



NOMINATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE 204TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

Deputy to General Convention | Clergy Order (Vote for 4)

THE REV. SARA ARDREY-GRAVES



RESIDENCE: Winston-Salem

POSITION: Associate Rector, St. Paul's, Winston-Salem

NOMINATOR: The Rev. Nancy Vaders

EXPERIENCE:

- Commission on Ministry, Diocese of North Carolina, 2016-2018, Chair, 2018-present
- Committee for Christian Formation, Diocese of North Carolina, 2016-2018
- Pastoral Leadership Cohort participant, Virginia Institute of Pastoral Care, 2012-2014

- World Council of Churches steering committee member, Virginia chapter, 2013-2015
- Spiritual Director, trained through the Metagem Institute in the Diocese of Alabama, 2017-2019

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

I would be honored to serve as a Delegate for General Convention and represent the Diocese of North Carolina in 2021. Through my experiences in lay ministry in this diocese, serving as a priest for the last nine years, and also serving several years prior to that as a United Methodist minister, I feel strongly that our sacramental identity is paramount in how the Episcopal Church will proclaim the Gospel and continue to move forward in a complex and ever-changing world. I am excited to represent our Church as we explore creative ways of serving Jesus Christ and worshipping him in the beauty of holiness for generations to come.

THE REV. DEBORAH BLACKWOOD



RESIDENCE: Charlotte

POSITION: Retired, Holy Comforter, Charlotte

NOMINATOR: The Rev. Greg Brown

EXPERIENCE:

- Served on Bishops Staff for 2003 General Convention
- Volunteered at General Conventions 2003, 2006, 2009, Alternate Deputy 2012 & 2015
- Have been active as lay person [Diocese of WV, Diocese of Az, Diocese of SWFL]; Ordained to Vocational Diaconate 1995 and active in Diocese of SWFL and Diocese of NC; served multiple parishes from 2 start-up [AZ, NC] to established parishes
- Worked as the Shepherd for those entering ordination discernment process as Dean for Schools for Ministry [DSWF; was the Bishop's Visitor to seminaries where we had seminarians 1995-2004]
- Worked as Liaison for Refugee Ministries for Diocese of NC for past 5 years

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

I am a skilled “observer” and “reporter,” have been through multiple communications and mediation trainings; was a national and local Safe Church and Seeing the Face of God programs; was an educator and administrator for 54 years; have worked on diocesan committees and commissions since graduate schools. As a life-long Episcopalian who has lived/worshipped and worked in multiple dioceses since my youth - I have a pretty broad spectrum from which to view this “Mother Church”. I have seen it as an anti-war “protestor” in the ‘60, a life-long civil rights advocate, and now as a retired Vocational Deacon still working in the Refugee/Immigration field in both the Charlotte, NC area and the wider Diocese of NC and with EMM at a national level. Having been to General Conventions since 2003 ... I have an understanding of the time/commitment needed and prepared briefing materials for 2016 GC for DNC.

THE REV. JAMIE (L'ENFANT) EDWARDS



RESIDENCE: Greensboro

POSITION: Rector, St. Clement's, Clemmons

NOMINATOR: Martha Alexander

EXPERIENCE:

- General Convention Deputy (2015, 2018)
- Standing Committee (2010-13, last year as president)
- Botswana Link Committee (2008 to present, 2013-14 co-chair)
- Diocesan Council (2006-10)
- Safe Church Trainer (2005-17)

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

Unlike other church bodies, which benefit from not electing the same familiar faces over and over, a General Convention deputy needs to be experienced to be effective. New deputies are mainly observers--rarely even assigned to a committee--and second time deputies are new to committee work. General Convention is a huge investment in time and resources, and after having shared in that commitment both in Salt Lake City in 2015 and in Austin in 2018, I am able to fully offer a meaningful contribution. I have served as a priest in this diocese for 23 years in a variety of settings, and I have a long history of diocesan involvement. I am organized and detail-oriented. Please allow me to provide a proper return on the investment that the diocese has made in me--and I have made to the Church--by electing me to serve again as a clergy deputy.

THE REV. SALLY FRENCH



RESIDENCE: Chapel Hill

POSITION: Associate Rector, St. Philip's, Durham

NOMINATOR: The Rev. Jemonde Taylor

EXPERIENCE:

- President, Standing Committee of the Diocese of North Carolina, 2019
- Member, Standing Committee of the Diocese of North Carolina, 2017-2019
- St. George's College, Jerusalem: Exhibitor representative at General Convention 2018

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

As a priest in the Diocese of North Carolina, I have truly loved serving on the Standing Committee, this year as president. Under my leadership, this year's Standing Committee has worked to review our bylaws and practices to diminish barriers to participation and increase diversity among our membership. We've taken steps to address systemic bias in the ways that we and other governing bodies respond to parishes and individuals, and we've been able to strengthen our work and processes as we've dealt with our canonical responsibilities. It's been a busy year, and I have loved it! I have gifts for organization and administration and I'm one of those rare folks who actually love meetings. I spent some time last summer at General Convention in Austin and I could see the energy and enthusiasm of our delegates. I would love to be a part of that process!

THE REV. KEVIN MATTHEWS



RESIDENCE: Greensboro

POSITION: Campus & Young Adult Missioner, St. Mary's House, Greensboro

NOMINATOR: The Rev. James Franklin

EXPERIENCE:

- Deputy to General Convention, 2009-2018, including most recently as chair of our deputation
- Ordained priest since 1985
- 12 years experience on Commissions on Ministry in 2 dioceses
- 16 years in college chaplaincy
- Member, Union of Black Episcopalians

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

One of my first experiences in the Episcopal Church came when my family integrated the local parish. That experience led to a lifetime of advocating for us to keep opening our doors to everyone. As a deputy, I have used my experience on General Convention committees which dealt with same-sex marriage, prayer book revision, and new church plants. My ministry has ranged from cathedral and diocesan staff to mission congregations. I love our tradition and also see our need for change. Now, as a college and young adult missioner, I listen to young people inside and outside of the church who seek a connection to God but don't find it in churches that have ignored them and sometimes told them they are not welcome. Finally, as an experienced church person and deputy, I know how General Convention works and therefore how to get things done.

THE REV. LINDA NYE



RESIDENCE: Eden

POSITION: Rector, Church of the Epiphany, Eden

NOMINATOR: Rob Martin

EXPERIENCE:

- Diocesan Council member
- Legislative Aide to 2018 General Convention
- Diocesan Fair Share Appeals Board
- Board member of community organizations including Hospice of Rockingham County, Aging-Disability-Transportation Services, and Eden Rotary Club

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

As a Legislative Aide to General Convention in 2018, I learned how General Convention works, how resolutions come to committees, are dealt with there, and go on to the Convention floor. I believe that this experience reduces the “learning curve” that is inherent in a first-time General Convention attendee in any capacity. As a member of Diocesan Council, I am familiar with the governance of our diocese, which is a good preparation for similar work on a church-wide level. I would be honored to represent our diocese as a deputy to convention.

THE REV. HELEN SVOBODA-BARBER



RESIDENCE: Durham

POSITION: Rector, St. Luke’s, Durham

NOMINATOR: Phillip Bass

EXPERIENCE:

- General Convention Deputy, Alternate, Observer, Volunteer 1985, 2000-2006, 2018
- General Convention House of Deputies Special Committee on Sexual Harassment and Exploitation, 2018
- General Convention Anti-Sexism Task Force 2018-present
- Diocesan Credentials committee 2017 (Chair 2018-present)
- Diocesan Council, Ohio 2009-2014

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

I have had the opportunity to be at General Convention as a deputy, volunteer and youth observer from the Dioceses of Kansas, Ohio and North Carolina. I find the Holy Spirit showing up in the intense long days on the legislative floor, in the passion of early morning hearings, in the diversity of vendor booths, and during the heartfelt worship. Having served congregations of various sizes in three dioceses, I bring a depth of knowledge of congregational life as well as connections with many in the wider church. I want the concerns of our congregations to reach General Convention, and the work of General Convention to strengthen our congregations. I would be honored to serve the Diocese of North Carolina as a deputy.