

The Diocese of New Jersey

OFFICES TO BE FILLED AT DIOCESAN CONVENTION – 2009

1. Standing Committee (Vote by Orders)

Incumbents to be Replaced

1 Lay Member – 4 year term
1 Clergy Member – 4 year term

*Noreen L. Duncan
*The Rev. Mark H. Chattin

****Not eligible for reelection***

The Standing Committee acts as a council of advice for the Bishop and also functions as a check and balance. Their advice and consent is needed for various appointments made by the Bishop and for the expenditure of certain trust funds. They must approve all candidates for ordination to the diaconate and priesthood, and they vote on behalf of our Diocese in the process for approving the election of all bishops of the Episcopal Church. Their consent is needed before any church can sell or mortgage property. Lay members must be communicants of a parish in union with the Convention. Clergy must be canonically resident in the diocese. Committee meets monthly, usually on a Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

2. Diocesan Council

Incumbents to be Replaced

3 Lay Members – 3 year terms

*Kathleen O'Hagan
*Deborah Kirk
*Felix Estepa

3 Clergy Members – 3 year terms

*The Rev. Martha M. McKee
*The Rev. Terry L. Martin
*The Rev. Philip H. Kasey

****Not eligible for reelection***

The Council develops, administers, oversees, coordinates, and evaluates the program of the Diocese and maintains general supervision over the Diocese's budget and financial affairs. Members must be canonically resident in the Diocese. They should be knowledgeable about and active in Diocesan Programs. Meets about ten (10) times a year, usually the fourth Tuesday, September - June at 1:00 p.m.

3. Cathedral Chapter

Incumbents to be Replaced

2 Lay Members – 3 year terms

*William Pearson
*The Hon. Robert W. Scott

1 Clergy Member – 3 year term

*The Rev. Edmund W. Zellej

****Not eligible for reelection***

The members of the Chapter elected by Convention together with other members elected by the Cathedral congregation constitute the Major Chapter of the Cathedral. Their function is to provide a liaison between the people of the Diocese and the Cathedral parish congregation. Clergy members must be presbyters. Committee meets in the evenings.

4. Standing Commission on Clerical Compensation

Incumbents to be Replaced or Reelected

2 Lay Members – 3 year terms

Martin F. Nelson
Cass Lavin-Spouse

2 Clergy Members – 3 year terms

The Rev. Brian K. Burgess
The Rev. Valerie L. Balling

The Commission makes recommendations to Convention about minimum standards of compensation for clergy and reports on compliance with the standards set by the Convention. Members must be canonically resident in the Diocese. They should be knowledgeable about personnel, insurance, statistics or clergy lifestyles. This committee meets during the day about six (6) times a year.

5. Standing Committee on Constitution and Canons

Incumbents to be Replaced or Reelected

1 Lay Member – 3 year term

Paul De Sarno, Esq.

The Committee reviews all proposed amendments to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese and makes recommendations concerning them to the Convention. Lay members should be attorneys with special competence in ecclesiastical law. This committee meets on a weekday at 10 a.m.

6. Trustees of Diocesan Trust Funds

Incumbent to be Replaced

1 Lay Trustee – 5 year term

*Timothy Turner

****Not eligible for reelection***

Trustees exercise fiduciary responsibility for all property owned by the diocese and exercise discretion over trust fund disbursements. They must be communicants in good standing of a church in the Diocese. They should be highly qualified in investment, real estate management, or the care of trust funds. Committee meets on Wednesday mornings at 8:30 a.m. four times a year.

7. Finance and Budget Committee

Incumbents to be Replaced or Reelected

3 Members, Clergy or Lay – 3 year terms

Stephan Sroka
Anthony Fusco
Charles Perfater

Committee is responsible for general oversight of the Diocesan finances and preparation of the draft budget to be submitted to Council. Members should have experience in the investment field, trust law, and/or budgeting. The committee meets approximately six times per year in the morning, with meetings concentrated in fall and early winter.

8. Diocesan Investment Trust

Incumbents to be Replaced or Reelected

1 Member, Clergy or Lay – 4 year term

Bruce Brand

Committee is responsible for overseeing the investment management of the Diocesan Investment Trust. Members must be communicants of the Church and resident in the Diocese. Members should be highly qualified in investment management or the care of trust funds. Meetings are quarterly.

9. Audit Committee

Incumbents to be Replaced or Reelected

2 Members, Clergy or Lay – 3 year terms

John Scherer
Herbert Geiss

Committee has responsibility for overseeing Diocesan auditing procedures and evaluating annual audit. Members may be laity or clergy. Some members should have particular skill as an attorney, accountant or auditor. Members should have some knowledge of accounting statements. This committee meets in the morning four to five times a year.

10. Diocesan Review Committee

Incumbents to be Replaced or Reelected

1 Lay Member, 3 year terms

Elizabeth Papp

2 Clergy Members, 3 year terms

The Rev. Margaret Sterchi
The Rev. Denise P. Mantell

The Diocesan Review Committee examines charges and alleged facts concerning the discipline of priests and deacons, submits the matter to the Church Attorney, reviews the Church Attorney's report and then determines whether a Presentment (Indictment) should issue and an Ecclesiastical Trial take place. Clergy members of the Diocesan Review Committee must be presbyters or deacons who are canonically resident in the Diocese. Lay members must be adult confirmed communicants in good standing of a congregation in the Diocese. No Chancellor or Vice Chancellor, member of the Standing Committee, or member or alternate member of the Trial Court, or any attorney affiliated in the practice of law with any of these persons, shall be eligible to serve as a member. The work of the Review Committee is defined in detail in Title IV.3 of the Canons of the Episcopal Church and in our Diocesan Canon 67.

11. Trial Court

Incumbents to be Replaced or Reelected

3 Lay Members – 3 year terms
1 year as member, 2 years as alternate

Virgil Johnson, Ed.D
Morgan Bentley
Sarah Tarpine-Smith

4 Clergy Members – 3 year terms
1 year as member, 2 years as alternate

The Rev. John C. Belmont
The Rev. Dr. Wayne L. Smith
The Rev. Kenneth A. Gluckow
The Rev. Frank C. Strasburger

If a priest or deacon is charged with an offense and brought to trial, the Court, with assistance from professional advisors, hears the case, playing the role of both judge and jury. Lay members must be adult confirmed communicants in good standing of a church in the Diocese. Clergy members must have been canonically resident in the Diocese for at least three years. Special knowledge of the law is not needed. The Court meets once a year to organize. Otherwise, it meets only if there is a trial.

12. Church Attorney

Incumbent to be Replaced or Reelected

1 year term

Steven Lewis, Esq.

The Church Attorney's job is similar to that of a District Attorney who, at the behest of the Standing Committee, investigates charges brought against a priest or deacon, prepares the case, and acts as the prosecutor at the trial. He/she must be an adult confirmed communicant in good standing of a church in the Diocese, must be a member of the Bar of the State of New Jersey, and should have experience as a trial lawyer.

13. Treasurer

Incumbent to be Replaced or Reelected

1 clergy or lay, 1 year term

Reginald Whitman

The Treasurer, elected annually by the Convention, as provided by the Constitution of the Diocese of New Jersey, shall serve as the executive financial overseer of trust funds and other funds for which the Convention is responsible. The Treasurer shall be an ex-officio member of the Convention with the right to speak, and shall give satisfactory security for the faithful discharge of the duties of the Treasurer's office. The Treasurer shall present a statement of the Treasurer's accounts to each annual meeting of the Convention.
