
The Diocese of New Jersey

OFFICES TO BE FILLED AT DIOCESAN CONVENTION – 2024

Standing Committee (Vote by Orders)

Incumbents to be Replaced or reelected

A. 1 Clergy Member – 4-year term

*The Rev. Lisa A. Hoffman

B. 1 Lay Member – 4-year term

*Ms. Susan Espenshade

**Not eligible for reelection*

The Standing Committee acts as a council of advice for the Bishop and also functions as a check and balance. Their advice and consent is needed for various appointments made by the Bishop and for the expenditure of certain trust funds. They must approve all candidates for ordination to the diaconate and priesthood, and they vote on behalf of our Diocese in the process for approving the election of all Bishops of The Episcopal Church. Their consent is needed before any church can sell, mortgage, or rent property. Lay members must be communicants of a congregation in union with the Convention. Clergy must be canonically resident in the diocese. Committee meets monthly, usually on the third Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

Diocesan Council

Incumbents to be Replaced or Re-Elected

C. 3 Clergy Members – 3-year terms

*The Rev. Naomi M. Cressman, Dcn.
The Rev. Andrew J. Hanyzewski
The Rev. Henry Alan Leonard

D. 3 Lay Members – 3-year terms

Cathy Brackin
*Jack Daugherty
*Canon Paul Wolfgang

**Not eligible for reelection*

The Council develops, administers, oversees, coordinates, and evaluates the program of the Diocese and maintains general supervision over the Diocese's budget and financial affairs. Clergy members must be canonically resident in the Diocese, and lay members must be communicants of a congregation in the Diocese. They should be knowledgeable about and active in Diocesan Programs. Meets about ten times a year, usually the third Tuesday, September – June at 1:00 p.m.

Cathedral Chapter

Incumbents to be Replaced or Re-elected

E. 1 Clergy Member – 3-year term

*The Rev. Ann K. Urinoski

F. 2 Lay Members – 3-year term

Althea Williams
Timothy R. Cooper

**Not eligible for reelection*

The members of the Chapter elected by Convention, together with other members elected by the Cathedral congregation, constitute the Major Chapter of the Cathedral. Their function is to provide a liaison between the people of the Diocese and the Cathedral parish congregation. Clergy members may be either Priests or Deacons. The committee meets quarterly in the evening.

Standing Commission on Clerical Compensation

Incumbents to be Replaced or Re-elected

G. 2 Clergy Members – 3-year terms

[vacant]
[vacant]

H. 2 Lay Members – 3-year terms

John Sturges
[vacant]

The Commission makes recommendations to Convention about minimum standards of compensation for clergy and reports on compliance with the standards set by the Convention. Clergy members must be canonically resident in the Diocese and lay members communicants of a diocesan Congregation. They should be knowledgeable about personnel, insurance, statistics, or clergy lifestyles. The committee meets during the day about six times a year.

Standing Committee on Constitution and Canons

Incumbents to be Replaced or Re-elected

I. 1 Member, Clergy or Lay – 3-year term

Paul De Sarno, Esq.

The Committee reviews all proposed amendments to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese and makes recommendations concerning them to the Convention. Lay members should be attorneys with special competence in ecclesiastical law. This committee meets on a weekday at 11 a.m.

Trustees of Diocesan Trust Funds

Incumbent to be Replaced or Re-elected

J. 1 Lay Trustee – 5-year term

Fred Ellis

Trustees exercise fiduciary responsibility for the investment of the principal of six corporate trust funds of the Diocese. They decide how much income from these trust funds to transfer each year to the various entities that are authorized to disburse this income. They are also responsible for the care of all real property owned by these corporations. They must be communicants in good standing of a church in the Diocese. They should be highly qualified in investment, real estate management, or the care of trust funds. The Trustees meet quarterly.

Finance and Budget Committee

Incumbents to be Replaced or Re-elected

K. 3 Members, Clergy or Lay – 3-year terms

Sheila Cooper
Canon Donna Freidel
Meg Holland

Committee is responsible for general oversight of the Diocesan finances and preparation of the draft budget to be submitted to Council. Members should have experience in the investment field, trust law, and/or budgeting. The committee meets approximately six times per year in the morning, with meetings concentrated in fall and early winter.

Diocesan Investment Trust

Incumbent to be Replaced or Re-elected

L. 1 Member, Clergy or Lay – 4-year term

Kirk Bonamici

Committee is responsible for overseeing the investment management of the Diocesan Investment Trust. Members must be communicants of the Church and resident in the Diocese. Members should be highly qualified in investment management or the care of trust funds. Meetings are quarterly.

Audit Committee

Incumbents to be Replaced or Reelected

M. 1 Member, Clergy or Lay – 3-year term

Eric Sanders

Committee has responsibility for overseeing Diocesan auditing procedures and evaluating annual audit. Members may be laity or clergy. Some members should have particular skill as an attorney, accountant or auditor. Members should have some knowledge of accounting statements. This committee meets in the morning four to five times a year.

Disciplinary Board

Incumbents Completing Second Year as Alternate - to be Replaced or Reelected

N. 4 Clergy Members – 3-year terms
(1 year as member, 2 years as alternate)

The Justin A. Falciani
The Rev. Mark H. Chattin
The Rev. Marshall Shelly
[vacant]

O. 3 Lay Members – 3-year terms
(1 year as member, 2 years as alternate)

Capt. Louis Cavaliere
Eric Sanders
John S. Sturges

The Board meets once after Diocesan Convention to elect a President and Clerk but does not otherwise meet as a body unless it is necessary to fill a vacancy in one of these offices. If a disciplinary case is brought, members of the Disciplinary Board are assigned by the President to Panels to process and decide the case. Lay members must be adult confirmed communicants. Clergy must be canonically resident for at least three years. The person elected by the Board as President serves, with the Bishop and the Intake Officer, as the Reference Panel to manage cases. Members serve one year as a Member of the Board, followed by two years as an Alternate, following which they may again stand for election to the Board.

Intake Officer

Incumbent to be Replaced or Reelected

P. 1 Clergy or Lay Member – 1-year term

The Rev. Canon Karin R. Mitchell

The Intake Officer is the person who receives information about possible violations by priests or deacons of the Disciplinary Canons. The Intake Officer must prepare a report to the Reference Panel of the Disciplinary Board and must initially determine whether the information, if true, constitutes an offense. The Intake Officer serves, with the Bishop and the President of the Disciplinary Board, as the Reference Panel to manage cases.

Church Attorney

Incumbent to be Replaced or Reelected

Q. 1 Lay Member – 1-year term

Canon Talbot B. Kramer, Jr., Esq.

The Church Attorney's job is similar to that of a District Attorney who investigates charges brought against a priest or deacon, prepares the case, and acts as the prosecutor at the trial. He/she must be an adult confirmed communicant in good standing of a church in the Diocese, must be a member of the Bar of the State of New Jersey, and should have experience as a trial lawyer.

Treasurer

Incumbent to be Replaced or Reelected

R. 1 Clergy or Lay Member – 1-year term

Jonathan Gloster

The Treasurer, elected annually by the Convention, serves as the executive financial overseer of trust funds and other funds for which the Convention is responsible, and she or he has additional duties under the diocesan canons. The Treasurer is an ex-officio member of the Convention with the right to speak, and must give satisfactory security for the faithful discharge of the duties of the Treasurer's office. The Treasurer presents a statement of the Treasurer's accounts to each annual meeting of the Convention.
