

2023 General Convention Deputy Nominations

CLERGY NOMINEE



Nominee: The Rev. Linda Suzanne Borgen

Church: St. Thomas, Greenville

Nominated by: William Hamilton

Church: St. Thomas, Greenville

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 hold an M.A. in Anthropology in addition to my M.Div. My first degree very much informs my understanding of how important it is to reach all people, especially those in vulnerable and marginalized demographics, with the Good News of God's love for them.

I have served as the rector for my current parish for close to five years. I also currently serve as the Dean of Convocation IV in the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. I concurrently served on the Standing Committee for a 2-year tenure beginning in 2020. I invited another priest to fulfill the third year, with the Bishop's permission, so that I might focus my time and energy on the youth of our Convocation.

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?

Our greatest opportunity is the world's need for Christ and our understanding of the help and healing a relationship with Him can bring. Post-pandemic social indicators, such as increased incidences of suicide and the high number of people self-reporting feelings of loneliness and isolation, help to remind us that humanity's need for a deep relationship with God is ever in the present tense.

Our greatest challenge is adapting to best use of new communication platforms, while not abandoning our understanding that fellowship and ministry are most effective when we can look one another in the eye, or place a compassionate hand on a shoulder and say, "God cares and your church family cares. We are with you in your struggles and in your joy." Balancing use of new platforms, while preserving and promoting the importance of in-person participation is one of our most immediate challenges.

What sustains you in your spiritual life?

My relationship with God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. My daily practices and disciplines change according to the season, but this is my anchor as a servant of Christ.

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Nominee: The Rev. Amanda Doshier

Church: St. James, Fairhope

Nominated by: The Rev. Christie Hord

Church: St. John'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:

I have served as a lay delegate to past diocesan conventions. I worked as an attorney for 15 years prior to seminary. I served on the vestry and as senior warden for my sending parish Christ Church Pensacola. I also served on the governing boards of two episcopal schools and other community non-profits. In seminary I served as class Vice President and Student Body Chancellor where I ran the elections for the school and helped to revise the bylaws. I have a passion for governance and canon law, and I enjoy participating in the legislative process.

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 challenges that I have seen on a local and national level is a struggle to recover from the setbacks to our churches that have resulted from the pandemic shutdowns. The pandemic accelerated an already changing landscape for our worship and ministries. Our job now is to navigate this shift with grace, courage, and prayerful discernment. This is a significant and exciting opportunity, as well as challenge for the entire Church.

There also continues to be significant racial injustice both within our communities and the nation. This is an issue that we as a diocese have a particular calling to address due to the history that surrounds us. Our concerted efforts towards racial reconciliation as a diocese and as a Church could make a true difference in the lives of people around us.

What sustains you in your spiritual life?

Lately my spiritual life has been sustained by pockets of silence and stillness that I am able to carve out, through contemplative prayer or just slowing down. In general, I have found that I am most fed in my spiritual life by the world around me - poetry, music, nature, art. I also find great inspiration in reading the weekly lectionary and preparing sermons. My favorite spiritual "food" is having conversations with friends and strangers, listening to their stories of faith.

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Nominee: The Rev. Christie Hord

Church: St. John's, Pensacola

Nominated by: The Rev. Pete Burgess

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 am currently serving as Dean of Convocation III in the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. I am also finishing up a three-year term on the Standing Committee. I was elected to serve as a deputy to the 80th General Convention this past year in Baltimore, Maryland. This was my first experience as a deputy and while the convention itself was quite different than years past (due to COVID restrictions etc.), I truly enjoyed the experience and learned a great deal about the governance of the broader Episcopal Church. I am entering my 6th year as the Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Pensacola, Florida.

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?

If church goers are only attending a Sunday service 6 to 8 times a year (see [Barna.com/church-attendance](https://www.barna.com/research/church-attendance)), then I believe the question to ask is "how are we with them the other 350 days a year?" All challenges present opportunities and I believe the opportunity here is to experiment, explore, and discover new ways for the church to be a spiritual presence in our daily lives.

What sustains you in your spiritual life?

I am grateful to the diocese for providing Spiritual Direction for active clergy. I am a firm believer in the importance of healthy collegial relationships. I am an avid reader and I enjoy discovering new forms of prayer and spiritual meditation.

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Nominee: The Rev. David Knight

Church: St. Simon's on the Sound, Fort Walton Beach

Nominated by: The Rev. Clelia Pinza Garrity

Church: St. Simon's on the Sound, 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 have had the privilege of serving on the deputation from the Central Gulf Coast at General Convention in 2018 and 2022, where I served both times as chair of the deputation. Prior to coming to this diocese I was a member of the General Convention deputation from the Diocese of Mississippi in 2006, 2009, 2012, and 2015. I served on the G.C. Task Force on the Theology of Marriage from 2012-2015. I have also served on a variety of Legislative Committees at General Convention and as Chair of Resolutions for Province IV Synod.

In Mississippi and Central Gulf Coast I have served on the Standing Committee and 3 terms as President of the S.C. In CGC I served as chair of the task force on reopening our churches post-Covid shutdown and have been the stewardship consultant for six parishes in this diocese.

It would be an honor to represent and serve this diocese at General Convention in 2024 once again.

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?

Like many dioceses, ours faces a challenge in providing ordained leadership for many of our churches. This challenge has evolved into a great opportunity to raise up lay leaders to assist in these churches with worship, preaching, evangelism, and pastoral care. Our Leadership School is a great response to this challenge and an opportunity for more gifted lay people to be involved in the leadership we must provide as the challenge of affording full time clergy at many places increases.

We also have the challenge of becoming more united as a diocese, recognizing we are one church united in mission to serve God and God's people. Opportunities to share best practices, for clergy to mentor one another, and for churches, where feasible, to share resources, are ways we can strengthen our common bond and continue our work of discipling believers and reaching the world around us with a viable, practical, and obvious expression of Christ's love and grace.

What sustains you in your spiritual life?

I was gifted with the opportunity to spend 5 days in silent retreat at the Abbey of Gethsemane this past December. I was reminded there of the need for dedicated, silent time with God in prayer and contemplation. I left there with the desire to spend more time in prayer and to help others also connect to God in ways they rarely are able to. I also participate in a mentoring, accountability group with four other priests where we hear from each other and pray for each other and challenge each other when necessary. It is safe and holy ground for me and life giving as well.

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CLERGY NOMINEE



Nominee: The Rev. John Talbert

Church: St. John's, Mobile

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 am grateful to have served multiple congregations in our Diocese over the past decade: as a musician, ministry coordinator and youth minister for St. Paul's Foley from 2013 to 2019; interning at St. Peter's Bon Secour the Spring of 2017; assisting pastoral care with St. James Fairhope during 2018-2019; preaching, teaching and outreaching through St. Luke's Mobile in 2019-2020; serving as Curate to St. Paul's Daphne since 2020; and most stepping up in leadership as the Priest-In-Charge for the people of St. John's Mobile beginning the summer of 2022.

In addition to parish ministry, I joyfully engage with the work of the Diocese through the Youth Ministry Leadership Team (7 years), as a Cursillo Musician and Spiritual Director (#155,156,160,161,165,166,168), Border Zone Mission Team Member (Aug'19), Happening Adult Staff, Beckwith Summer Camp Dean ('18,'19,'20,'21,'22), and beginning this year as a trustee of the Wilmer Hall Board (2023-2026 term).

Each of these families and opportunities has helped form me into the Priest and servant I am today, and I find myself amazed everyday by how my experience has manifest itself as exactly the training I needed to engage with each new ministry of the church I encounter along the way.

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 am persuaded these "greatest" are one in the same by our reconciliation to each another and commitment to share the message of Jesus Christ through the mission of his Church.

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.

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What sustains you in your spiritual life?

There is a mantra that I heard first from Ginny Leebrick (Holy Nativity, Panama City) during one of the leadership talks at Happening #58, she said “I love the face of God I see in you”. Ever since it has been for me a sustaining and powerful discipline as the lens through which I enter my daily interactions (with strangers and friends alike), most especially within my peer networks and formation cohorts.

Following my ordination, I was blessed to find a broad clergy support network across the Episcopal Church. Within our Diocese, being one of eight members of the first ordained class of our Diocesan School for Ministry, I am grateful to have these seven best friends to share the ups and downs of ministry as fellow non-traditionally formed clergy.

I have also sought out and plugged into peer groups with other local school graduates in diocese around the country through the Sewanee Ministry Collaborative and the Seminary of the Southwest’s Thriving in Bi-Vocational Ministry courses. Finding peers in ministry, and offering myself to them and receiving the same openness in return centers me and reminds me that God has gathered us together so he can be within our midst.

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LAY NOMINEE



Nominee: Eugene Johnston

Church: St. John's, Mobile

Nominated by: The Rev. John 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 am or have served the parish as a member of the vestry (currently Jr. Warden), chairman of a search committee, Eucharist visitor, lector and chalice bearer and a graduate of the University of the South's (Sewanee) Education for Ministry (EFM) and has served as a mentor. On the diocesan level, I have served on Registrar-Historiographer's Team, The Murray House Board (currently as well) and Interim Disaster Relief Coordinator. I was an Alternate Deputy for the General Convention 2018 and served as a Deputy to the 2022 General Convention. Currently, I serve as the diocesan coordinator of Episcopal Relief & Development and the Commission on Ministry (Chair 2020- present). 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?

We live in a time when people are not joining or participating in many types of organizations, particularly religious organizations. According to the Pew Research Center Episcopalians make up 1% of the population and over one third of Episcopalians are 65 years or older as opposed to 18% of the general population. It is incumbent upon us to reach out. I believe that we offer what people want and need, people just don't know about the Episcopal Church. We need to be better evangelist.

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.

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LAY NOMINEE



Nominee: Dr. 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:

Committee member: Mobile walk to end Alzheimer's; Certified in young people's Mental First Aid/National Council for Mental Health; Youth minister: two years in Akron, Ohio; Middle School Cross Country/Track coach, Firestone district middle schools, Akron, Ohio; Assistant Coach/Girls on the Run(self-esteem and running for elementary school age girls; Delegate to diocesan conventions in Ohio and the Central Gulf Coast; Choir director/Diocesan children's choir/Diocese of West Tennessee; Organist/Choirmaster for 50+ years in Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee, New Jersey, and Alabama. Collegial collaboration with clergy and lay people in each position. Elected to serve on the national board of the Association of Anglican Musicians; Member of collaborative faculty of the Arkansas Interfaith Choir Camp for 25 years; Director and faculty: Choir Camp, St. Paul's Episcopal church, Akron, Ohio; Associate director: three choir tours to England cathedral residencies, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Akron, Ohio.

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?

"There comes a point where we need to stop just pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and find out why they are falling in. "Desmond Tutu The Episcopal Church has been taking this opportunity for a long time. We still have a long way to go. Bishop Curry's mantra, if it's not about love, it's not about God has given all of us the opportunity to work toward a more equitable, loving society. Having worked with young child and young adults for a good part of my career in the church, I believe that we need to concentrate on rearing well informed and compassionate children. Many dioceses are using the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. This curriculum gives children a wonderful opportunity to learn to be knowledgeable and compassionate church leaders.

At this time in our society there is so much hate and cultural disparity. I believe that the biggest challenge in the national church and local diocese is to persevere in making changes toward a more just and equal society. The Episcopal church is working toward that end but is challenged by secular thoughts and more.

What sustains you in your spiritual life?

Hope sustains me, spiritually. I see it in the very youngest children. I have a six-month-old grandson who has come into this world with so much joy and so many possibilities. We need to cultivate and spread that joy and those possibilities as children and adults begin their journey in the church.

Love and worship are verbs. I'm sustained by the possibilities that I can make the world a better place. Each of our contributions may be small but together we can take action to change issues locally, nationally, and in the world.

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LAY NOMINEE



Nominee: Joe McDaniel, Jr.

Church: Christ Church Parish, Pensacola

Nominated by: The Rev. John Riggan

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 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 ("TEC"), I was elected to The Executive Council (the Board of Directors for the TEC); I also drafted 18 substantive resolutions for the 80th GC that were all adopted; I also served on The House of Deputies ("HOD") Committee on Evangelism & Church Planting; At the 79th GC, I drafted five substantive resolutions, including D002, entitled Funding The Beloved Community, which were all adopted, and I served on the HOD's Committee on Racial Justice & Reconciliation ("RJ&R") and I 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; Member of the Diocesan Nominating Committee to select the Fourth Bishop of the Central Gulf Coast; Former member of the Standing Committee for the Diocese of The Central Gulf Coast; Former member of the Diocese Commissions on Ministry, Finance and Cursillo; 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

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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.

LAY NOMINEE



Nominee: David Quittmeyer

Church: Trinity, Mobile

Nominated by: The Rev. Dr. Mary Jayne Ledgerwood

Church: Trinity, 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 have served the Church in some capacity all of my life. I have been a member of Trinity, Mobile, since moving from Charlottesville, VA in 1984. At Trinity I have served in many ways, including as Sr. Warden three times, most recently in 2022. I have also served the Diocese on many Commissions and as a member of the Standing Committee for three terms and twice as President. My affiliation has been deeply personal even in unforeseen ways, as my late wife was a resident of Murray House for eight years. For the broader Church, I have served as a Deputy to General Convention from this Diocese for six terms (18 years) beginning in 2005. For General Convention I have been on the Program, Budget, and Finance Committee for four consecutive terms, including twice as an officer. I have served on several special task forces where I have drafted reports and resolutions that have modernized the Church, including for the first time providing compensation to the President of the House of Deputies (2018) and reforming the Church's budget process (2022). I very much hope to continue contributing as a Deputy from our Diocese.

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 immediate challenge is how as a Church we recover from the constrictions of the Covid crisis. How will we "do church"? Will the norm once again be that individuals gather in person for worship and ministry, or will remote participation be a permanent alternative? Another challenge is how we capture the devotion of new generations while retaining the wisdom of former generations. Another challenge is how the Church responds to social matters in a changing world. The matters may involve a growing awareness of historical fact or may arise from contemporary new realities. How do we embrace these challenges while acknowledging the value and authenticity of differences at every level — the individual, the congregational, the diocesan, and the national? The answers are not easy. But the struggle for answers is in fact one of the greatest opportunities of the Church because it happens out of common concern for vigorous faith and ministry. And the framework of the Episcopal Church is an exceptional and powerful vehicle because it is premised on the shared authority of the laity and the ordained. It is my great personal hope to continue in that shared ministry as a Deputy to General Convention.

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What sustains you in your spiritual life?

Engaging in daily prayer and reflection; participating in weekly communal worship; sharing the company of fellow seekers of truth; being blessed with the love of family and friends; and having the ability to serve where God calls.

LAY NOMINEE



Nominee: Jill Showers Chow

Church: Christ Church Cathedral, Mobile

Nominated by: The Very Rev. Beverly Gibson

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:

At the 80th general convention, I served on the house of deputies' dispatch committee which is charged with setting the agenda for the conduct of business. Testified on the floor of the HODS to resolution A125, which resolution passes and is regarded as the most consequential resolution to have passed at said convention. I Served on Baptized for Life initiative which works with congregations to equip people of all ages to claim their baptismal identifies with confidence and joy. From this initiative, we partnered with MOB Pacers, Beloved Community and the Kappa League. Served on the vestry at Christ church Cathedral Class of 2018. I also volunteer with Prayers in the Park, building relationships with our neighbors. Currently serving on as member on Commission for Racial Justice and Reconciliation.

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 opportunity is finding where you fit in whether providing meals for Wilmer Hall, visiting the elderly at Murray House or donating items to the shelter at Blue Door Ministry.

The challenge we face in the episcopal church is making all feel welcome, we do this by inviting our neighbor, and those who are alone.

What sustains you in your spiritual life?

Centering myself before reading God's word allows me not only to open my heart but mind and ears. I practice Lectio Divina, reading scripture , mediating and praying I feel a deeper connection to God.