

115th Diocesan Convention Nominations

CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY, HOUTZDALE

OCTOBER 24-25, 2025



**THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF
NORTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA**

Nominations for Standing Committee

Lay- Vote by Orders to elect one 4-year term Clergy- Vote by Orders to elect one 4-year term



Joseph Croskey **Christ Church, Oil City**

I studied engineering as a cadet at the United States Military Academy at West Point, then utilized that training as a reconnaissance officer in the Army. After leaving the service, I also have experience in leadership roles, in sales and marketing, and IT. Since 2007, I have been a fixture at Clarion (now Penn West) University, helping students succeed as the Director of the Act101 Program, Director of the University Advising Services Center and mindfulness and meditation trainer while earning a master's degree in educational technology leadership and a PhD in Organizational Leadership. I am a graduate of Education for Ministry (EFM) and active member of Christ Church, Oil City. I also serve on the Joint Commission to Dismantle Racism and Discrimination and am completing a term on the Standing Committee. I wish to serve another term on the Standing Committee to maintain continuity during this time of transition for the diocese.



Ittsey Tologo **St. John's Church, Franklin**

Standing Committee. My years of parish leadership—as Parish Warden, Bishop's Warden, and Vestry Secretary—have given me deep insight into church governance, administration, and the needs of congregations. I also have extensive community and nonprofit leadership experience, serving on the Board of Emmaus Haven of Venango and as Acting Interim Manager of its Men's Homeless Shelter, which honed my skills in strategic planning, problem-solving, and collaborative decision-making. My professional experience as Auditor for Jackson Township, PA, and my background in Older Adult Services demonstrate integrity, accountability, and financial oversight, all critical for responsible committee service.



The Rev. Canon Martha Ishman **Non-Parochial**

I feel called to this ministry because I have a deep love for all the congregations that form the Diocese of NWPA. Because the Diocese is in this period of transition, I am in the position of providing some continuity on the Standing Committee and some experience in this upcoming bishop's election, having served as chair for the search committee last time.

Nominations for Diocesan Council

Lay -elect one 4-year term Priest-elect one 4-year term



Ed Palattella

Cathedral of St. Paul, Erie

The Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania's period of transition is both exciting and daunting. I would be honored to continue to help guide the diocese through it. I have learned much during my four terms on council, including my current tenure as vice president. I have run Diocesan Council meetings in the absence of a bishop diocesan, and I have developed a thorough understanding of the diocesan budget process. My job as reporter for the Erie Times-News requires me to be steady, transparent and thorough -- those are among the same qualities I would continue to strive for while on council. I look forward to our diocese's next stage.



The Rev. Joseph McGarry

The Episcopal Mission of Warren County

I believe I have been called to help lead the church in any way I can. I have served in church leadership roles for over 25 years and remain as passionate as ever for the Church of Jesus Christ and her faithful witness in the world; I have significant gifts in strategic thinking, collaborative working, and theological formation. Further, I have a helpful international perspective which I believe can provide additional beneficial insights.

Nominations for Constitutions & Canons

Lay- elect one to a 3-year term Clergy-elect one to a 3-year term



Anne Bardol

Church of the Holy Cross, North East

The Episcopal Church is a place I've loved from the first service I ever attended because I knew I was home. Having served as Bishop's Warden, parish administrator, treasurer and representative of Holy Cross at various diocesan events, I feel my gifts include leadership, help, service and prayer to the church and its people on whatever level. I have had the privilege of representing my church and our Diocese at several general conventions and find the learning hasn't stopped. Being 'church' is hard work, and I am ready to continue doing God's work.



Laura Rutland

Cathedral of St. Paul, Erie

I was confirmed in the Episcopal Church in 1983 and have been a communicant at the Cathedral of St. Paul in Erie since 2004. During these years I have served my parish as a chorister and lay reader, and I have led Adult Formation classes in Poetry and Spirituality and in Lectio Divina. I have also served as a convention delegate for several years. Now, in my retirement, I feel a calling to serve the diocese at a large in a new way. As an Emeritus Associate Professor of English at Gannon University, I believe my skills in writing and analyzing texts would be of particular use for the Constitutions and Canons Committee, where clear communication is deeply important. I am eager to support the work of the diocese in whatever way I can.



The Rev. Rebecca Harris

St. John's Church, Kane

I have great respect for the inspired order of our Anglican tradition, and a natural inclination toward detail and organization. I would very much like to continue using my interest in Constitution and Canons in service to the Episcopal Church and the Diocese.

Nominations for Deputy to Province III Synod 2026

Lay-Vote by Orders to elect two to a 5 year term Clergy-Vote by Orders to elect one to a 3 year term



Anne Bardol

Church of the Holy Cross, North East

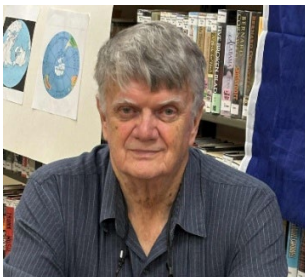
The Episcopal Church is a place I've loved from the first service I ever attended because I knew I was home. Having served as Bishop's Warden, parish administrator, treasurer and representative of Holy Cross at various diocesan events, I feel my gifts include leadership, help, service and prayer to the church and its people on whatever level. I have had the privilege of representing my church and our Diocese at several general conventions and find the learning hasn't stopped. Being 'church' is hard work, and I am ready to continue doing God's work.



Cheryl Wild

Memorial Church of Our Father, Foxburg

I have served as a deputy to Province III Synod for the past three years and would like to continue in this position. Being a deputy has enabled me to network with others who are involved in lay ministry as well as clergy. The exchange of ideas among Synod members has been an important resource for our Diocese and our home congregation. I have seen changes in the workings of the Synod and would like to continue to be a part of these changes.



The Rev. Geoffrey Wild

Memorial Church of Our Father, Foxburg

I have served as a deputy to Province III Synod for the past decade. I am also a member of the Province III Executive Council. I would like to be considered to continue these ministries as I have seen important changes in the workings and direction of the province which are very positive. Being a part of these changes has been exciting and beneficial to our own Diocese.

Nominations for Deputy to 2027 General Convention

Lay- Vote by Orders to elect 4 Deputies [Clergy- Vote by Orders to elect 4 Deputies](#)



Anne Bardol

Church of the Holy Cross, North East

The Episcopal Church is a place I've loved from the first service I ever attended because I knew I was home. Having served as Bishop's Warden, parish administrator, treasurer and representative of Holy Cross at various diocesan events, I feel my gifts include leadership, help, service and prayer to the church and its people on whatever level. I have had the privilege of representing my church and our Diocese at several general conventions and find the learning hasn't stopped. Being 'church' is hard work, and I am ready to continue doing God's work.



Kip Currier

Memorial Church of Our Father, Foxburg

I feel a call to build relationships with Episcopal clergy and laity (1) to listen and learn from Episcopal colleagues throughout the country, and (2) to participate in Episcopal strategic planning, governance, and direct outreach that can strengthen and revitalize our individual and collective ministries.

I bring decades of experience working with and on behalf of marginalized populations and all peoples as a public interest lawyer, librarian and library administrator, and a university professor with expertise in ethics/tech ethics, intellectual property, and management and leadership. I am an active contributor to groundbreaking projects like the ecumenical AI & The Church (2024) and Faithful Futures: Guiding AI with Wisdom and Witness initiatives



Craig Dressler
St. Mark's Church, Erie

It has been a distinct honor to serve the people of the Diocese of NWP and the wider Episcopal Church as a lay professional for the last sixteen (16) years. In my current ministry as Canon for Congregational Development and Transition Officer for our diocese, I have unique exposure to both the needs and ministries of our congregations, and the structural/canonical procedures that aid in or at times hinder this good work happening in the name of Jesus Christ. Serving as a lay deputy to the General Convention on behalf of our diocese allows me the exciting opportunity to bring my experiences (deeply informed by the relationships I have with the people of our diocese) and legislate in a manner that will benefit and advance the ministries happening in our diocese. Having served as an officer to the Legislative Committee on Churchwide Leadership, a member of the Task Force on Liturgical and Prayer Book Revision, and currently sitting on the Standing Commission on Formation and Ministry Development – I have experienced first-hand how the witness and experiences of our diocese inform, bless, and challenge the churchwide body to live more fully into the Gospel.



Cheryl Mumford
Grace Church, Ridgway

I believe I am called to a larger role within the church. I have previously been on Vestry/Bishop's Committee at Grace, Ridgway, as well as serving on various committees in my personal life over the past two decades. I have learned the value of listening to all viewpoints. I have learned how to discuss differences of thought and opinion respectfully. I have started and maintained a ministry in my hometown, which has given me the opportunity to spend more time listening. I also have spent over 20 years working in retail businesses, which has taught me how to be calm in the face of opposition, how to find creative solutions to difficult problems, and how to manage people in a supervisory capacity. I have come to believe that I have experiences to share within in the greater church and look forward to having new experiences as an Episcopalian and as a Christian.



Kaycee Reib

St. John's Church, Franklin

I feel called to be a delegate to General Convention 2027 as a committed Christian with a great love for The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion as well as our Diocese. The challenges of the future are huge, but in the discussions and disagreements of the House of Deputies, there is great hope and excitement. There is much to be learned and shared in formal sessions, committee meetings, small groups and casual conversation. Some gifts I have had affirmed are service, prayer, discernment, and healing. I enjoy meeting people and strongly support Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. My experiences on vestry, welcoming and working with people in our Shepherd's Green Food Pantry, serving as a tour guide, LEM, LEV, a former member of Council and Standing Committee, General Convention delegate 2006 through 2024, Transition Committee (2007-2008), and Diocesan discernment groups has been rewarding. I currently serve on Commission on Ministry and the Bishop Search and Transition Committee. I am also a member of The Order of the Daughters of the King. I would very much like to be a part of the decisions to be made and the work to be done. I believe I would be a responsible delegate and am willing to commit the time necessary.



The Rev. Canon Stacey Fussell

Church of the Ascension, Bradford

I have been ordained for 27 years and have now spent over half of my ordained life in NWPA. After serving as an Associate then Interim Rector at a parish and Church Planter and Vicar of a mission church in the Diocese of Texas, I answered the call to be Rector of Church of the Ascension in Bradford. In the past 15 years we have begun several new ministries, including a mobile food pantry, a weekly lunch ministry, regular worship services at the University of Pittsburgh-Bradford and a Preschool. I currently serve as President of the Bradford Area Ministerium, Dean of the NE Deanery and President of the NWPA Standing Committee. I have served the wider church as a Reader for the General Ordination Exam, a member of the task force that crafted the liturgies for Church Planting found in the Book of Occasional Services and the head of Secretariat Sections at the Lambeth Conferences of 1998 and 2008. I proudly represented the Diocese of NWPA as a Clergy Deputy to General Convention in 2018, 2022 and 2024. I believe my broad experiences in the diocese and wider church will enable me to bring strong insights and commitment to serving as a Deputy again in 2027.



The Very Rev. Melinda Hall
Cathedral of St. Paul, Erie

I have served twice as a delegate to General Convention, serving on a legislative committee in 2024: the Governance and Structures Committee. After two conventions, my understanding of how to legislate effectively has grown significantly, making me more effective at convention. Additionally, I bring a grasp of the canons, which is vital in governance work. I have gifts in strategic thinking, which is relevant to much of the conversations that happen at convention, as we legislate for the church of the future. I have a variety of relationships across the church, which are helpful when I need to better understand a resolution and have questions.



The Rev. Timothy Kroh
Church of Our Saviour, DuBois, Holy Trinity, Brookville

I wish to represent our diocese at General Convention, bringing with me my faith in Christ, prayerfulness, compassion, and a commitment to the work of justice and peace. As one of the few clerics in our diocese who enjoys full-time employment, I understand my responsibility to take on diocesan leadership in the various ways my gifts allow. I would endeavor to listen carefully to the hopes and dreams of our leaders, both clergy and lay, as I represent our diocese in this important council of the Church.



The Rev. Joseph McGarry
The Episcopal Mission of Warren County

I believe I have been called to help lead the church in any way I can. I have served in church leadership roles for over 25 years and remain as passionate as ever for the Church of Jesus Christ and her faithful witness in the world; I have significant gifts in strategic thinking, collaborative working, and theological formation. Further, I have a helpful international perspective which I believe can provide additional beneficial insights.

EPISCOPAL GOVERNANCE

The Episcopal Church encourages all its members to participate in the governance of the church, whether that means attending a parish's annual meeting, serving on a vestry or bishop's committee (two different kinds of parish governing councils), or running for diocesan wide office. We believe in what is sometimes referred to as distributed authority, so while our current Ecclesiastical Authority, the Standing Committee of NWPA, plays a special role in setting the course of our diocese, there are well established channels through which priests, deacons and lay people exercise authority at the parish and diocesan levels and in the wider church. We believe that the church is best able to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit through such broad-based communal discernment.

