

Episcopal Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania

Nominees for Diocesan Offices at the 112th Convention

Diocesan Council - Lay (Lay elect one for 4 Year Term):

Tawnie Williams (Emmanuel, Emporium) I feel called to be a member of Diocesan Council because of my desire to be of use. I have been a member of Emmanuel, Emporium for 15 years. During that time I have been a member of Vestry for 4 terms and have served as treasurer since 2012. I have also been a member of the choir and serve as an acolyte. I serve on the Altar Guild and am a member of St. Hilda's Guild, which is our branch of the ECW. I have been a lector for several years and have recently become a Lay Worship Leader. My spiritual gifts include Giving, Faith and Service. Although I live on the far edge of the diocese, I have always been and continue to be willing to travel to participate in the life of the diocese.

Diocesan Council - Priest (Priests elect one for 4 Year Term):



The Rev. Tim Dyer (Grace, Ridgway & St. Agnes, St. Marys) Over the last seven years, I have served as an assistant clergyperson at Trinity Memorial in Warren, St. Francis in Youngsville, and St. James in Titusville. Currently, I am Vicar at Grace Church in Ridgway and St. Agnes in St. Marys. During that time, I have collaborated on various projects, including developing The Children of Abraham, which is an inter-faith dialogue initiative. Many of the lessons I have learned as a clergyperson and with inter-faith dialogue would benefit me in functioning as a teammate on Diocesan Council. I believe that as we emerge from the COVID pandemic, it will take thoughtful and prayerful discernment to envision and guide the church and our diocese into a more inclusive future. If elected, I look forward to working with and learning from those already engaged in this work.

Standing Committee - Lay (Vote by Orders to elect one to 4 Year Term):



Craig Dressler (St. Mark's, Erie) I serve as the Executive Director at St. Mark's, Erie. For the last three years, it has been my pleasure to sit on the Standing Committee of the Diocese of NWP – most recently serving as the secretary. It would be a joy to be re-elected to represent the people of our diocese in this capacity. I take seriously the role of the Standing Committee as a council of advice to the Bishop helping translate the needs of our leaders and parishioners to the diocese as well as caring for the Bishop and his staff. Having served as a deputy to the last two General Conventions of The Episcopal Church, serving as an officer of a legislative committee and sitting on the Task Force on Liturgical

& Prayer Book Revision – I pray that I have represented with integrity the voice of the people of the Diocese of NWP to the wider church. Within our diocese, I had the honor of serving as co-chair of the Mission Strategy Advisory Group (MSAG) helping to foster deeper relationships and mission within our diocesan partnership. Having hosted numerous listening sessions throughout the pandemic, we learned much about the people of our diocese and their needs. I hope to continue to bring the hopes, dreams, and needs of the people of our diocese to the Standing Committee. I thank you for entrusting this work to me.

Standing Committee - Clergy (Vote by Orders to elect one to 4 Year Term):



The Rev. Shawn Clerkin (St. John's, Franklin) I feel called to serve as I have transitioned from part-time to full-time priest with the desire to facilitate the work of both our diocese and our mutual partnership. I have been a priest in the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania for almost seventeen years. During this time, I have been chair of the Commission of Ministry, a member of the Diocesan Council, and on staff of the summer camp. I am familiar with the needs of urban, suburban, and rural congregations, having been a clerical leader and facilitator of churches in each context (Church of the Holy Spirit & Cathedral of St. Paul, Erie; St. Mary's, Lawrence Park; St. Stephen's, Fairview; and St. John's/CORE Ministries, Clarion/Crawford/Venango Counties). As a Bexley Hall Seminary graduate, I share a collegiality with many priests

and deacons in the diocese of Western New York. I am currently in the doctoral program in organizational learning and leadership at Gannon University, from where I recently retired after three decades as a faculty member. I hope to bring my love of congregation, diocese, and partnership, along with gifts in authentic servant leadership and education to our Diocesan Standing Committee.



The Very Rev. Melinda Hall (Cathedral of St. Paul, Erie) Standing Committee serves as an invaluable advisory body to the bishop, responsible for important decisions that impact our diocesan life together. As someone with over a decade in the diocese, who has served on Diocesan Council and has experience in three congregations, I bring an experiential understanding of the many complex and diverse voices of this diocese- rural and urban, traditional and more innovative, older and younger. Additionally, I am a student of organizational systems, reading constantly and receiving coaching, which helps me see how diverse pieces move together, ask good

questions, and think strategically. I try to listen to others, am honest, and am unafraid to voice unpopular opinions/ideas I think to be important or true while being respectful of others. I try to stay grounded, engaging in several spiritual practices that help me center and see beyond myself. I would serve with integrity and authenticity.

Constitution & Canons - Lay (Elect one to a 3 Year Term):



Anne Bardol (Holy Cross, North East) I hope to continue to the serve the diocese as a member of the Constitution and Canons Committee, if elected, as I am dedicated to its function and purpose. The church's canons are constantly changing which affects our diocese in what we do and how it needs to be done. It poses a very interesting challenge to me. I have many years of leadership experience at my local church in various capacities as well as on the diocesan and national church levels.

Constitution & Canons - Clergy (Elect one to a 3 Year Term):



The Rev. Rebecca Harris (St. John's, Kane) I have great respect for the inspired order of our Anglican tradition, and a natural inclination toward detail and organization. I would very much like to use my interest in Constitution and Canons in service to the Episcopal Church and the Diocese.

Deputy to General Convention - Lay (Vote by Orders to elect 4 deputies & 4 alternates):



Anne Bardol (Holy Cross, North East) My involvement with the Episcopal Church began very soon after attending my first service, looking for a church home. Since that time, I've been giving thanks for God for having me recognize the needs of the less fortunate and to be of service to all. I've attended many General Conventions and the experience I have gained is priceless. It's led to a greater involvement in my local church, as well as the diocese and the national church. I am also involved with several non-profit organizations. As an accountant, I have experience to share yet still want to continue to learn, if elected, to be of service wherever I can. The face of General Convention is younger, a wonderful thing to see, but experience can offer guidance to the future leaders. Currently I serve as

the Bishop's Warden and parish administrator at Holy Cross, among other things. I am also treasurer of two non-profits as well as the accountant/auditor for one of the companies of the local fire department and a tax accountant. Past experience includes: Standing Committee, Diocesan Council, Audit Committee, Deputy to Provincial Synod, Constitution & Canons and service as DFMS Audit Committee chair and a member of Program, Budget & Finance of The Episcopal Church.



Craig Dressler (St. Mark's, Erie) The Episcopal Church has been a great blessing to my family, and it would be a distinct honor to represent our diocese as a deputy to General Convention (GC81) 2024. Having had the opportunity to represent our diocese at General Convention (GC79) in 2018 and General Convention (GC80) in 2022, I have discovered a great passion for the governance of our Church. Serving as Assistant Secretary to the legislative committee for Churchwide Leadership and as a member of the Task Force on Liturgical & Prayer Book Revision, I have been blessed to witness the powerful, prophetic work of The Episcopal Church in the 21st century. I pray to be able to continue that work and thank you for the opportunity to serve as your deputy.



Ed Palattella (Cathedral of St. Paul, Erie) General Convention represents an integral part of the Episcopal Church -- its democratic structure. That participatory structure appeals greatly to me, and I would like to continue to be involved in it. I served as a lay delegate to General Convention in 2015 in Salt Lake City, and 2022 in Baltimore. I served on committees at both gatherings. In 2015, my committee, on Evangelism & Communications, crafted legislation on digital evangelism. This year, my committee, on Evangelism & Church Planting, fashioned legislation to encourage and fund church plants and church revitalization -- topics of great interest to the partnership between Northwestern Pennsylvania and Western New York. I would be honored to build on the past legislation at General Convention in 2024 in Louisville. Thank you for considering my nomination.



Kaycee Reib (St. John's, Franklin) I believe The Episcopal Church is ready to begin some new and different ways to serve our parishes, our communities and the world as Christ commanded us to do. I found General Convention 2022 to be inspiring, with the promise of more good work to be done with social justice, inclusivity, and service. Those of us with experience should be willing to support the changes ahead to make our churches more open and welcoming and, more importantly, to lead us to be not only people of worship and prayer, but people of action and service, intentionally doing God's work outside of our buildings where the Love, Light, and Hope of Christ is desperately needed. And yes, I do feel called to be there in 2024 and participate.

Deputy to General Convention - Clergy (Vote by Orders to elect 4 deputies & 4 alternates):



The Rev. Erin Betz Shank (Trinity, New Castle) It was an honor to serve as a first-time deputy at the 80th General Convention in Baltimore. I was fortunate to be able to serve as an Assistant Secretary for the Legislative Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations. This work was very exciting and motivating. In our many conversations, I felt that the larger conversation of emphasizing and living into ecumenical relationships can be directly applicable in our own region and Diocese. I feel called and would very much like to continue that work and to use my gifts and build upon my experience as a representative of the Diocese of NWP and Partnership to the greater Episcopal Church at the 81st General Convention. It would be a joy and a privilege to serve if I am so elected.



The Rev. Stacey Fussell (Ascension, Bradford) I have been ordained for over 24 years and have now spent half of my ordained life in NWP. After serving as an Associate then Interim Rector at a parish and Church Planter and Vicar of a mission church in the Diocese of Texas, I answered the call to be Rector of Church of the Ascension in Bradford. In the past 12 years we have seen strong growth and have begun several new ministries, including a mobile food pantry, a weekly lunch ministry, regular worship services at the University of Pittsburgh-Bradford and a Preschool. I currently serve as President of the Bradford Area Ministerium, Dean of the NE Deanery and President of the NWP Standing Committee. I have served the wider church as a Reader for the General Ordination Exam, a member of the task force that crafted the liturgies for Church Planting found in the Book of Occasional Services and the head of Secretariat Sections at the Lambeth Conferences of 1998 and 2008. I proudly represented the Diocese of NWP as a Clergy Deputy to General Convention in 2018 and 2022. I believe my broad experiences in the diocese and wider church will enable me to bring strong insights and commitment to serving as a Deputy again in 2024.



The Very Rev. Melinda Hall (Cathedral of St. Paul, Erie) Having attended General Convention in 2022, even though it was irregular, I have an understanding of how this legislative process works and believe this experience makes me a good candidate for deputy. I also understand that I represent the entire diocese; having served rural congregations and now in an urban setting, I have experience in a variety of ministry settings that enlarge my perspective. In my previous setting, I served on a school board that engaged in legislation and compromise, giving me valuable experience in those areas, which transfers to the work of a deputy. I try to ask good questions and listen to others, both traits that would make me a good deputy. I work hard and am a quick study, which is helpful given the size of reading material to prepare for convention.



The Rev. Adam Trambley (St. John's, Sharon) I feel called to serve our church as a deputy to General Convention. I have gifts for the canonical and legislative work which is the focus of Convention, and have helped put together past General Convention legislation to provide childcare during General Convention, fund new church plants, and streamline the church's governance and structure. My experience will help me serve our diocese in this ministry. I have served as a deputy to General Convention five times, and also currently serve on the Standing Commission for Governance, Structure, Constitution, and Canons. I am our Diocesan Secretary, and have experience facilitating strategic planning processes and mutual ministry reviews. In my community, I am president of our local library and on the board of the Sharon Community Development Corporation. I have also served on Sharon City Council and various local boards.