

Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan 2025 Diocesan Convention

NOMINATIONS

Candidates for Diocesan Council

Headed by the Bishop, the Diocesan Council deliberates between Diocesan Conventions overseeing administrative matters of the diocese. One position is open for a three year term.

Jack Lenten – St. John's, Negaunee

Jack was born and raised in Negaunee. He has been a lifelong member of St. John's Church in Negaunee and the Treasurer for the church for more than 25 years. He has been a member of the Trust Association of the diocese. He is a retired CPA and Internal Auditor with Range Bank for 42 years in the financial field. He is a current member of the Marquette County Community Foundation and past Board Chair. He is a current Negaunee Lions Club member and past President. He would be honored to serve on the Diocesan Council.

Kim Moote – St. John's, Munising

Kim has been a member of St. John's, Munising for over 50 years and during that time has served on the Vestry, been Senior Warden a few times, also Treasurer, and on their Ministry Support Team for over 30 years, currently acting as deacon, and participates with the Munising Ecumenical Committee. She has served on the Diocesan Council in the past and also on the last Bishop's Search Committee and is currently serving on the Trust Association. Outside of the church she is an insurance agent, owning her own agency specializing in health plans for Medicare eligibles. She also served on the board of the Alger Regional Community Foundation for 16 years, with the last 5 years serving as their president.

Candidates for Standing Committee

The Standing Committee serves as the ecclesiastical authority of the diocese in the absence of a bishop. It serves as the bishop's council of advice. Half of its members are ordained, half are non-ordained. There are currently 3 positions open for 1 ordained, and 2 non-ordained members.

Katie Chipman-Bergsma (non-ordained)

Katie has been a member of St. James Episcopal Church in Sault Ste. Marie since childhood. She has a son, Frank, and a daughter, Maeby. Katie is a Michigan Certified Assessing Officer during the day where she works as a data specialist. She is the advocacy chair of the League of Women Voters EUP, a volunteer leader for Scouting

America and Girls Scouts, and her children's #1 fan at their sporting and academic events. She loves to read, bake, garden, and create art. She loves getting out to adventure – seeing new places and exploring nature. She has served on Diocesan Council, St. James's Vestry, and as a delegate in the House of Deputies at 81st General Convention. She is currently serving as the Diocesan Representative for Province V, as secretary of the Diocesan Standing Committee, as a member of the Ministry Support Teams in the Sault and DeTour, a planning leader for UP Wild Bridges group, and as the volunteer Diocesan Youth Worker. As of August 2025, she is attending a hybrid program with The General Theological Seminary in New York City to hopefully become an ordained priest.

Nancy deKoster (non-ordained)

Nancy has been a member of Holy Trinity, Iron Mountain since 1991. She has been a Vestry member numerous times since 1993 and began as the church treasurer in 2000 and still holds that position. She was asked to fill an unexpired Standing Committee position in 2024. That term ends in 2025 and she is willing to serve on the committee for another term.

In the community, Nancy has been a Board member since January of 2003 on the Dickinson Iron School District. She has been a Board member of the Lake Antoine Park Partners since July of 2019 and has also served on the Dickinson Area County Band Board since 1995.

Lydia Kelsey Bucklin (ordained)

Nominated by Gin Mannisto. Lydia serves as President and Dean of Episcopal Divinity School, working remotely from her home in Marquette. As a former Canon to the Ordinary in the Diocese of Northern Michigan, and Missioner in the diocese, she is familiar with the structure and life of the diocese and shares a love for mutual ministry and the work of healing in our communities. Lydia's work at Episcopal Divinity School focuses on providing accessible theological education to form leaders for today's world. Lydia is mom to Isla (14) and Corson (10) and wife to Brandon.

I have worked with Lydia for over 7 years and found that her desire to collaborate has been very helpful in projects. I consult often with Lydia in my work as missioner and appreciate her wisdom.

Candidate for Treasurer

Dick Graybill – St. Paul's, Marquette

Nominated by Arlene Gordanier. The Diocesan Treasurer is a leadership role overseeing the financial matters of the diocese. In this position, he collaborates closely with the bishop, diocesan staff, and missioners. The treasurer works with the finance committee and other leadership to prepare the budget for the convention. The treasurer

is a resource to congregations, committees, commissions and others in the mission and ministry of this diocese.

Having served with Dick on diocesan council, I've appreciated his skill and expertise in financial oversight. Our Financial Life as a diocese has held many challenges in the past few decades and Dick has brought to the challenge deep commitment for mission and ministry. As a member of council and other bodies in this diocese, Dick listens and responds. The responding aspect often requires further research and insight, and Dick is steadfast in doing this.

I have enjoyed serving with Dick Graybill and am grateful for conversations, insights, and friendship.

Candidates for General Convention

To be elected: 4 ordained members and 4 non-ordained members as Deputies to General Convention. 4 ordained and 4 non-ordained are elected as Alternates.

Frank Chipman-Bergsma – St. James, Sault Ste. Marie (non-ordained)

Frank has been a dedicated member of St. James since his family returned to Sault Ste. Marie from downstate. He has participated in church activities including shopping for gifts for needy families in the area at Christmas time. He has been active in Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts and has served as a member of the Governor's Honor Guard with the Scouts on Mackinac Island for the past two summers. He has also served as an acolyte at Trinity Church, Mackinac Island and at St. James in Sault Ste. Marie. He has also participated in UP Wild Church gatherings in the bridge region.

Katie Chipman-Bergsma – St. James, Sault Ste. Marie (non-ordained)

Katie is very knowledgeable and interested in Church Policy, and Constitution and Canons. She was instrumental in re-writing the policy book for St. James to bring it up to date with the way we are church together. She presented it to the Vestry and congregation inviting input and discussion.

Katie attended the General Convention in 2024 in Louisville, Kentucky and was fully engaged all the time she was there.

Charles Murphy – Grace, Menominee; Christ Church, Calumet (non-ordained)

Charles was raised in the Episcopal church, son, nephew, and grandson of Episcopal priests. He worked in youth ministry for 20 years, mostly in the Diocese of Chicago but also in the Diocese of Alabama and the Diocese of Iowa. He is currently a non-ordained missionary for the Diocese of Northern Michigan, serving Grace Church, Menominee and Christ Church, Calumet. He is proud to be part of a diocese that is working to both keep the tradition of the Episcopal church AND imagine its new shape.

Rick Stanitis – Trinity, Houghton *(non-ordained)*

Rick has ample years of service within the diocese, for Province V, and at General Convention. He is a strong representative of our diocese.

Brad Pickens – St. Mark's, Crystal Falls; Holy Trinity, Iron Mt; Grace, Menominee *(ordained)*

In the past two years, I have visited the majority of congregations in the diocese and gained an understanding of needs and perspectives throughout the diocese. I have also gained a good sense of the particular ways in which this diocese relates to the national church, and I have been an advocate for mutual ministry and for the work that we are doing here in other national church initiatives.

Steve Godfrey – St. John's, Iron River *(ordained)*

Steve is a lifelong Episcopalian and has been active in leadership in the church for 40 years, in several dioceses, including in diocesan and churchwide congregational development, transitions/deployment, church planting and redevelopment efforts, and the Living Stones and Living Waters cooperatives. He has considerable knowledge of The Episcopal Church. As Canon to the Ordinary, supporting the ministry and mission of the diocese and bishop, he would be in a good position to represent our diocese in the primary deliberative body of The Episcopal Church and to connect our local perspectives with the resources of the wider church and bring the fruits of those deliberations back to our local communities.

Dick Graybill – St. Paul's, Marquette *(ordained)*

Nominated by Arlene Gordanier. It is my honor to nominate Richard Graybill to serve as an ordained deputy at the General Convention. Dick brings to this responsibility, his deep commitment to Church Governance, his leadership qualities, faithfulness to the mission and ministry of the Gospel, integrity, deep values grounded in his baptism, and a sense of humor. General Convention involves discussing as well as debating resolutions which affect life, life in the community of the church and the world, amending, often rewriting, and accepting church documents and policies. Deputies at the General Convention who vote their conscience and spiritual practice as well as spiritual discernment are the foundation in making those decisions that affect our life as the Episcopal Church as well as our life in community. It is a valuable gift to have Dick who has navigated several General Conventions as part of the deputation team. As a former deputy, I appreciate the wisdom and guidance of his experience, his integrity, and commitment.

General Convention is legislative and requires considerable time expenditure at the convention and in preparation for the event. The reading of documents, resolutions and budgets requires focus and understanding. As an attorney, Dick brings significant knowledge to the team in seeking to make decisions that serve mission and ministry.

I have appreciated serving with Dick as a General Convention Deputy. He loves and serves the Diocese of Northern Michigan in many ways and his love for God as lived in community is the heart of his service.

Meg (Mo) Trimm – Church of the Transfiguration, Ironwood; St. John's, Munising; St. Stephen's, Escanaba (*ordained*)

Nominated by Jon Flath. In the short time that Mo has been with us at St. Stephen's, Escanaba, we have experienced their genuine compassion and willingness to listen and understand our congregation. Mo has the innate ability to lead, to facilitate, and encourage without dominating the discussion. We are already seeing the benefit Mo brings as Missioner, and would like to recognize their leadership by nominating Mo as a delegate for General Convention from The Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan.