

125th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese Northern Michigan biographical information for those nominated

Nominee(s) for Treasurer

Richard Graybill, Grace, Ishpeming; nominated by Grace Church:

Grace Ishpeming nominates Dick Graybill for the office of Treasurer. Dick has been a member of Grace since 1973. During that time, he has served the parish on vestry and as a delegate to Diocesan Convention multiple times. He has served the diocese as a deputy to General Convention and served on multiple committees at diocesan and national levels. He has been diocesan treasurer since 1976. Outside of church, Dick has served on the boards of Habitat For Humanity (current president), Salvation Army, United Way of Marquette County, Cancer Care of Marquette Count and Great Lakes Recovery Centers. He is a former Rotarian and former member of the Economic Club of Marquette. Dick continues to practice law full time.

Nominee(s) for Standing Committee

Non-Ordained -

Wyndeth Davis, Christ Church, Calumet; nominated by Arlene Gordanier:

Wyndeth is the Superintendent of Keweenaw National Historical Park. She has been with the National Park Service for 32 years and began her service in Alaska. Her education and work experience deeply rooted in service and the wellbeing of earth's parks, people and creation enjoying, treasuring, and experiencing their offerings. Wyndeth is dedicated to working in partnership and her vocation in the National Park Service brought her to the UP to develop plans for visitors to the Keweenaw Heritage Sites. Wyndeth grew up in Monmouth Oregon, in the Willamette valley with her parents, a younger brother and an older sister. Her dad was a teacher at Western Oregon University in the Theatre department ---her mom helped there as well as being a dental assistant. "So, we kind of grew up backstage" Wendy says of her childhood. Growing up backstage is formation in community, and partners and teams. It is a wonderful life experience that influenced her in life's professional call. In addition to this early life experience, Wendy has a master's degree in anthropology and taught anthropology for the University of Alaska, Anchorage for several years. So, winter here was not a shocking surprise.

She was raised in the Methodist/Presbyterian churches and during a working experience in Washington D.C. and living in MD she began attending a neighborhood Episcopal Church and found a community centered on hospitality and radical welcome. She was confirmed and served as a eucharistic visitor, and an advocate for issues of social justice especially those wounded by the church primarily. Wendy is part of the Ministry Support Team at Christ Church, Calumet, represents the Commission on Ministry at Diocesan Council and will be an excellent member of the Standing Committee as both COM and SC work closely together. Community, people, service

and partnering are deep in Wyndeth's heart. Walking and living in the Way of Love are daily invitations to her. Wyndeth listens deeply to dialogue, is prepared for discussions and the business or decision to be accomplished. It is my honor to nominate Wyndeth Davis for the Standing Committee

Rick Stanitis, Trinity, Houghton; nominated by Kathy Binoniemi:

I would like to nominate Rick Stanitis to the Standing Committee of the diocese. I feel that Rick would be a good candidate because of this compassion, genuine interest in people, and the leadership I have seen him exhibit. I have found him to be thoughtful and considerate when sharing his thoughts and ideas. He has been a force behind Canterbury House and its ministry and outreach to the students at MTU. He has been innovated and adaptable in his approach to the various challenges that that ministry has faced, especially over the past year and a half of Covid-19 pandemic. I feel that attitude would be a great asset to the Standing Committee.

Ordained -

Marna Franson, Diocesan Missioner; nominated by Arlene Gordanier:

The diocese welcomed Marna in late Summer 2020 and this "born northerner and enculturated southerner" began her "Yooper journey" amid life during a pandemic Marna is a life-long Episcopalian, baptized with her three older brothers and younger sister at Christ Church Watertown, Connecticut. Exploring, studying, and savoring a community experience at her home church and community and later in her education, her work and life experiences. Her first passion is for family and raising her three sons Charlie, Joey, and Sam and welcoming her daughter-in-law Chole. Gathering her family under her wing in love is firmly rooted and growing in her heart. Marna's story is about people, community, and service and walking in love We see in her story, experiences, with social service, and the challenging work of child protective service, student services, and education. Marna takes seriously the call to mission as we are all called in our baptism to mission and ministry. She worked and studied in India, Mexico, Honduras, and the Dominican Republic. In a recent homily, Marna shared her experience of working and "being present" to the people whose lives were steeped in extreme poverty and celebrating the joy of God's abundance. Marna has an abundance of gifts, and she has deep learning, well-honed skills and a rich investment in her education, work experience, and enjoying community and being with people. She brings these gifts to her life in the UP, her ministry and her service to and with others within he organized church and beyond. Marna's service with the Standing Committee will be an asset in their work. Her interest and curiosity about the processes of discernment, decision making and how people and institutions compose their lives will help in processing the duties and responsibilities of the Standing Committee.

It is my privilege to nominate Marna for the Standing Committee and celebrate her spirit of working as a team in community.

Susan Harries, St. James, Sault Ste. Marie; nominated by Arlene Gordanier:

Susan has been an active presence in the Community of Sault Ste Marie and the St James church community. Having served in the USCG for 21 years, Susan retired from military service in January 2000. In addition to military training and service, Susan was employed as a veterinary assistant for 14 years. Susan continued to use her gifts as a paraprofessional with the JKL Bahweting Anishinaabe Public School Academy working with kids for 13 years. Currently in her community, she serves as a member of the Red Cross as a Disaster Action Team Member and as a member of the Youth Engagement Committee of the local "Communities that Care Coalition." Susan is a member of the Ministry Support team at St James as well as a Missioner to two congregations of our diocese located in the eastern UP. Susan is a co-coordinator for the United Thank Offering for the diocese and has been active with getting the word out and the filled blue boxes in to support this ongoing grant ministry. Susan has also been an active member of the Standing Committee and has been a valuable resource to this committee. She has studied the materials we receive in the Consent Process for Bishops-elect, as well as for the diocese, meeting with those in the ordination and commissioning stages of Covenant and MST's. Working with groups and in teams is a strength for Susan and she brings her life experience of service to the EDNMI. Susan is committed and dependable in all areas of her life and ministry. She is a thoughtful decision maker and looks at the information presented and listens deeply and carefully prior to making an important decision. Susan is an active leader in the diocese and partners with missioners and others in the life and mission of the diocese, she has served on diocesan council, Justice and Peace committee, Safeguarding God's Children/People training, Church camp, Youth work.

It is my pleasure to nominate her for the Standing Committee. I have served with Susan in the past and present and I am thankful for her gifts and her willing service.

Bradley Pickens, nominated by Carolyn Orchard:

Brad is an excellent listener, offers suggestions and eager to help each congregation to grow. His insightful understanding will be most helpful on the standing committee. About Brad: "My early Christian formation came through the independent Christian Church that my family had attended for 200 years and that is where I learned how to worship and minister in community, as a community. My ministry has always been focused on the practice of prayer that is oriented towards liberation and justice. I first encountered the Episcopal Church 22 years ago and the Episcopal Church has been my primary place of worship since 2002. Since then, I have served and worshipped with Episcopal Churches in six different US diocese and three different provinces within the Anglican Communion. My focus has always been on reconciliation between people on different ends of the theological and political spectrum and on establishing partnerships between the Church and local businesses, non-profits, and individuals for the purpose of freeing people to life full and fulfilling lives. I have served in the Diocese of Northern Michigan as a

missioner since September 2020 and am very happy to have my wife Kara, and our daughters Hazel (7) and Iris (4) up here with me!

Much of the focus in my ministry has revolved around discerning the shape that the Church needs to take in order to address the current realities facing the Church. I believe that the Church is being called into a radical renunciation of power, possessions, and status in exchange for a life of prayer and focus on God alone, which removes the barriers that we often place between ourselves and God. I also believe that the Church must reinitiate a conversation with church members and the broader world about the significance of encountering the living Christ in this day. It is essential for the Church to approach this conversation “from below,” not dominating with traditional theological answers or entrenched institutional perspectives, but actively engaging the world in a new conversation about who Christ is for us today. This conversation must be characterized by its openness: the Church must be content to ask difficult questions, to wrestle with ambiguity, to suffer with the world, and to welcome people into its midst whose faith commitment might not be obvious or who might even be hostile to faith. For the Church, this openness calls for radical hospitality; for creativity and innovation; for the acceptance of risk as a way of living in the world; and for giving away power so that the ministry of the Church is accomplished by the entire gathered community. The goal of this is spiritual formation that extends throughout an entire community and that opens the Church to sharing the good things of the earth with the world. This is made possible through the abundance that grows out of the diversity of individuals who are empowered to contribute their unique gifts to the realization of the kingdom among us. This means that we wish to encounter God in the wholeness of life, fully recognizing the world as a sacrament of God’s presence.”

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Nominee(s) for Diocesan Council

John Austin, Trinity, Houghton; nominated by Val Peyser:

John Austin lives in Houghton, where he tends an orchard and teaches at Gogebic Community College. He is a cradle Episcopalian who has worshiped for stretches in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Missouri, and Sweden in the course of a peripatetic academic career, before settling permanently in the Keweenaw. He began attending Trinity Episcopal Houghton in the Spring of 2015. For several years he split his time between teaching in St. Louis and tending to his now-permanent home in Houghton. His transition involved spending nearly every spare weekend or holiday traveling to Houghton. Most of his trips involved service to the church, such as acting as guest preacher or attending a special meeting. As senior warden at Trinity over the last five years I have come to know John quite well and know he has the qualities required to be a valuable contributing member of the Diocesan council.

John faithfully attends church every Sunday he is in town. He is always interested in assisting with matters of worship and outreach. He now leads our weekly public mindful meditation group and is eager to grow our church. He shows strong support for our food pantry by bringing in new ideas and fresh foods. John serves on the vestry and has been acting as the lead vestry person in our search for a new priest, in which role he has networked with multiple priests across the country and communicated with potential candidates to gauge their sense of call and arrange in-person interviews.

John is dependable and can always be relied upon to follow through on responsibilities in a timely manner. He brings with him the organizational tools of a skillful strategic planner based on a thirty-year career in academia, where he served on numerous committees and headed multiple programs and departments. He is committed to the mission and vision of the diocese, and I believe his skills and experience in nurturing institutions could be of great use to the Diocesan Council.

Ed Miner, St. Stephen's, DeTour Village; nominated by Susan Harries:

I would like to nominate Ed Miner to serve on Diocesan Council. I first met Ed on Drummond Island about 3 years ago but have had both e-mail and phone conversations with him when he was not on the Island. During the summer Ed is often present at worship at St. Stephens in DeTour Village and actively participated in congregation life. He has been a supporter of St. Stephens' various outreach ministries. I believe his presence on council would help provide a balance of membership from the eastern end of the diocese. Ed was born and raised in Grand Rapids. He has been a life-long visitor to Drummond Island. His first visit was at one-month old, before they had running water and electricity. His passions are music and social Justice.

Jacklyn Lenten, St. John's, Negaunee; nominated by Kathy Martindale:

I would like to recommend Jacklyn Lenten for the Diocesan Council. She is a young woman who has always been interested and involved with everything that has gone on at St. John's, Negaunee. While at NMU she was president of the Conservation Club and founded the Board of Students for Sustainability. This is a group of leaders from other clubs involved with economic equality, racial equality, and environmental justice. When she graduated, she was chosen Outstanding Graduating Senior for the Earth, Environmental and Geographic Sciences. Also, from very early on, Jacklyn has shown maturity and wisdom beyond her age.

Nancy Olexick, Trinity Gladstone; nominated by Duane Wils:

Nancy has not only served in our own congregation, but has also served UTO, previously on Diocesan Council. Nancy has also served the public by helping stock our church food pantry and

also helped in clothing people in need in our own community by providing donated items such as socks, blankets, etc. Nancy is an ordained minister on the MST at Trinity. I believe Nancy to be an excellent candidate for the Diocesan Council.

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Nominee(s) for the Trust Association

Two-year terms: Tom Lippart & Ron Smith

Tom Lippart - Tom received his B.S. in Met. Engineering, Michigan Tech; his M.S. of Divinity from Nashotah House, and did his graduate work at Virginia Seminary. Tom was ordained to the priesthood in 1965. He served in the diocese from 1967 until his retirement in 1997. Tom was one of the editors of the book published by our diocese “*A Question of Balance: A Radical Approach to Conservative Investing*” by Kenneth S Hogg, a member of our Diocese from Marquette. Tom has managed his family investments for almost 30 years and has served two terms as a Trustee of the Diocesan Trust Association. Tom and his wife Peg live part-time in the Escanaba area and part-time in Florida.

Ron Smith - Ronald N. Smith was born in Kansas City in 1947 and was raised there. He has a BA in English from the University of Kansas and an MA in Religion from the same university. Ron holds an MDiv from the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, TX. He and his wife Kay have lived in Austin since 1972. While in Austin he was awarded an MBA in finance from the University of Texas at Austin and an MA in philosophy.

He has served the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Northern Michigan where he was ordained to the diaconate and priesthood and in the Diocese of Texas where he served on the staff of St. David’s in Austin from 1988 till his retirement from ministry in 2012. While at St. David’s, he was charged at different periods with Adult Formation, Pastoral Care, and New Member Ministry. In retirement he still serves as a priest at St. James in Taylor Texas and at Trinity Church on Mackinac Island.

He and his wife Kay were married in 1969 and divide their time between Austin and four months in the summer at their cottage on Mackinac Island. They have a daughter, Ellen, who also lives and works in Austin and spends several weeks with them on the island.

Ron was very present at The University of Texas over the years and was honored by having a chair in Classics and Christian Origins created in his name in the Classics Department. The following was written in the UT News dated April 5, 2002: “Two foundations have jointly funded a \$1 million endowment to support teaching and research in the fields of antiquity and Christian origins, history, archeology and Biblical studies. It will be known as the Ronald Nelson

Smith Chair in Classics and Christian Origins.He has championed the need for greater awareness of the Bible in history to bring greater knowledge to these ancient texts and greater understanding to contemporary issues.”

Three-year terms: Peggy Frazier & Patrick Galey

Peggy Frazier - Peggy Frazier has been a member of St. Paul's since her marriage to Peter Frazier in 1973. Peggy served as the Director of the NMU Health Center Pharmacy from its inception until her retirement. She also served NMU administratively as the Director of the 504 and Title IX efforts. As a licensed pharmacist she provides programs focusing on Neutraceuticals and Herbal Supplements for continuing education and community groups. During her career she served on the Michigan Board of Pharmacy and on the Ferris State University Board for eighteen years. She also served as Treasurer for Fraco, Inc. and assisted a variety of nonprofit community organizations with financial issues. Throughout her career, Peggy has advocated passionately for women and championed increased service. Currently she serves as the Producer for Lake Superior Theatre, a seasonal summer theatre in Marquette, and is involved in other community service including Marquette Breakfast Rotary. Pete and Peggy have two children and three grandchildren. They spend part of the year both in Marquette and Marco Island, FL where they attend St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

Patrick Galey - Patrick was born in Sudbury, Ontario, Canada in 1957 and was raised in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. His education and work background is varied: Rotary Exchange student Australia 1973; Graduated medical school University of Toronto 1981; Board certified orthopaedic surgeon 1986, trained University of Ottawa; Fellowship in joint replacement, arthroscopy Adelaide Australia 1987; Worked in Sault Ste. Marie Ont. 1988-1992; After emigrating to the U.S. in 1992, Patrick moved back to UP to help care for Dr. West, his father-in-law in 2010.

Currently Patrick works at Schoolcraft County Memorial Hospital as staff orthopaedic surgeon. He is a member of the Ministry Support Team at St. James in Sault Ste. Marie, where he functions as a presbyter/priest. Patrick is married to Hilary who is also a MST member at St. James). They have 4 children: Sarah, Hannah, Patrick, and Rebecca.

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Nominee(s) for 80th General Convention Alternate Deputies

Non-Ordained -

Jacklyn Lenten, St. John's, Negaunee; nominated by Marna Franson:

Jacklyn is a cradle Episcopalian, raised by parents who are deeply embedded in the Episcopal Church. She is a mover and a shaker herself: a self-starter and an auto-didact. She always seems to be learning and growing. Just this past May, she graduated from NMU, winning her Department's top student award. She even graduated with a major that she invented herself. It would be great for Jacklyn to be part of the Convention Delegation. With her growing up in the church and being a woman of vision and energy, having her as a part of the team that generates the church of the future is a wonderful fit.

Ordained –

David Carlisle, Diocesan Missioner; nominated by Lydia Bucklin:

David is a gift to our diocese. He brings a fresh perspective having served in other dioceses. He is theologically grounded and a wonderful preacher. David is collaborative and appreciative of others' gifts. He would make a great member to the team of deputies to General Convention.