide childcare during General Convention, fund new church plants, and streamline the church's governance and structure. My experience will help me serve our diocese in this ministry. I have served as a deputy to General Convention four times, and currently serve on the Standing Commission for Governance, Structure, Constitution, and Canons. I am on the steering committee of the Acts 8 Movement, which promotes evangelism and discipleship in the Episcopal Church, and co-edited the book Acts to Action. I am currently our Diocesan Secretary, and have experience facilitating strategic planning processes and mutual ministry reviews. In my community, I have served on Sharon City Council and various local boards.

### **The Rev. Erin Betz Shank (Trinity Church, New Castle)**



I feel called to be a Deputy at General Convention so I can use my voice and gifts of discernment in representing the Diocese of NWPA and our ministries here for the greater church. While I appreciate and love our Episcopal traditions and history it is also essential to recognize and live into our current realities and make way for the future. I believe I can be a part of that change and movement at GC. This would be my first experience in attending a General Convention and it would be an honor to represent the Diocese of NWPA as a deputy.

### **The Rev. Stacey Fussell (Church of the Ascension, Bradford)**



As someone who chose to come to the Diocese of NWPA, I believe that I have a unique appreciation and perspective of the challenges and rewards of ministering in this part of God's Kingdom. As someone who has truly found a home here, I am excited about what God is doing among us and want to share that good news with the wider church. In light of the foregoing, I feel called to represent our diocese again as a deputy at General Convention 2021.

I have been ordained for 20 years. I served in the Diocese of Texas as an Associate Rector and then as Interim Priest at an established parish in a factory town of 70,000 and as the Vicar of a church plant in a rapidly growing, ethnically diverse suburb of Houston. I led one congregation through an interim and search process and another from a store-front location through a successful building campaign to the completion of their first church building and founding of an accredited day school with an enrollment of over 80 students. I have served as the Rector of Church of the Ascension in Bradford for almost 10 years, where we have experienced significant growth and have begun several new ministries, including a mobile food pantry, a weekly worship service at the University of Pittsburgh-Bradford and a Preschool.

I have experience serving as president of 2 different ministerial associations and a local Kiwanis Club, as an area Dean, as co-chair of a State Legislative Advisory Committee, and as a member of numerous diocesan boards and committees – including currently serving on Standing Committee. I have served the national church as a Reader for the General Ordination Exam, a member of the worship committee task force that crafted the liturgies for Church Planting found in the Book of Occasional Services and as a NWPA Clergy Deputy to General Convention 2018. I also have experience in the wider Anglican Communion, serving as a head of Secretariat Sections at both the Lambeth 1998 and Lambeth 2008 Conferences.

### **The Rev. Mary Norton (Emmanuel Church, Corry)**



I was a first-time attendee to the last General Convention, and it was a great experience. I believe I'm qualified to serve again as I am an attentive and active listener, can conceptualize and analyze the array of impacts various decisions might have, am unafraid to speak my mind or vote my conscience, and enjoy working with others.

My spiritual gifts of leadership, shepherding and wisdom lend themselves to the ability to work well with others, deeply consider short and long term ramifications of decisions and engage in balanced, integrated decision-making.

The experience I have gained through extensive volunteer leadership engagement in my community also helps me consider who might be omitted/overlooked as a result of a particular decision or who might be most impacted, as I work with a wide array of people, issues and situations.

### **The Rev. Melinda Hall (Cathedral of St. Paul, Erie)**



With gifts in organization and strategic thinking and a passion for a church that faces outward into the world, I have something to offer at GC. The opportunity to converse with church leaders, learn what innovative things are happening across TEC, and have a voice on future policy motivates my running in this election. Additionally, having served in this diocese for seven years, I feel I could represent us well. I would hope to add our voice to what happens at GC and return with ideas and experiences that would inform my ministry here.

### **Diocesan Council - Lay (Lay elect one for 4 Year Term)**

#### **Robin Murray (St. John's, Franklin)**



I feel called to serve on the Diocesan Council because I have the time and dedication to help the Episcopal Church grow. I offer the gifts of listening, confidentiality, prayer and meditation. I'm a cradle Episcopalian from St. John's, Franklin. I have many fond memories as a youth at St. John's and now as an adult. Several years ago I attended the school of ministry and found my lay calling in the Stephen Ministry. Expanding peoples knowledge about the school and that it is not only for ordained ministry but lay ministry is something I would like to work on in the diocese. Since then Bishop Sean has appointed me to the Commission on Ministry. At St. John's I'm on the altar guild, a Stephen Leader and minister, lay Eucharistic minister, Daughters of the King and recently stepped out of my comfort zone as lector.

#### **James R. (Jim) McDonald, Jr. (St. John's, Franklin)**



I feel called to be a member of Diocesan Council because of my desire to contribute to the work of the diocese, and I believe the Council would give me the opportunity not only to use my abilities, but also to help me learn where else I might be of use. My spiritual gifts include helps, patience, prayer and faith. I have been a member of St John's in Franklin for 29 years. During that time I have been a member of Vestry for several terms (currently serving as Jr. Warden). I have also been a member of the choir and served as both crucifer and acolyte. I have been a volunteer working with the Vacation Bible School and also the Shepherd's Green Community Food Pantry for several years, and I have also been a Lay Eucharist Visitor. I have worked at the local Barrow Civic Theater both behind the stage and as a performer. I enjoy being involved with people of all ages. I believe I am good at listening to both sides of a discussion and helping to find a resolution to the issues behind it. I have time and am available to serve.

### **Diocesan Council - Priest (Priests elect one for 4 Year Term)**

#### **The Rev. Timothy Dyer (Trinity Memorial Church, Warren & St. Francis of Assisi, Youngsville)**



I have been a member of the Diocese of Northwestern PA for most of my life. During the last four years, I have been the Associate Vicar for the Episcopal Mission of Warren County consisting of Trinity Memorial in Warren and St. Francis in Youngsville. In 2012, I organized and developed The Children of Abraham Project which brought together Muslims, Jews, and Christians in open and honest dialogue. As someone who was raised in this diocese and has received many blessings from God and this diocese, I feel called to serve on the Diocesan Council. I desire to use my organizational skills, sense of inclusivity, and ability to function as a teammate to give back to the diocese which has given so much to me. By serving in this capacity it is my prayer that I may assist in the diocesan vision of one church.

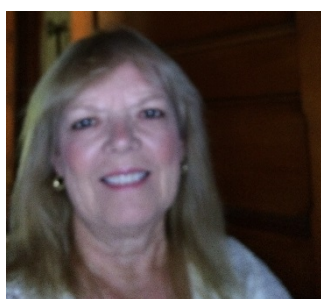
### **The Rev. William J. Ellis (Holy Trinity, Houtzdale)**



Having served one four year term on Diocesan Council I have become aware of how important the function of the council is to the Diocese in the day to day operations of our Diocese. In my former life I worked as the service manager of an automotive dealership for 30 years being involved in the day to day operations both financially and with customers and personnel. I believe this gives me the skill set to assist council working as a team. As the Vicar of a Historic Mission of the Diocese working in close relationship with the members of our Church, I believe I have the people skills to be a valuable part of council. We as a Diocese are beginning a new chapter in the life of the Episcopal Church with our collaboration with our Brothers and Sisters of the Diocese of Western New York to spread the Gospel in ways never before imagined. I would like to be a part of this new adventure as a member of our Diocesan Council.

### **Standing Committee - Lay (Vote by Orders to elect one to 4 Year Term)**

#### **Cathy Dinger (Holy Trinity, Brookville)**



I believe we must place a high value on prayerful deliberation as well as a strong commitment to working in a supportive way with our bishop. I enjoy working collaboratively on important decisions in the church and have a broad view of what it means to be an Episcopalian in today's culture. I currently serve Holy Trinity as the Treasurer, LEM, Visiting Eucharistic Minister, Acolyte, and actively participate in community outreach in Brookville. I have served 2 terms on Diocesan Council and have directed the Audit committee for 8 years. I previously served on the COM and currently serve on the Discernment Committee. My spiritual gifts are Discernment, Organization, Prayer, Helping & Giving. I am grateful for the opportunity to continue to serve the Diocese of Northwestern Pa.

#### **Anne Bardol (Church of the Holy Cross, North East)**



I am willing and eager to continue to serve the diocese as a member of the Standing Committee, if elected, and dedicated to its function and purpose. As we begin a new chapter in our history with the Diocese of WNY, it's an exciting time to be a part of this diocese and I want to be a part of that with a strong desire to help. I also have many years of experience at my local church in various capacities as well as on the diocesan level and with The Episcopal Church nationally.

Treasurer; Bishop's Warden; Vestry; Parish Administrator; Lay Reader; Eucharistic Minister; Eucharistic Visitor; Diocesan Council '90-'02, '04; Standing Committee; Diocesan Audit Committee; Provincial Synod Representative '09, '12, '15 '18; Deputy to General Convention '97, '00, '03, '06, '09, '12, '15, '18; TEC Board of Archives '13-'15, '18; Joint Standing Committee for Program, Budget & Finance-'03, '06, '09; Audit Committee Chair of DFMS for TEC; Diocesan Search Committee; Tax Accountant; Accountant/auditor, North East Fire Department – Fuller Hose Company and North East Cemetery Association; Treasurer of The Bible and Common Prayer Book Society of The Episcopal Church; Treasurer of the North East Council of Churches.

### **Standing Committee - Clergy (Vote by Orders to elect one to 4 Year Term)**

#### **The Rev. Stacey Fussell (Church of the Ascension, Bradford)**



As someone who felt called and chose to come to the Diocese of NWPA, I believe that I bring a unique perspective and a different approach to the challenges and rewards of ministering in this part of God's Kingdom. As someone who has truly found a home here, I am committed to helping our diocese flourish and am excited about what God is doing among us. I feel called to continue serving the diocese as a member of the Standing Committee for another term.

I have been ordained for over 20 years. I served in the Diocese of Texas as an Associate Rector and then as Interim Priest at an established parish in a factory town of 70,000 and as the Vicar of church plant in a rapidly growing, ethnically diverse suburb of Houston. I led one congregation through an interim and search process and another from a store-front location through a successful

building campaign to the completion of their first church building and founding of an accredited day school with an enrollment of over 80 students. I have served as the Rector of Church of the Ascension in Bradford for over 9 years, where we have experienced significant growth and have begun several new ministries, including a mobile food pantry, a weekly worship service at the University of Pittsburgh-Bradford and a Preschool.

I have experience serving as president of 2 local ministerial associations, as an area Dean, as co-chair of a State Legislative Advisory Committee, and as a member of numerous diocesan boards and committees – including most recently serving 2 terms on Standing Committee. I have served the national church as a Reader for the General Ordination Exam, a member of the worship committee task force that crafted the liturgies for Church Planting found in the Book of Occasional Services and as a NWPA Clergy Deputy to General Convention 2018. I also have experience in the wider Anglican Communion, serving as a head of Secretariat Sections at both the Lambeth 1998 and Lambeth 2008 Conferences.

## Constitution & Canons - Lay (Elect one to a 3 Year Term)

### **Anne Bardol (Church of the Holy Cross, North East)**



I am eager and willing to continue to serve the diocese as a member of the Constitution and Canons Committee, if elected, and am dedicated to its function and purpose. As we begin a new chapter with the Diocese of WNY, the issues to be addressed will take dedicated time to accomplish and I want to be a part of that with a strong desire to help. I have many years of experience at my local church in various capacities as well as on the diocesan level and The Episcopal Church nationally.

Treasurer; Bishop's Warden; Vestry; Parish Administrator; Lay Reader; Eucharistic Minister; Eucharistic Visitor; Diocesan Council '90-'02, '04; Standing Committee; Diocesan Audit Committee; Provincial Synod Representative '09, '12, '15 '18; Deputy to General Convention '97, '00, '03, '06, '09, '12, '15, '18; TEC Board of Archives '13-'15, '18; Joint Standing Committee for Program, Budget & Finance-'03,'06, '09; Audit Committee Chair of DFMS for TEC; Diocesan Search Committee; Tax Accountant; Accountant/auditor, North East Fire Department – Fuller Hose Company and North East Cemetery Association; Treasurer of The Bible and Common Prayer Book Society of The Episcopal Church; Treasurer of the North East Council of Churches.

## Constitution & Canons - Clergy (Elect one to a 3 Year Term)

### **The Rev. Elizabeth Yale (St. John's, Franklin)**



I am very organized and detail oriented. I have been on the committee for the past three years and was at General Convention in 2018. I'd like to help us update some of our canons to be more in line with the understandings and ideas developing in the wider church.