

2020 General Convention Deputation Nominations

CLERGY NOMINEE



Nominee: The Rev. Pete Burgess

Church: St. Paul's, Mobile

Nominated by: The Rev. Mary Alice Mathison

Church: Grace and St. Thomas-by-the-Sea, Panama City

Occupation: Priest

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 believe the most important position I have held in preparation for this one is that of a lay-person. As a lifelong Episcopalian, who loves the church and considers it home, I have experienced the potential for disconnect between General Convention and parish life at the ground level. As a result I feel passionate about the need for effective and grace-filled communication. As a recent seminary graduate, I feel well-prepared to engage in the conversations of the church. As a newly ordained priest, I would be honored to share in the representation of the people and clergy of our diocese.

What, in your opinion, are the greatest opportunities and challenges facing the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast at this time? I believe that our greatest current challenge is also our greatest opportunity - to share the spiritual gifts of our church with the world. While not immune to the forces of dissolution and isolation at work in the rest of society, I truly believe the Episcopal Church offers something different and uniquely transformative. Our challenge is in being situated between religious fundamentalism and extremism on one hand and cheap individualism on the other. Our opportunity is boldly and effectively to offer the world a faith that favors prayer over dogma, mystery over certitude, and discipleship over membership. While we are not the whole of Christ's body, our share in that mystical union gives more than we need to greet this opportunity with hope.

What sustains you in your spiritual life? I find spiritual sustenance in prayer (especially with beads), worship (especially in the evening), and music (especially choral music). But, I am most powerfully sustained by the people I am privileged to meet and work alongside. I am frequently brought up short by the meagerness of my faith in the face of the abundance of the Spirit - in the kindness, patience, and love of other people, not to mention the beauty of creation. Finally, I am sustained in all ways by my family, especially my wife Emma.

2020 General Convention Deputation Nominations

CLERGY NOMINEE



Nominee: The Rev. Thack Dyson

Church: St. Paul's, Daphne

Nominated by: Scott Remington

Church: St. Christopher's, Pensacola

Occupation: Priest

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 the rector of St. Paul's, Daphne. I have served in this position for over eighteen years. Before that I was the associate rector at St. Christopher's, Pensacola and rector at St. Mark's, Troy, respectively. I have served on many commissions and agencies in the DIOCGC, including four terms on the Standing Committee. I represented the diocese as a Deputy to the General Convention in 2006, 2009, 2012 and 2015. My experience as a priest in the church, member of the Standing Committee, and as a former Deputy to four General Conventions has provided me with a wealth of knowledge about the inner workings of the broader Episcopal Church. I also love our Church and am proud of our identity among other Christian traditions.

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? Baptized membership and average Sunday attendance continue to decline in The Episcopal Church. This has been felt in the DIOCGC as well. While the number of Baptized members within the DIOCGC have remained fairly level, average Sunday attendance has been declining since the early 2000's. This reality has spawned some creative ways of rediscovering who we are. For example, our diocese has been proactive in addressing these issues in recent years with its evangelism initiatives. It has forced us to step out of our comfort zones and become "active" evangelists, reaching out into our communities and getting to know our neighbors. We have also added a Saturday afternoon "seeker" service with the hope to make our congregation more accessible to the unchurched in our community. I am excited about the possibilities for growth and look forward to "thinking outside the box." Other issues facing TEC and the DIOCGC include racial reconciliation and justice, Prayer Book revision, care for creation, retaining our young people after they leave home for college and employment, and keeping TEC relevant in the decades to come. While these are major challenges, they also present real opportunities for us rethink our identity and how we do church.

What sustains you in your spiritual life? Daily prayer is foundational to my spiritual life. I begin each day in prayer by reading the Daily Office on my Mission St. Clare app and devotionals including Forward Day by Day and Jesus Calling. I study Scripture as a part of the Daily Office, in my Tuesday morning Bible study, in sermon preparation and for Sunday school. Worship is important for me, especially the Eucharist. We have five services of the Holy Eucharist each week and this satisfies this need for the sacrament. I took up Journaling again a couple of years ago and this complements my prayer life and is a great way to exercise self-examination. Journaling has helped me to be more aware of God's presence in my life and taking the time to daily record those experiences has been a blessing. Group Reunion has been a part of my spiritual discipline for thirty years and the accountability aspect has helped me to maintain my spiritual discipline.

2020 General Convention Deputation Nominations

CLERGY NOMINEE



Nominee: The Rev. Jim Flowers

Church: All Saints, Mobile

Nominated by: The Rev. Thack Dyson

Church: St. Paul's, Daphne

Occupation: Priest

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: Four time member of the Standing Committee; six time deputy to General Convention; former diocesan treasurer; member of the Commission on Racial Justice & Reconciliation; member of the state of Alabama board of the ACLU; dean of the Mobile area convocation.

What, in your opinion, are the greatest opportunities and challenges facing the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast at this time? To be a relevant voice and an agent for change and restoration in the public sphere. That would be principally focused on matters of justice and inclusion as taught by Jesus in the Gospels. We have been, over our history, inordinately concerned with our own preservation. Archbishop William Temple challenged that mentality by saying the church only exists for those outside its doors.

What sustains you in your spiritual life? The liturgy of the church not only sustains my spiritual life, but shapes it as well. As Episcopalians we value the beauty of our prayers and praises, and I am nurtured week to week by our Sunday worship. In that regard, I believe our spiritual life has more resonance when practiced in community. I have found that to be true.

2020 General Convention Deputation Nominations

CLERGY NOMINEE



Nominee: The Rev. John George

Church: Church of the Good Shepherd, Mobile

Nominated by: The Rev. David Knight

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

Occupation: Priest

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: The things that have prepared me to serve in this position are my knowledge, experience, priesthood, passion and interest in our church polity. Our church's structure, governance and commitment to equipping saints for ministry. I am the rector at the church of Good Shepherd Mobile and serve on the Standing Committee. As a member of the Commission on Racial Justice & Reconciliation, we work toward manifesting unity in the one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. I was also elected as a clergy deputy to the 79th General Convention in Austin Texas. This enabled to me attend Province IV Synod in preparation for the convention, which wet my appetite and desire to participate more fully in and learn more about our church's governance. It's important that we grow in the knowledge and love of God but also to help our congregants and greater church come to value that knowledge. Thank you for the prior opportunity and look forward with your vote to serving again as a clergy delegate to the 80th General Convention in Baltimore.

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? It is said that "among the 22,000 Christian groups and denominations in the United States, Episcopalians are the best-educated group but drop to nearly last when it comes to biblical literacy."* Our greatest strength is our current weakness. Making our Christian life a lived experience along with complementary church governance, bible and catechist literacy can transform our church into the hope we have in Jesus Christ. * Excerpt from *A Journey with John* by Marek P. Zabriskie

What sustains you in your spiritual life? My rule for life of prayer, reflection and listening.

2020 General Convention Deputation Nominations

CLERGY NOMINEE



Nominee: The Rev. Christie Hord

Church: St. John's, Pensacola

Nominated by: Gloria Battle

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

Occupation: Priest

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 was confirmed in the Episcopal Church in 1999 at St. Simon's on the Sound Episcopal Church in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. As a lay person, I have served on a Newcomer's committee, on a Rector Search Committee, as a life time member of the Altar Guild, and on a parish Vestry. As an ordained minister, I have had the privilege to serve at St. Columba's Episcopal Church in Washington D.C., as an Associate Rector at Christ Church Parish in Pensacola, Florida, and as Priest-in-Charge/now Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Pensacola, Florida. While I was a student at Virginia Theological Seminary (2012 - 2015) I served as the Student Body President (2014). As Student Body President I was a member ex-officio of the Board of Trustees, I was active in the further development of our Center for Anglican Studies, as well as leading through the everyday dynamics of a thriving, diverse, student body population. I have been active in The Consortium for Endowed Episcopal Parish's annual conference and the FORMA conference in 2017. I was an active assistant for the Anglican Center in Rome and the Anglican Communion Compass Rose Society at General Convention 2015.

What, in your opinion, are the greatest opportunities and challenges facing the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast at this time? I believe all challenges present opportunities. I believe the greatest opportunity facing the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast at this time, is navigating the complexities of a highly engaged and knowledgeable society with a tradition and culture, that to many, may seem archaic and outdated. How do we invite people into a community of fellow travelers asking the same questions? We meet them where they are. We offer good, thoughtful, honest information and we show people where to find the resources to explore further. As a child of this Diocese (DCGC) and now as a parent of teenage children, in the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast, I can offer at least 2 observable truths...young people want to do good and the church has not always done a good job of juxtaposing knowledge (Biblical, Theological, Historical) with action (how is this going to change the way I live?). The opportunity is transformation. If we as Christians, as leaders of this particular expression of The Jesus Movement, are unable to express how we ourselves are transformed by Biblical, Theological, and Historical truths, how can we expect others to do the same? Wow! What a tremendous opportunity!

What sustains you in your spiritual life? My spiritual life is sustained by many different avenues. First and foremost, I have a fantastic Spiritual Director. I am grateful for our Bishop, Rt. Rev. Russell Kendrick, who makes available a wonderful Spiritual Director, Rev. Marshall Craver, to all clergy in the diocese. I have worked to develop and maintain a healthy, diverse group of clergy colleagues. I participate in counseling on a regular basis with someone well versed in the dynamics and complexities of church leadership. I maintain a network of mentors (business, ministry, academics, family-life) that have proven invaluable. I am an avid reader. I find the works of Henry Nouwen a valuable and timely resource. I practice Centering Prayer and have found Yoga to be a positive experience for my spiritual well-being. I do believe it takes a village. I am very lucky to serve a congregation that is both a part of, and an advocate for, a spiritual support network. Most importantly, I have a family who love and support this unique expression of God's call that is ordained ministry. My husband, my children, our family friends, my children's friends, they are all a part of supporting my spiritual life. I am grateful.

2020 General Convention Deputation Nominations

CLERGY NOMINEE



Nominee: The Rev. David Knight

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

Nominated by: The Rev. Clelia Garrity

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

Occupation: Priest

Describe experiences and positions you have, or currently hold, in the church and the world that will have helped you prepare for serving in this position: I have served as Rector or Interim Rector for medium to corporate sized parishes over last 17 years. I am currently on the Standing Committee for this Diocese and a member of the 50th Anniversary Committee. I served the Diocese of Mississippi as a member of the deputation to General Convention in 2006, 2009, 2012, and 2015, and this past General Convention (2018) I was chair of the deputation for the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast. I served on the General Convention Task Force for the Study of Marriage appointed by the Presiding Bishop from 2012-2015. I served on the Executive Council's Commission on Anti-Racism 2009-2012.

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 opportunities and challenges are quite similar I believe. With Presiding Bishop Curry and our own Bishop Kendrick, we have a renewed investment and interest in evangelism, in bringing others to Christ, in letting the world know the unique and wonderful things the Episcopal church has to offer such as ancient liturgy grounded in common prayer, ongoing work in racial reconciliation, acceptance of all types and sorts of people, and the adage which I think is true and important - we don't ask you to check your mind at the door! Hopefully this helps counter the challenges - shrinking congregations, an older demographic, and a kind of built in reluctance to talk about our church. I have been blessed to have the opportunity to preach and teach on stewardship in six churches in this diocese, and I have found each of them to be full of such wonderful, caring people eager to witness Christ's love in their communities. While the challenges we face of decline may be the story of the day, I think the church always does better when our back is against the wall. This can be an exciting time to be an Episcopalian!

What sustains you in your spiritual life? Daily Office prayers, knowing thousands of people are saying the same prayers, reading the same Bible lessons each day and joining across the centuries with that great cloud of witnesses we hear about in Hebrews. In addition to this prayer and Bible time, I love preparing and leading Bible studies. And preparing and giving sermons keeps me deeply invested in the Word of God constantly. I also have a close group of friends who serve one another as spiritual guides and accountability partners. I cherish their friendship and their honesty with me. I must add serving on Cursillo staff always re-awakens joy and the love of God and the presence of the Holy Spirit within me.

2020 General Convention Deputation Nominations

CLERGY NOMINEE



Nominee: The Rev. Ed Richards

Church: Grace and St. Thomas-by-the-Sea, Panama City

Nominated by: The Rev. Dr. Margaret Shepard

Church: St. Mary's, Milton

Occupation: Deacon

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: Ed is the Deacon at St. Thomas by the Sea and Grace Churches, Panama City Beach, FL. He is the Secretary of the Diocese, a member of the Jubilee Year Planning Committee and the Commission on Prison Ministry (10 years, chair for 3 yrs.) Ed also serves as the Treasurer of the Association of Episcopal Deacons (AED) and is a member of its Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Outside of the Church Ed is active in Kairos Inside Prison Ministry at the Northwest Florida Reception Center in Chipley, FL. Before Hurricane was visitor with Prison Visitation & Support at Federal Correctional Institution in Marianna. Ed serves as a volunteer Chaplain at Gulf Coast Medical Center. He has attended the past 2 General Conventions serving as a Table Deacon at worship services & working at the AED booth. He attended various committee & general sessions and has testified in favor and against some resolutions being considered. Prior to retirement Ed worked for the Bay County Health Department in the HIV/AIDs area; United Way of NWFL as Financial Manager, VP and President; and worked in banking for 23 years.

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 available to the Episcopal Church is its ability to allow large variances of opinions without singling out members for thinking and doing things incorrectly. We can agree to disagree and still work together in love. This means we are unique from many other religious organization which tell people what they must believe in order to belong. What a tremendous opportunity for us to be able to tell folk that God loves them just the way they are. Also as a church centered around the Eucharist and liturgies we offer something very different to a world that is more and more forcing us in to set ways. The biggest challenge is telling the rest of the world about God's love for them, especially the least of them, because we, as Episcopalians have generally shied away from telling others of God's love for them. Sharing our faith, our liturgies, and our way of looking at the world is hard for many of us, which is something we must overcome.

What sustains you in your spiritual life? Prayer on a daily basis, quiet time alone with God, studying the bible and other writings, leaning new ideas or viewpoints, all church services (the Eucharist, and the daily offices). Sharing what I believe and have learned with others, especially in one on one and small group discussions. I find that pastoral care visits renew me and strengthen my faith.

2020 General Convention Deputation Nominations

CLERGY NOMINEE



Nominee: The Rev. Peter Wong

Church: Church of the Nativity, Dothan

Nominated by: Harry Hall

Church: Church of the Nativity, Dothan

Occupation: Priest

Describe experiences and positions you have, or currently hold, in the church and the world that will have helped you prepare for serving in this position: I have served as a deputy to the 2015 and 2018 General Conventions. Currently, I am a member the Taskforce on the Formation and Ministry the Baptized, serving on that committee with Bishop Russell. At the 2018 General Convention I served the Committee on the Dispatch of Business as the liaison to the Committee for Program Budget & Finance. I have served as the Rector of Nativity in Dothan since 2013 and in many other parishes as a lay person. In seminary at the University of the South I was the School of Theology member of the Board of Trustees and have maintained close relationships there through the Doctor of Ministry program. I've been active in this diocese in leadership and formation since 1997 and hope to have another opportunity to continue to engage the governance of the Episcopal 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? The great opportunity lies in our greatest challenge, the church and the world are changing, transforming and moving quickly. The church's greatest challenge is the continuing failure of many of our old models of being church, but we have before us blessed possibilities which we get to imagine as we discern how God calls us into fearless failure.

What sustains you in your spiritual life? Prayer, worship and resting in the Trinity.

2020 General Convention Deputation Nominations

LAY NOMINEE



Nominee: Jill Chow

Church: Christ Church Cathedral, Mobile

Nominated by: The Rev. Beverly Gibson

Church: Christ Church Cathedral, Mobile

Occupation: PC Application Specialist with the University of South Alabama

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 from within the dioceses as a Sharing Faith Coordinator, Diocesan Youth Minister, Racial Reconciliation Committee, and Baptized for Life Community. Within Christ Church Cathedral, I participated on the Vestry, the Outreach Team, the Hospitality team, and the Raise the Roof ministries. Each one of the positions have allowed me to open my heart and engage with my fellow Christians to follow Jesus' word and path.

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 within our diocese lies within our community. Through a certain level outreach, we are able to locate our brothers and sisters who are in need of love and support. To fulfill this need as Christians, we have to follow examples of the seven ways of love. By following the way of Turning, we learn to listen before acting. We are turning in the direction towards Christ, creating genuine relationships. The challenges that the diocese of the Central Gulf Coast face include acceptance towards the LGBT community and the lack of understanding of those who differ from us. I learned from the Racial Reconciliation committee that when posing open dialogue among groups, it creates a level of discomfort. Individuals seem to think that race is an issue of the past; it does not concern them, or they sweep the discussion under rug. Even though I have seen dramatic improvements regarding the issue, our discussions can be further expanded. This matter is not solely confined to the discussion of same sex marriage practices within our denomination, but can be expanded to the issue of accepting our brothers and sisters with Christ's love.

What sustains you in your spiritual life? What strengthens me the most in my spiritual life is daily devotion with *Forward Day By Day* which allows me to read scripture daily, reflect on additional scriptures, and respond by living with co-workers, family, and friends, as Christ wants us to.

2020 General Convention Deputation Nominations

LAY NOMINEE



Nominee: John Griffing

Church: St. Francis of Assisi, Gulf Breeze

Nominated by: The Rev. David Knight

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

Occupation: Commercial Real Estate Broker

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: Served as parish delegate to the Diocesan Convention on multiple occasions; served as parish Senior Warden, Junior Warden, and on Vestry; Co-Coordinator for parish Lenten 'Taize' Series; served on Diocesan elected and ad-hoc committees appointed by the Bishop; active in the Cursillo Ministry for many years. Have served as lay rector, on many music teams, staff, and on the Cursillo Commission-long-time outside palanca coordinator; past Chairman, Society of Industrial and Office Realtors (SIOR), Four State Chapter; past Chairman, National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP) Florida state and local chapters; Catechist at SFOA; Rotary International Paul Harris Fellow.

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? Declining memberships in parishes related to apathy, aging parishioners, etc. will call for what some will consider radical, non-traditional changes within some parishes. Parish mergers and part-time priests may be the norm for some. "Our dioceses must continue to set the rules of the road. Diminished resources require smarter use of those resources, and dioceses must set and enforce standards for financial accountability/transparency, ethical employment practices, fair treatment of volunteers, and other aspects of good governance." Jon White, Episcopal Cafe, March 6, 2016.

What sustains you in your spiritual life? I practice Centering Prayer on a daily basis as taught by Father Thomas Keating. The Holy Eucharist for me is the real presence of Christ in my life.

2020 General Convention Deputation Nominations

LAY NOMINEE



Nominee: Jeannie Kienzle

Church: All Saints, Mobile

Nominated by: The Rev. Jim Flowers

Church: All Saints, Mobile

Occupation: Organist and Choir Master

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 believe that my varied career and life experiences are positive factors that I would bring as a lay deputy of this diocese to general convention. With a church music degree from Westminster Choir College, I continued a life-long love of church music and liturgy. Some of my many "hats": professional church musician, youth minister, lay delegate to the diocesan convention, director of diocesan children's choir (Diocese of West Tennessee), member of the national executive board of the Association of Anglican Musicians, mentor and coach for Girls on the Run (a self-esteem running program for elementary-aged girls), a long distance runner. I have lived and worked in a number of dioceses across the country, including the Diocese of New Jersey, Diocese of Oregon, Diocese of West Tennessee, Diocese of Ohio, Diocese of Southern Ohio. Through these various experiences, I have gained a working knowledge of the canons of the church, and the practical experience of helping to create a meaningful liturgy through word and music. As a youth mentor, children's choir and adult choir director in the church and in the secular world I have gained leadership and relational skills with people of all ages. As a member of the national executive board of the Association of Anglican Musicians, I was party to issues of the national church, music and liturgy questions, and clergy/musician relationships. Long distance running may seem totally unrelated to being a deputy at general convention. As a veteran of ten marathons and fifteen plus half marathons, I have developed mental and physical endurance. These highly useful skills have been helpful in every aspect of my life. Running has given me the ability to concentrate for very long periods of time. Twelve hour days at general convention would not be difficult.

What, in your opinion, are the greatest opportunities and challenges facing the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast at this time? We, in the Episcopal Church at large and in the Central Gulf Coast, have so many opportunities to make a difference in the world. The most important of these is to spread the message that love makes a difference, that we are all points of light in the darkness. We all have the opportunity to serve the poor, the needy, the hungry, the disenfranchised, and the immigrant. Challenges are just opportunities in waiting. There will be difficult decisions ahead for the diocese and for the greater church. We as a church need to do what is right, not what the secular world around us might be directing. One challenge in our diocese is that it is so big and spread out across a couple of states. Electronic communication has made this easier but personal contact has become more difficult.

What sustains you in your spiritual life? For me, spiritual renewal comes from the quiet and unexpected moments: preparing for corporate worship in a quiet, empty church, running alone through the woods, finding beauty and peace in the ordinary. The journey feeds my soul more than the destination. A commitment to corporate worship, instilled in me as a child, is an important weekly ritual. As an organist/choirmaster, part of my spiritual journey is to offer thoughtful, beautiful music to enhance the communal worship experience for others in their spiritual journey.

2020 General Convention Deputation Nominations

LAY NOMINEE



Nominee: June Linke

Church: Christ Church Parish, Pensacola

Nominated by: Rita Grayson

Church: Christ Church Parish, Pensacola

Occupation: Retired College Administrator

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: Currently, in addition to serving on Standing Committee, I serve on the diocesan 50th Jubilee Celebration Committee as convener of the history subcommittee. Workshops I have completed include Evangelism 101 and Becoming Beloved Community-Sacred Conversations on Racial Reconciliation. Since 2013, I have served on the Board of Directors of Children in Crisis, Inc. In 2018, I was elected as a lay deputy to General Convention. At Christ Church, Pensacola, I have chaired the Outreach Committee since 2018. Recently, I completed a three-year term on Christ Church Vestry. In 2017, I completed the Education for Ministry Program (EfM). Other service to Christ Church includes: Rector Search Committee 2016; Women in Mission Co-chair 2016-2017; WiM Women's Summit Co-chair 2016-2017; Cuba Project; ECW president 2014-2016; ECW vice president 2013-2014; member of St. Simon ECW chapter (secretary-treasurer fall 2010 through spring 2013); Grace of Pensacola Youth Mission Week, summer 2014; Christ Church Women's Retreat, hospitality chair 2013; church breakfast assistance on 2nd Sunday each month 2015-present.

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 has a growing opportunity to open the way for more people to find the unconditional love and peace of God by reclaiming and demonstrating the true meaning of evangelism. Living as true Christians includes recognizing and constructively addressing socially-constructed biases to alleviate the marginalization of fellow human beings. The Episcopal Church at all levels provides resources to stimulate conversations and self-examination. Convincing people to genuinely participate in discussions on subjects which draw them outside of their comfort zones is our greatest challenge. Making wise decisions about using social media to share The Good News is a huge challenge. Believing "it is okay to agree to disagree" is a cornerstone of our lives as Episcopalians. Holding to this belief can be difficult in today's world of extreme rhetoric on several fronts. Strengthening our fellowship as a diocese is essential for maintaining our shared tenets. As congregations, we face challenges to meet our responsibilities in being a vital part of a diocese. Accordingly, younger people discerning God's call to the clergy need to see clear paths for education and for service among caring congregations throughout a hopeful, vibrant diocese.

What sustains you in your spiritual life? The true sense that Jesus always has and always will accept me unconditionally is the basis of my faith. The strong connection I feel to the people of Christ Church sustains me. Since joining Christ Church, Pensacola in 2004, I have been privileged to develop friendships throughout our diocese. Participating in ministries providing help at the individual level makes me very hopeful for the future of our world. It's great to be an Episcopalian!

2020 General Convention Deputation Nominations

LAY NOMINEE



Nominee: Joe McDaniel, Jr.
Church: Christ Church Parish, Pensacola

Nominated by: The Rev. John Riggins
Church: St. Paul's, Mobile

Occupation: Retired Corporate Finance Attorney

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: As a Deputy to the 79th GC, I drafted five substantive resolutions which were all passed by the GC, and served on The House of Deputies (the "HOD") Committee on Racial Justice & Reconciliation ("RJ&R") and I was elected to The Joint Nominating Committee to elect The Presiding Bishop; Legislative Aide to The HODs Committee for The Confirmation of The Presiding Bishop at the 78th GC for The Episcopal Church (the "TEC"); Alternate Lay Deputy who attended the 78th GC for the TEC; The National Vice President of The Brotherhood of St. Andrew's Committee on RJ&R; Co-Chair of The Diocese of The Central Gulf Coast's (the "CGC") Commission on RJ&R; Member of the Diocesan Nominating Committee to select the Fourth Bishop of the CGC; Former member of the Standing Committee for the Diocese of The CGC; Former Member of the Diocese Commission on Ministry; Former Member of the Diocese Commission on Finance; Former Member of the Diocese Cursillo Commission; Former Senior Warden of Christ Episcopal Church; Currently represent The Union of Black Episcopalians on The GC's Task Force and The Network Collaborative Council.

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 TEC is in the midst of profound transformation at every level of its 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 that we are also regaining a sense of mission more typical of the early American Church and a concurrent desire to have greater impact on issues of social justice. From the top on down, TEC is reimagining itself as a more flexible organization, one which wants to be both better able to adapt to local circumstances in mission/parish development as well as more creative in potential models of local leadership, training and education. The people of our diocese 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, 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 a great opportunity to live into our baptismal covenant: "to respect the dignity of every human being."

What sustains you in your spiritual life? In our common vocation as the Baptized, we must hold ourselves to a standard of interpersonal and organizational interaction that incarnates what we say we believe. This is foundational to the success of our mutual work in the Church that we be equally committed to values of respect, justice, reconciliation and peace. Christ's teachings are summarized in these words, "Love your neighbor as yourself." 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), 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 us. 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/support others to do their own spiritual labor. I believe that we all want a better world for all God's Children. It is this fundamental belief that sustains me in my spiritual life.

2020 General Convention Deputation Nominations

LAY NOMINEE



Nominee: David Quittmeyer

Church: Trinity, Mobile

Nominated by: The Rev. Beverly Gibson

Church: Christ Church Cathedral, Mobile

Occupation: Attorney

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: Standing Committee (President 2003, 2007); Secretary of the Diocese (2017); Special Committee Canons-Rules of Order (2017); Prison Ministry Comm.; Special Comm. to Study the Diocese ; Wilmer Hall Board; Murray House Board; Diocesan Ecclesiastical Court. Episcopal Church: Deputy or Alternate to General Conventions 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015, 2018; Currently: Special Task Force on Budget Process; Official Liaison of Pres. of House of Deputies to Program, Budget & Finance Committee ("PB&F"); 2018: PB&F (Secretary); Special Task Force-Church Leadership & Compensation (Vice-Chair); 2015: PB&F (member); 2012: PB&F (Secretary); Special Budgetary Task Force; 2009: Rules of Order Committee (Secretary). Prior local service: Senior Warden; Chancellor; Treasurer; Stewardship Chair; Finance Committee; Capital Campaign Committee; Lay Reader; Choir Section Leader; Chair, Rector Search Committee; lay clerk, St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Edinburgh Scotland; grew up in historic Bruton Parish Church, Williamsburg, VA. Community Activities: Mobile Symphony (Artistic VP, past chairman); WHIL Public Radio (director, secretary); Volunteer Mobile (director); Mobile Bar Association (former treasurer); local pro bono legal service program; University of Virginia Alumni Association; Springhill Avenue Temple vocal quartet under direction of Christopher Powell. Personal Interests: Music, reading, keeping up with children ages 24 and 29; and assisting wife Nancy 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? My great hope is to continue to serve the Diocese and the wider Church at General Convention as I have faithfully done for the past 14 years. Those years have taught me not always to be bound to the "old way" of doing things, but to be adaptive and creative in the life and growth of The Episcopal Church, with respect for our traditions, but also with knowledge of the need to work thoughtfully to respond to ever-changing needs and realities, both spiritual and practical. The greatest opportunities of the Church and the Diocese are based on principles of both stability and flexibility. General Convention is a critical part of these principles because, unlike many traditions and denominations, it gives voice and power to both clergy and laity. The changing world is what presents the greatest challenges: how to support a mainstream tradition respectful of values, family models, and economic realities. 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. Corporate worship. 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 through our Presiding Bishop. I have a special and perhaps unique devotion to our Diocese, having served in leadership for many years, and for the past seven years being dedicated to the work and mission of Murray House, where my wife, our former parish nurse, has been a resident after an unexpected life-changing event. I continue to grow spiritually through the rewards and challenges of life in a community of faith.