

Province V  
**Synod 2022**  
**Biographies of Nominees**

**Summary Page listing position and nominees**

Elections will be held during the Synod on April 29, 2022 in South Bend, Indiana

**President of the Executive Board of Province V- elect 1**

*3-year term*

Canon Jan Cislucyis, Northern Michigan

**Vice President of the Executive Board of Province V- elect 1**

*3-year term*

The Rt. Rev. Matthew Gunter

**Secretary of the Executive Board of Province V- elect 1**

*3-year term*

Ms. Adrienne Dillon, Missouri

**Treasurer of the Executive Board of Province V - elect 1**

*3-year term*

Ms. Rebecca Elfring-Roberts, Chicago

**Executive Council of the Episcopal Church (lay member) – elect 1**

*5-year term (adjusting for delay of General Convention)*

Adrienne Dillon, Missouri

William Fleener, Jr., Western Michigan

Lee Kauffman, Ohio

Ellen Lindeen, Chicago

Louisa McKellaston, Chicago

Dianne Audrick Smith, Ohio

**Executive Council of the Episcopal Church (clergy member) – elect 1**

*2-year term – replacing a resigned member*

The Rev. M.E. Eccles, Chicago

## Canon Jane Cislucycis

Nominee for President of the Executive Board of Province V



*“What gifts and qualifications do you bring to this position?”*

I currently serve as the Vice President of the Province, having been appointed due to a vacancy. I have been part of the governance of Province V since 2012 when I was appointed to the Executive Board, representing the Diocese of Northern Michigan. In 2015 I was elected by the synod to be the lay representative to the Executive Council of the General Convention. While on the Executive Council, I served four years as Chair of the Joint Standing Committee for Governance & Operations of the Executive Council. I have served on General Convention Committees in the areas of the Small Church, Program Budget & Finance, the Church Pension Fund, and the Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution & Canons. Closer to home, I am Canon to the Ordinary in Northern Michigan since 1996. I live in Marquette, MI on the beautiful shores of Lake Superior. You can find me at the beach or in the woods whenever I have some free time.

*What opportunities do you see for the Province as we work to “connect, network, and support” the local ministries across the constituent dioceses?*

Province V is blessed with strong leadership from our Coordinator, our many networks, and the Executive Board. In these times of extended pandemic and global upheaval, we have the opportunity to respond at the diocesan and local level. The moment invites us to learn and discern together the way(s) in which we are called to respond. The good news: We are already accustomed to forming webs of support with one another. The relationships already built across dioceses have positioned us to answer this call.

## **Ms. Adrienne Dillon**

Nominee for Secretary of the Executive Board of Province V



*“What gifts and qualifications do you bring to this position?”*

I have served as Secretary of Province V for the past two years, filling an incomplete term. I have considerable experience as a parish clerk and as a vestry, board and committee member. I have enjoyed being part of the Executive Board of the Province, and I look forward to continuing in this position.

*What opportunities do you see for the Province as we work to “connect, network, and support” the local ministries across the constituent dioceses?*

I applaud the growth of networks in our Province, and I have participated in several of them. Networks provide an opportunity to know others who are passionate about their ministries and to share progress, resources, and best practices. Communities are being built across diocesan boundaries using technologies such as Zoom. In some instances, deeper relationships among dioceses have developed. This reminds us that God’s household extends far beyond a single parish or diocese.

## Ms. Adrienne Dillon

Nominee for Executive Council (lay)



1. Current service in the Church (parish, diocese, province, churchwide) and in the community.
  - Third Order, Society of St. Francis (professed 1978)
  - Warden, Emery Washington Convocation, Diocese of Missouri (2022-)
  - Member, Commission on Dismantling Racism, Diocese of Missouri (2005-)
  - Lay Alternate to General Convention, Diocese of Missouri (2015, 2018, 2022)
  - Co-Chair, Social Justice Ministry, All Saints & Ascension, Diocese of Missouri (2019-)
  - Secretary, Province V (2019-)
  - President, Board of Directors, Women's HOPE Chorale of St. Louis (2021-)
2. Prior service (same as above, with dates, including offices and positions held).
  - a. Vestry, All Saints Church, Diocese of Missouri (2009-2016)
  - b. Clerk, St. John The Evangelist Church, Diocese of Massachusetts (1984-1993)
  - c. General Convention, Diocese of Massachusetts (Alternate 1994, Deputy 1997)
  - d. Commission on Wider Mission, Diocese of Massachusetts (1991-1999)
  - e. Troop Leader, Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri (2009-2017)
  - f. Court Appointed Special Advocate, St. Louis, MO (2004-2009)
  - g. Education for Ministry mentor (1992-1994)
3. Education (institutions, degrees, fields of study, and dates).
  - B.A. Grinnell College, French
  - M.B.A. Boston University, Public/Non-Profit Management (1994)
  - University of Iowa, doctoral study in organizational psychology, (1999-2001)
  - Certificate, Episcopal School for Ministry, Diocese of Missouri (2016-2019)

4. Publications; special skills: writing, editing, music, racial justice trainer, lay chaplaincy training
5. Any other qualifications/experience which make you an especially appropriate nominee for this position.
6. What are 3 important issues facing the Episcopal Church in the next 5 years? How do you think the Church might respond to each of these? How do you imagine contributing as a member of the Executive Council?
  - a. The Episcopal Church has a troubling history with slavery and with the systemic racism that followed in its tracks. This legacy haunts the church today. In order to fulfill our baptismal vows, we as the Body of Christ must be more intentional in confronting and dismantling racism inside and outside the church.
  - b. The church of the 1950s, in which many of us were nurtured, is not where today's young people are seeking to fill their spiritual hunger. We are only beginning to imagine what shape the church will take in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. New technologies enable us to form community across distances. The church needs to be creative in adapting to new realities.
  - c. Extremes of wealth and poverty threaten our social fabric. Our baptismal promises coexist uneasily with capitalist values. While our secular culture emphasizes wealth and power, the church needs to remind us that we are called to respect the dignity of every person and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Poverty results from exploitation, and should not exist.
7. The missional priorities identified by the General Convention continue to include Evangelism, Racial Reconciliation, and Environmental Stewardship. What experience do you bring to these initiatives?

I have been involved in diocesan racial justice work since the early 1990s.

8. What motivates you at this time to take on the responsibility of serving as a representative to Executive Council?

The church is at a turning point. We are becoming more aware of our entanglement with various forms of injustice, even as secular political forces attempt to deny this reality. In the last two years we have learned to use technology to enhance worship and conversation, transcending physical barriers. Although the church's complex organization is sometimes seen as an obstacle, I believe increased communication and collaboration empowers us to proclaim the Good News in action. Since I am active in my province, diocese and parish, I am in a position to connect the churchwide level of governance with more local facets of the church's ministry.

**The Rev. M.E. Eccles**

Nominee for Executive Council (clergy)



**Current service in the Church (parish, diocese, province, churchwide) and in the community.**

- Rector (¾ time) – St. Martin of Tours in Des Plaines, IL
- Clergy Deputy to 80<sup>th</sup> General Convention
- Secretary, Legislative Committee 15 (Ministry) for 80<sup>th</sup> General Convention
- Secretary, Bexley-Seabury Seminary Federation

**Prior service (same as above, with dates, including offices and positions held).**

- Rector (3/4 time) - St. Martin of Tours in Des Plaines, IL 2013 - Present
- Clergy Deputy - 80<sup>th</sup> General Convention Present
- Secretary - Legislative Committee 15 (Ministry) for 80<sup>th</sup> General Convention 2021 - Present
- Member - Bexley-Seabury Seminary Federation Board of Directors 2012 - Present
- Chair - Task Force for Clergy Formation & Continuing Education 2019 - 2021
- Member - Search Committee for 13<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Diocese of Chicago 2020 - 2021
- Clergy Deputy - 79<sup>th</sup> General Convention 2018
- Dean - Elgin Deanery, Diocese of Chicago 2015 - 2021
- Alternate Clergy Deputy - General Convention 2012, 2015
- Clergy Delegate - Province V Synod 2015, 2018
- Volunteer - General Convention House of Deputies Secretariat 2009, 2012, 2015, 2018
- Member - Standing Committee, Diocese of Chicago 2011 - 2013
- Warden - Diocesan Council, Diocese of Chicago 2010 - 2013
- Member - Diocesan Council, Diocese of Chicago 2008 - 2010

Co-Chair - Diocesan Convention, Diocese of Chicago	2012, 2013
Assistant/Associate/Interim - St. Simon's in Arlington Heights, IL	2007 - 2013

**Education (institutions, degrees, fields of study, and dates).**

Seabury-Western Theological Seminary	M.Div. - Anglican Studies	2007
Loyola - Institute for Pastoral Studies	M.A. - Pastoral Counseling	2005
Seabury-Western Theological Studies	M.T.S. - Anglican Studies & Pastoral Counseling	2003
Lake Forest College	B.A. - Theatre: Lighting Design	1991

**Publications; special skills.**

moderately proficient Microsoft computer skills, Zoom (including hosting), FaceBook Live

**Any other qualifications/experience which make you an especially appropriate nominee for this position.**

One unusual experience I have is being transgender, thus bringing a perspective of service in the church as both a woman and as a man. Since I did not come out until recently, I went through the ordination process as an out lesbian and now find myself to be a "straight white male". This lived experience makes me all the more aware of privilege and the consequences for those who don't have it; and I am anxious to do what I can to change the narrative of racism and discrimination of all kinds in our church and the world to one where there is no discrimination.

**What are 3 important issues facing the Episcopal Church in the next 2 years? How do you think the Church might respond to each of these? How do you imagine contributing as a member of the Executive Council?**

Voting rights - The Church is already responding, providing information on voting for congregations prior to the last several elections. I need to learn more about and support structures that teach about the importance of voting and provide methods that bring those who want to vote to polling places safely.

Being relevant - dwindling numbers of attendees is an indicator the Church is not meeting the spiritual needs present in our communities. While I believe the Church is becoming aware that "All Are Welcome" is based on the expectation that people will want to come inside (be it buildings or communities), the reality is the number of people who attend service on Sunday morning is not and should not be the primary focus of congregations. The Church needs to bring the Gospel message out into the world, meeting people where they are and being living examples of Christ's love by working toward achieving the health and equity of all. As a member of Council, I'd do my best to keep the missional priorities the focus of the work.

Racism - It is disturbingly prevalent within the church and the world. The Church is already responding by embracing Presiding Bishop Curry's "The Way of Love" and attempts to become Beloved Community. There is much more to do in all areas of our corporate life. At this stage, I bring my hunger for real discussions and actions to learn about and face our history, understand what repentance looks like and continually strive for reconciliation.

**The missional priorities identified by the General Convention continue to include Evangelism, Racial Reconciliation, and Environmental Stewardship. What experience do you bring to these initiatives?**

The Church's missional priorities are expansive and as such, it is difficult to focus on all three equally. I strive to be aware of what's going on with both Evangelism and Environmental Stewardship, making sure I know people who are passionate about them. But, like many, realizing how deep racism's roots are in this country made me want to learn more because if I don't, there is no way I can truly live into the Baptismal Covenant. To that end, I seek out ways to educate myself by reading, participating in a Sacred Ground group, as well as a "My Work To Do" session. And this past Advent, I took the Pathways course on The Doctrine of Discovery. I know there is so much more to learn and do with Racial Reconciliation and I am committed to doing that work.

**What motivates you at this time to take on the responsibility of serving as a representative to Executive Council?**

I have aspired to be a representative to Executive Council for some time because I believe my gifts and skills align with the "job description". And, as a ¾ time parish priest, I have the bandwidth and a schedule that lends itself to taking on the time commitment needed for this role. Finally, as I hope my experience shows, I am passionate about serving where needed in all parts of the Church.



## **Ms. Rebecca Elfring-Roberts**

Nominee for Treasurer of Province V Executive Board



*“What gifts and qualifications do you bring to this position?”*

I currently serve as the assistant treasurer in the Diocese of Chicago and help manage the Province V accounting which runs through our books. I work closely with Heather Barta and the current Province V treasurer, Courtney Reid, and fully expect to continue our strong and supportive relationship. I have worked in diocesan finance for over ten years and hold a master’s degree in nonprofit administration with a certificate in nonprofit finance.

What opportunities do you see for the Province as we work to “connect, network, and support” the local ministries across the constituent dioceses?  
(150 words or fewer)

I believe the financial support of the Executive Board to promote collaboration and networking across dioceses and provinces through grants and scholarships is essential to meeting the purpose of Province V. I see opportunity in expanding this financial support, as well as strengthening the communication channels that encourage participation and reveal places of intersection and possibility.

## Mr. William Fleener

Nominee for Executive Council (lay)



1. Current and prior service in the Church (parish, diocese, province, churchwide) and in the community.
  - a. I have been on the vestry of every parish I have attended as an adult. I have also served on several parish search committees, a Bishop search committee, and the Presiding Bishop Nominating Committee. I currently run the youth camp program for the Diocese of Western Michigan with my wife. I am the Chancellor for the Dioceses of Western and Eastern Michigan. I have served on the Court for the Trial of a Bishop and a consultant to other dioceses on Title IV matters. I have served as the Chancellor in Western Michigan for over 25 years. This General Convention will be my eighth as a deputy. I have served on several legislative committees at General Convention and several interim bodies. I currently serve on the Joint Committee for Program Budget and Finance. This convention will be my fourth time serving on this committee. Because I am a subcommittee of PB&F chair, I have been attending Executive Council and Executive Council Finance Committee meetings for the last year and a half.
2. Education (institutions, degrees, fields of study, and dates).
  - a. I have a BS from Western Michigan, majoring in Psychology (1990). In addition, I have a Juris Doctorate from WMU-Cooley Law School (1994).
3. Publications; special skills.
  - a. I have written several articles in law-related fields that are not particularly relevant to this position. I am an attorney licensed in the state of Michigan. The focus of my legal work has been disability law and administrative law. I work full time at WMU-Cooley Law School and run our externship program,

placing as many as 250 students in field placements each term. I also teach several classes at Cooley Law School and Western Michigan University.

4. Any other qualifications/experience which make you an especially appropriate nominee for this position.
  - a. During my service on PB&F, I have had the opportunity to attend Executive Council and Finance Committee meetings. I have a lot of experience with budgets, and there are several people who are integral to the finance committee who will be leaving Executive Council, and there will be a need for these skills. Because of the dioceses I serve, I have spent a lot of time thinking alone and with others about how the wider Church can be relevant to people in small churches that struggle to maintain clergy and are often finding creative ways to be Church. I am not alone in our province in having these experiences, but I believe it is a viewpoint that is underrepresented on Executive Council and the leadership of our Church.
  
5. What are 3 important issues facing the Episcopal Church in the next 5 years? How do you think the Church might respond to each of these? How do you imagine contributing as a member of the Executive Council?
  - a. The first is finding new ways to be Church given the realities of smaller and aging congregations. We will need to find new ways to be Church and for the wider Church leadership to be responsive to these realities. This means changing the way we spend money and our policies while maintaining our core Anglican and Episcopal beliefs and values.
  - b. We must deal with the issues of systemic racism and racial reconciliation. We have touched the surface of these issues but have not really dealt with our complicity in racist systems and taken tangible steps to address them.
  - c. Additionally, I think we need to right-size the administrative structures of our Church. Our organizational structures at the wider Church and diocese level were primarily put in place in the middle of the last century. We are a very different church today in many ways. As we are doing in the two dioceses I serve, we need to explore ways that better serve the Church today.
  
6. The missional priorities identified by the General Convention continue to include Evangelism, Racial Reconciliation, and Environmental Stewardship. What experience do you bring to these initiatives?
  - a. I have spent years educating myself and those around me about the sin of racism. Most of us in the Church have gotten a basic understanding of system racism and privilege. Still, it is time we took the next step and actually took responsibility for our past and took specific steps to heal the sins that we individually and collectively have perpetuated.
  - b. I have been involved at the parish and diocesan level and at my work to raise awareness of how our actions affect the planet and our environment. Again as a Church, we have a long way to go to address past lack of stewardship and help heal the planet and ourselves.

- c. Like most Episcopalians, I am somewhat uncomfortable with the word evangelism because it seems to require things that we are not all comfortable with, and the word has gotten regretful connotations in the United States. That being said, perhaps because I have a secular position in the Church (chancellor), I find it relatively easy to talk about my faith and the use of my skills and talents for the work of the Church. However, I think that we have not done a great job helping people understand what evangelism is really about and how to do it even when it seems uncomfortable. I think this needs to be a priority at the local and diocesan levels because I do not believe this should be done at the wider Church level. In the end, we need to take this seriously because it is the only way the Church grows.
  - d. I am also aware that while these are the current priorities of General Convention and Executive Council, they have been primarily driven by the Presiding Bishop. As most of you know, the Previous Presiding Bishop initiated similar but different priorities. We will elect a new Presiding Bishop during the term if I am elected, and they may direct the Church in other ways. It is hard to imagine that these three would not continue to be significant priorities of the Church, but there may be changes in the next six years.
7. What motivates you at this time to take on the responsibility of serving as a representative to Executive Council?
- a. I have felt called and been asked to consider serving on Executive Council for many years. My children are now college age, and it feels like I can fully dedicate the time and energy to serving on Executive Council.

## **The Rt. Rev. Matthew Gunter**

Nominee for Vice-President of the Executive Board of Province V



*“What gifts and qualifications do you bring to this position?”*

I have been bishop of the Diocese of Fond du Lac for 8 years

Served on the Taskforce for Prayer Book Revision

Good listener

Engage conflict well

I am keen to engage the mission context of 21<sup>st</sup> c America and leading the church in adapting to that context for the sake of the gospel

*What opportunities do you see for the Province as we work to “connect, network, and support” the local ministries across the constituent dioceses?*

The world we live in is increasingly complex such that no one and no group has sufficient knowledge or experience to address those complexities. We need one another. We also now know that there are more ways to connect and network in order to share information and ideas in order to support one another. The BPG is one way. The Provincial Youth Gathering is another. I wonder if we might find ways to use zoom to connect with congregations in similar settings to share and learn together.

**Mr. Lee Kauffman**

Nominee for Executive Council (lay)

*No bio was submitted by this nominee*

## Ellen Lindeen

Nominee for Executive Council (lay)



1. **Current service in the Church** (parish, diocese, province, churchwide) and in the community.
  - Elected Delegate for St. Michael’s Church to Chicago Diocesan Conventions, 2014 – 2022.
  - Founder and Chair, Peace & Justice Committee at St. Michael’s Church, 2015 – Present.
    - Co-sponsored Refugee Family from Syria, 2016 – Present.
    - Offered Antiracism monthly program, “Journey toward Awareness and Understanding of Anti-Racism” from Sept. 2020 – June 2021.
    - Taught Adult Forum weekly, “What is Social Justice?” Sept. – Nov. 2019.
    - Hosted all-diocese Peace & Justice Gathering, July 2019.
    - Teach peace & justice class to Confirmation class annually.
    - Awaiting pairing with Refugee Family from Afghanistan, 2022.
  - Chair/Member, Chicago Diocese Peace & Justice Committee and EPF Chapter. 2012 – Present.
    - Sponsored Resolutions at 2020/2021 Diocesan Conventions moving to GC: Current Resolutions going to Baltimore include Justice for Indigenous Peoples and Confronting Apartheid.
    - Offer workshops on Refugee Work, Gun Violence, Immigration Reform, Justice in Palestine/Israel, and Indigenous Peoples.
    - Select recipient for Rev. Michael Yasutake Award for Peace & Justice annually in Chicago Diocese.
    - Resolution on Becoming a Sanctuary Diocese sponsored by the Hispanic Affairs Committee, Antiracism Commission, & Peace and Justice Committee, resulted in our Sanctuary Task Force formation, 2019 – Present.
    - Chaired “Concert for a Cause” diocese-wide event to raise funds for Young Adult Network EPF presence at General Convention in Austin, July 2018.
  - Executive Board Secretary, Fellowship of Reconciliation, FoR: largest and oldest interfaith peace and justice organization in the USA. Founded in 1915 by A. J. Muste, Jane Addams, and Episcopal Bishop Paul Jones. 2019 – Present.
2. **Prior service** (same as above, with dates, including offices and positions held).

- United Nations Delegate to the Commission on the Status of Women, appointed by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, representing The Episcopal Church. UNCSW: the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. March – November, 2020, and March – May, 2021.
  - Episcopal Peace Fellowship, National Executive Council, 2014-2019.
  - Catechist, Level I, at St. Michael’s Episcopal Church, 13 years: 1996 – 2009.
  - Chaired “An African Eve: South Sudan Soiree” fundraisers at St. Michael’s Church for three years to raise funds for Renk Theological College, 2011 – 2013.
  - Peace & Justice Studies Association, academic organization. Board service and annual convention presentations. Positions: Executive Board Secretary, Fundraising Chair, and Awards & Nominations Chair, 2010-2021.
  - Presented on Refugee Co-Sponsorship at Diocesan Convention 2018 for Commission on Global Ministry Workshop and at Chicago Diocese churches on parish experience.
  - Visiting Professorship, Canterbury Christ Church University, January term, 2012. Canterbury, UK.
  - Founded St. Michael’s Book Club in January 2000. Leader/Member 22 years.
  - Coordinator, Vacation Bible School at St. Michael’s Church, Summers 1996 & 1997.
  - Led the Moms’ Group. Fellowship & spiritual care for new mothers in the parish. 1991 – 1996.
  - Altar Guild member. 1990 – 1995.
- 3. Education** (institutions, degrees, fields of study, and dates).
- Education for Ministry, Current First Year of Four-Year Program of Study, at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, LaGrange, IL; Curriculum: University of the South, Sewanee, 2021 – 2025.
  - Bachelor of Science Degree, 1976, University of Wisconsin-Madison. English Secondary Education. \*Graduated with distinction.
  - Master of Arts Degree, 1983, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL. Literature.
  - Certification in Levels I & II of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. (Level I Training, One Weekend a Month, 1994 – 1996: St. Barnabas Church, Glen Ellyn, IL; St. Charles Episcopal Church, St. Charles, IL; and Trinity Episcopal Church, Wheaton, IL. Level II Training, Summers 2002-2003: St. Michael’s Church, Barrington, IL).
  - Fulbright-Hays Grant Award, Summer 2008, Gandhian Nonviolence Study, India.
  - Certificate in Peace Studies, 2009, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 4.0 GPA.
  - Studied International Human Rights in Arusha, Tanzania & attended International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda at United Nations, Summer 2010. Arcadia University, Philadelphia, PA.
  - Studied Immigration and Refugee Law in Quito, Ecuador & traveled to Colombia border for research, Summer 2015. University of Boston.
  - Certificate in Leadership Studies, 2000. Phi Theta Kappa, West Cornwall, CT.
- 4. Publications; special skills.**
- A list of my recent publications is available at [www.peacevoice.info](http://www.peacevoice.info) - List of Authors: Lindeen
  - Other publications include the chapter, “Film as a Force for Peace,” for the 2015 book *Using Popular Culture to Teach Peace*, and articles in *Truthout*, *Counterpunch*, *Common Dreams*, *The Peace Studies Journal*, and *English Journal*, among others.



5. **Any other qualifications/experience** which make you an especially appropriate nominee for this position. As a college professor for 22 years who taught Composition, Shakespeare, and launched the Peace Studies and Human Rights courses, I have experience with young people and an interest in equality, racial reconciliation, immigration, social justice, and conflict resolution. I sponsored the college's People 4 Peace Club and the Fine Arts Guild, which published the college's literary magazine.
6. **What are 3 important issues facing the Episcopal Church** in the next 5 years? How do you think the Church might respond to each of these? How do you imagine contributing as a member of the Executive Council?  
 Three issues I would target are engagement in our churches, the legacy of white supremacy, and the relevance of our work/rituals/liturgies; each must be examined, challenged and direct our way forward. With the disruptions of the pandemic, the church has found itself in a "wilderness time" as Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers calls it in *The Church Cracked Open*. Change has occurred with technological innovation, but the current uncertainties, racial reckoning, and decline in attendance, even before Covid, could allow the church to recreate itself to focus on God's dream for beloved community in the new millennium. We need a sojourn *not to go to church* but *to be the church*. I have spent my life teaching, learning, and offering ideas, workshops and presentations that address significant questions of our age, and I hope to continue these efforts on behalf of my church and Province V.
7. **The missional priorities** identified by the General Convention continue to include 1) Evangelism, 2) Racial Reconciliation, and 3) Environmental Stewardship. What experience do you bring to these initiatives?
- 1) In October 2021, a leader in our church asked me to give a short talk during the service as part of our stewardship campaign. You may view this (just under 4 minute) speech at: <https://www.stmichaelsbarrington.org/media-resources/st-michael-s-blog/19-blog/pastors-blog/1053-stewardship-ellen-lindeen>. I believe we must continue to preach the gospel of love to all, inside and outside our buildings.
  - 2) I organized a racial truth-telling program for our parish and community after George Floyd's murder with monthly sessions, each covering a film or book, entitled "Journey toward Awareness and Understanding of Antiracism." Over 125 people attended from different churches, denominations, and communities in the 10 months of the "Journey" we offered.
  - 3) The church must address environmental stewardship if we are to remain relevant in the world of global warming and climate change. In my parish, we started locally with a gardening alliance to care for our property, and we installed solar panels to lead in our community and diocese. We can all contribute to this urgent problem.
8. **What motivates you at this time** to take on the responsibility of serving as a representative to Executive Council? I retired from college teaching in 2018 and feel ready to devote more time and energy to the broader church. My passion is working for the dream of the Beloved Community, and the church has provided my motivation and carries my hope.

## Ms. Louisa McKellaston

Nominee for Executive Council (lay)



1. Current service in the Church (parish, diocese, province, churchwide) and in the community. *I am currently vice-chair of the House of Deputies State of the Church Committee (2018-present). I am also currently the House of Deputies Chair of the Legislative Committee on Governance and Structure.*
2. Prior service (same as above, with dates, including offices and positions held). *I have served as a lay deputy to General Convention in 2015 and 2018. I have served on church-wide interim bodies: Standing Commission on Governance and Structure (2012-2015) and Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution & Canons (2015-2018). In addition, I served as assistant secretary for the legislative committee on Constitution & Canons for General Convention in 2015 and 2018.*
3. Education (institutions, degrees, fields of study, and dates). *Illinois State University, Bachelor of Science in Fine Arts (theatre design) 2009. Education for Ministry (EfM) graduate, 2014.*
4. Publications; special skills. *I co-authored a portion of the Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution & Canons Blue Book report in 2018 and also co-authored the House of Deputies State of the Church Blue Book report in 2021. My special skills are my ability to navigate complex systems, I am unafraid of change and can get along with anyone. I'm also a mother and a marathoner.*
5. Any other qualifications/experience which make you an especially appropriate nominee for this position. *I have spent more than half of my life attending church-wide gatherings, and have held leadership positions on church-wide bodies for a decade. My role as Assistant for Ministries in the Diocese of Chicago (2011-present) has given me experience with congregations of all sizes and with the many aspects of congregational life (transitions, leadership development). My experience with church-wide leadership has given me a knowledge of how the Episcopal Church functions on a*

*structural level and the ins and outs of church governance-how it works, how to change it, etc. I bring an open mind and fresh energy to this position.*

6. What are 3 important issues facing the Episcopal Church in the next 5 years? How do you think the Church might respond to each of these? How do you imagine contributing as a member of the Executive Council?

*I believe three important issues facing the Church are continuing our work on racial reconciliation and healing; ensuring inclusion for all children of God and coming to terms with our reliance upon both physical and institutional structures that no longer serve us well.*

*I think that the Church must respond to these by continuing our work of racial reconciliation, healing and justice, especially encouraging our churches to look at their own histories locally and to learn and grow from facing whatever realities they find. We have an opportunity to grow stronger and closer together through this work, by letting it form and shape us.*

*I also believe that we need to focus on being inclusive of members of the LGBTQ+ community, especially our transgender and gender non-conforming siblings. In a world where care and concern and rights for non-white people, non-cis gendered people have seemed to evaporate in places, it is the duty of the Church to support all of God's children publicly and in our communities.*

*And I also believe that this is the time to come to terms with the reality that the physical and institutional structures we have known, and some of us have loved, for generations no longer serve us as they have in the past. Things have changed rapidly, especially with the pandemic, and we must adapt to the world we currently inhabit. It is time to invest our resources into our communities and people, and far less into physical plants and power.*

*I feel that by being a member of Executive Council I will have the voice and vote to be able to help carry out this work, and the platform to raise awareness for it as well. As a member of the Millennial generation, but who has had church-wide leadership experience for a decade, I understand that being a member of Executive Council will create opportunities for me to have a direct hand in accomplishing these goals.*

7. The missional priorities identified by the General Convention continue to include Evangelism, Racial Reconciliation, and Environmental Stewardship. What experience do you bring to these initiatives? *I am not the kind of Episcopalian who shies away from the word Evangelism. We can't be the Church without it. I enjoy sharing the work of the Church and the Good News in local, diocesan and broader communities. I also wish to be further involved in the work of Racial Reconciliation. I understand that the trainings I have taken and books I have read are educational, but I wish to be able to have more opportunities to use those tools to do the actual work of becoming an anti-racist Church and society. And regarding Environmental Stewardship, we have no choice in this matter. We must greatly reduce the carbon*

*footprint of our buildings and our meetings and conferences. I actively promote meeting virtually if at all possible for events where travel is needed, and in cases where meeting in person or traveling is necessary, working to provide alternatives to single transportation and single-use materials such as plastics and paper.*

8. What motivates you at this time to take on the responsibility of serving as a representative to Executive Council? *I feel that I am ready for this responsibility after ten years of church-wide leadership on interim commissions and committees and serving as a deputy in 2015, 2018 and again this coming summer. Most recently I have served as vice-chair of the House of Deputies State of the Church Committee and am currently chairing the House of Deputies legislative committee on Governance and Structure. I am familiar with how the processes of Church governance work and how to run them efficiently and productively. And it is time for younger representation on Executive Council. Surely having age diversity is essential but that goes for every generation, and as my generation becomes much more active in the Church than we have ever been I think that I am equipped to speak for my generation on church matters.*

## **Ms. Dianne Audrick Smith**

Nominee for Executive Council (lay)



- Current service
  - St. Andrew's Vestry and team member, Church Leadership Initiative, a program of the Office of Black Ministries and the Episcopal Church Foundation which includes development of a parish-based program, Technology Training for Seniors and the Community and coaching through August 2022; food ministry; grant writer
  - Delegate from St. Andrew's Church, Diocesan Convention, Diocese of Ohio 2015-2021
  - Member, Standing Committee, Diocese of Ohio
  - Trustee, General Theological Seminary, term ending 2022
  - Deputy to General Convention, Diocese of Ohio; Member, World Mission Legislative Committee
  - Member, Province V Big Provincial Gathering Planning Committee
  - President, Wilma Combs Chapter, Union of Black Episcopalians; Member, Planning Committee of UBE's Annual Business Meeting and Conference
  - Steering Committee Member, The Consultation, representing UBE
  
- Prior service
  - St. Andrew's Cleveland
    - Vestry Member 2018-2021
    - Chair, Rector's Search Committee 2016-2018
  - Member, Diocesan Council, Diocese of Ohio, 2018-2021
  - Deputies of Color, Executive Committee, 2021
  - Trustee, General Theological Seminary, 2015-2018
  - Member, Interim Body, Relationship of General Convention to General Theological Seminary 2015-2018
  - Deputation Chair, Deputy to General Convention, Diocese of Ohio, 2018

- Cuba Committee (Return Cuba to Diocesan Status)
  - UBE National Offices: Vice President, Regional Director, Secretary, 2005-2016
  - Diocese of California
    - Deputy, Province VIII, 2012
    - Delegate, Diocesan Convention 1990s, 2005-2014
    - Member Executive Council (Diocesan Council), 2008-2014
    - Member, Bishop's Search Committee, 2004-2006
    - Member, Governance Review Committee, 2008-2010
    - St. Augustine's Oakland: Senior Warden, Rector's Search Committee 1995, 2014
- Education
  - Brown University, AB
  - CUNY, Baruch College, MPA
- Publications; special skills.
  - Grant writing
  - Fund development
- Any other qualifications/experience
  - VP Marketing of minority contracting and development company— developed customer base, wrote funding proposals, maintained governmental relationships. Minority business development training
  - Affirmative action research and reporting
  - Youth and young adult mentor

- Three important issues facing the Episcopal Church in the next 5 years and responses

Responses to the separation within the country including racism, political polarization, economic separation are key. This week I spoke to the funding of resolution D004, Becoming Beloved Community, to create an umbrella for all the ways in which the church's entities can work to overcome the vitriol that greets us daily. Mentoring, working with programs at the parish level, through UBE initiatives, and churchwide initiatives, I have been an outspoken leader at all levels of the church.

COVID has "created" new opportunities for us to reimagine church in a shrinking environment. I've had the opportunity to travel across the church and bring back my perspectives on the shrinking and aging parish to my own parish so that we can begin to look at new ways of being church. Our parish's temporary move to a larger space opens new opportunities for ministry. But we will also have to rely on the creative spirit of parishes in other areas of the church who are looking at new ministries that we may adopt and enhance. I serve on bodies at the local, provincial, extra-church (UBE) and national level which will all be brought to bear on this pressing issue.

We must be open to new ways of thinking about governance throughout our denomination, relationships with other denominations, and the role of seminaries in providing both lay and ordained leadership. TEC continues to address governance and denominational relationships, but it could pay more attention to a cohesive

vision of the role of seminaries in lay and ordained leadership. As we move forward over the next five years, my experience will assist Executive Council to address these key issues.

- Evangelism, Racial Reconciliation, and Environmental Stewardship initiative experience

Mentorship and community outreach are ministries of evangelism in which I have engaged at the local and national levels. My life work for the past many years revolves around truth telling, a necessary first step to reconciliation. Through advocacy fostered at UBE, engagement in bishop's search, work on Diocesan Council, Standing Committee, General Seminary Board, I continue to speak truth to power in love, inviting those who are there to speak their truth and then live into it.

- My motivations for serving in Executive Council.

Those who are elected to Executive Council to serve for this five-year period will be involved in a transformative time in the life of the church to include the calling of a new Presiding Bishop and adjusting to all the challenges and changes of the continued shrinking of our congregations wrought by the COVID pandemic. We will see a merging of parishes and changes in the structure of dioceses and provinces. Our Episcopal institutions will have to rise to these challenges. My life skills in varied organizations in the church, federal and municipal government, corporate entities and small businesses as well as my skills in mentoring young adults have helped prepare me for listening attentively and envisioning next steps, then assisting in getting us there. My professional and "church worker" careers span many areas. I am ready and willing to serve and advocate in Executive Council.