

Encountering Love, Embodying Hope - The 116th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia - Oct. 23-24, 2026

This draft report reflects information received by September 21st.

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 Governing Body they are applying to, as well as any prior ministry experience within congregations or the Diocese. Candidates were also asked to answer two follow-up questions pertaining more specifically to their prospective position in that Governing Body.

Nominations Committee members: The Rev. Wesley Evans (chair), The Rev. Canon Cristi Chapman, The Rev. James Wyatt, The Rev. Michael Ryan, Rob Painter-Johnson, The Rev. Laura Murray, and MJ Barrett.

NOMINEES AT-A-GLANCE



Commission on Ministry (pg. 3-6)

Diaconal Order (3 yr)

Barbra Weza
Office of the Bishop

Lay Order (3 yr)

Alexandra Thompson
Saint Mark's Cathedral, Seattle

Paula Copley
St. John's, Kirkland

Diocesan Council (pg. 7-15)

At Large Lay (3 yr)

Don Little
St. Bede's, Port Orchard

Kay Rawlings
Faith, Poulsbo

At Large Clergy (3 yr)

Lynne Markova
St. Paul's, Port Townsend

Peninsula (3 yr)

Eric Stelle
St. John's, Gig Harbor

Be Attitudes (3 yr)

Brian Gregory
St. Luke's, Seattle

Sno-Isle (3 yr)

Bradley Portin
St. Augustine's in-the-Woods, Freeland

Standing Committee (pg. 16-19)

Clerical Order (4 yr)

Bonnie Malone
St. George, Maple Valley

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

Lay Order (4 yr)

Kevin King
St. Aidan's, Camano Island

Officers (pg. 20-22)

Archivist & Records Manager

Erik Bauer
Office of the Bishop

Secretary of Convention

Jamie Balducci
Epiphany, Seattle

Treasurer

Ed Barton
Christ Church, Anacortes

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH GOVERNING BODY/OFFICE

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 postulants and candidates for Holy Orders; 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 serve three-year terms beginning after diocesan convention; half of the commission members are elected by convention and half are appointed by the bishop. 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 10-12 times a year by Zoom, usually Thursday afternoon; plus one to two Saturday governing bodies retreats each year. Members serve three-year terms.

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 by Zoom, usually on the second Wednesday of the month from 4-6pm. Members serve four-year terms.

for the position of
COMMISSION ON MINISTRY - DIACONAL ORDER
three year term

BARBRA WEZA - *Office of the Bishop*

Brief Biographical Statement

I am deeply interested in the sustainability of the diaconate in the diocese and would bring my gifts, skills, and community experience to the work of the Commission on Ministry. I hope to support the formation, encouragement, and faithful unfolding of diaconal ministry so that deacons may continue to serve as bridges between the Church and the needs of the world.



St. David of Wales is my home parish, and I currently serve as one of the Archdeacons of the Diocese. I was ordained to the diaconate in 2018, and my ministry has been shaped by God-given gifts of deep listening, a mature prayer life, discernment, compassion, and a heart for service. I bring skills in nonprofit leadership, community development, social services and outreach, administration, and collaborative ministry.

My ministries include: Serving as deacon at St. Christopher's Steamboat Island; Deacon's Council Leadership; Non - voting member of Commission on Ministry (Archdeacon); Therapeutic Drug and Mental Health Courts Advocate; Parish Hall Ministries Resource Center - development and director- shelter, meals, showers, and homeless services in partnership with ecumenical organizations - 10 Years; Chaplains on the Harbor Board; Director, Chaplains on the Harbor from 2022 to 2026; Hospice chaplaincy and caregiving; Family advocate for the Shelton and Matlock school districts.

What's your experience in helping people discern a path in their lives?

I have walked alongside people to discern a path in their lives through much of my career and ministry in social services, homeless ministries, as leadership at Chaplains on the Harbor supportive employment program, Therapeutic Courts, and as a Deacon in the church and the world.

What's your vision of ordained leadership in the Church?

My vision of ordained leadership in the Church is that we are gathering, transforming, and sending more disciples into communities and that we are meeting people where they are instead of them coming to us.

What's your view of the interplay between lay and ordained ministries, and between priests and deacons?

I believe we are working toward better understanding of empowering lay leaders and have an outlined curriculum to give them a foundation of skills through the Iona School. I believe there are many priests and churches that don't know how to work with a deacon on the clergy team. Priests and Deacons each have their own calls and skill sets and both are needed and should be respected as part of a clergy team. Clergy should have a presence to support lay ministries, engage others, and provide spiritual support. Empower the laity.

for the position of
COMMISSION ON MINISTRY - LAY ORDER
three year term

ALEXANDRA THOMPSON - *Saint Mark's Cathedral,
Seattle*

Brief Biographical Statement

I come to this commission position with wide ranging experience and skills. I've been an active member of Saint Marks Cathedral for nearly 20 years. I have served on the Vestry, the Stewardship Committee, the Accessibility Task Force, and the Strategic Planning process of 2023-24. I also have served as a verger and acolyte for the past 15 years. As I move through the world, I look for the goodness, grace, joy, and the Holy Spirit in all things. I believe my skills as a project manager and long-standing commitment to accessibility and neurodiversity would make me a strong candidate.



What's your experience in helping people discern a path in their lives?

The biggest gift I can offer is the power of listening to people as they process their emotions, thoughts, doubts, and concerns and reflect back to them what I heard. One of the greatest responsibilities I have as a wife and a mother of two is to do just that - supporting my loved ones as they move through the various stages of their lives. I also model what it looks like for myself to discern my own path as I move through my highs and lows that life brings.

What's your vision of ordained leadership in the Church?

Ordained leadership plays a very special role in the Church, one where they have to balance the granularity of their own life with the responsibilities that come with wearing the collar. It takes a special person who can balance their personal life with the high expectations of parishioners who expect depth and wisdom (and perfection?) at every level. Ordained leadership do well to keep a macro-level understanding of life's joys and sorrows while communicating their own life journey to those they minister to in appropriate ways.

What's your view of the interplay between lay and ordained ministries, and between priests and deacons?

I am looking for clear and consistent communication between all parties, transparency in areas possible, expression and commitment to trust and vulnerability, and a willingness to try new things without the heavy hand of how things have always been done.

for the position of
COMMISSION ON MINISTRY - LAY ORDER
three year term

PAULA COPLEY – *St. John's, Kirkland*

Brief Biographical Statement

I am a member of St. John's Episcopal Church in Kirkland, where I have served on the Vestry and, until the end of this year, as Senior Warden. My spiritual journey began with my baptism at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Seattle. During my teen years, my home life was difficult – my mother was often ill, and my father was an alcoholic. I connected with Sand Point United Methodist Church, and it was there that I was confirmed and first came to understand that a relationship with God was the path to becoming the person I hoped to be. After college, I attended St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Medina for nearly 40 years. When my husband and I downsized, we began attending St. John's, and I was formally received into the Episcopal Church in 2026.



Professionally, I spent my career as a bank examiner with the Washington State Department of Financial Institutions. That work entrusted me with the responsibility of speaking honestly and clearly to banking professionals about the financial viability of their institutions, including, at times, closing them and witnessing the impact on the people whose lives were bound up in that work. I learned to be a careful judge of character and to speak honestly, kindly, and firmly about what I see.

What's your experience in helping people discern a path in their lives?

Much of my discernment experience comes from my own journey and from watching others closely. Saying yes to invitations to serve, and trusting what others noticed in me, has been my own path of discernment. It is a process I know how to support in others.

One morning early in my return to St. John's, a voice next to me asked if I was there to sign up as an Altar Server. I was about to say no when I realized it was the priest asking. That small yes led to much larger ones. Fr. Michael Ryan saw things in me that I did not see myself, and as I moved closer to the Altar in my ministry, I began to see the connections between serving there and what it means to be a leader in the life of the parish.

Serving as Senior Warden during a period of intense parish redevelopment required me to help fellow vestry members, ministry leaders, staff, and our Rector discern hard questions about mission, capacity, and calling. It also required me to become more reliant on God than I had ever been.

As a graduate of the College for Congregational Development, and with my background as a bank examiner, I bring a temperament suited to walking alongside those testing a call. That work comes down to patient listening, honest reflection, and a willingness to name what I see clearly and kindly.

PAULA COPLEY - *cont.*

What's your vision of ordained leadership in the Church?

I don't have a single, grand vision for ordained leadership, but working closely with our Rector during a critical and stressful season showed me what it takes in practice. It requires an unusual combination of gifts: a wide set of practical skills, a serious life of prayer, considerable self-management, and a commitment to seeing problems and challenges as invitations to trust more deeply in God's grace.

My time as Senior Warden gave me a clearer view of the real weight clergy carry in the parish, the community, and the diocese, especially in a time of cultural upheaval. I have gained a deep respect for those who take on that call, and I believe the Commission on Ministry's work of accompanying candidates toward Holy Orders is one of the most important tasks for securing the future health of our Diocese and the wider Church.

What's your view of the interplay between lay and ordained ministries, and between priests and deacons?

At St. John's, I have had the benefit of watching a skilled priest and an experienced deacon, the Rev. Missy Couch, work together in ways that made the complementarity of their ministries visible. They brought very different gifts that strengthened one another and made the ministry of the whole parish work.

My own service as Senior Warden has convinced me that lay and ordained ministries work best as a true partnership. The health of a parish depends on lay leaders who are willing to shoulder real responsibility, and on clergy who trust and equip them to do so. Senior Warden is one of the hardest jobs I have ever had, and also the best. That experience has given me a deep appreciation for how ordained and lay vocations rely on and enliven one another, and for the Commission's role in forming leaders who understand that interplay from the start.

for the position of
DIOCESAN COUNCIL - AT LARGE - LAY ORDER
three year term

DON LITTLE - *St. Bede's, Port Orchard*

Brief Biographical Statement

St Bede LEM, Eucharistic visitor, Worship leader, Preacher. 21 years bishop committee/vestry, various parishes. 4 Years Diocesan council, 7 years grants committee. 2024 Bishops transition committee.

I feel that all my experience could be a great asset to Diocesan council. My Episcopal journey began in 1953 at All Saints parish, Chaptico, MD. The church was built in 1620. I have been a member of St. Bede for 20 years.



Why are you drawn to serve on Diocesan Council?

I have always felt called to serve God at the Diocesan level.

What are gifts and skills that an effective member of Diocesan Council should have?

An effective member of the council should have an understanding of the organization and the structure of the Episcopal Church. They should be very prayerful of their decisions while on the council.

How do those align with your own gifts and skills?

They are very much in alignment with my past experience and future hopes for the Church

What are you passionate about for our Diocese?

I want to see more children. A restoration of the ritual. Non Episcopal people should know that Faith Formation is church school

How will that inform your work on Diocesan Council and your support of the mission of our Diocese?

That as we move forward we don't lose our tradition and history.

for the position of
DIOCESAN COUNCIL - AT LARGE - LAY ORDER
three year term

KAY RAWLINGS - *Faith, Poulsbo*

Brief Biographical Statement

I'm the Senior Warden at Faith Episcopal Poulsbo and am very interested in the future of the Episcopal Church as a whole but particularly in Western Washington. I grew up in Gig Harbor, attended college in Olympia and spent many years in Alaska attending St. Mary's in Anchorage. I've retired and have been living in Poulsbo since 2018. This is the second time I've been Senior Warden. I manage Faith's email and website. I've also helped Faith with finances and launching the church software Realm. I've been a Lay Eucharistic Minister since 2008. I would like to improve the Diocese's support to local churches. I'm also very interested in implementing new technologies and improving communication with the Diocese. I have a BA from the Evergreen State College and have a Master's in Management from Alaska Pacific University.



Why are you drawn to serve on Diocesan Council?

I care deeply about the direction and future of the Episcopal Church. I believe we need to embrace change and technology in managing finances and communications. This year I researched accounting systems and helped implement Faith's transition from an outdated QuickBooks program to Realm's cloud-based accounting system. In the process of making this transition I became educated on how church finances work and the importance of keeping accurate and current financial information.

What are gifts and skills that an effective member of Diocesan Council should have?

Through my years of service on church committees and as Senior Warden, I have gained significant experience with finances and organizational leadership. I hold a master's degree in management and have attended the College for Congregational Development. Through my work on committees, I have seen firsthand the importance of being organized, realistic, and transparent in financial matters.

How do those align with your own gifts and skills?

I'm computer literate and am willing to listen to various opinions. I worked as a paralegal for decades and know how to research and compile information in a concise and organized way. I've also been significantly involved in our church finances and with transitioning to a new, more efficient accounting system.

What are you passionate about for our Diocese?

I believe the Diocese needs a strong organizational structure to function effectively and to better support the churches. The budget should reflect the goals and decisions established at convention. With a solid organizational and financial foundation, the Diocese can more fully serve our communities and congregations and help congregations to do the work God calls them to do.

KAY RAWLINGS - *cont.*

How will that inform your work on Diocesan Council and your support of the mission of our Diocese?

I believe in the purpose of Diocesan Council and hope to support its work by helping it stay organized and focused on its goals. The Council will face difficult decisions and many hopeful, well-intentioned ideas, but lasting stability and growth will require a strong, well-supported foundation. I believe my work experience as a paralegal and my work at my church makes me well suited to work effectively on the council.

for the position of
DIOCESAN COUNCIL - AT LARGE - CLERICAL ORDER
three year term

LYNNE MARKOVA - *St. Paul's, Port Townsend*

Brief Biographical Statement

I am the priest-in-charge at St. Paul's in Port Townsend. For many years, before I discerned my vocation, I was a consultant and small business owner, specializing in strategic visioning, change management, leadership development, and organizational transformation. As a lay minister, I served as a worship leader, Vestry member and warden, and stewardship ministry co-convener, among others. I have also taught multiple Inquirer's classes, both as a lay minister and as a priest, and recently joined the Digital AI task force. This work has given me the opportunity to develop and build my program and project management, active listening, facilitation, and consensus-building skills.



Why are you drawn to serve on Diocesan Council?

I have a passion for governance that is both efficient and effective and spiritually grounded and compassionate. I feel that the mission and work of the Council, both as it supports our congregations and bishop, and carries out the work of Convention in recess, is very important. It would be a privilege to engage in it.

What are gifts and skills that an effective member of Diocesan Council should have?

Active listening, the ability to transition between visionary and operations thinking, the ability to hold the tension between competing priorities and differing points of view, all of which are important and have merit; and engaging in prayerful, thoughtful decision-making.

How do those align with your own gifts and skills?

Much of my work, both inside and outside of the church, has involved working closely with groups and individuals from all levels across organizations; engaging in deep and active listening to better understand their viewpoints; facilitating creative, collaborative problem-solving, which sometimes meant changing gears midstream; and, often, presenting the agreed-upon solution to multiple audiences.

What are you passionate about for our Diocese?

Our tradition offers so much, yet so few people know about us. I have met newcomers and people outside of the church who were astonished to learn that they could be active, practicing Christians, and still believe in science; that we strive to welcome all people; that lay ministry is central to our flourishing, and that we work hard to ensure that our differences are acknowledged and discussed through respectful dialogue.

Our Diocese has so many talented and brilliant people, doing wonderful, creative work. I wonder how we might communicate our stories to the wider community, and collaborate even more effectively with each other.

LYNNE MARKOVA - *cont.*

How will that inform your work on Diocesan Council and your support of the mission of our Diocese?

Should I have the opportunity to serve on Diocesan Council, I will look for ways in which my skills and talents may be helpful in growing our communities, living into our shared mission, and sharing our stories with a broader audience.

for the position of
DIOCESAN COUNCIL - BE ATTITUDES
three year term

BRIAN GREGORY - St. Luke's, Seattle

Brief Biographical Statement

The Rev. Brian Gregory is the Assisting Priest at St. Luke's, Seattle. He was Associate for Youth Ministries at St. Thomas, Medina for six years and served as Curate at Good Samaritan, Sammamish for two years before moving to Guatemala to work with the Episcopal Diocese of Guatemala and a NGO working in the community around the Guatemala City garbage dump. Before being called to St. Luke's, Brian was a bi-vocational priest serving at Emmanuel, Mercer Island and provided family support and coordination for organ donation. Brian's professional and ministry have given him perspectives and skills that can be well-utilized on Diocesan Council.



Why are you drawn to serve on Diocesan Council?

The business of the church is not often visible but its effects are felt by all of us. The role of Diocesan Council is vital in carrying out the mission, vision, and ministry of our Diocese and proposing a budget that ought to match our priorities. I am drawn to Diocesan Council because I enjoy the behind the scenes, strategic work that supports and creates opportunities for faithful ministry.

What are gifts and skills that an effective member of Diocesan Council should have?

Members of Diocesan Council ought to be prayerful – grounding their work in their love of Jesus and following the leading of the Spirit. They ought to be open – listening to the input and needs of others in our geographically and culturally diverse Diocese. They ought to be strategic – not only able to imagine a future of continued faithfulness and health, but able to plot the steps necessary to realize that future.

How do those align with your own gifts and skills?

I am drawn to Diocesan Council because I am gifted in seeing both the “big picture” as well as the details of systems and situations. This will allow me to both listen and contribute to the health and faithfulness of our Diocese as we follow Jesus together.

What are you passionate about for our Diocese?

I am passionate about discipleship and formation for all ages. Building on the ways that each of our congregations follow Jesus, I long to see greater opportunities to share resources and create additional possibilities for shared ministry – whether regionally or across passions. Too often, congregations and individuals feel isolated from one another. I hope we can be frequently reminded that we are not alone as we seek to follow Jesus in our unique contexts.

How will that inform your work on Diocesan Council and your support of the mission of our Diocese?

All of the “business,” planning, budgeting, and committee work in our Diocese and of Diocesan Council is for the purpose of faithfully following Jesus – collectively and individually. Grounding our work in discipleship reminds us why we exist and what we are called to do. I look forward to listening to, learning from, and sharing with congregations around our Diocese so that we become even more faithful followers of Jesus together.

for the position of
DIOCESAN COUNCIL - PENINSULA
three year term

ERIC STELLE - St. John's, Gig Harbor

Brief Biographical Statement

Raised in the evangelical tradition, I discovered Anglican worship while serving in a ministry of reconciliation between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland in the late 90s. I was confirmed in the Anglican Church of Canada while in grad school and was ordained in the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Alabama. I have served as rector of St. John's, Gig Harbor for the past 15 years. For several years I co-chaired the diocesan Commission for Liturgy and the Arts.



Why are you drawn to serve on Diocesan Council?

I am particularly attracted to Council's focus on mission since I believe each generation of the church is called to perceive how best to communicate the gospel of Christ to its place and time, and we are living in an era where our culture and nation are desperately in need of news that is truly good.

What are gifts and skills that an effective member of Diocesan Council should have?

A council member should have a fundamental understanding of the mission and values of the church, while also being able to think strategically. On a practical level, they should prioritize attendance at meetings, be willing to serve on task forces.

How do those align with your own gifts and skills?

I have just completed my first term on Diocesan Council. I served on the Steering Committee for the past two years and last year Bishop Phil appointed me to the newly created position of Vice President of Council. In addition to facilitating council meetings when the bishop cannot attend, I have helped facilitate systems of establishing long-range missional strategies. In running for a second term, I seek to carry on in this distinctive leadership role.

What are you passionate about for our Diocese?

I am passionate about the general health of the Diocese and its leadership and its clarity in wanting to bring a relevant witness to the Pacific Northwest of the good news of Christ and our call to be disciples in bringing love, compassion, healing, and reconciliation to all our neighbors and to creation itself.

How will that inform your work on Diocesan Council and your support of the mission of our Diocese?

I am particularly driven to care for small congregations by developing diocesan-wide systems that alleviate the burden and anxiety of managing the administrative side of the church. I want to see small congregations released to focus on the missional side of loving God and their neighbor.

for the position of
DIOCESAN COUNCIL - SNO-ISLE
three year term

BRADLEY PORTIN - *St. Augustine's in-the-Woods,
Freeland*

Brief Biographical Statement

In each of my leadership roles (church or academic) mission resides at the center of our priorities and is the north star that guides our action. I believe that living out our mission involves continuous deepening of our faith, supporting the participation of all, embodying the welcome of our church, and giving voice to those who have often been ignored. I believe our times require prayerful and deep reliance on the God we follow, courage to take bold stands, and persistent stewardship of the gifts we have been given.



In our parish, I have served as a member of the Vestry, two years as Senior Warden, and currently chair our stewardship efforts. During our recent clergy transition, I led the parish's day-to-day operations, chaired our search process for a Priest-in-Charge, led the vestry meetings, and ensured that regular worship and pastoral care continued with the enormous gift of our retired clergy and volunteers. I am a life-long educator and Professor and Dean Emeritus from the University of Washington which provided extensive opportunities for financial management, strengthening connections within the school through a systems approach, and ensuring the impact of our efforts.

Why are you drawn to serve on Diocesan Council?

Connections are a priority for me. The model of the church as the body of Christ guides our life together in every setting from a study group, a committee, a parish, to a diocese. Building those connections is something that has been a priority in each position of leadership I have held. I experienced the strength of our diocese working as a connected system in our recent parish transition and search for a new Priest-in-Charge. The support from the Diocese through the Bishop's Office and the generosity of experience and wisdom from other parishes highlighted for me the value of the diocese as a connected whole. I believe we are at a pivotal moment in the life of the church in our turbulent society. It would be my goal as a council member to support our collective mission to address this moment with God's love and grace for all.

What are gifts and skills that an effective member of Diocesan Council should have?

As in most leadership groups, the characteristics of humility, prioritizing listening and learning, honoring differences, and respecting what each person brings is a necessary foundation for healthy functioning. Other gifts that I have found essential are creativity and imagination and a lens of abundance versus one of scarcity—the latter especially important to achieving mission goals and fiduciary responsibility. Equally important is the life of the soul, members have an opportunity of mutual encouragement to spiritual growth and wellness in our all-too-busy lives.

BRADLEY PORTIN - cont.

How do those align with your own gifts and skills?

When preparing for one of my early career leadership positions as a school principal, a wise mentor said to me, "Remember, it's not about you!" The driver for my action is not the position, but about how I can empower "we" versus "me." It is through the collaborative exercise of all our gifts and skills and the blessing of God Almighty that we can accomplish our mission. It has been my intent (with many stumbles) to model those necessary collaborative skills and abundance mindset. I have also had the opportunity to lead in times of change, crisis, and uncertainty whether a university budget crisis or the departure of beloved Rector. I have been told that my approach with a calm, steady encouraging vision has helped us to weather changes.

What are you passionate about for our Diocese?

As mentioned earlier, I see our Diocese, indeed the church writ-large, as being at a pivotal moment. With waves of institutional distrust, anxiety about the economy, the environment, AI, violence, and intolerance, the church is positioned to be a place where trust can be rebuilt and hope through action re-established. The editorial writer, Anne Snyder*, recently wrote in an editorial: "Institutions also do not simply organize work. At their best they cultivate the conditions for character, channeling power toward service and shaping desire toward the common good." This is what I see as the opportunity for the Diocese as an institution. An institution as the manifestation of Jesus's love and a "channeling power" to bring hope and wholeness to our region.

How will that inform your work on Diocesan Council and your support of the mission of our Diocese?

It would be my goal to see the work of the Diocesan Council as a resource to the church and ministries of our region so that collectively we can be that "channeling power" referred to in a previous answer. First, and foremost, my stance would be that of a listener and learner, encourager and supporter of the amazing work that is happening. None of this can be accomplished without prayerful commitment to attending to the example of Jesus's life and presence with us. An area of learning for me will be a broader understanding of work of the Diocese and rich diversity of the churches and ministries that comprise the Diocese of Olympia.

for the position of
STANDING COMMITTEE - CLERICAL ORDER
four year term

BONNIE MALONE - St. George, Maple Valley

Brief Biographical Statement

The Rev. Bonnie Malone has served as Vicar of St. George Episcopal Church in Maple Valley, since January 2010. With more than two decades of experience in ordained ministry, Bonnie has served in small rural, large urban, and medium sized suburban settings, with a particular love for parish life, Christian formation, and accompanying people as they discern and grow into their vocations. Bonnie has also accompanied Saint George through several capital campaigns and a nearly 2-million-dollar project for a beautiful new church building.



Bonnie has served the Diocese of Olympia before, including two terms on Diocesan Council and membership on the Racial Justice Audit Task Force alongside the Circles of Color and the Office of Multicultural Ministries and Community Transformation.

She has accompanied people discerning calls to ordained ministry and has experience supporting postulants, seminarians, newly ordained clergy, and curates as they grow into their vocations. Bonnie brings to ministry the gifts of teaching, pastoral listening, institutional wisdom, collaboration, and an ability to hold people and processes together with both compassion and clarity. She believes healthy church leadership requires curiosity, prayer, good humor, careful discernment, and a willingness to listen deeply before acting.

Why are you drawn to serve on the Standing Committee?

I have a heart for local congregations and their unique gifts and challenges. I also value the Standing Committee's role as a council of advice to the bishop, and the essential work of supporting new leaders for ordained ministry. I would be grateful for the opportunity to bring my experience in parish ministry, church property, stewardship, diocesan governance, formation, and reconciliation to that work.

What are gifts and skills that an effective member of the Standing Committee should have? How do those align with your own gifts and skills?

An effective member of the Standing Committee needs to listen deeply, ask good questions and exercise sound judgment, while understanding that discernment is not simply about completing a process; it is about listening together for the movement of the Holy Spirit.

I believe our best decisions emerge through prayer, careful listening, honest conversation, and relationships grounded in trust. I would bring those gifts, along with prayerfulness, curiosity, and a healthy sense of humor, to the Standing Committee.

BONNIE MALONE - *cont.*

What are you passionate about for our Diocese?

I am passionate about a Diocese in which people can discover their gifts, discern their vocation, and find genuine belonging in the Body of Christ. I want us to form courageous lay and ordained leaders who are prepared to serve the communities God has placed around us. I am deeply committed to the continuing work of racial justice, reconciliation, and examining the ways our institutional structures can either widen or diminish belonging. I am excited by a Diocese that can hold our rich Episcopal tradition together with curiosity, creativity, justice, and a willingness to follow the Holy Spirit somewhere new.

How will that inform your work on the Standing Committee and support the mission of our Diocese?

My experience in parish ministry, diocesan governance, church property, finance, formation, and racial justice has taught me that faithful leadership requires both relationships and responsible structures. I would bring these perspectives to the committee. Above all, I would seek to support the bishop and the Diocese with prayerful discernment, thoughtful questions, honest counsel, and a commitment to a Church in which all of God's people can belong, grow, and participate fully in God's mission.

for the position of
STANDING COMMITTEE - CLERICAL ORDER
four year term

TOM SRAMEK, JR. - St. Andrew's, Aberdeen

Brief Biographical Statement

I currently serve as Priest-in-Charge of St. Andrew's, Aberdeen, where I lead a congregation in a journey of rediscovery after many years without a consistent clergy presence. I have served as Alternate Deputy to General Convention in two dioceses, Standing Committee member (and VP) in one, on the Board of Trustees and Diocesan Council in another. I have served as Vice-President of Province VIII for two years and would bring over 30 years of ordained ministry experience to the Standing Committee. I am known for my listening skills, my calm demeanor, and my ability to remain calm in a crisis. I would look forward to using my experience and skills in service to God in this diocese.



Why are you drawn to serve on the Standing Committee?

Having served on a Standing Committee in a previous diocese, I enjoy the more nuanced and mission-focused discussions and deliberations of that body.

What are gifts and skills that an effective member of the Standing Committee should have?

Primarily the gift of discernment, but also an extensive understanding of Episcopal polity and an ability to think strategically and to deliberate well.

How do those align with your own gifts and skills?

After over 30 years of ordained ministry experience, I am known for my ability to listen and discern calmly even during difficult deliberations.

What are you passionate about for our Diocese?

I am passionate about making the church an example of inclusive love and care and an example to the world of living together across differences.

How will that inform your work on the Standing Committee and support the mission of our Diocese?

I believe I can model thoughtful deliberation on the Standing Committee and they can model it for congregations, who can be an example to the world.

for the position of
STANDING COMMITTEE - LAY ORDER
four year term

KEVIN KING – St. Aidan's, Camano Island

Brief Biographical Statement

Currently a member of St Aidan's Church on Camano Island. Have been a member since 2019. Currently the St Aidan's Festival Chairman. In that role, I organize an enormous yard sale with proceeds going to local charities. I also serve on the Steering Committee for St Aidan's Extreme Cold Weather Shelter. I previously served on the St Aidan's Bishop's Committee (Vestry) and was a Junior Warden for two years. I am a degreed Mechanical Engineer and retired manager from Boeing. I have many talents ranging from handy man skills, communication, Excel/Word/Powerpoint, to project management,



Why are you drawn to serve on the Standing Committee?

Of all the available positions, this seemed the best fit for my background and interests. Fr Drew Foisie thought I would be a good fit for this and the other open positions. I treated the request as my calling from God.

What are gifts and skills that an effective member of the Standing Committee should have?

Ability to listen to all points of view and work with others to make equitable decisions. As a previous manager of technical people I have had to help grow and nurture new hires, long tenured teammates and on occasion deal with tough personnel issues.

How do those align with your own gifts and skills?

My skills and gifts are varied. One of my greatest gifts is my adaptability and willingness to take on new challenges.

What are you passionate about for our Diocese?

I am passionate about the Diocese building congregations of loving parishioners who support each other and their communities in their walk in love of Jesus.

How will that inform your work on the Standing Committee and support the mission of our Diocese?

I don't feel I know enough about the work of the Standing Committee to adequately answer this, but am willing to learn.

for the position of
ARCHIVIST & RECORDS MANAGER
one year term

Erik Bauer - *Office of the Bishop*

Brief Biographical Statement

It's my privilege to serve as your diocesan Archivist and Records Manager. This position continues to be vital for the diocese. There has been a continued focus on managing digital files, adding them to the diocesan digital asset management database, and re-catalog the archival collection. My goal is to maintain the records of the diocese, preserve the diocesan memory, and assist congregations. I am always looking for ways to improve access and make records available to those who need them. I provide the diocese and its congregations, ministries, and institutions with the highest level of archival and records management expertise and service. I'm an active participant in several professional organizations, such as the Society of American Archivists, the Seattle Heritage Emergency Response Network, and National Heritage Responders. I have master degrees in Humanities, History, and Library and Information Science.



What is your passion for the Diocese, and how would that inform your work in the Diocese?

Helping and assisting others is something I am passionate about. Teaching is a two-way street in that I am learning from the congregations I assist, and the congregations are learning from me. Additionally, it is crucial to provide access to information stored in the diocesan archives and keep that information readily available to everyone. Providing information and teaching opportunities helps to strengthen a congregation's history and its connection to the community, along with the diocese and congregations knowing not only where they have been but also where they are going.

Are there changes you would like to see within the Diocese? If so, what are they, and how would you work to bring them about?

I want to strengthen connections between congregations within the diocese. One way this can be accomplished is by having congregations create emergency response plans. By making these, congregations may be willing to share resources during times of crisis. I have been active in this by presenting on this topic at the past two Convene, and I talk about this when working with congregations related to records management.

for the position of
SECRETARY OF CONVENTION
one year term

Jamie Balducci - Epiphany, Seattle

Brief Biographical Statement

I attend Epiphany Parish in Seattle. At Epiphany, I have been a member and volunteer leader in the choir for 15 years where I sing along with my husband and two teens. I have had the opportunity to serve on the Vestry and have been a Lay Delegate or Alternate to convention for the last 14 years. I have also had the pleasure of serving on Diocesan Council, attending CCD, and serving as a Congregational Consultant for the Diocese. My most visible role has been as Chair of Dispatch of Business for convention, one I have enjoyed since 2016. This brought me in close contact with the past Secretaries of Convention, who have held this role so ably in the past. I have been honored to be asked to serve the diocese in a larger role as Secretary of Convention. In my professional life I am an experienced senior leader in Healthcare Analytics, currently serving within the Providence Healthcare organization.



What is your passion for the Diocese, and how would that inform your work in the Diocese?

Right now, my passion for the Diocese is curiosity. The Diocese of Olympia is where I have lived my entire life, starting in Port Angeles, through Tacoma for college, and now Seattle. My work with Diocesan council, CCD, and as Dispatch of Business have broadened my experience of where we worship and who we are. I have a deeper understanding of how God is at work in this sacred corner of His Kingdom, and I look forward to seeing how this new role expands my understanding of how He is at work among us.

Are there changes you would like to see within the Diocese? If so, what are they, and how would you work to bring them about?

The only thing certain is change, and we are at our best when we can enable healthy change. I foresee an environment of significant shifts, large and small in the Diocese. I do not want to drive change, however, I do want to lean in with the people who are embracing the change and loving the people impacted by change. It will be difficult, it will also be joyful, transformational and completely filled with the Holy Spirit. With God's help our path will come 'round right.

for the position of
TREASURER
one year term

Ed Barton - *Christ Church, Anacortes*

Brief Biographical Statement

Current congregant at Christ Church, Anacortes. Former Treasurer at St. Francis, Mill Creek. I currently serve on Christ Church's Bishop's Committee, Finance Committee, and Red Door Operations Committee, and I am a licensed lay preacher, eucharistic minister, reader, and member of the pastoral care team. I am a Certified Public Accountant, Chartered Financial Analyst, and attorney, focusing on tax, trust, and estate matters. I hold a bachelor's degree in Finance from the University of Notre Dame, an MBA from Syracuse University, a Master's in Education from Western Governors University, a Doctorate in Education from Marshall University, as well as law degrees from Northwestern California and the University of London. I bring over 30 years of financial, operational, and technical leadership experience to the Treasurer's role, including experience as CFO at Saint Martin's University and other not-for-profit board service.



What is your passion for the Diocese, and how would that inform your work in the Diocese?

I am a firm believer in the Great Commission, as stated in Matthew 28:19: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations." Historically, this has been fraught with approaches that were not accepting, inclusive, or based on living the example that Christ set for us. I am passionate that the Diocese of Olympia truly brings the Gospel to "all nations" in light of history, aiming to include all of creation in the gift of the Gospel. I am passionate that we strive to include every child of God in our worship and our congregations, that we strive to help all of creation with love and without reservation, and that we work to make disciples through our example in living the life Christ calls us to live. I am passionate about the Diocese being able to help those who need it most, and doing so reliably and for the long haul. As we near our 175th anniversary, I am passionate that the diocese be able to carry forward this mission of love, assistance, and inclusion for the next 175 years.

Are there changes you would like to see within the Diocese? If so, what are they, and how would you work to bring them about?

We need to be thinking a decade ahead for mission sustainability and ensure that our technology, processes, and infrastructure can support the work of Christ. We have felt the impacts of budget constraints at a time when our communities need the work of the diocese more than ever. Whether it is the work of our Refugee Resettlement Office, the healing work of Sacred Waters, or facilitating the inclusion of marginalized communities, our ability to support these vital efforts sustainably is critical. I have already begun work with the Canon to the Ordinary, the Canon for Finance, the Bishop, and other key stakeholders to explore ways of planning and resource allocation that improve our ability to think ahead, forecast with confidence, and align our mission and budget effectively.