

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE CREDENTIALS OF LAY DEPUTIES TO THE
240TH ANNUAL DIOCESAN CONVENTION OF THE
DIOCESE OF NEW JERSEY**

Canon 2, Section 5 of the Canons of the Diocese of New Jersey provides:

On or after August 1, but not later than October 1, the Committee on the Credentials of Lay Deputies shall notify any Diocesan Congregation entitled to representation in the Convention, of any deficiencies for which such representation may be denied pursuant to the provisions of Article II, Section 6 of the Constitution. Such Congregation shall have a period of thirty days within which to supply the deficiencies. The Committee shall report to the Convention any Diocesan Congregation failing to meet the requirements for representation after such period. No Diocesan Congregation whose deputies were seated at the preceding annual meeting of the Convention shall be denied a seat for failure to comply with the requirements of Article II, Section 6 of the Constitution in the absence of such notice.

On August 1, 2023 such a notice was sent on behalf of the Committee to the following Congregations of the Diocese with respect to their failure timely to file the Parochial Report required by canon within 45 days of its filing deadline of March 1 for the prior year:

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Beverley
St. John's Episcopal Church, Blackwood
St. Wilfrid's Church, Camden
St. James' Memorial Episcopal Church, Eatontown
St. Peter's IGBO Church, Hamilton
St. John's Episcopal Church, Maple Shade
St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church, Monmouth Junction
St. Alban's Episcopal Church, New Brunswick
St. Simeon's by the Sea Church, North Wildwood
Church of the Good Shepherd, Pitman
Christ Church, South Amboy
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Spring Lake
Christ Episcopal Church, Trenton
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Westfield
Church of Christ the King, Willingboro

The following Congregations either filed their reports within the thirty-day deadline or furnished other evidence of timely filing:

St. James' Memorial Episcopal Church, Eatontown
Church of the Good Shepherd, Pitman
Christ Church, South Amboy
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Westfield

The following Congregations' deputations were admitted by the Convention on motion during the Special Meeting of Convention held on December 9, 2023 and are therefore permitted to be seated at this regular Annual Convention:

- St. Stephen's, Beverly
- St. John's, Chews Landing (Blackwood)
- St. Barnabas', Monmouth Junction
- St. Alban's, New Brunswick
- Church of the Good Shepherd, Pitman

The following Congregations (a) have not filed their report as of the date of this Report, or (b) those marked with an asterisk did file their report, but after the thirty-day deadline had expired, or (c) were not admitted for representation at the Special Meeting of the Convention:

- St. Wilfrid's, Camden
- St Peter's IGBO, Hamilton*
- St. John's, Maple Shade
- St. Simeon's, North Wildwood
- Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Spring Lake
- Christ Church, Trenton*
- Church of Christ the King, Willingboro*

Accordingly, the Committee pursuant to Canon 2, Section 5 reports that these Congregations should be ineligible to have lay representation at the 240th Diocesan Convention scheduled for March 9, 2024. The Committee notes that Article II, Section 7 of the Constitution of the Diocese provides that "The Convention shall be the final judge of the qualification of its members," and that a motion to seat the deputation of any such Congregation may be made to the discretion of the Convention.

Respectfully submitted,

Corbin Cogswell
Chair