

Canonical Bodies of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan *(as of October 2021)*

Diocesan Council, Standing Committee, Trust Association, Commission on Ministry, the Disciplinary Board, and the General Convention Deputation are canonical bodies of the diocese (and Church) that offer up a wealth of experience and support for our congregations, and by extension all our diocesan family. A brief overview of each follow.

DIOCESAN COUNCIL

The Bishop is the executive head in the administration of the Diocese. The Diocesan Council participates with the Bishop in administrative deliberations and decisions between Diocesan Conventions. This includes, but is not limited to, financial oversight, employment issues, policy and guidelines, program, and strategic planning.

The Diocesan Council consists of the Bishop, the President of the Standing Committee, the Chair of the Commission on Ministry, and the Diocesan Treasurer as ex-officio members; a representative elected by each Region/District, and three at large representatives who shall be elected by the Diocesan Convention to serve staggered three-year terms. Diocesan Council meets monthly.

Members:

Rayford Ray, Bishop (ex officio)

President of the Standing Committee (ex officio) – *as elected by Standing Committee*

Chair of the Commission on Ministry (ex officio) – *as appointed by COM*

Treasurer of the Diocese (ex officio) – *as elected*

(7) Members – each serving a staggered 3-year term – Katie Chipman-Bergsma; Kim Moote; MarySullivan (*and 4 others to be elected*)

STANDING COMMITTEE

The Standing Committee acts as the council of advice to the Bishop. The Committee meets at least five times a year and may be called into session from time to time by the Bishop. The Committee may also meet of its own accord, and agreeably to its own rules.

In case of a vacancy in the Episcopate, the Standing Committee shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese in all cases except such as otherwise provided for by the Canons of the General Convention or this Diocese. The Standing Committee shall also perform all other duties as shall be prescribed by the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church in the United States and by the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese. The Standing Committee meets quarterly.

Members:

Kathy Binoniemi; Norm Satterly; Charles Mineau (*and 4 others to be elected*)

TRUST ASSOCIATION

The Trust Association of the Diocese is a corporate body, composed of eight Members, including the Bishop, who is the Presiding Officer, and the Treasurer of the Diocese. The Trustees are charged with oversight of the Trust funds and property, both real and personal, of the Diocese, and are also charged with seeing that such funds are invested to maximize their benefit to the Diocese consistent with prudence and faithful stewardship. The Trust Association meets quarterly.

Members:

Rayford Ray (ex officio) & Dick Graybill (ex officio); Jack Lenten; Pat Micklow (*and 4 others to be elected*)

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

The Commission advises and assist the Bishop:

(a) in the implementation of Title III of the Canons of the Church; (b) in the determination of present and future opportunities and needs for the ministry of all baptized persons; and (c) in the design and oversight of the ongoing process for recruitment, discernment, formation for ministry, and assessment of readiness for various ministries. The Commission on Ministry consists of twelve persons appointed by the Bishop and Diocesan Council. Membership of the Commission is selected with consideration to inclusivity. The Commission on Ministry meets monthly.

Members:

Rayford Ray (ex officio); Fran Barger, Lydia Kelsey Bucklin; David Carlisle
Bradley Pickens; Wyndeth Davis; Hilary Galey; Lynn Domina; Gin Mannisto; Jim Martindale;
Robert Railey; Suzanne Ray.

DISCIPLINARY BOARD

Title IV of the Canons of the Church is for the Discipline of Priests and Deacons, and as it pertains to the practices and procedures set forth. The Board consists of not fewer than seven persons, the majority of whom shall be priests and/or deacons, but by no more than one. Others may be appointed to support the work of the Board. The members of the Board shall be appointed by the Bishop with the advice and consent of the Diocesan Council on a yearly basis. The Disciplinary Board has its annual refresher training each December or January.

Members:

Intake Officer - Jane Cisluycis – **Intake Officer**

Bishop - Rayford Ray – **Bishop**

Coordinator - vacant - **Coordinator**

Disciplinary Board – Marna Franson, Arlene Gordanier; Susan Harries; Karan Hendricks; Gwen Hetler; Gin Mannisto; Rick Stanitis; Mary Sullivan;

Attorney(s) - Dick Graybill

Conciliators - Sue Jamison & Nancy Olexick

Investigator(s) - Jim Martindale

Advisors - Kathleen Martindale & Bob Railey

GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTATION

General Convention takes place every three years in a different location usually within the U.S. The Episcopal Church is an international church comprising 17 countries. The governance of the Church is through General Convention and between times by the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church.

The General Convention is bi-cameral, meaning there are two houses: the House of Deputies (the oldest house) and the House of Bishops. Bishops are members of the house by virtue of their ordination. Deputies are elected every three years.

Every Diocese elects no less than 8 deputies—4 that are ordained (priests and deacons) and 4 that are not ordained (lay order). Also, up to 8 alternates (with the same breakdown) may be elected. Once Deputies are elected at the annual diocesan convention, they become a deputation of the upcoming General Convention. Deputies participate for the full convention which is no less than 8 days long. The diocesan budget covers deputies' transportation, housing, and meals. First time deputies attend legislative committee hearings and become oriented to the governance of the church. Returning deputies typically are appointed to serve on legislative committees. There are daily opportunities to experience diverse and life-giving worship, fellowship with deputies from the other 100+ dioceses and play an important role in the Church. Fun fact: After the Democratic and Republican national convention, the General Convention of the Episcopal Church is the next biggest.

Members:

80th General Convention (2022) Deputies: Kathy Binoniemi; Lydia Kelsey Bucklin; Jane Cislucyis; Arlene Gordanier; Suzanne Ray; Dick Graybill; Rick Stanitis
(alternates to be elected)