

Convention 90 Elective Offices

Please review this document in advance of Convention 90 on October 30th for the elections. No need to print this document. When you are ready to make your selections for the electronic voting, use the "2020 Pre-Selection Ballot" found in the required reading for Delegates section on the website under the Convention 90 tab. Go to: <http://episcopalrochester.org>

Standing Committee (Elect 1 Clergy)

Rev. Nita Byrd

Geneva, St. John's Chapel

I served as a member of my parish vestry, sat on the Commission on Ministry for 5 years, and was a member of the Nominating Committee for the XII Bishop Diocesan in North Carolina. I currently serve as the Dean of Spiritual Engagement and Chaplain at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, giving me a unique perspective of ministry at the margins in a dynamically changing world. I believe that holding Jesus as the focus of our ministry and decision making as a diocese should be our primary goal if the Diocese of Rochester elects me to the Standing Committee.



Standing Committee (Elect 1 Lay)

Jeremy Cooney

Rochester, Christ Church

About 15 years ago, as a recent graduate of Hobart College, I was called to serve on the nomination committee to select our Diocese's next bishop. We were fortunate to select Bishop Singh, who has since become a friend and holy voice for me in the years since his installation. Now, as our Diocese faces new challenges in a post-covid and spiritually strained time, I am called to serve him on standing committee. I will gladly contribute my voice as an active member of the vestry of Christ Church Rochester and as state senator, if elected to serve our Diocese in this capacity. I humbly ask for your support.



Trustees (Elect 3 Clergy or Lay)

Richard Harrison

Rochester, St. Paul's

A long career in banking and finance gave me the opportunity to develop asset management, lending, and general business skills to assist in the performance of Trustee responsibilities. Service on the boards of directors of several non-profit organizations and public companies has provided experience in governance, audit, investment management and enterprise risk management. A lifelong Episcopalian, I am currently the Treasurer of St. Paul's and am a prior vestryperson and warden.



Rev. Donald Schranz

Clifton Springs, St. John's

Being relatively new to the diocese, I come with a desire to be active on the diocesan level. I believe I can bring unique insights from my previous ministry in four parishes and 23 years of experience as a Program Planner (part of the Finance and Program Management Department) with Lockheed Martin Corporation. The COVID-19 Pandemic has brought even more challenges, financial and other to our churches and I would be honored to be able to assist the Bishop and the team of Trustees in the prudent management of the assets of the Diocese, leading to even stronger parishes properly equipped to fulfil our mission as disciples of Jesus Christ.



John Wallin

Avon, Zion

For over 25 years, I have been involved in Real Estate as a Broker, Associate Broker and Property Manager. Prior to that, I was Treasurer of the Interfaith council at SUNY Geneseo. I am an active member of Zion Church in Avon. My business experience should help in decision making for the Rochester Diocese.



Diocesan Council (Elect 3 Clergy-at-Large)

Rev. Padraic Collins-Bohrer

Rochester, Christ Church

I believe I am uniquely qualified to serve on Diocesan Council because I am a careful listener and a very patient person. I will take my time to listen, explore, and fully understand all sides of issues brought to Council. I will use my patience and careful listening skills to assist the Bishop and my other colleagues in doing the important work of the Council related to the Diocesan budget and other areas. I bring experience to the role having served one term on Diocesan Council and one year as Co-chair of the Congregational Development Partnership Committee, as we strive to live out our faith according to what we believe God is calling us to do.



Rev. Elizabeth Harden

Brockport, St. Luke's

I am deeply grateful for the two years I've spent on Diocesan Council so far. This role has allowed me to learn much about this diocese and to work with an amazing team of people committed to the work of the Gospel. I would be honored to continue to serve.



Rev. Keisha Stokes

Palmyra, Zion

As one of our newest priests and life-long member of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, I would bring a unique and creative perspective to Diocesan Council. I have served our Diocese in a few capacities in the past, including as Diocesan Youth Missioner for several years. I currently serve on the COVID Taskforce and our Formation Team. I am the Priest-in-Charge at Zion, Palmyra, and the Pastoral Associate at St. John's, Canandaigua. My experiences as a priest in a small church would be an asset to Council. I have a passion for formation, liturgy, and fostering relationships within and between parishes.



Commission on Ministry (Elect 1 Clergy)

Rev. Michael Laver

Rochester, St. Luke & St. Simon Cyrene

I have spent the past fifteen years in higher education as a professor and an administrator. I have also, during this time, graduated from divinity school and served as a rector of a rural parish (Saint John's, Sodus) as a bi-vocational priest. I understand the challenges and opportunities involved in pursuing ordination and the priesthood while working and raising a family. I am eager to bring this unique viewpoint to the Commission on Ministry.



Commission on Ministry (Elect 2 Lay)

Kathy O'Leary

Rochester, Church of the Ascension

After being on COM for almost 3 years, I feel I have gained a great understanding for the process and dignity of this Commission. As almost a cradle Episcopalian, I have a great feel for what is expected and want to continue to work to make calling, dreams, and aspirations to be filled. I thank you and appreciate your consideration.



Brent Underwood

Corning, Christ Church

I graduated from Cedarville with a Bible degree and then completed some graduate work and an internship in Grand Rapids, Michigan, before spending the next 10 years as a youth missionary in Williamsburg and Richmond, Virginia. I worked for 3 years as church planter in the inner-city of Richmond, while also working with a non-profit that assisted people as they moved out of homelessness and into government-funded housing. I moved to Corning, NY with my family at the end of 2009 and currently work with CSEA as a Labor Relations Specialist.

My vision for the Church is that it would be the hands and feet of Jesus—always reaching out and helping the least of these. I would be honored to journey with others as they discern how to best serve God and God's church.



Disciplinary Board (Elect 1 Clergy)

Rev. Denise Yarbrough

Boomfield, St. Peter's

I have served on the Disciplinary Board as President for the past two years. I bring experience to the role and would be honored to continue to serve the diocese in this capacity for another term. I have previously served on Constitution and Canons Committee and am also an attorney.



Disciplinary Board (Elect 1 Lay)

Harry Merryman

Rochester, St. Thomas

Having served on the Disciplinary Board for the past three years, I have a good understanding of the processes which are in place to evaluate the disputes and charges brought to us for resolution. I am a lifelong Episcopalian and have served in many parishes and diocesan leadership positions requiring particular attention to discretion, sensitivity, and confidentiality.

