

General Convention Deputy Nominations



Nominee: Wiley Ashley, Jr.

Church: Holy Spirit, Gulf Shores

Occupation: Retired AF Officer / Retired Senior Software Engineer

Nominator: Ashby Jones

Church: Holy Spirit, Gulf Shores

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:

Baptized at Church of the Ascension (1941) Montgomery. Member there until 2007. Attended Curcillo # III at McDowell. Served as an Ascension Delegate to several Alabama Diocesan Conventions. Moved to Holy Spirit and have served since then as member of our school board. Elected to Holy Spirit Vestry in 2013 and served as Senior Warden in our search for new Rector. Member of Holy Spirit choir for past 8 years. Holy Spirit Diocesan Delegate in 2014 and to this 2017 Convention. Active in numerous Episcopal

parishes throughout the country during 27 year Air Force career. Have served as lay reader, licensed to administer the chalice in three dioceses. Served as visiting Lay Rector frequently conducting Morning Prayer at small parishes throughout the Diocese of Alabama. Active member of Men's Group and participate in many outreach ministries for Holy Spirit.

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?

No doubt my major concern is the growth of our parish to include new, young families. Children are the life blood of our faith. We are a retirement and a transient (part time population) community. It is imperative we make ourselves visible in our outreach to attract all ages using our many gifts to teach and speak our love of Jesus Christ. Holy Spirit supports many outreach programs through our Thrift Store, Camp Happy Sands, Camp Beckwith, our day school, sponsors our Zoo with Christmas with the Animals and to makes our members and our church a beacon for our community. A place where all are welcome to join our journey and feel that spark given us by the Holy Spirit. We can only lead by example, pray, for strength and guidance and work, work, work.

What sustains you in your spiritual life? Cursillo has played a profound impact on my spiritual growth. The love of a lifetime communion with the history, liturgy, traditions, and music of my church and to see my growth in the acceptance of new ideas and views on worship; to watch others that I have helped renew or find their faith and watch the visible proof of the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives never cease to inspire and strengthen my own faith.



Nominee: The Rev. Jessica H. Babcock

Church: Christ Church, Pensacola

Occupation: Episcopal Priest

Nominator: Owen Drey

Church: Christ Church, 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 serve as the associate priest at Christ Church Pensacola in charge of Outreach and Pastoral Care, skilled at forming new outreach opportunities that encourage 'pew sitters' (those that only engage in church on Sunday Morning) to take the leap and get involved in serving others out in the Pensacola community. Outreach by its very nature is good evangelism because it requires Christians to build relationships with those that are different from themselves. Recently I formed 'Women in Mission,' a new group at Christ Church that helps women evangelize others through meaningful service in the community. I also

head our feeding program for the homeless at Waterfront Rescue Mission. Among all my ministries, however, my favorite is Cursillo. I serve on staff as often as possible and enjoy being an active member of the Cursillo Commission for the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. Cursillo, I believe, is the best tool for evangelism at the diocesan level.

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?

Stewardship and planned giving are the two challenges facing us at this time. However, they are also our two biggest opportunities. We need to help the churches in our diocese make a culture shift regarding fundraising. We need to help members embrace fundraising; moving it from obligation to a spiritual act. This is why I chair the Diocesan Commission on Planned Giving and Stewardship. Another challenge is to promote engagement in mission and the broader Anglican Communion. To that end, I formed a companion relationship for Christ Church with a parish in the Diocese of Cuba. Christ Church is currently planning their next mission trip to Cuba for 2017.

What sustains you in your spiritual life? I typically take a 45 minute walk, and then spend 20 or so minutes in prayer and contemplation. Without this, I lose my connection to Christ and enter the day a bit grumpy. On the other hand, when I pay attention to God by giving him this time, my connection remains stable and I remain joyful. I also meet for spiritual direction with a Benedictine Brother once a month.

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Nominee: Vincent Currie, Jr.
Church: Christ Church, Pensacola
Occupation: Retired Diocesan Administrator (33 years), Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast

Nominator: The Rev. Michael Hoffman
Church: Christ Church, 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: General Convention (GC) Deputy since 1976 (currently Senior GC Deputy), former Vice President of the House of Deputies (HOD) (2000 - 2003); Chair GC program, Budget and Finance Committee, Church Pension Fund Committee, Nominations Committee; Council on Advice to five presidents of HOD; Episcopal Church Executive Council (1988 - 1991); Board - Church Pension Fund (1991 - 2003, 2006 - 2018; Vice Chair 2000 - 2003); Former Standing Committee, Finance Committee, Beckwith Board, Treasurer - Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast.

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? Opportunities - Both the Diocese and the Episcopal Church have dynamic new leadership. We, in the pews, need to catch their vision and work diligently to move the Church forward. Complacency is not an option in the new Jesus Movement. Challenges - Stagnant financial resources keep the Church from growing or making its mission and ministry stronger. Evangelism continues to be a challenge in the Diocese and Episcopal Church. New models are needed to attract people where they are in their lives. Leadership development of both clergy and lay is critical!

What sustains you in your spiritual life? I have no formal spiritual direction plan or activity. I do not have a spiritual director. I am enormously sustained spiritually by the boundless beauty and holiness of God's creation. I am enormously sustained spiritually by my relationships with family, friends, and even strangers. I am enormously sustained by my active involvement in the Church and regular church attendance, especially the celebration of the Holy Mystery of the Eucharist.



Nominee: Lynn Ferren
Church: St. Patrick's, Panama City
Occupation: Historian/Resource Specialist at Holy Nativity Episcopal School

Nominator: The Rev. Julia Phillips
Church: St. Patrick's, Panama City

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: Senior Warden, Altar Guild Chair, ERD Representative, Director of Christian Education, and Lay Eucharistic Minister at St. Patrick's. Chair of Commission on Diocesan Missions, Standing Committee (second term) past Secretary of the Standing Committee, Alternate Lay Deputy to General Convention (2012 and 2015) Lay Delegate to Diocesan Convention, member of Commission on Liturgy, Music and Ecclesiastical Arts. Past member of the Beach Bay Optimist Club, Past Board Member of Bay County Reading Association,

currently School Representative for Bay County Reading Association.

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? In my opinion, some of the challenges and opportunities facing both the Episcopal Church and our Diocese are very similar. There needs to be a revival and rebuilding of the Church. Both the Episcopal Church and our Diocese have experienced a decline in numbers which is causing a financial hardship and a slowing of the spreading of the Good News. In our Diocese, twenty-four of sixty-two congregations have less than one hundred active baptized members. This gives us the opportunity to begin to explore ways to change our thinking as to how The Church, dioceses, and congregations can continue their good work. There may be a need to find new ideas in staffing and placement of churches and The Church offices that enables all to do the work. These changes will need a process to educate everyone so that they begin to understand and accept the need to change. Hopefully, this educational process will help the people trust in God's Plan. The Church and our Diocese need to begin the healing process. There is a lack of understanding and trust between social and economic groups, racial groups, and those with different sexual orientations. We need to come together to set up dialogues to search for ways to understand and accept our fellow humans. This may be a long and hard journey, but it needs to begin now. Finally, there seems to be a lack of communication between The Church, dioceses, congregations and individuals. We need to listen and to share our ideas. The age of instant communication gives us the opportunity to share, however, it is important to remember that not everyone is comfortable with or has access to technology. We need to communicate with all no matter what their circumstances are.

What sustains you in your spiritual life? I find that quiet contemplation and reflection through prayer and reading help to sustain my spiritual life. Helping others also helps to sustain my spiritual life. I love to spend time exploring nature, which gives me a sense of God's love and peace.

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Nominee: The Rev. Jeffery Garner
Church: Holy Spirt, Gulf Shores
Occupation: Episcopal Priest

Nominator: Wiley Ashley
Church: Holy Spirit, Gulf Shores

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 ordained for nearly twelve years, serving in two parishes in the Diocese of Alabama as Rector, and called to Holy Spirit in 2015. I have always been an active member of the Ecumenical Ministerial Association, and served as Vice-President in Fort Payne while at St. Philips. Along with serving with the Pleasure Island Association, I have chaired committees for several charitable events, including Gulf Shore's Christmas with God's Creatures highlighting our nationally-recognized Zoo; and currently sit on

the Wilmer Hall Board of Trustees and the Bishop's Commission on Parish Vitality. I am active in Cursillo, and have served on staff once in my previous diocese as an assistant spiritual director at Camp McDowell; and honored to serve as the Head Spiritual Director for the March 2017 Cursillo at Camp Beckwith. As laity, I served two terms on vestries at churches, and worked with the EYC / YPF while attending St John's Montgomery.

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 opportunities we have in this diocese is the "energy" that resonates within the people we have. Not only in movements like Cursillo, but in the focus and determination of the people who are trying to recover and tap into the spiritual depth and vitality we have as Episcopalians. This includes the fresh vision and "move forward" attitude of our new bishop, Russell. But, in the same breath, that's where some of our greatest challenges lie -- in making sure we do not create unnecessary and hurtful chasms by ushering-in the changed while discounting those who have traditional and long-faithful, personal and corporate views. We must find ways to create "buy-in" through education and exposure to why something needs to be changed -- and not just for change sake. We should focus on what makes our parish's exciting and learning to articulate just who we are and what we stand for as Christians and Episcopalians. We also must find new and inventive ways to make our tradition appeal to our youth (and their friends!)

What sustains you in your spiritual life? A consistent and intentional prayer life -- which includes study not only from scripture and what makes me comfortable; but from other's perspectives that may challenge my thinking. One of the spiritual experiences I have is in celebrating the Eucharist whenever we gather. I also consider myself a study of people...of character...and how another's life can help us realize our own strengths and help us remain connected to our own spiritual journey. A large influence on my spiritual life is where I envision myself as a leader in the parish and in our community; as I believe we are fed and accountable in relationship with one another as well as with Christ. I also love where music can take one's soul; if we allow it to.



Nominee: Eugene Johnston, Jr.
Church: St. John's, Mobile
Occupation: Retired

Nominator: The Rev. Thomas Heard
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 have worked in development departments of higher education and in recruiting for these institutions, and I am a retired college administrator. I have been vice-chair of the Executive Board of the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral in the United States. I am a former Disaster Relief Coordinator and former member of the Registrar-Historiographers Team in our diocese, and currently serve as the diocesan coordinator for Episcopal Relief and Development. I am the Chair of the Supervisory Committee of

Azalea City Credit Union. I routinely serve my parish as a Convention delegate and/or vestry member. I hold an undergraduate degree in Psychology from Clark University, Worcester, MA and a graduate degree in Public Administration from the University of Alabama (Birmingham). I am a graduate of the Education for Ministry (EfM) program of University of the South, and have served as a mentor. I am married to the former Emily Kearns, retired director of Financial Aid at the University of South Alabama.

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 is the cultural shift away from church attendance. Many people, particularly young people do not see or feel the necessity of having a relationship with Christ and attendance reflects this. We in the Episcopal Church and the Diocese must show that relationship with Christ will lead to a fuller, richer life. Not one that is perfect or free of problems, but one that is supportive during the ups and downs of life's journey. Episcopalians tend to be Easter and New Testament in their outlook. We are free from the law and are heirs of the Kingdom of God, however we live in a world that seems to be dominated by Old Testament people. This means we need to be out in the world as witnesses. Not an easy thing to do and we need to do it now.

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What sustains you in your spiritual life? My schedule allows me to receive Eucharist twice most weeks. Also, I attend a Cursillo Reunion meeting each week. At Reunion, I discuss my piety, study, and action activities for the past week and plans for the upcoming week. This requires me to be accountable. Finally, my work with Episcopal Relief & Development allows me to put my beliefs into action - working to inform people of needs and raise funds so that the Episcopal Church can help those who are less fortunate and those in cycle of poverty.



Nominee: The Rev. David Knight
Church: St. Simon's on the Sound, Ft. Walton Beach
Occupation: Episcopal Priest

Nominator: Renee Larson
Church: St. Simon's on the Sound, Ft. 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: Elected to General Convention deputation from Mississippi for the last 4 General Conventions. Served on the Executive Council Anti-Racism task force. Member of the original Task Force on the Study of Marriage 2012-2015. In the Diocese of Mississippi, I served on the Standing Committee (twice as President).

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 election of our new Bishop has breathed life into this diocese. Loving Jesus, taking pride in being an Episcopalian, and joining with our Presiding Bishop in the Jesus Movement should excite and inspire us all. Challenges - get out of our comfort zones and evangelize! We have much to share.

What sustains you in your spiritual life? Daily prayer, structured and unstructured. Sharing the Sacraments. I love preparing for Bible studies and preaching. Clergy peer groups and a spiritual director keep me grounded and accountable.



Nominee: June Linke
Church: Christ Church, Pensacola
Occupation: Retired College Administrator

Nominator: The Rev. Jessica Babcock
Church: Christ Church, 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: Before entering academia my career included at least 10 years in developing and managing rural health care programs as well as statewide energy conservation initiatives. After earning a PhD in Sociology I spent 20 years teaching in university settings. In addition, at Pensacola State College I served as Head of Behavioral Sciences for seven years and Dean of Curriculum for three years. I am a member of the Board of Directors of Children in Crisis, Inc., a foster care facility serving Northwest Florida. I am

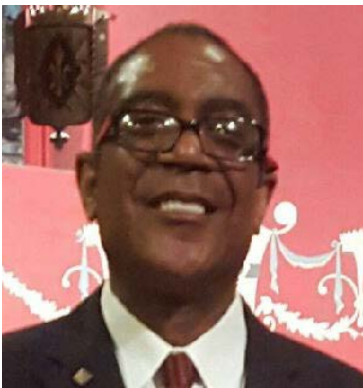
a 2010 graduate of Leadership Pensacola. For the past two years I have co-chaired Youth Leadership Pensacola. Since 2010 at Christ Church I have been active in ECW, serving as Vice President for one year and President for two years. Currently, I co-chair Women in Ministry, a group of outreach ministries focused on improving and enriching the lives of women and children. In 2016, I served on the Rector Search Committee, Consecration Sunday Team, and was a delegate to the 45th Annual Diocesan Convention. My activities at Christ Church have also included chairing and co-chairing numerous subcommittees for fundraising and fellowship events. For the past two years, my husband, Tom, and I assist with the preparation and serving of Sunday breakfast at Christ Church. In May 2017, I will complete the four-year program of Education for Ministry (EfM). My years of academic and administrative work enabled me to refine skills in leadership, project development, grant writing, and program management. Through my involvement in Christ Church I have strengthened my ability to have patience in working with teams of volunteers. Most importantly, through my Christ Church activities I continue to learn how to enrich my life by using my talents and opening my heart to people, both inside and outside of the church.

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? In my opinion, the three greatest opportunities available to the Episcopal Church and the CGC Diocese are: 1) the millions of people whose hearts and minds are searching for peace and meaningful purpose in their lives; 2) the expanding avenues of access to people worldwide primarily due to social media; and 3) the increasing number of Episcopalians willing to vocalize and demonstrate their commitment to ensuring the Episcopal Church is a denomination truly open to ALL people. Opportunities now existing within the CGC Diocese are the plethora of talents among our outstanding clergy, particularly in the Pensacola, Gulf Breeze, and Fort Walton Beach areas. To my way of thinking, the spiritual strength and energy emanating throughout the diocesan offices and church parishes creates timely opportunities to grow our membership, to expand our breadth of community service, and to increase our visibility demonstrating what it means to be an Episcopalian. My opinions concerning challenges, indeed, are interconnected with my thoughts about opportunities. What specific words and formats do we use and what specific actions do we take to tune the ears and lift the eyes of millions to the Good News? How do we structure worldwide conversations so as to transform abstract concepts such as "openness" into the welcoming view of open doors? At both the macro and micro levels, how do we address members' generational

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differences as a flexible spectrum rather than a linear set of compartments? In my opinion, a major challenge rests in creating a paradigm shift among Episcopalians concerning the perception of "evangelism." Bringing about this change in perception, in my opinion, carries the level of difficulty equivalent to changing one's mental image of Moses into someone other than Charlton Heston. But we will, with God's help.

What sustains you in your spiritual life? There are several aspects of my life enabling me to sustain what I consider to be my "spiritual life." Prior to coming to Christ Church my spiritual life was superficial. While growing up in the Methodist Church, I developed a strong belief in God. However, upon reaching adulthood I spent decades "church shopping." In 2004, I entered Christ Church for the first time. I immediately knew that Christ Church was where God intended me to be. My spiritual life is sustained through my regular attendance of services "under the dome" and through active participation in Christ Church ministries. For the first time in my entire life I know that I am in true fellowship with the people around me. I love the liturgy and the music. Attending EfM has also had a profound impact upon my life. I now do not perceive a separation of my daily life from my spiritual life. Through God's grace I enjoy the challenges of serving others with an open heart. The people of Christ Church inspire me to take on service projects. I recently attended Cursillo. The intensity of Christian love I felt and continue to feel through my Cursillo experience is wonderful indeed. I am learning more and more how to listen to God through prayer and quiet discernment. I am so proud to be an Episcopalian and a member of Christ Church.



Nominee: Joe McDaniel, Jr.

Church: Christ Church, Pensacola

Occupation: Retired Corporate Finance Attorney

Nominator: 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 delegate to the General Convention: legislative aide to the House of Deputies Committee for the Confirmation of the Presiding Bishop at the 78th General Convention for The Episcopal Church (the "TEC"); Alternate Lay Deputy who attended the 78th General Convention for the TEC; member of the Diocesan Nominating Committee to select the fourth bishop of the Central Gulf Coast; Current member of the Standing Committee for the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast; member of the Diocese's

Commission on Ministry; previous member of the Diocese's Commission on Finance; member of the Cursillo Commission; current member of the Strategic Planning Committee for the future of Camp Beckwith; delegate to the 41st, 42nd, and 43rd Annual Diocesan Conventions; member of the Finance Committee for the 42nd Annual Diocesan Convention; alternate delegate to the 44th and 45th Annual Diocesan Conventions; Senior Warden of Christ Episcopal Church from January 2013 until January of 2014; vestry member of Christ Episcopal Church from January 2011 until 2014; member of various Vestry Committees and Subcommittees, including but not limited to, Planned Giving, and Gifts Policy; Co-Chairman Christ Church Parish Legacy Society; Director of Brotherhood of Saint Andrew from September 2010 until 2015; usher at Christ Episcopal Church from 2010 until the present time. Presently coordinating with other dioceses to bring Racial Reconciliation Workshops to the Central Gulf Coast. Served as the co-chairman for the planning in bringing an Enneagram Conference to the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. Served as the co-chairman for the planning in bringing a nationally renowned speaker to the Central Gulf Coast to speak on "Why the Church is the Appropriate Place to begin a discussion on Racial 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 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. As with other mainline traditions, our overall trends in giving and attendance are in decline over the past generation. However, I believe 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. The future of the institutional life of the church will likely look more like networking and less like hierarchy, more like community organizing and less like bureaucracy. I think these are good and creative goals, though I fully appreciate the financial challenges which are driving some of these goals, nationally and on the diocesan level. 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. The people of our diocese - clergy and lay - seek a spiritually authentic relationship with one another and with our bishop. We are informed by a desire to share of what we have and to be a mutually safe community for one another, and I share the same desires. I believe this is the greatest challenge we face in our diocese, however, if properly executed, I also believe it is our greatest strength and our greatest opportunity to live into our baptismal covenant: "to respect the dignity of every human being."

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What sustains you in your spiritual life? In our common vocation as the Baptized, we must hold ourselves to a standard of interpersonal and organizational interaction that incarnates what we say we believe. I believe that 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 and as St. Paul underscores, the commandments of God are summarized in these words, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law" (Romans 13:9). When I or someone that I observe fails in the law of love (which will and is bound to happen for all of us at some time or another and with some repetition), I believe that we are still obliged to one another to seek greater mutual understanding, greater commitment to a larger purpose and greater appreciation of the genuinely challenging work of love that God asks of his laborers. Together, we must engage this spiritual labor of sincere fellowship which is so essential that it is a foundational requirement upon which all else is even possible. I seek forgiveness where I have wronged, and I pester/admonish/encourage/cajole/support others to do their own spiritual labor. I believe that we are here to create the Kingdom which God – each of us being instilled with an innate sense of direction and purpose given to all of us as a kind of spiritual DNA – 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.



Nominee: Gary Moore
Church: St. Paul's, Daphne
Occupation: Retired Lawyer USDOJ and USArmy Corps of Engineers

Nominator: The Rev. Peter Wong
Church: Nativity, Dothan

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 blessed to serve our wonderful Diocese as a member of your Standing Committee (2016-2019) and I currently work with the Commission on Peace & Justice and Racial Reconciliation (the Rev. Peter Wong, Chair). My service has also included Bishop Search/Discernment Committee (2014-2016), Commission on Cursillo (Finance, Staff Training, & Weekend Staff, Enneagram Conference Coordinator), Parish Jr. & Sr. Warden, chorister, LEM, EfM graduate and Chalice Bearer. By Convention time, I will have made my third Episcopal-sponsored mission trip to Haiti. I frequently travel to other parishes in our

Diocese, enjoying hospitality and simply listening. It's a joyful honor to be your current General Convention ("GC") Deputy and from that came my selection by the President of the House of Deputies to serve The Episcopal Church as a member of the Standing Committee entitled "The State of the Church". Since 2015 GC, I have worked continuously on various issues at the national/international level. These folks know I am from the Central Gulf Coast, while most admit they've never heard of us. At the 2015 GC, I was chosen to serve on the Social Justice Legislative Committee and even though we worked very long days (7am-11pm frequently), it was good and holy work. I also yielded floor time to alternate deputies so they would gain experience. Working with fellow Episcopalians around the South, throughout the United States and beyond, I have been able to learn of assets, programs, gain additional perspectives and receive training that helps our Diocese's missional response. These folks also learn about us. Relationships with other dioceses (namely Alabama, Atlanta, Western NC) are directly benefiting the peace & social justice work we are doing here in the Central Gulf Coast. Thank you.

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 are many sophisticated, complicated theories out there (and consultants and authors are making a living at it!) but I believe that fundamentally most of us Episcopalians must grow out of a model of transactional ministry/faith to a model of transformational mission and ministry. Do we simply "believe and belong" (attend, pray and pay)? Do we simply worship Jesus the Christ and that's it, or are we willing to follow Him on His same path? Naturally, we are drawn to our parish home for formation, healing, inspiration, and the connectedness provided by community, but if we are spending most of our money, most of our time, and most of our talent only at that parish street address, I respectfully believe we are not following in the transformational path of our Savior. There are super-numerous mission and ministry opportunities: are we raising up each other to find where we can serve? Are we identifying needs and concerns in our communities, near and far, and then working with folks to raise themselves up? To heal? To comfort? Do we invite the unpopular, the lonely, the hurt, into our parish homes or our own homes? Does our effort, following the model of Jesus the Christ, actually change the lives of others? I want a bumper sticker that reads: "The Church Has Officially Left the Building!" sporting a nice Episcopal logo. Thank you.

What sustains you in your spiritual life? I may appear complicated, but I'm actually a fairly simple person. First, I am spiritually sustained by my wife of nearly 33 years. Kathy is my honest mirror. Also important, I hunger for early morning reading, meditation, and prayer-before the rush of the day. I also try to participate in at least two corporate worship services per week (even if traveling), engage in music as chorister or support, and finally I find great sustenance in small group gatherings where we honestly explore our "Faith & Doubt", and encouragingly hold each other accountable. From combinations of the above, I ultimately find being engaged in Jesus' work beyond the walls of the church draws me even deeper into a life sustained by others and faith. Thank you.

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Nominee: The Rev. Jo Popham
Church: St. Stephen's, Brewton
Occupation: Episcopal Priest

Nominator: Susan Miller
Church: St. Stephen's, Brewton

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:

In no particular order: been Rector, Priest-in-charge, minister of Congregational Growth and Development, and leader of many retreats; been Marriage Retreat Ministry leader and Diocesan Marriage Preparation leader; worked at a very high level of responsibility for a major television network and for the Motion Picture Association of America; studied with Brian McLaren, Diana Butler Bass, Phyllis Tickle, Doug Paget, Nick Brotherwood, and other Emergent Church leaders; been Diocesan lay delegate; been clergy delegate in several dioceses in two countries; lived as a refugee for 22 months after Hurricane

Katrina; was asked to bear the chalice at UBE (Union of Black Episcopalians) Vigil the day before the installation of our current PB; attended Vigil Eucharist and the installation of the Most Reverend Michael Curry; am a cradle Episcopalian, although that does not get me bonus points any more, since so many Episcopalians come to the church from other traditions; am well versed in Canon Law, and research thereof; was elected to the Disciplinary Board in the Diocese of SW Florida; planted a Chaplaincy program at the Venice branch of the State College of Florida; was an activist and organizer for SURE (Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity) an interfaith organization committed to bringing justice, fairness, equity and peace to Sarasota Count, Florida, and other restorative justice groups, including Austin Interfaith (in Austin, Texas), The Jeremiah Project in New Orleans, LA, and an IAF affiliate in Monroe, LA (Industrial area foundation that trains people to be advocates for social justice in Louisiana and the Gulf Coast); attended DART training (a direct action, research, and training organization focusing on grassroots, nonprofit, congregation-based, justice ministry); and most recently planted the Ministerial Association of the Greater Brewton Area.

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?

In no particular order: integration of all God's people into the fullness of their life in Christ; being pro-active rather than reactive when dealing with opponents of Christ or our Church; healing of racial divisions; claiming and growing into the full stature of being inheritors of God's Kingdom; caring for all God's children; being relevant in a world where Christians are labeled as hypocrites; ensuring that our children never know a time when they were not welcome anywhere in our churches; maintaining a healthy connection with other churches in our own diocese and Province and The Episcopal Church, regardless of the size of the congregations; sharing our gifts and talents with all people, not just those in our own congregations; building bridges (or repairing broken bridges) among ourselves and outside our doors; and discernment of our gifts so that we can share them.

What sustains you in your spiritual life? In no particular order: praying, alone and in community; reading and studying the Word; being with God's people and listening to them, whether they are three years old or 93; using all the spiritual gifts in my toolbox: contemplative prayer, walking prayer, reading the daily offices; seeing the world theologically, by being in the Word all the time (which is easy because I preach every week); allowing God to use me by being an active conduit of God's love (whatever I have to offer is not from me, but from God).



Nominee: David Quittmeyer
Church: Trinity, Mobile
Occupation: Attorney

Nominator: The Rev. Bailey Norman
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:

Diocesan Experience: currently-Special Committee on Canons and Rules of Order; formerly-Standing Committee (President 2003 and 2007); Liaison, Commission on Prison Ministry; Special Committee to Study the Diocese; Wilmer Hall Board of Directors; Murray House Board of Directors; Diocesan Ecclesiastical Court.

Episcopal Church Experience: Deputy to General Conventions in 2006, 2009, 2012, and 2015; 2009 - Rules of Order Committee (secretary); 2012 - Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and

Finance (secretary); Special Budgetary Task Force (member); 2015 - Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance (member); 2018 - current member, Program, Budget and Finance Committee (elected by the committee as Secretary for budgetary work prior to 2018 Convention); current member, Special Task Force to Study Church Leadership & Compensation (elected by Task Force as Vice-Chair to report to 2018 Convention). Local Church Experience: Parish Chancellor, Finance Committee; former Capital Campaign Committee, Chair for Special Gifts; Lay Reader, Choir Section Leader; Former Chair, Rector Search Committee; Former senior Warden, treasurer, stewardship chair, and Sunday School teacher; former lay clerk, St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Edinburgh Scotland; active growing up at Bruton Parish Church, Williamsburg, VA. Community Activities: Mobile Symphony (director and immediate past chairman); WHIL Public Radio (former director and secretary); Volunteer Mobile, Inc. (former director); Mobile Bar Association (former treasurer); participant in pro bono legal service program; University of Virginia Alumni Association; assist music program at Springhill

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Avenue Temple. Personal Interests: Music, reading, keeping up with children ages 21 (senior at College of William & Mary) and 26 (graduate student, University of Montevallo); and assisting wife Nancy recovering at Murray House.

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, even with great challenges, is in a good place now with outstanding leadership, including the energetic evangelism of the "Jesus Movement" as proclaimed by the Presiding Bishop. The greatest opportunities of the Church and the Diocese are based on principles of both stability and flexibility. The stability comes through basic norms of faith and liturgy that are grounded in our history and polity. The flexibility comes through the implementation by persons and communities of faith suitable to their own circumstances. General Convention is a critical part of these principles because, unlike many traditions and denominations, it gives voice and power to clergy and laity through the House of Deputies, which works hand in hand with the House of Bishops. It is a system that works and is able to address the role of the Church in a changing world. And the changing world is what presents the greatest challenges: how to support a mainstream tradition in the face of changing values, family models, and economic circumstances. Here again the structure and polity of the Episcopal Church – including the Diocese -- allow all members to participate in addressing those challenges. Mission and ministry do not exist without challenges. Our greatest tool is evangelism, our greatest obstacle is complacency.

What sustains you in your spiritual life? Daily prayer and reflection. Weekly corporate worship. Daily visits to Murray House. Dedication of time and talent to church and community activities to enrich the lives of all people. A commitment to serve where called. Being part of the Jesus Movement as proclaimed by the Episcopal Church!



Nominee: Scott Remington
Church: St. Christopher's, Pensacola
Occupation: Attorney

Nominator: The Rev. Peter Wong
Church: Nativity, Dothan

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 lifelong active member of our diocese. In many ways I have been formed by the influence of the Church, most prominently through my congregations, Camp Beckwith, Happenings, Sewanee, and Cursillo. In the private sector, I serve as president/managing shareholder of a 37 lawyer firm in Pensacola, Clark Partington. I am grateful to my partners for allowing me to spend time since 2008 helping the Diocese as its Florida chancellor. At the parish level, I have served on my congregation's vestry and on its most recent Search Committee. Two prior Diocesan Conventions elected me to serve as a deputy to General Convention (2012 & 2015), and I was fortunate to be selected to serve on the State of the Church Committee (2012-2015). I am presently serving on General Convention's Committee on Planning, Budget & Finance (2015-2018). Serving as Chancellor, a Deputy to GC, and on GC committees has given me first hand experience on how the Episcopal Church functions and a tremendous network of people throughout the church. I believe my work in the private sector and the Church has prepared me well to serve as a deputy to the next General Convention. I would be honored and humbled to represent the Diocese at the next general convention if it is the will of God and the Convention.

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? In my opinion, the greatest opportunity we have as Episcopalians is to make new Episcopalians. To do this we have to take our message and liturgy to the world. This also represents the biggest challenge to us as individuals. As a Church we are in interesting times. For many years our Church signs have said, "The Episcopal Church Welcomes You." Our biggest challenge (and opportunity) as a Church is to make sure that the Episcopal Church remains large enough (theologically and philosophically) to live up to this motto. Promoting and maintaining a responsible system of Church governance is important to ensuring the Church is in a position to meet these challenges and take advantage of these opportunities.

What sustains you in your spiritual life? I am sustained and inspired through meditation, worship, good friends, my church family, a wife who keeps me humble, and three children in whom I see Jesus everyday.



Nominee: The Rev. Peter Wong
Church: Nativity, Dothan
Occupation: Episcopal Priest

Nominator: The Rev. Greg Hein
Church: St. Jude's, Niceville

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: To be honest, my experience at the last General Convention was mixed. I do not relish the thought of sitting through meetings and legislative sessions, but the church gathered as one is a powerful witness to the power of Christ. Moreover, the relationships that bind us together are more potent, even at General Convention, than the governance of the church. Over the course of the last 20 years of both lay and ordained

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ministry in this diocese, I have accumulated a wealth of experience in large and small parishes, among young, fresh faces as well as those whose reflect a lifetime of faithful service to God in Christ, building those bonds of unity. The formation of new Christians and their immersion in the history, tradition, and spirit of the Episcopal Church has been my joy and pleasure over those years and I hope to continue working in formation throughout the Episcopal Church. I have worked in local parishes, as a member of the Diocesan staff, and outside the Episcopal Church and have been actively cultivating relationships across the broader church for many years. All these experiences have prepared me for serving in this capacity.

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 opportunities in the Episcopal Church and in the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast lie in empowering the people who inhabit our pews to go out into the world and find ways in which they can be the Body of Christ made incarnate in their communities. The greatest challenge is complacency. We have for too long looked close to our walls rather than seeing to the horizon of what we can do and be in God's holy name. The world is wounded, broken, and lost, as are we. But out of our wounds we can bring healing, out of our brokenness we can bring wholeness, and out of our disorientation we can welcome those outside our walls to walk alongside us and find their way.

What sustains you in your spiritual life? The love of God in Christ is my great sustenance. I am fed and fueled by the sacraments of the church, by reading and studying the scriptures and those who have interpreted them over the years, and by regular prayer. My family sustains me personally, my bride, Katie, is an inspiration in despair, a companion who amplifies my joy, and a balm in times of grief. My children, JP and Lila, bring me laughter and sweetness and remind me moment by moment that I am a living witness to Christ. My hobbies of food, fishing, and travel also refresh me.