

## 2022 Standing Committee Nominations

### CLERGY NOMINEE



**Nominee:** The Rev. De Freeman

**Church:** St. James, Fairhope

**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 currently serve on the Commission on Ministry and the Cursillo Commission, and I have previously served on the Standing Committee in both this diocese and the Diocese of Colorado, as well as having served on the Bishop's Advisory Com and several other boards, councils and commissions, inside the church and outside the church in the communities I have served.

**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 challenges we face as a diocese specifically are twofold, and some-what interrelated: 1) recovery from the setbacks we have encountered due to the ongoing pandemic and hurricanes, and 2) finding a way to reacquaint ourselves with what it means to be the "middle way", in a society and a nation that continues to grow more polarized. The greatest opportunity we have before us will be in how we choose to meet the challenges that we face today and recognizing the blessing in the midst of these difficulties.

**What sustains you in your spiritual life?**

God, prayer and physical exertion, helping people in need, and a good sense of humor with healthy doses of laughter.

## 2022 Standing Committee Nominations

### LAY NOMINEE



**Nominee:** Robert Runderson

**Church:** Church of the Good Shepherd, Mobile

**Nominated by:** Joe McDaniel, Jr.

**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:**

My experiences in the secular world are: I was a computer and accountant teacher for Carver/Bishop State Junior College. I was a merchandise manager for J.C. Penney for 15 years. I owned a photography studio with responsibility for doing photos and videos. I have a MBA from University of Mobile. I am currently a Management Specialist with the University of South Alabama.

My experiences in the church are serving as: member of the Commission for Racial Justice & Reconciliation, member of the Dubose Chapter of UBE, past vestry member, past member of the Diocese Communication Commission. I provide technical support for the National Chapter of UBE and the Deputies of Color. I am a cradle Episcopalian.

### **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 facing the Episcopal Church has been the loss of members of the church especially those from college age to retirement age, then adding to that, the pandemic. Therein, we have our greatest opportunity to show that the Episcopal Church has an unwavering belief in the salvation of individual souls and a desire to help all in their salvation. We, the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast, have weathered the pandemic by providing hybrid church with both in person and virtual services in the Diocese. Commissions working in the communities from the Aging, Beloved, Global, Prison, and Racial. By going into the communities, we have shown that we have a message for all to hear and are not tied to a brick and mortar building. We have shown a belief that they will know we are Christians by our love and actions.

### **What sustains you in your spiritual life?**

I am sustained in my spiritual life in knowing that no matter the trials and tribulations, after the storm, morning is coming. The light which is my belief in God will overcome all that is at hand. Just like there are no two beings just alike, I take relief in that everyone, no matter what, we represent God because we are his creation. We are a part of God. Every color, every persuasion, every age, every belief and every sex makes that complete picture of our God.

## 2022 Standing Committee Nominations

### LAY NOMINEE



**Nominee:** Mark Waddell

**Church:** St. Augustine of Canterbury, Navarre

**Nominated by:** The Rev. Dr. Joy Blaylock

**Church:** St. Cyprian's, 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:**

At St. Augustine I serve on the Vestry and am currently the Junior Warden.

I moved from Virginia a year ago and while there I was on two separate vestries and served one term as the senior warden. I was a Lay Eucharistic Minister, Lay Preacher, Lay Reader and Lay Minister.

I am retired from Navy Federal Service after 36 years. My last position (13 years) was at NAVSEA HQ in Washington, D.C., where I was on the staff for the Submarine SONAR Program Office as a Program Manager.

**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?**

Spreading the news outward about the love of Christ and to also bring to the altar those who are hurt, bruised and confused.

**What sustains you in your spiritual life?**

Prayer.