

## **Members of the General Board of Examining Chaplains**

**The House of Bishops elects all members, and the House of Deputies votes to affirm the election.**

TERM OF OFFICE: 6 years

NUMBER TO BE ELECTED: 3 lay persons; 3 faculty members of theological seminaries or other educational institutions; 3 presbyters with pastoral cures or in specialized ministries; 2 bishops. (HOB elects; HOD confirms elections)

POSITION DESCRIPTION: GBEC board members write the annual General Ordination Examination (GOE) administered to candidates for eventual ordination as priests. The examination includes tests for proficiency in Holy Scriptures, the history of the Christian church, Christian theology, Christian ethics and moral theology, Christian worship, and the practice of ministry. Writing the GOE includes both composing questions and the associated rubrics for answering those questions; these rubrics are provided to guide candidates as they answer the questions. Board members also evaluate the candidates' answers in the weeks following the administration of the exam. At its meetings, the board, made up of 22 members total, evaluates and plans for the succeeding year's work and oversees the work of the board's paid executive director and testing and professional consultants.

QUALITIES AND COMPETENCIES A NOMINEE SHOULD HAVE: Nominees should have an interest in theological education and some expertise in one of the six canonical areas. Previous experience on a diocesan Commission on Ministry or as a diocesan examining chaplain is helpful. Competency in testing methods and procedures is useful. Board members should be able to work comfortably in teams and task groups. GBEC assignments demand ability to concentrate intently on tasks at hand. It is vital that applicants have computer literacy, Internet access, and the ability to work online with others.

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

Elect: Lay 3 Clergy 3 Seminary Faculty 3 Bishop 2  
 Slate Needs Minimum of: Lay 5 Clergy 5 Seminary Faculty 5 Bishop 3  
 Presbyters with pastoral care or specialized ministry

*HoB elects all; HoD affirms elections*

Lay	Clergy (Priest in active ministry)	Seminary Faculty (Clergy or Lay)	Bishops
Cynthia Hill (VII Texas)	Andrew Armond (VII Texas)	Scott Bader-Saye (VII Texas)	Cathleen Bascom (VII Kansas)
David Miron (III Central PA)	Giovan King (VIII Hawaii)	Kirsten Guidero (V N. Indiana)	Nicholas Knisely (I Rhode Island)
Janeal White (VII Texas)	Mark Kowalewski (II Long Island)	David Jackson (VIII Hawaii)	Gretchen Rehberg (VIII Spokane)
Dhananjay Jagannathan (II New York)	Milquella Mendoza (IX Dominican Republic)	Tricia Lyons (III Virginia)	Jos Tharakan (VIII Idaho)
5.	Derrick Muwina (I Massachusetts)	Shawn Strout (III Washington)	
	Scott Parnell (III Virginia)	Kara Slade (II, New Jersey)	
	Sandy Wilson (II Virgin Islands)	Romulus Stefanut (IV, Tennessee)	
	Cody Maynus (VI, Minnesota)		

**Cynthia Hill**

Lay

Fort Worth, TX

All Saints' Fort Worth

Texas, VII



My Ph.D. is in Experimental Psychology, the field of study that examines human behavior through controlled experiments and the development of theories that guide such research. Although my field of study lies particularly in cognition and developmental issues, rather than assessment and testing, I am familiar with the issues of developing exams. The primary issues in assessment are validity and reliability, i.e. do test questions measure what they intend to measure and do they produce a consistent result. My education in these matters qualify me for the position.

As the Vice President of the Godly Play Foundation board during the pandemic, I was one of the leaders of a global team, that carried on its business. We worked collaboratively, and we worked in unity and with cohesion in the pursuit of our mission. The development of skills gained from working on a global team to achieve our goals during a difficult time will help equip me to serve on another wide ranging team.

**David Miron**

Lay

Lancaster, PA

St. Thomas Episcopal, Lancaster PA

Central Pennsylvania, III



My experience as a pastor, leadership team member, instructional facilitator, adjunct instructor and consultant with clergy and congregations, combined with my academic preparation has helped me identify and grow in skills related to the ministry of the Board of Examining Chaplains. In my 26 years of facilitating college courses (with adult students) in the areas of organization development and comparative religion, I have developed competency in finding ways to assess knowledge and, more importantly, understanding and, skill in reading and responding to material submitted.

Serving on the Board would provide an opportunity to put my skills, experience and knowledge of the church into the service of the church in helping to form persons who sense a call to ordained ministry. Examining Chaplains help candidates for ordination consider how to apply their vocational and academic experience and learning to real ministry.

**Janeal White**

Lay

Beaumont, TX

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



I am an Indigenous professor with a doctorate in social work who has more than 20-years of professional experience with nonprofits in religious and secular spaces. My research of homelessness, poverty, and resilience have prepared me for understanding the complex interplay between extreme poverty and society.

Before entering academia, I served as a college missionary with young adults as they discerned God's call on their life. I have now served on faculty in post-secondary institutions for the past nine years where I have developed competency for designing assessment tools for students who are simultaneously facing challenges as non-traditional, minoritized, and/or marginalized students. As an educator, I specialize in creating educational environments that build on student strengths and provide equitable mechanisms for evaluation despite lived experiences of scarcity or disability. My expertise in qualitative methodologies has equipped me to assess complex theoretical concepts.

**Dhananjay Jagannathan**

Lay

Brooklyn, NY

Saint Ignatius of Antioch Episcopal Church  
New York, II



I am an ethicist by training and profession. My academic work focuses on the history of Western philosophy (especially on Aristotle and Aquinas), contemporary moral and political philosophy, and issues at the intersection of philosophy and literature (especially tragedy).

In recent years, I have published a substantial body of public-facing theological or theologically-inflected writing, mainly in Christian magazines, about religion, politics, literature, and music, including several pieces each for Plough Quarterly, Earth & Altar, and Breaking Ground. One of my main intellectual projects, especially in joint work with my wife Tara Isabella Burton, a novelist and theologian, is the articulation of the role of beauty in our ethical lives and the place of moral judgment in our engagement with art.

I hope to bring both the intellectual standards of philosophical ethics and a conviction in the relevance of lived and embodied experience to our ethical lives to the work of the GBEC.

**Andrew Armond**

Priest  
Hewitt, TX  
St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Waco, TX  
Texas, VII



I have extensive experience in areas relevant to writing and scoring the General Ordination Examination. For nearly fifteen years, I taught first-year writing to college students, guiding them through the process of composing, revising, and editing academic essays. I scored AP English Literature examinations for the College Board for thirteen years, a process that required a great deal of familiarity and comfort with scoring in a group setting according to a detailed rubric.

In addition to those qualifications, I have been writing, researching, and editing within the field of Religion and Literature for nearly twenty years. Within the church, I have served as a choirmaster, an organist, an Episcopal school chaplain, and a deacon and priest. I have taught courses in World Religions, in Bible, and in Christian Ethics. These experiences have solidified my deep engagement with the liturgy and theology of The Episcopal Church, which will serve me well as a member of the GBEC.

**Giovan King**

Priest  
Kailua, HI  
The Parish of St. Christoopher  
Hawaii, VIII



I have completed three honors dissertations in the course of obtaining my A.B. (church music); M.Div. (missionary ministry); and D.Min. (dealing with decreasing church attendance). I published in the Stanford Law Review on church law and as a member of the Law Review edited professors' and classmates' publications. I edited two books. "A City Build on a Hill" was a compendium of lectures given at a national seminar and "Running the Race" included writings by myself and clergy and lay from around the world. I was part of the faculty of Virginia Theological Seminary's Summer Collegium for five years, evaluating the work of individuals who had been priests for a number of years but desired to refresh their training. While serving as Chair of the Commission on Ministry, I evaluated writings of Nominees, Postulants, and Candidates. I have mentored two individuals who are now priests and am now mentoring a nominee for the priesthood, and am a reader for his D.Min. thesis.

**Mark Kowalewski**

Priest

Halesite, NY

St Stephen's Episcopal Church

Long Island, II



I served a previous term on the board several years ago, I have great interest in formation for ordained ministry and Christian formation generally. I hold a PhD in Ethics and Moral Theology and have extensive experience in teaching on a congregational level. I have many years of experience as a Rector and Cathedral Dean and have had the privilege of discerning with candidates for ordination and training candidates both before ordination and as newly ordained. I also have experience as the Canon for Formation in the Diocese of Los Angeles, a member of the Commission on Ministry and the head of the Diocesan Examining Chaplains. This experience prepares me well for once again serving on the Board.

**Milquella Mendoza**

Priest

San Pedro de Macoris, San Pedro de Macoris

Parroquia Ayudada San Esteban

Dominican Republic, IX



God has been endowing me in the Ministry with Gifts, Talents and Competencies in the worship and practice of the Liturgy of the Church. I am called to enrich and enliven the order of worship in such a way that it is an expression that leads the congregation to a full encounter with its God. In a practical way, our liturgy communicates the message of the gospel through the call to worship, the confession of sin, the assurance of forgiveness, the message, our offerings of gratitude, and the blessing of the moving church. I am willing to serve and contribute what is necessary to the Church according to my pastoral experience of 17 years of ordained ministry.



**Derrick Muwina**

Priest

Cambridge, MA

Saint Peter's Episcopal Church, Cambridge

Massachusetts, I



I have extensive parochial ministry and academic training. I have served various parishes both in my native country of Zambia and in the United States. I have served multicultural/multilingual congregations. I am currently the Rector of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

I hold a Bachelor's degree from University of Western Cape; a Master of Theological Studies from the Episcopal Divinity School; a Master of Sacred Theology in Mission History from Boston University; a Doctor of Philosophy in Constructive Theology and Theological Ethics from Boston University. I have seminary teaching experience having spent four years as a full-time lecturer at St. John's Anglican Seminary in Zambia teaching African Theology and Hebrew Scriptures . In my doctoral studies, I taught courses in Christian Ethics and the Ethical Leadership. I wrote my doctoral dissertation on Christian Humanism with a focused on the ethics of human dignity, non-violence, and economic justice.

**Scott Parnell**

Priest

Irvington, VA

Ware Church

Virginia, III



I believe in emphasizing the intellectual tradition of Christianity. Before moving into parish ministry, I taught Systematic Theology, Church History, and Scripture as a lay and then an ordained person in Episcopal Schools across the county - it was a joyful exercise in taking complex ideas and making them accessible to middle and high school students. The most recent school, Christchurch School (VA), emphasized a differentiated skills-based assessment model. My experience crafting assessments to meet students with different learning types and abilities was essential: God makes us all different, so we should have multiple ways for students to demonstrate what they've learned. Just as the secular-education world is evolving, seminary education is evolving, which implies that GOE assessments should be evolving, too. Bringing the experience of crafting skills-based differentiated evaluations (and the practice of assessing them) would contribute to the work of the GBEC. I have also been appointed to the Diocese of Virginia Commission on Ministry and Board of Examining Chaplains.

**Sandy Wilson**

Priest

St Thomas, Virgin Islands

Cathedral Church of All Saints

The Virgin Islands, II



I bring a spirit deeply committed to journeying with those preparing for ministry in a changing church, having taught, coached and mentored seminarians and newly ordained clergy for over 40 years. My passion has been to give students a chance to contextualize the theology that they read in settings that make sense for the ministry settings in which they may find themselves. I have been privileged to prepare examinations for seminarians, to tutor and teach students preparing for ministry and to be a listening ear and coach to many others. It would be my privilege to be a part of the GBEC Team. I bring passion, experience, compassion and rigor to this enterprise and would hope that my wide ranging experience of ministries from parish priest, to college chaplain, to seminary teacher, to creative liturgist, to church leader would give me the insight needed to prepare and read examinations fairly and with some cultural competence having served all sizes and ethnicities over these years.

**Cody Maynus**

Priest

Northfield, MN

All Saints, Northfield

Minnesota, VI



As a parish priest and chaplain to college students, it has been my privilege to walk alongside people from every walk of life during moments of profound joy and absolute heartbreak. I love The Episcopal Church and I want our clergy to be adequately prepared to meet the needs of the whole people of God. This looks like nurturing clergy who embody both keen intellect and pastoral sensitivity. My academic work (MA, Collegeville) is in monastic studies (history and spirituality) and liturgy. I previously served as the Canon for Formation in the Diocese of South Dakota and helped construct the formation process for vocational deacons in that diocese. I am currently serving on a design team in Minnesota working to create a 'reading for orders' process to form clergy for whom seminary would not be an attainable option. I have mentored three seminarians and two transitional deacons and have served as a spiritual director and confessor for others in formation.



**Scott Bader-Saye**

Lay  
Austin, TX  
St. Julian of Norwich  
Texas, VII

I have been serving on the GOE ethics question-writing committee for the last four years. I have found that service to be meaningful and important. I am a seminary professor and would bring that educational experience to this work. I am committed to theological education, and I would be honored to serve in this capacity.



**Kirsten Guidero**

Priest  
Marion, IN  
Gethsemane Episcopal Church  
Northern Indiana, V

With over seven years of experience teaching theology and a desire to give back to my beloved ecclesial home through clergy formation, I am delighted to be considered for this important role. The competencies I bring include a deep love of theology as a discourse enlivened by being practiced in everyday life and through dialogue with other disciplines. I am skilled at creating curricula to achieve this aim, including developing innovative assessment strategies that empower active learning. I am also proficient in designing pedagogies that integrate anti-oppressive approaches to evaluation. I hold significant experience working independently and collaboratively in educational and ministry contexts as well as in facilitating teams. As a second-career theologian who first worked as an editor, I am gifted at managing projects to achieve both overarching goals and important details. I hope to use my expertise to equip clergy for building the courageous, inclusive church the world deserves.



**David Jackson**

Priest  
Kapaa, HI  
All Saints'  
Hawaii, VIII



I have previously served as a member on the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop 2012-15, which resulted in the election of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry.

GOE Reader: I served as a Reader of the national GOE's in 2008 and 2009.

I am currently the Chief Instructor in Bible and Church History in the Diocese of Hawa'i local formation program (via the Iona Institute and SSW).

I was ordained in the Church of England (Diocese of Oxford) in 1995, and have served in TEC for over 20 years in churches, Episcopal school chaplaincy, and as Dean and President of Bloy House (the local formation program in the Diocese of Los Angeles). My experience in the wider Anglican Communion gives me a more global point of view to offer.

**Patricia "Tricia" Lyons**

Priest  
Alexandria, VA  
Virginia Theological Seminary, St. Clement Episcopal Church,  
Alexandria, VA  
Virginia, III



I spent 20 years after Divinity School as a high school teacher of Latin, Religion and AP History, and served as a lay chaplain in Episcopal schools. I was very involved in the National Association of Episcopal Schools as keynoter, consultant and content writer.

One of my constant curiosities and efforts with colleagues was about how we assess religious education and formation. When I started teaching in Episcopal schools, I was stunned that most religion classes/retreats/faith-informed community service are not graded, evaluated or assessed in any way to see if what we teach actually forms the learners with Episcopal values, Prayer Book or habits of liturgy/prayer. Even in pluralistic learning communities, it should be possible to both engage students respectfully with Episcopal teaching and find ways to assess the learning. I wrote a doctoral dissertation and book on assessing adolescent faith development. Finding ways to evaluate and assess spiritual learning/growth is my passion.

**Shawn Strout**

Priest

Alexandria, VA

Trinity Parish, Washington DC

Washington, III



I would be honored to serve on the GBEC. I have been a question writer for the worship area for three examination periods and have enjoyed that process. As the Assistant Professor of Worship, Associate Dean of Chapel, and Director of Assessment at VTS, I have experience with residential seminary both as a faculty member and an administrator. Furthermore, I served as an adjunct professor in worship for the Stevenson School for Ministry in the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania for six years, giving me additional experience with non-residential theological education. I have taught courses on-site, online, and in hybrid formats. I have been privileged to teach students from as close as Virginia to as far away as India and Taiwan. These experiences have given me a deep appreciation for the breadth of theological education in the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. This breadth of experience will allow me to recognize the various contexts and diverse backgrounds that students embrace.

**Kara Slade**

Priest

Princeton, NJ

Trinity, Princeton

New Jersey, II



For the past 6 years, I have been honored to serve on GBEC. As the current chair of the ethics evaluation team, and the immediate past vice-chair of the Board, I have been able to bring my academic experience to the composition and the evaluation of the GOE. I currently serve as the Anglican Studies instructor at an ecumenical seminary, and have also taught in several diocesan schools for ministry. The world of theological education is changing rapidly, and yet the church is called to ensure that the canons are followed and that those following all paths to ordination meet all canonical requirements for proficiency. We are also called to treat each person taking the GOE with care, extending the same pastoral sensitivity to them as we hope they will extend to others in their own ministries.

**Romulus Stefanut**

Lay  
Sewanee, TN  
Chapel of the Apostles  
Tennessee, IV



My motivation for seeking this position is threefold, driven by my extensive doctoral-level training in Biblical Studies, an unwavering passion for fostering critical biblical literacy, and a sincere desire to enhance the proficiency of our current students and future priests in this domain.

To begin with, I obtained my Ph.D. in Biblical Studies from the University of Chicago, a distinguished program renowned for its comprehensive focus on both the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament. Prior to achieving Ph.D. candidacy, I successfully navigated seven rigorous six-hour doctoral exams encompassing both Testaments, their Jewish and Graeco-Roman contexts, as well as proficiency in the original languages of Hebrew and Greek. This robust preparation has equipped me with the scholarly tools necessary for in-depth analysis of the Holy Scriptures, incorporating linguistic, historical, and cultural exegetical skills.

**Cathleen Bascom**

Bishop  
Topeka, Kansas  
Kansas, VII



I am primarily interested in how we mold faith leaders for a changing, yet inquisitive 21st-century population from the rich Anglican theology and church traditions we cherish. The GOE's can be one way of gaining a picture of how new clergy integrate academic study with the issues of today. I believe that we need to consider some revision of both form and content of the exams to bear the most fruitful assessment.

I was ordained in 1990 and hold numerous degrees, mainly in English Literature, Creative Writing, Divinity and Homiletics. I taught under-graduate students Biblical Studies at a Lutheran-tradition college for a few years. I have been a bishop for nearly five years, and do actively engage GOE results and new models of forming clergy for ministry in our diocese.

**Nicholas Knisely**

Bishop  
Providence, RI  
Rhode Island,



As a former university instructor, COM member in previous dioceses and having served now for over a decade as bishop, I am interested in how best to create a fair, equitable and accurate exam that will both identify the strengths of ordinands and areas where additional support will be needed.

This is becoming particularly important across the wider church as the traditional residential seminary program is becoming a less common format for formation. The local ministry schools and online training programs have unique strengths but also open up the possibility of a less standardized preparation.

The Board of Examining Chaplains, particularly as it creates the testing tools that are mandated by the canons, will have an outsized role to play in responding and supporting to these new formation modalities. I believe my background will be of use in doing this work.

**Gretchen Rehberg**

Bishop  
Spokane, WA  
Spokane, VIII



I am a strong believer in formation and education for our laity and clergy, and the need for opportunities to demonstrate learnings. The work of the GBEC is an important way of setting standards and expectations for those who are called to ordained priesthood. As a former professor and now bishop I would be comfortable working to help write the GOE questions and evaluate answers.



**Jos Tharakan**

Bishop

Boise, ID

Idaho, VIII

I have been ordained for 28 years. Being involved in churches with thousands of members attending on a Sunday to small congregations of as many as 6, I have experience dealing with different pastoral and spiritual issues of various ethnic and racial groups. I have had the privilege of serving culturally different communities from predominantly white English speakers to Spanish-speaking, Laotian, Korean, Hindi, and Malayalam-speaking groups. With 8 Units of Clinical Pastoral Education, I am also able to understand and support the intricate and complicated human experience of God. These experiences and education I have had could serve anyone entering into ordained life to expand their focus and ministry.

