

## Members of the Disciplinary Board for Bishops

TERM OF OFFICE: 6 years

NUMBER TO BE ELECTED: 5 bishops elected by the House of Bishops, 2 clergy (deacon or priest) and 2 lay persons elected by the House of Deputies

POSITION DESCRIPTION: The Disciplinary Board for Bishops is a court of the Church to have original jurisdiction over matters of discipline of Bishops, to hear Bishops' appeals from the imposition of restriction on ministry or placement on Administrative Leave and to determine venue issues as provided in Canon IV. 19.5. (This description is taken from Canon IV.17.3.)

QUALITIES AND COMPETENCIES A NOMINEE SHOULD HAVE: Members of the Disciplinary Board for Bishops should be well-versed in the Canons; understand the goals and processes of Title IV; embrace a process that includes reconciliation as well as justice; and be able to articulate that goal in a way that does not deny or diminish the hurt of those who are feeling wronged. Compassion, dedication to finding solutions/resolutions that uphold the Canons in a manner that serves the overarching goal of reconciliation, and clarity about acceptable/unacceptable behavior are all essential qualities for Board members. Analytical thinking and the ability to balance the letter and spirit of the law are equally essential. It is vital that incumbents have computer literacy and Internet access. Candidates need the ability to keep information confidential and understand that it can be shared only within the guidelines of the Title IV process

Elect: Lay 2 Clergy 2 Bishop 5  
 Slate Needs Minimum of: Lay 3 Clergy 3 Bishop 8

*HoD elects lay and clergy; HoB elects bishops*

Lay	Clergy	Bishops	
Joan Case (II Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe)	Channing Smith (VIII, Los Angeles)	Thomas Brown (I Maine)	Gregory Rickel (IV SE. Florida)
Joe Thompson (VIII California)	Christy Stang (VI Minnesota)	Brian Cole (IV E. Tennessee)	Martha Stebbins (VI Montana)
Alan Murray (VIII Oregon)	Molly Weiss (VI Minnesota)	Mark Cowell (VII W. Kansas)	Megan Traquair (VIII N. California)
Michael Truncale (VII Texas)	Fatima Yakubu-Madus (V Indianapolis)	Wendell Gibbs (V Michigan)	Ruth Woodliff-Stanley (IV S. Carolina)

**Thomas Brown**

Bishop  
Portland, ME  
Maine, I



In the past 25 years I have served on several general church commissions, committees, agencies, and boards. As a longtime deputy to General Convention, and now as a bishop, I have experience working alongside others to strengthen the Episcopal Church's response to the Great Commission. Yet to do the work of growing Christians we need policies and structures that will ensure transparency, health in all its forms, and accountability of the church's leaders.

My interest in serving on the Disciplinary Board of Bishops reflects an interest in making sure the disciplinary process for bishops is followed consistently and correctly. Furthermore, I am a relatively inexperienced bishop, and I hope that my new perspective will be put to use in building a disciplinary board who are fair, honest, and willing to make difficult decisions.

**Brian Cole**

Bishop  
Knoxville, TN  
East Tennessee, IV



I have a deep interest in supporting the health and wholeness of the House of Bishops and our shared ministry.

**Mark Cowell**

Bishop  
Larned, Kansas  
Western Kansas, VII



I am, in my secular life, currently a county attorney and a city prosecutor. I have 29 years experience practicing law. My training is in the evaluation, preparation and prosecution of offenses. I am able to read and interpret statutes, ordinances and canons, and I understand the procedures required. If elected, I would bring my professional training and skills to this board. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

**Wendell Gibbs**

Bishop  
Lewis Center, OH  
Michigan, V

I have served on numerous bodies in the Church, most recently as Chair of the Committee on Dispatch for the House of Bishops and as a member of the Disciplinary Board for Bishops. My tenure as a bishop diocesan afforded me hands-on experience with Title IV and that experience has been useful in my first term on the DBB. I believe that experience is important when seeking to hold people accountable for their actions while also seeking reconciliation and healing for all parties involved.



**Gregory Rickel**

Bishop  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL  
Southeast Florida, IV

I have been a bishop for 15 plus years and in that time have learned the Title IV system, watched it change, etc. Along with my MDiv and D.Min I hold a Masters in Interpersonal and Organizational Communication and a Master's in Health Service Administration.



**Martha Stebbins**

Bishop  
Helena, MT  
Montana, VI

I am a diocesan bishop in my 4th year. Prior to my election, I was on a variety of diocesan bodies for which I had to become familiar with the Episcopal Church canons. My prior background as a veterinarian and epidemiologist. It is from that profession where I was trained in critical thinking and problem solving. I believe these gifts and my experience now as a bishop would be an asset to the Disciplinary Board for Bishops.



**Megan Traquair**

Bishop  
Fair Oaks, CA  
Northern California, VIII



Our disciplinary Canons aim for healing and redemption in painful circumstances. I believe I have the knowledge and experiences to contribute to this process for Bishops. I have worked through complex disciplinary matters, first as Canon to the Ordinary and Intake Officer (2013-2019) and now as Bishop Diocesan (2019 - present). I am familiar with the range of emotional responses which can arise in the persons involved. Equally valuable has been the the careful work with the multiple parties involved in any larger altercation, which includes the parish or diocese itself. All participants need a path to healing in Christ. Beyond addressing the issue at hand, is the importance of laying the groundwork for redemption and restoration of communal life, though not in the same setting anymore. I believe my skills, experiences, and pastoral awareness would be valuable for serving on the Bishop's Disciplinary Board.

**Ruth Woodliff-Stanley**

Bishop  
Charleston, SC  
South Carolina, IV



My calling has included work to transform conflict and bridge across lines of difference in the church over the past three decades. This work has led me to hone skills of considering situations from multiple vantage points, listening with much care in the belief that the truth comes into sharpest relief when a multitude of voices are clearly heard and fully respected. I have been responsible for disciplinary processes in different parts of the Body of Christ. These processes have required spiritual grounding and a capacity for thorough work held in a theology of redemption and hope. I have a strong commitment to justice accompanied by a respect for the power dynamics with which we must wrestle always as we do the holy work of seeking the truth of any situation. I believe our commitment as bishops to hold one another accountable is holy and life giving. I believe what is good for the body is good for the individual, and what is good for the individual is good for the body.



**Channing Smith**

Priest

Montecito, CA

All Saints by the Sea

Los Angeles, VIII



All ministry is pastoral. In my 30+ years of ordained ministry, I have both learned this and lived into this value. In addition, I believe deeply in the healing and transformational presence of God in our lives and in the life of the church. Through pastoral care and accountability, I have seen the Spirit change and heal painful experiences in church communities. During my ministry, I have chaired three different school boards and believe deeply in the importance of governance, roles and responsibilities. Having been trained in inquiry-driven leadership, I bring a curiosity and an interest to know and learn more about a situation while including everyone within the group to share their perspective. I have had diocesan experience serving on the standing committees of two different dioceses as well as chairing a diocesan stewardship committee for 5 years. It is personally important for me to continue to expand the reach of the Episcopal church and encourage the practice of racial healing and increased diversity. My previous parish was active in this work being one of the first congregations in the Episcopal Diocese of Texas to participate in Project Curate. As of January of this year, I began serving as rector of All Saints by the Sea in Montecito, CA.

**Christy Stang**

Priest

Chanhassen, MN

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Edina, MN

Minnesota, VI



Although new to ministry, I am passionate about ensuring that clergy are supported, both in preventative care and responsive support in cases of misconduct and complaints, especially bishops. I have observed the positive and negative repercussions of behavior in the episcopate, and if elected to the Disciplinary Board for Bishops, I would bring my work ethic, deep faith in Jesus, and a holistic approach to the individual along with an awareness of the Canons. I hold myself accountable to being open-minded and compassionate, responding to information with an eye for detail as well as for the bigger picture. As someone elected as an alternate deputy for the Minnesota delegation to General Convention in 2024, I understand that the structure and decisiveness of the Canons provide both a necessary and pastoral framework for church life. I hope to have many years of ministry ahead of me, and I am invested in the health and well-being of everyone in the church.

**Molly Weiss**

Priest

Oakdale, MN

Christ Episcopal Church, Woodbury

Minnesota, VI



Across my 23 year career in corporate and non-profit Human Resources, my primary role was to ensure the following of policies and law – both corporate as well as State and Federal. I am a trained investigator and have conducted innumerable and a wide variety of investigations. At the end of these investigations, my role was to help leaders make tough decisions about how to handle the process with care, especially showing respect and honoring the dignity of all involved. In my formation for priesthood, I took classes on the Canons and have, as applicable, applied this knowledge in my work as the Chair of the Personnel Committee for the Episcopal Church in Minnesota.

**Fatima Yakubu-Madus**

Deacon

Indianapolis, IN

Christ Church Cathedral

Indianapolis, V



1. Networking in the church and Community
2. Discernment
3. Advocacy and Outreach
4. Mission work in Africa

The experiences listed above give me a broader view of the church and the world at large. I served two terms on Commission on Ministry, this allowed me the opportunity to walk with aspirants in discerning their call. In addition, I was on the search committee for my current Bishop. I am currently on the board for the Funds for the Diaconate. I have been ordained since 2010 and serving my second parish.

I worked in a fortune 10 Pharmaceutical company multiple roles as a research scientist, manager of a laboratory, and operation consultant.

I have continued to be a missionary for Community Engagement and served as a deacon at Christ Church Cathedral.

Founded a non profit organization in 2008 that has given me the opportunity to collaborate with different Dioceses in the Anglican Communion.

**Joan Case**

Lay

Holzkirchen, Bavaria

Church of the Ascension, Munich, Germany

Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe, II



I am a lay person who is engaged in various ministries and am active in the local community in particular as a trained hospice volunteer.

Interacting effectively with a wide range of people has been an important part of my life as a church leader, as a volunteer working in a crisis management team and in my professional life. I have acute

listening skills, being trusted to operate closely in confidence with vulnerable people who are in sensitive situations. I have been invited to act as a confidante and counsellor and have experience in conflict resolution. I am able to analyse and process complex information.

I am not a legal specialist but do have sound common sense. I am conscious of the goals and processes of Title IV, recognize the importance of prayerful consideration of information and am cognizant of the need for justice and reconciliation for all persons impacted by Title IV-related events. I believe that my competences and skills would be helpful on the Disciplinary Board.

**Joseph Thompson**

Lay

Omaha, NE

Epiphany, San Carlos CA

California, VIII



I am a clergy spouse, the proud holder of a M.Div. degree from Yale, and an attorney licensed to practice law in Oregon, Nebraska, and North Carolina. I have served as a Deputy District Attorney, General Counsel for a state agency, and as an Administrative Law Judge, presiding over cases where the stakes

ranged from loss of a license to involuntary medication of the ill. My experience as a lay leader, with courtroom procedure, and decision-making in contested cases makes me well qualified to serve on the Disciplinary Board for Bishops.

If elected, I will serve faithfully in accordance with our Baptismal Covenant: striving for justice, striving for peace, and with respect for the dignity of every human being. I will do everything in my power to ensure diligent pursuit of accountability and reconciliation, a level playing field, fair and impartial treatment for all parties, and a caring heart for all those injured, intentionally or accidentally, by the church.

**Alan Murray**

Lay

Milwaukie, OR

All Saints Episcopal Church, Portland, OR  
Oregon, VIII



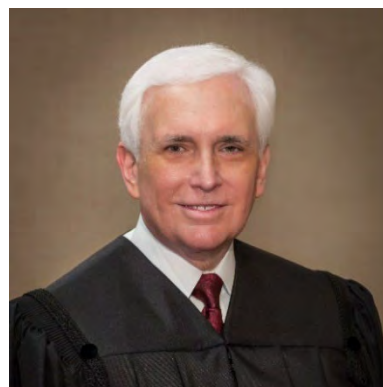
My professional background as a Marriage and Family Therapist and a Clinical Practice Specialist has helped me to understand how systems work and impact each other. I earned my counseling graduate degree in a Mennonite seminary which specializes in peace making, conflict resolution and mediation. I have over twenty years of clinical experience in many clinical and corporate settings which requires analytic and systemic thinking along with the art of bringing healing and wholeness. My involvement in the General Convention, interim bodies and legislative committees have equipped me with a good knowledge of the canons and especially Title IV. I value transparency, accountability, deep listening and collaboration. I have companioned clergy who had undergone disciplinary process and understands both the letter and the spirit of the law, holding the tension of both justice and reconciliation as a goal. As a queer person of color, I hope to bring a diverse perspective to the Disciplinary Board.

**Michael Truncala**

Lay

Beaumont, TX

St. Mark's Episcopal Beaumont, Texas  
Texas, VII



Prior to becoming a federal judge, I was a trial lawyer, mediator, and arbitrator. In this capacity, I learned the importance of understanding that there are two sides to every story. Through the adversarial process, the truth emerges. Also, I learned that corrective measures (e.g. verdicts, settlements) need to be tailored to create the appropriate outcome based upon the facts and the law. The skills that I learned as a lawyer, mediator, and arbitrator are the skills that I rely upon as a judge. As a judge, I apply the rule of law to the facts of each case. I let the law and the facts guide me. I suspect that the same skills would be useful in analyzing matters that come before the Board of Discipline. Finally, I have learned that regardless of the merits of claims or defenses, all participants in the process should be treated with dignity and respect.