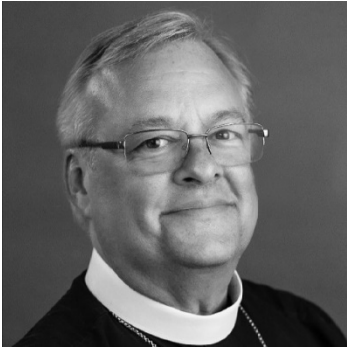


2024 Standing Committee Nominations

CLERGY ORDER



Nominee: The Rev. Brent Norris

Church: St. Paul's, Foley

Nominated by: Dianne Cotton

Church: St. Paul's, Foley

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 on the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of Alabama and the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Western North Carolina. I have been a member and sometime chair of commissions on liturgy and music, Spanish speaking ministries, and diocesan training programs for deacons.

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 challenge we face is presenting the world with an example of Christian life that is often at odds with the cultural understanding of what it means to be a Christian. This is also a great opportunity because I believe that there are people in the world hungry for the grace of the gospel but who are pushed away from it by what is presented to them as Christian.

What sustains you in your spiritual life?

My spiritual life is grounded in daily prayer, a rule of life which includes requirements for physical and emotional self-care, and being pastor to a community dedicated to worship and service.

2024 Standing Committee Nominations

LAY ORDER



Nominee: Julia Hart
Church: St. Monica's, Cantonment

Nominated by: The Rev. Rachel Iversen
Church: St. Monica's, Cantonment

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 been a member of St. Monica's Episcopal Church for seven years, served on the vestry for the last three years, and served as the senior warden of my parish for the last year. This past year was especially challenging since our beloved priest, the Rev. Anthony MacWhinnie, II, passed away last February, which left me in the daunting position of being in charge of the parish and having no idea what to do. Thankfully, we serve a wonderful Lord and Savior who provided me with an amazing group of people who supported me and lifted me up through it all. As a result, I know how to work with a cohesive and supportive team of people to accomplish so many more things than I could ever do on my own. In my professional life, I have spent the last 12 years working on a team of instructional designers and other leadership at Columbia Southern University to put forth initiatives to improve the lives and outcomes of both students and faculty members.

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 our greatest opportunities include furthering our commitment to inclusivity, both in the national church and in our diocese; engaging more actively in social justice issues, utilizing technology for worship, community building, and outreach; and collaborating more with other denominations within the Christian faith. Focusing on each of these items can help us to further the mission that Jesus laid out for the Church to follow, which is to spread his love to all people, no matter who they are or what they believe. Some of the challenges we face include a declining membership, not just in the Episcopal Church but within all denominations; attracting and retaining young people; and having enough clergy to support all of the churches in the diocese, which I understand is an issue in other diocese as well. There is much to do in these areas, and I hope to work within this team to find ways to overcome these challenges.

What sustains you in your spiritual life?

What sustains me the most in my spiritual life is praying every night, serving and worshipping with my parish, and spreading the love of Christ to others. As a member of the Order of the Daughters of the King® and a student in the lay worship leader course, I have felt my relationship with the Lord grow in ways that I have never before experienced, and it has made my commitment to God and His people that much stronger.

2024 Standing Committee Nominations

LAY ORDER



Nominee: Garrett Powe
Church: St. Paul's, Mobile

Nominated by: The Rev. Bradford Clark
Church: St. Paul'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 serve and have served in leadership positions on numerous nonprofit boards such as The Salvation Army, First Light Community (formally L'Arche) and Rotary Club to name a few. I enjoy volunteering with other nonprofit organizations such as United Way and American Cancer Society. I feel that time, talent and financial contributions are vital to serving our community, our parish and our diocese. I am active parishioner at St. Paul's Mobile and serve on the Vestry. I volunteer as a sixth grade confirmation mentor, usher and acolyte advisor. These roles along with my professional experience in finance and management have equipped me with the tools to serve 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?

I feel that some of the greatest challenges in the church as a whole are getting young families to raise their families in the church. I feel that we can improve upon our Sunday school and youth group activities as well, but getting the young families in the church will help with participation on that front. I would also like to see more couples buy into Cursillo as we had a great experience when we attended at Camp McDowell 10 or so years ago. Lastly, I would like to see more parish retreats held at Camp Beckwith as it is a tremendous asset to our Diocese.

What sustains you in your spiritual life?

Regular attendance at church with my wife and children is very important to my spiritual growth along with volunteering in various roles at our Parish. I get a great deal of spiritual nourishment through a daily devotional that John Riggin gave me several years ago. It has been very rewarding to help with the sixth grade confirmation class and also help with the acolytes. I still remember the people that led my sixth grade confirmation class and I have had a special bond with them since. I can see that through the confirmands that we have gotten to know over the years at St. Paul's and it means a lot to me. It has also been great to get to know many people in the church through ushering at St. Paul's and attending regular events at Camp Beckwith where my wife serves on the board.