The Episcopal Diocese of SOUTH CAROLINA

236th Annual Diocesan Convention
Notice of Elections

The following positions will be filled by election at the 236th Annual Convention of The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina:

Body	Positions	Term
Standing Committee	2 Clergy, 2 Lay 1 Lay	3 years 2 years*
Deputy, 82nd General Convention (2027)	4 Clergy Alternates 2 Lay Alternates	1 year
Trustee, Diocese of South Carolina	1 Clergy, 1 Lay	6 years
Trustee, University of the South	1 Lay	3 years

*To complete term ending in 2028

The nomination deadline is Wednesday, September 30, 2026. The Nomination form can be found at this link. The nomination form requires nominators to include the written statement of the nominee and a high-quality photograph of the nominee. Nominees must be confirmed, adult communicants in good standing in this diocese or members of the clergy who are canonically resident in this diocese. The consent of the nominee is required. Below, you will find the current membership of the bodies listed in the above chart.

The Standing Committee

Term Expires Fall 2026	*Term Expires Fall 2027*	*Term Expires Fall 2028*
The Rev. William Coyne*	The Rev. Ricardo Bailey	The Rev. Julia Madden
The Right Rev. Cn. Wilmot Merchant*	The Rev. Denise Trogdon	The Rev. Fred Thompson
Vermelle Simmons*	Christine Jennings	Barney Forsythe
Rick Stall*	Diane Wilson	Vacant

*Sitting members of the Standing Committee who are completing a full term are not eligible for immediate re-election to their current committee.

The Standing Committee is comprised of six clergy and six lay members. Members must be confirmed, adult communicants in good standing in this diocese or members of the clergy who are canonically resident in this diocese. The Standing Committee's responsibilities are: 1) Act as the Standing Committee of the diocese in accordance with the requirements of the Constitutions and Canons of The Episcopal Church, The Constitution of this Diocese (Article IX), and its Canons, including giving consents to Episcopal elections elsewhere in TEC; 2) Act as a Council of advice to the Bishop; and 3) Act as Ecclesiastical Authority in absence of the Bishop.

Time commitment: Committee members are expected, at the minimum, to be available for a 3-hour meeting, including travel, once a month, with additional meetings/preparation as requested. Those who are elected are to be responsive to email and committed to making the work of the Standing Committee a priority. Meetings are usually held in Charleston or virtually, and occasionally around the diocese.

Trustees of the University of the South

Term: July 2024-June 2027	*Term: July 2025-June 2028*	*Term: July 2026-June 2029*
Jean McDowell Martin	The Rev. Canon Ryan Currie	Helen Britton

The University of the South, located in Sewanee, Tennessee, 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.

Time commitment: Two days per year at Sewanee for the annual meeting. Other meetings/calls as requested. The term that is to be elected at this October 2026 Convention will be July 2027-June 2030.

Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina

Term Expires Fall 2026	*Term Expires Fall 2028*	*Term Expires Fall 2030*
The Rev. Mark Brinkmann	The Rev. Ross Tortora	The Rev. Rob Spainhour
Bill Beak	Michael Battle	Laura Marshall

The responsibilities of the Trustees are in accordance with 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.

Time commitment: Meetings 2 hours/quarter, with additional meetings/preparation as requested. Meetings usually held in Charleston or virtually, occasionally around the diocese.

Clergy and Lay Deputies to the 82nd General Convention

Lay Deputies	*Lay Alternates*	*Clergy Deputies*	*Clergy Alternates*
Deb Harris	Mark Whitehouse	The Rev. Michael Shaffer	Vacant
Veronica Hinkson	Jan Schumann	The Rev. Michael Crandall	Vacant
Andrea McKellar	Vacant	The Very Rev. Eric Bash	Vacant
Vermelle Simmons	Vacant	The Rev. Bill Coyne	Vacant

Each diocese of The Episcopal Church is entitled to four clergy and four lay deputies at the triennial meetings of the General Convention. The Clerical Deputies are priests or deacons canonically resident in the Diocese, and the Lay Deputies are confirmed, adult communicants of the Church in the Diocese. Deputies serve any number of terms. The 82nd General Convention will be held July 3-July 8, 2027 in Phoenix, Arizona. Deputies should be able to give up their professional and family obligations for this time to serve and should be prepared for full days at the Convention - normally 7:30 am- 10:00 pm as well as the two-day Province IV Synod meetings. There is a great deal of reading and preparation beforehand, and a detailed process of reporting back to the Diocese afterward. Deputies should be organized, faithful, and dedicated leaders, able to vote according to both their informed conscience and their sense of the will of the diocese as a whole. There

will be some diocesan funds available to offset the costs, but additional funds may need to be identified from local parishes and individuals.

A note about Diocesan Council: With the amendment to the the Constitution & Canons passed at Convention last year, lay and clergy seats for Diocesan Council are to be elected by deaneries, and the regional deans serve on that body *ex officio.* The membership of the Diocesan Council are listed below with term expiration years noted in parentheses.

The Diocesan Council

Peninsula Deanery	*Southern Deanery*	*West Charleston Deanery*	*Pee-Dee Waccamay Deaner*
The Very Rev. Jordan Trendelman*	The Very Rev. Eric Bash*	The Very Rev. Joseph Smith*	The Right Rev. Wilmot Merchant*
The Rev. Brooks Boylan (2028)	Susan Grimes (2026)**	The Rev. Michael Crandall (2028)	The Rev. Kevin Sparrow (2027)
Charlinda Gallant (2027	Sally Mayse (2027)	Mildred Keith (2026)	Michael Roberts (2028)

*Regional Deans **Clergy successor to be elected

The Diocesan Council 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.

Time commitment: Meetings 2 hours/month, with additional meetings/preparation as requested. Meetings are usually held virtually, but occasionally around the diocese.

Members of the Nominating Committee by Deanery

Canon 8.2. The ecclesiastical authority of the Diocese shall appoint, at least sixty (60) days before the convening of each annual Convention, a nominating committee comprised of one (1) priest and one (1) layperson from each deanery and shall designate the chairman of the committee.