

## **Brief Biographies for Diocesan Leadership Candidates for the 94<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Convention**

### **Standing Committee:**

\*Need 1 clergy for 3 year term

#### **Rev. Steven Russell**

Deacon Steve Russell is a life-long resident of the Diocese of Eau Claire. He has served as deacon at Grace - Menomonie and St. Paul's - Hudson. He currently serves on the Commission on Ministry. Steve was ordained to the diaconate by Bishop Jay Lambert in 2016. Steve and his wife, Kobi, have two sons, who are in college. Steve lives in Colfax, WI.

#### **Rev. Benjamin Thomas**

Currently I serve as the interim dean at Christ Church Cathedral and am a priest in good standing canonically resident in the diocese. As a member of the Trialogue Task force on structure, I am keenly aware of the critical issues facing the Episcopal Church throughout this region and will bring 15 years of ordained ministry, a doctorate in New Testament and Historical Theology, an MBA, and a great love for this diocese to the standing committee if elected. I have taught numerous subjects at the Bishop Kemper School for Ministry for the last 10 years and have great respect for locally trained clergy.

**General Convention: Clergy:** *\*General Convention Deputies will be elected by plurality, meaning the top four vote getters in each order will be deputies, the remaining candidates will be listed as alternates in order of votes received.*

*4 clergy for three year terms*

#### **Rev. Dave Bauer**

I was a Wesleyan pastor for 10 years. In 1987, I became a licensed social worker with Sawyer County retiring in 2020 as Juvenile Court Intake Supervisor. I joined the Church of the Ascension in Hayward in 1987, was ordained a deacon in 2014 and a priest in 2015. I have served St. Luke's Springbrook and St. Alban's Spooner since my ordination as a priest. Father Christian Senyoni and I crafted the framework for what would later become the Northern Highlands Benefice in 2018. I serve the Benefice (Grace Rice Lake, Ascension Hayward, St Alban's Spooner, and St. Luke's Springbrook) as interim priest in charge after Mother Meghan Farr's move to Cork, Ireland in July 2022. I was a Deputy to the 2022 General Convention.

#### **Rev. Cn. Kathy Charles**

Supply Priest in the Diocese of Eau Claire, also licensed to Supply in Diocese of Minnesota. Involvement in Diocese: Chair of the Commission on Ministry, Executive Council Member, Trialogue Steering Committee, Liaison for Prayer/Discernment Task Force-Trialogue, Chair of the Deputation for General Convention. Served on several committees at General Convention.

**Rev. Marlene Hogue** Served on the Standing Committee as a layperson; Ordained to the Diaconate 2015; Diocesan Executive Council since 2017; Deputy to 2018 and 2022 General Conventions; Diocese of Eau Claire Representative to Province V Executive Council;

BeFriender Ministry facilitator; Lay Worship Ministry trainer; Trialogue Task Force, Prayer & Discernment co-facilitator.

**Rev. Cn. Aaron Zook+**

I have served in the Diocese of Eau Claire as a Priest-in-Charge, Diocesan Administrator, Canon to the Ordinary, and as secretary to several committees over the last 10 years. A former instructor of Canon Law & Ecclesiastical Polity at Nashotah House, I also have worked as a freelance Canon Lawyer and consultant for several dioceses and religious orders within the Episcopal Church. I'm also a member of the Trialogue Steering Committee and the Task Force on Constitutions & Canons. I have studied the history, interpretation, and application of Canon Law at Cardiff University in Wales. I have studied the work of General Convention for many years, but never had the chance to attend.

**Rev. Guy Usher+**

Fr. Guy has served four 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,) 2018 and was elected to serve in 2021. Having the experience to know the logistics and workings of General Convention, he would be highly beneficial to the Deputation.

**Rev. Heather Hill+**

I have served parishes in four dioceses over 18 years of ordained ministry before coming to St. Paul's in Hudson. I am excited to serve here in Wisconsin- which is a bit of coming home to the state where five generations of my family have spent their summers in the Northwoods. In each place God has called me, I have been involved in leadership roles within the diocese and in the wider church-from youth programs and camp to Diocesan Council and Disciplinary Board. I hope I can serve the Diocese of Eau Claire at General Convention and share our needs, desires, and gifts with the wider Episcopal Church.

**General Convention: Laity: *\*General Convention Deputies will be elected by plurality, meaning the top four vote getters in each order will be deputies, the remaining candidates will be listed as alternates in order of votes received.***

***4 lay persons for three year terms***

**Ms. Deb Lorenze**

I have been an active member of Christ Church Cathedral for 33 years. I have served on the Vestry and as Senior Warden and have been elected to serve as a Delegate to Diocesan Convention numerous times. I have previously served on the Commission on Ministry for the Diocese and have been a Lay Deputy to General Convention for the past three Conventions.

**Mr. Tim Donahue**

My wife, son and I joined Christ Church in La Crosse in 2005. I have served on our vestry and spent seven years (due to COVID) as the Junior Warden. I served on the Diocesan Leadership

team on the Standing Committee, and I am currently the Vice President of the Executive Council finishing the last of my six years. I attended General Convention 2022 and was handpicked by the President of the House of Deputies (Rev. Gay Jennings) to be a part of the Deputy News team at Convention. I helped lead the search committee to hire our new Rector. I am the Acolyte Warden, a Eucharistic minister, and teach Confirmation classes. I am the Secretary for the Common Ground United Campus Ministry Building Board in La Crosse. The Board represents the American Baptist, Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian and United Church of Christ parishes in our region. I am a member of the Trialogue Steering Committee. I am the liaison and mentor for the Parish and Regional Engagement Task Force. My wife and I will attend all three Diocesan Annual Conventions in the state. I believe there is a great potential to grow stronger as one to become a faith community walking together the path that Christ has chosen for us. I retired after 23 years in the U.S. Army in 2005. I am currently an Assistant Ethics Counselor for the Department of the Interior. I am also the President of the Board for the Gateway Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, serving 13 counties and 1,000 adults and youth.

**Ms. Carla Corbin**

I would like to be considered as a delegate to the 2024 General Convention. My name is Carla (Marcou) Corbin. I am a parishioner of Christ Church, La Crosse. I am a cradle Episcopalian, have been a member of Christ Church my whole life, baptized by Fr Vinter as an infant, confirmed and married there as well. I have raised my three children as parishioners. I have been in youth group, Junior and senior choir, a Sunday school teacher as well as teaching Confirmation class. I am an altar guild member and Eucharistic Minister. I have been on Vestry for 4 full terms and have been Senior Warden 12+ years. As Senior Warden, I headed the recent Rector Search Committee. I have desired all my adult life to attend a General Convention and would be honored to be elected to represent the Diocese of Eau Claire and to experience the greater Episcopal Church.

**Ms. Lee Donahue**

I am a cradle Episcopalian. It was the middle ground between Moms' Byzantine Catholic and Dads' Evangelical faiths. My husband, son and I have been members of CECLAX for nearly 20 years. I have served on Parish, Diocesan and ECUSA levels of church leadership. I attended General Convention 2022 (originally an alternate) and was invited by the President of the House of Deputies (Rev. Gay Jennings) to assist on the Deputy News team at Convention. I was appointed to the Bishop (Lambert) search committee and CECLAX Rector selection committee. I am the facilitator for the Trialogue Communications Task Force. I served on the Vestry for 7 years. I'm an acolyte, Eucharistic Minister and teach First Holy Communion and Confirmation classes. I am the VP of the Campus Ministry board at UW La Crosse, where we serve Free Coffee each Monday and provide student meals for Finals. My husband and I will attend each Annual Convention in the state (2022) to meet others, enjoy fellowship and share ideas to strengthen our Episcopal relationships statewide. I have spent 27 years in service to my community including more than 15 years in the US Army, Business Enterprise Program manager for the New Mexico Commission for the Blind, Administrator for US Fish and Wildlife headquarters for the Upper Mississippi River and now serving as a Campbell town board supervisor for health, education and welfare.

**Ms. Anna Zook**

I am a cradle Episcopalian, baptized in the same font as my grandfather, mother, husband, and daughter. I have been active in Church choirs from Eau Claire, Wisconsin, to Spartanburg, South Carolina (and many parishes in-between.) I'm a librarian at the public library in Eau Claire with a history of leadership positions in both Public and Academic Libraries, including my current position as a Director-at-large for the Wisconsin Association of Public Libraries as well as my recent work as a Coordinator and organizer of the Annual Conference of the Wisconsin Association of Libraries. As a priest's wife and an Information Professional, I'm well versed in the governance of the Episcopal Church, and I'd love the opportunity to represent the Diocese of Eau Claire at General Convention.

**Mr. Nick Charles**

Alternate for two past General Conventions, part of the Diocese of Eau Claire for 50 years, have a good working knowledge of the Episcopal Church and of the workings of General Convention.

**Mr. Greg Parmeter**

I am a life-long Episcopalian who has spent time in the Wyoming, Milwaukee, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Eau Claire Dioceses. My wife, Mandy, and I have two children, Benjamin and Matilda, and have made our home in La Crosse for the last 14 years, and Christ Church is truly our faith family. After bouncing around from church to church (my father is a retired Priest) to find a community in La Crosse and the Eau Claire Diocese has been a blessing. I have served in many capacities in the church including as an acolyte, lay reader, Eucharistic minister, Sunday School teacher, choir member, confirmation instructor, as well as serving eight years on the Christ Church Vestry, where I led the search for a new choir director and organist, and served on the search committee for our new rector. In my daily life, I am a theatre professor at the University of Wisconsin La Crosse. I am humbled to be nominated to further serve the Episcopal Church and believe that I can be a voice of faith, peace, and progress for our Diocese and the national church. I believe in the central tenets of our faith: tradition, scripture, and reason. I will endeavor to serve responsibly, positively, and prayerfully as we look forward to the future of our church and community.