



# NOMINATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE 209<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION

## **Diocesan Council | Clergy Order** (Vote for 2)

**No timely nominations were received.**

## **Diocesan Council | Lay Order** (Vote for 3)

### **DAVID H. BLAND**

CHURCH: St. John's, Wake Forest

NOMINATOR: The Rev. Chipper Long

#### EXPERIENCE:

- David served on St. John's vestry for three years and is completing his first term on the Council.
- He has served as a delegate to Diocesan Convention or as an alternate delegate for 6+ years.
- He has chaired our adult formation ministry at St. John's for over 8 years.
- He had a long career in executive leadership, both as assistant to Kentucky's governor, as the president of Montgomery Community College, Troy, NC., and chief executive officer of several major companies.
- David is currently spearheading an ecumenical, multi-denominational effort to put an end to the cash bail bond system in North Carolina.



#### PERSONAL STATEMENT:

At 86+ David Bland remains a tireless leader and enthusiastic servant of the church in multiple areas of ministry and mission. He has many years of experience serving on boards and doing the work of program planning as well as strategic planning. He is very proud of our diocese and the priority we give to the work of racial reconciliation and racial justice. He believes passionately in the church as a force for peace and justice in the world. He is trustworthy, reliable, and dedicated, and I believe he would contribute productively to the work of the Diocesan Council.

### **BILL DRAKE**

CHURCH: Holy Trinity, Greensboro

NOMINATOR: The Rev. David Umphlett

#### EXPERIENCE:

- Four 3 year terms on Holy Trinity's vestry
- Two years as senior warden during our rector's retirement after 25 years and the search process to call our current rector David Umphlett
- Annual Giving Campaign chair, lay reader, chalcist, usher and Sunday school teacher
- 30+ years of business experience in customer service, BS in geography/urban planning and Wake Forest MBA
- Currently serving on the Diocesan Council filling an unexpired term and on the Diocesan Audit, Finance, and Affordable Housing Committees



**PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

Bill is a committed parishioner and member of the diocese, constantly seeking ways to be of service to the larger church. His business acumen is vitally important for matters of administration. His spiritual gifts ensure that his decisions spring from prayer and discernment.

**ALICE FREEMAN**

CHURCH: St. Mark's, Wilson

NOMINATOR: The Rev. Milton Williams

**EXPERIENCE:**

- Elected to serve as deputy to General Convention from the Diocese of North Carolina
- Standing Committee - Term ends December 31
- Served six years on Executive Council of The Episcopal Church
- Assistant city manager, retired - City of Wilson, NC
- Former chair - Board of Trustees, Wilson Community College



**PERSONAL STATEMENT:**

Using her organizational and communications skills, Alice's career experience has mostly been in the area of administration, budgeting, strategic planning and thinking. She has used that experience in the church, serving in many capacities, including senior warden; lay reader; Penick Village Board of Directors; Episcopal Farmworkers Ministry board; ECW and United Thank Offering; Nominating Committee for Bishop Diocesan; Botswana Link Committee; and Episcopal Relief and Development.

Her dedication and commitment to the church is long-standing. In her own words, Alice says, "My appointment and election to various committees in The Episcopal Church and especially in the diocese, have allowed me, at times, to be that voice that is sometimes not heard. I am passionate about small and struggling churches and missions. I believe that in today's climate, at this time, to fulfill our covenant, our christian vows, we are truly needed more than ever, to be Christ's disciples."

**JOHN F. (JEFF) PITTS**

CHURCH: St. Joseph's, Durham

NOMINATOR: The Rev. Miriam Saxon

**EXPERIENCE:**

- Professional Experience: Retired NC public school teacher with approximately 15 years in special education at Wake County Public Schools and approximately 15 years teaching middle school science in the Durham Public Schools
- Volunteer Experience: Scouting American (formerly Boy Scouts of America) since 2001 with leadership positions in Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Sea Scouts; waterfront director/aquatics instructor since 2010 at Camp Durant, Occoneechee Council, BSA; U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary from 1990-2010.
- Educational Experiences: Bachelor degrees in religion & German, Florida State University; Masters Degree in German, FSU; MA in teaching, special education, NC Central University; certificate in teaching English as a foreign language, NC State
- Church-based Experience: at St. Luke's, Durham, 1994-2018: Godly Play Sunday school teacher, youth chaperone, musician and choir member, acolyte, crucifer, lay reader and Licensed Eucharistic Visitor; 2019-present: at St. Joseph's, Durham, serving as acolyte, crucifer, lay reader, Eucharistic Minister and musician



## PERSONAL STATEMENT:

Since retirement in 2023, Jeff has sought ways to become more involved with St. Joseph's parish and the wider diocese. On Diocesan Council he would be a welcome voice and advocate for our smaller parishes/missions, and he could share extensive knowledge about teaching children and youth to be leaders.

At St. Joseph's Jeff serves at both the evening and morning services as acolyte, lay reader, and eucharistic minister. He supports St. Joseph's financially with an annual pledge and has also purchased two deep freezers for use by the Breakfast Ministry group.

During the spring of 2023, he helped plan a weeklong, outdoor summer church camp held at St. Philip's property known as "The Beloved Community in the Trees." Jeff used his experience as a Cub Scout leader to plan engaging activities for the 4th and 5th grade group. Although Jeff would enjoy becoming more involved with the fledgling LGBTQ+ Episcopal community at "The Trees," for now his deep parish commitment is to service at St. Joseph's.

## Standing Committee | Clergy Order (Vote for 2)

### THE REV. STEVE RICE

POSITION: Rector, St. Timothy's, Winston-Salem

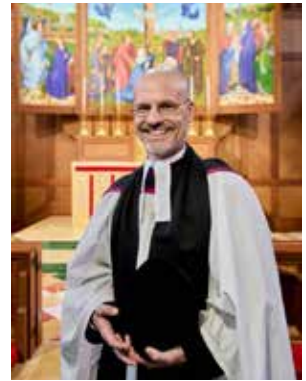
NOMINATOR: The Rev. Robert Black

EXPERIENCE:

- Long-serving rector
- Leader in the wider church
- Has raised up several leaders in church
- Recent capital campaign
- Ecumenical background

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

Steve is insightful, courageous, and orthodox.



### THE REV. REBECCA YARBROUGH

POSITION: Deacon, Chapel of Christ the King, Charlotte

NOMINATOR: Alice Freeman

EXPERIENCE:

- Worked for 40+ years as regional planner, supporting local governments in the Charlotte region with visioning, planning, program development, program management, and grants to implement services for their residents
- Served as deacon at St. Alban's, Davidson for 10 years and have been at the Chapel for 5+ years, focusing on strengthening outreach and justice ministries, congregational development, and the discernment and development of affordable housing at the Chapel
- Was heavily involved in the founding of La Escuelita San Alban, Galilee Ministries of East Charlotte, and the Bishop's Committee on Affordable Housing
- Have served on numerous diocesan committees: Mission Funders Consortium, Mission Strategy Task Force, Bishop's Committee on the Diaconate, Legislative Committee on National and International Concerns (chaired 3 years), Bishop's Committee on Affordable Housing, current member and past chair of the Costa Rica Companion Diocese Committee, current chair of the Chartered Committee on Global Mission
- Served 7 1/2 years on Diocesan Council and as a deputy to the 81<sup>st</sup> General Convention, serving there as dispatch liaison to the Legislative Committee on World Mission

PERSONAL STATEMENT:

I love The Episcopal Church—its worship, its “big tent,” its concern for racial and social justice, and its insistence that love is the way—God's love for each and every one of us, that we are to share. I also love working with people, across difference, to envision possibilities and to work together to realize them. My entire career and ministry have been expressions of those loves, collaborating with others both in local government for 40+ years, and in ministry, to make change for good and include the voices of those who aren't often heard. I hope to bring my experience as a collaborative “instigator” and partner in service and justice work to Standing Committee, as we continue the strong work that has begun. Love begets justice, reconciliation and peace, and I believe my experience will be helpful in continuing and expanding this work. Thank you for your consideration!



## Standing Committee | Lay Order (Vote for 1)

**No timely nominations were received.**

## Board of Trustees, University of the South (Sewanee) | Lay Order (Vote for 1)

### EDWARD DENNIS

CHURCH: Christ Church, Raleigh

NOMINATOR: The Rev. David Frazelle

#### EXPERIENCE:

- Edward is a lifelong Episcopalian and grew up attending St. Thaddeus Episcopal Church in Aiken, SC. At St. Thaddeus he was a dedicated acolyte, youth vestry member, Sunday school participant, and received his confirmation.
- Edward graduated from The University of the South (Class of 2016), where he studied political science. His other Sewanee accomplishments include member of the Order of the Gown, Student Alumni Leadership Council, captain of the swim and dive team, treasurer of the Chi Psi Fraternity and member of the Honor Council.
- He is currently an active member of Christ Church in Raleigh, NC. Edward also serves as an usher welcoming worshippers and as an Episcopal Youth Community leader.
- Through his professional career Edward has become an accomplished banker with involvement in the production and portfolio management of a large book of commercial real estate business. He serves on the bank's Community Engagement Committee heading up the bank's relationship with StepUp ministry in Raleigh NC. StepUp's mission is "to provide pathways for people to overcome barriers and transform their lives." Edward is also a rising sophomore at the North Carolina Banker's Association School of Banking for continuing education, networking, and industry leadership preparation.
- In his personal life, Edward is engaged to be married to his fiancée, Sarah Katherine Elmore. Edward is an avid outdoorsman and athlete. He enjoys the mountains, beach, family time, reading, and walking and playing with his German shepherd, Xyla. His younger sister Adelle also received her Bachelor's degree from Sewanee (C'21) and is currently enrolled in the School of Theology (T'26).



#### PERSONAL STATEMENT:

Sewanee remains one of the most important places that has shaped my life and values. I credit Sewanee for the strength of my faith, my intellectual development, political interests, career interests, personal fitness, love of the outdoors and lifelong friendships. I would like to join the Board of Trustees for several reasons. First, to serve and give back to the institution that provided me so much. I will use this position to continue to be a tireless advocate for the university. Secondly, as a trustee I want to help advocate for the best possible student experience and outcomes. I have near constant communication with a broad range of constituencies which gives me a strong and informed perspective. These constituencies include current professors, parents, alumni of the college and school of theology, and business leaders looking for highly educated talent. I have a true calling to the Sewanee Board of Trustees.

**JERRY GARRETT**

CHURCH: St. Thomas, Reidsville

NOMINATOR: Bishop William Gregg

EXPERIENCE:

- Diocesan Council and Planning Committee member
- Lay Eucharistic Minister and Finance Committee, St Thomas Episcopal Church
- Rockingham County Episcopal I Wardens Committee, addressing small parish needs in rural NC.
- Executive Committee, Diocese of Western NC, Bishop Porter Taylor
- Commission on Ministry, Diocese of San Joaquin, Bishop John-David Schofield



PERSONAL STATEMENT:

I had cause to spend a semester with my family on the campus. While we weren't there long, I have longed to return in some capacity to serve those who were so kind to me and my family.

With over 30 years of senior management experience, I would use the position to learn more about the undergraduate and seminary school needs. I also would welcome a forum to address real world current issues facing our diocese and rural parishes in our region.

Noted experiences:

- Missionary, Guatemala (3) and Haiti
- Vestries (3), search committees (2)
- Youth ministries (2)
- Lay Eucharistic Minister (3)
- Successful CEO and board member, Private Equity Electra Partners, London.
- Education, BA - Lenoir-Rhyne College; MBA - Wake Forest University; foreign exchange student - Universidad de Valencia Spain.

Buen Camino