

Nominees for Open Diocesan Leadership Positions in the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York (2021)

Diocesan Board

The Board shepherds the resources of the Diocese to fulfill its mission and to ensure a sustainable future by adopting ethical, transparent, and sound policies and programs.

The Board, together with the Bishop, sets the diocesan priorities and develops a budget to fund them. The Board also acts as the trustees for all diocesan corporations and funds.

Board members are lay and ordained members of the Episcopal Church, led by the Bishop and Vice-Chair. The Board meets up to six times each year, with part of each meeting being a joint meeting with the Standing Committee.

Board membership includes the Bishop, four members elected at Convention, three members appointed by the Bishop, a Standing Committee representative, and the treasurer.

Convention 2021 will elect:

- One clergy person for a three-year term.

Nominations received for the Board:

The Rev. John W. Rohde (Nominee 1 of 1 for one open clergy position)



The Rev. John Rohde is a relatively new priest in the Diocese of CNY, and a lifelong Episcopalian. He lives in the Westcott neighborhood in Syracuse, NY. He is the Priest-in-Charge of Ss. Peter and John Church in Auburn, NY. Prior to ordination, John was a performing and teaching musician, a craft he continues to practice. He is a co-director of the Diocesan Lay Preaching Program.

Disciplinary Board

The Disciplinary Board is the body that deals with all matters regarding the ecclesiastical discipline of members of the clergy (other than the bishop diocesan). The Disciplinary Board is governed by the relevant provisions of Title IV of the Canons of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church and detailed in Diocesan Canon XXVII.

The Board consists of five clergy members and four lay members. Clergy members must be canonically and geographically resident in the Diocese, and can be either active or retired. Lay members must be adult communicants in good standing and geographically resident in the Diocese.

The term for Disciplinary Board members is three years. The Disciplinary Board meets as needed.

Convention 2021 will elect:

- One clergy person for a three-year term.

Nominations received for the Disciplinary Board:

The Rev. Christine Williams-Belt (*To be nominated from the floor of Convention; nominee 1 of 1 for one open clergy position*)



The Rev. Christine Williams-Belt is currently serving as Rector of Grace Episcopal Church in Utica, New York. Canadian-born, Christine holds a Master of Divinity with a concentration in Restorative Justice and was ordained a priest in 2010 in the Diocese of Ontario of the Anglican Church of Canada. In that Diocese, she served several parishes, including St. George's Cathedral (Kingston, Ontario) as a Curate, and completed three terms on the Synod Council (Diocesan Board). Christine has a special interest in the regulations and safeguards of church ministry. She has volunteered with restorative justice organizations and is an advocate for social justice. She and her son live in downtown Utica and are excited to be part of a diverse community and supportive parish.

Standing Committee

The Standing Committee consists of eight members: four clergypersons and four laypersons. Meetings are held five times per year, with part of most meetings being a joint meeting with the Diocesan Board.

Responsibilities include:

- Review and consent to all transactions involving the sale, mortgage or lease of church-owned real estate.
- Approval of the election of bishops anywhere in The Episcopal Church, which leads to a concern for the structure and distribution of authority in the Church.
- Approval of persons for ordination to the diaconate and priesthood, which leads to a concern for ministry throughout the Church.
- Acting as a council of advice for the bishop in such matters as she may choose to bring before the Committee; and on matters which the Diocese, through the Standing Committee, wishes to bring before the bishop.
- Acting as the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese in the case of prolonged absence, disability, or resignation of the diocesan bishop, if there be no other bishop to whom authority has been temporarily given.
- Acting as the investigative body in the process of ecclesiastical discipline as specified in the Canons of The Episcopal Church.

What kind of person are we looking for?

In addition to the person who is dedicated to Christ and the Church, we are seeking an individual who is a strong leader, able to provide careful counsel to the bishop, aware of the tenor regarding issues in the greater church, and capable of assisting in the leadership of the diocese should the need arise.

Convention 2021 will elect:

- One clergy person for a four-year term;
- One clergy person for a one-year term;
- One lay person for a four-year term;
- One lay person for a one-year term.

Nominations received for the Standing Committee:

The Rev. Brooks A. Cato (Nominee 1 of 2 for two open clergy positions)



A priest in good standing and the Rector of St. Thomas', Hamilton, the Rev. Brooks Cato is finishing his first term on the Standing Committee and has been its president for 3 years. He has previously worked with Happening, Learning Communities, and the Racial Justice & Response Team with the Diocese. In Hamilton, he is the Community Liaison to the Hamilton Police Department, co-leads the Hamilton Ecumenical Youth Group, and convenes the area clergy for ecumenical work. For the greater Episcopal Church, he is a member of the Task Force to Study Sexism in The Episcopal Church and Develop Anti-Sexism Training, a Deputy to General Convention, and was recently appointed to the Agencies & Boards Legislative Committee.

The Rev. Taylor D. Daynes (Nominee 2 of 2 for two open clergy positions)



The Rev. Taylor Daynes is Episcopal Chaplain to Cornell University in Ithaca and Priest-in-Charge at the Church of the Epiphany, Trumansburg. She currently serves on the Companion Diocese of El Salvador Committee. She's also a published poet, and brings her passion for all forms of creative expression to her ministry. Before her priestly ordination in 2018, Taylor served as deacon at St. Paul's in Rochester, NY, and as Community Engagement Coordinator at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Baltimore, MD. She was also an instructor in the Creative Writing department at Johns Hopkins, and worked with several other community arts and social justice organizations. Taylor looks forward to expanding her service to the diocese as a member of the Standing Committee!

Dr. John W. Chaffee (Nominee 1 of 2 for two open lay positions)



Dr. John W. Chaffee was born to Presbyterian missionaries in China, but for the last thirty-five years has been an active and enthusiastic Episcopalian at Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church in Binghamton. His involvement there has included service as Vestryman, Clerk and Warden, and throughout he has been a member of the Trinity Choir and active in many committees. He has served three times as a Deputy

to General Convention and two terms on the Diocesan Board. In his working life he is a Distinguished Service Professor of Chinese History and Director of the Institute for Asia and Asian Diasporas at Binghamton University.

Mr. John H. Orr (*To be nominated from the floor of Convention; nominee 2 of 2 for two open lay positions*)

John H. Orr recently retired to Hamilton after a 40-year career in public relations at major agencies in Philadelphia, New York and Wilmington, Delaware. He joined St. Thomas' in Hamilton in the Fall of 2020 and currently serves on the Vestry and as chairperson of the Strategic Planning Committee. At his previous parish (St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley in Paoli, PA) he served three full terms on Vestry, during which he was Senior Warden twice. During his 35 years there, he was also active on the Communications and Marketing Commissions, as well as founding the St. Peter's Players, an amateur theater organization that mounted annual staged productions for the benefit of the Church.