



# THE 135TH ANNUAL MEETING OF CONVENTION

## The Episcopal Diocese of Oregon | The Episcopal Church in Western Oregon

### Nominees for Standing Committee - Lay

#### **Pamela Filbert - St. Timothy, Salem**

**Occupational Background:** Orthodox Vestments and Folk Embroidery Workshop

**Languages Spoken and Read:** English (Spoken & Read)

**What congregational activities have you been involved in?** Godly Play faith formation coordinator since 2000. Coordinator of weekend food program for neighborhood elementary school since 2013. COVID safety team member (2020-2022). Altar flower guild coordinator since 2009. Court child care program coordinator for preschoolers whose parents were attending drug treatment court (2008-2014). Choir member since 1986.



**What diocesan, provincial, or church-wide activities have you been involved in?:**

Board of Trustees (2020-2023); Truth & Reconciliation Working Group leadership member since 2021; Commission on Ministry-Ordained (2012-2013); Commission on Ministry-Baptismal (2008-2011)-liaison to COM-O; Consecration Planning Committee member (2002-2003); Clergy spouse program coordinator (2001-2004); Delegate to Diocesan Convention, multiple years.

**Statement of Interest:** Having been asked whether I would consider serving on the Standing Committee, I find that my answer is “yes.” I believe that my years interviewing dozens of people discerning calls to ordained ministry, combined with three years of service as a trustee overseeing the financial assets of the diocese, provide good preparation for the duties of this committee...daunting as they are. Additionally, the part-time nature of my work, combined with an employer who is very sympathetic to church responsibilities, would afford adequate time to devote to this important role.

#### **Lori Murphy Cole - St. Thomas, Dallas**

**Occupational Background:** Educator: retired Dean, currently instructor.

**Languages Spoken and Read:** English (Spoken & Read)

**What congregational activities have you been involved in?** I was appointed by my Priest, Fr. Fred Heard, to co-facilitate The Thursday Conversations which was a series of Thursday evening Zoom gatherings on the topic of social justice and racism held from Sept. 2020 to June 2021. Approximately 50 people from around the country attended the Zoom gatherings. I have served as landscape committee chair from 2020 to present in charge of church grounds. I served on the BAC for two years until Dec 2022. I have presented several homilies for Morning Prayer services in the past year. I manage the Facebook page for St. Thomas and coordinate the marketing of events and announcements on social media and within the church. I have taken the Safe Church training.



**What diocesan, provincial, or church-wide activities have you been involved in?:** None

**Statement of Interest:** I am a fourth generation Episcopalian, baptized and confirmed at St. John's Episcopal Church in Chico, CA. I became a member of St. Thomas in 2019. Because of my history as an Episcopalian, I understand the policies, standards, and liturgy very well. I am organized, responsible, and reliable in all areas of my life and commitments. I'm a retired Dean of my local community college and continue to teach at the college level. I am very involved in a weekly gathering in Salem that is committed to eliminating racism in all forms that affects all marginalized groups. I actively support small businesses and groups that are inclusive. I believe I would be a beneficial member of the Standing Committee.



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## Nominees for Standing Committee - Clergy

### The Rev. Linda Lee, Deacon - St. Timothy, Brookings

**Occupational Background:** Deacon

**Languages Spoken and Read:** English (Spoken & Read)

**What congregational activities have you been involved in?** Project managed the build of Community Garden at St. Timothy's, serve as facilitator of said garden for growing produce for local food bank & Community meal programs, serve on Advocacy Team at St. Timothy's to assist those in deep need, developed curriculum for our catechumens preparing for confirmation and reception.



**What diocesan, provincial, or church-wide activities have you been involved in?:** Served on COM, and participated in development of new discernment program for Holy Orders for the Diaconate.

**Statement of Interest:** I have communication and strategic planning experience to offer and I always appreciate participating in a servant leadership capacity.

### The Rev. Tom Sramek, Jr. - All Saints, Hillsboro

**Occupational Background:** Rector

**Languages Spoken and Read:** English (Spoken & Read)

**What congregational activities have you been involved in?** Rector since 2022; Chair, Church Planting and Redevelopment Task Force



**What diocesan, provincial, or church-wide activities have you been involved in?:** I have served on the Diocesan Council and the Board of Trustees as well as being an Alternate to General Convention (2002 & 2004). I served my previous diocese (El Camino Real) on the Standing Committee and as a GC Alternate (2015).

**Statement of Interest:** I have served on the Standing Committee in my previous diocese and enjoy being a part of the Bishop's Council of Advice and helping to set the future direction of the diocese.



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## Nominees for Board of Trustees- Lay

### Ron Scharfer - St. Mary, Eugene

**Occupational Background:** Chemical engineer / Retired

**Languages Spoken and Read:** English (Spoken & Read)

**What congregational activities have you been involved in?** I currently serve as Treasurer, chair of Investment committee, member of budget committee, and usher lead at St. Mary's. In my lifelong journey as an Episcopalian, I've served as Jr. Warden and Treasurer at Christ Church Cathedral in Louisville, KY; Sr. Warden at St. Peter's, Montague, Mi; vestry member at St. Thomas, Nassau Bay, Tx. I've also sung in choirs, taught Sunday School, and ushered.



**What diocesan, provincial, or church-wide activities have you been involved in?:** Convention delegate for Christ Church Cathedral - Diocese of Kentucky.

**Statement of Interest:** My 35 year professional career as an engineer and manager helped me develop a strong business and financial acumen. As a leader, I also learned to listen and work by consensus. I would like to use these gifts in service of the diocese.

### Sonja Miller - All Saints, Portland

**Occupational Background:** Manager Multnomah County Mental Health/Retired

**Languages Spoken and Read:** English (Spoken & Read)

**What congregational activities have you been involved in?** Lay Eucharist Minister, Manage Thrift Store at All Saints, Jr Warden current, past Sr. Warden, Finance Committee All Saints chair for 7-8 years



**What diocesan, provincial, or church-wide activities have you been involved in?:**

Metro East Diocesan Council Rep 2 years, Program and Budget 2 terms in 90's, Diocesan Youth Commission 1980-1986 Chair for 2 years, Transition Committee for New Bishop twice, Commission on Ministry for All the Baptized 3 years, Safe Church Trainer for many years.

**Statement of Interest:** I am interested in the Stewardship of the Diocesan Resources for the good of the whole. I have served on Finance at my parish and helped to bring us back into compliance with DPA and to a balanced budget that supported our programs, maintained our property and a full time priest. The church overall continues to discern how to be sustainable financially while living the Gospel.



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## Nominees for Board of Trustees - Clergy

### The Rev. Jaime Sanders - Christ Church, St. Helens

**Occupational Background:** Retired lawyer; Current priest

**Languages Spoken and Read:** English (Spoken & Read)

**What congregational activities have you been involved in?** Stewardship Committees as lay and clergy; choir; Habitat for Humanity projects; creating public nature park & labyrinth; leading worship; Christian Education; creating bilingual and multicultural worship (I used to read Spanish - rusty now)



**What diocesan, provincial, or church-wide activities have you been involved in?:** Anti-racism training; prior revision of DPA; Diocesan Council; Board of Trustees; graduate of College for Congregational Development and Interim Ministry Network; Stakeholder's Advisory Committee to Socially Responsible Investment Fund.

**Statement of Interest:** I think I have an analytic mind, experience with a variety of congregations and ministries in the church, and an interest in a future that will look different than the past.

### The Rev. Jeanne Kaliszewski - St. John the Evangelist, Milwaukie

**Occupational Background:** Rector/Political Aide, International Business

**Languages Spoken and Read:** English (Spoken & Read)

**What congregational activities have you been involved in?** Prior to being ordained in May of 2019, I was an active lay leader who served at the altar and chaired stewardship and fundraising for several years. I have served rector at St. John's in Milwaukie for over 2 years now, previously serving as curate at Grace Memorial in Portland.



**What diocesan, provincial, or church-wide activities have you been involved in?:** As a lay person, I served as president of the Metro East convocation and chair of the Diocesan Commission on Poverty and Homelessness. I currently serve as convener of the Engaging Racial Justice Working Group and am a member of the Commission on Ministry.

**Statement of Interest:** Jesus talks about money a lot; he talks about what we should do with it when we have it and how we are called to live in a spirit of loving generosity and abundance. I would be honored to be part of that work for our Diocese, to prayerfully and faithfully steward and share the gifts we have been given. I have spent much of my career and life raising money to support the missions of both nonprofits and the church's I have been a part of. I would be honored to do that for the Episcopal Church in Western Oregon.



# THE 135TH ANNUAL MEETING OF CONVENTION

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## Nominees for Trinity Cathedral Chapter - Lay or Clergy

### The Rev. Everett Charters - St. Gabriel, Portland

**Occupational Background:** Priest-in-Charge

**Languages Spoken and Read:** English (Spoken & Read)

**What congregational activities have you been involved in?** At St. Bede parish, I was on the BAC, a member of a Parish Profile Committee, and a member of a Search Committee. At St. Gabriel parish, I was a Transitional Deacon, an Assisting Priest, and am now Priest-in-Charge.



**What diocesan, provincial, or church-wide activities have you been involved in?:** I am and have been a member of the Nominating Committee, I have also been a member of the Diocesan Consultant Network.

**Statement of Interest:** I had the good fortune to do part of my field education for seminary at Trinity Cathedral. I was able to experience firsthand the breadth and depth of its worship and its spiritual formation programs. The cathedral is an important and vital part of the diocese, and I look forward to playing a role in helping to share all that it offers to the wider diocesan community.

### Hana Rubens - St. Luke, Grants Pass

**Occupational Background:** High School teacher, principal, professional chef. Currently retired.

**Languages Spoken and Read:** English (Spoken & Read); French; Vietnamese

**What congregational activities have you been involved in?** Vestry Member, Current Senior Warden, and Lay Delegate to Convention.

**What diocesan, provincial, or church-wide activities have you been involved in?:** I am currently on the leadership team of the Engaging Racial Justice Working Group, President of the Southern Convocation, and the Nominating Committee for the Annual Convention. I served for 3 years as the Convocation Representative to Diocesan Council.



**Statement of Interest:** The position was explained to me as one that helps the Cathedral reach out to share its gifts and resources with the wider church and supports the work of the Cathedral. I have benefited from the resources provided through the Cathedral's Social Media Ministry and would like to help further its work within the diocese. I have extensive experience in grant writing, public speaking and networking, and work well on a team.



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Nominees for Diocesan Council - Lay

## To be filled

### Occupational Background:

**Languages Spoken and Read:** English (Spoken & Read)

**What congregational activities have you been involved in?**

**What diocesan, provincial, or church-wide activities have you been involved in?:**

**Statement of Interest:**

## Cindy Russell - St. Francis of Assisi, Wilsonville

**Occupational Background:** High School Administrator- retired

**Languages Spoken and Read:** English (Spoken & Read)

**What congregational activities have you been involved in?** Children's Education Director (at St Bartholomew's Beaverton and All Saints, Hillsboro.); Eucharistic Minister; Lector; Delegate; Rector profile and search committee.



**What diocesan, provincial, or church-wide activities have you been involved in?:** Cursillo - several 3-Day Weekends including being a Rector of a Weekend, and served several terms on the Secretariat as Secretary and also as President; Bishop's Search Committee; Sunset Convocation President; Transition Task Force under the Rev. Canon Christopher Craun; Committee on Dispatch of Business for the 2023 Annual Meeting.

**Statement of Interest:** I have always been involved in my church in some aspect. What I have done, outside of Sunday morning services, has depended on my family circumstances. While I may not have helped in Diocesan positions until recently, my children and husband were very involved. Now that my kids are grown and I am retired, it is my turn to serve in a broader capacity. I feel called to work with others to further the mission and ministry of our church in Western Oregon, and I am excited for this new opportunity to be a part of the Diocesan Council.



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## Nominees for Diocesan Council - Lay, continued

### Mary Elles Andrew - St. Andrew, Florence

**Occupational Background:** Retired Banker

**Languages Spoken and Read:** English (Spoken & Read)

**What congregational activities have you been involved in?** I have served on the BAC. Currently, I am currently serving on the Finance Committee and also, I am the Administrator for The Good Samaritan Fund.



**What diocesan, provincial, or church-wide activities have you been involved in?:** I have been involved in attending various ECW functions throughout the years.

**Statement of Interest:** I would like to be of service and help to our Diocese. It is a great honor to represent our parish, St. Andrew in this endeavor. My Financial background in retail bank management involved taking charge of problem bank branches, increasing their profitability, customer retention and improved audit scores. I had worked with customers of the bank advising them on investments and loans. I feel maybe I can be of some help to this council.

### Nikolaus Grimsby - St. Luke, Grants Pass

**Occupational Background:** Library Assistant

**Languages Spoken and Read:** English (Spoken & Read)

**What congregational activities have you been involved in?** Choir, Social Justice Committee, Lay Eucharistic Minister, Clerk of the Vestry.



**What diocesan, provincial, or church-wide activities have you been involved in?:** Companions of St. Luke (Order of St. Benedict)

**Statement of Interest:** I wish to learn and better understand church governance as I discern a calling to ordained ministry. I would bring my lived experience as a young gay man who converted to the EC from lutheranism.



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## Nominees for Diocesan Council - Clergy

### **The Rev. Ruth Krueger, Deacon - Good Samaritan, Corvallis**

**Occupational Background:** Minister for Parish Life and Campus Ministry Chaplain

**Languages Spoken and Read:** English (Spoken & Read)

**What congregational activities have you been involved in?** Youth Group, Children's Ministry, Family Ministry, Eucharistic Visits, Parish Life Planning, Ushering Coordinator, Coffee Hour Coordinator, Microshelter Ministry Coordinator, Youth Shelter Outreach, OSU Campus Ministry, Newcomer's Ministry



**What diocesan, provincial, or church-wide activities have you been involved in?:** Convention Delegate, Diocesan Youth Activities, Episcopal Young Adult and Campus Ministries, Thriving Leaders, The Academy for Formation and Mission

**Statement of Interest:** I am interested in serving because I believe in the Episcopal church and our call in Western Oregon to impact the world around us. I believe in the call to seek and serve Christ in all people, and I will work to create vision and opportunity to fulfill that call. I bring the gift of leadership as someone who has held a leadership role at the parish level for six years. I bring the gift of passion for the church and the world as a newly ordained deacon. I bring the desire to serve.

### **The Rev. R. Scott Painter - St. Michael & All Angels, Portland**

**Occupational Background:** Clergy/Rector

**Languages Spoken and Read:** English (Spoken & Read)

**What congregational activities have you been involved in?** I am a recent arrival to St. Michael & All Angels, having begun in ministry as rector in May, 2023. Prior to this work, I served as vicar and then rector of Grace Episcopal Church in Houston, Texas. At Grace, I walked with a small struggling congregation into redevelopment and revitalization, culminating with their readmittance to that diocese as a full parish in February 2022. As a lay person, I had served on vestry and budget and stewardship committees.



**What diocesan, provincial, or church-wide activities have you been involved in?:** Board of Seminary of the Southwest in Austin as student representative; Episcopal Health Foundation (Texas) "kitchen cabinet" for congregational engagement; Nominations Committee for diocesan government (Texas).

**Statement of Interest:** I would be honored to serve on diocesan council of ECWO. As a relative newcomer to this diocese, I will embrace the opportunity to learn how our culture and values inform decision-making and governance. I will bring gifts in strategic leadership, budgeting, and networking/relationship-building to serve as able.





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## Nominees for Diocesan Council - Clergy, continued

### **The Rev. Cathy Clark - St. Barnabas, McMinnville**

**Occupational Background:** Rector

**Languages Spoken and Read:** English (Spoken & Read)

**What congregational activities have you been involved in?** At St. Barnabas I am involved and chair the vestry and the stewardship and music and liturgy committees along with Adult Formation and weekday Eucharists. I participate on the outreach committee and altar guild meetings.

At St. James, Coquille I served as a community Pastor; Chaplain at Coquille Valley Hospital; Coquille Library Board Member; Create Center Board Member.

**What diocesan, provincial, or church-wide activities have you been involved in?:**

In the Diocesan of Northern Michigan my involvement included: Commission on Ministry 2008-2009; Episcopal Ministry Discernment Team 2008-2009; Diocesan Council 2012-2017; Peace and Justice Committee 2015 - 2018; Province V Executive Board 2016-2018; Deputy to General Convention 2018.

**Statement of Interest:** I am interested in applying the various facets of my experiences with the congregations I have served and continue to serve along with my Diocesan experience in Northern Michigan here on Council in Western Oregon. I am an organized, communicative team player and would use these skills to help nurture the diocese's initiatives around ministry and mission. I feel it is important to offer myself for service in our diocesan life together. I would love to get to know more people in our diocese.



### **The Rev. Birch Rambo - Church of the Resurrection, Eugene**

**Occupational Background:** Rector

**Languages Spoken and Read:** English (Spoken & Read); French

**What congregational activities have you been involved in?** Serving Resurrection, Eugene since 2021, I have served as priest in a variety of congregations, parishes and college ministries since 2002. Prior to attending seminary, I did graduate research in Evolutionary and Behavioral Ecology and was part of the leadership team of the Episcopal chapel at the University of Kentucky.



**What diocesan, provincial, or church-wide activities have you been involved in?:** Diocese of Oregon: Commission on Liturgy, Worship and music; Diocese of Southwestern Virginia: Diocesan Council, Camp Taskforce, Regional Dean; Diocese of Spokane: Standing Committee (President), Diocesan Council, Camp Advisory Board, General Convention Delegate (C1, Committee 16-Creation Care), Chaplain to Diocesan Convention; Diocese of Lexington: Standing Committee (President), Diocesan Council, Hispanic Ministry Commission (Chair), Convention Resolutions Committee (Chair)

**Statement of Interest:** I enjoy work in the wider church because it is rewarding to use my knowledge, skills, and experience collaboratively and strategically for the future of the church and because it helps me spiritually to know that I am a part of something larger than myself of my parish. My personal involvement also helps me to keep my parish connected with its Bishop and Diocese and always aware of the issues around us, the creative resources available to us, and the communion of saints, living and dead, that accompany us.