



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

Committee on Nominations ~ Nomination Booklet

June 2025

The Rev. Tom Damrosch (Pittsfield) & Ms. Sue Gore (Lee) Co-Chairs

Members of the 2025 Nomination Committee

Ms. Gilda Garcia (Springfield)

The Rev. Deacon Pat O'Connell (East Longmeadow)

Mr. Will Harron (Greenfield)

The Rev. Ann Scannell (Clinton)

This booklet describes the various positions open for election at the November 14, 2025 Diocesan Convention.

Positions to be filled are those that expire at the 2025 Convention and the Disciplinary Board positions that expire on December 31, 2025.

Incumbents who plan to be re-nominated must complete a nomination form.

The Standing Committee

The Standing Committee serves as a council of advice to the Bishop. Its primary duties include approving candidates for the ordination process, granting consent to Episcopal elections throughout the country, responding to tasks asked for by the Bishop or canon law, and approving the purchase and sale of any church property. Whenever the diocese is without a bishop, the Committee serves as the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese, a situation in which the responsibilities increase dramatically. Each member has a specific role. In addition to the offices of President and Secretary, two members provide liaison with the Commission on Ministry, and two are responsible for property concerns. All members must be prepared to help set policy and oversee the life of our diocese.

The Committee consists of four Presbyters, who are canonically and actually resident in the diocese, and four Laypersons, who are confirmed, adult communicants of this Church in good standing and actually resident in this Diocese, elected in rotation for four-year terms. Members may serve two consecutive four-year terms, in addition to any prior time filling a vacancy.

The Standing Committee meets every month, excluding the summer.

Clerical Members

The Rev. Patrick Perkins

The Rev. Meredyth Ward

The Rev. Ann Scannell

The Rev. Nathaniel Anderson

Term of Office Expires

Convention of 2025 (*eligible*)

Convention of 2025 (*eligible to stand for balance of unexpired term*)

Convention of 2027

Convention of 2028

Lay Members

Ms. Wende Wheeler

Ms. Phyllis Larson

Ms. Carole Ibsen

Mr. Richard Gore

Term of Office Expires

Convention of 2025 (*ineligible, end of 2nd full term*)

Convention of 2026

Convention of 2027

Convention of 2028

The Diocesan Council

Between meetings of the Diocesan Convention, the Diocesan Council has the authority to speak for the Convention, to carry out the basic policies established by the Convention, and work with the Bishop to provide oversight to the diocese as a whole. The Council acts between Conventions as the fiscal authority for the Diocese and ratifies executive staff appointments of the Bishop. The Council serves as the Board of Directors of the Diocese. Members must bring a broad perspective to the evaluation of reports from other diocesan committees, staff and missionaries.

The Council shall consist of the Bishop, the President of the Standing Committee (as Vice President), the Secretary of the Convention and the Treasurer of the Diocese, plus one (1) representative appointed by the Trustees for the Diocese, and ten (10) other persons to be elected by the Convention, from the Corridors, as follows:

Worcester Corridor –two (2) Clerics and two (2) Lay Persons;
Valley Corridor – two (2) Clerics and two (2) Lay Persons;
Berkshire Corridor – one (1) Cleric and one (1) Lay Person

Members may serve two consecutive three-year terms, in addition to any prior time filling a vacancy.

The Diocesan Council meets every month, excluding the summer, with one full day retreat scheduled in February.

Officers and Appointed Members

The Rt. Rev. Douglas Fisher, President
The Rev. Nathaniel Anderson, Vice President
Ms. Wende Wheeler, Secretary
Mr. Mark Rogers, Treasurer
Mr. Steve Lewis, Trustee Representative

Clerical Members

The Rev. Mary Rosendale
The Rev. Michael Tuck
The Rev. Martha Sipe
The Rev. Dcn. Pat O’Connell
The Rev. Dcn. Beth Washburn

Corridor

Worcester
Berkshire
Valley
Valley
Worcester

Term of Office Expires

Convention of 2025 (eligible)
Convention of 2025 (eligible)
Convention of 2026
Convention of 2027
Convention of 2027

Lay Members

Vacancy
Dr. Holly Dolan
Mr. Roland Holstead
Mr. Kurt Hultgren
Ms. Amanda Watroba

Corridor

Valley
Worcester
Valley
Worcester
Berkshire

Term of Office Expires

Convention of 2025
Convention of 2026
Convention of 2026
Convention of 2027
Convention of 2027

The Chapter of Christ Church Cathedral

The Chapter of Christ Church Cathedral is the equivalent of the vestry of a church. The word “Chapter” refers to the practice in medieval cathedrals of monks meeting to conduct the business of the cathedral and of reading a chapter of the Bible at their gatherings.

The Charter of Christ Church Cathedral states that the Chapter has “the care and management of the temporal affairs of the Cathedral, and the determination of such spiritual matters of administration as may be referred to it by the Bishop or by the Dean.” The Bishop of the Diocese is the presiding officer of the Chapter. The Chapter of Christ Church Cathedral meets three times a year. The Executive Committee, chaired by the Dean of the Cathedral, meets to conduct the business of the Cathedral on the other months of the year.

Three lay persons, traditionally (not required) one from a church in each corridor of the Diocese – and three clergy, also traditionally (not required) one from each corridor – are elected at Diocesan Convention to serve on the Cathedral Chapter. They help to bring the concerns of the Diocese to the Cathedral, they offer guidance in the Cathedral’s role as the “mother church” of the Diocese, and they enhance the bonds of fellowship and ministry between the Cathedral and the churches of the Diocese. Members may serve two full terms (six consecutive years) and may be re-elected after the expiration of at least one year.

<u>Lay Representatives</u>	<u>Corridor</u>	<u>Term of Office Expires</u>
Ms. Patricia Timothy	Valley	Convention of 2025 (<i>eligible</i>)
Ms. Claudia Ellett	Berkshire	Convention of 2026
Ms. Karen Gladwin	Valley	Convention of 2027

<u>Diocesan Honorary Canons</u>	<u>Corridor</u>	<u>Term of Office Expires</u>
The Rev. Libby Wade	Berkshire	Convention of 2026
The Rev. Laura Goodwin	Worcester	Convention of 2027
The Rev. Joel Martinez	Valley	Convention of 2027

Disciplinary Board

The Disciplinary Board consists of four clerical members and three lay members. The Disciplinary Board is an adjudicatory body to hear and determine charges of offenses and misconduct against members of the clergy, all as defined in Title IV of the canons of the Episcopal Church. It is helpful, but not essential, for members to have an understanding of the legal process. The Province conducts periodic one-day training seminars for all Board members. Members may serve two full terms (six consecutive years) and may be re-elected after the expiration of at least one year.

<u>Clerical Members</u>	<u>Term of Office Expires</u>
The Rev. Valerie Bailey Fischer	December 31, 2025 (<i>ineligible, end of 2nd full term</i>)
The Rev. Dcn. Patricia O’Connell	December 31, 2025 (<i>ineligible, end of 2nd full term</i>)
The Rev. Michael Hamilton	December 31, 2026
The Rev. Dcn. Lora Smith	December 31, 2027

<u>Lay Members</u>	<u>Term of Office Expires</u>
Ms. Mary Martin	December 31, 2025 (<i>ineligible, end of 2nd full term</i>)
Ms. Sue Gore	December 31, 2026
Mr. Robert Mercurio	December 31, 2027

Provincial Synod

Synod deputies meet together with others from the various dioceses of Province I. Various subcommittees coordinate activities that can be shared among the dioceses.

One Clerical Deputy and one Clerical Alternate Deputy to the Provincial Synod are elected at the Annual Convention held in a year in which the General Convention meets. The Clerical Representative shall be a Presbyter or a Deacon canonically resident in the Diocese. One Lay Deputy and one Lay Alternate Deputy to the Provincial Synod are elected at the Annual Convention held in the year following that in which the General Convention meets. The Lay Representative shall be a confirmed, adult communicant of this Church, in good standing in the Diocese but not necessarily domiciled in the Diocese. The Annual Meeting of the Synod is held in November.

Lay Members

Ms. Katharine Burnett
Vacant (Alternate)

Term of Office Expires

Convention of 2027

Clerical Members

The Rev. Samuel Vaught
Vacant (Alternate)

Term of Office Expires

Convention of 2027

General Convention Deputies and Alternates

~ The 82nd General Convention will take place in Phoenix, AZ in 2027

At the Annual Meeting of the Diocese in the calendar year two years preceding a triennial meeting of the General Convention, eight members of the Clergy and eight Laypersons shall be elected as Deputies and Alternate Deputies to represent the Diocese at the General Convention. The four (4) candidates in each Order receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected as Deputies. The four candidates in each Order receiving the next highest number of votes shall be elected as Alternate Deputies, to serve, as needed, in the order of the number of votes received.

The Clerical Deputies and Alternate Clerical Deputies shall be Presbyters or Deacons canonically resident in the Diocese. The Lay Deputies and Alternate Lay Deputies shall be confirmed adult communicants of the Church in the Diocese.

Deputies and Alternate Deputies serve any number of three year terms. Deputies (and the First Alternate Deputies) should be able to give up a week of their professional and family obligations and should be prepared to devote full days at the Convention – normally 7:30am – 10 pm. There is a significant amount of reading and preparation beforehand, and a detailed process of reporting back to the diocese afterward. Deputies and Alternate Deputies should be organized, faithful, dedicated and leaders, able to vote according to both their informed conscience and their sense of the will of the diocese as a whole.

Alternate Deputies are seated on the floor of the convention when a Deputy is unable to be present for any reason. The Diocese pays for all Deputies and the First Alternate Deputy in each order to be present at General Convention.

Clerical Deputies

The Rev. Cn. Rich Simpson
The Rev. Tanya Wallace
The Rev. Meredyth Ward
The Rev. Dcn. Jason Burns

Term of Office Expires

Convention of 2025
Convention of 2025
Convention of 2025
Convention of 2025

Clerical Alternate Deputies

The Rev. Charlotte LaForest
The Rev. Michael Tuck
The Rev. Nina Pooley
The Rev. Eliot Moss

Term of Office Expires

Convention of 2025
Convention of 2025
Convention of 2025
Convention of 2025

Lay Deputies

Ms. Meg Galbreath
Ms. Alexizendria Link
Mr. John Cheek
Ms. Amada Watroba

Term of Office Expires

Convention of 2025
Convention of 2025
Convention of 2025
Convention of 2025

Lay Alternate Deputies

Mx. Micah Walter

Term of Office Expires

Convention of 2025