

Diocese of Olympia
Information from the Nominations Committee

What does the Nominations Committee do?

The Nominations Committee, a bishop-appointed group of no fewer than five members, identifies potential nominees for diocesan office, reviews skills and experience for the best match with open positions, and produces a slate of candidates for each open position (by Canon a minimum of two persons). In developing this slate of candidates, the Committee:

- Gives due consideration to the value of diversity;
- Strives for balance between experienced and new voices;
- Works to match the skills and experience of nominees with the job description, skill sets and experience required for each governing body.

This slate is developed through several methods:

- Any person eligible to run (see eligibility notes below) may self-nominate;
- Any person in the Diocese may recommend someone else who is eligible to run;
- Committee members make contact with regional ministry leadership and diocesan commission leadership to request recommendations.

If you have someone in mind, check with them to see if they are interested and then forward their name and contact information to the Committee. If you talk with someone prior to providing name to the committee, let them know no one is automatically nominated by the Committee. If a person you recommend, or a person who self-nominates, is not selected by the Committee to be on the slate of candidates, they will be notified and have the option to arrange to be nominated from the floor at the convention.

Who is eligible to stand for election?

Clerical nominees:

- Must be canonically resident in our diocese.
- May be rectors, vicars, retired or non-parochial priests.
- Licensed clergy who are canonically resident in another diocese or who belong to a different denomination (like Lutheran clergy serving in an Episcopal congregation) are not eligible.

Lay nominees:

- Must be adult communicants in good standing in a parish or mission congregation of our diocese;

- Members of mission stations, developing congregations or parochial missions are not eligible.

According to our diocesan canons, a communicant is a baptized person who is faithful in corporate worship and who has received the Sacrament of Holy Communion in this church at least three times during the preceding 12 months; communicants 16 years of age and older are considered adult communicants. A Communicant in Good Standing is a communicant who is a recorded contributor to the support of the church with money or with personal service as determined by the rector or vicar of the congregation.

What positions are open in 2017?

Standing Committee – one four-year lay position; two clerical positions, a four-year and a one-year unexpired term.

Diocesan Council has 20 members serving staggered terms, with two (one clergy and one lay) representing each of the 10 regions, plus the bishop. The 2017 Convention will elect eight (8) members to the Diocesan Council; all for three-year terms, except Willapa, which is a two-year term. 2017 positions open on Diocesan Council:

- **Be Attitudes** – lay position
- **Columbia** – lay position
- **Eastside** – clerical position
- **Evergreen** – lay position
- **Peninsula** – clerical position
- **Rainier** – lay position
- **Sno Isle** – clerical position
- **Willapa** – clerical position (two-year)

General Convention 2018

The 2016 convention elected our deputies and alternates to attend the 2018 General Convention, to be held in Austin, TX. Due to a resignation, the 2017 convention will elect a 4th alternate in the clergy order.

Are there job descriptions for these positions?

Diocesan Council: Between Diocesan Conventions the Diocesan Council oversees the budget and program goals of the Diocese, carrying out the priorities adopted by Convention. The Council develops a

proposed budget to be ratified by the next Convention, and monitors income and reviews/recommends changes to the current year budget as needed. Members assume and accept the role of public relations and good will toward individuals and congregations facilitating connectedness within the Diocese. Members attend the Diocesan Convention as voting members during their terms of office. Members also accept assignments, work on committees and task groups, and attend regional, committee, and commission meetings as necessary. The Council meets 6-8 times a year; usually Thursday afternoon; plus 1-2 Saturday governing bodies retreats each year.

Standing Committee: The Standing Committee serves as a council of advice for the bishop on all matters, including decisions related to the sale, encumbrance or disposal of real property throughout the diocese. Other diocesan responsibilities include interviews and consent or withholding consent of persons seeking ordination to the diaconate or priesthood. In addition, the Standing Committee has judicial responsibilities in cases of clergy misconduct including clergy or complainants who do not accept the adjudication of the bishop. National and international responsibilities include giving or withholding consent to election of bishops within the wider Episcopal Church. The Standing Committee places high value on prayerful deliberation as well as a strong commitment to working in a supportive way with our bishop. If you enjoy working collaboratively on important decisions in the church and have a broad view of what it means to be an Episcopalian, then the Standing Committee might be of interest to you. The Standing Committee meets monthly; usually on Tuesday mid-day.

2018 General Convention Deputation: The General Convention is the governing body of The Episcopal Church, consisting of the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies meeting together every three

years. The next meeting is scheduled for July 2018, in Austin, Texas. Every diocese is entitled to seat eight representatives in the House of Deputies, four clergy and four lay. The General Convention is a legislative body—some say the largest in the world—and it should not be surprising that it acts in large part like the Congress of the United States as many of its drafters were the same ‘fathers’ who designed the U.S. Constitution. It acts together to enact legislation and frequently seems submerged in paperwork (though folks are working to reduce the load. Much of General Convention work is actually accomplished in committee before legislation reaches the floor and committee assignments are avidly sought, for this is where legislation can best be influenced, amended or even cancelled. Most committee assignments are made on the basis of seniority, and as we have tended to have a stable representation of deputies our diocese has been blessed over the years with many such assignments. The down side to this system is that new faces tend to not get committee assignments. Although the deputies are expected to vote independently (and, by rule of the House, every deputy is required to be seated and voting), the deputation gets much out of caucusing and open discussion, both at the time of convention, and before.

If I have a proposed nominee, how do I get that information to the Committee?

You may send information by email to [Nominations Committee](#).

Is there a deadline for nominations?

While there is no specific deadline for nominations as candidates may be nominated from the floor at the convention, the work of the Nominations Committee is complete and a report prepared after the 45-day canonical deadline for other convention reports, which in 2017 is Sept. 12. **Deadline to submit names for consideration by the Committee is Sept. 1.**