

Short Biographies of Nominees for Elected Positions in The Diocese of Eau Claire

The Reverend Peter Augustine (Standing Committee Clergy for three year term)

Peter+ is the Priest-in-Charge of St John's, Sparta and has years of experience as a parish priest. He has also served on the Diocesan level, most recently as a member of the Executive Council and as the Diocesan Representative for Peace & Justice and Anti-Racism.

Joan Smalstig (Standing Committee Lay for three year term)

Joan is a long time member of Christ Church Cathedral. She has served on numerous committees in the parish and at the Diocesan level, including having served on the Standing Committee, the Executive Council and working as an administrator for both the Cathedral and Diocese. She was also elected as the first Alternate Deputy to General Convention 2015.

The Reverend Patrick Augustine (Executive Council Clergy three year term, General Convention Deputy)

Patrick+ is the Rector of Christ Church, La Crosse and has years of experience as a priest and rector. He has also served on the Diocesan level in numerous ways including serving as a Standing Committee member, the Dean of the Southern Convocation and as a Deputy to General Convention 2015.

Tim Donohue (Executive Council Lay for three year term, General Convention Deputy)

Tim has been a member of Christ Church La Crosse for 9 years. He is Acolyte Warden and Youth Group co-director. He also serves as a Sunday School teacher. Tim currently works with the federal government's U.S. Geological Survey. His office focuses on biology. Tim is the Human Resources, Payroll, and Contracting Officer. He assists with Public Affairs and edits Scientific Research works. Tim served 23 year on active duty with the U.S. Army. He retired with the rank of Master Sergeant. Time holds a BS in Communication and an MS in Education (Professional Development).

Claire Fliess (Executive Council Lay three year term, General Convention Deputy, Commission on Ministry two year term)

A life-long Episcopalian, I have served on many vestries, altar guilds, taught Sunday School and designed bulletins and newsletter while my husband, The Rev. Rex Fliess served parishes in Ottawa, Illinois, Mineral Point, Wisconsin and Bayfield, Wisconsin for nearly 30 years. Since 2009 (the year he died) I have served (in the Diocese of Eau Claire) on the Bishop's search committee, the Commission on Ministry, attended two general conventions and have been the senior warden and layperson-in-charge of Christ Church, Bayfield, since 2011.

Jeno Love (Executive Council Lay three year term)

Jeno has served in several capacities at her home parish of St. John's Sparta, including a long tenure as Senior Warden. She is currently serving an interim to complete an unfinished term on the Executive Council.

The Reverend Deacon Charles Farrell (Commission on Ministry two year term)
Deacon Farrell was ordained Deacon in December of 2013. He has been a member of Christ Church Cathedral since 2006 and is active in a wide variety of outreach programs associated with the Cathedral that are mostly involved with feeding, clothing, and sheltering people in need. Charles works for the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire primarily in student affairs.

Debbie Conover (Commission on Ministry Lay two year term)
Debbie is a long time member of St. Paul's Church in Hudson. She has served in a wide variety of parish responsibilities including Sunday School teacher, Secretary of the Vestry and is an active member of Cursillo.

The Reverend Kathy Charles (General Convention Deputy)
I am dedicated to the Diocese of Eau Claire. I take my responsibilities seriously. I am ready and willing to serve the Diocese of Eau Claire and the wider church as deputy to the 2018 General Convention. As a lifelong Episcopalian I am familiar with the church on a local and national level. I Served as Deputy to General Contention in 2009, 2012, and 2015. I was on Small Congregation Development Commission in 2012 and in 2015 Committee 19: Confirmation of the Presiding Bishop election.

The Very Reverend Michael Greene (General Convention Deputy)
Fr. Greene has been involved in leadership in the Episcopal Church from Childhood and in ordained ministry for 11 years, serving as Eau Claire's Dean for the past 5. He served as deputy to the 2015 General Convention, and as a member of the Standing Committee for Prayer Book, Liturgy, and Music.

The Reverend Deacon Marlene Hogue (General Convention Deputy)
Marlene Hogue has been a faithful and active layperson in several congregations and is currently serving as deacon. She understands both the challenges and the opportunities before the Church today. She is intelligent, attentive and outspoken. She would represent the Diocese with an informed, fresh and insightful perspective.

The Reverend Deacon Jim Lorenze (General Convention Deputy)
I have been a member of Christ Church Cathedral for 28 years. I have been a Sunday School Teacher for Middle School and have also served on the Commission on Ministry and the Executive Council. I have been a deacon at the Cathedral for 18 years and served as an alternate deputy for General Convention in 2015.

The Reverend Guy R. Usher Jr. (General Convention Deputy)
Fr. Guy has served three congregations in the Diocese of Eau Claire, and is a life-long member of the diocese. He has served as President of the Standing Committee from 2010-13, and 7/2016 to present, First Alternate Deputy to General Convention 2003, Deputy to General Convention 2012, 2015 (Chair of the Deputation). Having the experience to know the logistics and workings of General Convention, he would be highly beneficial to the Deputation.

The Rev. Canon Aaron Zook (Secretary one year term, General Convention Deputy)
Canon Zook is the Priest in Charge of Christ Church Chippewa Falls as well as St. Simeon's Lafayette. He also serves as Canon to the Ordinary for the Diocese of Eau Claire and as an Adjunct Lecturer at Nashotah House where he teaches Canon Law and Ecclesiastical Polity and Parish Ministry.

Cynthia S. Hackworthy (General Convention Deputy)
Cynthia has been an active member of St. Paul's since 1982. She has served as a Vestry Member, Jr. Warden, Altar Guild, Assistant Treasurer, Committee Chair to host Diocesan Convention, Lector, Eucharistic Minister, and has taught adult Bible Study for 23 years. At the Diocesan level, she has served as a Delegate to Diocesan Convention several times, and has participated in Cursillo. I believe that the energy and experience she brings to the table would be very beneficial to our General Convention Deputation.

Debra Lorenze (General Convention Deputy)
Deb has been an active member of Christ Church Cathedral for 28 years. She has been a Sunday School teacher, President of ECW, Vestry person and Senior Warden, as well as serving as Directress and Assistant Directress of the Altar guild and as a member of the prayer shawl ministry. Deb has also served on the Commission on Ministry and as a deputy to General Convention in 2015.

Gregg Westigard (General Convention Deputy)
Gregg is a life long Episcopalian and was a deputy to the past General Convention. Over the years, he has served in many positions at the congregational, diocesan and national level. "That experience may help me provide help to our newer deputies and provide a voice from a small diocese at the convention."

Eileen Yeakley (General Convention Deputy)
Eileen currently serves the parish on the Vestry, Altar Guild, & as a Eucharistic Minister. On the Diocesan level she has served 2 terms on Standing Committee & Executive Council. Eileen has also been a deputy to the last four General Conventions & would welcome the opportunity to do so again.

Anna Zook (General Convention Deputy)
Anna is the third of four generations of women in her family to be baptized in the font at Christ Church Cathedral. She has been involved in leadership and programming at numerous parishes and in multiple dioceses. Anna is excited for the opportunity to serve the Church in a way that is distinct from her role as a clergy spouse.

Bob Weathers (Treasurer one year term)
Member Christ Church, La Crosse, treasurer for many years.
Bob has served many years as a Trustee and the past two years as the Diocesan Treasurer. He spearheaded sale of unused Diocesan properties and was instrumental in the purchase of property for the new Fannie Buffington apartments. He has a strong background as a financial officer.

C. R. Hackworthy (Trustee two year term)

C. R. is a member of St. Paul's Hudson and has served as Trustee for the Diocese for several years.

Drew Lorenz (Trustee two year term)

Drew has served as Trustee for the Diocese as well as serving as a member of the Standing Committee and overseeing the Youth Programming and the Camps & Conferences.

The Reverend Robert Hoekstra (Ecclesiastical Disciplinary Board for three year term)

Fr. Hoekstra is the former Priest-in-Charge of St. Simeon's in Lafayette and currently serves the Chapel at Chippewa Manor, where he has been for many years. He has previously served on the Ecclesiastical Disciplinary Board and as the Diocese's deputy to Provincial Synod.

The Reverend Ellie Michaud (Ecclesiastical Disciplinary Board for three year term)

Ellie+ is the former Priest-in-Charge of Christ Church Chippewa Falls. She has served in several positions in the Diocese including Executive Council, Commission on Ministry and Ecclesiastical Disciplinary Board. She currently serves as a mentor to candidates for ordination and sits on the Buffington Board of Governors.

Ron Hall (Ecclesiastical Disciplinary Board for three year term)

Ron lives in Eau Claire and is a long time active member of Christ Church Cathedral. He currently serves on the Vestry and is Verger of the Cathedral. A few years ago Ron retired as Electronics Engineer and Territory Manager with Philips Electronics.