

55th Annual Diocesan Convention

February 27-28, 2026

Hilton Pensacola Beach

Hosted by St. Francis of Assisi, Gulf Breeze

STUDY MATERIAL

***DIGITAL AND PRINTED VERSIONS OF THIS MATERIAL
WILL BE AVAILABLE TO YOU AT THE CONVENTION ***

INDIVIDUAL DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE AT

www.diocgc.org/2026-diocesan-convention

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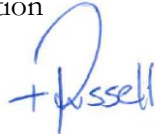
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The Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast

13 February 2026

MEMORANDUM TO: Delegates to the 55th Annual Convention

FROM: The Rt. Rev. J. Russell Kendrick 

REFERENCE: 2nd Packet Study Material for the 2026 Diocesan Convention

Enclosed is study material for Diocesan Convention which includes: a Schedule of Events; List of Delegates; Reports; Budgets; and Standing Committee member and General Convention deputy nominations. **A PRINTED COPY OF THIS MATERIAL WILL BE IN YOUR CONVENTION REGISTRATION CHECK-IN PACKET.** If you find that you will be unable to attend the Convention, please forward this email to the alternate taking your place. Please refer to the reverse of this memorandum for some notes regarding the 2026 Diocesan Convention activities.

Also enclosed is general event information.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION – Please check-in during the scheduled times: **Friday, February 27, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.** and **Saturday, February 28, from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.** in the Convention Center Lobby. If an alternate attends in place of a delegate, **the alternate must register to be certified as a delegate.** Attendees will receive their name badge and convention packet. Be sure to access our VPOLL voting system on your tablet or smartphone immediately following check-in. Details will be included in your packet.

NECROLOGY – Please complete the on-line form on the Diocesan website [2026 Diocesan Convention Necrology Reporting Form](#) or email/hand to Mary Poss at the Convention registration desk [mary@diocgc.org], names of former clergy or lay delegates to Diocesan Conventions (including the Dioceses of Alabama and Florida which once included this diocese) who died since the 54rd Annual Convention last year.

SPECIAL NOTE TO CLERGY – **SATURDAY WORSHIP SERVICE** Holy Eucharist (Rite II). Clergy WILL VEST in alb or cassock/surplice with RED stole. We will have Renewal of Vows during the service.

Clergy, please assemble immediately following the close of Convention for the CLERGY PHOTO.

JRK/jdr

Notes regarding 2026 Diocesan Convention

YOUTH DELEGATES – Upon arrival to the convention, Youth Delegates are asked to gather in the **Convention Center Lobby** with the Youth Shepherd, Cecilia Archer.

REPORTS – Other than select presentations, Agency and Commission/Committee reports will be filed by title. Delegates are encouraged to read the reports included in this packet.

RULES OF ORDER – To assist first-time delegates, and possibly even some veterans, the Rules of Order for the Diocesan Convention are included in this packet for reference.

FIRST-TIME DELEGATE GUIDE – Also to assist first-time delegates is a guide created by Convention Secretary Rev. Katie Gillett which should answer questions you may have about the convention process.

ELECTION OF STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS – There are pre-filed nominations for Standing Committee members. The Convention will be electing two (2) lay representatives and one (1) clergy representative for the Standing Committee, plus the bishop's nominees for Standing Committee.

ELECTION OF GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTIES – There are pre-filed nominations for General Convention deputies. The Convention will be electing four (4) lay representatives and four (4) clergy representatives to the General Convention of The Episcopal Church. More details about the GC are available at www.generalconvention.org.

DELEGATE CHANGES – Please report delegate changes to Jenn Roberts at by completing and emailing the delegate change form found in this packet.

PRAYER REQUESTS – The Order of the Daughters of the King®, will be praying for us all throughout the convention. There will be a basket in the main room to place your prayer requests.

CLERGY SPOUSE BRUNCH – All clergy spouses are invited to attend the Clergy Spouse breakfast on-site at the Hilton's main restaurant, *Salt*, hosted by Robin Kendrick, on Saturday, February 28, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

CHURCH BANNERS – All congregations are invited to bring their church **banner with its stand**. Banners should be placed in the main ballroom. Please designate a member of your delegation to process with the banner during the Closing Eucharist on Saturday.

Other Important Details to Note

PRE-CONVENTION MEETING RECORDING – The recording of the Pre-Convention Meeting held on February 1, is available at www.diocgc.org/post/2026-pre-convention-meeting-recording.

BUDGET HEARING ON ZOOM – From **5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, February 26, 2026**. The proposed budget for 2026 will be presented online via ZOOM. This will provide an opportunity for delegates to better understand the Diocese's finances and have answered any questions they may have. All delegates are invited and encouraged to attend this hearing. The Convention Committee on Finance will present its report to the Convention Friday afternoon, for a vote on the 2026 budget and Convention offerings.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87029215774>

Meeting ID: 870 2921 5774

PRINTED MATERIALS – All registered delegates will receive printed versions of all the documents in this packet which will also be available on our website at www.diocgc.org/2026-diocesan-convention.

QUORUM AND VOTING – All voting delegates are required to sign into the VPOLL system by the start of each day’s business sessions. Your log-in credentials will be provided in your registration packets that you will receive upon check-in at the Convention Center on Friday, February 27.

HEARING, MOBILITY, OR OTHER ACCOMMODATIONS – Anyone needing assistance with hearing, mobility, or any other accommodation, please contact Jenn Roberts at jenn@diocgc.org. We will make every effort to ensure your full participation in the convention.

YOUTH LOCK-IN – All youth in grades 9th-12th are invited to the overnight Youth Lock-in hosted by St. Francis. Youth should be registered at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/55t78pv5>. Drop off is Friday, February 27, at 6 p.m. at St. Francis, 1 St. Francis Dr. Pick up is Saturday, February 28, at 12 p.m. at Hilton Pensacola Beach. Transportation will be provided for the youth from St. Francis to the Hilton.

BRING YOUR OWN WATER BOTTLES – To eliminate single-use, plastic water bottles at our convention, please bring your own water bottle for use!

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS? If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Jenn Roberts at jenn@diocgc.org.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS AND CONVENTION AGENDA

Thursday, February 26, 2026

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Exhibitor Setup at Hilton Pensacola Beach Convention Center [Lobby & Oleander]
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	ZOOM: 2026 Budget Hearing [Meeting ID: 870 2921 5774]

Friday, February 27, 2026

IN-PERSON – HILTON PENSACOLA BEACH CONVENTION CENTER

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Exhibits Open [Lobby & Oleander]
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Registration Check-in [Lobby]
9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer with Bishop's Address [Royal Palm Ballroom]
9:45 a.m. – Noon	Business Session I [Royal Palm Ballroom]
Noon – 1:30 p.m.	Noon Prayer [Royal Palm Ballroom] and On-site Lunch
1:30 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.	Plenary [Royal Palm Ballroom]
2:30 p.m. – 3:20 p.m.	Workshop Session 1 [various locations]
3:30 p.m. – 4:20 p.m.	Workshop Session 2 [various locations]
4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Walking the Way of Creation [various on-site locations and Royal Palm Ballroom]
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Social Time [Outside veranda (weather permitting) or Emerald Coast]

Saturday, February 28, 2026

IN-PERSON – HILTON PENSACOLA BEACH CONVENTION CENTER

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Registration Check-in [Lobby]
8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Exhibits Open [Lobby & Oleander]
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Business Session II
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Clergy Spouse Brunch [Hotel Restaurant]
10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Clergy Vesting & Procession Line-up [Lobby]
10:45 a.m. – Noon	Holy Eucharist [Royal Palm Ballroom]

CONVENTION IS ADJOURNED AFTER CLOSE OF BUSINESS and BENEDICTION!

Immediately following Close of Convention	Clergy will gather for a group photo [Royal Palm Ballroom Stage] Standing Committee meets briefly [Boardroom]
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***Times for scheduled events are estimates – the schedule may run faster than anticipated ***

LAY, YOUTH AND ALTERNATE DELEGATES

Congregation/Convocation	First Name	Last Name	Designation
Convocation I - Christ Church Cathedral, Mobile	Walt	Hamil	Youth Delegate
Convocation II - Daphne, St. Paul's	Mary Claire	McTaggart	Youth Delegate
Convocation III - St. Cyprian's	Halle	King	Youth Delegate
Convocation IV - St. Mary's, Andalusia	Sophie	Mancil	Youth Delegate
Convocation V -	No delegate		
Andalusia, St. Mary's	Rachael	Taylor	Lay Delegate
Andalusia, St. Mary's	Shawn	Taylor	Lay Delegate
Apalachicola, Trinity	Susan	Farmer	Lay Delegate
Apalachicola, Trinity	Debbie	Hooper	Lay Delegate
Atmore, St. Anna's	Bridget	Wasdin	Lay Delegate
Atmore, St. Anna's	Shelia	Rolin	Alternate Delegate
Atmore, Trinity	No delegate		
Bay Minette, Immanuel	Janet	Moulton	Lay Delegate
Bay Minette, Immanuel	Linda	Brogden	Alternate Delegate
Bon Secour, St. Peter's	Christopher	Griffiths	Lay Delegate
Bon Secour, St. Peter's	Michael	Griffiths	Lay Delegate
Bon Secour, St. Peter's	Michelle	Griffiths	Lay Delegate
Bon Secour, St. Peter's	Charlotte	Green	Alternate Delegate
Bon Secour, St. Peter's	William	Griffiths	Alternate Delegate
Brewton, St. Stephen's	Kathy	Jernigan-Ellis	Lay Delegate
Brewton, St. Stephen's	Dennis	Joyner	Lay Delegate
Brewton, St. Stephen's	Edward	Pate	Lay Delegate
Cantonment, St. Monica's	Bill	Hart	Lay Delegate
Cantonment, St. Monica's	Julie	Hart	Lay Delegate
Cantonment, St. Monica's	Beth	Woods	Alternate Delegate
Chickasaw, St. Michael's	No delegate		
Chipley, St. Matthew's	Betty	Lewis	Lay Delegate
Citronelle, St. Thomas	No delegate		
Coden, St. Mary's By the Sea	Heather	Brown	Lay Delegate
Coden, St. Mary's By the Sea	Cameron	Brown	Alternate Delegate
Crestview, Church of the Epiphany	Kat	Ivanov	Lay Delegate

LAY, YOUTH AND ALTERNATE DELEGATES

Congregation/Convocation	First Name	Last Name	Designation
Daphne, St. Paul's	Richard	Foster	Lay Delegate
Daphne, St. Paul's	Rhonda	Jones	Lay Delegate
Daphne, St. Paul's	Terri	McMillan	Lay Delegate
Daphne, St. Paul's	Michael	Quinn	Lay Delegate
Daphne, St. Paul's	Matthew	Thomason	Lay Delegate
Dauphin Island, St. Francis	Angela	Payne	Lay Delegate
DeFuniak Springs, St. Agatha's	Chuck	Goins	Lay Delegate
DeFuniak Springs, St. Agatha's	Barbara	Goins	Alternate Delegate
Destin, St. Andrew's By the Sea	Barbara	Nelson	Lay Delegate
Destin, St. Andrew's By the Sea	Becky	Chidsey	Alternate Delegate
Dothan, Church of the Nativity	Bob	Boyle	Lay Delegate
Dothan, Church of the Nativity	Tonye	Frith	Lay Delegate
Dothan, Church of the Nativity	Harry	Hall	Lay Delegate
Dothan, Church of the Nativity	Stuart	Ibberson	Lay Delegate
Dothan, Church of the Nativity	Josh	Hicks	Alternate Delegate
Enterprise, Church of the Epiphany	Fred	Pippen	Lay Delegate
Enterprise, Church of the Epiphany	Judy	Pippen	Alternate Delegate
Eufaula, St. James	Ed	Garrison	Lay Delegate
Eufaula, St. James	Gary	Jones	Lay Delegate
Eufaula, St. James	Susie	McCathran	Lay Delegate
Eufaula, St. James	Paige	Garrison	Alternate Delegate
Eufaula, St. James	Debbie	Jones	Alternate Delegate
Eufaula, St. James	Scott	McCathran	Alternate Delegate
Fairhope, St. James	Dan	Campbell	Lay Delegate
Fairhope, St. James	Misty	Campbell	Lay Delegate
Fairhope, St. James	Terry	Moore	Lay Delegate
Fairhope, St. James	John	Olson	Lay Delegate
Fairhope, St. James	Austin	Young	Lay Delegate
Fairhope, St. James	Katherine	Young	Lay Delegate
Fairhope, St. James	Beth	Moore	Alternate Delegate
Foley, St. Paul's	Dianne	Cotton	Lay Delegate
Foley, St. Paul's	Debbie	Waldrop	Lay Delegate
Ft. Walton Beach, St. Simon's On the Sound	Kelley	Fuller	Lay Delegate
Ft. Walton Beach, St. Simon's On the Sound	Ashleigh	Pristas	Lay Delegate
Ft. Walton Beach, St. Simon's On the Sound	Rick	Smith	Lay Delegate
Greenville, St. Thomas	Tammi	Edwards	Lay Delegate

LAY, YOUTH AND ALTERNATE DELEGATES

Congregation/Convocation	First Name	Last Name	Designation
Gulf Breeze, St. Francis of Assisi	Nancy	Cooper	Lay Delegate
Gulf Breeze, St. Francis of Assisi	Reed	McKnight	Lay Delegate
Gulf Breeze, St. Francis of Assisi	Judith	Russell	Lay Delegate
Gulf Breeze, St. Francis of Assisi	Cathy	Griffing	Alternate Delegate
Gulf Breeze, St. Francis of Assisi	John	Griffing	Alternate Delegate
Gulf Shores, Holy Spirit	Nancy	Campbell	Lay Delegate
Gulf Shores, Holy Spirit	Brenda	Johnson	Lay Delegate
Gulf Shores, Holy Spirit	Dan	Ratliff	Lay Delegate
Gulf Shores, Holy Spirit	Ivee	Lowry	Alternate Delegate
Gulf Shores, Holy Spirit	Tomi	Shaw	Alternate Delegate
Jackson, St. Peter's	No delegate		
Laguna Beach, St. Thomas by the Sea	Carly	Harris	Lay Delegate
Laguna Beach, St. Thomas by the Sea	Bebe	Traylor	Alternate Delegate
Lillian, Church of the Advent	Tracy	Williams	Lay Delegate
Magnolia Springs, St. Paul's Chapel	Shelly	Collins	Lay Delegate
Magnolia Springs, St. Paul's Chapel	Frank	Hennington	Lay Delegate
Magnolia Springs, St. Paul's Chapel	Charlie	Tucker	Lay Delegate
Magnolia Springs, St. Paul's Chapel	Jan	Pruitt	Alternate Delegate
Marianna, St. Luke's	Les	Furr	Lay Delegate
Marianna, St. Luke's	Lee	Melvin	Lay Delegate
Marianna, St. Luke's	Milton	O'Dell	Lay Delegate
Marianna, St. Luke's	Pat	Furr	Alternate Delegate
Milton, St. Mary's	Jean	Gillis	Lay Delegate
Milton, St. Mary's	Wayne	Keen	Lay Delegate
Milton, St. Mary's	Lori	O'Gara	Lay Delegate
Milton, St. Mary's	Elizabeth	Hamilton	Alternate Delegate
Milton, St. Mary's	Melodie	Rowland	Alternate Delegate
Mobile, All Saints	Molly	Allison	Lay Delegate
Mobile, All Saints	Cynthia	Donnell	Lay Delegate
Mobile, All Saints	Jeannie	Kienzle	Lay Delegate
Mobile, All Saints	Valerie	Mitchell	Lay Delegate
Mobile, All Saints	Marilyn	Owens	Alternate Delegate
Mobile, Christ Church Cathedral	Jill	Chow	Lay Delegate
Mobile, Christ Church Cathedral	Harwell	Coale	Lay Delegate
Mobile, Christ Church Cathedral	Jubal	Hamil	Lay Delegate
Mobile, Christ Church Cathedral	Carolyn	Jeffers	Lay Delegate
Mobile, Christ Church Cathedral	Henry	Seawell	Lay Delegate
Mobile, Christ Church Cathedral	Weathers	Bolt	Alternate Delegate

LAY, YOUTH AND ALTERNATE DELEGATES

Congregation/Convocation	First Name	Last Name	Designation
Mobile, Church of the Good Shepherd	Kris	Branch	Lay Delegate
Mobile, Church of the Good Shepherd	LaWana	Kennedy	Lay Delegate
Mobile, Church of the Good Shepherd	India	Cherry	Alternate Delegate
Mobile, Church of the Redeemer	Julie	Barbosa	Lay Delegate
Mobile, Church of the Redeemer	Beth	Gillion	Lay Delegate
Mobile, St. Andrew's	Phyllis	Findley	Lay Delegate
Mobile, St. Andrew's	Cecille	Hammer	Alternate Delegate
Mobile, St. John's	Eugene	Johnston	Lay Delegate
Mobile, St. John's	Jeanne	Velaski	Lay Delegate
Mobile, St. Luke's	Sabrina	Evans	Lay Delegate
Mobile, St. Luke's	Karen	Jordan	Lay Delegate
Mobile, St. Luke's	Bridget	Peach	Lay Delegate
Mobile, St. Luke's	Anne	Stokes	Lay Delegate
Mobile, St. Luke's	Mary Ellen	Pearson	Alternate Delegate
Mobile, St. Paul's	Sullivan	Daves	Lay Delegate
Mobile, St. Paul's	Charlie	Fleming	Lay Delegate
Mobile, St. Paul's	Randolph	Miller	Lay Delegate
Mobile, St. Paul's	Tom	Rockwell	Lay Delegate
Mobile, St. Paul's	Amy	Sanderson	Lay Delegate
Mobile, St. Paul's	Allison	Shields	Lay Delegate
Mobile, Trinity	Florence	Crawford	Lay Delegate
Mobile, Trinity	Tommy	Murray	Lay Delegate
Monroeville, St. John's	Ethan	Rowell	Lay Delegate
Monroeville, St. John's	Nancy	Smith	Lay Delegate
Monroeville, St. John's	Haden	Tirey	Alternate Delegate
Navarre, St. Augustine's	Theresa	Everett	Lay Delegate
Navarre, St. Augustine's	Vicky	Stegall	Alternate Delegate
Niceville, St. Jude	Renee	Larson	Lay Delegate
Niceville, St. Jude	Heidi	Morgan	Lay Delegate
Niceville, St. Jude	Joe	Morgan	Lay Delegate
Niceville, St. Jude	Justin	Snyder	Alternate Delegate
Ozark, St. Michael's	Ken	Stephens	Lay Delegate
Ozark, St. Michael's	Lori	Stephens	Alternate Delegate

LAY, YOUTH AND ALTERNATE DELEGATES

Congregation/Convocation	First Name	Last Name	Designation
Panama City, Holy Nativity	Donna	Jangula	Lay Delegate
Panama City, Holy Nativity	Terry	Jangula	Lay Delegate
Panama City, Holy Nativity	Brianna	Kelley	Lay Delegate
Panama City, Holy Nativity	Nancy	Roupp	Lay Delegate
Panama City, St. Andrew's	Gail	Harris	Lay Delegate
Panama City, St. Andrew's	Fran	Tate	Lay Delegate
Panama City, St. Andrew's	Rita	White	Lay Delegate
Panama City, St. Patrick's	Susan	Bravo	Lay Delegate
Panama City Beach, Grace	Jack	Friou	Lay Delegate
Panama City Beach, Grace	Donna	Heim	Lay Delegate
Pensacola, Christ Church Parish	Rita	Grayson	Lay Delegate
Pensacola, Christ Church Parish	Jacob	Head	Lay Delegate
Pensacola, Christ Church Parish	Julia	McShan	Lay Delegate
Pensacola, Christ Church Parish	Saranne	Morrow	Lay Delegate
Pensacola, Christ Church Parish	Laura	Sadowski	Lay Delegate
Pensacola, Holy Cross	Steven	Bell	Lay Delegate
Pensacola, Holy Cross	Janelle	Berger	Lay Delegate
Pensacola, Holy Cross	Carla	Hardin	Lay Delegate
Pensacola, Holy Trinity	Carol	Gonzalez	Lay Delegate
Pensacola, Holy Trinity	Jim	Regan	Lay Delegate
Pensacola, St. Christopher's	Kyrah	Drasheff	Lay Delegate
Pensacola, St. Christopher's	Helen	Pedigo	Lay Delegate
Pensacola, St. Christopher's	Andie	Trahan	Lay Delegate
Pensacola, St. Christopher's	David	Williams	Lay Delegate
Pensacola, St. Christopher's	John	von Senden	Alternate Delegate
Pensacola, St. Cyprian's	Cris	Turnage	Lay Delegate
Pensacola, St. John's	Tom	Bossa	Lay Delegate
Pensacola, St. John's	Fontaine	Martin	Lay Delegate
Pensacola, St. John's	Nancy	Laszewski	Alternate Delegate
Port St. Joe, St. James	John	Erickson, Jr.	Lay Delegate
Robertsdale, St. John the Evangelist	No delegate		
Santa Rosa Beach, Christ the King	John	French	Lay Delegate
Santa Rosa Beach, Christ the King	Nan	Jacobs	Lay Delegate
Santa Rosa Beach, Christ the King	Richard	Jacobs	Lay Delegate

LAY, YOUTH AND ALTERNATE DELEGATES

Congregation/Convocation	First Name	Last Name	Designation
Troy, St. Mark's	Joyce	Landers	Lay Delegate
Troy, St. Mark's	Teri	Williams	Lay Delegate
Troy, St. Mark's	Zack	Wilson	Lay Delegate
Troy, St. Mark's	Lexi	Wilson	Alternate Delegate
Wewahitchka, St. John the Baptist	No delegate		

CLERGY DELEGATES TO THE FIFTY-FOURTH
ANNUAL CONVENTION
OF THE DIOCESE OF THE CENTRAL GULF COAST

The Right Reverend James Russell Kendrick
(Robin) Bishop

VOTING CLERGY

Canon 3, Section 4 (a) - 2025 Diocesan Journal

“Section 4. The voting membership of the convention shall consist of:

a. Clerical Delegates, each of whom shall be either a priest canonically resident in the Diocese, and who is Rector or Curate or Priest-in-Charge in a parish, or Vicar of a mission, or who is on the staff of the Diocese or an Agency of the Diocese; or a priest canonically resident in the Diocese who has retired in accordance with the General Canons and who serves in one of the aforesaid positions with the express approval of the Bishop according to the General Canons; or a Deacon assigned by the Ecclesiastical Authority to a parish or mission or an Agency of the Diocese.”

ADAMS, W. Rian (Amber)
BALLARD, Michael E. L.
BEAUMONT, Leanne D. (Whalen)
BLAYLOCK, Joy H. (Roy)

BORGEN, Linda Suzanne
BOYD, Justin A. (Carmen)

BURNETT, Joseph G. (Julia)
CHATEL, David R. (Alice)
CHRISTIAN, Pam (Christopher)
CLARK, Bradford L. (Chellie)
CLOTHIER, David M. (Cathy)
CRAVER, III, P. Marshall (Jan)
DIXON, Robert P. (Amanda)
DONNELL, Robert M. (Cynthia)
DOSHER, Amanda H.
DYSON, Thack H. (Rebecca)
FITZHUGH, Mark (Cheri Smith)
FLOWERS, James B. (Katharine)
FREEMAN, Ashley B (Annie)

FREEMAN, Denson F. (Stephanie)
GIBSON, Beverly F. (Mike)
GILLET, Kathryn S.
HOFFMAN, Michael P. (Amy)
HORD, Christine D.
HUTSON, Blake R. (Christina)
JOHNSON, Lydia K. (Wyatt)
KIRCHHARR, Ted
KNIGHT, J. David (Jennifer)
LEWIS, Antwon C.

St. James, Port St Joe (P-i-C)
Immanuel, Bay Minette (Vicar)
St. Mary's, Milton (Rector) *
Dean, CGC School for Ministry
Diocesan Missioner for Discipleship
St. Thomas, Greenville (Rector)
St. Thomas, Laguna Beach (Vicar)
Grace, Panama City Beach (Rector)
St. Paul's, Mobile (Rector)
St. Paul's, Magnolia Springs (Rector)
Nativity, Dothan (Curate)
St. Paul's, Mobile (Curate)
Epiphany, Crestview (Vicar)
Diocesan Clergy Spiritual Advisor
Holy Cross, Pensacola (Rector)
All Saints, Mobile (Curate)
St. James, Fairhope (Curate)
St. Paul's, Daphne (Rector)
Trinity, Mobile (Rector) *
All Saints, Mobile (Rector)
Canon to the Ordinary
Diocesan Missioner for Discernment
St. James, Fairhope (Rector)
Christ Church Cathedral, Mobile (Dean/Rector)
Christ Church, Pensacola (Curate)
Christ Church, Pensacola (Rector)
St. John's, Pensacola (Rector)
St. Jude's, Niceville (Rector)
Diocesan Missioner for Development
St. Monica's, Cantonment (Rector) *
St. Simon's, Fort Walton Beach (Rector)
St. Mary's, Andalusia (Curate) *

Voting Clergy (cont'd)

LOCKETT, Tina L.
LOWRY, III, William M. (Ivee)
MANCIL, Eric N. (Chelsea)
MATHISON, Mary Alice
McELROY, James T. (Peyton)
NORRIS, M. Brent (Cindy)
PECOT, Stephen D. (Travis)
RABONE, Christian R. (Tiffany)
RICE, Jennifer (Shane)
SAXTON, Carl (Laura)
SALOOM, Salem (Dianne)
SIRMON, T. Forbes (Haden)
TALBERT, John K. (Leslie)
WADDELL, Mark (Beverly)

Church of the Advent, Lillian (Vicar)
Holy Spirit, Gulf Shores (Rector)
St. Mary's, Andalusia (Rector)
Redeemer, Mobile (P-i-C)
St. Luke's, Mobile (Rector)
St. Paul's, Foley (Rector)
Trinity, Apalachicola (Rector)
St. Francis, Gulf Breeze (Rector)
St. Christopher's, Pensacola (Curate)
Nativity, Dothan (Rector) *
St. Anna's, Poarch (Vicar) *
Holy Nativity, Panama City (Rector) *
St. John's, Mobile (Rector)
St. Augustine's, Navarre (P-i-C) *

Retired Clergy having cures/serving under Canon 3, Section 4 (a) in the Diocese (with vote)

CUMBIE, W. Kenneth (Joan)
DOLLHAUSEN, Matthew M. (Vickie)
ELAM, III, Walter L. (Anne)
GREEN, David K. (Charlotte)
HEARD, Thomas K. (Cheryl)
WITHROCK, Jr., John W. (Elaine)

Good Shepherd, Mobile (P-i-C)
Holy Cross, Pensacola (Assisting Priest)
St. John's, Robertsedale (Vicar)
St. Peter's, Bon Secour (P-i-C)
Christ Church Cathedral, Mobile (Assisting Priest)
Epiphany, Enterprise (Vicar)

Vocational Deacons assigned to cures (with vote)

DENNIS, Kay (Britt)

KNIGHT-EPPS, Deborah T.
GARRITY, Clelia P.
GOFF, Terry L. (John)
IVERSEN, Rachel S. (Craig)
KENDALL, John T. (Barbara)
McKEE, Susan R.
PATERSON, D. Pratt (Allison)

St. Luke's, Marianna
St. Matthew's, Chipley [companion church]
St. Cyprian's, Pensacola
St. Christopher's, Pensacola
Redeemer, Mobile
St. Monica's, Cantonment
Deacon for Prison Ministries
St. Paul's, Magnolia Springs
Wilmer Hall Children's Home, Mobile
Christ Church Cathedral, Mobile

OTHER CLERGY

Non-canonically Resident Clergy appointed/serving in the Diocese (given seat & voice)

+MILLER, Steven A. [retired Bishop] (Cynthia)
OTT, Robert M. (Bonnie)

SAWYER, Alice
+YOUNG, George D. [retired Bishop] (Kammy)

Christ the King, Santa Rosa Beach (Interim-Rector) *
St. Matthew's, Chipley (P-i-C) *
St. Luke's, Marianna (P-i-C)
St. Andrew's, Mobile (P-i-C) *
St. Christopher's, Pensacola (Interim-Rector) *

Resident Clergy in Communion with TEC appointed to cures in the Diocese (given seat & voice)

SCHWARTE, Michael G. (Ying)

St. Mark's, Troy (ELCA Priest-in-Charge)

Non-Parochial (with seat & voice)

COLEMAN, John (Mary)

PLOVANICH, Ede M. (Bob)

ZUBLER, Eric J. (Connie)

Vocational Deacons retired/not assigned (with seat & voice)

BREWER, John L. (Toni)

Currently unassigned

CARSON, Jayne

retired

HEWIS, Clara M.

retired

KELSON, Laura J.

Currently unassigned

RICHARDS, Edward T. (Gayle Ahrens)

retired

SPENCER, Patricia A.

retired

Retired Clergy (with seat & voice)

BAKER, Milledge L. (Barbara)

BALDWIN, Gary L. (Kathy)

BATES, Steven B. (Lori)

BETENBAUGH, Helen R.

BRIGHT, Carl C.

BROWN, Dennis R. A.

BYRD, Jeffrey Y. (Beth Ensor)

COATS, Christopher V. (Barbara)

COOK, Johnny W. (Mary)

COOPER, IV, Francis M. (Martha)

DAY, Dennis L. (Marjorie)

+DUNCAN, II, Philip M (Kathy)

III Bishop of the Central Gulf Coast

DWYER, Thomas P. J. (Lynn)

GARNER, Jeffrey R. (Angela)

GENTRY, B. Massey (Jan)

GRAVES, L. Roberts

GREISER, Ronald E. (Rita)

HAGBERG, Joseph A.

HARRIS, Martha C. (Mickey)

HEIN, C. Gregory (Linda)

HICKENLOOPER, A. Morgan (Mary Kennedy)

HILL, H. Michael (Geneva)

HUNGERFORD, Roger A. (Liz)

JAMES, C. Scott (Sylvia)

JENCKS, Jeffrey A. (Eileen McCartan)

KAMINSKI, Neil M. (Gwen)

*retired **

KENNINGTON, S. Albert (Nancy)

KINDERGAN, Walter B. (Becky)

KREAMER, Martha H.

Retired Clergy (cont'd)

LEDGERWOOD, Mary Jayne	<i>retired *</i>
LINDSTROM, Jr., D. Fredrick (Marcia)	
LOCKETT, Donna A.	
MAYER, Sandra C.	
McDOWELL-FLEMING, David H. (Martha)	
McLUEN, Roy E. (Kathy)	
McMAHAN, Larry W.	
MURRAY, John W. (Sara Ann)	
NIXON, Thomas E.	
PHILLIPS, II, John W. (Ann)	
PHILLIPS, Sara D. (Gerry)	<i>retired *</i>
POPHAM, James J. (Jo)	<i>retired *</i>
POPHAM, Jo A. P. (Jim)	<i>retired *</i>
PORTER, Roger C.	
PRUITT, Albert W. (Ellanor)	
RIGGALL, George G. (Marguerita)	
RIGGIN, John H. (Lauree)	
ROBERT, Mary C.	
SCHMIDT, Richard H. (Pam)	
SCHULENBERG, Michael A. (Karen)	
SHEPARD, Margaret S.	
SOWERS, Susan R. (Donna VanWinkle)	<i>retired *</i>
STARR, Mark L. (Barbara)	
TALBERT, T. Keith (Lynn)	
TRIMBLE, Sarah M. (Henry)	
VALCOURT, Theodore P-F. (Rosalyn)	
WATKINS, Jane A. (John)	
WAVE, John E.	
WELLER, Jr., Thomas C. (Linda)	
WHITELAW, E. Drake	
WOMELSDORF, Charles S. (Sarah)	
YOUNG, Kammy M. B. (+George)	

OTHER NON-CANONICAL CLERGY

Non-canonical Clergy Resident in the Diocese (given courtesy seat and voice)

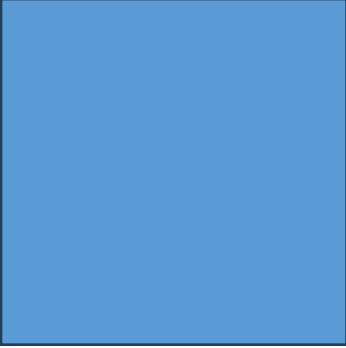
+BIGGERS, Jackson C.	Assistant Bishop, Upper Shire Malawi, <i>retired</i>
LUCKETT, David S. (Jan)	Dio of Mississippi, <i>retired</i>
NICHOLS, III, Robert G. (Diana)	Diocese of Texas
+JONES, CI (Ashby)	Bishop of Montana, <i>retired</i>
THOMAS, Jr., A. Robert (Paul Volpe)	Dio of Alaska

* indicates clergy new to the Diocese, in new positions, or recently retired

2026 STANDING COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

We are still seeking at least one CLERGY NOMINATION. The form is available at www.diocgc.org/2026-diocesan-convention.

CLERGY ORDER



Nominee:

Church:

Nominated by:

Church:

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:

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?

What sustains you in your spiritual life?

2026 STANDING COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

LAY ORDER



Nominee: Joyce Landers

Church: St. Mark's, Troy

Nominated by: The Rev. Mike Schwarte

Church: St. Mark's, Troy

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 participated in many of the ministries at St. Marks', my home parish, including but not limited to the vestry, the pastoral care committee, the choir, and our county jail ministry. At the diocesan level, I have served on Cursillo staffs, the Cursillo Commission, the ECW Commission, and have been the Diocesan UTO Coordinator since 2014. I am a graduate of the lay school of ministry as a lay preacher and worship leader. I have served on the Province IV (PIV) Executive Committee, the PIV ECW Board and am currently the secretary of the PIV ECW Board. I was a member of The United Thank Offering Board for 9 years and was the Vice President in charge of Grants for 6 of those years. During these leadership opportunities, I received training in leadership and about our church and its policies and procedures. I enjoyed my service on each of these committees and I am excited by the opportunity to serve our church in a new capacity.

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 greatest challenge our church faces is how to respond to the discord, mistrust, anger, and violence in our country without becoming violent ourselves. It is very difficult, when faced with such venom, to not be pulled into that same mindset. Jesus repeatedly challenged the status quo of his time and pointed out the social injustices of their society. However, he did this with his words and by example at the same preaching about love and forgiveness. Therefore, our greatest challenge can also be our greatest opportunity to evangelize. We can do this through social justice programs and by living into the words, "The Episcopal Church welcomes you." We need to step up and be the voice of those who have been silenced and teaching others what it means to be a follower of Christ. Presiding Bishop Curry set the stage for us by preaching so passionately about the love of Jesus. It is now our turn to carry on what he started.

What sustains you in your spiritual life?

The people of St. Marks', The Daughters of the King, and this diocese sustain and inspire me to be my best self. Whenever I have a weak moment, you all support me and keep me going. I read scripture and frequently write sermons in my head. Some of those are written down and presented but most just become a part of my conversations with God. Music speaks to my soul. I see our hymnal as a book of poetry based on scripture. My personal prayer life is inspired by the book, "The Practice of the Presence of God" by Brother Lawrence. Rather than having a scheduled prayer time, I pray small prayers throughout the day. My involvement with UTO has added a new component to my relationship with God because UTO encourages us to live a life based on gratitude.

2026 STANDING COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

LAY ORDER



Nominee: Matthew Thomason

Church: St. Paul's, Daphne

Nominated by: The Rev. Thack Dyson

Church: St. Paul's, Daphne

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 was raised in the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast, attending St. Matthews in Mobile until I was five and St. Paul's in Daphne until moving away for college. After college, my wife and I were active in Episcopal parishes in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL and Houston, TX. Since returning to Daphne in 2018 with my wife and two children, I have been privileged to serve as a delegate to the diocesan convention and as a member of the Vestry, Property Committee, Emergency Preparedness Committee, and Men's Group at St. Paul's, Daphne. These roles have been a great blessing to me, and I've learned a lot through these experiences. I am a licensed civil engineer, employed as a consultant for airport capital development projects, active in several aviation professional societies.

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?

Generally, I worry that we are in an increasingly divisive and materialistic society. People in my generation are participating less in community engagement, both in civic organizations and organized religion, setting a poor example for those who follow. Perhaps the COVID pandemic allowed some to realize that they could technically exist as islands connected only by electronic means. Regardless, this eroding of active participation in community isolates us, reduces empathy, and further divides us.

In this challenge, I see a great opportunity for the Church, specifically the Episcopal Church in America. Despite the waning participation in community, and church attendance specifically, people have a deep desire, imparted by our Creator, to be in community with one another. In times of isolation and darkness, the Church has an opportunity to welcome souls weary from discord and the failed promises of false idols when there is the inevitable search for belonging. Historically, the Church has flourished when it is the minority or even persecuted. The message of Grace, good news of the Gospel, and the scriptural-based liturgy that the Episcopal Church provides can really resonate with the issues of modern society. We just need to be equipped to carry that message.

What sustains you in your spiritual life?

The Lord has given me many different avenues by which he sustains and feeds the faith that He has given me. I have an amazing wife and family that always encourage and support me with a faith-forward focus. I often have been uplifted by a veritable experience of God in nature and the arts. Prayer, both extemporaneous and liturgical, plays a large role in how I encounter God. However, the most recurring and reliable way that God sustains me is through active engagement in a community of believers, my church family. I believe that more than anything, God has used the community of the believers around me to nourish my faith and that of my family.

2026 GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTY NOMINATIONS

CLERGY ORDER



Nominee: The Rev. Amanda Doshier

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.

2026 GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTY NOMINATIONS

CLERGY ORDER



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.

2026 GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTY NOMINATIONS

CLERGY ORDER



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.

2026 GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTY NOMINATIONS

CLERGY ORDER



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.

2026 GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTY NOMINATIONS

LAY ORDER



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.

2026 GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTY NOMINATIONS

LAY ORDER



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

2026 GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTY NOMINATIONS

LAY ORDER



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.

2026 GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTY NOMINATIONS

LAY ORDER



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.

2026 GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTY NOMINATIONS

LAY ORDER



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.

Resolution for the Creation of a Committee to Review Canonical Terminology and Congregation Status

BE IT RESOLVED, that the 55th Annual Convention of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast affirms the mission of the Church to welcome all people to be one body in Christ, seeking and serving Christ in all persons through prayer, worship, the proclamation of the Gospel, and the promotion of justice, peace, and love; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Convention urge all members of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast to pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as we discern the effective directing of ministry and conducting of business as an expression of our common mission; and be it further

RESOLVED, that, pursuant to Article IX of the Articles of Incorporation which calls for the Canons to be subject to amendment from time to time, this Convention commit to a season of renewal for the Canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast, as the guiding documents of this Diocese as it pursues its mission; and be it further

RESOLVED, that, in order to facilitate this prayerful work, this Convention urges the Bishop to utilize his authority under Rule IV of the RULES OF ORDER to appoint a committee whose task is to:

Listen for the Spirit, study Scripture, and pray for the Church

Review the requirements outlined in Canons 15, 16, 17, and 20 to ensure consistent application and effectiveness of assigning Congregation status

Consider specifically Canon III.4.D as to the meaning and intent of "status as a Parish in union with the Diocese"

Review the terminology of the Canons which refer to the various titles assigned to clergy and their effectiveness toward conducting the business of Convention

Consider changes in the Canons which provide clarity regarding the use of technology as appropriate tools for conducting the business of the Diocese

Develop specific recommendations for the Diocese and its constituent Mission Stations, Missions, and Parishes to achieve a more accurate and appropriate expression of its union, ensuring that every Congregation, regardless of size, is empowered to contribute fully to our shared mission

Meet by the Nativity of St. John, the Baptist (June 24th, 2026) to establish the working structure for the committee and beginning the work, that the committee delivers a report to the 56th Annual Convention of its discernment, findings, and recommendations, along with such resolutions as may be necessary to implement those recommendations, following all time constraints as governed by Rule VI of the RULES OF ORDER; and be it further

RESOLVED, the committee be composed of at least seven and no more than twelve members, to be appointed jointly by the Bishop and the Standing Committee through an open nomination

process assuring that the members represent the diversity of the diocese in geography, demographics, talents, and order of ministry, including those at a critical distance from the power structures of the diocese, that the members be named no later than the Day of Pentecost (May 24th, 2026), that the committee select its own chair and other officers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Standing Committee shall make such resources available to the committee as are necessary to enable this resolution to be implemented energetically and successfully.

Rationale:

The Canons of the Diocese are the guiding covenant for our union. However, since their adoption in 1971 they have remained mostly unchanged. Fifty years ago, the perception of what constituted congregational development regarding size, growth, and financial stability was quite different than it is today. Additionally, the language of the Canons regarding the roles of clergy and their relationship to Congregations has become antiquated and at times cumbersome to the efficient conducting of business of the Diocese.

The purpose of this Committee is to prayerfully consider revisions that bring our Canons into modern context; concluding their work at the gathering of the 56th Annual Convention of the Diocese, at which the report of their work, along with any recommendations and resolutions, will be presented for review and consideration.

Proposed by the Rev. John Talbert, St. John's Episcopal Church, Mobile

DIOCESAN BUDGET FOR 2025 AND PROJECTED BUDGET FOR 2026

	Budget 2025	Actual Year End 2025	2026 Recommended To Standing Comm.	2026 Recommended To Diocesan Conv.
INCOME				
Parishes and Missions	1,320,000	1,306,399	1,340,000	1,340,000
Total Parishes and Missions	1,320,000	1,306,399	1,340,000	1,340,000
CLF Interest Income	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
Hicks Trust	12,000	15,483	15,000	15,000
McMaster Fund	8,000	8,000	10,000	10,000
Endmondson Fund	0	0	4,000	4,000
Quigley Fund	38,000	38,000	42,000	42,000
Mary Berner Fund	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
SFM - Go Forward	48,000	48,000	60,000	60,000
Workers Comp Credit	2,100	2,100	2,200	2,200
Vocations in Ministry (FTV)	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000
New Church Development Funds (FTV)	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Duvall Center Fund	48,000	48,000	55,000	55,000
Misc. Funds Transfer	2,000	2,000	7,500	7,500
Other (Misc.) Income	5,000	0	2,000	2,000
Total Fund Income	\$ 242,100	\$ 240,583	\$ 276,700	\$ 276,700

TOTAL ALL INCOME	\$ 1,562,100	\$ 1,546,982	\$ 1,616,700	\$ 1,616,700
	Budget 2025	Actual Year End 2025	2026 Recommended To Standing Comm.	2026 Recommended To Diocesan Conv.
DISCERNMENT				
Seminarians	7,000	8,439	\$ 8,500	\$ 8,500
Commission on Ministry	9,000	9,746	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000
Commissions/Committees	7,000	1,924	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000
Dom. & For. Missionary Soc. (TEC)	120,000	120,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000
Mission Engagement (World Mission)	7,500	4,500	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
Prison Ministry	0	0	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
Canon to the Ordinary	104,519	104,519	\$ 107,132	\$ 107,132

DIOCESAN BUDGET FOR 2025 AND PROJECTED BUDGET FOR 2026

Canon Benefits / Pension / Travel	26,313	29,363	26,784	26,784
TOTAL Disc. Program	\$ 281,332	\$ 278,491	\$293,416	\$293,416

	Budget 2025	Actual Year End 2025	2026 Recommended To Standing Comm.	2026 Recommended To Diocesan Conv.
DISCIPLESHIP				
Beckwith Camp & Conference	108,000	108,000	108,000	108,000
Wilmer Hall	73,000	73,000	73,000	73,000
Spiritual Direction Program	11,000	11,960	12,000	12,000
Youth Ministries & Programs	18,000	6,849	18,000	18,000
Discipleship Programming	3,000	0	3,000	3,000
Racial Justice & Reconciliation Comm.	12,500	12,481	12,000	12,000
School for Ministry (operations)	12,000	11,994	15,000	15,000
School for Ministry - Dean	47,750	47,750	48,944	48,944
Missioner for Discipleship	47,750	47,750	48,944	48,944
Missioner Benefits / Pension	19,601	17,190	20,000	20,000
TOTAL Discpl. Program	\$ 352,601	\$ 336,974	\$ 358,888	\$ 358,888

	Budget 2025	Actual Year End 2025	2026 Recommended To Standing Comm.	2026 Recommended To Diocesan Conv.
DEVELOPMENT				
EFM/TENS memberships	1,800	1,750	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,800
Missioner for Development	35,000	32,658	\$ 36,500	\$ 36,500
Development Programming	5,000	2,427	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
Clergy Conferences/Study Day	6,200	4,058	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000
Sewanee - Univ. of the South	3,000	3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Deputies to General Convention	10,000	10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Deputies to Synod	2,000	2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
Province IV Quota	1,600	3,118	\$ 3,200	\$ 3,200
Communications Support	7,500	8,382	\$ 8,500	\$ 8,500
Diocesan Convention	12,000	17,395	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
Support for Retirees	10,000	13,681	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000
Liability Insurance (for congregations)	25,000	26,301	\$ 27,500	\$ 27,500
Diocesan Bond	2,200	2,920	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
TOTAL Dev. Program	\$ 121,300	\$ 127,690	\$ 131,500	\$ 131,500

DIOCESAN BUDGET FOR 2025 AND PROJECTED BUDGET FOR 2026

	Budget 2025	Actual Year End 2025	2026 Recommended To Standing Comm.	2026 Recommended To Diocesan Conv.
OFFICE / ADMINISTRATIVE				
Bishop - Salary	160,914	160,914	164,937	164,937
Pension	28,964	28,964	29,689	29,689
Bishop - Travel	14,000	12,265	14,000	14,000
Administrator - Salary	104,827	104,827	107,448	107,448
Pension	15,724	15,724	16,117	16,117
Financial Secretary - Salary	57,333	57,333	58,766	58,766
Pension	8,600	8,600	8,815	8,815
Bishop's Secretary - Salary	58,604	58,604	60,069	60,069
Pension	8,791	8,791	9,010	9,010
Communications Missioner	60,530	60,530	62,043	62,043
Pension	9,080	9,080	9,306	9,306
Social Security/Medicare	22,000	21,825	22,400	22,400
Medical & Life Insurance	135,000	145,636	145,000	145,000
Staff travel/Reimbursement	6,500	5,713	6,500	6,500
Diocesan office maintenance	17,000	16,005	17,000	17,000
Office expense, suppl & equip	38,000	41,161	38,000	38,000
Diocesan Office Insurance	24,000	23,667	25,200	25,200
Bishop Automobile	5,000	3,741	4,000	4,000
Diocesan Audit	25,000	34,000	27,000	27,000
Workers Compensation Insurance	2,500	1,998	2,200	2,200
Reserve - Major maintenance	4,500	2,046	4,500	4,500
Administrative Subtotal	\$ 806,867	\$ 821,424	\$ 832,000	\$ 832,000
Total income	\$1,562,100	\$1,546,982	\$1,616,700	\$1,616,700
Total expenses	\$1,562,100	\$1,564,579	\$1,615,804	\$1,615,804
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$0	(\$17,597)	\$896	\$896

2025/2026 PLEDGE REPORT

Headings and Account	2026* PLEDGES	2025 PLEDGE ACTUAL**	2025 PLEDGE BUDGETED	2025 PLEDGE VARIANCE
Pledges				
Andalusia, St. Mary's	\$14,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$0.00
Apalachicola, Trinity	\$27,000	\$22,000	\$22,000	\$0.00
Atmore, St. Anna's	\$4,640	\$0	\$0	\$0.00
Atmore, Trinity	*	\$500	\$1,200	(\$700.00)
Bay Minette, Immanuel	\$6,250	\$6,380	\$5,230	\$1,150.29
Bon Secour, St. Peter's	\$8,221	\$7,779	\$9,678	(\$1,898.92)
Brewton, St. Stephen's	\$17,000	\$19,976	\$20,299	(\$322.97)
Cantonment, St. Monica's	\$8,500	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0.00
Chickasaw, St. Michael's	*	\$0	\$0	\$0.00
Chipley, St. Matthew's	\$5,806	\$5,712	\$5,710	\$2.00
Citronelle, St. Thomas	*	\$0	\$0	\$0.00
Coden, St. Mary's	\$528	\$5,470	\$5,470	\$0.00
Crestview, Epiphany	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0.00
Daphne, St. Paul's	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$0.00
Dauphin Isld, St. Francis	\$18,389	\$12,350	\$11,400	\$950.00
DeFnk Spgs, St. Agatha's	\$5,500	\$5,591	\$5,250	\$340.75
Destin, St. Andrew's	*	\$2,000	\$8,000	(\$6,000.00)
Dothan, Nativity	\$58,600	\$57,000	\$57,000	\$0.00
Enterprise, Epiphany	\$10,511	\$11,031	\$11,026	\$5.00
Eufaula, St. James'	\$15,300	\$15,300	\$15,300	\$0.00
Fairhope, St. James'	\$90,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$0.00
Foley, St. Paul's	\$29,409	\$28,793	\$28,793	\$0.00
Ft. Wltn Bch, St. Simon	\$50,516	\$50,808	\$50,808	\$0.00
Greenville, St. Thomas	\$17,670	\$22,422	\$20,305	\$2,117.32
Gulf Breeze, St. Francis	\$15,000	\$12,119	\$11,348	\$771.50
Gulf Shores, Holy Spirit	\$33,750	\$33,750	\$33,750	\$0.00
Jackson, St. Peter's	\$1,400	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0.00
Laguna Beach, St. Thomas	*	\$6,069	\$5,787	\$282.30
Lillian, Advent	\$10,500	\$9,540	\$9,252	\$288.00
Magnolia Spgs, St. Pauls	\$15,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0.00
Marianna, St. Luke's	\$14,426	\$14,000	\$10,000	\$4,000.00
Milton, St. Mary's	\$9,688	\$7,815	\$7,815	\$0.00
Mobile, All Saints'	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0.00
Mobile, Christ	\$61,800	\$41,800	\$41,800	\$0.00
Mobile, Good Shepherd	\$15,810	\$15,600	\$15,600	\$0.00
Mobile, Redeemer	\$13,117	\$12,024	\$12,024	\$0.00
Mobile, St. Andrew's	\$4,480	\$6,637	\$3,884	\$2,753.00
Mobile, St. John's	\$10,868	\$13,890	\$14,200	(\$310.16)
Mobile, St. Luke's	\$0	\$0	\$6,000	(\$6,000.00)
Mobile, St. Paul's	\$187,024	\$198,912	\$198,912	\$0.00
Mobile, Trinity	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$0.00
Monroeville, St. John's	\$4,730	\$3,592	\$13,334	(\$9,742.25)
Navarre, St. Augustine's	\$6,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0.00
Niceville, St. Jude's	\$39,958	\$39,178	\$39,178	\$0.00
Ozark, St. Michael's	\$1,631	\$1,460	\$1,460	\$0.00
Pnma City, Holy Nativity	\$45,290	\$43,000	\$43,000	\$0.00
Panama City, St. Andrew's	\$20,000	\$18,848	\$21,401	(\$2,553.19)
Panama City, St. Patrick's	\$3,000	\$4,581	\$3,000	\$1,580.85
Panama City Beach, Grace	\$14,703	\$12,959	\$12,959	\$0.00
Pensacola, Christ	\$143,500	\$135,500	\$135,500	\$0.00
Pensacola, Holy Cross	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$0.00
Pensacola, Holy Trinity	\$15,370	\$14,145	\$14,145	\$0.00
Pcola, St. Christopher's	\$71,200	\$76,000	\$76,000	\$0.00
Pensacola, St. Cyprian's	\$3,500	\$3,050	\$3,286	(\$236.00)
Pensacola, St. John's	\$18,700	\$17,000	\$17,000	\$0.00
Pt St. Joe, St. James'	*	\$0	\$1,500	(\$1,500.00)
Robertsdale, St. John	*	\$1,620	\$1,620	\$0.00
SRB, Christ King	\$55,000	\$55,198	\$55,000	\$197.92
Troy, St. Mark's	*	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0.00
Wewahitchka, St. John's	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0.00
Total Pledges	\$1,314,785	\$1,306,399	\$1,321,224	(\$14,825.00)

* 2026 pledge form outstanding as of February 9, 2026

** Actual 2025 pledge amounts received as of 01/22/2026

OVERVIEW OF EXPENSES - 2026 BUDGET

DISCERNMENT:

Seminarians.....	\$8,500
Financial assistance to support full-time Seminarians sent from this diocese to an accredited residential Episcopal seminary.	
Commission on Ministry.....	\$9,000
Expenses for the Commission that receives, interviews and recommends those planning to seek ordination, including potential travel support for seminarians, and GOE registrations.	
Commission/Committees - Other.....	\$7,000
Expense reimbursement for committees and commissions that requested support to meet, plan and execute the programs for training, development and outreach in the Diocese. This line item also includes meeting expenses of the Standing Committee, Racial Justice, ERD, etc.	
Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (DFMS)	\$125,000
Our annual assistance provided to support the mission and program work of The Episcopal Church. Pledge is based on DFMS formula and based on overall diocesan income (pledges/endowment)	
Mission Engagement (World Mission).....	\$6,000
Funding to support the commission's work to plan / engage in mission efforts	
Prison Ministry.....	\$4,000
Funding to support prison ministry efforts in the diocese	
Canon to the Ordinary.....	\$107,132
Estimated salary and benefits for our full-time Canon.	
Canon Pension/Travel	\$26,784
Pension and estimated travel for our full-time Canon.	
Total Discernment	\$293,416

DISCIPLESHIP:

Beckwith Camp & Retreat Center.....	\$108,000
Diocesan support to Beckwith's operating budget to underwrite programs and staffing at Beckwith including summer camps, Cursillo, clergy conferences, scholarships, etc.	
Wilmer Hall Children's Home.....	\$73,000
Diocesan support to Wilmer Hall's operating budget to help underwrite programs and staffing that serve children and young adults in the Mobile, AL area including tutoring, on-campus living, and education programs.	

Spiritual Direction Program.....	\$12,000
Funding to provide active clergy support and spiritual direction focused workshops.	
Youth Ministries and Programs.....	\$18,000
Supports planned activities of Commission on Youth Ministries, including the Jr. High / High School Ministry, Happening, Youth Leader Training, Youth Coordinator.	
Discipleship Programming.....	\$3,000
Expense assistance for various diocesan programming including music, evangelism, vestry, pastoral care education.	
Racial Justice & Reconciliation Commission.....	\$12,000
Support for Commission on Racial Justice & Reconciliation's facilitator training, speakers, and programming.	
School for Ministry Operations.....	\$15,000
Expense assistance for the in-diocese education and formation of future deacons and priests. Includes annual curriculum license fees.	
School for Ministry, Dean	\$48,944
Salary for the Dean of School for Ministry.	
Missioner for Discipleship	\$48,944
Salary for part time Missioner for development of discipleship/formation resources.	
Missioner Benefits / Travel	\$20,000
Benefits, travel, and training for part time Missioner for development of discipleship/formation resources.	
Total Discipleship	\$358,888
<u>DEVELOPMENT:</u>	
Education for Ministry / TENS	\$1,800
Annual fee to Sewanee for Diocese to be an EFM-sponsoring agent and annual membership in The Episcopal Network for Stewardship, providing stewardship resources to all churches.	
Missioner for Development.....	\$36,500
Expense assistance for part-time Missioner for Congregational Development salary, benefits & travel.	
Development Programming	\$4,000
Programming for CEV, training consultants, Convocational development, and missional engagement.	
Clergy Conferences	\$5,000
Programing, accommodations, and other related expenses for clergy conferences/study days in the Diocese.	
University of the South at Sewanee	\$3,000
Voluntary pledge toward the operating budget of this academic institution of which we are an owning diocese.	
Deputies to General Convention.....	\$10,000

Budgeted annually on an accrual basis to cover expenses of our deputies to General Convention every three years.

Delegates to Synod.....	\$2,000
Partial offset of expenses of delegates to annual Synod meeting (our Synod is Prov. IV dioceses in the southeastern United States.)	
Province IV Quota.....	\$3,200
Pro-rata share among 21 southeastern dioceses for maintaining programs of the Province.	
Communications Support	\$8,500
Expense to support website, apps, registrations, email marketing, domain name, miscellaneous programming and training for congregations.	
Diocesan Convention	\$15,000
Annual supplement to host parish and convention-related Diocesan office expenses. Convention Magazine printing expenses and technology support is now rolled into this.	
Support for Retirees	\$12,000
Diocesan portion of premium costs for coverage of retired diocesan employees earned Medicare Advantage benefit.	
Liability Insurance	\$27,500
Church portion of liability insurance that includes Directors and Officers Liability, Umbrella Liability and Non-owned and Hired Automobile Liability insurance, and other diocesan property.	
Diocesan Bond.....	\$3,000
A \$500,000 Fidelity Bond as required.	
Total Development	\$131,500

OFFICE/ADMINISTRATIVE:

This includes salary and benefits for the Bishop and his Staff (plus required social security, Medicare, and workman’s comp expenses) plus all operational expenses for the Duvall Center.

For the 2026 budget, the Bishop and his staff were provided with an avg. of 2.5% cost of living increase. Office/Administrative portion of the Budget includes medical insurance premiums, all office utilities, IT support, major maintenance, supplies, equipment, printing, postage, and the annual financial audit by our CPA. Diocesan Office Insurance is specifically for the Duvall Center property / liability, which increased by 3.8% for 2026. It also includes expenses for Bishop’s automobile, all Bishop’s in/out of diocese travel and in-diocese staff travel expenses. Diocesan Office Depreciation and Bishop’s Automobile depreciation is taken as an audit adjustment after the end of the year and is not shown as an expense in the Budget.

Total Office / Administrative.....\$832,000

TOTAL ALL EXPENSES FOR 2026..... \$1,615,804

REPORTS TO CONVENTION FROM THE AGENCIES, GENERAL OFFICERS, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF THE CENTRAL GULF COAST

Note: If you are the president, chair, or coordinator for a diocesan agency, board, commission, committee, or organization and would like to submit your report for inclusion in the Reports to Convention and the Journal of Convention, please contact jenn@diocgc.org.

STANDING COMMITTEE

President *John Griffing | St. Francis, Gulf Breeze

Members

Class of 2026

*John Griffing | St. Francis, Gulf Breeze
Lolly Holk | St. Paul's Chapel, Magnolia Springs
The Rev. Sara Phillips | St. Mary's by the Sea, Coden
*The Rev. Randy Sellers | Nativity, Dothan

Class of 2027

*Michelle Anchors | St. Simon's, Ft. Walton Beach
Julie Hart | St. Monica's, Cantonment
*The Rev. Eric Mancil | St. Mary's, Andalusia
The Rev. Brent Norris | St. Paul's, Foley
Garrett Powe | St. Paul's, Mobile

Class of 2028

The Rev. Justin Boyd | Grace and St. Thomas, Panama City Beach
*Rodney Duggins | Good Shepherd, Mobile
*The Rev. Michael Hoffman | Christ Church, Pensacola
Jeannie Kienzle | All Saints, Mobile
Eric Stevenson | Christ Church, Pensacola

*nominated by the bishop

REGISTRAR-HISTORIOGRAPHER

When Bishop Kendrick asked me to consider being the Diocesan Registrar-Historiographer and Archivist, I was delighted to accept the invitation. I had actually held that position several years ago, so it was not entirely new and strange to me. Also, I will add that, as an academic historian, I have worked in a number of different archives in the United States ranging from the National Archives in Washington to a number of university and state archives from Florida, Alabama, North and South Carolina, and Texas I am familiar with different types of archives and collection practices.

Thankfully, I inherited the outstanding organization and collection of materials and documents of my predecessors, Mrs. Kit Caffey and the Rev. Albert Kennington.

Rev. Kennington met with me and several others at Christ Church Pensacola and explained in wonderful detail the scope and activity of the archives along with the importance of keeping accurate and as complete as possible records and documents. On occasion, church archivists have been asked to present records relating to legal matters, hence the emphasis on careful documentation and preservation. Well organized and careful inventories are also very helpful in finding needed information and materials. Much of my time this year in the archives has been spent becoming familiar with our holdings.

The archives are located physically in the diocesan office building in Pensacola. I am always eager to respond to inquiries about information and items that we have. Given the legal and sometimes sensitive nature of some materials, however, we ask

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that individuals come to the archives in the diocesan offices and work with the archivist to locate and read the documents there. In addition to paper materials, the archives also contain a few items such as films, photos, and recorded interviews.

To date, I have not had many opportunities to work with interested individuals, but I did spend the morning with one delightful woman who was interested in the records we have relating to the Poarch Creek Native Americans and more especially, the clergy and church of St. Anna's. The story of the Episcopal Church mission among the Poarch people is an example of outreach which was truly remarkable in helping the Creek people recover their identity as a Native American group. I am hoping to continue the archival outreach in the future.

May I encourage interested individuals in parishes and missions not only to use the archives but to work on their own collections. I will be happy to consult with anyone who is interested in historical collections and materials. If someone in the parish is compiling a history of the church, I would also be glad to help in any way that I can. Please feel free to contact me through the diocesan office.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jane Dysart

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

The Commission on Ministry has two primary responsibilities. The first is to assist individuals in their response to God's call to ministry. In particular, the Commission seeks to support those who are discerning a call to ordained ministry. The second responsibility is to advise the Bishop, when requested, in matters concerning discernment and formation.

COM Mission Statement

The COM seeks to prayerfully ascertain, discriminate, and discern a sense of God's call in a person's life and in the life of the church for his/her *lay or ordained vocation and ministry*.

The Commission on Ministry will

- be a resource for aspirants for ordination*
- be an advisor to the bishop concerning aspirants, postulants, and candidates*
- be a shepherd and advocate for those being prepared for ordination, providing pastoral care and guidance on an individual basis*
- assist the bishop in developing and furthering continuing education for the clergy of the Diocese.*

In this diocese, individuals called to ordained ministry may follow one of two separate paths. One path is for those who are called to the Priesthood and the other for those called to the vocational Diaconate.

Ordinations: In March, four (4) individuals were ordained to the Transitional Diaconate (Drew Downey, Antwon Lewis, Salem Saloom, and Mark Waddell). Salem and Mark were ordained to the Priesthood in October; Antwon and Drew in November of 2025.

We had three (5) persons accepted as Postulants in the Priesthood track (Necie Borroni, Ericca Caldwell, John Hunt, Dianne Jordan, and Ginny Leebrick; one (1) person accepted as a Postulant in the Diaconate track (Vivian Silliman).

Seminary: At present, seminarians enrolled from this diocese at Virginia Theological Seminary (Ericca Caldwell, Jimmy Holcomb, Ginny Leebrick), Seminary of the Southwest (Ellen Huckabay), and Sewanee (Dianne Jordan).

Diocesan School for Ministry: We currently have three (3) students enrolled in the Priesthood track (Necie Borroni, John Hunt, Jessica Walker and one (1) in the Diaconate track (Vivian Silliman).

Discernment for those called to the Priesthood and for those called to the Diaconate requires participation by many from the community, as the individuals prayerfully seek God's direction for their lives. The Commission is grateful for the willingness of so many within this diocese to support and assist those who are examining their call to ordained ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. David Chatel, Chair/mrp

BECKWITH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Things are truly alive and thriving on the shores of Weeks Bay! Beckwith continues to be a place where faith is renewed, community is strengthened, and joy is shared. Our dedicated staff and volunteers once again created meaningful experiences for people of all ages, and we are deeply grateful for the many ways you support this sacred space.

Throughout the year, Beckwith welcomed a wide variety of retreat groups—parishes, youth groups, families, and community organizations—each finding rest, renewal, and connection in God's front yard. Our reservations calendar stayed busy, and as we look ahead, Rhona is already booking parish retreats, youth weekends, and parish picnics. We invite you to plan your next gathering at Beckwith and be part of the ongoing magic.

Summer Camp 2025 was filled with laughter, growth, and unforgettable moments. Beckwith served **780 campers**, awarded **\$25,098 in scholarships and discounts**, and received **\$8,500 in grants and donations**, ensuring that camp remained accessible to all who wished to attend. Under the leadership of Program Director Ben Linder, our exceptional summer staff created safe, joyful, and transformational experiences that campers will carry with them long after the last campfire. The impact of summer camp continues to be at the heart of Beckwith's ministry.

One of the true highlights of the year was an **amazing BayLights weekend**. Families and friends gathered for a joy-filled celebration of community, fun, and fellowship by the bay. From shared meals and laughter to meaningful worship and time together outdoors, BayLights once again reminded us why Beckwith is such a beloved place. We are already looking ahead—**save the date for BayLights 2026: September 25–27**—and we hope you will join us for another unforgettable weekend.

As part of our commitment to steward and enhance this sacred campus, the **Because Love Creates Magic Campaign** continues to support important capital improvements that ensure Beckwith remains welcoming, safe, and vibrant for generations to come. This campaign reflects the belief that love—expressed through generosity, vision, and care—truly does create magic at Beckwith.

Mark your calendars for **Beckwith Sunday, April 26, 2026**. This year we plan to celebrate the opening of our new pool with a service, cookout, and pool party. Mark your calendars and plan to worship with us, have lunch, and celebrate the new pool.

As we prepare for 2026, the Beckwith team is stronger than ever—planning, dreaming, and preparing for another outstanding year of retreats, summer camp, and community gatherings. Thank you for your continued support, encouragement, and love for Beckwith.

Respectfully submitted,
The Beckwith Board

WILMER HALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wilmer Hall, an agency of the Diocese located in Mobile, Alabama, has been serving young people in need since 1864. It was founded by Bishop Richard Hooker Wilmer, the second Bishop of Alabama. We currently have six programs: Transitional Living (TLP), Transitional Family (TFP), Education4Life, the Philippa Stirling Hamilton Education Center, the Max Miller Education Program, and The Cynthia Tucker Feeding Ministry.

In 2023, we had a total of 59 residents in our three residential programs (TLP, TFP). We served 60 students in our on-site Education Program and 75 students in our two community-based education programs (the Hamilton Education Center and the Max Miller Education Program). **Our total number of children and young adults served in 2025 was 194.**

We currently serve 60 students in our on-campus education program, called Education4Life. In the 16 years since its inception, the students in the program have a 100% graduation/promotion rate. We expanded our successful education model into other areas of our community in 2018 and 2019. Our community-based education programs serve students on-site at three local middle schools. All of our tutors are local college students, supported by our education staff.

We launched a delivery-based food pantry in 2019 and dedicated in honor of our outgoing board president Cynthia Tucker. In 2025, we delivered groceries to over 500 individuals and families.

Our staff and board continue to be good stewards of our resources as we recently passed a balanced budget as we care for our residents and historic campus. We charge no fees for our services, of course, and receive funding from the Diocese and from many donations and grants.

We greatly appreciate the support from the Diocese, its churches, and their congregants as we carry out our Mission in helping the homeless, the poor, and the needy.

We welcome visitors from around the diocese for a visit to campus, and we are also happy to come talk to your parish or group about our mission and ministry. Please contact Pratt Paterson (ppaterson@wilmerhall.org).

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Deacon D. Pratt Paterson, Executive Director

Cynthia Tucker, Board President

The mission of Wilmer Hall Children's Home is to provide a safe home and educational resources for children and young adults in need due to poverty, abuse, neglect, and homelessness. We serve all children and young adults without regard to race, ethnicity, or religion.

Wilmer Hall extends warm and nurturing care to every child and young adult in its care, ensuring they are surrounded by people who love and support them. Our goal is to help children succeed in four areas: physical health, emotional stability, academic achievement, and spiritual maturity.

Wilmer Hall serves children and young adults through five programs: the Residential Living Program, the Transitional Living Program, the Transitional Family Program, the on-campus Education Program, and the Community-Based Education Programs.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Christ Church Cathedral Prayer

Gracious God, today we give thanks for the ministry you have entrusted to us as the cathedral church of our diocese. Help us to be faithful in answering the sacred calling to be ministers of hospitality for your people and leaders of worship to your honor and glory. May this place be a beacon of your light and love for the world. All this we ask through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

As we enter our third century as Christ's Church in this place, it is our honor to continue to serve as the Cathedral Church for our diocese. We were joined in ministry this year by Dr. Joshua Coble, who arrived just after Easter to become the Cathedral Director of Music.

The Cathedral Foundation was founded in 2006 as an endowed fund whose interest is used to pay for Diocesan events at the Cathedral. The Cathedral Agreement specifies that diocesan events such as ordinations, diocesan meetings, and choir and acolyte festivals held at Christ Church Cathedral will be funded by the Cathedral. The Foundation was created to provide those financial resources for the Cathedral mission and ministry and to promote investment of gifts by members and friends of the Cathedral for its ministry to the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. Thank you to all of the parishes who contributed to the Cathedral Foundation in support of Diocesan Cathedral events.

The following is a brief account of Cathedral functions over the past year.

The Ordination to the Diaconate for Jonathan Drew Downey, Antwon Cyril Lewis, Salem George Saloom, and Mark Allen Waddell was held on Saturday, May 3, 2025.

On May 4, Bishop Russell Kendrick joined us for the Cathedral Celebration Eucharist celebrating our 20th year as the Cathedral of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast.

The Reverend Marshall Craver meets with local clergy at the Cathedral on Mondays in his role as Diocesan Clergy Spiritual Director.

The Diocesan Acolyte Festival was held on Saturday, August 23. Bishop Russell Kendrick welcomed over seventy-five youth, mentors and parents from throughout the diocese and beyond to enjoy the day. It was a fun-filled day of learning, games, and food that culminated with an acolyte-filled service of Eucharist. We give thanks for our diocesan ministers and clergy who helped lead the day: Lee Dorsey, The Revs Mike Ballard, Lydia Johnson, Salem Saloom, and Mary Alice Matheson, as well as Cathedral clergy The Rev. Thomas Heard and The Rev. Pratt Paterson, Deacon. We give thanks for all of the volunteers for their work that day and in the planning stages helped make the day a success. We also thank all of the Cathedral volunteers who acted as hosts for the day. We will see you again for the next Diocesan Acolyte Festival in 2027.

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The Betty Coale Young Musician Scholarship grants financial awards to promising middle and high-school instrumentalists and singers from throughout our diocese and region. Recipients of this scholarship are featured during Christ Church Cathedral's summer services. Betty Coale was a cherished member of the Cathedral choir, and we are grateful that her memory lives on in the support of education & performance opportunities for aspiring music students. It is our hope that young musicians and singers from parishes across the diocese will apply for the scholarship.

The Cathedral Family supports all of our diocesan agencies. This year the Cathedral served as a sponsor for the Wilmer Hall Pancake Breakfast, and for the Friday evening Cookout for Bay Lights at Beckwith. For Back to School, we provided backpacks and school supplies for students who are tutored by Wilmer Hall, and at Christmas, we provided coats for many of these students.

Cathedral leaders continue to serve in a number of capacities within the diocese. Jill Showers Chow served on the Executive Committee of the General Convention. Jill also serves on the Commission on Racial Justice and Reconciliation and on the Wilmer Hall Board. Leigh Rendfrey serves on the Commission for Ministry, as well as on the Boards for Beckwith Camp and Conference Center and Wilmer Hall. Other Cathedral members also serve on the Wilmer Hall Board are Jacob Fuller and Douglas Kearley, Sr. We are grateful for the diocesan representatives who serve on the Cathedral Chapter; The Rev. Mike Ballard, Immanuel, Bay Minette; Phyllis Findley, St. Andrew's, Mobile; and Amy St. John Hamilton, All Saints, Mobile.

The Very Reverend Beverly F. Gibson, Dean of the Cathedral, began the Spiritual Guidance Program with the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation. Dean Gibson also serves on the Shalom Board of Directors.

The Diocesan Choir Festival is being planned for Saturday, August 15, 2026. We look forward to hosting the musicians of our diocese on that day.

As we continue to grow into our ministry as Cathedral, it remains a joy for us as we serve the diocese.

Cathedral Mission Statement

Christ Church Cathedral lovingly welcomes all people to traditional Episcopal worship, to deepen our relationships, serve our community, and grow closer to God.

Institution Statement for the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast

The Cathedral is the spiritual center of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. The Cathedral is a dynamic and evolving church that serves as a liturgical, educational, and pastoral center for Diocesan life. It serves as a visible symbol of unity and promotes growth, hope, and a deepening trust in the Lord. The Cathedral is a place where the Gospel of Jesus Christ will be faithfully preached and responded to, and it will model new concepts and ideas for education, evangelism, and outreach to which the Gospel calls us.

Respectfully submitted,
The Very Reverend Beverly F. Gibson, Dean
Carolyn S. Jeffers, Provost

MISSIONER FOR DEVELOPMENT & EVANGELISM

Over the past year, I have been deeply grateful for the opportunity to walk alongside our congregations as they live more fully into God's call in their communities. It has been a joy to support collaborative ministry between clergy and lay leaders and to help churches navigate change with faith, creativity, and hope. Much of this work has centered on listening carefully, responding to changing circumstances, and helping churches find sustainable and faithful ways forward.

I continue to work closely with small churches and congregations using less traditional models of clergy employment. This includes helping churches develop healthy rhythms of worship that integrate both clergy and lay leadership. As congregational needs shift and churches move through seasons of transition, I meet regularly with churches to help them discern next steps and build structures that support long-term vitality. Our transitions workshops are one way we support this work, offering guidance for both onboarding and offboarding clergy in ways that are healthy, transparent, and grounded in care for the whole community.

One way we have supported smaller congregations this year is through monthly Zoom gatherings. Topics are identified by the churches themselves and include music, pastoral care, and liturgical planning. Out of these conversations, we developed our pastoral care support list — a network of clergy willing to provide presence when needed in churches without clergy, including

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hospital visits, home visits, and other pastoral care support. I am especially thankful for the clergy who have offered themselves in this way, helping ensure that every congregation has access to pastoral care in moments that matter most.

Another important focus has been walking alongside churches as they explore new ways of connecting with their surrounding communities. It is exciting to see congregations try new things, build relationships, and discover fresh ways to be present where God has placed them. The fourth year of the Licensed Lay Evangelist class continues to support this work by equipping lay leaders to help congregations build meaningful relationships in their communities and share the good news in authentic, relational ways.

The Invite Welcome Connect program continues to be an important resource. This year we are moving to a scholarship and grant-supported model rather than providing a free code to everyone. Congregations will be able to apply for assistance to help cover access to the online materials, and we will also offer small grants to help implement pieces of the program locally with diocesan support. Applications will be available soon.

We are also developing a ministry to the military in collaboration with Matt Williams. Please visit his booth in the exhibits to learn more.

A particularly wonderful opportunity for ministry I had this year was to serve as Chaplain to the summer staff at Beckwith. We developed ways to support staff both in their ministry roles and in their own spiritual formation and faith journeys. I have also recently begun serving as Chaplain at Wilmer Hall, supporting the spiritual life and pastoral needs of the residents and staff who live and work there. I am grateful for the privilege of being present in these ministries of care and formation.

To learn more or get involved in any of this work, please contact me at lydia@diocgc.org.

I am truly thankful to serve alongside you in this diocese and look forward with hope to the year ahead.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Lydia Knizley Johnson, Missioner for Development and Evangelism

MISSIONER FOR DISCERNMENT & CANON TO THE ORDINARY

“Let There Be Light.” When I reflect on our convention theme this year, it feels both timely and deeply familiar. From the opening words of Genesis to the life and ministry of Jesus, light remains one of the clearest ways scripture describes God’s presence and activity among us. Light reveals, guides, and gives life.

Over the past year, across the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast, I have witnessed many expressions of that light. I have had the continued privilege of walking with vestries, clergy, and lay leaders as they engaged the faithful work of discernment. In moments of transition, uncertainty, and decision-making, I have seen congregations seek clarity, wisdom, and grace — trusting that God’s light continues to lead us forward.

One of the most visible ways we experience this discernment is through clergy transitions and calls. In the past year, several of our churches have engaged prayerfully in this holy work:

Carl Saxton	Rector - Nativity, Dothan
Ted Kirchharr	Rector - St. Monica’s, Cantonment
Alice Sawyer	Priest in Charge - St. Andrew’s, Mobile
Mark Fitzhugh	Rector - Trinity, Mobile
George Young	Interim Rector - St. Christoher’s, Pensacola
Steven Miller	Interim Rector - Christ the King, Santa Rosa Beach
Antwon Lewis	Curate - St. Mary’s, Andalusia
Salem Saloom	Priest in Charge - St. Anna’s, Poarch
Mark Wadell	Priest in Charge - St. Augustine’s, Navarre
Leanne Beaumont	Rector - St. Mary’s, Milton

Several seminarians will graduate later this spring and will begin their ordained ministries later this year throughout the diocese:

Ellen Huckabay	Seminary of the Southwest (placement TBD)
Jimmy Holcomb	Virginia Theological Seminary (placement TBD)
Jessica Walker	Diocesan School for Ministry (placement TBD)

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In addition to these transitions, several clergy have discerned God's call to retirement or transition, and several congregations have entered intentional seasons of discernment and search:

Susan Sowers	Retired – St. Christopher's, Pensacola
Neil Kaminski	Retired – St. James, Eufaula
Jim and Joe Popham	Retired – St. Andrew's, Destin
Sara Phillips	In transition – St. Mary's, Coden

Congregations in Transition

St. Christopher's, Pensacola
St. James, Eufaula
Christ the King, Santa Rosa Beach
St. Andrew's, Destin
St. Stephen's, Brewton
St. John's, Monroeville
St. Mary's, Coden

As in years past, I continue to be encouraged by the faithful leadership present throughout our diocese. Whether navigating transitions, exploring new ministry opportunities, or discerning future direction, our churches consistently demonstrate patience, courage, and hope.

It remains a privilege to accompany our congregations and leaders in this work. I give thanks for the many ways God's light continues to shine through the life of this diocese, often in ways both expected and surprising. May that same light continue to guide and sustain us in the year ahead.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Ashley Freeman, Canon to the Ordinary & Missioner for Discernment

SCHOOL FOR MINISTRY DEAN AND MISSIONER FOR DISCIPLESHIP

As Missioner for Discipleship and the Dean of our local School for Ministry, I say thank you. This past year has brought challenges to us all. Yet I remain proud and encouraged by those in our Lay and ordained tracks in the School for Ministry.

I am truly awed that we have so many people, lay and ordained candidates, saying "yes" to the call in their life. Bishop Kendrick asked me to share some statistics at our last clergy conference:

We have 118 Licensed lay ministers.

- 39 or 65% of the parishes/congregations have participated in the lay school in some form;
- 12 parishes/congregations have 3 or more that have participated in the lay school;
- 28 individuals across the dioceses have been licensed in more than one lay track.

As I look around and see the students who have been graduated from the ordained tracks in our local School, I counted, that by the end of this next three-year cycle, 20 people will have been ordained priests or deacons since 2017. That makes approximately 1/3 of the active clergy in this diocese.

When the School began, Bishop Kendrick followed the vision written in his heart. It was a new thing, something wholly different than many of you had ever seen or experienced. And new things are not always comfortable or even accepted. It is my call and passion to teach, mentor, and support the students who trust me with their discernment and ministries and to do so with a commitment to integrity and academic excellence.

Most seminaries are in great flux right now as they navigate sustainability and new pedagogical tools in this complex society. I talk with and coordinate with other leaders weekly. I do this to serve and honor our people and their resounding commitment to making this world a better place.

We have 29 enrolled in the lay school this year and 5 for ordained ministry. I may be biased, but I think we are living in a teaching moment. Teachers hold on to a special type of hope, patience, persistence and passion for students. We have

gathered with our graduates of the local School to check-in and see how we can be better, how we can meet changing needs, and how we can hopefully be sustainable and effective in the future. We can and will always strive to be relevant and adaptive.

When Bishop Kendrick asked our clergy at the start of this year what we would like God to bless in our ministries, my response was “faithful formation”. As your Missioner for Discipleship, I am studying theologians, historians, and sociologists to provide resources to assist in varying seasons of the year.

As I ponder the challenges to faithful formation and discipleship in our divided culture, I find encouragement in Dr Brene Brown’s new book, *Strong Ground*, in which she says:

Humans get so uncomfortable straddling the tension and uncertainty that surfaces when two seemingly opposing ideas are both valid, that we often simply give up. We let go of the tension and pick one idea, normally the one most familiar, and make ourselves feel better by discounting or diminishing the competing idea and/or the idea holder.

I hope we all find the courage to continue speaking our truth to power; to use our agency to shine light in dark spaces and to encourage one another, build one another up; to stay the course in this present tension of what is and what can be. We need each other to do this, so thank you again for the grace to continue with you in this work, united as we are by our baptismal covenant.

Respectfully submitted,
Joy H. Blaylock, PhD
Dean, School for Ministry
Missioner for Discipleship

REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONS

CURSILLO

The purpose of the Cursillo Ministry in the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast is to help individuals understand and respond to their calling to Christian Leadership, whether in their parishes, social lives, or in the workplace. Join us!

Cursillo Ministry. The Commission on Cursillo hosted two weekends at Camp Beckwith, with #172 in March 2025 and #173 in September 2025. As expected, and with the help of the Holy Spirit, the weekends were extremely successful. Future Cursillo weekends are currently scheduled twice/year in the months of March and September. Special thanks to the Lay Rectors and key staff for the weekends:

Position	Cursillo #172	Cursillo #173
Lay Rector	Bryan Whitehead	Tonye Frith
Head Cha Cha	Lisa Hicks	Dianne O’Connor
Head Logistics	Steve Brown	Natalie Smith
Head Music	Rev Forbes Sirman	Charlie Roose
Head Spiritual Advisor	Bishop Russell Kendrick	Rev Lydia Johnson

Communications. The *Cursillo in the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast* Facebook page currently has 633 followers.

Cursillo Newsletter. There are currently 1,030 online subscribers to our newsletter.

Website. We reworked the *Coastal Pilgrims* website in August 2025 and 189 Cursillistas have used it since implementation. Peak view windows being just before the March and September Cursillo weekends.

Rev Mark H. Wilson (MHW) Scholarship. In memory of the late Fr Mark, and in honor of his inspiring wife Beth, a one-time \$2,500 seminary scholarship is available for a first-year postulant enrolled in an accredited three-year Master of Divinity program or a one-time \$1,000 scholarship for a first-year postulant enrolled in the Diocese School for Ministry. Candidates must have been active in the Cursillo Ministry in the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast and anticipate continuing to serve as Cursillo weekend clergy upon ordination. Unfortunately, the funds are nearly exhausted. A donation can be made any time,

for any amount, with a check made out to the Cursillo Duvall Fund and note in the memo line: MHW Scholarship and mail your check to: Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast, PO Box 13330, Pensacola FL 32591-3330.

Cursillo #174 will be held from March 12 – 15. There still is space available for more pilgrims! Please remember this weekend, its pilgrims, and Lay Rector David Adams from Holy Spirit, Gulf Shores, in your prayers.

Cursillo #175 will be led by Lay Rector Michelle Anchors, St Simon's Church, Fort Walton Beach, and is scheduled to begin on Sep 17th. Interested staff and prospective pilgrims can apply online at coastalpilgrims.com. Before submitting the pilgrim form, sponsors should talk with clergy about the suitability of the prospective pilgrim. When the form is submitted, the clergy will get an email asking them to officially approve the registration.

Respectfully submitted,
Van Fuller, Chair

GLOBAL MISSION ENGAGEMENT

This past year the Commission has sponsored in whole or in part, to the extend our manpower and budget would permit, the following:

- a. Concluded a successful Medical / Quality-of-Life mission effort in **Baluba, Zambia**
- b. Provided funds to help supply medicines to stock the pharmacy in **Baluba, Zambia**
- c. Supported an Education Mission to the **Dominican Republic**
- d. Sponsored a successful Construction Mission trip to build furniture for two needy Episcopal churches in the **Dominican Republic**
- e. Built furniture need to establish a chapel in the diocese office in the **Dominican Republic**
- f. Concluded our mission efforts to the **USA/Mexican border**
- g. Made a commitment to partner with the mission ministry known as "Live2serve" in **Guatemala** to provide housing and vocational training
- h. Individual members of the Commission donated funds to build 4 houses for homeless families in **Guatemala**
- i. Made plans for long-term support and made a donation to help rebuild the hospital **Al Alhi in Gaza** following the hospital's suffering extensive damage as a result of recent wars.
- j. Provided funds to the **Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem** to provide Christmas presents to church children suffering from the aftermath of local wars
- k. Provided funds to build a water well at **Iglesia San Andres de Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic.**

Following is additional information about each of these projects:

1. Baluba, Zambia, Africa:

Baluba is in a rural setting with 3000 people in its "community" area. Health care was miles away and for most residents accessible only by walking. Many locals still practiced witchcraft and had no notion of Jesus.

We teamed with a local pastor, Victor Chimfwembe, and his wife Rachael, who were Christians, capable, and anxious to do something to bring Christ, good medical care, and a higher standard of living to the Baluba community.

The common diseases the area encounters are: -malaria, respiratory infections, oral disease, muscular skeletal disease, skin diseases, digestive and ear/eyes diseases.

Health Care, Pharmacy, School and Church: Since beginning our partnership with Victor and Rachael we have been successful in helping establish a local stocked pharmacy, a medical clinic with a private birthing room, water for the birthing room, a school, and a church.

Through Victor's initiative he has been instrumental in bringing agricultural and farm animals to the community thus making healthy food sustainable and more easily available.

Nursing School and Midwifery for Rachael: Over the course of four years we sponsored a full tuition scholarship for Rachael to attend a certified three-year nursing program and a fourth year to obtain a midwife certification. In exchange Rachael's commitment to us is that she will return to Baluba and provide nursing care and midwife services at no charge to the locals.

Rachael has completed her schooling with high marks and now is a RN and certified midwife. She is faithfully fulfilling her commitment to provide services to the Baluba and surrounding communities free of charge.

This Baluba ministry has given the community renewed hope, access to good health care and medicines, and restored a sense of self-esteem and given them the opportunity to know of the love and saving grace of our Lord.

Pharmacy Support for Baluba: We gave financial support to provide necessary medicines for the Baluba pharmacy throughout the year.

2. United States / Mexico Borderland Ministries:

Since September 2021 the Commission has been working with local Episcopal churches and ministries to provide support of much needed services to legal emigrants who had been displaced from their homeland.

This ministry has run its course and it is no longer needed due to the change in government policy regarding immigration at the border.

3. Education Mission to the Dominican Republic:

Our Commission has been instrumental in establishing a ministry where a group of highly qualified educational professionals travel to the Dominican Republic to hold workshops for teachers and administrators in the Episcopal Church school system. An objective of these trips is to help the local teachers and administrators be better at their jobs and thus offer the students a better quality of education.

Next Education Mission Trip Planned for 2026:

The team plans to continue this mission in 2026. Plans for the coming year include providing support for the following:

- a. Launch a plan to engage groups at selected schools in designing and implementing programs for excellence in English teaching / learning and the uses of technology.
- b. Provide support in the planning, implementation, and assessment of the project.
- c. Create an electronic resource bank that teachers and administrators can access using the Internet.
- d. Continued encouragement for the DDG (Dominican Development Group) to increase fund-raising for student scholarships to the schools in the DR.
- e. Construction projects to create safe learning environments for children and add classroom space for fast growing schools.

4. Furniture Construction Mission to the Dominican Republic:

Since 2006 our Diocese has sponsored construction teams to the Dominican Republic. These teams build furniture for Dominican Episcopal Churches. During the last 20 years they have furnished many churches with pews, pulpits, lecterns, altars, credence tables, baptismal fonts, acolyte benches, clergy chairs, bishop's chairs, bookcases and other items requested by local churches. The team's goal is to provide all the furniture needed to enable an empty room to become an attractive, comfortable and functional house of worship.

The last such trip was in March 2025 and was met with much success.

The next trip is scheduled for February-March 2026 when the team will build furniture for the Iglesia La Gran Comisión de San Pedro and Iglesia Santo Nombre de Jesús de Bani.

5. **Mission to Guatemala:** We have made a commitment to partner with the missionary ministry known as Live2Serve in Guatemala. We will work with them toward building houses for homeless families and to establish a trade school where locals can learn employable skills such as welding, electrical, plumbing, construction and sewing.
6. **Hospital in Gaza:** Provided financial aid toward rebuilding the hospital Al Alhi in Gaza that had been severely damaged as a result of recent local wars.
7. **Water Well for San Andres, Santo Domingo, DR:** It was learned that the church and school at San Andres, Santo Domingo did not have running water and that its absence contributed to unsanitary conditions for the students, faculty and church. The Construction team provided funds for the church to drill and install a water well.

Respectfully Submitted.
Geary Gaston, Commission Chair

INTEGRITY OF CREATION

Members of the Commission on the Integrity of Creation hosted a workshop on “[Practical Ideas for Creation Care Ministry](#)” at the 2025 diocesan convention. The workshop was generally well received, although it was apparent from comments afterward that people needed a more basic understanding of creation care, especially from a spiritual perspective. Bishop Kendrick asked for input from the commission regarding speakers for the 2026 convention to provide a focus on the spirituality of creation care. Names were submitted for his consideration.

The Commission continued to send a monthly newsletter to all subscribers, suggesting options for education, worship, action and advocacy on creation care. Back issues of the newsletter are archived on the commission [webpage](#).

Rev. Salem Saloom again sponsored Worship in the Woods and Rev. Bob Donnell sponsored an evening liturgy at All Saints, Mobile in recognition of Earth Day. Other parishes sponsoring event for Earth Day include: St. Mary’s, Andalusia; Redeemer, Mobile; and St. Christopher’s, Pensacola. Salem also sponsored an Easter retreat, “Living in View of the Resurrection” and “Classroom in the Forest” at Saloom Properties.

Holy strolls (prayer walks) were hosted throughout the year by All Saints, Mobile; Redeemer, Mobile; and St. Christopher’s, Pensacola. Lella Lowe did a presentation on church divestment for the Province IV/V environmental network, and spoke at the Daughters of the King spring assembly about creation care and to groups at St. Paul’s, Daphne and St. Stephen’s, Brewton about developing/expanding their green teams.

Many churches were active in creation care activities during the summer, including St. Mary’s, Andalusia; Trinity, Apalachicola; St. Stephen’s, Brewton; All Saints, Mobile; Redeemer, Mobile; and St. Christopher’s, Pensacola. See our [July newsletter](#) for a listing of all of those activities. The Green Team at St. Christopher’s also held a weekend team retreat and members take turns writing articles about creation care for the church’s monthly newsletter.

Churches in the diocese participated in the Season of Creation (SoC) by using the special liturgy approved for the season. The Commission shared a [long list](#) of resources to use in celebrating the season. Nearly a dozen Alabama churches participated in the Sun Day postcard campaign, advocating for greater access to solar power in the state. St. Christopher’s covered creation care extensively in their [September newsletter](#) in honor of the SoC. The Commission’s [October newsletter](#) provided extensive coverage of SoC activities throughout the Diocese.

Sonja Crawford was co-leader of a nature contemplation retreat day for the Center for Sacred Space in November. Lella Lowe is serving as a co-leader for the Province IV creation care network and is using the CIC’s Constant Contact account to produce the monthly newsletter for that group, serving creation care advocates throughout the nine-state region.

The Commission has used the November 2025 – February 2026 newsletters to explore the theme of Living More Simply, opening with a [moving reflection](#) by commission member Michelle Bende’s Gen Z daughter Elyssa and moving through the high consumer seasons of Advent and Christmas and then into Lent, with suggestions and resources for simplifying our lives. We then reported on the many ways our congregations experimented with promoting a simpler lifestyle.

The number of green teams throughout the diocese continues to grow, but commission members would love to see that number double in the next year. To that end, Travis Pecot worked with a Trinity, Apalachicola parishioner to produce a video

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about creation care in this diocese to share at convention and beyond. The commission continues to research installation of solar panels on churches, schools and other diocesan buildings as a way to reduce our carbon emissions in accordance with 2022 General Convention resolution A087 – Carbon Net Neutrality by 2030.

Respectfully submitted,
Lella Lowe, Chair

PRISON MINISTRY

2025 started with some fanfare, as I was invited to speak by Bishop Kendrick at the diocesan convention. I had offered to speak to any and all parishes in 2024 about the ins and outs of prison ministry and especially its rewards. No one invited me to speak in 2024, so I was especially encouraged by Bishop Kendrick's support in giving me an opportunity to speak. No invitation to speak at an individual parish was forthcoming in 2025, except at my home parish, St. James.

With covid our committee meetings were suspended and entry into the prisons was halted. After covid we switched from in-person committee meetings to Zoom. The number of committee members dwindled to four at any one zoom meeting. After Wayne Verry retired as chairman John Kendall took over as Chair. John, with his busy schedule, was unable to resurrect the committee. I have been the chair for all of 2025 and have been equally unsuccessful in finding a group willing to serve on the committee. That doesn't mean that there isn't a group willing, but I will have to try a new approach to enlist group members.

My recommendation for this new approach would involve a change in emphasis as to the committee's direction. Before covid we focused on in-prison involvement mostly in conjunction with Kairos and with re-entry of released inmates. Kairos is an important ministry to those in prison, (I have been involved since 1993), but it has become less and less dependent on outside groups. Attendance at a Cursillo, or some similar group, used to be mandatory to join Kairos, but that is no longer the case. Membership is more or less the result on one-on-one or small group networking and passing relatively simple (though very important) DOC tests. At Saint James we still use the parish hall for team meetings, and monetary contributions need to be raised. We should support Kairos.

Re-entry has limitless opportunities. Our diocesan committee spent a large amount of our efforts learning about the re-entry process and trying unsuccessfully to involve parishes/ parishioners. We learned the ins and outs of re-entry, but it requires a different set of skills, and as it is a less controlled environment, it can be intimidating. And to my surprise working together towards helping in the re-entry process can become political in a way that is not possible in the controlled prison environment. If we had found success in recruiting parishioners in the opportunities that we surfaced, I would be all for pushing the envelope. As we did all the research, but failed to find support interest, I vote to put re-entry on the back burner.

So, what is it that I am suggesting as a new focus for the diocese? In 2018 I wrote a bible study on a book written by Ray Hinton, an innocent man imprisoned for 30 years in Alabama's death row. The committee loved it, and Bishop Kendrick asked all parishes to consider offering it. I'm not sure how many parishes did the six-week study, but it met with some interest and success.

The idea that I would like to pursue will involve approval of each individual prison (probably not hard) for the diocese to sponsor a bible study led by at least one (one is sufficient) parishioner. I have written a topic driven bible study and have included it in 27 files attached with this email. In Holman Death Row we had a bible study for years, originally one night a week. After covid we switched to Thursday afternoons. Last fall Kairos International stopped us from doing this bible study as their "program" does not support bible studies (Probably due to a potential conflict of denomination theology).

The bible study that I am recommending is called "Questions of a Faithful Heart," and I have led it at St. James throughout 2025. Every other week we have looked into a Christian topic to help members clarify their thinking. There is not a book to read, but with the help of a 2 page write up (1 sheet, both sides), the group looks into the topic until the next time with the idea that every participant will come prepared to discuss the topic. The bible study is meant for small groups of 6 to 12.

In Fountain prison I lead Thursday afternoon chapel time with anywhere from 30 to 70 inmates from 1995 to 2011. As a part of chapel time, we broke up into small groups to discuss the Kairos 4th day meeting card (officially labelled the "listen-listen-love-love questions"). The 5 questions never changed and were a good way to start discussion of group interest. (ex. "Can you share any moment when you have known that Christ's presence was with you?"). The prisons are used to bible studies by various groups, and small group engenders the most individual involvement.

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The small group that I am recommending will not be looking for “the” right answer to the “Questions.” The main focus is to help individuals grow in their relationship with God through encouragement of a combination of reading, reflecting, and discussing. Some will on their own use the bible or other materials available in the chapel. Others will listen and perhaps add their thoughts/ questions.

This is not an attempt to start a “Ditmas” like parish (Fountain) in every prison, though the bible study is definitely to be done under the Episcopal banner. My hope is to meet with Bishop Kendrick to discuss this idea and change of emphasis for 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
John Olson, Chair

RACIAL JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION

Mission Statement

As members of the Jesus Movement, our mission is to dismantle individual and institutional racism by sharing resources and creating opportunities that inspire and empower faith communities and the larger community, resulting in reconciliation and restoration of all God’s People.

In furtherance of our mission, the Commission engaged in a wide range of activities in 2025.

Martin Luther King Birthday Celebration. In January, we celebrated the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, participating in a Community Worship Service at Trinity Chapel AME Church in Bay Minette, Alabama, and the MLK Day March in Fairhope, Alabama.

Trip to Alabama Shakespeare Festival. As part of our ongoing efforts to explore how the visual and performing arts can help (or hurt) the cause of racial and social justice, the Commission sponsored a trip to the Alabama Shakespeare Festival in Montgomery in February, where participants saw a performance of “The Watsons Go to Birmingham.” The play is based on a book that was both a Newbery Medal winner and a Coretta Scott King Honor Book. It tells the story of an African American family from Flint, Michigan, who travels south to visit relatives, only to find themselves caught up in a horrific moment in American history: the bombing of the Sixteenth Avenue Baptist Church in Birmingham.

Selma Bridge Crossing Jubilee. In March, the Commission hosted a trip to participate in the Selma Jubilee, the annual bridge-crossing in commemoration of Bloody Sunday. The event is held annually to keep alive the memory of the events of March 7, 1965, when state and local police attacked hundreds of civil rights activists who were marching from Selma, Alabama, to the state capitol in Montgomery.

SPEAK Poetry Conference. In April, the Commission was a sponsor of the SPEAK Poetry Conference, which took place at St. Paul’s Episcopal School. SPEAK was a youth poetry and spoken word conference bringing together high school students, educators, community leaders, and creatives from across Southwest Alabama for a transformative experience in art, culture, and empowerment. Designed to amplify youth voices, cultivate storytelling skills, and provide mentorship, the one-day conference featured competitions, workshops, panels, networking, and a keynote speech by Agenia Walker Clark, President of Fisk University and the first Black graduate of St. Paul’s. Panelists – who included Bishop Kendrick, several Diocesan clergy, and several Commission members, as well as other community leaders, authors, and public figures committed to creating positive change – explored racial reconciliation, community building, transgenerational unity, youth empowerment, and bridging economic and social divides.

Pilgrimage in Mobile. Having sponsored numerous pilgrimages over the years to civil rights sites outside of our Diocese (Birmingham, Montgomery, Mississippi, Louisiana), the Commission decided that it was time to explore racial history in our own backyard. In April, we held a pilgrimage in Mobile. More than 50 pilgrims joined

us for a full day of learning and understanding, beginning with a boat trip to the site where the Clotilda lies beneath the water. On the boat, we heard from a Clotilda descendant, and at the site there was time for reflection and discussion of the meaning of what we were experiencing. Lunch followed, hosted by the Church of the Good Shepherd, the only historically African American Episcopal church in Mobile. The afternoon comprised a guided bus tour with the Dora Franklin Finley African American Heritage Trail, visiting the Africatown Heritage House Museum and other sites in Africatown, historic Davis Avenue, the Historic Avenue Cultural Center, the Isom Clemon Civil Rights Memorial Park, and the Historic Franklin House & Gallery.

Jonathan Myrick Daniel Pilgrimage. Each year, the Dioceses of Alabama and the Central Gulf Coast jointly host the annual remembrance of Jonathan Daniel and the Martyrs of Alabama. The pilgrimage takes place in Hayneville, Alabama, to honor Jonathan Daniel, a seminarian who had come to Alabama in 1965 to register

Black voters. He was killed by a county deputy while in the act of shielding 17-year-old Ruby Sales from gunfire, saving her life. The two dioceses alternate being in charge of the event, and 2025 was our year to organize, with our Commission taking the lead. This year marked the 60th anniversary of the murder of Jonathan Daniel, and we were able to host a very special observance, with Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, 27th Presiding Bishop and Pri-mate of The Episcopal Church, as preacher. In addition, the Rev. Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas, Canon Theologian of Washington National Cathedral and former Dean of Episcopal Divinity School, and Ashley M. Jones, Poet Laure-ate of the State of Alabama, were featured at a vigil the evening before the pilgrimage. Pilgrims came from all over the country – including many from our Diocese – to participate in this anniversary weekend.

Speaker Series. The Commission presents an ongoing series of speaker events, featuring persons who are notable for their work and experience in some aspects of racial justice. In October, we hosted a presentation by Dr. William A. Smith, Distinguished Professor at the University of Utah with appointments spanning

the Departments of Psychiatry, Education, and African American Studies. Internationally renowned for his pioneering work on Racial Battle Fatigue, a concept he coined in 2003, Dr. Smith addressed for our audience how systemic racism and racial aggressions — both micro and macro — affect the mental and physical well-being of minority individuals.

Racial Reconciliation Workshops. One of the central components of our Commission’s ministry is our Becoming Beloved Community workshop. We offer this full-day seminar to all churches within the Diocese as a basic conversation about racism and its history and component factors. At the workshop, attendees can gain insights into the causes and effects of racism, unconscious bias, prejudice, white privilege, and ways to work together to Become Beloved Community. Since all parish vestry members and all members of Diocesan commissions and committees are required by the Bishop and the Standing Committee to attend this training, we attempt to make it available a number of times a year and at a variety of locations within the Diocese. In 2024, we conducted four workshops: in January at Christ Church Cathedral, Mobile; in March at St. James, Eufaula; in May at St. Paul’s, Foley; and in September at St. Christopher’s, Pensacola.

Coastline Articles. A Commission member is assigned to write an article for the Coastline each month on a topic related to racial justice. An informative and thought-provoking article was published in the Coastline every month in 2024.

For more information, go to: www.diocgc.org/racial-justice-and-reconciliation

Respectfully submitted,
Joe McDaniel, Jr., and Valerie Mitchell, Co-Chairs

REPORTS OF THE DIOCESAN COORDINATORS

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY (EFM)

Since its beginning in 1975, more than 120,000 participants have deepened their faith and discerned their calling through the Education for Ministry program. Developed by the School of Theology at the University of the South (known by many as Sewanee), EfM equips Episcopalians and others for lay ministry through theological reflection, Scripture study and Christian formation.

While celebrating its 50th year, Sewanee staff unveiled the fifth major revision of EfM’s curriculum, deepening its theological foundations, expanding global perspectives, utilizing multimedia sources, and engaging emerging questions in ministry and discipleship. In addition to its core four-year curriculum, the program is launching two new offerings:

- EfM: Reflections, five-to-ten-week formation courses for small-group study and congregational use. They invite people to gather onsite or online to theologically reflect upon experience, church tradition, cultural sources, and deep questions. The first two courses in the Reflections curriculum are Catharine Meeks: Meditations for Racial Healing (8 weeks) and Tara Soughers: a Theology for Trans Allies (5 weeks).

- EfM: Wide Angle, a new one-year format for those looking to experience a spiritual introduction to EfM and Christian formation in the 21st century. This seminar allows an opportunity to try EfM without the four-year commitment of the classic program.

These new offerings from School of Theology at Sewanee come in response to requests for programs designed to include those not able to make the commitment to the traditional four-year EfM program due to financial or time constraints, while still offering the classic program to those who want an in-depth study leading to growth in their lay ministries.

I am encouraged that these and other similar programs will revive the interest in EfM in the Central Gulf Coast. As the in-person small-group format has faced both internal and external challenges (such as the restrictions experienced during Covid and the rising costs of books and other material), these new offerings will hopefully encourage more people in the diocese to look at EfM as a way to equip themselves to meet the challenges of ministering to the needs of others and spread the Gospel as much by action and example than by words alone.

Currently, we have several mentors accredited to lead congregational EfM groups, but only three active groups. I encourage both lay leaders and clergy in the diocese to look into these new offerings to their congregations, as well as the traditional four-year EfM program to build both clergy and lay ministries in the diocese.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. David M. Clothier, Coordinator

EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT

Episcopal Relief & Development has been inspired by the faith and compassion of its supporters and partners to work together for lasting change. Its mission is to seek and serve Christ in all persons and respect the dignity of every human being.

Episcopal Relief & Development, originally known as the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief (PB Fund), was founded in 1940 by General Convention. It first aimed to help refugees escaping Europe during World War II, but soon after, its work grew to include broader humanitarian aid, with a strong focus on disaster relief.

This past year Episcopal Relief & Development:

- Responded to wildfires in Southern California
- Launched programs to combat violence against women and girls in Liberia
- Helped families affected by flooding in Kentucky
- Responding to deadly Texas flooding
- Released toolkits to help faith communities respond to critical global challenges
- Supported partners in the Caribbean in response to Hurricane Melissa

These and many other natural disasters require dedicated individuals and targeted responses. All of this was made possible thanks to the generous support of people from the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast and other Episcopalians across the United States.

Respectfully submitted,
Eugene Johnston, Coordinator

UNITED THANK OFFERING REPORT

There is no way to describe the impact UTO has on the mission work of our church. Since its beginning in 1889, UTO has awarded 5,475 grants totaling \$145,318,512.13. Last year, UTO gave out 27 grants totaling \$1,079,748.37 for projects that center around water. These grants went to make clean water available to communities, provided sanitation services to congregations, and helped to establish educational materials on water conservation and creation care. Your gifts of gratitude make a difference to people here in the US and around the world. I have read letters of gratitude and met people whose lives have been changed because of UTO. I encourage everyone to adopt the practice of daily gratitude and give to UTO. Remember, 100% of your gifts go towards funding grants.

If you are interested in participating in UTO at your parish, I am available to come speak to you. You can order materials for your parish at <https://unitedthankoffering.com/> and they are now shipped free of charge. The website contains many resources and sample newsletter articles for your use including materials for children and families to use at home. We are in the process of collecting prayers for our new prayer book to be released next year. You can submit your prayer to <https://unitedthankoffering.com/gratitude/pray/>. You can also find the QR code for this at the UTO table in the exhibit hall. Please come by and look at the amazing grants that were funded last year.

Here is the list of your gifts from 2025:

St. Peter's, Bon Secour, AL	\$252.00
St. Paul's, Daphne, AL	\$2137.90
St. Mary's, Milton, FL	\$600.00
St. Jude's, Niceville, FL	\$482.00
St. Andrew's, Mobile, AL	\$230.00
St. Matthew's, Chipley, FL	\$459.29
Church of the Nativity, Dothan, AL	\$484.00
St. Paul's, Mobile, AL	\$3,452.00
Christ Church, Pensacola, FL	\$455.00
St. James, Eufaula, AL	\$438.66
Trinity, Apalachicola, FL	\$35.05
St. Patrick's, Panama City, FL	\$253.50
St. Mark's, Troy AL	\$165.10
Individual donors	\$25.00
Total	\$9,969.50

Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Landers, Coordinator
jlanderscgc@gmail.com

CONVOCATION DEAN REPORTS

CONVOCATION V

Convocation V of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast comprises Florida's Bay, Walton, Okaloosa, Washington, Gulf, and Franklin Counties.

The clergy of Convocation V convene several times throughout the year as *Clericus*, which is an opportunity to meet over lunch for fellowship, the sharing of mutual concerns, and occasionally a program or speaker beneficial to the ordained ministry.

On January 9, 2025, the clergy and their spouses enjoyed an Epiphanytide luncheon at Triple J Steaks and Seafood in Panama City Beach as the guests of Bishop Kendrick, and the surviving spouses of clergy who reside in our Convocation were also invited to join us that day.

On May 15, 2025, the clergy gathered for lunch at Alice's on Bayview in the historic Saint Andrew neighborhood of Panama City, and welcomed the Reverend Forbes Sirmon, Rector of Holy Nativity, to our Diocese and Convocation.

On September 4, 2025, the clergy enjoyed a luncheon at Saint Andrew's Church in Panama City.

On January 8, 2026 the clergy were invited to participate in Bishop Kendrick's monthly Zoom Conference at Holy Nativity, Panama City, and then reassembled for lunch as his guests at the Sailing Center of the nearby Saint Andrew's Bay Yacht Club.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph Hagberg, Dean

**RULES OF ORDER
FOR CONDUCTING THE BUSINESS OF THE ANNUAL CONVENTION
OF THE DIOCESE OF THE CENTRAL GULF COAST**

RULE I.

After Divine Service, the President shall take the chair, and call the Diocesan Convention to order, when the order of proceedings shall be as follows:

Section 1. The Secretary, or Assistant Secretary, of the last Diocesan Convention, if present (or the Secretary of the Standing Committee) shall determine, by roll call, or registration, which of the Clergy entitled to seats are present.

Section 2. The Secretary shall, in like manner, determine which of the Lay Delegates, for whom the Certificates of Election are in order, and who are, therefore, entitled to seats, are present.

RULE II.

A quorum being found present, the President shall declare the Diocesan Convention organized for business.

RULE III.

The Diocesan Convention shall then proceed to the election of a Secretary, who shall have the power to appoint assistants, with the concurrence of the Convention.

RULE IV.

The President shall appoint the following committees of the Diocesan Convention:

1. Dispatch of Business - to consider and recommend to the Convention an Agenda (order of business) for the Convention.
2. Credentials and Privileges - to consider and recommend to the Convention granting courtesy seat and voice to designated persons and to consider and recommend to the Convention on questioned credentials.
3. Canons and Rules of Order - to consider and recommend to the Convention actions concerning Canons and Rules of Order.
4. Status of Parishes and Missions and Admission of New Parishes - to consider and recommend to the Convention on change of status of congregations as well as admission of new congregations.
5. Finance - to consider and recommend to the Convention on the budget of the Diocese, on use of offerings during Convention liturgies, and on other matters of financial concern of the Diocese.
6. Elections - to act as tellers of votes for election of Standing Committee members, of Clerical and Lay Deputies to General Convention, and of other offices as needed except for the election of a Bishop for which special rules of order shall be adopted.
7. Such other committees as the President shall determine.

RULE V.

All reports of Officers and Committees, Agencies, Commissions, and Coordinators shall be submitted in writing to the Bishop no later than thirty (30) days prior to the opening of the Convention and distributed to each congregation no later than ten (10) days prior to the opening of the Convention.

RULE VI.

Section 1. All Resolutions to be presented by Delegates to the Convention shall be submitted, in written form, to the Secretary no later than forty-five (45) days prior to the opening of the Convention. These pre-filed Resolutions shall be distributed to each congregation within the Diocese no later than thirty (30) days prior to the first day of each Convention.

Section 2. Resolutions to alter or amend the Canons of the Diocese shall be submitted, in written form, in accordance with Canon 28, to the Secretary no later than ninety (90) days prior to the opening of the Convention and shall be distributed to the congregations of the Diocese no later than sixty (60) days prior to the opening of Convention.

Section 3. At the first business meeting of the Convention, the substance of each Resolution presented under the provisions of Sections 1 and 2 shall be made known to the Convention together with assignment of each Resolution to a committee of the President's choice. Each Resolution shall be read at length at that time if requested. Copies of all Resolutions shall be made available at Convention to all Delegates.

Section 4. Resolution not presented in accordance with Sections 1 or 2 may be introduced by a Delegate to the Convention and accepted for consideration only by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of Convention taken at the first business meeting.

Section 5. Nothing in this Rule shall prevent the Bishop from introducing new matters to the Convention for consideration or action through the Bishop's Address to Convention; and nothing in this Rule shall prevent a committee of Convention from introducing new matters to Convention through its majority report. However, neither the Bishop nor a committee of Convention may introduce proposed amendments to Canons other than in conformity with Canon 28.

RULE VII.

Nominations for Standing Committee and for Clerical and Lay Deputies to General Convention (in the years for such election) may be submitted by Delegates not later than thirty (30) days prior to the opening of Convention and distributed to each congregation no later than ten (10) days prior to the opening of Convention. This provision shall not preclude Delegates from making nominations for these offices from the floor during Convention.

RULE VIII.

Once the Convention is organized for business in accordance with Rule II, and a Secretary elected (and assistants appointed) in accordance with Rule III, the Convention shall follow an order of business adopted by the Convention in the form of an Agenda upon presentation by the Committee on Dispatch of Business. Once adopted, this Agenda may be modified or suspended upon a two-thirds vote of the Convention. This Agenda shall include the following:

- The Bishop's Address
- The Report of the Standing Committee
- The Reports of the General Officers
- The Reports of committees of the Convention
- The Adoption of the Operating Budget for the Diocese and other financial concerns
- The Elections of the Officers and Committees, Commissions, Agencies, and Coordinators of the Diocese.

RULE IX.

No Delegate shall be absent from the sessions of the Convention without leave of the President or the Delegate is unable to attend.

RULE X.

When a Delegate is about to speak in debate, or deliver any matter to the Convention, the Delegate shall rise, as able, and, upon being recognized by the President and with due respect, address the President in an audible voice speaking only to the point in debate. No Delegate shall speak twice in the same debate without leave of the Convention.

RULE XI.

When the President is putting any question, the Delegates shall continue in their seats and not hold private discourse. Every Delegate present shall vote when a question is put, unless excused by the Convention.

Section 1. Action upon a question put by the President shall be determined by a majority of votes cast, except on a question for which a two-thirds vote is required by these Rules or the Canons.

Section 2. When the question is for the election of members of the Standing Committee, Clerical and Lay Deputies to General Convention, and to any other office in the Diocese excepting the election of a Bishop for which special rules of order shall be adopted, the following will apply: If, after the second ballot, all open positions

are not filled by majority vote, then on the third and next succeeding ballots, there shall be retained only twice the number of nominees as there are unfilled positions, said nominees to be taken from those receiving the highest number of votes, until, by majority vote, a nominee is elected.

RULE XII.

When a question is under consideration, no motion shall be made unless to lay upon the table, to postpone to a certain time, to commit, to amend, or to offer a substitute. Motions for any of these purposes shall have precedence in the order named. A motion to lay on the table shall be decided without debate.

RULE XIII.

A motion to adjourn shall always be in order, and, if unqualified, shall be decided without debate.

RULE XIV.

No motion shall be considered as before the Convention, unless seconded, reduced to writing, and submitted to the Secretary before the vote.

RULE XV.

A question having been once determined shall stand as the judgment of the Convention and shall not again be considered during the session; but, a question having been decided may be reconsidered with the consent of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present on a motion to that purpose by one (1) of the majority of the first decision.

RULE XVI.

All questions of order shall be decided by the President in the first instance; but any members may appeal from such decision, and, on such appeal, no member may speak more than once without leave of the Convention.

RULE XVII.

These Rules of Order may be suspended by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Delegates present.

RULE XVIII.

Except in conflict with the Constitution or Canons, or any Rule herein contained, the latest edition of *Roberts' Rules of Order* shall govern the interpretation of these Rules and the procedures to be followed.

RULE XIX.

The above shall be the Rules of Order of all future Annual Conventions of the Diocese, unless altered or rescinded.

DELEGATE CHANGE FORM

USE THIS FORM TO MAKE **CHANGES** IN YOUR DELEGATION TO THE ANNUAL DIOCESAN CONVENTION. RETURN IT TO THE DIOCESAN OFFICE AS YOU HAVE A CHANGE IN YOUR DELEGATION. HAVING YOUR DELEGATION CORRECT BEFORE CONVENTION WILL AVOID CONFUSION DURING REGISTRATION AT CONVENTION.



Cut along dotted line.



.....

CONGREGATION _____ DATE _____

CITY _____

I hereby certify that _____ was
Name of original delegate/alternate

elected a

☐ **Delegate** ☐ **Alternate** to the Diocesan Convention, but will not be able to serve in this capacity.

_____, whose address
is *Name of new delegate/alternate* (Please indicate name preferred for nametag)

Address of new delegate/alternate *email address (required)*

having declared his/her intention to attend, he/she is therefore, according to the Canons of this Diocese, a ☐ **Delegate** ☐ **Alternate** in place of the duly elected delegate.

Attest: _____ Clerk of the Vestry

or _____ Rector/Vicar

or _____ Secretary of Convention/Convention Registrars

FOUR CONVENTION WORKSHOPS

Each attendee will be able to participate in two workshops as each one will be offered twice.

WORKSHOP #1

“The Saint Stephen’s Story: How Care of Creation has led to Church Growth, Unity, and a Renewed Vision”

Presenter: The Rev. John Burruss, Rector of Saint Stephen’s, Birmingham

In this session, the Rev. John Burruss will share the story of Saint Stephen’s—how a commitment to the care of creation has helped shape a renewed sense of purpose and belonging. He will also offer practical steps communities can take to better care for creation, cast a shared vision, and empower both parishioners and clergy alike.

The Rev. John Burruss Bio:

The Rev. John B. Burruss serves as the Rector of Saint Stephen’s Episcopal Church in Birmingham, Alabama, a vibrant church of 2000 members that reaches throughout the region. Saint Stephen’s is a leader in the Episcopal Church in its efforts to care for creation. As the first church in central Alabama to tackle Solar Energy, Saint Stephen’s is also home of a parish apiary, hosts monthly Holy Hikes and an annual Canoecharist on the Cahaba River, has an ambitious program to remove all invasive species from the 6-acre campus and introduce native plants, and incorporates frequent formation opportunities around Stewardship of Creation. Prior to serving at Saint Stephen’s, John was the Canon for Sustainable Ministries for the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee.



John is a graduate of Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana and Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia and completed his MBA at Christian Brothers University in Memphis. In his free time, John enjoys playing in a number of musical ensembles including his original band, Sauce Furnace. John and his spouse, Anne, have two children: Jack and Bailey.

WORKSHOP #2

“Diving deeper into Antarctic seas: What it means to you and me”

Presenter: Dr. James McClintock, Professor at the University of Alabama Birmingham

In this session, Dr. James McClintock will share how, as a young scientist, he came to know and study the rich biodiversity of the spectacular life in Antarctic seas. He will review how these unique and now environmentally challenged organisms are important to all of us, from their interrelationships that structure and sustain ecological communities to their production of novel chemicals that have the potential to treat human diseases such as cancer.

Dr. James McClintock Bio:

James B. McClintock is the Endowed University Professor of Polar and Marine Biology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). He earned his B.S. from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and his Ph.D. from the University of South Florida. A member of the UAB faculty since 1987, he previously served as Dean of the School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and Interim Dean of the Graduate School.



Funded continuously by the National Science Foundation for more than three decades, Dr. McClintock is an internationally recognized authority on Antarctic marine chemical ecology and the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification on polar marine ecosystems. He has led 16 research expeditions to Antarctica and published more than 300 peer-reviewed scientific papers.

Dr. McClintock is the author of *Lost Antarctica: Adventures in a Disappearing Land* and *A Naturalist Goes Fishing*. His work has been featured widely in national and international media, and he is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and The Explorers Club. In recognition of his contributions to Antarctic science, “McClintock Point” was named in his honor.

WORKSHOP #3

“Sharing Light & Love: Evangelism Through Service and Community Partnership”

Presenter: The Rev. Lydia Knizley Johnson, Missioner for Development and Evangelism

This interactive, hope-filled workshop will focus on how your church can authentically engage more deeply with your local community through service that shares real hope and healing. Together we'll practice simple, hands-on discernment tools you can take back to help your church decide where and how to get involved. This workshop is designed to help congregations recognize where love is already at work around them and join in in meaningful, faithful ways.

The Rev. Lydia Johnson Bio:

The Rev. Lydia Knizley Johnson is a native of Mobile, Alabama, where she first fell in love with the Episcopal Church as a student at St. Paul's Episcopal School. She and her husband, Wyatt, are raising two wonderful kids, Will (13) and Lisee (8), who keep life busy, joyful, and full of lacrosse. Lydia served for many years as Director of Christian Education at St. Paul's Church, where she founded and ran the Raise the Roof Project, a home repair ministry. In 2020, Lydia graduated with the first class from the School for Ministry. She has served and interned at Good Shepherd, Trinity, and Christ Church

Cathedral. Lydia joined the Bishop's staff in 2021 as Missioner for Development and Evangelism. She also serves as chaplain for Wilmer Hall and chaplain to summer staff at Beckwith. Lydia loves meeting new people, collecting stories, and believes God is always at work, sowing seeds of faith and hope in every season of life and ministry.



WORKSHOP #4

“From Chaos to Creation: Conflict Resolution in Everyday Life “

Presenter: Anita Ford, Pastoral Care Leader

This workshop explores reconciliation as creative, spiritual work rooted in the Genesis creation story and James Weldon Johnson’s *The Creation*. Through scripture, poetry, and small-group conversation, participants reflect on reconciliation with self, neighbor, and God—and how everyday acts of reconciliation help fulfill God’s ongoing work of creation in a divided world.

Anita Ford Bio:

Anita Ford - Born in Atlanta and raised in Columbus, Georgia; Anita Ford is a graduate of the diocesan lay school for ministry, a licensed pastoral care leader, a trained Mourner’s Path facilitator, and a graduate in the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center’s Mediation Skills Training Institute. She has received continuing-education training in the subjects of depression and suicide and has been equipped to provide first-responder help to adults experiencing a mental health or substance abuse crisis. Relating to children, she has received instruction in building resilience and helping them process grief, and is certified to be a surrogate parent by the Florida Department and Learning Resources System. Anita is a pastoral care instructor/leader for the Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast and the former pastoral care minister at St. Christopher’s in Pensacola. She lives with her husband and their four-legged canine child, Charlotte Ann.



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2026 Diocesan
Convention

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Bring books, take books...
up to 3 books per person.

Give new life to those books
collecting dust on a shelf.

Drop off your books in the exhibitor hall
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