

2026 GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTY NOMINATIONS

CLERGY ORDER



Nominee: The Rev. Amanda Dosher
Church: St. James, Fairhope

Nominated by: The Rev. David Knight
Church: St. Simon's, Fort Walton Beach

Describe experiences and positions you have, or currently hold, in the church and the world that will have helped you prepare for serving in this position:

I served as a member of the General Convention Deputation from the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast in 2024. I have been both lay and clergy delegate for several Diocesan conventions over the last decade. I am the President of the Disciplinary Committee for the Diocese. Before starting seminary in 2019, I worked as a lawyer for 15 years. I served as Senior Warden and Vestry member at Christ Church Pensacola during this time.

What, in your opinion, are the greatest opportunities and challenges facing the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast at this time?

I continue to be amazed and excited by the abundant grace and love that our churches stand for and demonstrate to others. Coupled with our gift of hospitality, we have a unique opportunity to serve as a safe and welcoming refuge for people who are hurting, anxious, or lonely in our world today. There is no shortage of these folks out there; we just have to rise to the challenge of showing them who we are and how we can be home.

The church - both local and national - continues to face financial challenges; and the 2027 General Convention presents an opportunity to work together to find ways to free up funds for the local churches and dioceses while making the national church more efficient in its stewardship of resources.

What sustains you in your spiritual life?

Life in community with other Christians sustains my spiritual life and inspires my faith. I also seek out resources such as spiritual direction and yearly retreats, and make Centering Prayer a daily part of my life. I also love art, photography, and poetry; and I find my faith is deepened and enriched through my experiences with them.

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Nominee: The Rev. David Knight
Church: St. Simon's, Fort Walton Beach

Nominated by: The Rev. John Keith Talbert
Church: St. John's, Mobile

Describe experiences and positions you have, or currently hold, in the church and the world that will have helped you prepare for serving in this position:

Member of the General Convention Deputation from Mississippi (2006, 2009, 2012, 2015) and Central Gulf Coast (2018, 2022, 2024), chair of Deputation from CGC for the last 3 General Conventions. Served on the Task Force on Marriage, 2012-2015. Standing Committee Diocese of Mississippi (two terms as President) and Diocese of Central Gulf Coast (one term as President). Trained as Anti-Racism leader, served churches in Mississippi, Southeast Florida and Central Gulf Coast as Rector and Interim Rector. Cursillo staff numerous times as lay person and as Spiritual Director, currently Spiritual Advisor to Cursillo in DIOCGC.

What, in your opinion, are the greatest opportunities and challenges facing the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast at this time?

It is an exciting time for the Episcopal church and our diocese. We are seeing growth in many areas, more young families seeking our church, and lots of hands-on mission work in our communities. Our challenge is to be ready to love all, accept and welcome all, and help all follow Christ in every way. I believe we have something unique and wonderful to offer a world searching for light in the darkness and a path to a loving God and Savior. As someone who has been part of General Convention in a variety of ways my entire ordained life, I am excited to see serious conversations around our governance and ways convention itself can be uplifting, formative, and dedicated to furthering the gospel and not so mired in legislation.

What sustains you in your spiritual life?

Daily prayer time, spiritual retreats, bi-annual gatherings with clergy friends and others who have helped form me and keep me on solid ground. I spend a lot of time reading classic spiritual books as well as new materials. I love reading and studying the Bible and leading Bible studies.

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Nominee: The Rev. Eric Mancil
Church: St. Mary's, Andalusia

Nominated by: self

Describe experiences and positions you have, or currently hold, in the church and the world that will have helped you prepare for serving in this position:

I have served as a parish priest in the Episcopal Church for the past ten years, mostly as the rector of small congregations in the Diocese of Alabama and the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. I have also served in various leadership capacities and currently serve as a member of the Standing Committee in the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. I am interested in serving as a deputy to General Convention because I think it's important for clergy and lay people in smaller, rural parts of the diocese to be represented not only at the diocesan level but also the national level.

What, in your opinion, are the greatest opportunities and challenges facing the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast at this time?

In my opinion, the greatest opportunity right now for our church is creating open spaces for people who are either unchurched or who have become estranged from the church. What I'm seeing in my own ministry is people who are coming from other traditions looking for a church home where they can truly belong, feel accepted for who they are, and explore their faith in a place that welcomes questions.

The greatest challenge we're facing right now, I think, is communicating who we are as a church, especially in a time when people are questioning what it means to be a Christian, and inviting people to come and see what we're all about. I think we've made a lot of progress in recent years in how to be "Episcopal evangelists," but we still have a lot of work to do in that area.

What sustains you in your spiritual life?

Reading, making space for daily prayer, and physical exercise are all incredibly important for me and crucial for my spiritual well-being. As a musician, I'm also fed by making music, both in worship and through the local community choir I direct in Andalusia.

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Nominee: The Rev. John Keith Talbert
Church: St. John's, Mobile

Nominated by: The Rev. David Knight
Church: St. Simon's, Fort Walton Beach

Describe experiences and positions you have, or currently hold, in the church and the world that will have helped you prepare for serving in this position:

I currently serve with St. John's Mobile in my first rectorship (Presentation 2025). We had ministered 41 months together (Easter 7 2022) prior, while I served as Priest-in-Charge alongside my Curacy with the congregation of St. Paul's Daphne since my ordination (Presentation 2021). My diaconal service in 2020 was through Advent and Christmas with Holy Spirit Gulf Shores; after becoming a digital evangelist for St Luke's Mobile through Epiphany and Easter the same year. St. Peter's in Bon Secour welcomed me Lent and Easter 2017 as I discerned, for Pentecost 2019 to conclude 7 years on the staff of St. Paul's Foley as their musician, choirmaster, youth minister, and ministry coordinator since Easter 5 2013. I am a clerical deputy of DIOCGC to the 81st General Convention (Louisville 2024) and was appointed to the Task Force on Artificial Intelligence and Intellectual Property for triennium work. I am a Beckwith kid, Happening and Cursillo musician, 6-year Summer Staff Alum, and just signed up for my 9th consecutive year as a Camp Dean! #Godsfrontyard. All these people continue to prepare me for what's next for me in ministry as I reflect on our work, gather for worship, and build up our community.

What, in your opinion, are the greatest opportunities and challenges facing the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast at this time?

I believe the greatest challenge and opportunity we face is now closer, and three years later. This was my deputy nominee response to our 52nd Diocesan Convention as well: "We stand on the precipice of parishes leaning in to embrace a communal identity. I find myself fascinated when reading about developments across the Church of mutual ministry covenants where once-declining parishes are beginning to share physical space, creative leadership, administrative gifts and communal spiritual guidance by one or more (often alternatively formed) clergy. The shift into collaborative ministry is helping congregations with common geographical areas greater serve the people around them and while doing so thrive! By fully embracing convocational identity, we would become a more expansive Episcopal presence to our regions than any individual parish would accomplish alone. However, this opportunity is met equally in force by the challenge of overcoming the fear of scarcity. These transitions will require holy creativity and pastoral sensitivity as we find the means to support a broader community of faith seeking to coordinate their resources in service to God. By renewing that we are one body in the Lord, our wholeness will certainly be greater than the sum of our parts."

What sustains you in your spiritual life?

You do. The greatest parts of the day are the moments of encounter. For on each is the opportunity to "love the face of God I see in you" (Leebrick, H#58). It is in the encounter that we have a place to bear spiritual fruit with each other, being nourished by our presence to one another; so that over time and through compassion for one another we experience patience, kindness, gentleness, and goodness with all those faithful to love, joy, and peace. I have clergy friends I can text with about quirky church stuff and to help balance a home and a church (w/kids) at the same time. I have classmates and mentors and professors that I know will get back to me when I tell them I'm lost. I believe talking to someone you trust about the spiritual experience in your life is important to sustain it and I'm grateful to have a community ready to do that with me. I believe you do too.

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Nominee: Eugene Johnston

Church: St. John's, Mobile

Nominated by: The Rev. John Keith Talbert

Church: St. John's, Mobile

Describe experiences and positions you have, or currently hold, in the church and the world that will have helped you prepare for serving in this position:

I am a lifelong Episcopalian and a current member of St John's Episcopal Church, Mobile, AL. I have served the parish as a member of the vestry, chairman of a search committee, Eucharist visitor, lector and chalice bearer and a graduate of Sewanee's Education for Ministry (EFM) and has served as a EFM mentor. On the diocesan level, I have served on Registrar-Historiographer's Team, The Murray House Board and Interim Disaster Relief Coordinator and the Commission on Ministry (Chair 2020- 2025) I was an Alternate Deputy for the General Convention 2018 and served as a Deputy to the 2022 and 2024 General Convention. At the last General Convention, I served on the Prayer Book, Liturgy and Music Legislative Committee. Currently, I serve as the diocesan coordinator of Episcopal Relief & Development. On the provincial level, I serve as the Coordinator for Episcopal Relief & Development in Province IV and sit on the organization's Council of Advice. In 2007 was named to the Board of Trustees of Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States (FOCCUS) and currently serves on the Executive Board as Vice –Chair. These positions allow me to observe the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion first-hand.

What, in your opinion, are the greatest opportunities and challenges facing the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast at this time?

These days, fewer people are joining or taking part in various organizations, especially religious ones. According to the Pew Research Center, Episcopalians make up just 1% of the population, and nearly half of them are 65 or older, compared to only 18% of the general population. It's on us to reach out. I believe we have what people are looking for, but many simply don't know about the Episcopal Church. We need to be better evangelists, and I'm eager to be part of that effort.

What sustains you in your spiritual life?

For me, spiritual life starts with prayer, which I try to practice daily. Each week, I meet with my Cursillo reunion group, and these gatherings help keep me accountable in my Christian journey.

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Nominee: Jeannie Kienzle
Church: All Saints, Mobile

Nominated by: The Rev. Jim Flowers
Church: All Saints, Mobile

Describe experiences and positions you have, or currently hold, in the church and the world that will have helped you prepare for serving in this position:

After fifty-five years as a church musician, I have retired. Ninety percent of those years were spent serving in the Episcopal church. Serving in the diocese of New Jersey, Oregon, Ohio, Southern Ohio, West Tennessee, and the Central Gulf Coast have given me a unique perspective. Opportunities to serve have included: planning liturgy and music in parishes throughout the country, serving as a youth minister/leader of mission trip to New Orleans post Katrina, organized a diocesan youth choir in West Tennessee, serving on the national board for the Association of Anglican Musicians, helping to organize and execute two Men and boys choir/girls choir residencies in England, serving on the music faculties of the Arkansas Interfaith choir camp and Carolina course residency camp for the Royal School of Church Music in America, middle school cross country coach, coaching for Girls in the Run, northern Ohio. In 2024, I had the honor and privilege to serve as a deputy to General Convention. I am currently on the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast.

What, in your opinion, are the greatest opportunities and challenges facing the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast at this time?

At this point in time, I believe that the national church and our diocese have the opportunity continue to put into practice some very important ideals. The importance of inclusion for all, helping the marginalized, and if it's not about Love, it's not about God. A slogan coined by the diocese of Ohio, "Love God, Love your neighbor, Change the World", calls us to action for the above ideas. Having just witnessed part of the 2300-mile walk of the Buddhist monks from Ft. Worth, I became more aware that individually and collectively as Christians, we can make a difference in the world. We have an obligation and opportunity as the Episcopal church to speak out and change the chaos in this country and beyond. The challenge is to directly live into our creeds and baptismal covenant. Inclusion, respect for all, speaking the truth and taking action are not easy. As followers of Jesus, we were not promised easy. We need to be brave to be the voices of those who are voiceless and invisible. I am thankful for the differences in each parish of this diocese. Together we are the church.

What sustains you in your spiritual life?

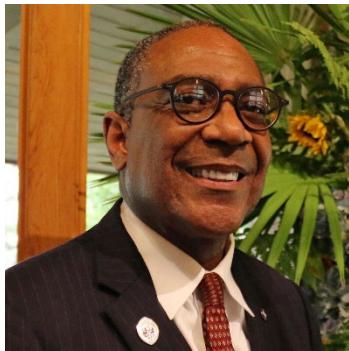
Hope sustains me: hope for justice and peace; hope and faith for the children and youth who are the future of the church; hope that our bishops and priests will be well sustained to carry out the work of the church. A small group of Buddhist monks walking 2300 miles to awaken peace in all of us gives me hope that individually and collectively we can begin with those brave first steps. As a distance runner, I have had the good fortune to run in beautiful parks. It is while running through natural settings that I have been the closest to God, the most serene and at peace.

In a world wounded
by fear and division,
the church's role is
not to dominate
but to serve
not to judge
but to heal
not to retreat
but to engage.

Rev'd Dr. Terao Bretenha Junker

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Nominee: Joe McDaniel, Jr.

Church: Christ Church Parish, Pensacola

Nominated by: The Rev. Michael Hoffman

Church: Christ Church Parish, Pensacola

Describe experiences and positions you have, or currently hold, in the church and the world that will have helped you prepare for serving in this position:

I have served, or currently am serving, in the following positions which demonstrate my preparation to serve as a deputy to The General Convention (“GC”): At the 80th GC for The Episcopal Church, I was elected to The Executive Council. I have drafted 33 substantive resolutions for the various GCs that I have attended, and 29 have been adopted by the conventions, including 79th GC Resolution D002, entitled Funding The Beloved Community. I have served on The House of Deputies (“HOD”) Committee on Evangelism & Church Planting and on the HOD’s Committee on Racial Justice & Reconciliation (“RJ&R”) and was elected to The Joint Nominating Committee to elect The Presiding Bishop. At the 78th GC, I served as the Legislative Aide to The HOD’s Committee for The Confirmation of The Presiding Bishop. I have served as a member of the Diocesan Nominating Committee to select the Fourth Bishop of the Central Gulf Coast, served as a former member of the Standing Committee for the Diocese of The Central Gulf Coast, served as a member of the Diocese Commissions on Ministry, Finance and Cursillo and as the Senior Warden of Christ Episcopal Church from January 2013 until January of 2014.

What, in your opinion, are the greatest opportunities and challenges facing the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast at this time?

The Episcopal Church (TEC) is in the midst of a time of profound transformation at every level of our corporate life. Our national structures of governance and program implementation have changed. However, I believe that we are also regaining a sense of mission more typical of the early American church and a concurrent desire to have greater impact on issues of social justice. From the top on down, TEC is reimagining itself as a more flexible organization, one which wants to be both better able to adapt to local circumstances in mission/parish development as well as more creative in potential models of local leadership, training, and education.

It is exhausting work to love one another into being the Body of Christ, but it is the most rewarding labor we can ever do for each other. We are informed by a desire to share of what we have and to be a mutually safe community, and I share the same desires. I believe this is the greatest challenge we face in our diocese, however, if properly executed, it is our greatest strength and our greatest opportunity to live into our baptismal covenant: "to respect the dignity of every human being."

What sustains you in your spiritual life?

In our common vocation as the Baptized, we must hold ourselves to a standard of interpersonal interaction that incarnates what we say we believe. I believe it is foundational to the success of our mutual work in the Church that we be equally committed to values of respect, compassion, justice, reconciliation, and peace. As Christ teaches, the commandments of God are summarized in these words, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” When I or someone that I observe fails in the law of love, I believe that we are still obliged to one another to seek greater mutual understanding of the challenging work of love that God asks of us. Together, we must engage this spiritual labor of sincere fellowship which is a foundational requirement upon which all else is even possible. I seek forgiveness where I have wronged, and I encourage others to do their own spiritual labor. I believe that we are here to create the Kingdom which God, which is that we all want a better world for all God’s Children, for all God’s Creation. We just have differing ideas about how to achieve that world. It is this fundamental belief that sustains me in my spiritual life.

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Nominee: Valerie Mitchell.

Church: All Saints, Mobile

Nominated by: The Rev. David Chatel

Church: St. Paul's Chapel, Magnolia Springs

Describe experiences and positions you have, or currently hold, in the church and the world that will have helped you prepare for serving in this position:

I currently serve as Co-Chair of the Commission on Racial Justice and Reconciliation for our Diocese. I have been a member of the Commission for five years and co-chair for the past two years. In this capacity, I have both organizational and policy responsibilities, implementing the mission of the Commission and bringing its activities into fruition. I have previously served on the Diocesan Commissions on Communications and on Addiction and Recovery.

I have been a member of All Saints, Mobile, for 28 years, and, in that time, have held numerous positions in the parish. I have served four terms on the vestry and as clerk of the vestry for a combined total of 11 years. I have headed committees for the Bayou Bash (All Saints' fundraiser for outreach ministries), served on the parish's Communications Committee, written and designed the parish's rector search booklet, served as a lay reader and intercessor, and been an active member of our Beth Murray Memorial Sunday School Class. I have represented All Saints as a delegate to the Diocesan Convention eight times. I am currently the scheduler for lay readers and intercessors. I have attended Cursillo and am a graduate of Education for Ministry.

What, in your opinion, are the greatest opportunities and challenges facing the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast at this time?

The Episcopal Church is, like most denominations, facing declining membership and attendance numbers and reduced revenues. More urgently, at this specific time in our history, we are facing the challenges posed by our society's impulses away from inclusion, hospitality, community, and love. In short, it is harder than ever for people to live out their faith in a society that rewards the values of empire and individual attainment over being the body of Christ.

Ironically, the same things that present challenges to the church can also be opportunities. While many people want a church that promises a heavenly reward, far more people are hungry for a church that reflects the brother- and sisterhood of all, here and now. That is who the Episcopal Church is, and that is what we know to be true. By living out that belief, we have the potential to offer a home to those who are dissatisfied with religion as it is being done in other churches.

I strongly believe that our church is positioned for a renaissance if we have the courage to live and practice in a way that gives truth to our baptismal vows and reflects the words of the Gospel.

What sustains you in your spiritual life?

Of course my church is a source of spiritual sustenance. I attend church virtually every Sunday. And sometimes, that is a profound spiritual source. I also try to maintain a daily prayer and meditation practice. Sometimes that is where it happens. Sometimes, I find that I am closest to God in activities outside of church, such as volunteer activities. I served for a number of years as the board chair of 15 Place, Mobile's service center for the homeless. I know I was frequently enriched spiritually when I looked into the faces of the unhoused people we were working with and on behalf of. I practice yoga, and, if done right, it can be a very spiritual experience. Music and art are often sources of spiritual nourishment. I find God in the beauty and majesty of nature. But primarily, I try to make a practice of seeing the divine in all people and all things, the minute and the mundane as well as the "sacred." As I have gotten older, I've become more able to see that sources of spiritual enrichment are all around us, if we just pay attention.

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Nominee: Jill Showers-Chow

Church: Christ Church Cathedral, Mobile

Nominated by: Carolyn Jeffers

Church: Christ Church Cathedral, Mobile

Describe experiences and positions you have, or currently hold, in the church and the world that will have helped you prepare for serving in this position:

My service across diocesan, national, and parish bodies has given me broad preparation for this position. I presently serve on the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church. As a member of that council, I have engaged in strategic governance, budget oversight, and policy implementation. As a delegate to the 80th General Convention and participant in House of Deputies Dispatch of Business, I learned legislative process, consensus-building, and the procedural discipline required to move complex measures forward. Serving on the diocesan special committee for Haiti and the Commission on Racial Justice and Reconciliation deepened my experience in cross-cultural work, advocacy, and restorative processes.

At the parish level, I have served on the Christ Church Vestry, supported the Loaves and Fishes/Food Share Pantry, and serve as a Chalice Bearer. In these roles, I have overseen congregational governance, stewardship, and direct community outreach.

My trusteeship at Wilmer Hall has further strengthened my fiduciary responsibility and institutional oversight. Additionally, leading diocesan youth ministry has refined my pastoral leadership, program development, and mentorship skills.

Collectively, these experiences have equipped me with strong governance experience, sound policy acumen, pastoral sensitivity, and practical outreach skills essential for success in this position.

What, in your opinion, are the greatest opportunities and challenges facing the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast at this time?

One of the greatest opportunities facing both the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast is our strong sense of collaboration. The majority of the time, people genuinely work together for the good of the Church and for the communities we serve. There is a deep spirit of support, shared mission, and willingness to show up for one another.

At the same time, one of our ongoing challenges is learning how to navigate disagreement in healthy and faithful ways. Differences of opinion will always exist, but approaching one another with kindness, humility, and love—rooted in prayer—can help us move forward together. By continually striving to live out our Baptismal Covenant, we can remain grounded in Christ and trust that God will guide us through both our opportunities and our challenges.

What sustains you in your spiritual life?

My spiritual life begins on Sunday morning with Communion, which brings us together as a reminder that we are all God's children. Morning Prayer anchors my daily connection with God, while Scripture—especially through Lectio Divina—keeps my focus on God's Word.

Service sustains me by showing up for others in need, and Compline gently closes each day, offering quiet moments for reflection, pause, and reset. I strive to walk faithfully as best I can, and when I fall, I trust and believe that God will pick me up. Looking back on the moments when God has made a way reminds my heart that He will do it again.