

What does the Nominations Committee do?

The Nominations Committee, a bishop-appointed group of no fewer than five members, identifies potential nominees for diocesan office, reviews skills and experience for the best match with open positions, and produces a slate of candidates for each open position (by Canon a minimum of two persons for each position, except that only one candidate is required when an incumbent Diocesan Council member stands for re-election; convention officers may also have one candidate;). In developing this slate of candidates, the Committee:

- Gives due consideration to the value of diversity;
- Strives for balance between experienced and new voices;
- Works to match the skills and experience of nominees with the job description, skill set and experience required for each governing body;
- Supports current members who wish to run for a second term, if eligible.

This slate is developed through several methods:

- Any person eligible to run (see eligibility notes below) may self-nominate;
- Any person in the Diocese may recommend someone else who is eligible to run, having confirmed that person is willing to stand for election;
- Committee members contact regional ministry leadership and diocesan commission leadership to request recommendations.

If you have someone in mind, check with them to see if they are interested and then forward their name and contact information to the Committee. If you talk with someone prior to providing a name to the committee, let them know that no one is automatically nominated by the Committee. If a person you recommend, or a person who self-nominates, is not selected by the Committee to be on the slate of candidates, they will be notified and have the option to arrange to be nominated from the floor at the convention.

Who is eligible to stand for election?

Clerical nominees:

- Must be canonically resident in our diocese.
- May be, but not limited to, rectors, vicars, deacons, retired or non-parochial priests.
- Licensed clergy who are canonically resident in another diocese or who belong to a different denomination (like Lutheran clergy serving in an Episcopal congregation) are not eligible.

Lay nominees:

- Must be adult communicants in good standing in a congregation of our diocese.

According to our diocesan canons, a communicant is a baptized person who is faithful in corporate worship and who has received the Sacrament of Holy Communion in this church at least three times during the preceding 12 months; communicants 16 years of age and older are considered adult communicants. A Communicant in Good Standing is a communicant who is a recorded contributor to the support of the church with money or with personal service as determined by the rector or vicar of the congregation.

What positions are open for election in 2025?

Commission on Ministry:

- 1 three-year lay position
- 1 two-year unexpired lay position
- 2 three-year clergy positions

Diocesan Council

- **Regional positions** (all elected unless noted)
 - **Evergreen** – (three year, lay or clergy)
 - **Rainier** – (three year, lay or clergy)
 - **Mt. Baker** – (three year, lay or clergy)
- **At-large** – (three year, lay position)

Standing Committee:

- 1 four-year lay position
- 1 four-year clergy position

General Convention Deputation: See Document B.2

Are there job descriptions for these positions?

Commission on Ministry: The primary canonical responsibility of the Commission on Ministry (COM) is to assist the Bishop in matters related to discernment and selection of persons for ministry; in the guidance and pastoral care of all candidates for Holy Orders, as well as lay professionals and other baptized persons; and in matters pertaining to lifelong learning. The Commission does this by facilitating the process for authentic individual discernment in community, by listening to the Holy Spirit and the sacred in each person, and by helping discerners grow spiritually as they identify their place in building the Kingdom of God. Members of the COM represent all orders of ministry laid out in the Catechism. Members are appointed for three-year terms by the Bishop, with terms beginning after diocesan convention. The work of our diocesan COM is done through periodic meetings as well as two in-depth retreats for those in process for holy orders. High value is placed on authenticity and integrity; listening and communication skills; intentional work focused on anti-racism skills, equity and inclusion; and compassionate understanding.

Diocesan Council: Between Diocesan Conventions the Diocesan Council oversees the budget and program goals of the Diocese, carrying out the priorities adopted by Convention. The Council develops a proposed budget to be ratified by the next Convention, and monitors income and reviews/recommends changes to the current year budget as needed. Members assume and accept the role of public relations and good will toward individuals and congregations facilitating connectedness within the Diocese. Members attend the Diocesan Convention as voting members during their terms of office. Members also accept assignments, work on committees and task groups,

and attend regional, committee, and commission meetings as necessary. The Council meets 6-8 times a year; usually Thursday afternoon; plus 1-2 Saturday governing bodies retreats each year.

Standing Committee: The Standing Committee serves as a council of advice for the bishop on all matters, including decisions related to the sale, encumbrance, or disposal of real property throughout the diocese. Other diocesan responsibilities include interviews and consent or withholding consent of persons seeking ordination to the diaconate or priesthood. In addition, the Standing Committee has judicial responsibilities in cases of clergy misconduct including clergy or complainants who do not accept the adjudication of the bishop. National and international responsibilities include giving or withholding consent to election of bishops within the wider Episcopal Church. The Standing Committee places high value on prayerful deliberation as well as a strong commitment to working in a supportive way with our bishop. If you enjoy working collaboratively on important decisions in the church and have a broad view of what it means to be an Episcopalian, then the Standing Committee might be of interest to you. The Standing Committee meets monthly; usually on Tuesday mid-day.

If I have a proposed nominee, how do I get that information to the Committee?

You may send information by email to [Nominations Committee, nominations@ecww.org](mailto:nominations@ecww.org).

Is there a deadline for nominations?

While there is no specific deadline for nominations as candidates may be nominated from the floor, the work of the Nominations Committee is complete and a report prepared following the 45-day canonical deadline for other convention reports, which in 2025 is September 9. **The deadline for submission of nominee statement, picture, and video, is October 1.**