

NOMINEES FOR DIOCESAN OFFICES

Report Prepared for the 234th Diocesan Convention
As of October 10, 2024



Diocesan Council (Three-year terms)

The **Diocesan Council**, comprised of six clergy and six lay members, along with the Bishop, Treasurer, and Chancellor, is responsible for the development, implementation and oversight of the Diocesan program and budget. Between Diocesan Conventions, the Council functions much like the vestry of a congregation, establishing policies, planning the work of the church, and overseeing its administration.

Clergy Nominees (2 Clergy Seats):

The Rev. Kevin Sparrow
The Very Rev. Roy Tripp

Lay Nominees (2 Lay Seats):

Donnalee Dodson Catherine Ragsdale
Charlinda Gallant Matthew Robertson
Sally Mayse

Standing Committee (Three-year terms)

The **Standing Committee** is comprised of six clergy and six lay members. The Standing Committee's responsibilities are: to act as the Standing Committee of the diocese in accordance with the requirements of the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, The Constitution of this Diocese (Article IX), and its Canons, including giving consents to Episcopal elections elsewhere in The Episcopal Church; to act as a Council of advice to the Bishop; and to act as Ecclesiastical Authority in absence of the Bishop.

Clergy Nominees (2 Clergy Seats):

The Rev. Denise Trogdon
The Rev. Ricardo Bailey

Lay Nominees (2 Lay Seats):

Carla Cantrell Betsey Smithdeal
Peter Gaillard Diane Wilson

** Jane Hart Lewis withdrew her nomination.*

Trustees of the Diocese (Six-year term)

The **Trustees of the Diocese** include three clergy and three lay members serving in a six-year term. The responsibilities of the Trustees are in accordance with the 1902 Act of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina, and include quarterly meetings, and managing the investments, assets, and endowments of the diocese.

Clergy Nominees (1 Clergy Seat):

The Rev. Rob Spainhour

Lay Nominees (1 Lay Seat):

Peggy Kovacs Steve Skardon
Laura Marshall Keith Williamson
Earle Phillips

Trustee, University of the South (Three-year term)

The **University of the South**, located in Sewanee, TN, is owned by the Episcopal dioceses of the southeast, each of which elects two lay persons and one member of the clergy to its Board of Trustees. The Trustees meet once each year for two days. Between annual meetings, Trustees serve the University by promoting its mission, encouraging enrollment, and supporting it financially.

Clergy Nominee (1 Clergy Seat):

The Very Rev. Joseph Smith

Additional nominations may be presented to the Nominations Committee on or before November 21, 2024, the first business day of Diocesan Convention.

Additional nominations must include 150 copies of each nominee's photo, nominator statement, and personal statement (which can be on one page).

Diocesan Council

Clergy

Name: The Rev. Kevin Sparrow

Church: Saint Anne's, Conway

Nominated by: Susan Marie Slavin



Nominator statement: Rev. Kevin became our full-time priest in May 2024, after serving for 12 years at Christ Episcopal Church, Montpelier, VT (and prior to that serving in churches in Massachusetts and California). From those years of service, Rev. Kevin brings strong pastoral, liturgical and administrative skills to the position and diocesan leadership. Did I mention he served in the Peace Corps for two years in the Republic of Georgia, Gurjaani, Georgia - teaching English and volunteering to assist community development? Another reason I am nominating Rev. Kevin is because he is new to our diocese, and I feel it is important he contributes to the workings of our diocese.

Personal Statement: I am honored to be nominated for a clergy position on the Diocesan Council of The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina. I am rector of St. Anne's in Conway. I am a lifelong Episcopalian, having been raised at St. Luke's in Hawkinsville, Georgia, where my mother still worships. I attended The University of the South and Harvard Divinity School, and I am thrilled to be back at Sewanee for my Doctor of Ministry, with an emphasis on liturgy. As a layperson I have served on vestries and discernment committees and have worked on several diocesan initiatives in Vermont and Massachusetts.

My husband and I relocated to Conway from the beautiful state of Vermont, where I had the privilege of serving an historic congregation. I was a volunteer for the Peace Corps in the Republic of Georgia after divinity school, and I am active in promoting this wonderful program. I am thrilled to be a part of the story of the Diocese of South Carolina. Thank you for the opportunity to serve Christ in this place.

Diocesan Council

Clergy

Name: The Very Rev. Roy Tripp

Church: St. Mark's, Port Royal

Nominated by: J. Wood "Woody" Rutter



Nominator statement: Rev. Tripp has served as St. Mark's first full-time rector, having served our growing parish—and the larger community—for the past eight years. A gifted preacher with a quick and clever wit, he is universally admired and loved by the St Mark's family. Roy is a clear thinker, a good planner, and his pastoral skills have kept him very busy. He has led a pilgrimage to The Holy Land, and is currently leading another pilgrimage to England. Additionally, he is widely known and respected for his involvement in human and civil rights issues (He could be seen in the "60 Minutes" program filmed during a school board meeting in Beaufort, in which he protested the banning of library books!). With Roy's long experience serving as a priest in several dioceses, as Dean of the active Southern Deanery, and as a man of strong faith, he would be an excellent addition to the Diocesan Council.

Personal statement: I arrived in South Carolina in 2017 to be the first full-time rector at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Port Royal, SC. Since that time, I have been involved in the life of our diocese serving on Diocesan Council and presently as Dean of the Southern Deanery. I have always considered myself a "spiritual entrepreneur" and have approached parish ministry as an opportunity to share good news while inviting all to "come and see." I believe The Episcopal Church has so much to offer to people who are seeking a way to engage the mystery of the divine in an open and inviting way. Now, as I prepare to retire from full time parish ministry, I will have the opportunity to bring my experiences, gained over 27 years in The Church, to the council and our diocese. Thank you, in advance, for your consideration.

Diocesan Council

Lay

Name: Donnalee Dodson

Church: Epiphany, Summerville

Nominated by: The Rev. Rob Spainhour



Nominator statement: Donnalee is a committed person of faith in our Epiphany, Summerville community. Her role on Vestry in leadership commends her for Diocesan leadership. Her career as a teacher, administrator, and school superintendent demonstrate a helping ministry paired with leadership. Such skills will serve our Diocese well. Her Christ compassion for the "other" speaks to her compassion and herald a life of "walking the talk."

Personal Statement: It would be an honor to serve on the Diocesan Council. I'm currently serving on the Vestry at Epiphany Church. I am dedicated to the shared goal and mission of growing our church family by attracting children and young adults to perpetuate the rich traditions and spirituality we share. While we cherish our generational abundance, the key to the future lies in the hands of our youth. Meeting them where they are through technology and innovation, by combining the past with future possibilities, can help them grow into the reverence and traditions of the welcoming faith community we currently embrace and want to perpetuate. Communication is vital along with "service-learning" by word and example, as Jesus showed us.

I have 35 years of experience in education, first as a teacher and then holding different principalships at the high school and middle school levels, as a 7th-12th grade principal, and then in a K-12 principalship, where I was appointed superintendent for my final three years. My post-retirement work included training for the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) and leading workshops on military bases all over the US for civilian teachers to better support the unique needs of children of service men and women who move frequently and are deployed. I just participated in the first Braver Angels Depolarization Workshop in Charleston, and I intend to continue this initiative. I am also a substitute teacher for Dorchester County. Serving on the Diocesan Council is a privilege and an opportunity to learn and work collaboratively with others in faith.

Diocesan Council

Lay

Name: Charlinda Gallant

Church: Calvary, Charleston

Nominated by: Gail DeCosta



Nominator statement: Charlinda has served in leadership positions in her church and is currently the treasurer. She is dedicated, organized, responsible and hard-working. She has served as a facilitator for our diocesan Sacred Ground program and in that capacity has also demonstrated her people skills. Charlinda would be an asset to our Diocesan Council.

Personal Statement: Married 41 wonderful years to my husband, Marvin, we have built a strong partnership rooted in love. Together, we raised three children who have enriched our lives. As a mother and a grandmother, I cherish every moment spent with my family. Born with a strong work ethic and a passion for leadership, my journey began where I learned the value of dedication and perseverance. From a young age, I was drawn to challenges and opportunities that allowed me to grow, both personally and professionally. With 35 years of experience in the corporate world, I have had the privilege of working as a District Manager, overseeing operations across Coastal South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia. I take great pride in mentoring others and helping them reach their full potential.

My commitment to my community extends beyond my professional life. I am actively involved at Calvary Church in Charleston, where I currently serve as the Treasurer, a Vestry member, and an Usher. I supported the Racial Justice Committee as a facilitator with Sacred Ground. These roles allow me to give back and contribute to the spiritual growth of my church, something I hold dear to my heart. When I'm not busy with family commitments, you can find me on the golf course. Golf is not just a sport for me; it's a passion that provides a perfect blend of challenge and relaxation. I love the camaraderie it brings, whether I'm playing with friends or meeting new people through the game.

I am filled with gratitude for the experiences that have shaped me. From my career achievements to my deep-rooted family ties and community involvement, every aspect has contributed to the person I am today. I believe in the importance of hard work, compassion, and giving back. I remain excited about what lies ahead and am committed to making a positive impact in the lives of those around me.

Diocesan Council

Lay

Name: Sally Mayse

Church: St. Mark's, Port Royal

Nominated by: The Rev. Pam Fahrner



Nominator Statement: It is my great pleasure to nominate Sally Mayse for service on the Diocesan Council. She is a fine example of dedication, devotion, faith, commitment, courage and determination. She brings a lifetime of experience, both professionally and personally, and she will be a dedicated member of the council—an asset in every way. She is an active member of the Southern Deanery and currently serves at Heavenly Rest, Estill, and St. Mark's, Port Royal. She organized and coordinated the repair of the Allendale-Hampton-Jasper Regional Library bookmobile as outreach ministry of Heavenly Rest. In addition, she organized and coordinated for the Heavenly Rest Outreach Program the funding of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program for Hampton County. She is a construction volunteer locally and internationally with Habitat for Humanity. She is a cradle Episcopalian and has served as a sacristan, acolyte, reader, eucharistic visitor, choir member, vestry member for two churches, and has served a term on Diocesan Council in the past. She completed a career in public schools as secondary classroom teacher, coordinator of an education consortium in Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper counties and retired from the Beaufort County School District as a program coordinator. We are blessed to have this talented woman willing to serve our diocese.

Personal Statement: I am a cradle Episcopalian, baptized, confirmed and married in the Episcopal Church. My nomination form details my lifelong dedication to the Church, past and present. I am proud to say that I am Enthusiastically Episcopalian! What can I bring to a position on Diocesan Council? I can bring joy, experience and knowledge but without reservation, I will bring a servant's heart, determination, and energy to the tasks required. I have a deep and abiding belief in Jesus' instruction to love the Lord, my God, with all my heart, mind and soul and to love my neighbor as myself. You are my neighbor and it would be a joy and blessing to me to serve you on Diocesan Council.

Diocesan Council

Lay

Name: Catherine Ragsdale

Church: St. James-Santee, McClellanville

Nominated by: Doug Hurteau



Nominator Statement: Cathy is a lifelong Episcopalian and has served the Church at many levels including as a church vestry member. In addition, she had a long career as a social worker and is very adept at outreach and social ministry.

Personal Statement: A retired social worker, I moved to the Lowcountry just over three years ago with my husband and daughter-in-law. I am currently a member of St. James-Santee in McClellanville, where my husband, Lee, serves as deacon. My contribution to the Diocesan Council would be the skillset I have gained through my life experience as an Episcopalian and as a social worker. The majority of my church service was in my home Diocese of East Tennessee. I served in ministries such as Outreach, Hospitality, and Inreach, and served on the Vestry. I am also a member of the Daughters of the King.

Since moving to South Carolina, I have become involved with the Sacred Ground program as a participant and a facilitator. My social work career gave me the opportunity to work with a wide range of diverse populations, ranging from at-risk youths and their parents in group home settings to incarcerated adults preparing to return to the community from the state prison system in Tennessee. I was able to gain experience in grant writing, curriculum development, and program implementation. My skills and experience are really only part of my qualifications to serve on the Diocesan Council. Having been an Episcopalian since I was five years old, my heart and soul are committed to this church and its work in the world. Because the Diocesan Council enables that work, I feel called to stand for election to this important work.

Diocesan Council

Lay

Name: Matthew Robertson

Church: St. Catherine's, Florence

Nominated by: The Rev. Eunice Dunlap



Nominator Statement: Matthew Robertson is a faithful Episcopalian who currently serves in the capacity of Digital Acolyte at St. Catherine's in Florence. That digital knowledge in addition to his work as a journalist and photographer makes him an extremely capable detail-oriented person who has many connections locally, as well as within the Diocese. He has a great talent for jumping in whenever and wherever needed in almost every capacity at his local church. In addition he has completed four years of E.F.M. which is impressive in itself. I believe Matthew will be a great asset to the Diocesan Council.

Personal Statement: I am a native West Virginian and a graduate of Marshall University. As a journalist, I have lived and worked in several West Virginia communities, Goldsboro, NC, and Maryville and Lenoir City, TN. I have lived in Florence since 1995, where I am the Digital Editor of the Morning News/SCNow.com in Florence. I have one daughter, who lives in Oregon. I was christened Presbyterian, raised United Methodist and was married 13 years to a Catholic. I joined St. Catherine's Episcopal Church in 2013 right after the schism.

At St. Catherine's, I serve as communications director and a member of Mission Council. During my nearly two-year stint as Senior Warden, I oversaw a change in clergy, the initiation of a literacy outreach to Savannah Grove Elementary School, and the launch of a capital campaign.

Standing Committee

Clergy

Name: The Rev. Denise Trogdon

Church: All Saints, Hilton Head Island

Nominated by: The Rev. Bill Watson



Nominator statement: Since taking the position of rector of All Saints, Hilton Head, Denise has not only led her parish with clarity and vision, but she has served in several diocesan positions including Diocesan Council and Commission on Ministry. I am honored to nominate her to serve on the Standing Committee.

Personal Statement: It would be an honor to serve on the Standing Committee for the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina. For the last five years, I have served as the rector of All Saints Episcopal Church on Hilton Head Island. I am currently on the Commission on Ministry and participated for three years on the Diocesan Council. I was a member of the Transition Committee, that welcomed our new Bishop and chaired the Strategic Transition Task Force, doing groundwork in preparation for the court decisions on returning properties.

In the Diocese of Virginia, I was Dean of the North Fairfax region that included 12 parishes, during my tenure as rector of Holy Cross Episcopal in Dunn Loring, Virginia. I served on the Virginia Diocese Dayspring Team, working with congregations displaced due to the schism, and helped with reintegration as buildings were reclaimed. I also served as a supervisor for students at Virginia Theological Seminary. I provided mediation and consultation for the Diocese of Connecticut, when I was Associate Rector at Saint Luke's Episcopal, in Darien, CT. Prior to my ordination, as a licensed psychotherapist and lifelong Episcopalian, I provided diocesan workshops for Virginia in the prevention of sexual misconduct and abuse and consulted with the Diocesan Mental Health Committee. I believe that my leadership and organizational skills can be utilized to support the tasks of the Standing Committee. I would be grateful for your support.

Standing Committee *Clergy*

Name: The Rev. Ricardo Bailey

Church: Calvary, Charleston

Nominated by: The Very Rev. Michael Shaffer



Nominator statement: I am honored to nominate the Rev. Ricardo Bailey to serve on the Standing Committee. Fr. Bailey serves as the 7th rector of the Historic Calvary Episcopal Church, Charleston, founded in 1847 as a church for enslaved and free persons of color. While the Standing Committee has specific canonical responsibilities, it serves primarily as the bishop's council of advice, and it is important that membership be comprised of those with a broad and diverse experience, which Ricardo has in abundance.

Born in Atlanta, Georgia, Father Bailey was ordained to the priesthood in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Atlanta in 2003, received as an Episcopalian in the Fall of 2011 by the Rt. Rev. Neil Alexander, and in 2013 was formally received as an Episcopal priest by the Rt. Rev. Robert C. Wright. He served various schools and congregations in the Atlanta area before serving as priest-in-charge of St. Timothy's, Decatur, Georgia, until accepting the call of Calvary in 2023. He is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc, has been President of the Atlanta Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians and currently serves as chaplain to the House of Bishops of The Episcopal Church.

Personal Statement: I am humbled to be nominated to serve on our diocese's Standing Committee. Currently, I serve as the 7th Rector of The Historic Calvary Episcopal Church and as a chaplain to the House of Bishops of The Episcopal Church. I LOVE being a priest and it is a blessing to serve the people of God.

It is important that the mission of the diocese continues to teach, guide and equip the wider Church for the work of ministry in every aspect the Church finds itself. To this committee I bring discernment, faithfulness, and the ability to work in collaboration with others. Therefore, if I am chosen, it will be my honor to be of service to our diocese. Thanks be to God that this work requires us to work at the discretion of the bishop for the greater good of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina!

I, like you, want to see our diocese continue to grow while accepting God's invitation for us to be holy as our God is holy. This work of discernment and care for one another is a call that the Standing Committee embraces as we share the love of God.

Standing Committee

Lay

Name: Carla Cantrell

Church: St. Francis, Edisto Island

Nominated by: Taylor Skardon



Nominator statement: I am honored to nominate Mrs. Carla Cantrell to serve on the diocesan Standing Committee. She is thoughtful, humble and devoted to The Episcopal Church and her congregation of St. Francis Episcopal Church on Edisto. Although Carla serves on the church’s Fellowship and Growth Committees, her real gift is the quiet, but impactful work of making all newcomers feel welcome when worshipping at St. Francis. Carla will be a great addition to the Standing Committee. She will be the most prepared member at each meeting as well as a leader in finding consensus to provide well-thought out “committee solutions” for the bishop to consider. Additionally, Carla represents an important constituency—those congregations who lost their church buildings as a result of the schism. These congregations need a strong voice like Carla’s on the Standing Committee—someone who will speak up and remind other members what these congregations have and are experiencing. Finally, Carla is just a fun person to be around! Her gregarious personality and ability to find the good in everyone will make her a wonderful addition to the Committee and the Diocesan Leadership Team. Please join me in supporting Carla Cantrell’s election to the Standing Committee! Thank you.

Personal statement: I would love the opportunity to serve on the Standing Committee. I worked as an educator for over 40 years. I found great joy in working with students, teachers, parents, and administrators—often bringing people together, creating a refuge in my counseling office and encouraging them to reach their goals. Now that I’m retired, I continue to look for opportunities to support my community.

As a member of the Standing Committee, I could work with a community of believers for the benefit of the diocese and beyond. I love The Episcopal Church dearly. I am currently a member of Saint Francis Episcopal Church of Edisto. I lead the growth committee, tasked with outreach in our community through visibility at community events. I am also a member of the fellowship committee, working to connect other members together. I am a lay reader. I was previously a member of another Episcopal church in Savannah, Ga for several decades before retiring to South Carolina, where I led the youth group for many years and also served on the vestry.

I recently had the opportunity to take Depolarizing Ourselves and have begun taking Sacred Ground. As a member of the Standing Committee, I would be eager to continue these educational opportunities—we are never too old to learn! I would also use these trainings and my experience to unify folks while also standing up for what Jesus preached in the Gospel.

Standing Committee

Lay

Name: Peter Gaillard

Church: St. Mark's, Port Royal

Nominated by: J. Wood "Woody" Rutter



Nominator Statement: Peter Gaillard and his wife are enthusiastic and active members of St. Mark's. In the opinion of several of our church leaders who have spoken to me, Pete has emerged as a compelling candidate for Standing Committee. Tom Miller, who is rotating off the Standing Committee writes: "Working closely with Pete on the Adult Education program...as well as his ability to think rationally and communicate clearly, make him an ideal candidate for Standing Committee."

Personal Statement: I was born and raised in Savannah, Georgia and am a cradle-to-grave Episcopalian. After graduating with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, I spent 39 years in the nuclear energy industry. Much of my career was spent as an Engineering/Technical Advisor, Manager and Director for Regulatory Affairs. I coordinated with many industry groups including internal company organizations, local public agencies, the Department of Energy, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and National Advisory Committees. As a result, I am comfortable interacting with people ranging from the general public to high-ranking officials and executives on different complex and emotional issues.

My wife, daughters and I have lived in seven states over the course of my career. It's important to us to be involved in the communities where we live. We have been active parishioners at many different Episcopal churches. I have served in a variety of roles including Vestry (twice), Stewardship Chair, Children's Education, Adult Education and other roles as needed. After relocating to Beaufort in anticipation on my retirement in 2021, my wife and I joined St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Port Royal where we serve in a variety of capacities. I serve my community as a Docent at the Beaufort History Museum and the Port Royal Sound Foundation. I would welcome the opportunity to serve as a lay member of the Standing Committee to help address issues in the next several years.

Standing Committee

Lay

Name: Betsey Smithdeal

Church: Holy Cross Faith Memorial, Pawleys Island

Nominated by: The Rev. Wil Keith



Nominator statement: Betsey is a lifelong Episcopalian who attends worship regularly. She keeps up to date about the happenings at her parish as well as in her diocese. She has a mind for numbers and finance, which are always welcome on diocesan leadership bodies. However, she also brings a profound and disciplined faith to her work, as well. She knows her community deeply and serves it both willingly and with great care.

Personal Statement: I am 49 years old and have been with Truist Bank for 25 years. Currently my role is a Premier Banker assisting clients with their personal financial needs through planning. I have my series 7 and 66 securities licenses along with insurance for long-term care and life insurance. I attended the University of Kentucky and earned a BA in Education and was a Kentucky cheerleader. I am originally from North Carolina and transferred with my job to the Myrtle Beach area in 2013. During this time I participated and graduated from the Leadership Grand Strand program, a year-long commitment to learning about the inner workings and history of Horry County and volunteering in the community. I have been part of The Episcopal Church since 1995 and would welcome this opportunity to utilize my gifts of kindness, positivity, caring, and consistency. Thank you for your consideration,

Standing Committee

Lay

Name: Diane Wilson

Church: St. George's, Summerville

Nominated by: The Rev. Jennie Olbrych



Nominator statement: Diane has served our diocese very faithfully and capably for many years. As a member of St. George's in Summerville and, as St. George's Church Administrator, she has had a front row seat to the multitude of challenges and opportunities faced by congregations and clergy. Diane previously served as a member of and clerk to the Standing Committee during the time the Standing Committee was the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese. She presently serves as Secretary for our Diocesan Conventions overseeing many of the key organizational workings of Convention. It is unusual to find this range of capable experience in one person, and Diane would bring all of this—along with her considerable wisdom—to serving on the Standing Committee. I am nominating her for these reasons and am very grateful that she is willing to serve if elected.

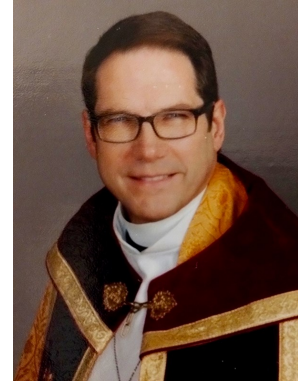
Personal Statement: The Episcopal Church has spiritually grounded me since 2001. I was baptized at St. George's in Summerville in 2002. Immediately thereafter I was nominated to serve on the vestry and I served in various ministries in the church. At the time I was employed by what is now AT&T supervising in and then managing two call centers. In 2010, during a time of downsizing, I retired with 35 years of service with AT&T and later that year I was hired as Parish Administrator at St. George's. I was nominated to and served on the Standing Committee during COVID and our time when we did not have a bishop. During that time I served as Secretary to the Standing Committee and was asked to serve as Secretary to the Convention for the electing convention. I have served as Secretary to the Convention since then. I am excited about the direction of our diocese and The Episcopal Church and, with your support, eager to serve on the Standing Committee.

Trustee, The Diocese of South Carolina *Clergy*

Name: The Rev. Rob Spainhour

Church: Epiphany, Summerville

Nominated by: The Rev. Dow Sanderson



Nominator Statement: In addition to his long tenure as an Episcopal priest, Fr. Spainhour has a well-respected history as an educator and school administrator. He brings qualities of integrity and responsibility, and experience in oversight of budgets and the managing of investments. He is well qualified to serve as a Trustee.

Personal Statement: I am excited to be back home in SC, canonically resident here again as the part-time priest-in-charge at the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany in Summerville. I retired last year from the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont, where I served as the rector of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Swanton, Vermont. There, for eight years, I helped steward a \$9 million endowment. My sense is that assisting in the budget with this parish, and others, in ongoing ministry may be helpful as a Trustee.

I believe my work on the Board of the Rock Point Camp and Conference Center in Vermont with its capital campaign will also be valuable in this ministry. My leadership experience began as a high school teacher in Summerville and assistant principal at Oakbrook and DuBose Middle Schools there. I was ordained as a priest in 1992 under Bishop Salmon at St. Johns Episcopal Church, West Ashley. After 10 years there as Rector, I worked bi-vocationally as a priest and high school principal in SC and in the Diocese for East Carolina (NC). During my tenure in SC, NC, and VT, I served five parishes and on Diocesan Council, Standing Committee (President S.C.), Executive Council, Ecclesiastical Court (President S.C.), Chair of Racial Reconciliation Committee, Deputy and Alternate to General Convention, serving for two Conventions on the staff of The Rev. Gay Clark Jennings. I will be honored to assist in implementing a future, through the Trustees, which continues to be vibrant and missionary focused.

Trustee, The Diocese of South Carolina

Lay

Name: Peggy Kovacs

Church: Messiah, Myrtle Beach

Nominated by: Kristi Burch



Nominator Statement: I nominate Peggy Kovacs for Trustee because her leadership is well-positioned to oversee the management of the investments, assets, and endowments of the diocese. I serve with Peggy as the co-chair of Church of the Messiah's Steering Committee for our Re-visioning Process. Peggy's commitment to the life of the church is evident as she is Messiah's treasurer, a lifelong choir member, a musician, and a dedicated children's ministry volunteer. Peggy holds an MBA and is a retired Lieutenant Commander in the U. S. Navy. Her vast experience includes budgetary oversight, fiscal responsibility, accounting oversight, and compliance oversight. Peggy's eyes and ears are always on the details, constantly asking if we are using our treasure to focus our mission. Peggy led investing in Messiah's nest egg. As a trustee, Peggy would be a great asset and resource to the Diocese.

Personal Statement: Over the course of 20 years I worked as a federal employee for five government agencies. I was involved in management and program analysis, information systems development, analysis and implementation of regulatory law, and budgetary oversight. As a Branch Chief and Division Director I had leadership responsibility as well as budgetary responsibility for the organization.

I worked as defense contractor for two defense agencies. I implemented the Paperwork Reduction Act and the Privacy Act for the one agency, and provided accounting oversight of Defense contracts for the other. I served 23 years as an officer in the U.S. Navy, Medical Service Corps and retired as Lieutenant Commander. Serving at various stations, including the hospital ship Comfort, I provided administrative and computer support. I served as Commanding Officer of a PRIMUS (Physician Reservists in Medical Universities and Schools) unit providing leadership and oversight of all members of this program.

I sang in the choirs of the Emmanuel and Grace Episcopal churches, as well as the Piedmont Singers (a music outreach program at Emmanuel). Currently I sing in the choir of the Episcopal Church of the Messiah, and serve as treasurer (since January 2023). I am also currently serving on the New Church Search committee, providing support and knowledge of local laws, practices, and the exist market. To this committee and to the church I provide close budgetary guidance and support, as well as providing budgetary support to the diocese. I hope to provide this support and guidance to the diocese as well.

Trustee, The Diocese of South Carolina *Lay*

Name: Laura Marshall

Church: Heavenly Rest, Estill

Nominated by: J. Wood “Woody” Rutter



Nominator Statement: Laura Marshall and her husband Alfred’s principal residence is in Charlotte, NC, where Laura is a respected banker. They also maintain—and visit frequently—a lovely old family home in Estill, SC. Heavenly Rest was for many years the “family church”—a lovely “carpenter’s style” small church in the woods. When the Marshalls “deeded” the church to the newly-reconstituted Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina, they rallied a number of people from the diocese to clean it up, have it repainted, replaced the old organ, polished the brass and cleaned the gorgeous stained glass windows. There have been a number of special services, with visiting priests, and Bishop Ruth has visited several times. It is one of those small rural Episcopal churches that have devoted caretakers/parishioners that Bishop Ruth has called “part of the connective tissue” that binds all of the churches of the diocese together. As a banker, as a strong supporter of the diocese, and as a warm personality, I feel that Laura Marshall is an excellent candidate for Trustee of the diocese.

Personal Statement: I was born in Charlotte, grew up in Memphis, and now enjoy a dual residency in North and South Carolina. My Southern roots run deep. Our church, Heavenly Rest in Estill, was built in 1891 in memory of Alice Martin Marshall by her parents, my husband’s great-great-grandparents. His family has been intimately involved in the church. My husband and I, with the critical help of the diocese, are reinvigorating the church where I serve as the senior warden. The vestry is enthused and dedicated, and I feel fortunate to serve this beautiful church with such rich history. For me, this has been—and continues to be—a very fulfilling task and an unparalleled opportunity. My love for our little church and The Episcopal Church has grown.

I am honored to be nominated to serve as a lay Trustee of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina. I have witnessed firsthand the transformative impact of our faith community, and I am eager to contribute to its continued growth and vitality. I am eager to leverage my professional skills and experience to contribute to our shared vision of growth and stewardship. My experiences as a Trustee for the University of the South and as a member of the Commission on Ministry have not only deepened my understanding of our Church’s mission but have also equipped me with valuable skills in governance and strategic planning. In my professional life, I have extensive experience in public finance, commercial banking, investment banking, fixed income trading and institutional sales, as well as managing deals for private placements and business acquisitions. I believe I am equipped to oversee and guide the Diocese’s financial resources with integrity and accountability.

Trustee, The Diocese of South Carolina **Lay**

Name: Earle Phillips

Church: St. Catherine's, Florence

Nominated by: The Rev. Eunice Dunlap



Nominator Statement: It gives me great pleasure to nominate Earle Phillips for Trustee to the Diocese. She served on Diocesan Council from 2021-2023 as well as Stewardship and Development 2021-2023 and Budget Development 2021. She is currently serving as Treasurer for St. Catherine's Episcopal Church and has served in this position since 2016 and also serves as Chair of St. Catherine's Finance Committee. Earle has the knowledge needed for this position and will be an asset to the Trustees of the Diocese with her experience in investment management as well as every day financial decisions.

Personal Statement: I am one of the founding members of St. Catherine's in Florence. Raised in the Baptist Church, I chose to become an Episcopalian at the age of 12. I have served St. Catherine's in many capacities, including altar guild, hospitality, lector, convention delegate and, for the past eight years and counting, treasurer. During this time I have also successfully handled St. Catherine's investments. I was a very active member of the Episcopal Forum Board of Directors for many years while the legal battles regarding the diocesan split were waged. I have served the Diocese on the Diocesan Council, the Stewardship & Development Committee, and the 2022 Budget Creation Committee. For the majority of my working career, I was assistant executive director of a national association of 1,600 colleges & universities and 900 entertainment firms. My other positions were primarily in finance, law firm management and data management systems.

I graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor's Degree in International Studies and a Master's Degree in Student Personnel Administration. I have done additional studies in several areas at Cambridge University in England.

Trustee, The Diocese of South Carolina

Lay

Name: Steve Skardon

Church: Grace Church Cathedral, Charleston

Nominated by: The Rev. Eric Bash



Nominator Statement: For the past 32 years Steve was the CEO of the Palmetto Project, a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for all South Carolinians. The organization's annual budget, which Steve oversaw, exceeded that of the diocese and required numerous administrative, asset management, and fundraising skills that would be of value as a diocesan trustee.

Steve grew up in a multi-generational clergy family in this diocese and has been a member of parishes in Summerville, Florence, and Charleston. Since 1994, he has been a member of Grace Cathedral and served in various leadership roles there. He was one of the founders of the Diocesan Youth Commission and the youngest person to serve on Diocesan Council. He also worked in the broader Church as a special projects consultant to three presiding bishops. Most importantly, Steve brings a unique perspective on the parishes of our diocese. His father and grandfather combined served nearly one-third of our parishes as rectors, priests-in-charge, and interims. Steve is a student of the history of the Diocese and, for 20 years as editor of scepiscopalians.com, he came to know the workings of each parish and their leadership.

Personal Statement: My first job with the diocese was grass-mower, leaf-raker, and puller of weeds at the home of Bishop and Mrs. Temple. I was 16. My stature grew considerably one Saturday morning when the Bishop leaned out a window and shouted, "I need your help selling Seabrook Island?" I think I responded with a blank stare. Later, he explained that he needed a young person to be one of the diocese's representatives in the upcoming sale. Against the advice of many, he'd accepted a lower sale price in exchange for keeping St. Christopher Camp and Conference Center. This was much more than a simple business transaction. To the bishop, a young person's signature on the settlement documents would be a sign to future generations of confidence in their ministry and the camp as an investment in their work. Assets, he said, are nothing unless they align with mission. I recently retired from a non-profit organization that raised millions for successful community programs, largely following Bishop Temple's approach ... and that's the experience and perspective I would bring to the work of the Trustees.

Our diocese has been formative for me throughout my life, even when I was living elsewhere. I've been a teacher, lay reader, Eucharistic visitor, vestryperson, convention delegate, and member of Diocesan Council and youth commission. I am currently a member of Grace Cathedral where I am usually in the choir. I also love to write and, for 20 years, many of you have honored me with your support of my writing on SCEpiscopalians.com.

Trustee, The Diocese of South Carolina *Lay*

Name: Keith Williamson

Church: St. Bartholomew's, Hartsville

Nominated by: The Rev. Michael Bye



Nominator Statement: Keith has served the Church well for 40 years in a variety of positions. He is presently treasurer of St. Bart's and brings a wealth of experience in finances and management of complicated organizations. His skill would be well used by the diocese.

Personal Statement: **Parish activities:** Currently treasurer and vestry member; formerly senior warden at St. Bartholomew's Hartsville, where I helped set up a parish endowment. Formerly treasurer and senior warden of St. Matthews Episcopal Church, Darlington **Diocesan activities:** Member of last year's Strategic Vision task force. Formerly diocesan stewardship consultant for parish campaigns **Business experience:** Partner in family farming operation in Darlington for 15 years. After returning to school to get my MBA, worked at Sonoco Products Company in Hartsville for 17 years, much of that time as a business unit manager. Currently retired (mostly). **Education:** Davidson College (A.B. in French), NC State University (master's in agriculture), Stanford University (MBA). Completed EFM and SC Master Naturalist courses. **Principal activities for "re-creation":** Yoga, tennis, reading, and walking, preferably in the woods or on the beach.

Trustee, University of the South *Clergy*

Name: The Very Rev. Joseph Smith

Church: St. Francis, Edisto Island

Nominated by: The Rev. Ryan Currie



Nominator Statement: As my own term comes to an end, it is my pleasure to nominate the Rev. Joseph Smith, rector, St. Francis Episcopal Church, Edisto, to serve as the Diocese of South Carolina clergy trustee for The University of the South at Sewanee. As an alumnus of the University's School of Theology and a parent of a graduate of the College of Arts & Sciences, Joseph is well-positioned to understand Sewanee's needs and its unique relationship to The Episcopal Church. I have come to know Joseph as a priest who is distinctively focused on the mission of the church toward all people. I believe that focus will serve the University and this Diocese well if Father Smith is elected to serve as trustee.

Personal Statement: I am honored to be considered for the position of Trustee for the University of the South, affectionately known to us alumni as Sewanee. As a proud member of the class of T'07 and the parent of a graduate from the class of C'17, I am deeply committed to this esteemed institution and its ongoing success. I believe it is crucial for The Episcopal Church to maintain its presence in our increasingly secular world, and I am dedicated to supporting this mission through my service as a Trustee. If elected, I will partner with my fellow Trustees to ensure that Sewanee remains "a crucible of mind, heart, and place out of which is forged an experience that calls us to make a difference in the world."-EQB.