



Nominations Report

224th Annual Convention The Episcopal Church in South Carolina

November 14-15, 2014

ELECTIONS

The Standing Committee

The Standing Committee is comprised of six clergy and six lay members. The Standing Committee's responsibilities are: 1) Act as the Standing Committee of the diocese in accordance with the requirements of the Constitutions and Canons of The Episcopal Church, The Constitution of this Diocese (Article IX), and its Canons, including giving consents to Episcopal elections elsewhere in TEC; 2) Act as a Council of advice to the Bishop; and 3) Act as Ecclesiastical Authority in absence of the Bishop.

Term: 3 years.

Meetings required: Every other month, special meetings called when needed.

Positions to fill: 2 lay, 2 clergy.

The Diocesan Council

The Diocesan Council is responsible for the development, implementation and oversight of the Diocesan program and budget. Between Diocesan Conventions, the Council functions much like the vestry of a congregation, establishing policies, planning the work of the church, and overseeing its administration.

Term: 3 years.

Meetings required: Every other month, special meetings called when needed.

Positions to fill: 2 lay, 2 clergy.

Trustee, University of the South

The University of the South, located in Sewanee, Tennessee, is owned by the Episcopal dioceses of the southeast, each of which elects two lay persons and one member of the clergy to its Board of Trustees. The Trustees meet once each year for two days. Between annual meetings, trustees serve the University by promoting its mission, encouraging enrollment, and supporting it financially.

Term: 3 years.

Position to fill: 1 lay member.

Lay Nominees for Standing Committee

Doug Billings

Holy Cross Faith Memorial,
Pawley's Island
Nominated by:
The Rev. William J. Keith



Doug Billings has been President of The Episcopal Forum of South Carolina for the past two years. When

it became clear that the ongoing Diocese would need support in growing the church moving forward, he led the Forum, with the encouragement and assistance of Bishop vonRosenberg, to rewrite its Mission Statement to make its focus to provide educational offerings open to all Episcopalians and other interested people. The programs are intended to preserve unity with diversity, and encourage Episcopalians with different perspectives to find common ground in their ministry. The conference held in the Diocese last May, with the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies as presenters, was the inaugural program using the new vision. In several parishes, Doug has served as Rector's Warden, Vestry member, leader of Men's ministry, and lay director of Happening. He describes himself as a "Progressive" in both church and social issues. He and his wife Annette are active members of Holy Cross Faith Memorial in Pawleys Island.

Emily Guess

Christ Church, Denmark
Nominated by:
The Rev. Rick Lindsey



Emily Guess is the Senior Warden for Christ Church, Denmark, and is a lifelong Episcopalian. She has excellent skills in relating to and communicating with people. She is a retired elementary school guidance counselor. It is a pleasure and a privilege to nominate her for the Standing Committee on the Episcopal Church in South Carolina.

cellent skills in relating to and communicating with people. She is a retired elementary school guidance counselor. It is a pleasure and a privilege to nominate her for the Standing Committee on the Episcopal Church in South Carolina.

Ginga Wilder

Good Shepherd, Summerville
Nominated by:
The Rev. Alastair Votaw



A lifelong Episcopalian, Virginia Cuthbert Wilder (Ginga) was raised in St. Paul's Church,

Summerville. She is married to John Wilder, they have three adult children. Ginga has extensive experience in parish leadership and lay ministry. As Parish Education Coordinator she organized parish ministries in pastoral care and adult Christian Formation. Ginga is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and trained spiritual director. She served on the board of the Episcopal Forum of South Carolina.

As Senior Warden of The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Summerville, Ginga has led the effort to organize this new Diocesan Mission. In 2012 she served on the Steering Committee to Reorganize The Episcopal Church in South Carolina, and in 2013 was elected to a one year term on the Standing Committee. That experience reinforced her long-held interest in the wider Episcopal Church and our diocesan impact on it. She comments: "I would love to serve my diocese again!"

Clergy Nominees for Standing Committee

The Rev. James Dannals

St. Mark's, Port Royal

Nominated by:

Nominating Committee



Jim Dannals has been serving at St. Mark's Port Royal as Vicar since August 2014. Prior to that appointment,

he served as a sabbatical priest in Grace Church in Waynesville, NC after retiring as rector of St. George's Episcopal Church in Fredericksburg, VA, in 2013. He has served parishes in Massachusetts, North Carolina and Florida. In his 30 years of ministry, Jim has served on the Standing Committees of three different dioceses, one as President, as well as a member and chair of the Commission on Ministry, and a member of Diocesan Council, Executive Committee, Stewardship Committee, Examining Chaplains, and many other groups. Jim has also chaired the Bishop Transition Committee, served on the Youth Task Force, and facilitated Vestry, ECW, and Youth retreats.

The Rev. Jack Nietert

St. Mark's, Port Royal

Nominated by:

The Rev. Rick Lindsey



Jack has served as a priest in this diocese since 1975 and has held many leadership positions, including

Dean of the Charleston Deanery, Diocesan Council, and Press Officer to General Convention. He has also served on a Standing Committee of another diocese. While he is officially retired, he still assists at St Mark's and at All Saints, Hilton Head. Jack is also on the board of the Episcopal Forum and serves as a Trustee of the diocese. In addition he serves the Beaufort community as Chair of the Beaufort-Port Royal Task Force to consider the effects of rising sea levels, and the Hospital Green Team.

The Rev. John Zahl

Grace Church, Charleston

Nominated by:

Nominating Committee



John Zahl has been an Associate Priest at Grace Church since December 2012, having previously

served as an associate at Holy Cross, Sullivan's Island, from 2007-2012. John is responsible for the ministry of Pastoral Care at Grace, serves as Chaplain of the Little School, and brings leadership to the Adult Education program at Grace. He is completing a two-year term on the Diocesan Council of The Episcopal Church in South Carolina.

Lay Nominees for Diocesan Council

Sue Cavanaugh

Holy Communion, Charleston
Nominated by: The Rev. Dow Sanderson



Sue's activities in both religious and professional life demonstrate an unceasing dedication to working as a team player and exhibit leadership skills in all areas in which she has served. From the time she was confirmed in The Episcopal Church, in Orlando, Florida, Sue has served her parish

church as a teacher in Sunday School, leader of EYC, and Acolyte Master, as well as a member of the altar guild, rector search committee, and she has chaired the Parish Life and Parish Retreat committee. Sue has served on the vestries of two South Carolina parishes, assuming committee chairmanships in both parishes, and has worked as a committee member, mostly in the areas of outreach, worship and fellowship in the three parishes of which she has been a member since 1975. Sue has been a member of the Daughters of the King since 1978, and has served as a leader both on the parish and diocesan level.

Virginia Weaver

Calvary, Charleston
Nominated by: Walter Smalls



Virginia Weaver serves as a Vestry member of Calvary Church. Professionally, she has been a teacher, counselor, and Guidance Director. In these positions, she has gained experience in developing and implementing plans, developing policies and procedures, and working within groups to build consensus.

Additionally, she had the opportunity to serve as secretary/treasurer of a small county hospital for two years. In that capacity, she gained experience in developing budgets.

Clergy Nominees for Diocesan Council

The Rev. Richard C. Lindsey

All Saints, Hilton Head Island
Nominated by: Nominating Committee



Rick, the Rector of All Saints, Hilton Head Island, has served as a parish priest for over 37 years, including small to mid-size to large parishes in four dioceses. He previously served a term on the Standing Committee, and currently serves on the Commission on Ministry, and acts as the Facilitator for the

Southern Deanery. In the Diocese of Southwest Florida, he chaired the Foreign Missions Committee and the Bishop's Ad Hoc Committee for Parishes in Acute Pastoral Need. In the Diocese of Michigan, he served on the Lay Adult Education Committee. "The Mission and Ministry of the local parish, and that of dioceses over the years, has given me a deeper appreciation for the Mission and Ministry of The Episcopal Church. I am part of a church that is dear to me, and a diocese that yearns to actively participate in the Mission of the Church. I would welcome the opportunity to represent this diocese; to listen and engage and act as a Church, expectant and faithful."

The Rev. Cn. J. Michael A. Wright

Grace Church, Charleston
Nominated by: Nominating Committee



The Reverend Canon J. Michael A. Wright has served as Rector of Grace Church since 2006. He is completing a term as a member of the Standing Committee of The Episcopal Church in South Carolina, and currently represents the diocese on the Board of Trustees of the University of the South. In 2013,

Bishop Charles G. vonRosenberg appointed him as Diocesan Ecumenical and Interfaith Officer.

Nominees for Trustee, University of the South

Ann Stirling

St. Mark's, Charleston

Nominated by: Tom Tisdale



Ann Stirling is married, has two grown children, one grandson, and practices family law. She is completing a two-year term as a Sewanee Trustee and seeks a full three-year term. Ann has family history at Sewanee, with three older brothers matriculating from the University of the South

– she would have attended herself, had they allowed accepted women at that time she applied. Ann is a cradle Episcopalian and has been an active member in the parishes she has attended. She has attended St. Mark's for three years, where she has started a needlepoint guild that has now replaced the entire altar kneelers. She is an active member of ECW and is delegate of her parish to this convention. She previously attended Grace Church for more than 10 years, served twice on the vestry, ran the outreach program, played in the handbell choir, and was instrumental in publishing the annual Lenten book for 10 years, and served for two years as assistant verger.

Woody Rutter

St. Mark's, Port Royal

Nominated by: The Rev. Rick Lindsey



A lifelong educator and Episcopalian, Woody graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy, Washington & Lee University, and the University of North Carolina. He served as Assistant Head of Salisbury School (1967-1998), Head of Beaufort Academy (1998-2004), and has

served on many boards. He is a member of the Diocesan Stewardship and Development Committee, is currently a Trustee of Salisbury School and ASSIST, Inc., He interviews talented students in Eastern and Central Europe each winter for ASSIST, some of whom have attended Sewanee following high school. He also chairs the Board of "Thumbs Up," an after-school tutoring program in Beaufort for at-risk elementary school students. He is chair of stewardship at St. Mark's, Port Royal, and resides on Dataw Island. He is a friend of John McCardell.