

# Outline of Elective Offices

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## THE 185<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE DIOCESE OF CHICAGO

### Diocesan Officers

**NOTE:** Traditionally, Article 12 of the Constitution of the Diocese of Chicago has been “unanimously dispensed with” in filling the offices of: Secretary of Convention, Parliamentarian of Convention, Treasurer of the Diocese, Registrar/Historiographer.

### The Standing Committee

- Consists of three canonically resident priests or deacons AND three communicant and resident lay persons.
- One clergy person and one lay person are elected each year to serve a three-year term.

The Standing Committee of the Diocese of Chicago is a council of advice for the bishop. They serve as a sounding board for any topic or issue that the bishop would like to address.

The Standing Committee is elected by representatives from every congregation in the Diocese, gathered in Diocesan Convention. Every Episcopal Diocese (the regional body of the Episcopal Church, under the authority of a bishop) has a Standing Committee, with responsibilities assigned by the [Canons of the Episcopal Church](#). A majority of the Standing Committees of all dioceses have to consent when any diocese elects a new bishop. If a diocese does not have a bishop, the Standing Committee has the authority to make certain decisions for the diocese.

To be ordained as a deacon or priest in the Episcopal Church requires the approval of the Standing Committee of the Diocese, so in the Diocese of Chicago, the Standing Committee works closely with the Commission on Ministry from the time a person is nominated by their congregation until they are ordained. See the [Commission on Ministry's website](#) for a full description of this process. Standing Committee is also legally required to approve decisions about clergy leaving the Episcopal Church for any cause.

In the Diocese of Chicago, the members of the Standing Committee elect a President each year, who is also automatically a member of the Trustees of the Endowment during their term.

**Duties** – As listed in the *Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church* (available online in English and Spanish at <https://www.episcopalarchives.org/learn/digital-archives/governance-documents-of-the-church>)

1. Is to be the Bishop's Council of Advice
2. In the absence of the Bishop, the Standing Committee shall take charge of the Diocese as prescribed by General Convention.
3. Same if the Bishop is disabled.
4. Concurs in the election of all other Bishops.
5. Gives consent when a Bishop resigns or is elected to another jurisdiction.
6. Certifies the ordination of priests and deacons in the Diocese.
7. Approves modification or revision of judicial sentences.
8. Approves encumbrance of real property.
9. Recommends ordination of candidates and deacons.

10. Has responsibilities in the area of clerical misconduct.

From the *Constitution of the Diocese of Chicago*, Article 10 [\(available online\)](#)

The Standing Committee:

1. Shall elect officers from among its members
2. Shall have power to fill any vacancy in its membership
3. Has power between Conventions to authorize the payment of such claims and accounts as may have not been acted upon by the Convention- with approval of the Board of Financial Review.

*For more information on the Standing Committee, read Article 10 of “The Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago.”*

The 167th Annual Convention in 2004 amended the Constitution to permit Standing Committee members to be elected to a second consecutive full term before being barred from standing for election for consecutive term.

The terms for the following Standing Committee members expire November 2022. Both candidates are eligible for re-election.

Clergy

The Rev. Jeannette DeFriest

Lay

Ms. Laura Singer

## **The Bishop and Trustees**

- An Illinois Corporation consisting of 13 members comprising the Bishop, three canonically resident priests or deacons and nine communicant and resident lay persons. Other Bishops shall be members.
- One priest or deacon and three lay persons elected each year for a three-year term.

The Bishop and Trustees hold title to and oversee the use of the real property of the Diocese of Chicago including St. James Commons, mission congregations, and closed properties. They approve purchases, sales, construction projects involving mortgages and real estate, and the diocesan budget. The Bishop and Trustees also hold title to St. James Commons. In addition to making decisions regarding the maintenance and purchase or sale of property, each Trustee is the liaison to at least one mission congregation. The Trustee works with the Vicar and lay leadership on matters relating to the physical plant. Knowledge of property issues is important, but the ability to think creatively about congregational development is also crucial. Trustees also work in small teams to address broader challenges.

### **Duties and Powers**

1. Fill any vacancy in its membership until the next convention.
2. Make laws of the Corporation.
3. Receive gifts, monies, bequests, etc. and manage and administer these as financial agents of the Diocese.
4. Assure the use of proper business methods in the management of money and property.
5. Borrow money and provide for payment.
6. Submit a budget for all expenses of the Diocese for the ensuing year.
7. Serve as liaison to one or more Mission Congregations.

*For more information on Bishop and Trustees, read Canon 35 in “The Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago.”*

Bishop and Trustees meet bimonthly on the third Tuesday of the month from 11 am – 2 pm. The July meeting is held on the third Saturday of the month at a mission congregation.

The terms for the following members of Bishop and Trustees expire November 2022. Upon expiration of their terms, members of Bishop and Trustees are eligible for reelection.

Clergy

The Rev. Susan Sommer

Lay

Mr. David Arch

Ms. Andrea Flynn

Ms. Penny Mandziara

## Deputies and Alternates to General Convention

The work at General Convention is carried out by Deputies and Bishops representing their respective dioceses. During this triennial meeting deputies and bishops meet each day and consider a wide range of matters important to the ongoing life of the church. The 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church will be held in July 2024 in Louisville, Kentucky, in the Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky.

Every diocese of the Episcopal Church elects four lay deputies and four clergy deputies to General Convention. Elections are held at diocesan conventions or councils. In the Diocese of Chicago, deputies and alternates for the 2024 General Convention will be elected at the Annual Diocesan Convention in November 2022. Deputies are not delegates; that is, they are not elected to represent the electing dioceses, but are free to vote their conscience on the legislation before them for the good of the Church.

They hear testimony, engage in debate and prayer, and they cannot be instructed to vote one way or another. Deputies are expected to serve on committees when appointed (they may indicate their preference; appointments are made by the President of the House of Deputies in consideration of many factors), to attend forums and hearings, to read the reports to the Church from its commissions, committees, agencies and boards (interim bodies of the General Convention), to listen and vote on resolutions being considered by the House of Deputies. They are expected to take part in online forums set up prior to each General Convention to help prepare deputies for the work of convention.

Deputies to General Convention, along with the first alternate in each order, have their airfare and room & board provided. For more information on the General Convention visit the Office of General Convention web pages at <http://www.generalconvention.org/>.

## The Cathedral Chapter

The Cathedral is the elected governing Board for the Cathedral Congregation. One clerical or lay person is elected for a three-year term. Following the end of the term, members must wait at least one year before seeking re-election. The Cathedral Chapter meets in the evening on the fourth Tuesday of every month.

**Duties:** Members of the Chapter give voice to a vision for the congregation's life together and set policy. They oversee resource development, people, property, and finances, to support the mission and ministry of the Cathedral. Chapter meets in the evening on the second Tuesday of every month.

*For more information on The Cathedral Chapter, read Canon 34 in [The Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago](#).*

The term for the following Cathedral Chapter member expires November 2022. The member is not eligible for re-election:

The Rev. Fran Holliday

## **Required training for those elected**

All persons elected or appointed to diocesan bodies are required to participate in the 2-½ day Understanding and Analyzing Systemic Racism training provided by Chicago Regional Organizing for Antiracism (Chicago ROAR) and subsidized by the Diocese of Chicago Anti-Racism Commission. Until in-person 2-½ day trainings resume, all are encouraged to participate in day long on-line trainings. Dates can be found on the diocesan webpage.

On Saturday, November 12, there will be a “Meet the Candidate” forum on Zoom.

Also, there will be an orientation for all newly elected or appointed persons on Saturday, January 21, 2023 from 10:30 AM – 1:00 PM. More information will be sent following elections.