

Nominations Report

225th Annual Convention
The Episcopal Church in South Carolina

November 13-14, 2015

Lay Nominees for Standing Committee

(2 lay seats to be filled)

The Standing Committee

The Standing Committee is comprised of six clergy and six lay members. The Standing Committee's responsibilities are to:

- 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

Timothy Armstrong

Calvary, Charleston
Nominated by
Mr. Lonnie Hamilton



My name is Timothy Armstrong of Calvary Episcopal Church, and I am formally expressing my

interest in serving on the Standing Committee. I am a lifelong Episcopalian brought up in Calvary Episcopal Church. Presently, I serve the church and the diocese in the following positions: at Calvary as a vestry member, secretary of the Men of Calvary, lay reader, Lay Eucharistic Minister, and acolyte. At the diocesan level, I serve as a member of the newly formed Liturgy Commission. My wife Brenda and I have two children. The members of Calvary have known me from boyhood, and they know my willingness to serve the diocese and the church with integrity, loyalty, and devotion.

Alison Davidow

St. Mark's, Port Royal
Nominated by
the Rev. Jim Dannals



Prior to returning to South Carolina, I was active in the Diocese of Virginia as a parish vestry member, as

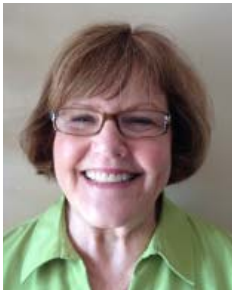
outreach chair, and on the search committee working with the bishop to replace our founding rector. The Episcopal Church in South Carolina – previously, but no longer, noted for traditions, historic buildings, privilege and isolation – is a welcome change. A standing committee in our new and improved diocese has the unique opportunity of developing close relationships with those we've been near but never close to – other faiths, other denominations, and other races. How exciting – being called to go into the world and meet others where they live!

I have broad Federal management experience. Serving on the standing committee would, once again, allow me to utilize those organizational muscles. Having been intimately acquainted with managing shifting priorities, the subtleties of interpersonal communications, and the complexity of decision-making, I believe that I could contribute positively to our internal dialogue.

Finally, I could bring to the committee the model of sharing and mutual support experienced by the Southern Deanery. It would be an honor to bring these gifts.

Nadine Lomax

St. George's, Summerville
Nominated by
the Rev. Chris Huff



I have lived in Summerville for 43 years. I was a member of St. Paul's for 30 years, then moved my letter to St.

George's 13 years ago. I am 70 years old and have been married 48 years, with two grown children and five grandchildren.

I have had a varied and long commitment to the Lord and the Episcopal Church since my baptism as an infant.

As a young adult I was very involved in Episcopal Church Women, and attended many ECW conventions. I taught Sunday school, served on the Altar Guild and cooked and cleaned and set up and sewed. Later, after trying every job available to a woman in the 1960s and early 1970s, I found my true calling in the church: worship and study. I became a Lay Reader, Lay Eucharist Minister, DOK, EfM mentor, Vestry, Alpha, Cursillo #79, Board of Trustees at Bishop Gadsden, and a Delegate to many Diocesan Conventions. I am currently in my third year of teaching a Bible Study every Thursday morning at St. George's.

I am very blessed to have a husband and church family that has loved and supported me. I am now ready to take on a new dimension in my faith journey and serve the greater church. I feel honored to be nominated.

Barbara Mann

Grace, Charleston
Nominated by
the Rev. Canon Michael Wright



I would bring my extensive experience in The Episcopal Church nationally, regionally and locally. This includes, but

is not limited to, six years on the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church; member and chair of the Audit Committee of TEC; member and chair of the Structure Commission of TEC; five-time Deputy to General Convention; Treasurer of Province IV (the 20 southeastern dioceses) for 21 years; and founding member and past president of the Episcopal Forum of South Carolina.

Currently, I serve on Diocesan Council and the Diocesan Finance Committee. At Grace Church, I co-chair the Discernment Committee and am a chalice bearer and usher.

Because of these experiences I would bring a broad understanding of The Episcopal Church and The Episcopal Church in South Carolina, and be an asset to the Standing Committee, particularly in its roles of Council of Advice to the Bishop and consents to the consecration of Bishops elected throughout The Episcopal Church.

My husband, David, and I have been married for 50 years. We have 2 grown children and 4 grandchildren. Professionally I am a retired CPA.

John O. Sands

Holy Cross Faith Memorial,
Pawleys Island
Nominated by the Rev. Wil Keith



As a cradle Episcopalian with deep roots in the church I have taken seriously the important role that our de-

nomination plays in the community dialogue; it is important to me that our voice continue to be heard. Having served multiple stints as senior warden in two parishes, as head of two building campaigns and as head of a rector search committee, I have fairly strong experience with church governance. That is matched by a career spent working in non-profit management and organizational consulting. I have served on the board of the Episcopal Forum of South Carolina as well as the Steering Committee for the reorganization of the diocese. As we come to the end of our season of litigation, we will face many questions about the future organization of our diocese; I believe I could make a consequential contribution to that work. On a personal note, I have been married for 36 years and have two grown daughters. I am retired though still engaged in a minor amount of consulting work.

Clergy Nominees for Standing Committee

(2 clergy seats to be filled)

The Rev. Mark Brinkmann

All Saints, Hilton Head Island

Nominated by the Rev. Rick Lindsey



While currently the Associate Priest at All Saints, Hilton Head Island since 2007, I have served in three other dioceses (Los Angeles, Spokane, and Utah) in my nearly thirty years of ministry. My experience in the larger church includes: Evangelism Commis-

sion in Los Angeles, Liturgy and Music Commissions in Los Angeles and Utah, Commissions on Ministry in Spokane and Utah, the Ecclesiastical Court in Utah, and the Office of Evangelism in The Episcopal Church. I also represented the Diocese of Utah as an Alternate Deputy at the General Convention in 2003. In this Diocese, my three-year term on the Diocesan Council is ending, and I serve on the Liturgy and Music Commission. It has been my privilege to be involved in diocesan work these last years since the re-organization and I would welcome the opportunity to offer my broad experience and knowledge as a member of the Standing Committee.

The Rev. Dr. James T. Yarsiah

St. Philip's Chapel, Voorhees College

Nominated by Mrs. Shirley Robinson



As the chaplain at Voorhees College and vicar at St. Philip's, Denmark, I also teach Religion and Philosophy at the college. Prior to coming to Voorhees, I served as vicar at St. Andrew's Mission, Charleston, from June 2004 to May 2011. At Voorhees I am the spiritual leader of the

college community and is responsible for providing prayer, spiritual nurturing and nourishment, pastoral services and lead worship. I have represented Voorhees College and its President, Dr. Cleveland L. Sellers, Jr., at major conferences and conventions, including the last two General Conventions of The Episcopal Church, the Eighth Triennial Conference of the Colleges and Universities of the Anglican Communion, and the Association of Episcopal Colleges, among others. I am an active member of the Southern Deanery, and a member of its Outreach Committee. From 2006-2014, I have led an initiative that engaged several churches, institutions, and friends in donating materials that were shipped to Liberia by the Global Outreach Ministry to Liberia. On the Diocesan level, I have served as member of The Advancement Society and the Nominating Committee.

Nominees for Trustee, University of the South

1 clergy seat to be filled

The Rev. Wil Keith

Holy Cross Faith Memorial,
Pawleys Island

Nominated by the Rev. John Zahl



Attending seminary at The School of Theology at Sewanee seems appropriate for a “cradle Episcopalian” looking

for priestly formation. However, it wasn't my first pick mainly because of the apparent lack of diversity amongst the student body of the seminary. Therefore, during the interview process I mentioned this concern and was pleasantly surprised. Following in their mission of providing excellent formation for both lay and ordained leaders, the seminary offered to ensure that my education would include times where I was the racial minority in the room. To that end I was sent, often as a representative of the school, to many different workshops, institutes, and gatherings of not only The Episcopal Church, but also from other faith and community organizing networks. I cannot stress how important these experiences were in my formation, not only as a priest, but also as a Christian. If called as Trustee, I will work to ensure that Sewanee continues to use its considerable resources to not only meet the needs of its college and seminary students, but also overcome its own challenges as an Episcopal university. I am very proud to call myself a “Theolog,” and owe gratitude for every one of the gifts given to me in my ministry to God, many of which were given to me through Sewanee.

The Rev. George Moyser

All Saints, Hilton Head Island
Self-nominated



As a bivocational priest, I have a range of experiences that would be relevant to serving as a trustee of the University of

the South. For many years, I was the (part-time) rector of a small Episcopal church in Vermont and, after retirement, as a supply priest in South Carolina. I also served as a university professor and administrator for 38 years, 15 at the University of Manchester in England, and subsequently 23 years in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Vermont. In the latter institution, I was also associated with the campus chaplaincy. Hence, I have become familiar at first hand with many of the issues surrounding higher education, particularly from a church perspective. As such, if elected, I would bring these experiences and perspectives to my service as a trustee with enthusiasm.

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 clergy member

Diocesan Council

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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.

Lay Nominees for Diocesan Council

(2 lay seats to be filled)

Barry Dennis

St. Anne's, Conway

Nominated by: The Rev. Barry Stopfel



I have been a member of The Episcopal Church in the diocese since 2002. I have been an active member in the life of my parish

in Conway, first at St. Paul's and now at St. Anne's. I am a founding member of St. Anne's Episcopal Church. I currently serve on the Mission Committee and Vestry as the junior warden and as a verger. I am a chalice bearer, acolyte, crucifer and member of the Altar Guild. I am Worship Committee Chair for our Mission Committee and Vestry. I have served as a delegate to the Diocesan Convention. It is my hope to learn more about the mission works of The Episcopal Church by involvement in the Diocesan Council. I will bring that experience back to our parish for the growth and betterment of all. I enjoy visiting other mission churches and meeting their leaders and congregants. I enjoy discovering what they are doing to help make their churches grow by spreading the word of our Lord Jesus Christ. By his edict, I live to love, care for, and serve one another. Thank you for your consideration.

Hillery P. Douglas

St. Mark's, Charleston

Nominated by The Rev. John Zahl



I am a member of St. Mark's Church in Charleston, where I serve on the vestry and sing in the choir. I am past Vestry

chair and helped to continue the church's programs when St. Mark's priest of 10 years accepted another call. I served on the Steering Committee of The Episcopal Church in South Carolina from 2012-2014, and served as its chairman during the fall of 2012.

After receiving a BS degree in chemistry from Allen University in Columbia in 1963, I taught science at W. Gresham-Meggett High School on James Island, also coaching the football team to a state championship. I was as a chemist for the Navy at the Charleston Naval Shipyard for 29 years, retiring in 1995 as Head of the Laboratory Division. For the last 18 years I have owned and operated Earth Sciences laboratory in North Charleston.

In the community I have served as playground coach, Cub Scout Master and Civil Club Leader and served on numerous community and education boards. I was a member of the Charleston County School Board for 16 years, including four years as chairman. My wife Yvette and I have five grown children, 16 grandchildren and one great grandchild.

I the past I have worked hard for the Episcopal Church and the diocese in South Carolina, and I plan to continue to offer dedicated service to St. Mark's, the diocese, and the Episcopal Church.

Pam Guess

Christ Church, Denmark

Nominated by Emily Guess



As secretary of the Southern Deanery, I assist the Rev. Rick Lindsey in promoting active communication

between the deanery members. It is my goal to continue the discussion between deanery participants on creative problem-solving to provide equitable resources to support the missions of each church, the deanery, and the diocese and encourage community outreach. It has been rewarding to share in the successes of this problem-solving approach to communication. Through my conversations with the Estill-Federal Correctional Institution, The Episcopal Church in South Carolina received permission to conduct Good Friday services in the prison chapel and meet with residents. I serve as liaison between Bishop vonRosenberg and the Estill-FCI to further the goals outlined in the "Faith-Based Bible Ministry-Proposal of the Southern Deanery."

In Denmark, I teach at a multi-denominational Vacation Bible School and lead a weekly Episcopal and Methodist community exercise ministry. I serve Christ Church as a lay eucharistic minister, altar guild member and lay reader, and have been a delegate to diocesan convention. I am a board member of The Greater Savannah River Community Foundation. I welcome the opportunity to use my experience and professional skills to serve you as a member of the Diocesan Council.

Clergy Nominees for Diocesan Council

2 clergy seats to be filled

The Rev. Pam Fahrner

All Saints, Hilton Head Island
Nominated by the Rev. Rick Lindsey



My life has been characterized by perseverance and determination. I bring to this position long experience as a

lay person as well as a clerical perspective. Organized and experienced in multi-tasking, I offer my energy and enthusiasm and hope to serve the council well. Long before ordination, I graduated with a degree in dental hygiene and practiced for 20+ years. I also owned a business with my husband and managed the financial side of the business. Active in the Episcopal Church, I did just about everything a lay person could do over 25+ years. Married (nearly 52 years), we have two children and four grandchildren. Ordination was a gift to me upon my retirement as a health professional! I was ordained a deacon in 2007 and a priest in 2008. I served in the Diocese of Maryland before moving to South Carolina.

Pastoral care has long been my passion and I was a hospital chaplain and served on the board of a women and children's shelter in Maryland as well as facilitating an ecumenical group for women in Maryland. I served as assisting priest at two small churches and officiated at services in local Lutheran churches and at senior care facilities. At All Saints, Hilton Head Island, coordinate and provide pastoral care, provide off-site supply services, preach and celebrate as a priest associate.

I look forward to serving this diocese who welcomed me so graciously.

The Rev. Caleb Lee

Grace, Charleston
Nominated by the Rev. John Zahl



I am glad to accept the nomination for service on Diocesan Council. Having served my whole life (minus col-

lege) as a faithful Episcopalian, I look forward to the opportunity to continue in that capacity as a member of Diocesan Council. Growing up in Tarboro, N.C., I was involved in every aspect of the Episcopal Church in which a youth could participate. I attended Episcopal High School for four years and was and was a leader there in many capacities including Senior Warden of the Student Vestry. After college, I volunteered as a youth advisor at St. James in Wilmington, N.C., where I discerned a call to the priesthood, and eventually served on staff, working in youth ministry and building a ministry around young families. I also worked at the diocesan level as Episcopal Campus Minister at UNC-Wilmington. At Virginia Theological Seminary I was class chaplain and senior class president, and spent two years serving at St. Columba's, Washington, D.C. before accepting a call to St. Paul's, Beaufort, N.C. as Associate Rector. My diocesan involvement in East Carolina included being the Spiritual Director of Happening and serving on the Board of Directors for the Trinity Camp and Conference Center. I accepted a call at Grace in Charleston a year ago. Currently I am working in our diocese to grow our Campus Ministry.

The Rev. Wilmot Merchant

St. Stephen's, North Myrtle Beach
Nominated by Eileen Carzon



Originally from Liberia, West Africa, I have served churches in Liberia and the United States since my ordination

in 1986. I have served at St. Stephen's in North Myrtle Beach since 1999 in various capacities and became its third rector in August 2002. I was an active member of the diocese before the disaffiliation. In The Episcopal Church in South Carolina, I am currently President of the Standing Committee. From 2004 to 2008 I was the National Chairman of the Liberian Episcopal Community in the United States. From 2004 to 2015, I served on the National Board of the Union of Black Episcopalians. I am a coach for the Black Ministries Office of The Episcopal Church, and Senior Fellow of the Waccamaw Chapter of American Leadership Forum. I am very active in the Upper Grand Strand Ministerial Alliance, currently serving as its Treasurer, and was co-founder of the Clergy Covenant Group of the Upper Grand Strand in 2003 and have hosted the group since its beginning. From June to December of 2014, I served as Priest-In-Charge of Calvary Episcopal Church in Charleston, simultaneously serving the congregations of St. Stephen's and Calvary as an experiment of the changing times of the Church. I am delighted to be given the opportunity to continue to serve the Diocese.

This report was prepared in September 2015 for the Pre-Convention Deanery Meetings being held September 27-October 25, 2015.

Late nominations may be presented to the Nominations Committee on or before November 13, 2015, the first business day of Diocesan Convention. Late nominations must include 110 copies of each nominee's photo and personal statement.



The Episcopal Church in South Carolina
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