

This draft report reflects information received by October 7th.

With a 150-word limit, each candidate was asked to provide a brief biographical statement, highlighting the skills, talents, and abilities they feel would make them an asset to the deputation, as well as any prior ministry experience within congregations or the Diocese. Candidates were also asked to answer two follow-up questions pertaining to their approach as a deputy and what changes they would pursue for the wider Episcopal Church.

NOMINEES AT-A-GLANCE

Clergy Deputy (pg. 2-10)

Alfredo Feregrino
St. Luke's / San Lucas, Vancouver

Cristi Chapman
Office of the Bishop

Courtney Jones
Christ Church, Anacortes

Elise Johnstone
St. John the Baptist, Seattle

Eric Stelle
St. John's, Gig Harbor

Hillary Kimsey
St. Antony of Egypt, Silverdale

Josh Hosler
Good Shepherd, Federal Way

Nic Mather
St. Stephen's, Longview

Tom Sramek, Jr.
St. Andrew's, Aberdeen

Lay Deputy (pg. 11-15)

April Thomson
St. Paul's, Bellingham

Katelyn Cowell
St. Columba's, Kent

Lillian Springer
St. Matthew / San Mateo, Auburn

MJ Barrett
Christ Church, Anacortes

Rose Hazard
Saint Mark's Cathedral, Seattle

Sherina James
Christ Church, Tacoma

Tieran Sweeny-Bender
Epiphany, Seattle

The General Convention, among the world's largest legislative bodies, consists of two houses: Bishops and Deputies (lay and clergy). Committees play a crucial role in shaping legislation, making their assignments valuable. Our diocese has benefited from such roles. While deputies vote independently, caucusing and discussions – both during and before the convention – aid informed decision-making.

for the position of
CLERGY DEPUTY - GENERAL CONVENTION

Alfredo Feregrino - St. Luke's / San Lucas, Vancouver

Brief Biographical Statement

The Rev. Alfredo Feregrino serves as Priest-in-Charge at St. Luke's~San Lucas Episcopal Church in Vancouver WA. He previously served for five years as Associate Rector and Director of Congregational Development and Welcome at All Saints Pasadena, the largest Episcopal church on the West Coast, where he led initiatives that strengthened connection, engagement, and growth. Ordained in 2013 as the first Latino priest in the Diocese of Olympia, Alfredo brings experience in diocesan governance, having served four years on the Standing Committee during Bishop Greg Rickel's episcopacy. He also founded Our Lady of Guadalupe Episcopal Church in Seattle, a bilingual, multicultural congregation focused on cross-cultural relationship-building. A native of Mexico City and fluent in Spanish and English, Alfredo brings gifts in leadership development, multicultural ministry, congregational growth, and collaboration across diverse communities. His ministry emphasizes unity, discernment, and mission.



Who Will Nominate You?

Gregory Sabin

Who Will Second?

Janet Diane Smith

What draws you to the wider Episcopal Church's work, and how would this shape your approach as a deputy?

What draws me to the wider Episcopal Church's work is the way our common life—expressed through General Convention—embodies both diversity and unity. In the midst of many voices, perspectives, and experiences, we discern together how the Spirit is calling us to witness in the world. I value the Episcopal Church's democratic and prayerful process, where bishops, clergy, and lay leaders share equal responsibility in shaping our mission. As a deputy, this would shape my approach by grounding me in both deep listening and thoughtful collaboration. While deputies vote independently, I see great wisdom in conversation, and committee work that helps us weigh complex issues with care. I would carry a spirit of openness, seeking to balance the needs of our local diocese with the vision of the wider church, always remembering that our ultimate task is to God's mission in the world.

What changes, if any, do you hope for in the wider Episcopal Church, and how would you pursue them?

I hope the wider Episcopal Church continues to grow in ways that strengthen inclusion, creativity, and collaboration. We are a church blessed with deep tradition, yet called to respond faithfully to new challenges in our time. I long to see us widen the circle of belonging across cultures and generations, encourage fresh models of ministry, and support congregations in their efforts to share the Good News in creative ways. As a deputy, I would pursue these hopes by listening carefully to diverse voices, especially those often left at the margins, and bringing their perspectives into our common discernment. I would support legislation that fosters collaboration between dioceses and congregations, believing that our vitality depends on working together rather than in isolation. Lasting change requires listening, building trust, and empowering local communities, and I am committed to helping the Episcopal Church live more fully into that vision.

for the position of
CLERGY DEPUTY - GENERAL CONVENTION

Cristi Chapman - *Office of the Bishop*

Brief Biographical Statement

Currently, I serve as the Canon to the Ordinary for the Diocese of Olympia. In that role, I have the privilege of working closely with the bishop and key leaders throughout the diocese to discern and carry out the mission of our diocese in this new season of mutual ministry with Bishop LaBelle. I have also served as the rector of Saint David's, Friday Harbor, the Executive Director of the Mission to Seafarers, and as a canon and curate at Saint Mark's Cathedral. For three years, I also served as the convener of the Budget and Finance Committee of Diocesan Council. Before discerning a call to ordained ministry, I was a CPA and spent most of my accounting career in senior finance roles at the University of Washington.



Who Will Nominate You?

The Rev. Elise Johnstone

Who Will Second?

Heather Irwin

What draws you to the wider Episcopal Church's work, and how would this shape your approach as a deputy?

Serving as a deputy will give me deeper insight into the current issues and opportunities that confront The Episcopal Church more broadly and how those impact our diocese. My hope is that this will help me be more effective and faithful in my work supporting the bishop and working with all of you in our diocese. Making connections and building deeper relationships across the church is also important. I've had the opportunity to do that with fellow Canons to the Ordinary through Province VIII and with transition ministers throughout the church. Continuing to build these relationships so that we can learn from each other, share what's good and holy about our ministries is important, and discern how we might creatively partner with each other in the future.

What changes, if any, do you hope for in the wider Episcopal Church, and how would you pursue them?

This is a unique time for The Episcopal Church with a new Presiding Bishop. PB Rowe's willingness to examine how "Church Center" supports ministry has been refreshing. It has also felt chaotic. It's important for the PB to communicate clearly (e.g., wider church and the House of Bishops) what his vision is. How the triennial budget reflects that vision and that of General Convention is critical. For instance, how does the budget support "local" ministries at the province/diocesan level? How should those be funded (e.g., TEC ask/assessment)? Discerning how other structures effectively support faithful ministry and clergy compensation and wellness (e.g., CPG) is needed. TEC also needs to find more ways to break down silos, including across diocesan and provincial lines. Some of that is happening now, but there is lots of work to be done. How clergy transitions and deployment happen is one example.

for the position of
CLERGY DEPUTY - GENERAL CONVENTION

Courtney Jones - *Christ Church, Anacortes*

Brief Biographical Statement

I currently serve as the Interim Vicar of Christ Church in Anacortes, and have done supply in several churches in the Mount Baker Region. I live in Ferndale, and had the privilege to do a round of field education at St. Paul's Bellingham. Prior to moving to Washington, I served at a large congregation in Texas. I came to the priesthood after two decades in education, a field that requires both attention to detail and people skills. I consider myself a "church governance nerd," and have attended General Convention as both a deputy and a volunteer. As a deputy, I have previously been appointed to the Church Planting and Evangelism Committee and Liturgy Planning Committee. I have a helpful number of connections across the wider Church due to associations with the LGBTQ+ Caucus, the Association for Episcopal Deacons, and my work with Backstory Preaching.



Who Will Nominate You?

April Thomson

Who Will Second?

The Rev. Eric Johnson

What draws you to the wider Episcopal Church's work, and how would this shape your approach as a deputy?

Having grown up a queer Southern Baptist kid in the Texas Panhandle, the Episcopal Church was a lifeline for me. It was really the first place where I felt accepted as I was, and able to grow into who God was calling me to be. Truly, it was the first place where I felt that I could have a meaningful relationship with the living God. I want to be involved in Church Governance because I want the Church of the future to be for others what it has been for me: a place of welcome and transformation. This desire forms my approach to being a deputy, in that I'm evangelism-focused, discipleship-focused, and focused on policy that elevates the voices and leadership of young adults in the Church.

What changes, if any, do you hope for in the wider Episcopal Church, and how would you pursue them?

What I hope for in the wider Episcopal Church is that we would lean more into becoming a Church of welcome, evangelism, and reconciliation. I would love for more people who have felt rejected by the Church to find a home in the Episcopal Church. I'd love it if, as a Church, we made a compelling case for why it's great to be both "spiritual" AND "religious." As a deputy, I would pursue this by supporting initiatives that strengthen evangelism and discipleship, so that more congregations feel empowered to share their faith in authentic, inviting ways. I would also advocate for leadership opportunities that lift up diverse voices, knowing that we are strengthened by the wisdom brought to the table by historically marginalized voices. I believe this work is tied to the work of reconciliation that God is doing in the world.

for the position of
CLERGY DEPUTY - GENERAL CONVENTION

Elise Johnstone - *St. John the Baptist, Seattle*

Brief Biographical Statement

It has been a blessing to serve as the Rector of St. John the Baptist, West Seattle since 2021. I am a graduate of the General Theological Seminary (M. Div.), and the Sewanee School of Theology (Doctor of Ministry in Liturgy). I've served in congregations (Good Shepherd, Lexington KY and Holy Trinity, Georgetown KY) as well as the Canon to the Ordinary in the Diocese of Lexington (2014-2021) prior to serving St. John's. In 20 years of ordained ministry, I strive to be grounded in our Episcopal liturgy, theology, and ethos; and work with lay leadership with energy, enthusiasm, that we, together, can see where the Holy Spirit is empowering us to follow God's call. Continual formation in congregational development (like CCD) as well as work with reckoning, truth-telling, and repair in terms of the Episcopal Church's past, present, and future has undergirded me and the context in which I serve.



Who Will Nominate You?

The Rev. Cn. Cristi Chapman

Who Will Second?

Tieran Sweeney-Bender

What draws you to the wider Episcopal Church's work, and how would this shape your approach as a deputy?

For most of my life, I have valued the relationships and network that is the wider Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. I have found that we can inform one another's experience, to help us see the joys and struggles of mission and ministry in different contexts. I have served as a Deputy to General Convention (2012, 2015, 2018, serving as chair in 2015 and 2018) from the Diocese of Lexington, and I served as the 1st alternate deputy for Olympia in 2024. On the Church-wide level, since 2016, I served as a member, the Episcopal vice-chair, and the chair of the Presbyterian-Episcopal Dialogue. I am currently a member of the Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations, and the Task Force on the Anglican Communion and Countering the Colonial Mindset. My experience in the parish and diocese have informed how we can, in wider connection, can work together at our best, and also deal with deep challenges.

What changes, if any, do you hope for in the wider Episcopal Church, and how would you pursue them?

It would be a privilege to represent Olympia as a Deputy to General Convention. I have experienced first-hand when the Church (at all levels) is resistant to change, and also work to build relationships, be formed by God and others to empower healthy change. I hope that the Episcopal Church can continue to adapt in order that we can continue to share the Good News of Christ and also continue to confront the issues of power, privilege, racism, oppression, colonialism, and more as we work together to live into God's call.

for the position of
CLERGY DEPUTY - GENERAL CONVENTION

Eric Stelle - St. John's, Gig Harbor

Brief Biographical Statement

Raised in the evangelical church, I discovered Anglican worship while living in Northern Ireland as part of a community of reconciliation in the late 90s. I was confirmed in the Anglican Church of Canada while doing my MDiv, then - after a year's study at Sewanee - ordained in the Diocese of Alabama. I have served as rector of St. John's, Gig Harbor for 14 years. I chaired the Commission on Liturgy and Arts for several years and currently serve on Diocesan Council. I think in both theological and strategic frameworks, desiring to create structures and systems that best foster the core values of our faith that are needful for the context. This skill has been central to our parish's clarity of mission, both during COVID and in our current political situation. On council, I have a particular focus on discerning wise diocesan systems that will best serve smaller congregations. (As for being part of a convention delegation: I'm generally a nice person who'll make sure nobody gets lost!)



Who Will Nominate You?

The Rev. Kae Eaton

Who Will Second?

The Rev. Sabeth Fitzgibbon

What draws you to the wider Episcopal Church's work, and how would this shape your approach as a deputy?

A hallmark of Anglican identity is our ability to take seriously the questions our society is asking, then looking afresh to our gospel to encounter news that is, truly, "good news" for each generation. With so many existential crises facing our nation and world, I want to be witness to, and participant in, our Episcopal Church as it interprets our gospel in lively and necessary ways, for the love of this world.

What changes, if any, do you hope for in the wider Episcopal Church, and how would you pursue them?

Whereas we Episcopalians do a very good job of translating the values of our gospel to the cultural and political context of our days, I would like to see us developing a deeper methodology and practice of spiritual discernment: seeking the living guidance of the Holy Spirit to direct us in how we are being called into mission. For we are more than a religious trumpet of progressive values, we are the mystical body of Christ. We carry a distinctive witness of redemption, hope, and unity which the world is desperately craving. But a growing edge of our discipleship is the discernment of the Spirit's specific leading in how to embody this gospel. If elected as a delegate, I would like to foster such a prayerful, discerning spirit and practice within our delegation - both in the season leading up to the convention, as well as during the convention itself.

for the position of
CLERGY DEPUTY - GENERAL CONVENTION

Hillary Kimsey - St. Antony of Egypt, Silverdale

Brief Biographical Statement

I am the vicar of St. Antony's in Silverdale, where I have served since October 2023. Prior to taking this call, I worked for 7 years as a chaplain, primarily in critical care hospital settings at Harborview and Swedish in Seattle. In addition, I have served at St. Luke's in Ballard as their curate and later as assisting priest. Previously, I have served at the diocesan level as chaplain to the Bishop Search Committee that presented the slate with Bishop Phil LaBelle. I have also assisted with diocesan retreats for young adults, taught confirmation education sessions for youth, and served as part of several annual clergy conference planning teams. I believe my skill as a writer and an active listener as well as my friendly and curious personality will be assets in this role. I am also an ordained priest under 40 who deconstructed and became Episcopalian in my 20s after growing up evangelical. My experience is similar to that of so many others who call TEC their home.



Who Will Nominate You?

The Rev. Elizabeth Riley

Who Will Second?

The Rev. Ruth Anne Garcia

What draws you to the wider Episcopal Church's work, and how would this shape your approach as a deputy?

I want to learn! I am young in my career, ordained 5 years ago in 2020, and I didn't grow up Episcopalian, so I'd love to have this opportunity to learn even more about our polity and contribute to our important decisions. I hope to build collaborative and trusting relationships, not only among our own deputation, but among others that I would meet at General Convention. I believe that TEC can be an even greater force for good than we are now, and the way we do that is by connections and collaborations. We need to make the circle bigger and the world smaller and bring the love of Jesus to our hurting world.

What changes, if any, do you hope for in the wider Episcopal Church, and how would you pursue them?

Every once in a while, I am baffled that we aren't the fastest growing mainline denomination out there. There are so many people who are desperately looking for what we offer: a place for relationships and support, avenues for community service, spiritual ritual and education, and (when we are at our best) an open-minded, warm, and truly affirming place to call home. I want to help other Episcopalians talk about their faith in a helpful way. Not because we want to convert people away from their own beloved tradition or because we think we're right and others are wrong, but because we want people to know who we are and what we're about in case they are looking for us but don't realize it. I would also love for TEC to re-learn some of our history of empowering lay leaders and embracing the ministry of the baptized more fully. Finally, I hope we will continue to work for peace and justice in our local neighborhoods and across the world, especially for those who need advocates more than ever. May we focus on Jesus's call to serve the poor, welcome the stranger, set free the oppressed, release the captives, and above all, to love God and all of our neighbors as we love ourselves.

for the position of
CLERGY DEPUTY - GENERAL CONVENTION

Josh Hosler - *Good Shepherd, Federal Way*

Brief Biographical Statement

I've been the rector of Good Shepherd, Federal Way since 2018. In that time I've seen our congregation thrive in some ways and struggle in others, through a pandemic lockdown and beyond. My first rectorship has been marked by many challenges and joys, and gosh, do I love these people.

My first call as a priest was to St. Paul's, Bellingham, and as chaplain at Western Washington University. Those times were exciting, as I especially love working with young people. For several years before seminary, I was in charge of faith formation for all ages at St. Thomas, Medina. I'm rarely happier than when I'm engaged in theological and pastoral conversation with an eager person under 30. I should also mention my time at St. Mark's Cathedral even earlier, where I sang in the choir and was heavily involved in the young adult group.



Who Will Nominate You?

Judith Perkins

Who Will Second?

Rick Kincade

What draws you to the wider Episcopal Church's work, and how would this shape your approach as a deputy?

I have not attended a General Convention since 1988 in Detroit. I was a teenager then, tagging along with my parents. My dad was one of the official photographers, and at one point he leaned over and whispered, "We just passed a boycott of South Africa because of apartheid! See that guy? He's going to a payphone to tell Bishop Tutu the news." That was a formative moment in my development as a Christian. When I was 15, I wasn't even sure that I still believed in God. But I sure saw the power of the faith of the people all around me in Cobo Hall. We weren't just a bunch of individuals who "went to church." We were BEING the church by adopting Jesus' priorities! Let's keep doing that.

What changes, if any, do you hope for in the wider Episcopal Church, and how would you pursue them?

I still see a future for our church, but it won't look like it used to. Though we can't have certainty about what it WILL look like, we can seek clarity in our priorities and decision-making. Why do we still exist as a church? What even IS Christianity in the 21st century, and what will we insist it not become?

Let's befriend people who will never adopt the Christian faith, and let's do ministry alongside them. We don't need to "water down" our faith to do this. We need to make common cause with people who don't understand why anyone would choose to be a Christian.

It's time to jettison our culture-bound expectations of the Church and set them into a post-Christendom context. We don't have to lose all our traditions to do that. We just need to learn how to express what they're FOR.

for the position of
CLERGY DEPUTY - GENERAL CONVENTION

Nic Mather - St. Stephen's, Longview

Brief Biographical Statement

I am the Rector of St. Stephen's in Longview. Representing a smaller parish with an outsized impact on its surrounding community, I would bring a unique perspective to our diocesan deputation firmly rooted in knowing the Episcopal Church at its most common expression, smaller community churches existing in communities as often the only voice of an affirming Christian faith that preaches Jesus Christ while truly, radically welcoming all. It is this background of experience that I feel called to serving the Diocese and larger Episcopal Church at General Convention, continuing to raise the real issues and concerns facing the majority of our parishes, which do not exist in urban population centers. I've also done intentional work to connect with others through Clergy Conference planning and leadership, and I am further involved in the diocese as a Trainer in the College for Congregational Development. I have previously served on Diocesan Council and the Joint Board for Bishop Transition.



Who Will Nominate You?

Rob Painter-Johnson

Who Will Second?

Lauren Henricksen

What draws you to the wider Episcopal Church's work, and how would this shape your approach as a deputy?

I feel deeply blessed to be a part of the Episcopal Church and to have called this my faith home for the entirety of my life. The Episcopal Church has given me so much, especially as a youth attending summer camp and other youth events, and my vocational call is in part a reflection of my desire to give back to this tradition that has meant so much to me throughout my life. I also firmly believe that the Episcopal Church is the church that most people are seeking, they just don't know it yet. Because of this belief, I want to help the Church grow beyond its current bounds and make a real, lasting impact on this world and help our society begin to heal our divisions through clearly showing a different way of being in this world. As a deputy I would advocate for measures that would push the Church to be more engaged and active in our society, so that more will come to know who we are and what we believe, drawing them in, and converting their hearts with the fire of the Holy Spirit.

What changes, if any, do you hope for in the wider Episcopal Church, and how would you pursue them?

First is a recognition of the unique challenges facing small parishes, especially those even smaller than St. Stephen's (the church I grew up in had an ASA of 25), and a dedicated effort to providing resources and clergy in innovative and supportive ways to continue their vital ministries in small communities that desperately need our presence in them. This work has begun to be recognized as important but the intention to be innovative and creative in addressing the unique challenges of these parishes is lacking. Second is to finally put focus and energy and money into children and youth. The Lutheran Church is as strong as it is today in part because of their robust children and youth programming. And they have robust children and youth programming because as a denomination they have made it a priority through dedicated educational resources and funding for events. The Episcopal Church is currently going backwards on this issue, it must turn around immediately if it wants to survive

for the position of
CLERGY DEPUTY - GENERAL CONVENTION

Tom Sramek, Jr. - St. Andrew's, Aberdeen

Brief Biographical Statement

I am the Priest-in-Charge of St. Andrew's, Aberdeen. Though new to the Diocese of Olympia, I am not new to Province VIII, General Convention, or ordained ministry. I have served as an Alternate to General Convention in 2015 (1st, El Camino Real), 2022 and 2024 (2nd, Oregon). Additionally, I served as Vice-President of Province VIII from 2022 to 2024 and currently serve on their Grants Committee. With nearly 30 years of ordained ministry experience throughout Province VIII and beyond, I bring experience at all levels of Episcopal governance, including serving on the Diocesan Council, Standing Committee, and Board of Trustees in two dioceses. I cultivate a prayerful, Benedictine-inspired spirit in both my ministry and service and have technology, finance, and people skills that would be an asset to both the deputation and diocese.



Who Will Nominate You?

The Rev. Danae Ashley

Who Will Second?

The Rev. Stephen Crippen

What draws you to the wider Episcopal Church's work, and how would this shape your approach as a deputy?

I am drawn to the work of the wider Episcopal Church because I believe that our polity, discernment processes, and theological debates are gifts to both the local church and the world. In my time at General Convention, I have sought to both absorb and convey information as well as to make decisions for the mission of the church and the welfare of the world. I have enjoyed collaborating with my fellow deputies and alternates as we talk about issues facing the church and would continue that collaboration with the members of our deputation.

What changes, if any, do you hope for in the wider Episcopal Church, and how would you pursue them?

It is clear to me that the post-World War II institutional and corporate structures, created when the Episcopal Church had more than double our current number of members and was central to the power structures of our nation, are not serving us well in this post-Christendom and post-pandemic era. I would join with our Presiding Bishop and others in envisioning a flexible, lively, and energetic church that truly claims its heritage as a missionary society—but one whose mission is to spread the Good News in the marginal spaces in which God is already present and working rather than the colonialist "bringing" Christ to others. I would pursue such changes through advocacy, legislation, and testimony at both the diocesan and General Convention levels.

for the position of
LAY DEPUTY - GENERAL CONVENTION

April Thomson - St. Paul's, Bellingham

Brief Biographical Statement

Hi, I'm April Thomson, and I am a member of St. Paul's - Bellingham. My wife and I moved to WA in 2010 and have been members in parishes of varying sizes, large to very small. I feel this gives me a really broad view of the Church. I've served on Bishop's Committee, a major capital campaign, two discernment processes, and co-led formation classes on church polity. I'm recently involved in campus ministry. I'm a 2019 graduate of the College for Congregational Development, five-term delegate to our Diocesan Convention, officer on a Task Force of General Convention, and first alternate deputy from Olympia at our two most recent General Conventions. I'm inherently curious and love staying engaged! I am prepared, organized, and generally easygoing. This enables me to work effectively across multiple groups in various roles. I'd be honored to continue the work of the Church on behalf of the Diocese of Olympia.



Who Will Nominate You?

The Rev. Dr. Jani Wild

Who Will Second?

The Rev. Courtney Jones

What draws you to the wider Episcopal Church's work, and how would this shape your approach as a deputy?

Many see General Convention as the "politics" of the Church, and there is some truth to that. Honestly, I was so overwhelmed at my first General Convention that I wanted to go home! But I stayed, and by the close, I was hungry for more. My experience as a two-time alternate deputy is that folks feel passionately about this Church and want to ensure it remains faithful to the teaching of Jesus Christ and viable for the generations to come. The glacial pace of change can feel frustrating at times, but I've seen the care and deliberation that goes into each decision. I've seen folks debate fiercely, yet at the end of the day, are reconciled to the work and to one another. Folks here love this Church next level! It's this love and care of the Church and our mission that draws me to continue this work.

What changes, if any, do you hope for in the wider Episcopal Church, and how would you pursue them?

The future is shaped by who's at the table! I'd like to see the Church be more accessible to those who feel called to leadership, but may not have the privilege of time, finances, or primary language to participate. One gift from our time during the pandemic is that we have learned to use technology in ways that honor our polity while promoting greater accessibility and inclusion. It's not necessarily required to be geographically present to participate in shaping our future, or at least not for as long. We've made good progress, but we can do more. There may always be inherent barriers, but I'm interested in continuing to explore ways we can bring diverse voices to the table.

for the position of
LAY DEPUTY - GENERAL CONVENTION

Katelyn Cowell - St. Columba's, Kent

Brief Biographical Statement

Katelyn Cowell has been a member of St. Columba's in Kent since 2013 and serves in music, liturgical, and outreach ministries. Following a decade working in restaurants in Downtown Seattle, where they discovered a passion for sharing the Gospel and the work of the Episcopal Church with people who have suffered religious trauma, especially members of the LGBTQIA+ community, they felt called to start a Dinner Church ministry to serve as a low-barrier point of entry for those who are interested in learning more about the Episcopal Church but might be uncomfortable attending a Sunday morning Eucharist due to previous negative experiences in other churches. In addition to their work at St. Columba's, Katelyn is also the Parish Administrator at St. John the Baptist in West Seattle, where they assist in the day to day life of The Church. In an increasingly divided world, Katelyn strives to do the hard work of reaching across barriers to share the Gospel.



Who Will Nominate You?

The Rev. Meghan Mullarkey

Who Will Second?

Ruth Ewald

What draws you to the wider Episcopal Church's work, and how would this shape your approach as a deputy?

As a cradle Episcopalian and member of the Queer community who left the church for 10 years when their childhood congregation handled the 2003 schism poorly, Katelyn has long had a passion for sharing the amazing and affirming work of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Olympia with those who have been hurt in the name of the church. Katelyn has a passion for sharing the Gospel with people who are not necessarily looking for it and allowing space and understanding when handling difficult conversations with those who have experienced religious trauma. Having seen the Holy Spirit moving in the Seattle restaurant community and realizing that many of those living a Christ-like life do not identify as Christian, they are passionate about outreach work that is less focused on increasing congregational membership, and more about using the Gospel to heal the hurt that has been caused by modern American Christianity and drawing people to Christ through alternate ministries.

What changes, if any, do you hope for in the wider Episcopal Church, and how would you pursue them?

I believe that the Episcopal Church, and especially the Diocese of Olympia, was made for such a time as this. We are living in a world where a majority of younger, and especially Queer, people have experienced some form of hurt in the name of Christianity. When sharing my personal stories about activism within the church with those who were raised Christian but now identify as agnostic or atheist, the vast majority of them have no idea what the Episcopal Church is or what we are doing to try to heal our divided world. Coming from a restaurant background, I believe we have a branding problem. We are offering something that people are desperately seeking, but can sometimes assume that everyone knows about the Episcopal Church and will show up on a Sunday morning eventually. With the increasing reach of Christian Nationalism, I believe we need to change our strategy to focus more on activism and outreach than on Average Sunday Attendance.

for the position of
LAY DEPUTY - GENERAL CONVENTION

Lillian Springer- St. Matthew / San Mateo, Auburn

Brief Biographical Statement

I was baptized, confirmed, and married at the Church of the Holy Communion in Tacoma. While there I was very active in Sunday school and Episcopal youth council. I am currently on the bishops committee for the St. Matthew San Mateo. I was on the search committee for our current bishop.

What draws you to the wider Episcopal Church's work, and how would this shape your approach as a deputy?

I last attended a general convention when I was 19 years old I served as a page. I am now 78 and believe that I have gained a lot of insight and wisdom in the intervening years.

What changes, if any, do you hope for in the wider Episcopal Church, and how would you pursue them?

I believe that Episcopal Church is on the right path.



Who Will Nominate You?

Roberta Newell

Who Will Second?

The Rev. Wesley Evans

for the position of
LAY DEPUTY - GENERAL CONVENTION

MJ Barrett - *Christ Church, Anacortes*

Brief Biographical Statement

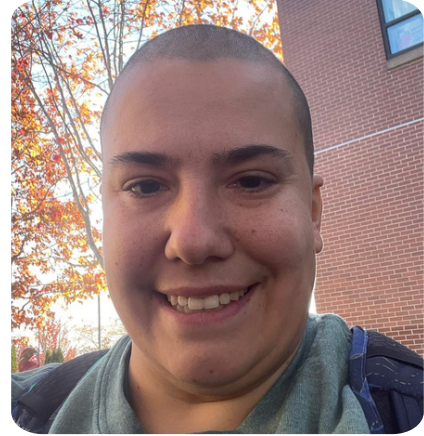
I attended Christ Episcopal Church in Anacortes. I have been active in the church since I was 8. I started out as an acolyte, transitioned into a Eucharist Minister. I am a lay preacher in the church as well. I have served on the bishop committee on two separate occasions.

What draws you to the wider Episcopal Church's work, and how would this shape your approach as a deputy?

Right now, I feel my calling is helping bridge the gap between the church and the LGBTQIA community. Right now more than ever, we need to stand with our sibling in Christ.

What changes, if any, do you hope for in the wider Episcopal Church, and how would you pursue them?

I would love to see more resources for the LGBTQIA community and neurodivergent community.



Who Will Nominate You?

Dan Moore

Who Will Second?

Stephanie Galbraith

for the position of
LAY DEPUTY - GENERAL CONVENTION

Rose Hazard - *Saint Mark's Cathedral, Seattle*

Brief Biographical Statement

I am a liturgical lay minister at Saint Mark's Cathedral in Seattle and I have helped lead the 20/30s and the Queer in Christ ministries at Saint Mark's. I am actively involved as a chalice bearer, acolyte, vergers, thurifer, assisting lay minister, and a backup sacristan. Professionally, I am an HR specialist for personnel matters for Costco and I am an expert in workplace investigations and policy. I provide advice and guidance to vice presidents and senior managers and I have received extensive training in EEOC, ADA, and Title VII compliance. I have also worked in buying and I understand budgets as well as analyzing effective investments.



Who Will Nominate You?

Michael Seewer

Who Will Second?

The Rev. Adam Conley

What draws you to the wider Episcopal Church's work, and how would this shape your approach as a deputy?

I am drawn to the Episcopal Church because of the breadth and depth of its worship. My first worship experience with The Episcopal Church was Easter Day 2021, and my life has changed for the better since then. Having been raised in a conservative evangelical family, I am grateful to have found a tradition that embraces who I am as a transgender woman, who believe and affirms in the dignity of every human being, and seeks to serve Christ in all persons, regardless of who they are or where they come from. I believe The Episcopal Church embodies those values that I hold so dear in my heart, and would let these values inform how I would act as a deputy for General Convention. I would be honored to serve our diocese in this capacity, and am grateful to be nominated for this important role in our church's polity.

What changes, if any, do you hope for in the wider Episcopal Church, and how would you pursue them?

I believe in supporting the current leaders of our church in the changes they are striving for, including those in the Presiding Bishop's office. I am also running for Standing Committee, and believe in supporting the mission and ministry of our diocese, and encourage those both at diocesan leadership and at the congregational level, to be present and active in our church's governance to help seek positive change. I trust in the Holy Spirit's guidance as we continue to discern where we may be called as a diocese, and hope to support that continually evolving vision through serving as a deputy for General Convention.

for the position of
LAY DEPUTY - GENERAL CONVENTION

Sherina James - *Christ Church, Tacoma*

Brief Biographical Statement

As a member of Christ Church in Tacoma, WA, I bring over 20 years of experience in advocacy, particularly in the anti-gender violence movement. In my professional role as a grant manager, I have had the opportunity to shape resource allocation emphasizing racial equity in every facet of my efforts. I am a Co-Leader for Black African/Caribbean Ministries (BAM) of Province VIII and a member of the Circles of Color.



What draws you to the wider Episcopal Church's work, and how would this shape your approach as a deputy?

I am drawn to working to ensure our ministries are both vibrant and responsive to the needs of our entire community. My involvement with the ECWW Diocesan Task Force to Prevent Sexual Harassment and Discrimination deepened my commitment to fostering safe and inclusive spaces within our church. My role as Co-Leader for Black African/Caribbean Ministries of Province VIII and involvement with The Circles of Color keep me grounded in the issues that impact our Beloved Community.

Who Will Nominate You?

Roberta Newell

Who Will Second?

Lillian Springer

What changes, if any, do you hope for in the wider Episcopal Church, and how would you pursue them?

I believe my skills in collaboration and community engagement can invigorate diocesan leadership. I aim to strengthen our commitment to addressing issues of equity and justice.

for the position of
LAY DEPUTY - GENERAL CONVENTION

Tieran Sweeny-Bender - *Epiphany, Seattle*

Brief Biographical Statement

Hello! My name is Tieran Sweeny-Bender, I use they/them pronouns, and I attend Epiphany Parish in Seattle. I grew up at Epiphany as a chorister, acolyte, and part of the youth group. Now, I am a member of the choir and a part of the 20s/30s ministry. I co-chaired the search committee which brought us Bishop Phil and I currently work at SeaTac airport for Alaska Airlines. Since the last General Convention, I have been co-chair of the Episcopal Consultation: a denomination-wide coalition of Episcopal social-justice organizations founded by several recent saints of the Church including Bishop Barbara Harris. I bring a capacity for deep listening, an attentiveness to the deliberative process so that effectual change occurs, and an ability to hone and articulate the important issues before whatever group I am part of. I also bring a passion for helping others make their voices heard at the denomination-wide level.



Who Will Nominate You?

The Rev. Elise Johnstone

Who Will Second?

John Starbard

What draws you to the wider Episcopal Church's work, and how would this shape your approach as a deputy?

I am drawn to be involved in the work of the wider Episcopal Church because while much of the important work of our Church happens at the congregational and diocesan level, there is work we cannot do unless we are all together as a denomination. I was inspired to see Bishop Budde of Washington speak with a prophetic voice at the National Prayer Service in January. To me, her words had even more power because she spoke not as a lone wolf but from a theology grounded in the official positions of our church—positions that were articulated and reaffirmed through the work of successive General Conventions. I am passionate about continuing to build a Church which can speak truth to power in the way that Bishop Budde did, and General Convention is one of the places I feel called to do that work.

What changes, if any, do you hope for in the wider Episcopal Church, and how would you pursue them?

My hope for the wider Church is that we continue to be good stewards of our financial resources, while ensuring avenues for lay involvement in the governance of the Church remain robust. I am especially interested in working on how our governance structures support the presence of lay folks working fulltime, those whose work does not follow a regular 9-5 pattern, and those who do not have consistent high-quality internet access. The previous General Convention set up a committee to reimagine the structure of Convention and I am excited to see how their work galvanizes conversations around increasing the accessibility of Convention and improving our governance structures. I am a systems thinker and bring an ability to trace and articulate how large systems have local impacts, and I am excited at the opportunity to work on ensuring the structures of the wider Church truly support our dioceses and congregations.