

## **Executive Council**

TERM OF OFFICE: 6 years

NUMBER TO BE ELECTED: 6 lay persons, 2 presbyters or deacons, 2 bishops

POSITION DESCRIPTION: The Executive Council is the Board of Directors of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (DFMS) (Title I, Canon 3 (Article II, Constitution of DFMS)). In addition, Members carry out the program and policies adopted by the General Convention and have charge of the coordination, development, and implementation of the ministry and mission of the Church. The Executive Council is required to manage the budget of the Church, to submit to General Convention a budget for the next triennium, and to make annual reports to the Church of receipts and disbursements and a statement of all trust funds and properties. (Title I, Canon 4). The Council does its work within four standing committees: Finance, Governance and Operations, Mission Beyond the Episcopal Church, and Mission Within the Episcopal Church. Standing Committees and Task Forces of the Council may meet either by teleconference or in person for two or three days excluding additional travel time in the interim between Council's regular meetings (see Canon I.4. Appointments may be made to some Interim Bodies as liaisons). Members are expected to attend all meetings, unless otherwise excused, and to come to all meetings prepared for the work ahead including reading all reports and other materials sent to members in advance of meetings.

QUALITIES & COMPETENCIES AND NOMINEE SHOULD HAVE: All nominees must have a commitment to this ministry and the time to participate fully. Council members need a deep commitment to God's mission in the Church and world, strong faith, openness to new ideas, flexibility, the ability to communicate in small and large groups, the capacity to engage with staff members from the Episcopal Church Center, and a broad perspective of the Church on a local and global scale. Nominees should have a broad, compassionate understanding of the needs of The Episcopal Church, and a strong commitment to the Church's mission and ministry. We seek and strive for diverse voices and skills appropriate to our mission. Specific skills and gifts are desired in the areas of: 1) evangelism, racial reconciliation or stewardship of creation; 2) understanding of the workings of the Anglican Communion and The Episcopal Church; 3) finances and budget management; 4) organizational development; 5) the fiscal and fiduciary duties of corporate directors; 6) proven advocacy skills; and 7) good communication abilities, as well as abilities in the planning, implementation and completion of assignments.

Report to the 81<sup>st</sup> General Convention

---

Elect: Lay 6 Clergy 2 Bishop 2  
 Slate Needs Minimum of: Lay 12 Clergy 4 Bishop 4

*HoD elects clergy and lay; HoB elects bishops*

Lay		Clergy	Bishops
Wendy Blackman (II New Jersey)	Heidi Kim (VI Minnesota)	Randy Callender (III Maryland)	Diane Jardine Bruce (VIII Los Angeles)
Wendy Cañas (II New York)	Laura Russell (II Newark)	Karen Coleman (I Massachusetts)	Jonathan Folts (VI South Dakota)
Grecia Christian Reynoso (IX Dominican Republic)	Katie Sherrod (VII Texas)	Kimberly Jackson (IV Atlanta)	Susan Haynes (III S. Virginia)
Victor Feliberty-Ruberté (II)	Jill Showers Chow (IV Alabama)	Lester Mackenzie (VIII Los Angeles)	Bonnie Perry (V Michigan)
GJ Gordy (VIII Navajoland)	Linda Aristondo (II, New York)	Eric Metoyer (VIII California)	
Warren Hawk (VI S. Dakota)		Rhonda Rogers (VII Texas)	

**Wendy Blackman**

Lay  
Hackensack, New Jersey  
St. Mark's Episcopal  
New Jersey, II



I was baptized and confirmed in the Anglican Church in Barbados, lived in the United Kingdom during my teenage and young adult life, attended church while there. Have been in the USA for almost fifty years and have been involved in the Episcopal Church for over forty years.

I served in multiple capacities, at the local level, Youth Group leader, acolytes, Lecture, Usher, Vestry, LEM, Alter Guild, currently Senior Warden.

Diocesan Level, Diocesan Council, Standing Committee, Board of Mission, Commission on Black Ministry, Anti Racism Commission, Acolyte Festival Co-Ordinator, Chair of the Van Duzer Scholarship Committee, Search Committee for Current Bishop Elect Sally French .

Member of (UBE) Union of Black Episcopalians for many years, Current President Earl B. Scott Chapter Diocese of NJ '

Retired Neurosurgical Critical Nurse. I have worked with people from all walks of life. I love people, in retirement I continue to engage with people am not afraid to voice my opinion.

**Wendy Cañas**

Lay  
Bronx, NY  
St. Ann's Episcopal Church  
New York, II



"Love in Action"

In 2008, I became a member of the Episcopal Church because I saw my Church serving all community members with love in action. The love in action I experienced the year at St. Ann's

made me understand that serving my neighbor is the ultimate love that all Christians must share in their daily ministry. My work at the parish level and various diocesan committees prepares me to be an excellent executive council member. In my Church, I held a vestry member position and warden. At this moment, I am the Church's treasure. In the Diocese of New York, my first leadership experience was in the council. As a council member (2010), I served on the social concern and budget committees.

My first experience with General Convention was in 2015 as an Alternate. In 2015, I was amazed by all the work that happened among the "Deputies of Color" to ensure that all church members feel loved and respected in the Church. My hope is my leadership experience as a member.

**Grecia Christian Reynso**

Lay

La Romana, República Dominicana

Iglesia Episcopal Todos Los Santos

Dominican Republic, IX



I have been an Episcopalian since birth, and I am a LAWYER - NOTARY with a DOCTORATE degree. I have served on diocesan and local committees, including the following:

Chancellor of the Diocese, Chair of the Committee on Constitution and Canons, member of the Women’s Fellowship,

Daughter of the King, Evangelism, and Fellowship, and I was a member of the Disciplinary Board, as well as a member of the Task Force Committee on Cuba, the standing committee of World Mission, and currently a member of the Court of Review of the Episcopal Church.

For me it has been a great experience to work, serve, worship and glorify with love, humility and simplicity of heart, putting my knowledge, gifts and talent at the service of my Episcopal church. I give all this for the blessings I always receive from our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Victor Feliberty-Ruberte**

Lay

Ponce, PR

San Lucas Evangelista

Puerto Rico, II



Episcopal Lay Educator

Professional Experience: Full Professor at the Inter-American University of PR, teaching courses in history, cultural studies, and qualitative research methodologies. I have also served as dean of administration & finance (2002 to 2018) and now as academic dean (since February 2020).

Education: B.S. in Industrial Engineering from the University of PR; M.Div. with a focused area in Historical Theology from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia; and Ph.D. in History with a subspecialty in History of the Americas from the IAUPR Metropolitan Campus. In addition, I have completed professional certifications in Strategic Planning, Lean Enterprise, Leadership, Project Management, Mediation and Conflict Management, and Coaching, among others.

It will be an honor to serve in Church governance, bringing my talents, perspectives, and experiences to affirm the Anglican tradition and its commitment to racial, environmental, gender, and economic justice.

**Gerlene Gordy**

Lay  
Farmington, NM  
St. Marks Church  
Navajoland Area Mission, VIII



I am a lifelong Episcopalian, having grown up in St. Mark's Church in Coal Mine, New Mexico. At the beginning of my service to the church, it was primarily to represent my small church in our annual convocation.

My life in the church began with leading Sunday School, Senior Warden, Area Mission Council, Vacation Bible School, Commission on Ministry, Youth Coordinator, General Convention Deputy, and now Communications for the Area Mission. I have also served as vice chair of a legislative committee to the General Convention. I am now an Evangelism Grant's Committee member and sit on the board for Episcopal Communicators. I have also participated in many events and conferences with the Native American/Indigenous Ministries of the Episcopal Church.

Through my background as a layperson in the Episcopal Church with deep cultural indigenous roots and my work in Communications and outreach, I feel that I have the skill set to be useful and can offer a unique voice to the Executive Council.

**Warren Hawk**

Lay  
Wakpala, South Dakota  
St. Elizabeth's Mission Church, Standing Rock Mission  
South Dakota, VI



At-Large Tribal Council, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. Constitutional oaths: Exercise powers through appropriate motion, resolution or ordinance, subject to any limitation of the Constitution or applicable statues of the United States. Negotiate with Tribal, Federal, State, Local and International governments and advise and consult with representatives of said governmental agencies on all activities which may affect the Tribe. Advise the Secretary of the Interior on all appropriation estimates or Federal projects for the benefit of the Tribe. Promote and protect the health, education and general welfare of the members of the Tribe. Manage, protect and preserve the property of the Tribe and the wildlife and natural resources of the Tribe. Administer any funds within the control of the Tribe. All other Legislative and Governmental duties outlined in the Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Constitution and Ordinances. Serve as Chair of the Judicial Committee - Budgetary and Law legislative body.

**Heidi Kim**

Lay

Minneapolis, MN

St. John the Evangelist, St. Paul, MN

Minnesota, VI



I have been engaged in the ministry of racial healing and justice-making for over 40 years, in the church and in secular society. I served as the Staff Officer for Racial Reconciliation on the Presiding Bishop's staff for 5 years and have been the convener of a Commission for Racial Healing and Justice in ECMN. I have engaged in research and private consulting around conflict transformation and organization development in faith communities and am a Qualified Administrator of the Intercultural Development Inventory. I also have a background in secondary and higher education and the nonprofit sector. I have deep experience in organizational culture/change initiatives, including challenging issues in human resources management. I am a Korean American immigrant currently residing in Province VI. I would feel humbled and privileged to serve the church as a member of the Executive Council.

**Laura Russell**

Lay

Guttenberg, NJ

All Saints Episcopal Parish, Hoboken, New Jersey

Newark, II



My calling is church governance. I am blessed to be able to use this passion in roles at all levels of our Church. My skills in church polity, governance and advocacy are what I can bring to Executive Council. I served as Chair of the Social Justice and International Policy Legislative Committee. I am a five-time Deputy, and chaired several interim bodies, recently Chairing the Committee to Oversee our Anti-Harassment Policies. I am the President of the Court of Review. As a board member of non-profits, I drafted bylaws and procedures. As a practicing attorney representing low-income survivors of domestic violence, I have spent my career working for justice, and bring my desire for justice to every committee I am on. Working for a not-for-profit, I learned budget management and strategic planning. Throughout my career and within the Church, I have sought to mentor young adults and raise up all voices in the Church by creating safe space and working to ensure equity in processes.



**Katie Sherrod**

Lay

Fort Worth, TX

St. Luke's in the Meadow, Fort Worth

Texas, VII



Polity matters. A powerful force for good is generated when laity, deacons, priests, and bishops work together, all respecting the dignity of every order of ministry. It matters especially in times of stress. If pulled out of balance, great harm can result.

I know how to speak up, taught by lived experience in the Diocese of Fort Worth, reporting on 2 Lambeth Conferences, taking part in 12 General Conventions, and previous service on the Executive Council 2009-15.

In a post pandemic world, amidst grief of more than one million deaths, we can minister to physical, emotional, and spiritual exhaustion with the life-giving, energy-generating news of a loving God.

We must be a safe place for the historically marginalized, invisible, and ignored, especially the targets of powerful interest groups. We must not only speak up for them, we must stand with them when they speak up.

All this, because when we mark someone in baptism as Christ's own forever, it is with a cross, not an asterisk.

**Jill Showers Chow**

Lay

Mobile, AL

Christ Church Cathedral

Alabama, IV



I am a lifelong Episcopalian. Over the years, I've had many experiences with church groups and programs. In particular, my work with Baptized for Life Initiative has provided me with the opportunity to not only share my spirituality with other but to look within myself and how God calls me to be a disciple. An experience that I look back to has been through the continued partnership with the Mobile MOB Pacers; we began a ministry series to promote health and wellness through physical exercise and healthy eating habits. Through evening walks and monthly dinners, we were able to not only teach people about keeping their bodies healthy and active but also to engage their minds and spirits with thoughtful conversations during our ministries. The Baptized for Life Initiative also allowed me to participate in the Prayers in the Park Project. We reached out to the unhoused, our neighbors, and those who are alone. In our time together we shared meals, Eucharist, and conversation.

**Linda Aristondo**

Lay

New York, NY

St Mary's Episcopal Church (Harlem) New York City

New York, II



I am a Latina lay member of the Church at this time, a third-year seminarian, and on the ordination track in the Diocese of New York. Among my competencies is devotion to justice and reconciliation exemplified by my current role as an attorney in the field of restorative justice. I function as legal counsel with a commitment to the highest standard of justice while seeking opportunities for the individual charged to be offered the most supportive systems available as they journey to return to the best version of themselves. I also acknowledge the pain of aggrieved individuals who also deserve to be lovingly heard and seen while justice is made available to both parties. I place my competencies and skills at the door of the Church, at large. It would be an honor and privilege to serve in this capacity.

**Randy Callender**

Priest

Odenton, MD

St. Philip's, Annapolis

Maryland, III



As a committed member of the Episcopal Church, I strongly believe in the mission and values of our faith. I have been actively involved in the church community for many years, serving in various leadership roles and participating in numerous ecumenical and outreach ministries. As such, I believe that I possess the competencies and skills that are essential to serving on Executive Council. One of my greatest strengths is my ability to communicate effectively. Whether it is through public speaking or written communication, I am able to convey complex ideas and information in a clear and concise manner. I believe that this skill would be particularly valuable in my role on the Executive Council, as I would be able to effectively communicate the needs and concerns of our church community to other members of the council. Many would describe me as a person who is hospitable, warm, and a church nerd who truly loves his Savior and is committed to serving Jesus Christ.



**Karen Coleman**

Priest

Ashland, MA

Boston University / Trinity Episcopal Boston

Massachusetts, I



As a follower of Jesus and deeply committed to God's mission in the Church and the world, I am an effective leader on The Executive Council. I have served both as an alternate and clerical deputy. At the last GC, I served on Legislative Committee 03 - Title IV. I have worked in various small and large parishes to look at diverse perspectives in the more remarkable church and the local community. From grassroots to investment portfolios, my experience covers a variety of relationships along racial, socio-economic, gender, and abilities to ensure that all have a place of welcome at the table. I am deeply committed to how we care for our planet and to assist in the stewardship of the resources placed into our care. My current position as University Chaplain for Episcopal Ministry allows me to work with the future leaders of our church, both lay and ordained. I am excited to see people of all ages become engaged and involved in the church.

**Kimberly Jackson**

Priest

Stone Mountain, GA

Episcopal Church of the Common Ground

Atlanta, IV



I've served in a myriad of ministry settings that vary in size, context, and demographical make-up. From campus ministry on an HBCU campus, to leading a very small parish, to serving as an associate rector in one of TEC's largest parishes, and now as a priest who works with people experiencing homelessness, these experiences will help me approach the issues brought to Executive Council with an open and broad perspective. I understand the difference in impact that our decisions can have on people in different contexts.

I also serve as a state senator in Georgia. This service has honed my skills in conflict transformation, problem-solving, and budgeting. As a senator, I work well with people who hold different ideological stances, and representing over 200,000 constituents has taught me the importance of thinking carefully about how policies impact everyone. Whether in the senate, the parish, or community, I am a person who brings compassion, wisdom, and integrity to my work.

**Lester Mackenzie**

Priest

Newport Beach, CA

St. Mary's Episcopal Church Laguna Beach CA

Los Angeles, VIII



With 15+ years in ministry, I'm passionate about serving the Church and fostering unity within our diverse community, with Jesus as our centre. My experience demonstrates commitment by having served as C1 Clergy Deputy for the Diocese of Los Angeles in three General Conventions of the Episcopal Church.

With deep understanding of the Anglican Communion and The Episcopal Church, I bring financial management experience and effective communication skills. I serve on Standing Committee, Diocesan Council, served on Corporation of the Diocese of Los Angeles, and as Chaplain to the House of Deputies in three General Conventions.

If elected to Executive Council, I'll diligently fulfill fiduciary duties with loyalty and care. As a cross-cultural leader, I'll promote representation and inclusivity. My familiarity with technology and computer literacy enables effective use of tools like Zoom & Microsoft Teams. I'm eager to utilize my diverse skillset to support the Church's mission.

**Eric Metoyer**

Priest

San Francisco, CA

St Cyprian's, San Francisco

California, VIII



Our New Episcopal Communities are deepening the faith for many in new ways. I am called to support these communities at all levels of the Church. I've served on DioCal's Diocesan Staff in San Francisco for many years, focussed on multi cultural communities and congregational life. I also served as rector of a small parish in the midst of the pandemic, innovative worship and technological adaptation working to build a stronger, faith based community. I've served as former chair of the Afro Anglican Commission, three time Deputy to General Convention, and board member of an Episcopal School. In the wider church I've served on interim bodies focussed on church planting and congregational renewal since 2015, bringing the experience of DioCal to the wider church and the learning of the Church to DioCal. This experience and involvement in new ministries for a changing church is my call to serving on the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church. Thanks be to God, Amen!

**Rhonda Rogers**

Priest

Humble, TX

St. Francis of Assisi, Prairie View

Texas, VII



I am a life-long Episcopalian and currently at St. Francis of Assisi in Prairie View, TX. I would use my skills and experience to aid the Executive Council to discern the needs of the body, how to meet them, and serve everyone with dignity and respect.

I served on several bodies in the Episcopal Church at the diocesan level. I was a lay representative on the Diocese of Rochester Standing Committee under two bishops, clergy representative on the Diocese of Texas Executive Board and currently on the Seminary of the Southwest Board of Trustees.

During 38 years at Mobil Chemical Company and ExxonMobil Chemical Company, I developed and managed metrics, strategic goals, regional and global budgets, implemented corporate and division initiatives, and coached personnel development.

I have three adult children and two grandchildren. My hobbies are reading, golf, gardening, travel, music, and theatre.

I would be honored to serve on Executive Council.

**Diane Jardine Bruce**

Bishop

Irvine, CA

Los Angeles, VIII



My almost 12 years as Bishop Suffragan in the Diocese of Los Angeles entailed extensive work in New Community/Multicultural Ministry and Stewardship. I know the blessings and opportunities in this work for our Church. In addition, my prior work as a banker for 17 years provided me with extensive knowledge of finance, both in investments and in the preparation of complex budgets.

Currently serving as Bishop Provisional of the Diocese of West Missouri has introduced me to a part of TEC with different opportunities for evangelism and growth. Being involved in the life of rural congregations particularly opened my eyes to their unique challenges.

I am finishing 12 years as a trustee of the Church Pension Fund, which provides me with extensive knowledge of this important work for our church.

I hope to bring my varied experiences both secular and ecclesiastical, together with my collaborative and transparent leadership style, to benefit the church by serving on Executive Council.

**Jonathan Folts**

Bishop  
Pierre, SD  
South Dakota, VI



As bishop of South Dakota, with the largest Native American population of our Church, there are several areas between what is being looked for in an Executive Council member and the subjects we engage. In SD, where prejudice is high and media coverage is low, racial relationships are key in bringing the Church and our communities together. We consider care of creation to be vital, and our Diocesan Leadership Initiative project in 2022 involved planting prairie grass gardens and teaching about their benefits. Due to our minimum budget, we are creative about our spending. Additionally, in developing partnerships and raising awareness, we strive to be good advocates and communicators. At heart, our focus in 2023 is to be people who love to tell the story and God's role in our story. I have good project management skills, much to the disdain of my favorite procrastinators, and believe (with kudos to the A-Team) that there is nothing so good as to see a part of God's plan come together!

**Susan Haynes**

Bishop  
Williamsburg, VA  
Southern Virginia, III



My most important competency is the ability to form connections and build bridges between people in two different camps. By focusing on what we believe and celebrate in common, I am able to build relationships through service and conversation. I also have an enormous capacity to attend to details and to keep projects moving forward so that we don't get bogged down.

**Bonnie Perry**

Bishop

Detroit, MI

Michigan, V

As the Episcopal Church grapples with post-pandemic challenges, we must align our governance structures and resources with a plan for institutional transformation. My experience as a bishop and parish priest has taught me how to achieve the incremental, measurable changes we will need to realize that plan. I know how to move groups along, celebrating successes and learning from setbacks, without losing sight of the call to participate effectively and faithfully in God's mission. My steadfastness, my belief in Christ's unshakeable love, and my sense of humor enable me to weather the challenges of leading change with joy and wonder.

In a class I taught at Bexley Seabury Seminary, I asked students to envision a world in which mission is central to everything the church undertakes. As we enter this time of leadership transition, I believe that the Episcopal Church must envision that world, and I'd be honored to help lead the effort as a member of Executive Council.

