



One Church

One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism

The 44th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee

November 15, 2025
Calvary Episcopal Church
Memphis, Tennessee

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The 44th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee

The 44th Annual Convention
of the
Episcopal Diocese of
West Tennessee

Saturday, November 15, 2025
Calvary Episcopal Church

Convention
Feedback Survey:



Order of Business

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 8:00 A.M. | Check-in Opens
Light breakfast served and Exhibitor Hall opens. |
| 9:00 A.M. | Morning Prayer |
| 9:15 A.M. | Welcome |
| 9:30 A.M. | Call to Order |
| 9:45 A.M. | Keynote Address, Part 1: Tod Bolsinger
<i>One Church: When Trust Is Not Enough</i> |
| 10:25 A.M. | Presentation of Resolutions |
| 11:20 A.M. | Diocesan Presentations
St. Columba Camp & Retreat Center: Michael Douglas
Barth House: Maggie Schaumleffel
Staff, Pages, Seminarians, and New Clergy Introductions
Other Announcements |
| 11:50 A.M. | Noonday Prayers & Lunch |
| 1:00 P.M. | Afternoon Session Begins
Opening Remarks & Quorum Confirmation |
| 1:05 P.M. | Budget Presentation: Josh Shipley |
| 1:30 P.M. | Keynote Address, Part 2: Tod Bolsinger
<i>One Church: The Problem for Pleasers</i> |
| 2:00 P.M. | Elections and Confirmation of Bishop's Appointees |
| 2:30 P.M. | Bishop's Remarks |
| 3:00 P.M. | Adjournment |

In Memoriam



We remember those people who offered leadership
in The Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee
and have died since the Forty-third Convention.

Dorothy Farner

Tim Geske

Donald William Grice

Jenks Etter McCrory

Paricia McFarland

The Rev. Deacon Nancy O'Shea

The Rev. Louie Noland Pipes, Jr.

The Rev. Canon Rene Somodevilla

Lynn Strickland

Robert Townsend

(Other names may be added silently or aloud.)

*Father of all, we pray to you for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant to
them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

*May their souls and the souls of all the departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

2024 Diocesan Convention Minutes

43rd Annual Meeting of the Convention
of the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee
The Rt. Rev. Phoebe A. Roaf,
Fourth Bishop of West Tennessee, Presiding

Church of the Holy Apostles
Collierville, Tennessee

Saturday, November 16, 2024

Call to Order

Bishop Phoebe A. Roaf called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. The Hon. Scott Haight was appointed Parliamentarian. Mr. Steve Anderson was appointed Secretary of the Diocese. Canon Alisa Kelly was appointed Secretary of Elections.

Certification of Quorum

To constitute a quorum a total of 34 canonically resident clergy and 72 lay delegates must be present. To constitute a quorum, a total of 25 clergy and 26 lay must be present. Bishop Phoebe A. Roaf declared a quorum present.

Order of Business

The Order of Business was moved by Bishop Phoebe A. Roaf and was unanimously approved.

Adoption of the 2023 Diocesan Convention Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to adopt the minutes of the 2023 Diocesan Convention.

Resolution on Amendment(s) to the Rules of Order

The motion to amend the Rules of Order was made by the Resolutions Committee. The amended Rules of Order were unanimously approved and immediately went into effect. The amended Rules of Order are attached as Exhibit A.

Keynote Speaker

Kate Bond, Director of Faith Formation and Discipleship for the Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma, shared a presentation on her findings on congregational health and vitality.

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Ministry Grant Video Presentations

Three short videos were shown, featuring Immanuel Episcopal Church (Ripley) for their Community Arts Program, All Saints Episcopal Church (Memphis) for their Pollinator Garden Program, and St. James (Bolivar) for their Drug Court Support and Recovery Program.

Resolution on Streamlining Diocesan Governance

This motion has already been moved by the Resolutions Committee and does not require being seconded. The resolution passed.

The Rev. Sandy Webb gave a brief presentation calling to combine the Standing Committee and Bishop & Council into a single body. The Rt. Rev. Phoebe A. Roaf opened the floor for questions. Lack of clarification as to the need for combining both bodies was expressed. Bishop and Council will study the effects of combining both committees and bring a recommendation to the 2025 Diocesan Convention.

Resolved that the 43rd Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee directs its Committee on Constitution and Canons to consult with other chancellors and bishops in other dioceses of The Episcopal Church on the advisability and practicality of combining the Standing Committee and Bishop & Council into a single body, and report its findings and recommendations to the Standing Committee and Bishop & Council before the 44th Annual Convention; and be it further

Resolved that the Standing Committee and Bishop & Council engage in joint conversations with the Committee on Constitution and Canons regarding the advisability and practicality of combining into a single body, and the Committee on Constitutions and Canons is directed to report to the 44th Annual Convention regarding the same.

Resolution on Becoming Beloved Community Commission

The motion was made and the resolution for the creation of a Becoming Beloved Community Commission passed.

Whereas, numerous General Convention resolutions have addressed the issue of racism, including Resolution 2015-A182 from the 78th General Convention in 2015 which urged dioceses and parishes to create opportunities to identify and address the sin of racism in their respective contexts; and

Whereas, communities in the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee (the Diocese) were part of the plantation economy of the Mississippi Delta, including parts of East Arkansas and North Mississippi; and

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Whereas, several worship spaces still in use in the Diocese were constructed through the uncompensated labor of enslaved persons; and

Whereas, it is likely that some of the wealth of the Diocese and her congregations was derived from the uncompensated labor of enslaved persons; and

Whereas, the city of Memphis was the location of the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on April 4, 1968, during Dr. King's visit to the city to advocate on behalf of sanitation workers; and

Whereas, several congregations in the Diocese have done extensive research into their history with the institution of slavery, notably Calvary Episcopal Church;

Whereas, several congregations in the Diocese have offered the Sacred Ground program of The Episcopal Church, a film and readings based dialogue series on race grounded in faith; and
WHEREAS, in 2021, the leadership team of the Diocese identified racial healing and social justice as one of the diocesan priorities to be pursued; and

Whereas, the Bishop convened a diocesan task force in 2023 to begin the process of prayerfully discerning how the Diocese might engage in activities and efforts towards dismantling the sin of racism; and

Whereas, we share a common faith, life, and mission as baptized Christians and Episcopalians in the Diocese; and

Whereas, Galatians 3:28 informs us "there is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus"; therefore be it:

Resolved that this 43rd Diocesan Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee establish a Becoming Beloved Community (BBC) Commission; and be it further

Resolved that the BBC Commission be comprised of 12 individuals to be appointed by the Bishop; and be it further

Resolved that building upon the work of the task force, the BBC Commission will continue researching the history of the Diocese as it pertains to our involvement in the sin of slavery and racism; and be it further

Resolved that the BBC Commission identify opportunities for all persons in the Diocese to commit themselves in prayer, study, and dialogue about the sin of racism including, but not limited to, book studies, film viewings, special liturgies, and Bible studies; and be it further

Resolved that Episcopalians in the Diocese support the ongoing ministry of the BBC Commission through prayer and active participation in work of the BBC Commission.

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Resolution on LGBTQ+ Dignity

A resolution was proposed by the Rev. Gillian Klee to acknowledge the dignity of the LGBTQ+ community by the Convention. The resolution declares the Diocese's opposition to violence against the LGBTQ+ community and its commitment to affirm the dignity and rights of all people, in alignment with our baptismal vows.

Because this resolution was not submitted in advance, it required a two-thirds vote of the Convention before it could be considered. The motion passed with a 68 to 28 vote so that the resolution could be considered and the resolution passed.

Resolved that the Diocese of West Tennessee of the Episcopal Church opposes violence against or any abridgement of Transgender and LGBTQ rights and urges the Bishop and Council to make a statement in support of this resolution.

2025 Diocesan Budget and 2025 Clergy Minimum Compensation Package Approval

Mr. Josh Shipley presented the 2025 Proposed Diocesan budget and the 2025 Clergy Minimum Compensation Package. The motion to approve the budget was unanimously approved. The motion to approve the compensation package was unanimously approved.

Video Presentations on Ministries and Programs

- A short video was presented about Church Next.
- Matthew Arehart gave a short presentation about St. Columba Episcopal Conference and Retreat Center.
- Maggie Schaumleffel gave a short presentation about Barth House Episcopal Center.

Staff Transitions

The Rt. Rev. Phoebe A. Roaf recognized the attending Diocese of West Tennessee staff members, two pages, and four seminarians, as well as clergy who have transitioned into or outside of the Diocese:

- The Rev. Sharon Alexander has joined the Diocese of West Texas.
- The Rev. Rob Courtney is the new Canon to the Ordinary for the Diocese of West Tennessee.
- The Rev. Dr. Dorothy Wells is the new Bishop of Mississippi.
- The Rev. Gary Meade has joined the Diocese of Mississippi as their Canon to the Ordinary.
- The Rev. Dr. Dorothy White is now interim rector at St. George's Episcopal Church in Germantown, Tennessee.
- The Rev. Dr. Noah Campbell is the new Vicar of St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral.
- The Rev. Tim True is now in an interim position in the Diocese of Michigan.

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Noonday Prayer

Noonday prayer was offered.

Ministry Grant Video Presentations

Three more short videos were shown, featuring Holy Trinity Episcopal Church (Memphis) for their Camp Firelight VBS Program, St. Thomas the Apostle (Humboldt) for their Boys and Girls Club Playground Revitalization Program, and Ravenscroft Chapel (Brighton) for their Family Tools for Success Program.

Lunch

The Convention broke for lunch for one hour.

Ministry Grant Video Presentations

A third round of Do Good and Share Ministry Grant videos was shown, including St. Thomas Episcopal Church's Pantry Expansion Program (Somerville), Grace Episcopal Church's Loaves and Fishes Program (Paris), and St. Anne's Laundry Love Revitalization Program (Millington).

Ministry Grant Panel Discussion

A panel discussion took place, featuring Kate Bond as moderator, Patti Easley from Grace Episcopal (Paris), Hester Mathes from St. George's Independent School and Holy Trinity (Memphis), and Richard Vandergrift from Ravenscroft Chapel (Brighton) concerning takeaways and challenges within the use of their ministry grants.

Necrology

The names of diocesan leaders who died since the 2023 Convention were read.

2025 Budget Approval

The motion to approve the proposed 2025 Diocesan Budget and Minimum Clergy Compensation was moved by Bishop and Council with no second being required.

The 2025 Diocesan Budget and Minimum Clergy Compensation were approved by voice vote and are attached as Exhibit B 1-2.

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Bishop's Cross Award

The Rt. Rev. Phoebe A. Roaf presented John Owen, outgoing chair of the West Tennessee Endowment Corporation, with the Bishop's Cross Award. John was unable to attend, so the Rev. Scott Walters accepted the award on his behalf.

Uncontested Elections

A motion was made to accept by acclamation the candidates for the uncontested vacancies listed below. The motion was carried by voice vote.

- A. **Standing Committee – Clergy (3-year term):** The Rev. Donna Gerold (St. John's, Memphis)
- B. **Standing Committee – Lay (3-year term)** Mr. Christian Man (St. John's – Memphis)
- C. **Bishop and Council – Clergy (4-year term):** The Rev. Dr. Noah Campbell (St. Mary's Cathedral – Memphis)
- D. **Bishop and Council – Clergy (3-year term):** The Rev. Christian Senyoni (St. Andrew's – Collierville)
- E. **Bishop and Council – Clergy (2-year term):** The Rev. Amanda McGriff (St. George's – Germantown)
- F. **Bishop and Council – Lay (4-year term):** Mrs. Martha Webb (Immanuel – Ripley)
- G. **Disciplinary Board – Clergy (3-year term):** The Rev. Laura Gettys (Grace-St. Luke's – Memphis)
- H. **Disciplinary Board – Lay (3-year term):** Mr. Brooks Terry (Calvary – Memphis)
- I. **Trustee – University of the South – Clergy (3-year term):** Mr. George Clarke, Jr. (St. Mary's Cathedral – Memphis)

Bishop's Closing Remarks

"We Will, With God's Help" was announced as the theme of the small church conference to be hosted at St. Luke's Episcopal Church (Jackson) in 2025.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church (Collierville) is hosting a lock-in for the Diocesan Youth Council following the close of Convention this evening.

Four individuals from the Diocese of West Tennessee are enrolled in seminary.

St. Columba Episcopal Conference and Retreat Center and Barth House Episcopal Center each received \$750,000 to be distributed over the next five years to be invested in children and youth.

The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe was elected as the next Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church at General Convention.

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The Rt. Rev. Phoebe A. Roaf is going on sabbatical from December 1, 2024 to April 1, 2025. She will spend December with family and friends, then travel throughout the Anglican Communion, including Canterbury Cathedral in January and six weeks in Australia and New Zealand.

There will be a Diocesan-wide confirmation service on the Saturday before Easter at St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral (Memphis).

Adjournment

The Rev. Scott Walters of Calvary Episcopal Church thanked the staff and volunteers for a day of hospitality at the Church of the Holy Apostles and invited everyone to attend the next Diocesan Convention, which will be hosted at Calvary Episcopal Church in 2025.

The Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee adjourned at 2:35 pm.

List of Exhibits:

- A 2024 Convention Booklet
- B-1 2025 Budget
- B-2 2025 Clergy Minimum Compensation

Elected and Appointed Officials

ELECTED BY 2025 CONVENTION

Secretary to the Convention: The Honorable Steven Anderson

Treasurer of the Diocese: Mrs. Margaret McLean

Standing Committee (Elected for a 3-year term, not eligible for re-election for one year)

For term expiring upon adjournment
of Convention 2029:

Clergy: _____

Lay: _____

For term expiring upon adjournment
of Convention 2027:

Clergy: The Rev. Donna Gerold

Lay: Mr. Christian Man

For term expiring upon adjournment
of Convention 2026:

Clergy: The Rev. Sarah Cowan

Lay: Ms. Jeane Chapman

Bishop and Council (Elected for a 4-year term, not eligible for re-election after serving a term of two years or more)

For term expiring upon adjournment
of Convention 2029:

Clergy: _____

Lay: _____

For term expiring upon adjournment
of Convention 2028:

Clergy: The Rev. Noah Campbell

Lay: Ms. Martha Webb

For term expiring upon adjournment
of Convention 2027:

Clergy: The Rev. Paul McLain

Lay: Ms. Ebet Peeples

For term expiring upon adjournment
of Convention 2026:

Clergy: The Rev. Christian Senyoni

Lay: Dr. Patricia Easley

Elected and Appointed Officials

Trustees, University of the South (Trustee terms begin on July 1 the year following their election and end on June 30, 2027 three years later)

For term expiring on
June 30, 2029:

Lay: _____

For term expiring on
June 30, 2028:

Lay: Mr. George Clark

For term expiring on
June 30, 2027:

Clergy: The Rev. Lisa McIndoo

For term expiring on
June 30, 2026:

Lay: Dr. C. Dalton Lyon

Disciplinary Board (Elected for a 3-year term. No canonical term limits)

For term expiring on
December 31, 2028:

Clergy: _____

Lay: _____

For term expiring on
December 31, 2027:

Clergy: The Rev. Laura Gettys

Lay: Mr. Brooks Terry

For term expiring on
December 31, 2026:

Clergy: The Rev. Jeff Marx

Clergy: The Rev. Jay Biedenharn

Lay: The Honorable Ben C. Adams

Deputies to the General Convention (Elected to serve at the next General Convention after their election and may be re-elected)

For 82nd General Convention

Clergy: _____

Clergy Alternates: _____

Elected and Appointed Officials

Lay: _____

Lay Alternates: _____

NOMINATED BY THE COUNCIL AND ELECTED BY CONVENTION

West Tennessee Endowment Corporation (Elected for 3-year term, not eligible for re-election for one year after serving for two terms)

For term expiring upon adjournment
of Convention 2028:

Mr. Richard Friary

Ms. Lisa Jehl

Mr. Matt Sights III

For term expiring upon adjournment
of Convention 2027:

Mr. Steven King

The Rev. Paul McLain

Mr. Joshua Shipley

For term expiring upon adjournment
of Convention 2026:

Ms. Gina Miles

Mr. Jim Vogel

NOMINATED BY THE BISHOP AND CONFIRMED BY CONVENTION

Commission on Ministry (A 4-year term, may not be re-appointed for one year after serving one term)

For term expiring upon adjournment
of Convention 2029:

Clergy: The Rev. Lisa McIndoo

Lay: Dr. Bruce Watson

Elected and Appointed Officials

For term expiring upon adjournment
of Convention 2028:

Clergy: The Rev. Deacon Debbie McCanless
Lay: Ms. Nancy Boatwright

For term expiring upon adjournment
of Convention 2027:

Clergy: The Rev. Laura Gettys
Lay: Ms. Jane Slatery

For term expiring upon adjournment
of Convention 2026:

Clergy: The Rev. Jonathan Chesney
Lay: Ms. Terra Nwobilor

Church Home (Appointed to a 3-year term, ineligible for re-appointment after serving 2 terms)

For term expiring upon adjournment
of Convention 2028:

Clergy: The Rev. Jesse Perkins
Lay: Ms. Elizabeth Warren

For term expiring upon adjournment
of Convention 2027:

Clergy: The Rev. Jessica Abell
Lay: Ms. Nancy Jehl Boatwright

For term expiring upon adjournment
of Convention 2026:

Clergy: The Rev. Paul McLain
Lay: Mr. Robert Clark

Chancellor of the Diocese

The Honorable Scott Haight

Vice-Chancellor of the Diocese

The Honorable Steven Anderson

Vice-Chancellor of the Diocese

The Honorable Michael Marshall

Elected and Appointed Officials

APPOINTMENTS BY THE BISHOP (not subject to the actions of the Convention)

Finance Committee (No member may serve more than 2 consecutive 3-year terms)

For term expiring upon adjournment
of Convention 2025:

The Rev. Gerri Endicott

For term expiring upon adjournment
of Convention 2027:

Mr. Greg Kost
Mr. Joshua Shipley
Mr. Michael Synk

For term expiring upon adjournment
of Convention 2026:

Mr. Scott Trammell
The Rev. Sandy Webb

Becoming Beloved Community Commission (3-year terms)

For term expiring upon adjournment
of Convention 2028:

Ms. Katy Leopard
Ms. Lee Nix
Mr. John Welcher

For term expiring upon adjournment
of Convention 2027:

Mr. John Canter
The Rev. Deacon Gerri Endicott
Ms. Cynthia McCarty
Ms. Candace Walsh

For term expiring upon adjournment
of Convention 2026:

Ms. Terecille Basa-Ong
Ms. Dawn Currica
Ms. Betty Jo Dulaney
Ms. Natasha Knight

Elected and Appointed Officials

St. Columba Episcopal Camp and Retreat Center (3-year terms)

For term expiring upon adjournment
of Convention 2028:

Dr. Deborah Harmon Hines

For term expiring upon adjournment
of Convention 2027:

The Rev. Deacon Gerri Endicott
The Rev. Deacon Debra McCanless
Ms. Allison Pace

For term expiring upon adjournment
of Convention 2026:

Ms. Keating Lowery
Mr. Cliff Sulcer
Ms. Kenyetta Thompson
Mr. Ben Avant *1 yr extension for board officer

Standing Committee on Constitutions and Canons (3-year terms)

For term expiring upon adjournment
of Convention 2028:

For term expiring upon adjournment
of Convention 2027:

The Rev. Christian Senyoni
Ms. Candace McRae Walsh

For term expiring upon adjournment
of Convention 2026:

The Honorable Blair Evans

Parliamentarian

The Honorable Scott Haight

Church Attorney

The Honorable Albert Harvey

Nominations

NOMINATION FOR STANDING COMMITTEE CLERGY MEMBER - 2029

The Rev. Katherine Bush (Calvary Episcopal Church, Memphis)

Nominated by:
The Rev. Hester Mathes
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

The Reverend Katherine Bush has served as the Associate Rector of Calvary Episcopal Church since Fall of 2021. A lifelong Memphian, Katherine has also served at St. Mary's Cathedral, Church of the Holy Communion, and as chaplain at St. Mary's Episcopal School. She is a graduate of Rhodes College with a Bachelor of Arts in English and of Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia, with her Master of Divinity. Katherine brings with her considerable experience, having fulfilled former terms on both Standing Committee and The Commission on Ministry.

NOMINATION FOR STANDING COMMITTEE LAY MEMBER – 2029

Mr. John M. Planchon, Sr. (St. George's Episcopal Church, Germantown)

Nominated by:
The Rev. Canon Rob Courtney
Canon to the Ordinary

Prior to retirement, John was Professor of Economics and Business and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Rhodes College. For the past 35 years, John has been a parishioner at St. George's where he has served on numerous committees including finance, budget, endowment, and the Lenten speaker series. He is an Education for Ministry graduate and has served two terms as a delegate to Diocesan Convention. He is currently on his third term on the vestry where he serves as clerk of the parish. After the Rev. Dorothy Wells was elected Bishop of the Diocese of Mississippi, John was selected to chair the search committee for St. George's next rector.

NOMINATION FOR BISHOP AND COUNCIL CLERGY MEMBER - 2029

The Rev. Amanda McGriff (St. George's, Germantown)

Nominated by:
The Rev. Canon Rob Courtney
Canon to the Ordinary

The Rev. Amanda McGriff currently serves as chaplain at Methodist University Hospital, primarily working with the palliative care team and patients. Since her graduation from Bexley

Nominations

Seabury Seminary in May 2021, she has served as curate and then assisting priest at St. George's, Germantown. Prior to entering seminary, she served as pastoral care coordinator at Grace-St. Luke's, Memphis. She was an alternate diocesan delegate to the 81st General Convention of the Episcopal Church, and she is the author of Will You? A Lenten Study of Baptismal Promises and the accompanying group leader guide. Amanda, her husband Wil, their son Darwin, and their greyhound Goose live in Memphis.

NOMINATION FOR BISHOP AND COUNCIL LAY MEMBER - 2029

Mr. William Webb, Jr. (Church of the Good Shepherd, Memphis)

Nominated by:
The Rev. Dr. Noah Campbell
St. Mary's Cathedral

A dedicated member of Church of the Good Shepherd, Bill currently serves on the Vestry. This commitment to service is a cornerstone of his life, not only in his faith but as devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He is a proud fifth-generation native of Memphis and continues to invest in his community by volunteering at the Woodruff Fontaine House Museum, helping to preserve the city's rich history. Professionally, he is the Business Development Director for YK Auto Group, contributing to the local economy. His efforts through his family, church, volunteer work, and career— reflect a deep-seated pride in and dedication to the Memphis community and Diocese of West Tennessee.

NOMINATION FOR DISCIPLINARY BOARD CLERGY MEMBER - 2028

The Rev. Sandy Webb (Church of the Holy Communion, Memphis)

Nominated by:
The Rev. Canon Rob Courtney
Canon to the Ordinary

The Reverend Sandy Webb has served as rector of Church of the Holy Communion in Memphis since August 2013. During his tenure, the parish has grown in size and impact, undertaken a major capital campaign and facilities improvement program, enhanced its historic relationship with St. Mary's Episcopal School, and thought in new ways about youth formation, newcomers hospitality, and the ministry of communication. Sandy has been elected to two terms on Bishop and Council and currently serves on the Diocesan Finance Committee. He was chair of the Bishop's Task Force on Health Insurance and a member of the Client Council for the Church Pension Group. He is a former member of the Disciplinary Board. Prior to ordained ministry, Sandy served in the Executive Office of the General Convention at church headquarters in New York. There, he gained an appreciation for the importance of the canons and the disciplinary procedures that the canons define.

Nominations

NOMINATION FOR UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH LAY TRUSTEE - 2029

Mr. Dalton Lyon (Calvary Episcopal Church, Memphis)

Nominated by:
The Rev. Scott Walters
Calvary Episcopal Church, Memphis

Carter Dalton Lyon grew up in Lexington, Kentucky and graduated from the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee. Desiring a graduate degree in history and wanting to further pursue his interests in examining the civil rights movement, he entered the Graduate School at the University of Mississippi in 2004 where he completed a PhD and wrote a dissertation on the challenge of segregation in churches. This dissertation formed the basis of his book, *Sanctuaries of Segregation: The Story of the Jackson Church Visit Campaign*, which the University Press of Mississippi published in 2017. While in Oxford in 2006, Dalton was confirmed into the Episcopal Church at St. Peter's. Since 2011, Dalton has been teaching U.S. History and chairing the History Department at St. Mary's Episcopal School in Memphis, Tennessee. He is married to Sally Ann Cassady of Gulfport, Mississippi, and has two daughters, Lucy and Ann Carter. The Lyon family have been members of Calvary Episcopal Church in Memphis since 2011.

NOMINATION FOR DEPUTY TO THE 82ND GENERAL CONVENTION CLERGY MEMBER - 2027

The Rev. Deacon Gerri Endicott (Church of the Holy Apostles, Collierville)

Nominated by:
The Rev. Lisa McIndoo
Church of the Holy Apostles

Native Memphian and lifelong Episcopalian, Gerri was ordained to the diaconate in 2018. Within the diocese, she is currently serving on the Diocesan Finance Committee, The Becoming Beloved Community Commission, and the Board of St. Columba. On a denominational basis, Gerri is a board member of the Fund for the Diaconate, an organization that assists deacons in need. Previously, she served on Bishop & Council and the Commission on Ministry. She also served at the past two General Conventions. At the 80th GC in Baltimore she served as an alternate, and at the 81st in Louisville as a deputy and member of the Legislative Committee for Accessibility and Inclusion. She hopes to continue this work in Phoenix in 2027.

NOMINATION FOR DEPUTY TO THE 82ND GENERAL CONVENTION CLERGY MEMBER - 2027

The Rev. Donna Gerold (St. John's Episcopal Church, Memphis)

Nominated by:
The Rev. Canon Rob Courtney
Canon to the Ordinary

Nominations

Donna is the Associate Rector at St. John's in Memphis. She is responsible for Adult Formation, Pastoral Care, and Welcoming Ministries. She was elected to a 3-year term on the Diocese of West Tennessee Standing Committee in 2025. Donna came from the Diocese of Alabama where she was engaged with her parish and diocesan ministries. In her spare time she loves to garden, read spy thrillers, and look for treasures at antique shops and on Facebook Marketplace. She is a self-proclaimed "Church Nerd," loving all aspects of church governance and the workings of the Church. Donna was her seminary representative at General Convention in 2012 and 2015 and loved every minute of it!

NOMINATION FOR DEPUTY TO THE 82ND GENERAL CONVENTION CLERGY MEMBER - 2027

The Rev. Lisa McIndoo (Church of the Holy Apostles, Collierville)

Nominated by:
The Rev. Canon Rob Courtney
Canon to the Ordinary

The Rev. Lisa McIndoo, a native of Memphis and a graduate of the School of Theology at Sewanee, has served as rector of St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church in East Tennessee, St. Timothy's in the Diocese of El Camino Real, and currently at Holy Apostles in Collierville, Tennessee. She serves on the Board of Trustees for the University of the South and on the Commission on Ministry for the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee. Lisa is married and the mother of three children.

NOMINATION FOR DEPUTY TO THE 82ND GENERAL CONVENTION CLERGY MEMBER - 2027

The Rev. Ollie Rencher (Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Memphis)

Nominated by:
The Rev. Scott Walters
Calvary Episcopal Church

The Rev. Ollie V. Rencher has served as rector of Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Memphis since July 2018 after ordained ministry roles in the Episcopal dioceses of North Carolina, West Tennessee, and Mississippi. Father Rencher is an alumnus of General Seminary and Millsaps College and a member of the Fellowship of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist. Over the last 25 years, his churchwide service has included the West Tennessee standing committee and commission on ministry; boards of MIFA, BRIDGES, The Gathering of Leaders, Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal School, St. George's Independent School, Trinity Episcopal School, Duncan M. Gray Conference Center; racial healing initiative committees and programs; diocesan commissions on liturgy and music and constitution and canons; disaster relief chaplaincy; spiritual faculty for Episcopal CREDO; Washington National Cathedral summer seminarian; and chorister with Episcopal parish and cathedral choirs. Father Rencher is married to Ellie Rolfes Rencher.

Nominations

NOMINATION FOR DEPUTY TO THE 82ND GENERAL CONVENTION LAY MEMBER - 2027

Ms. Robin Mauldin Banks (Calvary Episcopal Church, Memphis)

Nominated by:
The Rev. Scott Walters
Calvary Episcopal Church

Robyn Mauldin Banks is the director of communications at Calvary Episcopal Church, where she has served for more than 20 years. She leads Calvary's efforts to share how the parish is making God's love visible in downtown Memphis. Engaged in the Episcopal Church beyond her parish, Robyn has represented Calvary as a delegate to diocesan convention multiple times and has served on the board of Episcopal Communicators, earning numerous awards for excellence in church communications. She is also a graduate of the Education for Ministry program. A lifelong "church nerd," Robyn sees General Convention as both a personal goal and a vocational calling. Passionate about how stories connect communities and the good that emerges when we work together, she looks forward to contributing her experience, creativity, and collaborative spirit to the wider church. Robyn is mom to a precocious nine-year-old daughter, who shares her love of stories and community.

NOMINATION FOR DEPUTY TO THE 82ND GENERAL CONVENTION LAY MEMBER - 2027

The Honorable Scott Haight (St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Dyersburg)

Nominated by:
The Rev. Canon Rob Courtney
Canon to the Ordinary

Scott currently serves as Vice Chancellor of the Diocese. He also serves as a member of the Executive Council of General Convention. He has served as a Deputy to General Convention for the last four General Conventions and as the First Alternate for the two previous General Conventions. Since 2015 Scott has been appointed to serve on, and chair, various GC Interim Bodies and legislative committees at each GC. It would be his pleasure to serve our diocese again in the role of Deputy and pass on his experience and knowledge to newer Deputies. Scott joined the Episcopal Church in 1987 at Calvary Church, Memphis. From 1987 through 2011, Scott was active at St. George's, Germantown. Since 2012, Scott has been an active member of St. Mary's, Dyersburg. Scott is an attorney in private practice. He lives with his husband, Dr. Cannon Doan, along with his two youngest adult sons.

NOMINATION FOR DEPUTY TO THE 82ND GENERAL CONVENTION LAY MEMBER - 2027

Ms. Cynthia McCarty (Church of the Holy Apostles, Collierville)

Nominations

Nominated by:
The Rev. Lisa McIndoo
Church of the Holy Communion

Cynthia has served in Episcopal ministry for more than fourteen years, with over a decade in her current parish working primarily in youth and children's ministries. She is deeply committed to forming young disciples and fostering a welcoming, inclusive church environment where all generations can grow in faith together. In addition to parish ministry, Cynthia currently teaches religion at St. George's Independent School, a local Episcopal school, where she introduces students to Scripture, prayer, and the rhythms of the Episcopal tradition. Over the years, she has served the Church in a variety of leadership capacities—locally and at the diocesan level—including participation in diocesan convention and other wider-church gatherings. Cynthia is passionate about the life of the Episcopal Church and the work done together as a wider community. She would be honored to serve as a deputy to General Convention.

Streamlining Governance Report

WTN 2024-2: STREAMLINING DIOCESAN GOVERNANCE RESOLUTION STUDY REPORT

OUTCOME OF THE STUDY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Resolution WTN 2024-2: “Streamlining Diocesan Governance” from the 43rd Convention of The Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee (EDWTN) directed the Committee on Constitution & Canons (CCC) “to consult with other chancellors and bishops in other dioceses of The Episcopal Church on the advisability and practicality of combining the Standing Committee and Bishop & Council into a single body,” and “that the Standing Committee and Bishop & Council engage in joint conversations with the Committee on Constitution and Canons regarding” the same.

After completing its consultations, conversations, and study, the CCC does not recommend combining the two bodies.

The CCC does recommend, however, that:

- The recently instituted practice of inviting the SC President or another appointed representative of the SC to B&C meetings for informational and communication purposes continue.
- B&C and SC consider an annual gathering of both bodies for informational purposes, community building, and prayer.

CONTEXT

The Constitution and Canons (C&C) of The Episcopal Church (TEC) mandate that each diocese must have a Standing Committee (SC). Article IV specifies that, “The rights and duties of the Standing Committee, except as provided in the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention, may be prescribed by the Canons of the respective Dioceses.” Since the denominational canons *do not provide for a diocesan council*, all but approximately 5% of the 106 dioceses of TEC use the leeway in the C&C to delegate certain duties to the diocesan bishop and a diocesan council through their respective diocesan canons. In The Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee (EDWTN), Canon 9 establishes Bishop & Council (B&C) which “shall have and exercise all powers of the Convention between meetings of the Convention.”

By virtue of the denominational canons, any “combining” of the two bodies of the EDWTN would not be a combining at all but rather would mean *eliminating* B&C and *reassigning* all of their duties to the SC.

Summary of the Role & Responsibilities of Bishop & Council

- Duties outlined in EDWTN Constitution & Canons only.

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- Bishop presides as the officer responsible for the executive and administrative functions of the Diocese.
- Elected by Diocesan Convention.
- Of the 8 members, half of the members are clerical, half are lay, each serving 4-year terms.
- Canon 9.11.a. B&C acts as the Board of Directors under TN nonprofit corporation law, therefore both Tennessee law and the EDWTN Canons apply.
- Canon 1.1 The Convention is the legislative body of the Diocese and shall exercise all powers not reserved to the Bishop under these Canons or the Canons of The Episcopal Church or reserved to any other entity of the Diocese pursuant to the Canons.
- Canon 9.2 The Council shall have and exercise all powers of the Convention between meetings of the Convention, provided it may not
 - (a) elect a Bishop,
 - (b) amend the Constitution or Canons, or
 - (c) take any action contrary to actions taken by the Convention or these Canons

Responsibilities:

- Financial oversight including:
 - Preparation of the annual Diocesan budget
 - Overseeing administration and disbursement of funds of the Diocese consistent with the budget
 - Power to amend the budget between conventions
 - Fixing of Diocesan employee salaries and clergy minimum compensation
 - Setting congregational assessments
- Has charge and oversight of the development and implementation of the policies and programs of The Episcopal Church by the Diocese.
- Has the power and authority to organize, implement, and carry out the policies and programs of the Convention.
- Provides for the organization of the work of the Diocese through the creation of Diocesan Committees:
 - Designate titles
 - Define structure, duties, and responsibilities
 - Provide for expenses
- Approval of the purchase, sale, or encumbrance of any property held by a congregation or the Diocese.

Summary of the Role & Responsibilities of Standing Committee

- Duties outlined in both TEC and Diocesan Canons, as well as EDWTN Articles of Incorporation.
- Standing Committee President (elected from within the SC) presides.
- Elected by Diocesan Convention.
- Of the 6 members, half are clerical, half are lay, each serving 3-year terms.
- Functions as the Ecclesiastical Authority in the absence of the Bishop and has the ability to organize and call convention in the absence of the Bishop.

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Responsibilities:

- Serves as Bishop's council of advice.
- Requested to give consent for all bishops elected in The Episcopal Church.
- In consultation with the Bishop and the Commission on Ministry, formally designates persons as candidates for ordination.
- Gives the Bishop counsel and consent on the purchase, sale, or encumbrance of property held by a congregation or the Diocese (NOTE: In EDWTN, per Canon 15.3.c., the Standing Committee only consents to the purchase, sale, or encumbrance of spaces used for Divine Worship, but not all congregational property. B&C approves all purchases, sales, or encumbrances. *This is the only area of overlapping duties between the two bodies*.
- Gives the Bishop counsel and consent as to any judicial sentence given to a clergy person or concurs in allowing a clergy person to cease functioning as a member of the clergy.
- Investigates and reports to the Bishop on the charge that a deacon or priest has abandoned the doctrine, discipline, and worship of The Episcopal Church.
- Receives the Bishop's resignation.
- Holds oversight and responsibility for the process of electing a new Bishop (EDWTN Canon 2).

In summary, both bodies have distinct and essential roles and responsibilities. The only overlapping area of responsibility arises in the case of the purchase, sale, or encumbrance of spaces used for Divine Worship, but not other congregational spaces. The only individuals who attend meetings of both bodies are the Bishop, the Canon to the Ordinary, and the SC President (or another SC rep) if she chooses to attend.

THE STUDY

Overview

The CCC met as a full committee twice over the course of last 12 months to review and discuss the consultations and conversations detailed below.

Core Values

During the CCC study, an important point was raised: "Values should always inform structure." Expediency and efficiency as named in the purpose statement of the "Streamlining Diocesan Governance" resolution can be good operational priorities or performance criteria, but they are not values that cultivate meaning.

What are our core values as a diocese regarding structure? Our discussions included:

- The importance of mutual ministry between the Bishop, clergy, and laity.

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- Allowing our structure to empower the Bishop to lead on equal footing with an equal voice.
- Equipping people for ministry and including more people from around the EDWTN in the work of the Diocese, not fewer.
- Segregation of duties and authority to safeguard checks and balances. This is reflective of the polity of the Episcopal tradition.

Consultations

The Rev. Canon Rob Courtney, Canon to the Ordinary, and The Hon. Scott Haight, Vice Chancellor, reached out to bishops, canons, and chancellors in other dioceses to consult with them about the advisability and practicality of eliminating B&C.

- They connected with representatives of 28 other dioceses.
- They discovered only 5 dioceses across the 106 dioceses of The Episcopal Church that do not utilize a diocesan council.
- One diocese uses a “hybrid” model where members of the Standing Committee also serve on diocesan council, yet there are still two bodies.

While those dioceses that have only one body seem to be comfortable with their setup, there were overall more questions and concerns raised by the discussions. Here is a sampling:

- One diocese has used a single-body structure since its inception. It was noted that their Bishop and Standing Committee President get along well. In such a setup that is the best-case scenario, since healthy functioning would seem to be dependent on that single relationship. What happens in the case of a strained relationship?
- One Bishop, when elected to a diocese with a single-body structure, thought it might make sense to separate out the Standing Committee, but eventually agreed that in operation, the structure functioned efficiently, so decided to wait.
- One person involved in helping to implement a single-body structure in a diocese noted that the structure was harder to implement than could have been predicted, and the structure “cut the Bishop off at the knees and gave him less authority in the system than a rector has in a parish.”
- Another with a combined structure has an “Executive Committee” that the bishop chairs and which functions like a Diocesan Council and meets prior to Standing Committee meetings. Whatever decisions that body makes must then be approved by the SC at the meeting that follows. In practice, this still ends up being two bodies with only one that has a vote, not including the bishop.

Other notable quotations:

- From a Canon: “When the body responsible to be advice and counsel to the bishop (which the Standing Committee is) also acts as the interim legislative authority of convention, there are virtually no checks and balances.”
- From a Chancellor: “We have not considered merging the two at least in part because they basically have a full workload and the skill sets are somewhat different.”

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- From a Chancellor: “They each have plenty to do, and their responsibilities are distinct.”
- From a Canon: “Such a structure is outside of our current polity. TEC itself has an Executive Council which emphasizes the importance of the segregation of duties. Even vestries of parishes need approval for certain things from the bishop and Standing Committee.”
- From a Chancellor: “The SC is, by canon, the Council of Advice to the bishop. That means in part that there are things discussed there that should probably not be discussed with others. There are also canonical responsibilities that should remain (in my opinion) solely with the SC. For example, property encumbrances, ordinations, consent to episcopal elections or serving as ecclesiastical authority in the absence of the bishop.”
- From a Chancellor: “Given the different roles, I don’t expect we would combine them. There would be too much power in one body if they were combined.”

Conversations with B&C and SC

The chair of CCC held discussions with B&C and SC to hear their thoughts. The time provided both bodies a good opportunity to:

- Clarify roles and responsibilities
- Affirm the importance of good communication between the two bodies
- Ask questions

At the conclusion of those discussions neither body expressed a felt need to make such a drastic change. While communication and other operational priorities can always be improved, there is only one small area of overlap in decision-making between the two bodies (i.e., approval of the purchase, sale, or encumbrance of spaces used for Diving Worship). Additionally, those three individuals who attend both meetings have no issues with doing so.

CONCLUSIONS

While a unified structure may work in a small number of diocesan systems across TEC, the Committee on Constitution & Canons does not recommend eliminating Bishop & Council and reassigning their duties to the Standing Committee in the EDWTN. Because:

- We value:
 - Mutual ministry
 - Equipping the baptized
 - Segregation of duties
 - Checks and balances
 - Full empowerment of the Bishop
- Our current structure allows us to live out these core values.
- There is not a strong felt need to make such a change even when considering operational priorities.

Report submitted by: The Rev. Christian Senyoni, Chair, Committee on Constitution & Canons