

# Equip Disciples

THE 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE

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## Program

Handy Tip: You may click on underlined elements to register or access.

**Wednesday, February 11, 2026**

**7:00 PM**      Delegate Orientation      **Zoom**

Monday, February 16, 2026

**12:00 PM General Resolutions Hearing** **Zoom**

**Tuesday, February 17, 2026**

<b>12:00 PM</b>	<a href="#"><u>Constitution &amp; Canons Hearing</u></a>	<b>Zoom</b>
<b>7:00 PM</b>	<a href="#"><u>Meet the Nominees</u></a>	<b>Zoom</b>

**Wednesday, February 18, 2026**

**11:30 AM**    [Budget Presentation](#)    **Online**  
**12:00 PM**    [Budget Hearing](#)    **Zoom**

Friday, February 20, 2026

<b>12:00 PM</b>	Safe Church Training	<b>Church of the Ascension, Knoxville</b>
<b>1:00 PM</b>	Blower Test and Carbon Neutrality	<b>Diocesan House</b>
<b>3:00 PM</b>	Community CPR	<b>Church of the Ascension, Knoxville</b>
<b>6:00 PM</b>	Convention Eucharist	<b>Church of the Ascension, Knoxville</b>
<b>7:30 PM</b>	Social Hour	<b>Church of the Ascension Parish Hall, Knoxville</b>
<b>7:30 PM</b>	Dinner on Your Own	

**Saturday, February 21, 2026**

<b>8:00 AM</b>	Delegate Registration and Check-In Opens	Siler Gym Lobby
<b>8:00 AM</b>	Ministry Fair and Refreshments	Googe Hall
<b>8:30 AM</b>	Morning Workshops	Classrooms
<b>10:00 AM</b>	Gathering and Morning Prayer ( <a href="#">Find Your Table Number Here</a> )	Siler Gym
<b>10:30 AM</b>	Business Meeting	Siler Gym
<b>12:00 PM</b>	Lunch Break	Cafeteria and Classrooms
<b>1:00 PM</b>	Afternoon Workshops	Classrooms
<b>2:30 PM</b>	Business Meeting Resumes	Siler Gym

## Post-Convention Survey

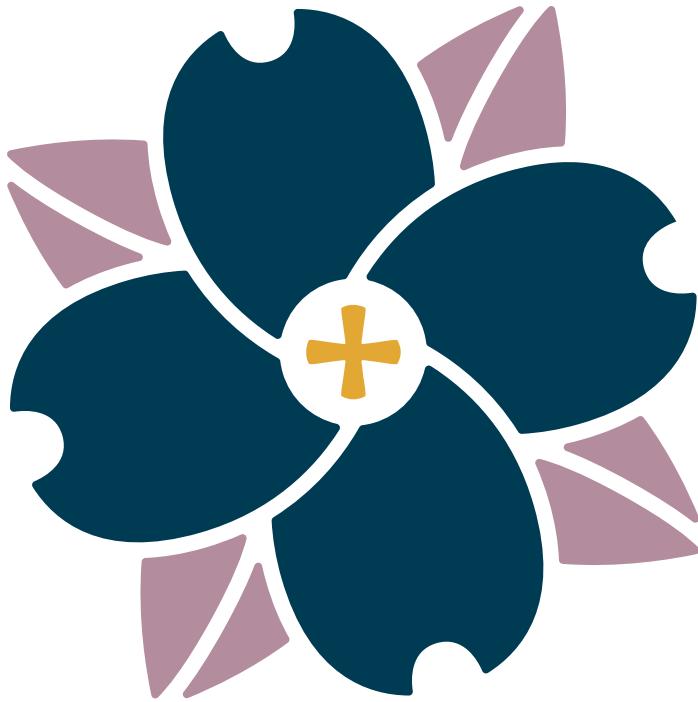
The 42nd Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of East Tennessee continues our centralized location for diocesan convention. We continue to strive to learn a great deal to carry with us into future meetings.

Please take a moment to reflect on your experience and share your feedback by scanning this QR code or by visiting <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XRNPVDH>



**Our time together at the Episcopal School of Knoxville concludes with the Bishop's final gavel at the adjournment. Be safe on your travels home.**

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# Equip Disciples

THE 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE

**Business Documents**



# Equip Disciples

THE 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE

## Order of Business

**Saturday, February 21, 2026**

**Episcopal School of Knoxville, Siler Gym**

*By unanimous consent, the assembly might take a brief recess from time to time.*

<b>8:00 AM</b>	Attendance & Registration Check-in	Siler Gym Lobby
<b>8:00 AM</b>	Ministry Fair Opens	Googe Hall
<b>8:30 AM</b>	Morning Workshops	Classrooms
<b>10:00 AM</b>	Gathering with Music	Siler Gym
<b>10:15 AM</b>	Morning Prayer	Episcopal School of Knoxville
<b>10:30 AM</b>	Call to Order	The Rt. Rev. Brian L. Cole <i>Diocesan Bishop</i>
Welcome to the Episcopal School of Knoxville		Dr. Jack Talmadge
<i>Head of School, The Episcopal School of Knoxville</i>		
Welcome New Cures, Postulants, Candidates, and Newly Licensed Lay Preachers		The Rev. Canon Joseph R. Woodfin <i>Canon to the Ordinary</i>
		Canon Emily Bruner Doane <i>Canon for Formation and Lay Ministry</i>
Report from Committee on Credentials		Chris Cone <i>Committee on Credentials</i>
Resolution regarding Order of Business		Sarah Sheppheard <i>Parliamentarian</i>
Consent Agenda		The Rev. Elizabeth Farr <i>Secretary to Convention</i>
Last Call for Resolutions		The Rev. Elizabeth Farr
Testimonial		Ethan Garner <i>Intern, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Chattanooga</i>
Election and Balloting Instructions		Dr. Adam Bean <i>Co-Chair, Committee on Elections</i>
Report from Commission on Ministry		The Rev. L. Gordon Brewer <i>Co-Chair, Commission on Ministry</i>
Report from the University of the South		Dr. Robert W. Pearigen <i>Vice-Chancellor, University of the South, Sewanee</i>
Report from Committee on Elections		Dr. Adam Bean

Testimonial	Freida Herron <i>Licensed Lay Preacher, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Maryville</i>	
Report from ETNyouth	Quinn Holland <i>Chair, Diocesan Youth Council</i>	
Noon Prayer	Kelsey Aebi <i>Seminarian, School of Theology, University of the South, Sewanee</i>	
<b>12:00 PM</b>	Lunch	
<b>1:00 PM</b>	Afternoon Workshops	Classrooms
<b>2:10 PM</b>	Gym Doors Open for Credential Counting	
<b>2:30 PM</b>	Business Resumes	
	Report from Committee on Credentials	Chris Cone
	Report from Grace Point Camp & Retreat Center	The Rev. Brad Jones <i>Executive Director, Grace Point Camp and Retreat Center</i>
	Report from Committee on Constitution & Canons	The Hon. L. Marie Williams <i>Chair, Constitution &amp; Canons Committee</i>
	Report from Carbon Neutral Task Force	Courtney Shea <i>Chair, Carbon Neutral Task Force</i>
	Report from Committee on Elections	Dr. Adam Bean
	Report from Finance Committee & Treasurer	Jimmy Stewart <i>Chair, Finance Committee</i>
	Testimonial	Davyda Hammond <i>St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Oak Ridge</i>
	Report from Committee on General Resolutions	The Rev. Bailey Norman <i>Chair, Committee on General Resolutions</i>
	Report from Standing Committee	Douglas Overbey <i>President, Standing Committee</i>
	Bishop's Address	The Rt. Rev. Brian L. Cole
	Resolutions of Greetings & Affection	The Rev. Canon Joseph R. Woodfin
	Invitation to 43rd Annual Diocesan Convention	The Rt. Rev. Brian L. Cole
	Closing Prayer	The Rev. Amy Morehous <i>Senior Associate Rector, Church of the Ascension, Knoxville</i>
	Convention Adjourns	The Rt. Rev. Brian L. Cole



## Convention Rules of Order

**THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE  
42nd ANNUAL CONVENTION – FEBRUARY 20-21, 2026  
RULES OF ORDER**

For adoption by Convention at the opening of business Saturday, February 21, 2026

*(The Rules of Order presented herein remain unchanged since approval by Bishop and Council in 2023  
except where dates and grammatical corrections have been applied)*

The 42nd Annual Meeting of the Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of East Tennessee will be held in person at the Episcopal School of Knoxville, Tennessee, on February 20 & 21, 2026, with certain Pre-Convention Committee proceedings conducted in advance electronically by remote attendance. Certain modifications of the provisions for Pre-Convention Committee proceedings and meetings of the Convention in the Canons and Rules of Order are set forth in these Rules of Order to accommodate the limited scope of Committee business pursuant to an electronic meeting.

### **I. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- Rule 1.01: The Order of Business shall be specified and approved by the Convention.
- Rule 1.02: During balloting, the Convention may take up business, which may be interrupted for the reports of tellers and additional ballots.

### **II. CONVENTION COMMITTEES**

- Rule 2.01: The Bishop shall appoint the following Convention Committees: On Credentials, On Elections, On General Resolutions.
- Rule 2.02: The Bishop shall appoint the following committees as prescribed by the Canons or as otherwise required: On Constitution and Canons.
- Rule 2.03: Such Committees as are instructed by the Bishop shall convene in advance of the opening of Convention to consider matters referred to them. Open hearings of said committees held prior to Convention shall be subject to prior notice for access and participation by means of remote attendance and may be held in accordance with these rules.
- Rule 2.04: Certain pre-Convention Committee proceedings and pre-Convention business may be conducted, pursuant to notice of specific business to be taken up, through use of an Internet meeting service designated by the Bishop that supports anonymous voting and visible displays (a) identifying those participating, (b) identifying those seeking recognition to speak, (c) showing or permitting the retrieval of the text of pending motions, and (d) showing the results of votes, if any. These electronic meetings of the Convention committees shall otherwise be subject to all rules adopted by the Convention to govern its annual meeting, which may include any reasonable limitations on and requirements for members' participation. Each delegate registered and attending the 2026 Annual Convention by the use of, or a means of, communications by which all delegates and/or members participating in the Convention may simultaneously hear each other shall be deemed to be present in person, and/or present and voting, as applicable, under these Rules of Order.

- Rule 2.05: Unless otherwise indicated, and with respect to balloting at Convention as described in Section 8.02, the following procedures shall apply only to the pre-Convention Committee meetings and proceedings:

- A. Voting shall be conducted using anonymous voting software accessible over the Internet to all delegates unless a different method available through the Internet meeting service is ordered by the Bishop. An anonymous vote conducted through the designated voting software or through the Internet meeting service shall be deemed a ballot vote, fulfilling any requirement in the Constitution or Canons or rules of order that a vote be conducted by ballot. Votes shall be deemed anonymous so long as votes cast by an individual are available only to the administrator of the voting system.
- B. Except when a vote via the voting platform is required, business may be conducted by unanimous consent, as expressed through the “raised hands” function of the Internet meeting platform.
- C. Delegates shall identify themselves as required to sign in to the Internet meeting/voting service, and shall maintain at a minimum audio access throughout the meeting whenever present, though internet audio and video access is preferred.
- D. If required for pre-Convention Committee business, the presence of a quorum shall be established by the online list of participating delegates.
- E. Each delegate (or Convention Committee participant) is responsible for access and quality of their audio and internet connections necessary to participate; no pre-Convention Committee action shall be invalidated on the grounds that a delegate’s or participant’s individual connection prevented participation in the meeting.
- F. In addition to display of pending business, motions or results of votes at Convention, or in connection with Convention Committees’ pre-Convention business, if any, video of the Bishop and any officer or delegate currently recognized to speak or report shall be displayed throughout the meeting, as well as such other video displays as the Bishop designates in his discretion.
- G. The procedure to be recognized for a motion, to seek the floor, to cast a vote, or for any other action by a delegate during the virtual meeting or at any pre-Convention meetings shall be governed by the provided instructions for using the features of the Internet meeting service to conduct business.

- Rule 2.06: Reports of all Committees shall be in writing. All reports recommending action by the Convention shall be accompanied by Resolutions for such action.

### **III. RESOLUTIONS**

- Rule 3.01: Resolutions are submitted as the Canons may prescribe.
- Rule 3.02: All Resolutions and amendments proposed thereto shall be in writing and shall contain the name, parish, and city of the proponent and meet the deadline as set forth in Title I, Canon 3, Sec. 10.
- Rule 3.03: The Bishop shall refer all Resolutions to appropriate Convention Committees for consideration, recommendation, and report to the Convention; provided, however, upon a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the delegates present, a Resolution may be considered immediately.

- Rule 3.04: Where two or more Resolutions deal basically with the same subject, they shall be referred to the same General Resolutions Committee. The Committee shall make every effort to consolidate them or otherwise assure their compatibility and should also make every effort to obtain the concurrence of the proponents concerned.
- Rule 3.05: Each Convention Committee to which a Resolution has been referred, after providing for an open hearing held remotely in the days leading up to the convention, shall consider the form and substance of the Resolution and in making its report shall recommend (a) for adoption, (b) for adoption with amendment, (c) for adoption of a substitute drafted by the Committee, (d) for rejection, or (e) for discharge from further consideration because the subject matter has been included in another Resolution. The Committee's recommendation to the Convention shall be in the form of a motion to adopt the Committee's recommendation. The Committee Chair or other representative shall state the reasons for the Committee's recommendation. Thereafter, the proponent of the original Resolution, which is the subject of the Committee's recommendation, shall be recognized first if the proponent so desires. Amendments may be offered, including an amendment to substitute the proponent's original Resolution for that recommended by the Committee.

#### **IV. MOTIONS IN ORDER OF PRECEDENCE**

- Rule 4.01: The following motions shall have priority in the order listed. The mover cannot interrupt a member who has the floor, must be recognized, and the motion must be seconded.

They are subject to the following further rules:

- (a) To Adjourn or to Recess
  - (1) Not debatable, if unqualified
  - (2) Not amendable
  - (3) Cannot be laid on Table
  - (4) Majority vote
  - (5) The motion to adjourn shall always be in order except that it shall not be offered when another member has the floor
- (b) To Adjourn to Time Certain
  - (1) Debatable, as to the time
  - (2) Amendable, as to the time
  - (3) Cannot be laid on Table
- (c) To Lay on Table or To Table
  - (1) Not debatable
  - (2) Not amendable
  - (3) Cannot be laid on Table
  - (4) Majority vote
- (d) To Vote Immediately or at Time Certain or to Extend Debate
  - (1) Not debatable
  - (2) Amendable, as to time, if a time specified
  - (3) Cannot be laid on Table
  - (4) Two-thirds majority vote
- (e) To Postpone to Time Certain
  - (1) Debatable
  - (2) Amendable as to time
  - (3) May be laid on Table
  - (4) Majority vote

- (f) To Commit or recommit to any Committee
  - (1) Debatable, except as to a Convention Committee
  - (2) Amendable as to the Committee to which to be sent
  - (3) May be laid on Table
  - (4) Majority vote
- (g) To Amend or To Substitute
  - (1) Amendments and Substitutes are debatable only when Main Question is debatable
  - (2) One Amendment may be made to each independent or separable portion of a Resolution; and the right to amend extends only to one Amendment of that Amendment and to a Substitute and one Amendment thereto
  - (3) A Substitute and its Amendment may be laid on Table, but cannot be otherwise voted on until original matter is perfected
  - (4) Majority vote
  - (5) Neither the Substitute nor its Amendment shall be voted on (except to lay on the Table) until the original matter is perfected.

## **V. MOTIONS WITHOUT ORDER OF PRECEDENCE**

- Rule 5.01: The following motions have no order or priority but are subject to the following rules:
- (a) Appeal from Decision of Chair
  - (1) Debatable
  - (2) Not amendable
  - (3) May be laid on Table
  - (4) Majority vote; A tie vote sustains Chair
  - (5) Must be made immediately after decision
- (b) To Take from Table
  - (1) Not debatable
  - (2) Not amendable
  - (3) Cannot be laid on Table
  - (4) Majority vote
- (c) To Recall from Committee
  - (1) Debatable
  - (2) Amendable
  - (3) May be laid on Table
  - (4) Two-thirds majority vote
- (d) To Create Special Order of Day for a Particular Time
  - (1) Debatable
  - (2) Amendable as to time
  - (3) Cannot be laid on Table
  - (4) Two-thirds majority vote
- (e) Call for the order of the Day
  - (1) Mover may interrupt a member who has the floor and is not required to be recognized or to have a second
  - (2) Not debatable
  - (3) Not amendable
  - (4) Cannot be laid on Table
  - (5) No vote required, but two-thirds majority vote is necessary to suspend general or special order

(f) To Suspend the Rules or Take Up Business Out of Order

- (1) Debatable
- (2) Not amendable
- (3) Cannot be laid on the Table
- (4) Two-thirds majority vote

(g) To Divide the Question

- (1) Not debatable
- (2) Can be amended
- (3) Cannot be laid on the Table
- (4) Majority vote, if vote required
- (5) May be made without being recognized and even though another member has the floor
- (6) If the Question under debate contains several distinct propositions, which are independent of each other, at the request of any members the same shall be divided and a separate vote shall be taken but the motion to strike out and to insert shall be indivisible.
- (7) The propositions relate to the same subject, and yet each part can stand alone, they may be divided into a regular motion and vote.

## **VI. RECONSIDERATION**

- Rule 6.01: Neither a Question once determined, nor one of like import, shall again be brought before the Convention, except on motion to reconsider made by one who voted in the majority and seconded by another who voted in the majority.
- Rule 6.02: Motions to reconsider are subject to the following further rules:
  - (1) Debatable when motion to be reconsidered is debatable
  - (2) Not amendable
  - (3) May be laid on Table
  - (4) Two-thirds majority vote
  - (5) No question can be twice considered unless it was materially amended after its first reconsideration

## **VII. DECORUM AND DEBATE**

- Rule 7.01: No member shall be absent from the Convention unless leave has been given by the Chair, or because of inability to attend.
- Rule 7.02: No member shall address the Convention or make any motion until after recognition by the Bishop except to make a parliamentary inquiry, a point of order, or a motion not requiring recognition.
- Rule 7.03: When any Delegate is about to speak, the Chair shall be addressed, and the name and parish of the Delegate stated; such address shall be confined strictly to the point of debate.
- Rule 7.04: Except by leave of the Convention, no Delegate shall speak more than twice in the same debate nor longer than five minutes at one time.

## **VIII. VOTING**

- Rule 8.01: Nominations for Standing Committee, members of the Bishop and Council, Trustees of the University of the South, members of the Disciplinary Board and General Convention Deputies and Alternates, which are in writing and contain the nominee's name, parish, and city and not more than one hundred words of biographical information including past and present service of the nominee to the Church at all levels and received in the office of the Secretary thirty days prior to the opening of the Convention, shall be included in the pre-convention delegate preparation materials. All nominations from the floor of convention must be delivered to the Secretary of Convention no later than noon on the day before the first meeting of Convention commences to allow time for proper preparation for digital voting. In addition to the information required listed above, all such nominations shall contain the name, parish, and the city of the nominator who shall obtain the nominee's consent and willingness to serve prior to submitting nomination. Incomplete nominations will not be accepted. Any required information that cannot be verified prior to noon on February 20, 2026 will result in the nomination being disqualified. Verified, written nominations shall be posted at the Convention. Nominations may be made only by the Bishops of this Diocese, Clerical and Lay Delegates, Vestries, and any other person authorized by Canon.
- Rule 8.02: Balloting for the offices set forth in 8.01 may be conducted at the in-person business meeting of Convention by those delegates physically present using a virtual, electronic, internet or other online voting system or computer application approved by the Bishop with the approval of the Secretary and the Committee on Elections, or their designee. Within the Bishop's discretion, appropriate accommodation or provisions shall be made for assisting delegates without access to the balloting system, or that require technical assistance in voting. Votes/ballots cast using the virtual balloting system shall be deemed the equivalent of physical ballots or votes cast in person for all purposes hereunder. Votes shall be deemed anonymous so long as votes cast by an individual are only available to the administrator of the voting system. In the event of a technical failure of the digital voting system, the Bishop may direct the Secretary and the Committee on Elections to conduct a full ballot by paper in person, or by mail in the weeks immediately following convention.
- Rule 8.03: In elections of Deputies to the General Convention and of Members of the Bishop and Council, a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary to election. In all other elections, including that of Alternate Deputies to the General Convention, a plurality shall suffice. If the Convention shall take up other business while ballots are being counted such business may be interrupted for the report of the committee on Elections and additional ballots. If all the Deputies to the General Convention are not elected on the first ballot, the remainder are to be elected from the remaining nominees by majority on the second ballot, and if all are not elected on the second ballot, the remainder are to be elected from the remaining nominees by plurality on the third ballot. The sequence of alternates is determined on the final ballot taken.
- Rule 8.04: Unless otherwise expressly provided, any rules requiring a two-thirds majority shall be construed to mean the affirmative vote to two-thirds of the Delegates present and voting.
- Rule 8.05: Ballots with more or less votes than there are positions to be filled shall be declared invalid.

## **IX. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

- Rule 9.01: Whenever so ordered by a vote of a majority of the members present, the Convention may go into Committee of the Whole for the consideration of any matter.

## **X. UNANIMOUS CONSENT**

- Rule 10.01: By unanimous consent, any action may be taken that is not in contravention of any provision of the Constitution or the Canons.

## **XI. GENERAL REGULATIONS**

- Rule 11.01: All materials distributed during the convention must have the express permission of the Bishop or otherwise be ordered by the majority vote of convention. No books, pamphlets or other printed matter may be distributed on the floor of Convention, or be placed on the seats or desks of the Delegates, likewise no digital materials may be shared via email or by the digital platform during the convention; but this prohibition shall not apply to Resolutions, reports, and other documents prepared or distributed by the Secretary or to ballots for elections.

## **XII. ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER**

- Rule 12.01: Except when in conflict with the Constitution or Canons, or any Rules herein contained, the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the interpretation of Rules and procedures to be followed.

## **XIII. AMENDMENTS**

- Rule 13.01: These Rules may be amended at any time by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present.
- Rule 13.02: In accordance with Title 1 Canon 3 Sec. 6.(a), the Rules of Order from the previous convention are in force for the succeeding Convention unless, in order to adapt to changing circumstances that inform the Ecclesiastical Authority's decisions around convening digital or in person conventions, consistent with the said Canon, these Rules of Order may be modified and/or amended by action and authority of Bishop and Council in between conventions in anticipation of adoption with amendments at the start of the succeeding Convention.



## Consent Agenda and Supporting Information

A consent agenda is a meeting practice by which routine reports or non-controversial items not requiring discussion or independent action are presented as one agenda item. The clergy and delegates approve this “package” of items in one motion. This practice is used to save precious meeting time.

If any clergy or delegate wishes to remove any item from the Consent Agenda for discussion, they may do so with a motion during the discussion period after the Consent Agenda is moved and seconded. The motion to remove any item requires a second and a simple majority vote.

Consent agenda items can only be removed for discussion and not clarification. If any clergy or delegate member needs clarification of an item, this needs to be accomplished prior to the Business Meeting by contacting the Secretary of Convention.

Detailed information about each item on the Consent Agenda is provided below. **By voting yes to the motion to approve the Consent Agenda, you are voting yes on the following:**

- Election of 2026 Convention Officers
- Resolutions 2026-01, 2026-02, 2026-03
- Rules of Order (pages 10-16)
- Appointments to Convention and Diocesan Committees



# Equip Disciples

THE 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE

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## 2026 Convention Officers

<b>SECRETARY</b>	.....	The Rev. Elizabeth Farr
<b>ASSISTANT SECRETARY</b>	.....	Adam Ballintoy
<b>DIOCESAN TREASURER</b>	.....	Jimmy Stewart
<b>CHANCELLOR OF THE DIOCESE</b>	.....	George Arrants, Jr.
<b>VICE-CHANCELLORS</b>	.....	Robyn Askew Leaba Cash Chris Cone Sarah Sheppard The Hon. Neil Thomas The Hon. L. Marie Williams
<b>PARLIAMENTARIAN</b>	.....	Sarah Sheppard
<b>REGISTRAR OF THE DIOCESE</b>	.....	Jon Humber



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## Consent Agenda Resolutions

### THE DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE 2026 DIOCESAN CONVENTION Resolution # 2026-01

*Courtesy invitations to provide seat and voice to ordained clergy, not canonically resident, but licensed to officiate, or to lead congregations; courtesy invitation to offer seat to ordained local leaders as well as to postulants and candidates for holy orders.*

**PROPOSED BY:** The Rev. Elizabeth Farr, Secretary of Convention, Chattanooga, TN

**REPRESENTATIVE AT CONVENTION:** The Rev. Elizabeth Farr

**RESOLVED**, that all ordained ministers of this church who are not canonically resident in this Diocese, but who officiate under license and/or who are in charge of congregations in the Diocese, be given seat and voice in the deliberations of this 42nd Convention of the Diocese of East Tennessee; and

**RESOLVED**, that all postulants and candidates for holy orders in the Diocese, and all ordained ministers of other communions within our communities be cordially invited to seats at the 42nd Convention.

**THE DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE  
2026 DIOCESAN CONVENTION  
Resolution # 2026-02**

*To ratify Bishop and Council actions regarding the 2025 Budget*

**PROPOSED BY:** Bishop and Council

**REPRESENTATIVE AT CONVENTION:** Jimmy Stewart, Diocesan Treasurer, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Maryville, TN

**WHEREAS**, by its action, the Forty-First Annual Convention of The Diocese of East Tennessee convened at the Episcopal School of Knoxville, on Saturday, February 8, 2025, and approved a budget for The Diocese; and

**WHEREAS**, in the wisdom of the Bishop and Council, certain items of the Budget were exceeded but the total expenditures were less than the budgeted total; and

**WHEREAS**, by Canon 2, Sec. 2 (a), it is necessary for the Convention to approve budgets; and

**WHEREAS**, the budget as approved in its February 2024 Convention was \$2,270,840; and

**WHEREAS**, the actual budgeted disbursements were \$2,284,934.57; and

**WHEREAS**, the Treasurer's Financial Statements reflect all detailed records of disbursements over and under the budget recited herein by reference, reflect the best judgment and good offices of the Bishop and Council and Treasurer in performing under said budget;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that all of the acts and actions of the Bishop and Council in authorizing disbursements in excess of line items in the 2025 budget as approved by their various actions during 2025, be and are hereby ratified by this Convention as authorized and approved.

**THE DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE  
2026 DIOCESAN CONVENTION  
Resolution # 2026-03**

*Courtesy invitation to Diocesan Youth Council members to provide seat and voice.*

**PROPOSED BY:** The Rev. Elizabeth Farr, Secretary of Convention, Chattanooga, TN

**REPRESENTATIVE AT CONVENTION:** The Rev. Elizabeth Farr

**RESOLVED**, that all present members of the Diocesan Youth Council be cordially invited to seats and voice at the 42nd Convention.



# Equip Disciples

THE 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE

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## Convention Committees

### **CREDENTIALS**

Chris Cone

Jon Humber

### **ELECTIONS**

Dr. Adam Bean

Sara Sheppard

### **GENERAL RESOLUTIONS**

The Rev. Bailey Norman, *Chair*

Elizabeth Jones

The Rev. William Simerly

The Hon. L. Marie Williams



# Equip Disciples

THE 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE

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## Diocesan Committee Appointments

### CARBON NEUTRAL TASK FORCE

Courtney Shea, *Chair*

Cindy Coe  
Kyle Lewis  
Courtney Manrod  
Bro. Andrew Morehead, OC  
Jessica Posey-Dowty

### COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

*3-year term*

The Rev. Gordon Brewer and The Rev. Elizabeth Farr, *Co-Chairs*  
Jon Humber, *Staff Liaison*

#### Term expires 2027

The Rev. Claire Brown  
The Rev. Elizabeth Farr  
Alan Ragsdale

#### Term expires 2028

The Rev. Gordon Brewer  
The Rev. Aston Sims  
Janelle Wagoner  
The Rev. John Mark Wiggers

#### Term expires 2029

The Rev. Drew Bunting  
Jennifer Dunn  
The Rev. Amy Morehous

### CONSTITUTION AND CANONS

*3-year term*

The Hon. L. Marie Williams, *Chair*

#### Term expires 2027

Ned Boehm  
The Rev. Murdock Jones

#### Term expires 2028

The Rev. Michelle Bolt  
The Hon. Neil Thomas  
The Hon. Marie Williams

#### Term expires 2029

The Rev. Gary Callahan  
The Rev. Canon Joe Woodfin

### CLERGY CONTINUING FORMATION COMMITTEE

*2-year term*

#### Term expires 2027

The Rev. Laura Bryant  
The Rev. Elizabeth Farr  
The Rev. Mandy Lippe

#### Term expires 2028

The Rev. Dr. Rick Carter  
John Mark Wiggers

### DIOCESAN ORDINATIONS OFFICER

*1-year term*

Jon Humber

### DIOCESAN SAFE CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

*1-year term*

Emily Kirk

## **ECUMENICAL & INTERRELIGIOUS OFFICER**

*1-year term*

The Rev. RJ Powell

## **EPISCOPAL ENDOWMENT CORPORATION BOARD**

*1-year term*

Henry Lodge

Andy Oakes

Hugh Sharber

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

*3-year term*

Jimmy Stewart, *Treasurer*

### **Term expires 2027**

The Rev. Michele Simmons

### **Term expires 2028**

John Hicks

Pete Hodges

The Rev. Mark Holland

Marilyn Roddy

Jeannie Rodgers

### **Term expires 2029**

Jim Milburn

O.E. "Sonny" Schow, IV

## **GRACE POINT CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER BOARD OF MANAGERS**

*3-year term*

Margaret Bickley, *Chair*

### **Term expires 2027**

Jim Anderson

Margaret Bickley

Jan Lewis

Kelly Maierhofer

MacKenzie Teal

### **Term expires 2028**

Sara Hunt

Sara Norman

Jessica Wilds

### **Term expires 2029**

The Rev. Brett Backus

The Rev. Elizabeth Farr

Erika Kramer

Julie Novak

## **INTAKE OFFICERS**

*1-year term*

The Rev. Cn. Joseph Woodfin, *Canon to the Ordinary*

Laura Beasley

The Rev. Gordon Brewer

The Rev. Bill McGee

## **OPPORTUNITY FUND COMMITTEE**

*3-year term*

### **Term expires 2027**

The Rev. Maribeth Manoff

John Mayo

The Rev. Ashton Sims

### **Term expires 2028**

Tommy Siler

### **Term expires 2029**

The Rev. Brett Backus

The Rev. Jon Hermes

## **RETIRED CLERGY CHAPLAINS**

*1-year term*

The Rev. Gordon Brewer, *Upper East*

Janet Hale, *South East*

## **SCHOOL FOR CONTEMPLATION AND DISCIPLESHIP ADVISORY CIRCLE**

*1-year term*

The Rev. D. Brian Austin, PhD

The Rev. Brett Backus

The Rev. Dr. Rick Carter

Kathleen Crevasse

Canon Emily Bruner Doane

The Rev. Sarah Hess

Frances Jackson

The Rev. Amy Morehous

The Rev. Canon Thom Rasnick

The Rev. John Mark Wiggers

## **WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE**

*1-year term*

Nick Andrews

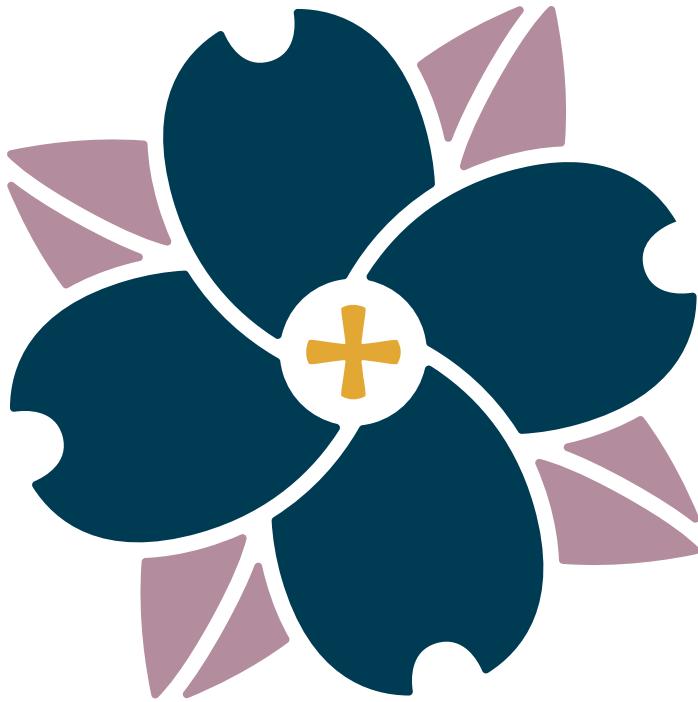
The Very Rev. Chris Hackett

Jason Overall

The Rev. Ken Saunders

The Rev. Michele Simmons

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# Equip Disciples

THE 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE

**Leadership Nominations  
and Elections**

## Leadership Nominations

### BISHOP AND COUNCIL

#### Bishop and Council Positions Open

1 Clergy Middle East

1 Lay Upper East

1 Lay South East

Term: Three-year terms ending in 2029.

The Bishop and Council (B&C) comprises the Bishop, the Dean of St. John's Cathedral, plus ten lay and clerical members who represent each of the three geographical areas of the diocese—two of each from the South East and Middle East areas and one of each from the Upper East Area.

B&C carries out the work of the Diocesan Convention between its annual meetings and oversees the program of the diocese.

Among its responsibilities, B&C prepares the diocesan budget to be approved by Diocesan Convention and approves grants and loans recommended by the Opportunity Fund Committee. Members may serve on the Opportunity Fund and other council committees: Budget and Finance, the Diocesan Council on Youth Ministry, or Diocesan Convention. Each term is three years. Clergy and lay members may not be from the same parish, and members must be 18 years old or more. Bishop and Council members may not serve simultaneously on the Standing Committee. Members gather four to six times a year for meetings at the Diocesan House in Knoxville. As valued leaders in the diocese, members of Bishop & Council are also asked to attend an annual overnight Leadership Summit.

Please see Rule 8.03 of the Diocese of East Tennessee Annual Convention Rules of Order for specific provisions governing the election of members of Bishop and Council.

## Clergy Middle East Area Nominee- Vote for ONE



**The Rev. D. Brian Austin, PhD**, Church of the Annunciation, Newport  
*Nominated by the Rev. John Mark Wiggers, St. James, Knoxville*

Rev. Brian Austin, PhD was ordained to the Episcopal Clergy in 2024, but has worked in Christian ministry for more than 40 years in Baptist, Methodist, and Episcopal churches. He has recently retired from a career as Professor of Philosophy at Carson-Newman University and has served at Annunciation church in Newport since April of 2024. He and his wife, Sandra were confirmed into the Episcopal Church in 2012. His areas of studies are Religion/ Science dialogue and Christian Ethics. He has been active in justice ministries and contemplative Christianity conversations.

## Lay Upper East Area Nominee- Vote for ONE



**Susan Stevenson**, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Kingsport  
*Nominated by the Rev. Johnny Tuttle, St. Paul's, Kingsport*

Susan Stevenson is a faculty member at Northeast State in the Honors College & Lifelong Learning programs. She is a faithful member of St. Paul's in Kingsport, where she has served in a variety of capacities, including Senior Warden, Altar Guild, and Daughters of the King.

## Lay South East Area Nominee- Vote for ONE



**Tammy Randolph**, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Cleveland  
*Nominated by the Rev. Joel Huffstetler, St. Luke's, Cleveland*

Tammy has been an active member of St. Luke's, Cleveland, since 2006. She has served widely in parish life, including EFM Mentor, Senior Warden, EYC parent, and founder of the parish feeding ministry, Loaves & Fishes to Go. She served on the 2017 Bishop Search Committee, as a convention delegate, and staffed Happening and Cursillo. She works at the Cleveland/ Bradley Chamber of Commerce as Administrator for the Industrial Development Board and Director of Investor Development. Tammy seeks to serve on Bishop and Council, offering faithful, collaborative leadership rooted in parish life and service.

## STANDING COMMITTEE

### Standing Committee Positions Open

1 Clergy

1 Lay

Term: Three-year terms ending in 2029.

The Standing Committee serves as a council of advice to the bishop. Among its responsibilities, it gives consent for all bishops elected in The Episcopal Church, recommends individuals for ordination, and advises on the purchase, sale or encumbrance of any diocesan property or property held by a congregation or ministry of the diocese. In the event the diocese is without a bishop, the Standing Committee serves as the ecclesiastical authority until the diocese elects a new bishop.

The Standing Committee schedules monthly meetings, but sometimes it conducts business via e-mail or conference call. As valued leaders in the diocese, members of Standing Committee are also asked to attend an annual overnight Leadership Summit.

The Standing Committee has six members, three clergy and three lay. One clergy and one lay member rotate off each year. Each member's term is three years, and they may be re-elected for one successive term. Members of the Standing Committee may not serve simultaneously on the Bishop and Council, Commission on Ministry, or Disciplinary Board.

### Lay Standing Committee Nominee- Vote for ONE



**Susan Hirche**, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Maryville

*Nominated by the Rev. Sean McEwen, St. Andrew's, Maryville*

A member of St. Andrew's since 2017, Susan has completed EfM, served a term on the Vestry as both Junior and Senior Warden, and implemented a remodel of the former choir room to an accessible nursery space. She serves as usher, altar guild member, coordinator of the "Prayground", and caretaker of Amy's Wildflower Garden. Susan says, "It is such a joy and challenge to be an Episcopalian and an honor to be considered for the Standing Committee." She is a retired Registered Nurse married to Bob for 44 years. They have two sons and one granddaughter living in Knoxville.



**Christina Sjoberg**, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Athens

*Nominated by the Rev. Claire Brown, St. Paul's, Athens*

Christina Sjoberg is a long-time member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, where she serves on altar guild, the budget and finance committee, is a licensed lay preacher, and helped start Love, Period. She has served on Standing Committee and was a deputy to General Convention in 2024. Christina works as the Director of Student Involvement at Tennessee Wesleyan University. She is married to Dr. Trey Ivins.

## Clergy Standing Committee Nominees- Vote for ONE



### **The Rev. Kelly Coffelt**, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Chattanooga

*Nominated by the Rev. April Berends, Grace Episcopal Church, Chattanooga*

Deacon Kelly Coffelt was ordained March 2025 and is joyously serving at St. Peter's, Chattanooga. Prior to answering the call to the diaconate, she lived out her ministry as an educator in the public schools, 20 years in administration. She was a member of St. Paul's, Chattanooga, for over 40 years and is a devoted member of the diocese. She hopes to apply her administrative experience, as her call to ministry, to the diocese as a member of the Standing Committee.



### **The Rev. Bailey Norman**, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Oak Ridge

*Nominated by the Rev. Zac Settle, PhD, Grace Episcopal Church, Chattanooga*

Rev. Norman is the Rector at St. Stephen's, returning for his current ministry there in 2020 (he began ordained ministry there as Curate from 2006-2009). Between those two stints, he served parishes in the Dioceses of Mississippi and Central Gulf Coast. Since returning to East TN, his diocesan involvement has included a term on the Disciplinary Board, co-chair of the Knoxville Clericus, chair of the Resolutions Committee for Convention, and the joy of serving this past summer as co-dean of the Junior Camp at Grace Point. He thoroughly enjoys the work of building community and collaborative ministry in our diocese.

# DISCIPLINARY BOARD

## Disciplinary Board Positions Open

1 Lay, term ending 2028\*

1 Lay, term ending 2029

1 Clergy, term ending 2029

\* Disciplinary Board members typically serve for three year terms; this year we are also electing one member to fill a vacancy.

The Disciplinary Board is unique among our elected leadership bodies in that it does not convene for meetings on a regular schedule. The disciplinary board meets once annually for an orientation, and then serves through the remainder of the year as a pool of members from which panels may be drafted as needed. The ideal qualities of a good disciplinary board member include sound judgement and the ability to listen carefully. This board is comprised of seven persons, four members of the clergy and three lay. Clergy members must be canonically and geographically resident within the diocese, and lay members must be adult communicants in good standing who are geographically resident in the diocese. Members of the Standing Committee may not also be members of the Disciplinary Board. Functions of the Disciplinary Board are listed in the Canons of The Episcopal Church, Title IV.

## Lay Disciplinary Board Nominees Term Ending 2028- Vote for ONE



One vacancy and no nominations were received by the publication deadline. Per Convention Rule 8.01, “Nominations from the floor” are accepted until noon Friday, February 20. After that, vacancies are filled in accord with procedures outlined by the Canons.

## Lay Disciplinary Board Nominees Term Ending 2029- Vote for ONE



**Dianne Britton**, St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church, Farragut

*Nominated by the Rev. Brett Backus, St. Elizabeth's, Farragut*

Dianne Britton has been a parishioner at St. Elizabeth's since its early years. She has held multiple roles at the church, diocesan, and provincial levels. She is active as a Eucharistic Minister and Server, a member of the Pastoral Care Council, an Endowment Board member, and a member of the Daughters of the King. She currently serves on the Disciplinary Board and would like to serve again. She is a retired Licensed Clinical Social Worker who specialized in treating trauma in her private practice, and as a consultant, prepared for and responded locally, nationally, and internationally to mass casualties.

## Clergy Disciplinary Board Nominees Term Ending 2029- Vote for ONE



**The Rev. Mandy Lippe**, St. Francis Episcopal Church, Norris

*Nominated by Jon Humber, Registrar of Convention*

Amanda “Mandy” Lippe was ordained in the Diocese of Southeast Florida and moved to Tennessee in January of 2017. She will be starting her ninth year at St. Francis, Norris. She has previously served on Bishop and Council by completing a term in 2018 and then a full term from 2019-2021. She was on the Diocesan website redesign team and on the Clergy Continuing Formation Committee. She is currently co-chair of the Middle East Clergy Clericus and President of the Disciplinary Board. Mandy is blessed to be married to Jason, and mother to Mason.

# TRUSTEE, UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH

## Trustee Position Open

1 Clergy, three-year term ending 2029

Two lay people and one member of the clergy serve on the Board of Trustees of the University of the South. The term of office is three years, and trustees can be re- elected for one successive term. One trustee rotates off each year.

Trustees are expected to attend the annual board meeting each May and any special meetings that may occur throughout the year. Trustees should be personally committed to the basic aims of the university. They are responsible for informing their dioceses about the university and should be willing to contribute to its financial wellbeing.

## Clergy Trustee- Vote for ONE



**The Rev. Claire Brown**, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Athens

*Nominated by Christina Sjoberg, St. Paul's, Athens*

The Rev. Claire Brown was called as Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Athens in 2021, having previously served at St. Augustine's in Nashville and St. Paul's in Chattanooga. A graduate of the School of Theology at Sewanee, she also attended Lee University and Vanderbilt Divinity School. Claire is deeply committed to Episcopal higher education. Under her leadership, St. Paul's has remained financially healthy while deepening its commitment to formation and outreach. She has served as a Deputy to General Convention and on the Commission on Ministry. She is married to Austin Sauerbrei, and they have three children.



**The Rev. Casey Perkins**, Christ Church, Chattanooga

*Nominated by the Rev. Zachary Settle, PhD, Grace, Chattanooga*

The Reverend Casey Perkins was assigned as deacon at Christ Church in Advent 2025. He is a graduate of the School of Theology—Sewanee with a Master of Arts in Theology. During the week Deacon Casey serves as Parish Administrator at Grace Episcopal Church. He previously served as the Director of Alumni, Annual Giving, and Church Relations for the School of Theology. He is a spiritual director, and retreat leader—specializing in spiritual practices including labyrinths and Centering Prayer. He is in formation to become a Benedictine Oblate of the Community of St. Mary, Sewanee.

# GENERAL CONVENTION DEPUTY

## General Convention Deputy Positions Open

4 Clergy deputies and 4 alternates

4 Lay deputies and 4 alternates

Three-year terms ending 2029

Four clergy and four lay people are elected in the year prior to that of a General Convention. The scale of votes determines each deputy's seat and order of alternates in accord with Convention Rule 8.03. Deputies serve for three years—until the next group is elected—and they may be elected to successive terms. Indeed, in some respects, the stability of a deputation relies on a healthy mix of new and experienced deputies.

Deputies sit in the House of Deputies of the General Convention, which is the legislative body of the Episcopal Church. The House of Bishops is the other unit in this bicameral body. Deputies are not delegates; they are deputized to act on their own and to vote their own consciences. Experienced deputies may represent the Diocese of East Tennessee on national committees.

In the Diocese of East Tennessee, deputies will attend an orientation and spring gathering in 2027. They also attend additional deputation meetings, Province IV Synod meetings, and then the 82nd General Convention (July 3-8, 2027 in Phoenix, Arizona).

At the General Convention, they consider resolutions, elect officials, establish a budget, pray, and worship together. The schedule is full and the opportunities to connect with other leaders in our denomination are vast. When they return, they are asked to interpret for East Tennessee Episcopalians, along with the Bishop, the actions and decisions of the convention.

## Lay Deputy Nominees- Vote for FOUR



**Cynthia Coe**, St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church, Farragut

*Nominated by the Rev. Brett Backus, St. Elizabeth's, Farragut*

Cynthia Coe is a parishioner at St. Elizabeth's in Knoxville/Farragut and currently serves as a greeter and lector. In previous years, she served as Director of Children's Ministries at Church of the Ascension and on the Vestry at St. Elizabeth's. After earning an M.A. in Christian Formation at Virginia Theological Seminary, she developed numerous Christian Formation resources and curricula for children and youth. She now serves as the Chairperson of the Creation Care Task Force of General Convention. She hopes to help General Convention understand the needs of ordinary volunteers in our parishes.



**Ellie Graham**, Church of the Good Samaritan, Knoxville

*Nominated by the Rev. Leigh Preston, All Saints Chapel, Sewanee*

Ellie Graham is a current junior at Sewanee, majoring in English and American Studies. They are a sacristan and active participant at All Saints' Chapel, and they research Sewanee's relationship with religion and racism. Ellie has held many leadership roles at a parish and diocesan level. They served as a deputy to General Convention in 2024, and would be honored to represent all East Tennessee Episcopalians at General Convention in 2027.



**Jon Humber**, St. John's Episcopal Cathedral, Knoxville

*Nominated by the Very Rev. Chris Hackett, St. John's Cathedral, Knoxville*

Jon grew up in East Tennessee and is a chorister at St. John's Cathedral. He was baptized at Grace, Chattanooga and confirmed at the Cathedral in 2005. He served as a band director in Knox County public schools for 16 years, having graduated from UTK in 2003; but has a wide variety of career experience. He is currently the Episcopal Engagement Specialist, working as the executive assistant to both the Canon to the Ordinary and the Bishop. He relishes the challenge that being a Deputy presents, and hopes to realize a contribution to the wider Church through this work.



**Sonya Marsh**, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Maryville

*Nominated by the Rev. RJ Powell, St. Andrew's, Maryville*

Sonya Marsh's ministry is shaped by deep roots in community and faithful service. She recently completed a term on vestry, serving for two years as Senior Warden. She provided steady leadership, clear communication, and pastoral support during a significant season of transition in the life of the parish. She strongly believes in collaborative leadership that is committed to congregational health and dedicated to shared leadership while valuing attentive listening, spiritual discernment, and building inclusive, welcoming communities where all people are encouraged to grow in faith and service.



**Christina Sjoberg**, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Athens

*Nominated by the Rev. Claire Brown, St. Paul's, Athens*

Christina Sjoberg is a long-time member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, where she serves on altar guild, the budget and finance committee, is a licensed lay preacher, and helped start Love, Period. She has served on Standing Committee and was a deputy to General Convention in 2024. Christina works as the Director of Student Involvement at Tennessee Wesleyan University. She is married to Dr. Trey Ivins.

## Clergy Deputy Nominees- Vote for FOUR



**The Rev. April Berends**, Grace Episcopal Church, Chattanooga

*Nominated by the Rev. RJ Powell, St. Andrew's, Maryville*

Rev. Berends has served in diocesan leadership for most of her 20 years in ordained ministry, recently completing six years as a member of the Standing Committee. She serves on the diocesan liturgy and music commission and was part of our diocesan strategic visioning team. She was a deputy to General Convention in 2022 and 2024, as well as a member of the Episcopal Church's Task Force on Creation Care/Environmental Racism. She loves being a part of the shared mission of our church on a denominational level. She has experience in community organizing, public health, leadership development and discipleship practices.



**The Rev. Claire Brown**, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Athens

*Nominated by the Rev. Johnny Tuttle, St. Paul's, Kingsport*

The Rev Claire Brown has served as the rector of St. Paul's Athens since 2021. She is also a writer and retreat facilitator. Claire is married to Austin Sauerbrei, and they have three young children.



**The Rev. RJ Powell**, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Maryville

*Nominated by the Rev. April Berends, Grace, Chattanooga*

The Rev. RJ Powell serves as Priest-in-Charge at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Maryville and holds diocesan roles including Standing Committee member and Ecumenical Officer. He's been a three-time General Convention Deputy and currently serves as Vice-Chair of the LGBTQ+ Inclusion Task Force and member of the Methodist-Episcopal Dialogue Committee. Fr. RJ believes disciples must pursue what theologian Miroslav Volf calls "a compelling vision of a way of life worth living" — doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God. RJ and his husband Michaelangelo have been married ten years and are proud dog-cat-&-bee dads.



**The Rev. Leigh Preston**, All Saints Chapel, Sewanee

*Nominated by the Rev. Claire Brown, St. Paul's, Athens*

The Rev. Leigh Preston serves as interim associate university chaplain at All Saints' Chapel, and also teaches courses in Latino ministry at the School of Theology. She has served parishes in East Tennessee, Virginia, Connecticut, and El Salvador. On the diocesan level, she chaired the Commission on Ministry and was elected as deputy to General Convention in 2018, 2022, and 2024. She has served on various churchwide committees, including the State of the Church Committee and the Council of Advice for Latino/Hispanic Ministries, and she was recently appointed as the Presiding Bishop's representative to the Standing Commission on World Mission.



**The Rev. William Simerly**, St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church, Farragut

*Nominated by the Rev. Brett Backus, St. Elizabeth's, Farragut*

Rev. Simerly has served as Curate at St. Elizabeth's since June 2024. He graduated from the School of Theology, Sewanee, with a MDiv, Optime Merrens in May 2024. Before ordination, he was engaged in parish ministry at Good Samaritan, St. James, and was a student leader at Tyson House. He attended the 2018 General Convention as a member of the Young Adult Festival, was a lay deputy to the 2022 General Convention, and was the Diocesan Evangelism Coordinator for the 2024 General Convention. He is married to his husband Ashton and is passionate about formation, liturgy, and the role of the Church in the 21st century.



**The Rev. Johnny Tuttle**, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Kingsport

*Nominated by the Rev. Claire Brown, St. Paul's, Athens*

The Rev Johnny Tuttle of St. Paul's Kingsport since 2018. Before that he was the rector of St. John and St. Mark in Albany, GA. He is an avid reader and pickle ball enthusiast. Johnny is married to Nicki and they have two young children.



**The Rev. Canon Joseph Woodfin**, Diocese of East Tennessee

*Nominated by the Ven. Dr. Jerry Askew, St. John's Cathedral, Knoxville*

Joe Woodfin is Canon to the Ordinary of East Tennessee. His portfolio includes transition ministry, congregational vitality, clergy life and discipline, and advising the Bishop. Joe was ordained in 2015, and served parishes in Middle Tennessee, East Tennessee, and Florida before becoming Canon to the Ordinary. He is a graduate of the School of Theology of the University of the South. While serving previously in East Tennessee, Joe was also President of the Standing Committee and Chair of the Board of Examining Chaplains. Serving the Diocese as Canon to the Ordinary is one of the greatest joys of Joe's vocation.

## Elections Worksheet

### 2026 Diocesan Convention of East Tennessee

*Please see Rule 8.03 of the Diocese of East Tennessee Annual Convention Rules of Order for specific provisions governing the election of members of Bishop and Council*

<b>Bishop and Council</b>		
<i>Term Ending 2026</i>	<i>Term Ending 2027</i>	<i>Term Ending 2028</i>
Tim Bradshaw	The Rev. Jon Hermes	The Rev. Sean McEwen
The Rev. Tom Schneider	The Rev. Zac Settle, PhD	Dusty Kent
Jeanne Hogarth	Courtney Manrod	The Rev. Maribeth Manoff
		Marilyn Roddy

**Need to Elect for Term Ending 2029:**

	<i>I Clergy Middle East</i>	<i>I Lay Upper East</i>	<i>I Lay South East</i>	
Nominees:	The Rev. D. Brian Austin, PhD	Susan Stevenson	Tammy Randolph	
Nominations after publication deadline:	_____	_____	_____	_____

### **Standing Committee**

<i>Term Ending 2026</i>	<i>Term Ending 2027</i>	<i>Term Ending 2028</i>
The Rev. April Berends	The Rev. Ken Saunders, DMin	The Rev. RJ Powell
Doug Overbey	Abby Haase	Daniel Ellis

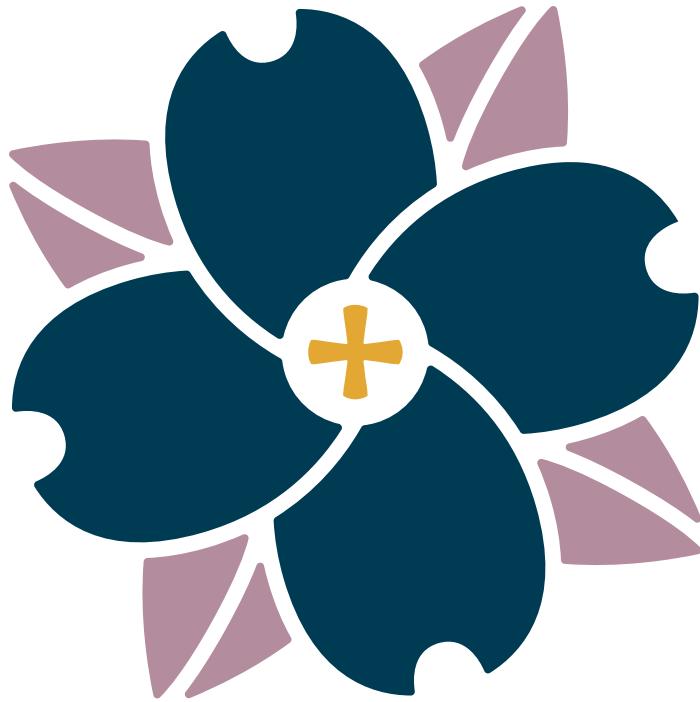
**Need to Elect for Term Ending 2029:**

	<i>I Clergy</i>	<i>I Lay</i>
Nominees:	The Rev. Kelly Coffelt The Rev. Bailey Norman	Susan Hirche Christina Sjoberg
Nominations after publication deadline:	_____	_____

<b>Disciplinary Board</b>			
<i>Term Ending 2026</i>	<i>Term Ending 2027</i>	<i>Term Ending 2028</i>	
The Rev. Mandy Lippe	Murdock Jones	The Rev. Johnny Tuttle	
Dianne Britton	David Sanders	The Rev. Ann Weeks	
<b><u>Need to Elect for</u></b>	<b><i>Term Ending 2028:</i></b>	<b><i>Term Ending 2029:</i></b>	
	<i>1 Lay</i>	<i>1 Clergy</i>	<i>1 Lay</i>
Nominees:	No nominations as of publication deadline.	The Rev. Mandy Lippe	Dianne Britton
Nominations after publication deadline:	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____

<b>Trustee, University of the South</b>					
<i>Term Ending 2026</i>	<i>Term Ending 2027</i>	<i>Term Ending 2028</i>			
The Rev. Matthew Farr	Sarah Johnson	Anna Graham			
<b><u>Need to Elect for Term Ending 2029:</u></b>					
	<i>1 Clergy</i>				
Nominees:	The Rev. Claire Brown The Rev. Casey Perkins				
Nominations after publication deadline:	_____				
	_____				

<b>General Convention Deputies</b>		
<b><u>Need to Elect for Term Ending 2029:</u></b>		
	<i>4 Lay Deputies</i> 4 Lay Alternates	4 Clergy Deputies 4 Clergy Alternates
Nominees:	Cynthia Coe Ellie Graham Jon Humber Sonya Marsh Christina Sjoberg	The Rev. April Berends The Rev. Claire Brown The Rev. RJ Powell The Rev. Leigh Preston The Rev. William Simerly The Rev. Johnny Tuttle The Rev. Canon Joseph Woodfin
Nominations after publication deadline:	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>



# Equip Disciples

THE 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE

**Resolutions**



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## Resolutions

**THE DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE  
2026 DIOCESAN CONVENTION  
Resolution # 2026-01  
(packaged in the Consent Agenda)**

*Courtesy invitations to provide seat and voice to ordained clergy, not canonically resident, but licensed to officiate, or to lead congregations; courtesy invitation to offer seat to ordained local leaders as well as to postulants and candidates for holy orders.*

**PROPOSED BY:** The Rev. Elizabeth Farr, Secretary of Convention, Chattanooga, TN

**REPRESENTATIVE AT CONVENTION:** The Rev. Elizabeth Farr

**RESOLVED**, that all ordained ministers of this church who are not canonically resident in this Diocese, but who officiate under license and/or who are in charge of congregations in the Diocese, be given seat and voice in the deliberations of this 42nd Convention of the Diocese of East Tennessee; and

**RESOLVED**, that all postulants and candidates for holy orders in the Diocese, and all ordained ministers of other communions within our communities be cordially invited to seats at the 42nd Convention.

**THE DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE  
2026 DIOCESAN CONVENTION  
Resolution # 2026-02  
(packaged in the Consent Agenda)**

*To ratify Bishop and Council actions regarding the 2025 Budget*

**PROPOSED BY:** Bishop and Council

**REPRESENTATIVE AT CONVENTION:** Jimmy Stewart, Diocesan Treasurer, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Maryville, TN

**WHEREAS**, by its action, the Forty-First Annual Convention of The Diocese of East Tennessee convened at the Episcopal School of Knoxville, on Saturday, February 8, 2025, and approved a budget for The Diocese; and

**WHEREAS**, in the wisdom of the Bishop and Council, certain items of the Budget were exceeded but the total expenditures were less than the budgeted total; and

**WHEREAS**, by Canon 2, Sec. 2 (a), it is necessary for the Convention to approve budgets; and

**WHEREAS**, the budget as approved in its February 2024 Convention was \$2,270,840; and

**WHEREAS**, the actual budgeted disbursements were \$2,284,934.57; and

**WHEREAS**, the Treasurer's Financial Statements reflect all detailed records of disbursements over and under the budget recited herein by reference, reflect the best judgment and good offices of the Bishop and Council and Treasurer in performing under said budget;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that all of the acts and actions of the Bishop and Council in authorizing disbursements in excess of line items in the 2025 budget as approved by their various actions during 2025, be and are hereby ratified by this Convention as authorized and approved.

**THE DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE  
2026 DIOCESAN CONVENTION  
Resolution # 2026-03  
(packaged in the Consent Agenda)**

*Courtesy invitation to Diocesan Youth Council members to provide seat and voice.*

**PROPOSED BY:** The Rev. Elizabeth Farr, Secretary of Convention, Chattanooga, TN

**REPRESENTATIVE AT CONVENTION:** The Rev. Elizabeth Farr

**RESOLVED**, that all present members of the Diocesan Youth Council be cordially invited to seats and voice at the 42nd Convention.

**THE DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE  
2026 DIOCESAN CONVENTION  
Resolution # 2026-04**

*Amendment to Title II. Assets of the Diocese and Parishes*

**PROPOSED BY:** The Honorable L. Marie Williams, St. Paul's Chattanooga, Chair of Constitution and Canons Committee on behalf of the committee

**REPRESENTATIVE AT CONVENTION:** The Honorable L. Marie Williams

**RESOLVED**, That Title II Canon 3 Sec.6 be amended to replace the following language:

Sec. 6. All cash receipts of the Diocese or of any Parish, Organization, or Institution of the Diocese shall be deposited promptly in a bank or savings institution in an account fully insured by FDIC or FSLIC. The entity responsible for said funds may adopt procedures regarding the withdrawal, disbursement, or investment of such funds after the deposit thereof.

With the following language:

Sec. 6. All cash receipts of the Diocese or of any Parish, Organization, or Institution of the Diocese shall be deposited promptly in a federally insured depository bank or savings institution (FDIC) or credit union (NCUSIF), in one or more checking, savings, certificate of deposit and money market accounts fully insured. The entity responsible for said funds may adopt procedures regarding the withdrawal, disbursement, or investment of such funds after the deposit thereof.

**EXPLANATION OF THE RESOLUTION:**

The Proposed Revision addresses the need to insure deposits with a federally insured depository while leaving room to address changing banking needs of parishes. Specifically, the changes in Sec 6. addresses there no longer exists a FSLIC organization and that credit union deposit accounts are insured. There may be other depositories used by Parishes that need to be insured by the Federal Government.

**THE DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE**  
**2026 DIOCESAN CONVENTION**  
**Resolution # 2026-05**

*Toward the Full Communion Agreement between The Episcopal Church and the United Methodist Church*

**PROPOSED BY:** The Rev. RJ Powell, Priest-in-Charge, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Maryville, and Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officer

**REPRESENTATIVE AT CONVENTION:** The Rev. RJ Powell

**RESOLVED,** That the 42nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of East Tennessee, in the sincere belief that Jesus calls us into unity for the sake of mission and ministry, shown in his prayer for his disciples, "that they may all be one," welcomes and rejoices in the full communion proposal between The Episcopal Church and the United Methodist Church, *A Gift to the World: Co-Laborers in the Healing of Brokenness*; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That this Convention gives thanks that this full communion proposal, the result of over sixty years of dialogue between Episcopalians and Methodists, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, is grounded in our common heritage in the Church of England, and in the recognition that both churches are members of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church in which the Gospel is rightly preached and taught; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That this Convention celebrates the special gifts that the Holy Spirit has bestowed on each church, reflected in their historical documents and liturgies, hymnody and spirituality, and commitments to outreach and social justice; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That this Convention affirms our desire to draw closer to our Methodist siblings in mission by sharing in the proclamation of the Good News of God's love in Jesus Christ in word and deed; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That this Convention pledges to address racism together in our churches and communities, and when possible, learning from and working with the historically African American Methodist churches in our area, noting that church divisions in the US have often reflected racial and socioeconomic divisions; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That this Convention acknowledges the ministries in which Methodists and Episcopalians are already working together in our Diocese, such as the cooperation of the Wesley Foundation and Tyson House campus ministries at UT Knoxville and the cooperation of a number of churches throughout Knoxville in Justice Knox, including Episcopalians and Methodists, and pledges our commitment to continue and grow such ministries; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** That this Convention commends *A Gift to the World* to all the members of our Diocese, for reading, reflection, and discussion both within our congregations and in an ecumenical context with our Methodist siblings, and when possible, also with Christians of other traditions, especially our full communion partners in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and The Moravian Church; and be it further

**RESOLVED.** That this Convention encourages on both a local and diocesan level, common worship, including services of Holy Eucharist, following the guidelines for Interim Eucharistic Sharing with the United Methodist Church released in 2006; and be it further

**RESOLVED.** That this Convention directs our clergy and lay leaders, working with their Methodist colleagues, to plan and implement actions consistent with this work; and be it further

**RESOLVED.** That this Convention encourages the approval of the full communion proposal at the General Convention in 2027, and to the ongoing work of Christian unity in worship and service in the years to come.

#### **EXPLANATION OF THE RESOLUTION:**

The best explanation for this resolution comes from the full communion document itself:

“In the fractured human community there is a great need for the realization of the unity among the followers of Christ Jesus. This proposal for full communion between The Episcopal Church and The United Methodist Church is an effort to bring our churches into closer partnership in the mission and witness to the love of God and thus labor together for the healing of divisions among Christians and for the well-being of all. The vision of Revelation 22 is of the tree of life planed on both sides of a river “and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.” (Revelation 22:2) Faithful to Jesus’ prayer that his disciples be one so that the world may believe (John 17:20-23), may this proposal be an expression of God’s will for the churches.” – from the Preface, *A Gift to the World: Co-Laborers for the Healing of Brokenness – A Proposal for Full Communion*.

Note that “full communion” is not a merger of the churches. “Full communion is understood as a relationship between two distinct ecclesiastical bodies in which each maintains its own autonomy while recognizing the catholicity and apostolicity of the other, and believing the other to hold the essentials of the Christian faith. In such a relationship, communicant members of each would be able freely to communicate at the altar of the other, and ordained ministers [i.e. priests and elders] may officiate sacramentally in either church. Specifically, this includes transferability of members, mutual recognition and interchangeability of ministries, mutual enrichment by one another’s traditions of hymnody and patterns of liturgy, freedom to participate in each other’s ordinations and installations of clergy, including bishops, and structures for consultation to express, strengthen, and enable our common life, witness, and service, to the glory of God and the salvation of the world.” (From *A Gift to the World*)

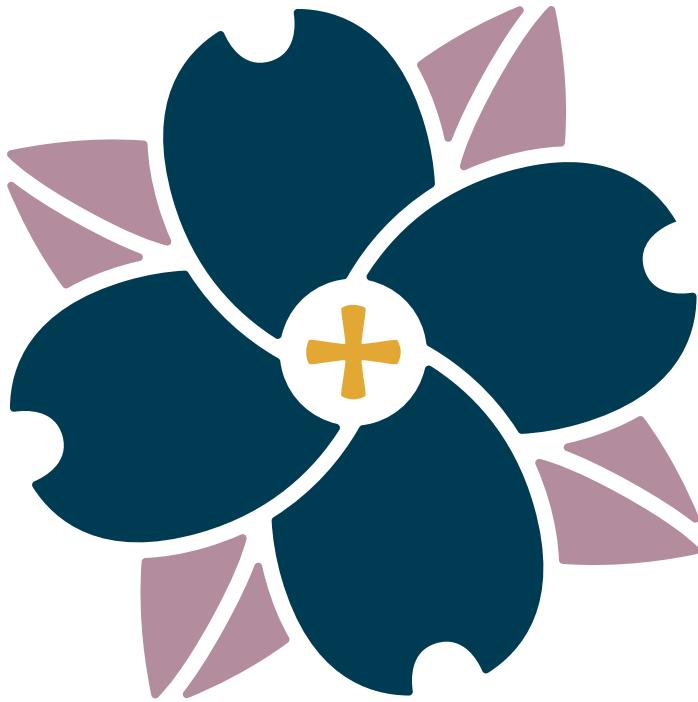
The historically African American churches include, but are not limited to those churches with whom The Episcopal Church and the United Methodist Church have consulted: the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME), the African Methodist Episcopal Church Zion (AME Zion), and the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (CME). In addition to the AME, AME Zion and CME, The United Methodist Church, through the Pan Methodist Commission, has also engaged in dialogues with the African Union Methodist Protestant Church and the Union American Methodist Episcopal Church, and formally ratified full communion in 2012. The United Methodist Church approved the full communion agreement with the Episcopal Church. *A Gift to the World*, in 2024, and awaits the Episcopal Church’s decision at the 2027 General Convention.

For a timeline of Episcopal Church – United Methodist Dialogue, a link to *A Gift to the World: Co-Laborers for the Healing of Brokenness*, previous agreed documents, guidelines for Interim Eucharistic Sharing, and other information, go to:

<https://www.umc-tec.org>

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/page/united-methodist-episcopal-dialogue>

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# Equip Disciples

THE 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE

**People**



# Equip Disciples

THE 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE

## Clergy, Lay Delegates & Alternates to the 42nd Annual Convention of the Diocese of East Tennessee

Parish	Est.	Parish Status	Delegates	Alternates	Clergy
All Saints' Morristown		1969	Sam Neill Anne Ross Kim Torres	Amy Neill Adam Haynes	The Rev. Sarai Wender
Annunciation Newport		1997	Thomas Conway Linda Waddell Charlene Frazier		The Rev. Brian Austin
Ascension Knoxville		1957	Frances Butler Louise Conrad Scott Childs Daniel Ellis Russ Van Patten	Marilyn Roddy	The Rev. Christopher Hogin The Rev. Amy Morehous
Christ Chattanooga		1901	Grace Ratchford Rebecca Smith Oren Whightsel	Rachel Lamar	The Rev. Will Levanway The Rev. Casey Perkins
Christ Rugby	1880	2002	Bonnie Cassida Lisa Donegan Ryan Kicinski	Ron Jackson Bethany Jackson	The Rev. Johnnette Shane (LTO)
Christ South Pittsburg		1887	Bailey Godwin Mike Garland Carey Garland	Mark Kelly Henry Lodge Donna Lodge	The Rev. Lynn Ronaldi (LTO)
Good Samaritan Knoxville	1965	1971	Maddie Bell Ellie Graham Ed Hochnedel	Eddie Hopps Kristen Sanders Bruce La Fetra	The Rev. Cal Calhoun The Rev. Mark Colbert
Good Shepherd Knoxville		1961	Marilyn Cottrell Bruce Ragon Paige Helton	Ruth Anne Hanahan Courtney Shea Melinda Davis	The Rev. Rick Carter
Good Shepherd Lookout Mountain	1928	1945	Kara Van Brunt Peter Rawlings Keith Sanford	Dusty Kent	The Rev. Walton Jones The Rev. Michele Simmons
Grace Chattanooga	1885	1922	Jim Milburn Eva Coleman Chuck Forbes	Rosy Milburn	The Rev. April Berends The Rev. Zac Settle
Holy Cross Hixson	1981	2024	Dee Taylor Katherine Almlie Courtney Hicks	Stan Mann	The Rev. Bill McGee
Nativity Ft. Oglethorpe, GA	1967	1975	Leigh Hinton-Ridling Leigh Rogers Debbie Dodski	Stephanie Shell	
Resurrection Loudon	1964	1985	Jenny Lucas Bonnie Smith Donna Bye	Mark Smith	The Rev. Rebecca Bridges (LTO)
St. Andrew's Harriman	1890	1957	Karen Boente Lynn Spires John Palmer	Bill Barker Linda Lambert	The Rev. Brad Jones

Parish	Est.	Parish Status	Delegates	Alternates	Clergy
<b>St. Andrew's Maryville</b>	1923	1948	Jon Coomes Kristy Starks-Winn Gretchen Prisock	Sonya Marsh	The Rev. RJ Powell The Rev. Sean McEwen
<b>St. Clare's LaFollette</b>	1993	2002	Susan Monday		
<b>St. Elizabeth's Farragut</b>		1989	Brent Stewart Joshua Beckett Meg Evans	Brittany Hodge Eleanor Stevens	The Rev. Brett Backus The Rev. William Simerly The Rev. Bo Davis
<b>St. Francis Norris</b>	1949	1984	John Platt Nancy Platt Michael Ferkany	Carolyn Lea Chris Lycke Linden Hickey	The Rev. Mandy Lippe
<b>St. Francis Of Assisi Ooltewah</b>	1991	2002	Jamie Hartman Lynn Armstrong Larry Hartman		The Rev. Lou Parsons The Rev. John Rouser
<b>St. James Greeneville</b>	1845	1848	Laura Wilson Tatem Thomas Barbara Heins		The Rev. Ken Saunders
<b>St. James Knoxville</b>	1923	1933	Ken Tomchuk Carla Livesay Mark Abel	Nancy Pullen	The Rev. John Mark Wiggers
<b>St. John the Baptist Battle Creek</b>	2000	2002	Michael Thompson Pam Collier		The Rev. Isaac Blevins
<b>St. John's Cathedral Knoxville</b>	1826	1844	Mark Love Harriet Bowden Jarrett Vance Andrea McDowell Tate Cantrell	Tim O'Connor	The Very Rev. Chris Hackett The Rev. Cn. Thom Rasnick The Ven. Jerry Askew
<b>St. John's Johnson City</b>	1905	1907	Lee Phillips Mike Radford Chris Carrier	Renneau Dubberley Tom McGinnis Mary Alice Fryar	The Rev. Laura Bryant The Rev. Rebecca Paluzzi
<b>St. Joseph the Carpenter Sevierville</b>	1985	2002	Clark Post Barbara Post Coby Harper		
<b>St. Luke's Cleveland</b>	1867	1875	Tammy Randolph Sarah Brown Amy Wasson	Lisa Harper Nathan Napier Gary Farlow	The Rev. Joel Huffstetler The Rev. Art Bass
<b>St. Luke's Knoxville</b>	1936	2002	James Banks John Mayo Walter Williams	Annabel Henley Catherine Trehewella Pam Leskoyak	The Rev. Ragan Schriver The Rev. Ron Morton

Parish	Est.	Parish Status	Delegates	Alternates	Clergy
<b>St. Mark's Copperhill</b>	1852	2002	Jewel Welch Haskel Morrell Marylin Boeker	Carol Brodeur Rand Campbell	
<b>St. Martin of Tours Chattanooga</b>	1960	1968	Deborah DiStefano Reggie Weaver Jeanie Rodgers	Chris Hinkle	The Rev. Ashton Sims
<b>St. Michael's Kingsport</b>		2024	Anne Davis Debbie Gilcrest Doug Keen	Helen Rebmann Carol Burleson	The Rev. Jon Hermes The Rev. Cathy Johnston
<b>St. Paul's Athens</b>	1834	1959	Christina Sjoberg Justin Woody Sheri Owen	Debi Hyatt Liv Cook Mandy Woody	The Rev. Claire Brown
<b>St. Paul's Chattanooga</b>		1854	Marie Williams Duke Richey Rhett Bentley Ian Mahone Shay Mahone	Beth Luehrs	The Rev. Eric Long The Rev. Murdock Jones The Rev. Elizabeth Farr The Rev. Beth Janney
<b>St. Paul's Kingsport</b>	1916	1931	Reese Brackins Eleanor Cwirko Becky Schamore	Brad Carter	The Rev. Jonathan Tuttle The Rev. Gordon Brewer
<b>St. Paul Seymour</b>		2012	David Thomas Mark Clarke Sarah Ferguson	Karen Kyte	
<b>St. Peter's Chattanooga</b>	1957	1958	Tammy Garland Laura Burgess Tony Burgess		The Rev. Drew Bunting The Rev. Kelly Coffelt
<b>St. Raphael's Crossville</b>		1995	Sandi Harrison Holly Battle		The Rev. Thomas Schneider
<b>St. Stephen's Oak Ridge</b>		1951	Beth Bailey Gary Dreier Bill Lawrence	Leah Bailey Judith Delaney Betsy Ellis	The Rev. Bailey Norman The Rev. Laura Henrik (LTO)
<b>St. Thomas Elizabethton</b>	1941	2002	Jewel Welch Haskel Morrell Marilyn Boeker	Carol Brodeur Rand Campbell	
<b>St. Timothy's Signal Mountain</b>	1955	2002	Bess Stevenson Rachael Crumbliss Quinn Holland Rob Robinson	Bill Stevenson Julie Novak Donna Robinson	The Rev. Kat Chappell
<b>Thankful Memorial Chattanooga</b>		1904	Sharon Turner Andrea Kapoor Sue Wright	Susan Jones	The Rev. Sarah Hess
<b>Trinity Gatlinburg</b>	1951	1974	Edith Foster Dora Jean Paulk Becky Alexander		

Campus Ministries	Delegates	Alternates	Chaplain
<b>Emmaus Episcopal Ministry at ETSU Johnson City</b>			
<b>Project Canterbury Chattanooga</b>			The Rev. Will Levanway
<b>Tyson House Knoxville</b>	Madeleine Sorrell		The Rev. Sean McEwen (interim)
<b>Worshipping Communities</b>		<b>Delegates</b>	<b>Chaplain</b>
<b>Southside Abbey, Chattanooga</b>	Lloyd Hoover		
<b>Canonically Resident, Non-Parochial Clergy</b>			
The Rt. Rev. Brian Cole			
The Very Rev. Ward Ewing			
The Rev. Matt Farr			
The Rev. Kim Hobby			
The Rev. Craig Kallio			
The Rev. Leigh Preston			
The Rev. Maribeth Manoff			
The Rev. Ann Weeks			
The Rev. Cn. Joseph Woodfin			



# Equip Disciples

THE 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE

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## Ex-Officio Members of Convention

*Canon 1, Sec. 6, entitled to seat and voice, but not vote, unless entitled to vote by virtue of serving in an additional capacity*

### **SECRETARY OF CONVENTION**

The Rev. Elizabeth Farr

### **ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY OF CONVENTION**

Adam Ballintoy

### **TREASURER OF THE DIOCESE**

Jimmy Stewart

### **CHANCELLOR OF THE DIOCESE**

George R. Arrants, Jr.

### **VICE-CHANCELLORS OF THE DIOCESE**

Robyn Askew

Leaba Cash

Chris Cone

Sarah Sheppeard

The Hon. Neil Thomas

The Hon. L. Marie Williams

### **CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND CANONS**

The Hon. L. Marie Williams

### **REGISTRAR OF THE DIOCESE**

Jon Humber

### **LAY MEMBERS, BISHOP AND COUNCIL**

Jeanne Hogarth

Dusty Kent

Courtney Manrod

Marilyn Roddy

### **LAY MEMBERS, STANDING COMMITTEE**

Daniel Ellis

Abby Haase

Douglas Overbey

### **PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD, EPISCOPAL ENDOWMENT CORPORATION**

W. A. "Pete" Stringer

**HEAD OF SCHOOL, ST. ANDREW'S-SEWANEE SCHOOL**

Karl J. Sjolund

**DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH**

The Very Rev. James F. Turrell, PhD

**VICE CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH**

Dr. Rob Pearigen

**CHAPLAIN, UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH**

The Very Rev. Chris Epperson

**PARLIAMENTARIAN**

Sarah Sheppard

**DIOCESAN YOUTH COUNCIL**

Natalie Schambach, *Good Shepherd, Knoxville*

Micah Kramer, *St. Paul's, Chattanooga*

Fletcher Kent, *Good Shepherd, Lookout*

Buddy Jackson, *St. Luke's, Cleveland*

Addison Borders, *St. Timothy's, Signal Mountain*

Gracelynn Garland, *St. Peter's, Chattanooga*

Maggie Riebau, *St. David's, Nashville*

Briget Hoppenrath, *Ascension, Knoxville*

Lucas Maounis, *St. Peter's, Chattanooga*



# Equip Disciples

THE 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE  
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## 2026 Convention Planning Committee

### Project Manager

Emily Kirk, *Diocesan Staff*

### Communications and Technology

Bro. Andrew Aelred Morehead, OC, *Diocesan Staff*

### Secretary of Convention

The Rev. Elizabeth Farr, *St. Paul's, Chattanooga*

### Assistant to the Secretary

Adam Ballintoy, *St. Stephen's, Oak Ridge*

### Registrar

Jon Humber, *Diocesan Staff*

### Elections Assistance

Dr. Adam Bean, *St. John's, Johnson City*

Jon Humber, *Diocesan Staff*

Sara Sheppard, *Ascension, Knoxville*

### Audio-Visual

HP Video

Danny Harb, *Church of the Ascension, Knoxville*

Roger Harb

### Technology Support

Charlie Kirk, *St. Elizabeth's, Farragut*

Aubrey Langley

Alexander Thomas, *Ascension, Knoxville*

### Facilities

Dr. Jack Talmadge, *Episcopal School of Knoxville*

Joe Fowler, *Episcopal School of Knoxville*

Susan Darby, *Episcopal School of Knoxville*

Jon Humber, *Diocesan Staff*

### Finance

Canon Cheryl Bullis, *Diocesan Staff*

Jimmy Stewart, *Diocesan Treasurer*

### Food and Catering

Emily Kirk, *Diocesan Staff*

Holly's Gourmet Market Catering

Pancake Daddy's

Disco Chicken and Donuts

Morning Brew Co.

### Logistics

Jon Humber, *Diocesan Staff*

Emily Kirk, *Diocesan Staff*

### Worship Planning

The Rt. Rev. Brian Cole, *Diocesan Bishop*

The Rev. Canon Joe Woodfin, Canon to the Ordinary

The Rev. April Berends, *Grace, Chattanooga*

Jim Garvey, *Ascension, Knoxville*

The Rev. RJ Powell, *Tyson House, Knoxville*

**Full Planning Team****Bishop & Council**

Tim Bradshaw  
The Very Rev. Chris Hackett  
The Rev. Jon Hermes  
Jeanne Hogarth  
Dusty Kent  
The Rev. Maribeth Manoff  
Courtney Manrod  
The Rev. Sean McEwen  
Marilyn Roddy  
The Rev. Tom Schneider  
The Rev. Zac Settle, PhD

**Diocesan Staff**

Jesse Adkins  
The Ven. Jerry Askew, PhD  
Canon Cheryl Bullis  
The Right Rev. Brian Cole  
Canon Emily Bruner Doane  
Jon Humber  
The Rev. Brad Jones  
Emily Kirk  
Bro. Andrew Aelred Morehead, OC  
The Rev. Canon Joe Woodfin



## Summary of 2025-2026 Clergy Information

### ACTIVE CLERGY, CANONICALLY RESIDENT, LIVING OUTSIDE THE DIOCESE

The Rev. Amy Bradley  
The Very Rev. Chris Epperson  
The Rev. Leigh Preston  
The Rev. Josh Weaver  
The Rev. Becky Wright

### RETIRED CLERGY, CANONICALLY RESIDENT

The Rev. Larry Beach	The Rev. Claire Keene
The Rev. Robert Beasley	The Rev. Peter Keese
The Rev. Jocelyn Bell	The Rev. Betty Latham
The Rev. Patrick Bone	The Rev. Harry Lawrence
The Rev. John Bonner	The Rev. Albert "Bo" Lewis
The Rev. Howard Bowlin	The Rev. Charles Livermore
The Rev. Paige Buchholz	The Rev. David Lovett
The Rev. Susan Butler	The Rev. Kathryn Mathewson
The Rev. Pat Cahill	The Rev. Ellis Mayfield
The Rev. Margaret Caldwell	The Rev. Edward "Jay" Mills
The Rev. Gary Callahan	The Rev. Joe Minarik
The Rev. Robert Childers	The Rev. Mary Moore
The Rev. George Choyce	The Rev. Craig Morgan
The Rev. Taylor Dinsmore	The Rev. Felicity Peck
The Rev. Michael Doty	The Rev. Dorrie Pratt
The Rev. Stephen Eichler	The Rev. Kay Reynolds
The Rev. Gary England	The Rev. Buckley Robbins
The Very Rev. Ward Ewing	The Rev. Janice Robbins
The Rev. Charles Fels	The Very Rev. John Ross
The Rev. Jill Fisher	The Rev. Perry Scruggs
The Rev. Scherry Fouke	The Rev. SuZanne Seavey
The Rev. David Garrett	The Rev. Gigi Sharp
The Rev. Canon Barbara Anne Harper	The Rev. Jim Sharp
The Rev. Robert Henley	The Rev. Canon SuzeAnne Silla
The Rev. Howard Hess	The Rev. Suzanne Smitherman
The Rev. Mark Holland	The Rev. Henry Swann
The Rev. Harry Howard	The Rev. John Talbird
The Rev. Hunter Huckabay	The Rev. Gordon Temple
The Rev. Lee Humphreys	The Rev. Lori Thompson
The Rev. Peggy Hunt	The Rt. Rev. Charles vonRosenberg
The Rev. Hal Hutchison	The Rev. James Wallace
The Rev. Carolyn Isley	The Rev. Ann Weeks
The Rev. Wendie Jekabsons	The Rev. Brad Weeks
The Rev. Hugh Jones	The Rev. Canon Pat Wingo
The Rev. Craig Kallio	The Rt. Rev. George D. Young, III
The Rev. Peter Kanyi	The Rev. Maggie Zeller

## **NON-PAROCHIAL**

The Rev. Michelle W. Bolt  
The Rt. Rev. Brian L. Cole  
The Rev. Billy Daniel  
The Rev. Matt Farr  
The Rev. Chris Harpster  
The Rev. Kim Hobby  
The Rev. Maribeth Manoff  
The Rev. Canon Joseph R. Woodfin

## **LICENSE TO OFFICIATE**

The Rev. Andy Anderson, *Diocese of Alabama*  
The Rev. Sara Ardrey-Graves, *Diocese of North Carolina*  
The Rev. Sister Egeria Mark, CSM, *Diocese of New Hampshire*  
The Rev. Reed Carlson, *Diocese of Massachusetts*  
The Rev. Valerie Carnes, *Diocese of Milwaukee*  
The Rev. John Chawarika, *Diocese of Harare, Province of Central Africa*  
The Rev. Tom Day, *Diocese of Texas*  
The Rev. Laura Henrik, *Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*\*  
The Rev. Deborah Jackson, *Diocese of Florida*  
The Rev. Scott Lee, *Diocese of Connecticut*  
The Rev. Art Mack, *Diocese of Michigan*  
The Rev. Robert MacSwain, *Diocese of East Carolina*  
The Rev. Bob Miller, *Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*  
The Rev. Joel Morsch, *Diocese of Springfield*  
The Rev. Louis "Smokey" Oats, *Diocese of North Carolina*  
The Rev. Roy Pollina, *Diocese of Southwest Virginia*  
The Rev. John "Rocki" Proffitt, *Diocese of Arkansas*  
The Rev. Lynn Ronaldi, *Diocese of Virginia*\*  
The Rev. Jurinesz Shadrach, *Diocese of Colombo, Church of Ceylon*  
The Rev. Johnnette Shane, *Diocese of Chicago*  
The Rev. Molly Short, *Diocese of Tennessee*  
The Rev. Canon Michael Spear-Jones, *Diocese of Southern Virginia*  
The Rev. Marc Strong, *Diocese of Chicago*  
The Rev. Bo Townsend, *Diocese of Texas*  
The Rev. Harrison West, *Diocese of Connecticut*

\*Actively serving parishes in our Diocese



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## Letters Dimissory and Clerical Formation

### Letters Dimissory

#### SENT

The Rev. Robert Hartmans, *to the Diocese of Western North Carolina*  
The Rev. Derrick Hill, *to the Diocese of Alabama*  
The Rev. Ryan Lockwood, *to the Diocese of the Great Lakes*  
The Rev. Carol Westpfahl, *to the Diocese of Olympia*  
The Rev. Bradford Whitaker, *deposed from ordained ministry*

#### RECEIVED

The Very Rev. Chris Epperson, *from the Diocese of Southern Virginia*  
The Rev. Sarah Hess, *from the Diocese of Maine*  
The Rev. Walton Jones, *from the Diocese of Mississippi*  
The Rev. Eric Long, *from the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia*

### Clerical Formation

#### POSTULANTS FOR THE PRIESTHOOD

Kelsey Aebi, *Sewanee*  
Kilby Allen, *Sewanee*  
Bonnie Cassida, *Bexley-Seabury*  
Sam Haisten, *Sewanee*  
Tyler Jeffrey, *Sewanee*  
Katelyn Printz, *Virginia Theological Seminary*  
Alexander Thomas, *Seminary of the Southwest*

#### CANDIDATES

Adam Ballintoy, *Sewanee*  
Whitney Kimball Coe, *Berkeley Divinity School at Yale*  
Heather Holland, *Bexley-Seabury*



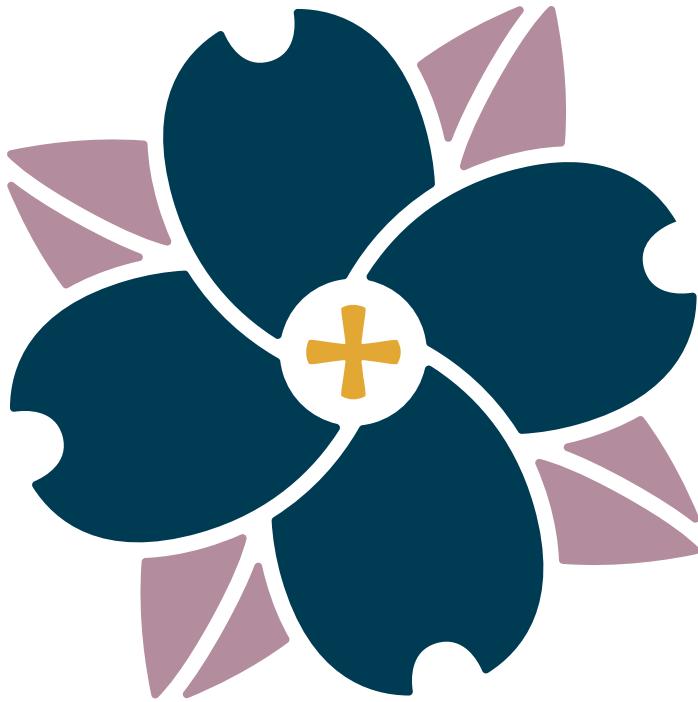
# Equip Disciples

THE 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE

## Clergy Changes February 9, 2025 to February 20, 2026

CLERGY NAME	FROM	TO
The Rev. Ed Bacon	Interim Rector St. Paul's, Chattanooga	Interim Rector, All Saints', Birmingham, AL
The Rev. Harold Bahlow	Retired	Deceased
The Rev. Amy Bradley	Rector St. Andrew's, Maryville	Nonparochial
The Rev. Becky Bridges, PhD	Incumbent St. Aidan's, Toronto, ON	Priest-in-Charge Resurrection, Loudon
The Rev. Kelly Coffelt	Newly Ordained	Deacon St. Peter's, Chattanooga
The Rev. Mark Colbert	Newly Ordained	Curate Good Samaritan, Knoxville
The Very Rev. Chris Epperson	Rector Bruton Parish, Williamsburg, VA	Dean and University Chaplain All Saints' Chapel, Sewanee
The Very Rev. Chris Hackett	Associate Priest St. John's Cathedral, Knoxville	Dean St. John's Cathedral, Knoxville
The Rev. Laura Henrik	Interim Chaplain Episcopal School, Knoxville	Chaplain Episcopal School, Knoxville
The Rev. Sarah Hess	Curate St. Alban's, Cape Elizabeth, ME	Priest-in-Charge Thankful Memorial, Chattanooga
The Rev. Kim Hobby	Rector Christ, South Pittsburg	Nonparochial
The Rev. Tim Holder, DMin	Priest-in-Charge St. Thomas, Elizabethton	Retired
The Rev. Mark Holland	Interim Rector St. Timothy's, Signal Mountain	Retired
The Rev. Walton Jones	Rector Resurrection, Starkville, MS	Rector Good Shepherd, Lookout Mountain

The Rev. Eric Long	Rector St. John's, Roanoke, VA	Rector St. Paul's, Chattanooga
The Rev. Maribeth Manoff	Priest-in-Charge Nativity, Ft. Oglethorpe	Nonparochial
The Rev. Joe Minarik	Extended Supply Christ, Rugby	Retired
The Rev. Smokey Oats	Vicar St. Joseph the Carpenter, Sevierville	Retired
The Rev. Rebecca Paluzzi	Newly Ordained	Curate St. John's, Johnson City
The Rev. Casey Perkins	Deacon Grace, Chattanooga	Deacon Christ, Chattanooga
The Rev. RJ Powell	Chaplain Tyson House, Knoxville	Priest-in-Charge St. Andrew's, Maryville
The Rev. Dorrie Pratt	Rector Good Shepherd, Knoxville	Retired
The Rev. Lynn Ronaldi	Extended Supply Holy Cross, Hixson	Interim Christ, South Pittsburg
The Rev. Ragan Schriver, PsyD	Received Orders from Roman Catholic Church	Vicar St. Luke's, Knoxville
The Rev. Gigi Sharp	Interim All Saints', Morristown	Retired
The Rev. Michele Simmons	Locum Tenens Good Shepherd, Lookout Mountain	Associate Rector Good Shepherd, Lookout Mountain
The Rev. Carol Westpfahl	Vicar Trinity, Gatlinburg	Canon for Formation St. Mark's Cathedral, Seattle, WA



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**Reports: Diocesan Ministries  
and Programs**



## Report from the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee of the Diocese of East Tennessee is composed of six members, three clergy and three lay, elected at the Annual Convention of the Diocese to serve three-year terms. The primary functions of the Standing Committee is to serve as a council of advice to the Bishop, to consent for persons seeking Ordination to Holy Orders, and to approve the sale or encumbrance of any real property held by the Diocese (including any parish, community, school, or other organization that may hold property in trust for the Diocese), to consent to the election of bishops throughout the Episcopal Church. In the absence of the Bishop, the Standing Committee acts as the ecclesiastical authority for the Diocese.

The members of the Standing Committee in 2025 were: Mr. Douglas Overbey, St. Andrew's, Maryville, President; Ms. Abigail Haase, Church of the Holy Cross, Hixson, Vice-President; the Rev. RJ Powell, Tyson House Ministry, Knoxville, Clerk; the Rev. April Berends, Grace, Chattanooga; the Rev. Kenneth Saunders, St. James, Greeneville; and Mr. Daniel Ellis, Church of the Ascension, Knoxville.

### **Episcopal Elections and Consents**

During 2025 and to date, the Standing Committee consented to the following elections:

- The Rev. Angel Roberto Rivera Rodriguez, Bishop of Cuba
- The Very Rev. Robert Price, Bishop Coadjutor of Dallas
- The Rev. Dr. Gregory William Mitamura Kimura, Bishop of San Joaquin
- The Very Rev. Shay Craig, Bishop of North Dakota
- The Rev. Sarah Kathleen Fisher, Bishop of East Carolina
- The Very Rev. Miguelina Howell, Bishop of Western Massachusetts
- The Rev. Dr. Antonio Gallardo, Bishop of Los Angeles

### **Consents to Holy Orders & Ordinations: Clergy Status Changes**

During 2025, the Standing Committee consented to the following for admission as candidates for Holy Orders and/or for Ordination:

- Rebecca Abts Wright (candidacy, transitional diaconate, priesthood)
- Adam Ballintoy (candidacy, transitional diaconate)
- Heather Holland (candidacy, transitional diaconate)
- Ryan Lockwood (priesthood)
- Whitney Kimball Coe (candidacy, transitional diaconate)
- Rebecca Paluzzi (priesthood)
- Mark Colbert (priesthood)

## **Parish and Other Real Property Matters**

- Approved Closure and Deconsecration of St. Columba's, Bristol, as a Parish
- Approved Sale of 0.01 acre of former St. Columba's, Bristol, property to adjoining landowner
- Approved Sale of former St. Thaddaeus, Chattanooga, property to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Knoxville
- Approved lease agreement between Christ Church, Chattanooga, and Partnership for Families, Children, and Adults
- Approved Sale of two acres of Church of the Good Samaritan, Knoxville, property
- Approved request of St. Peter's School, Chattanooga, to encumber its property to secure a line credit for the expansion of its facilities
- Notified of testamentary bequest of improved real property to St. Francis of Assisi, Ooltewah, and potential plans to sale same

## **Council of Advice**

The Standing Committee fulfilled its canonical role as the Bishop's Council of Advice, meeting with Bishop Cole on several occasions. These discussions included a wide variety of issues and matters concerning the Diocese, including welcoming and meeting with new members of the Diocesan staff, being updated regularly on clergy transitions and vacancies within the Diocese, and participating along with members of the Commission on Ministry and Examining Chaplains in a summit regarding the discernment process for ordination.

## **Closing**

On a personal note, I am deeply grateful for the privilege of serving on the Standing Committee alongside my fellow members over the past three years. It has been an honor to work with colleagues who have approached this ministry with such faithfulness, dedication, and generosity of spirit. I am also thankful to Bishop Cole for his willingness to meet with us, to listen, and to engage in thoughtful conversation around the matters before us. His receptiveness to our concerns and perspectives has enriched our work and strengthened our shared sense of purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Overbey, *President of the Standing Committee*  
*Parishioner, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Maryville*

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## Strategic Visioning Report to the 42nd Convention of the Diocese of East Tennessee

Over the course of the past 18 months, we have collectively (as a diocese) been discerning who we are and what we are called to be. We have, together, attempted to discern what the Spirit of God is calling us to become in East Tennessee. In order to facilitate that process on a diocesan level and facilitate us naming what we've been hearing in that discernment process, Bishop Cole assembled a Strategic Visioning Team, which was comprised of the Bishop, Emily Kirk, Rev. April Berends, Rev. Amy Morehous, Beverly Hurley Hill, and me.

We were asked to develop a clear document that can be used as a guide post for our shared ministry. We wanted clear and honest statements regarding our diocesan identify, purpose, and unique gifts. Put differently, the goal was to answer to questions: (1) Who are we? and (2) What is God calling us to do?

In order to answer those questions with integrity, we carried out a wide range of listening sessions. We wanted broad participation and buy-in, given our presumption that the diocese is not the same as the Diocesan House. We are collectively the Episcopal Diocese of East Tennessee. The specific purpose of the listening sessions was to engage as many members of the diocese in holy conversations as was possible, hearing from a vast number of experiences and perspectives.

We engaged diocesan decision makers, the South East's Clericus, the Standing Committee, the diocesan youth, parish delegations at last year's convention, the middle region's Clericus, leaders of ministry with children, the Upper East's Clericus, and the Diocesan staff with a series of targeted questions: (1) What is the primary role of the diocese? (2) What makes the Diocese of East Tennessee distinctive, unique, or different? (3) What spiritual or ethical challenge do you think the diocese of East Tennessee is facing and should attend to? (4) What is your dream for the diocese of East Tennessee over the next three to five years?

These listening sessions provided a massive data set. We heard from over 500 participants from more than 45 communities and groups across the diocese. The Strategic Visioning team then read and re-read the discussions, summarized findings, noted trends, and attempted to find throughlines and commonalities across these various demographics. We used those findings to create the following mission and vision statements:

**Vision Statement:** We seek to be a healthy system of Christ-centered communities marked by prayerful practices, spiritual maturity, faithful action, and joyful worship.

**Mission Statement:** To equip disciples of Jesus Christ to grow and be grounded in the reconciling witness of the Gospel, for the love of our neighbors and all of God's creation.

Following the creation of these statements, the same group assembled both an annotated study guide (to clarify exactly what was intended with each phrase) and a correlated Bible study. The hope for this was twofold. First was to help clarify to parishes, parishioners, and diocesan clergy exactly what came together in the process. Second was to enable groups to have some structured conversation around these new mission and vision statements, especially in relation to the Church's Biblical witness.

These statements are supposed to be so much more than boilerplate language for the diocesan website. Bishop Cole has been quite clear that he wants to use these mission and vision statements to guide the values, priorities, and work of the Diocese moving forward. This is, after all, a summary of what we—the many people, of various orders and places, who Diocese of East Tennessee—have collectively stated and heard.

In order to facilitate that implementation, we have (in conjunction with Bishop and Council) decided to frame this and the three following diocesan conventions around some of the phrases in these statements. This year's theme is "Equip Disciples." The 2027 theme is "Grow & Be Grounded," the 2028 theme is "Love of Neighbor," and the 2029 theme is "Love of Creation."

Many thanks to all the important voices who helped contribute to the listening sessions.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Zac Settle, PhD



## Safe Church Report

The Episcopal Diocese of East Tennessee is committed to welcoming and protecting everyone in our parishes and diocesan life. The Safe Church, Safe Communities courses teach us how exploitation and harassment occur, the awareness we need to prevent such occurrences, and how to respond should an incident of exploitation or harassment occur.

The General Convention of The Episcopal Church adopted various resolutions calling for Model Policy and training updates beginning in 2015, 2018, and 2022. In 2017, The Episcopal Church updated the Model Policies for the Protection of Children and Youth and added a Model Policy for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults. This led to the Safe Church, Safe Communities course being launched in 2021 through Praesidium Academy online. Each diocese was then tasked with adopting and adapting the new policies to meet local protocols. The Diocese of East Tennessee adopted the updated policies and began offering online training courses starting January 1, 2023.

2025 was spent auditing policies and practices. In-person trainings continued and were updated to allow participants to complete Category F or A instead of only having the 4-hour option. In the diocesan office, work was done to build a regional trainer program and to prepare for parish audits to begin in 2026. The regional trainer program will make in-person training even more accessible. This is being piloted in the Chattanooga area and will be rolled out to the other regions once ready. Parish audits will serve as a yearly check-in and will include the acknowledgement of policy that vestries are already required to adopt each spring. This will help parish and diocesan leadership examine where our communities are succeeding and where there is room for growth. This will also be an opportunity for parishes to report back on where they might feel they are struggling and need extra attention.

As of January 19, 2026, 100% of diocesan staff, 85% of active clergy, and 65% of lay convention delegates are up to date with the Safe Church, Safe Communities training requirements. Multiple opportunities are available for delegates to complete their training before February 21st, so these numbers are expected to increase before the business session of Convention is convened.

In 2026, we expect to see the continued growth of the in-person training program through the introduction of Regional Trainers. This means more in-person sessions may be offered throughout the year, making the program even more accessible.

Additionally, a new Safe Church Audit will be introduced. This will take the place of the Annual Adoption form and provide a better perspective of how we can continue to grow the Safe Church program in our parishes and the diocese. The audit will serve as a yearly check-in and will include the acknowledgement of policy that vestries are already required to adopt each spring. This will help leadership identify successes and growth opportunities and will provide parishes with an opportunity to report where they might be struggling and need extra attention. Parish leadership will receive more information if they have not already.

2026 will also see many people go through the re-certification process. Currently, this consists of repeating the same classes as before.

If parishes have questions about any of these initiatives, please contact the diocesan office.

Respectfully submitted, Emily Kirk, *Parish Support Specialist*



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## Report from the Carbon Neutral Task Force

In 2024, this Convention passed a resolution requesting that Bishop & Council establish a task force to provide coordination and communication for pursuing a goal of carbon net neutrality by 2030. The Resolution was initiated as a result of Resolution A087, passed by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church in 2022. The Resolution also directed the task force to report yearly to the Diocesan Convention on its progress towards developing information, resources, and guidance on the steps to pursue carbon net neutrality, on the progress made by congregations and diocesan organizations and ministries to develop facility needs assessments, and on any further recommendations to the Diocese regarding reducing facility energy use and increasing facility energy efficiency.

The current Carbon Neutral Task Force members are Jessica Posey-Dowty, St. Michael's, Kingsport; Br. Andrew Morehead, Diocese; Courtney Shea, Church of the Good Shepherd, Knoxville; Courtney Manrod, St. Stephens, Oak Ridge; Kyle Lewis, St. Elizabeth's, Farragut; and Cynthia Coe, St. Elizabeth's, Farragut. We have an email address for the Task Force: [carbonneutraltf@dioet.org](mailto:carbonneutraltf@dioet.org).

We will lead off with our most recent accomplishment: On Friday, February 20, Bruce Glanville of Energy Home Basics, conducted a “blower test” at the Diocesan House to demonstrate how this technique can assist with identifying areas of energy loss in a building. Hope that you joined us for the demonstration!

The Carbon Neutral section of the Diocesan website provides resources for parishes seeking to understand and control their carbon footprint.

In 2025, our accomplishments included the following:

- a. Added a questionnaire to the 2025 Convention booklet.
- b. Held a Zoom seminar on March 25, which addressed how to get started or to continue on an energy efficiency pathway at a church facility and the TVA incentives available to small businesses. The DIOET website includes the resources developed for the seminar.
- c. Reviewed the responses in the Parochial Reports to the Carbon Neutrality question.
- d. Added questions to upcoming Supplemental Parochial Reports, which will allow calculation of carbon footprint. We ask all parishes to participate in this so that we can begin our calculations.
- e. Br. Andrew gave a November presentation on calculating the carbon footprint for the Diocesan House and for the purchase of carbon credits.
- f. Updates on Diocesan Solar—see DIOET website for video.
- g. Blower test demonstration, described above.

Looking ahead, we hope to co-sponsor a workshop on energy efficiency with other concerned partners, produce a short video about the blower test conducted on February 20, and share case studies from parishes who are taking steps on the path to carbon neutrality.

Respectfully submitted,

Courtney Shea  
*Chair, Carbon Neutral Task Force*

## Formation & Lay Ministry Report to Diocesan Annual Convention #42

This past year has been one of generative work in spiritual formation and lay ministry across the Diocese of East Tennessee. As we look toward the future, we are grateful for the deepened infrastructure supporting the formation journeys of lay leaders and for the expanded programming inviting all the baptized into contemplative discipleship.

### The School for Contemplation & Discipleship

The School for Contemplation & Discipleship has emerged as our diocesan home for formation rooted in contemplative practice. Its mission is to cultivate contemplative practices and spiritual disciplines that awaken and deepen baptismal identity, and to support the formation of lay leaders called to ministry in their parishes and communities.

In its first year, the School offered original programming designed to invite people into deeper encounter with God and with themselves. *BREATHE Day Retreats*, parish-based encounters designed to open space for contemplative renewal, was offered at Thankful Memorial Episcopal Church in Chattanooga. *The Sacred Ordinary*, launched during Epiphany on our [DioET Circle platform](#), introduced participants to the practice of centering prayer, anchoring contemplative formation in the rhythms of the church year. These offerings were complemented by the *Rooted & Ready* program, facilitated in partnership with the Rev. Claire Brown, to provide formation and community for those facilitating adult formation groups. A new dimension of community has emerged through our DioET Circle groups established for the School, the Rooted & Ready program, and the Lay Preaching network, creating vessels for ongoing conversation and mutual encouragement.

The School's presence is anchored in its new website, [thescd.org](http://thescd.org), where contemplative resources including Field Guides for Lectio Divina and Centering Prayer are freely accessible. Looking forward, the School will offer *Merton's Kentucky: A Contemplative Retreat*, a pilgrimage to Gethsemani Abbey, with additional programming in development by the Rev. Casey Perkins centered on labyrinths as tools for contemplative prayer.

### Licensed Lay Ministries

The Diocese of East Tennessee licenses lay ministers for Lay Preacher, Catechist, Evangelist, Eucharistic Visitor, and offers a new certificate in Pastoral Care. These licenses recognize God's call of lay members to particular ministries in service of their parishes and the broader church.

This year has been marked by substantial work to strengthen our processes for licensing, license renewal, and formation. Revisions to initial licensure and renewal processes have been completed, as have revisions to the formation curriculum for licensed lay ministries. The Rev. Mandy Lippe and Dr. Freida Herron serve as mentors for the formation of lay preachers, while Canon Emily Bruner Doane supports formation cohorts for all other lay ministries.

## **Formation Partnerships**

The Diocese has intentionally developed partnerships with established organizations that bring expertise and resources to our work of formation. Our partnership with Bexley-Seabury Seminary continues to mature with the launch of a bespoke discernment course this summer, with LLM formation cohorts beginning fall 2026. All cohort members engage with foundational courses in *Baptismal Living, Engaging in God's Word*, and *Theology & Ethics*, with pathways diverging for specific ministry focus courses.

The Episcopal Preaching Foundation (EPF) offers vital partnership for Lay Preacher formation. Those preparing for Lay Preacher licensure move into diocesan cohorts facilitated by a EPF-trained clergy and lay person team who have been trained in and implement the EPF Lay Preaching Curriculum. Twelve lay preachers from our diocese attended the inaugural gathering of lay preachers in October. Additional opportunities for continuing education will be offered throughout the year.

Education for Ministry brings together small communities of 6-12 participants for deep theological reflection and spiritual formation through shared study and group engagement. Marking fifty years of ministry in 2025, EfM introduced a new digital platform (Pathwright) and launched a new one-year wide angle view of EfM. In June 2025, mentors gathered at the Diocesan House—both in person and via Zoom—to discuss program developments and strengthen their collaborative leadership. Eleven EfM communities continue to meet throughout East Tennessee each day of the week except Fridays, offering multiple formats: in-person gatherings, virtual meetings via Zoom, or hybrid sessions that integrate both approaches.

The diocese continues its partnership with FORMA, an organization dedicated to Christian formation in the life of faith. Monthly meetings with FORMA leadership ensure ongoing alignment with diocesan formation priorities. Additionally, the diocese makes available free of charge access to the Church Next library of adult formation courses for both groups and individuals. The diocese has established a dedicated page on the diocesan website to highlight Church Next offerings for adult formation, making these resources more visible and accessible to parishes seeking formation support.

Respectfully submitted,

Canon Emily Bruner Doane  
*Canon for Formation & Lay Ministry*



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## Grace Point Report to the 42nd Annual Convention



Grace Point Camp & Retreat Center is pleased to share that we had a wonderful and successful 2025 summer season. This past summer, 326 campers participated in our camp programs, experiencing a vibrant community of worship, fellowship, and outdoor adventure. Over the course of the year, we served a total of 2,305 people through camps, retreats, and special events. We are grateful for the continued support that makes this ministry possible.

In addition to summer camp, Grace Point experienced a strong retreat season, welcoming 39 groups to the Retreat Village and other facilities. These groups represented a wide range of ministries and gatherings, including vestry retreats, youth groups, parish weekends, weddings, and clergy retreats. We continue to hear from participants how restorative and meaningful their time at Grace Point has been, and we are encouraged by the diverse ways individuals and communities are making use of the space.

We are still actively working to pay down the loan from the Retreat Village project and remain optimistic about completing this effort in the near future. Looking ahead, we are beginning early discussions about remodeling the Manley House to ensure it continues to serve the needs of guests and programs in the years to come.

As always, we are grateful for the ongoing prayers and support of the Diocese. Grace Point remains committed to providing a welcoming and transformative place for formation, retreat, and renewal. With continued support, we hope to further improve our facilities, expand our programs, and strengthen our ministry to young people and adults across the Diocese and beyond.

Blessings,

The Rev. Brad Jones  
*Executive Director, Grace Point Camp & Retreat Center*



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## Report from the Archives

The maintenance of the diocesan archives is one of the diverse responsibilities of the office of communications. Beginning this past year, we have taken full advantage of our new network attached storage system by adopting a “digital first” work environment for business records. This has greatly reduced the amount of paper use and temporary document storage in the diocesan archives.

This year, we welcome two persons to the diocesan archives. Ben Gouffon, who also serves as the administrator of Tyson House, has joined the diocesan staff as our part-time Archives & Communications Assistant. Ben’s primary responsibility is to continue the maintenance and digitization of the archives. Joining him is Anne Hawkins, a volunteer from St. John’s Cathedral. Anne will also assist with archives and diocesan house projects. Many thanks to this incredible duo for the work they have already done this year.

We have also received a gift of two unique books from Mr. Ed Smith: a copy of the Diocese of Tennessee’s 1879 convention journal and a copy of *History of the Church in the Diocese of Tennessee* by Rev. Arthur Howard Noll, originally publishing in 1899. Should you wish to visit the archives, make sure to see these interesting books!

With the closure of St. Columba’s, Bristol, we were able to take in their records and find a new home for the recently renovated Hook and Hastings organ at First Presbyterian Church, Bristol.

The Commission on Religion in Appalachia (CORA) records mentioned in last year’s report have been donated to The University of Kentucky Archives, which holds the primary collection of CORA records. Our records help complete their holdings as Bishop Sanders was the vice-chair of CORA for many years.

Lastly, I would like to reiterate last year’s notice that two resolutions at General Convention were passed regarding the Constitution of The Episcopal Church and the Book of Common Prayer. Please see [resolutions A071 and A072](#) in the journal of the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church.

Should your parish have questions about archival work or should you be interested in volunteering, interning, or completing a practicum in our archives, please feel free to reach out to Bro. Andrew Morehead, OC, at [amorehead@dioet.org](mailto:amorehead@dioet.org) or at 865-966-2110.

Respectfully submitted,

Bro. Andrew Aelred Morehead, OC  
*Missioner for Communications and Evangelism*



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## Diocesan Youth Ministry Report to Convention 2026

### Mission and Purpose

The mission of ETNyouth is to build community where the youth of the Diocese experience the unconditional love of Christ and feel safe to be their most authentic selves. We aim to teach our youth how to form healthy relationships and be active participants in community. We also provide space for our youth to explore their own understanding of faith to nurture spiritual development and empower them to become leaders in the church. Strong diocesan youth ministry harbors more active youth involvement in parishes and long-term engagement in the church.

### Approach

We accomplish these goals by offering weekend retreats, mission trips, regional gatherings, outings, and collaborating with Grace Point summer camp. We provide fun opportunities where youth feel welcomed in an unintimidating setting that allows them to build relationships with their peers and gradually open up to exploring what it means to be an Episcopalian and a follower of Christ.

### Year in Review

Over the past year, we have sustained a vibrant diocesan youth community through retreats, regional gatherings, and a mission trip. We spent time assessing our programs and implementing new practices and infrastructure to keep our programs and community viable long term.

In August of 2025, we launched our new Diocesan Youth Council (DYC). This council is made up of high school students and adults from around the diocese who are actively involved in our diocesan youth programs. This year we have six adults and 11 youth who have demonstrated their ability to lead and make mature decisions. This group met for a day-retreat in September to assess our current programs, plan out the schedule for the upcoming year, and envision new youth events. We also meet regularly on Zoom to debrief retreats, pick youth leadership for retreats, and discuss any concerns in the community.

Since last year's convention, we have held six ETNyouth retreats at Grace Point. Happening #87, which is our retreat for high school students to explore their faith through talks and small group, was scheduled for the end of February last year. We had a large number of youth who signed up to serve on team, but only a couple of first-time participants, so we pivoted and turned the weekend into a leadership development retreat for the 33 youth who attended. Happening #88 was in November 2025 and had 44 youth attend.

New Beginnings is our middle school retreat that follows the same structure as Happening. New Beginnings #8 was held in April of 2025 and had 50 youth attend. By the time of convention, New Beginnings #9 will have happened over the weekend of February 6-8. At the time that I am writing this, we have 52 youth registered.

In September of 2025, we held a diocesan youth confirmation retreat led by the Revs. Kat Chappell and Zac Settle. This was a new retreat designed to offer a confirmation crash course to youth who either cannot make the time commitment to a semester-long confirmation class or are from a church that lacks the numbers or resources to offer their youth a confirmation class. We had 10 youth from six different parishes attend.

This past month, over MLK Day weekend in January, we held our second annual Winter Camp. Winter Camp is structured similar to a Grace Point summer camp session and is designed to be a laid-back retreat where the youth have a chance to be in community, have fun, and reset at the start of a new semester. The weekend was led by 13 college students who either serve on Grace Point summer staff or work with one of our youth programs around the diocese during the year. We had 34 high school youth attend Winter Camp.

In July of 2025, we took a group of 11 youth and 3 adults on a mission trip to Western North Carolina to help with Hurricane Helene recovery efforts. We stayed at Lake Logan, the camp and conference center for the Diocese of Western North Carolina. We restored campsites and built picnic tables at Lake Logan. Part of the group also spent two days working on Habitat for Humanity houses in Asheville. We raised over \$11,000 from gracious donors around the diocese to support this trip, and the remaining funds were donated to Lake Logan for their continued recovery efforts.

Our regional youth ministries in Knoxville and Chattanooga have been active this past year. KnoxEY is a weekly youth group held at Church of the Ascension that is designed to serve all youth in the Knoxville area. This year, they have a rotating team of nine college students that help lead their weekly gatherings, and they have consistently seen 12-15 youth attending each week. ChattEY is a periodic gathering where all of the Chattanooga youth groups gather for a few large events a year. This school year, they kicked things off with roller skating in August and then held their annual gingerbread house competition in December. Both of these events were attended by 50-60 youth.

I want to thank all of our youth leaders and chaperones who make these events possible. I want to thank all of the youth for being active members of this community. I also want to thank all of the parents who support your children being involved in these programs. We are looking forward to another great year ahead!

Respectfully Submitted,

Jesse Adkins

*Missioner for Youth and Young Adults*



## Tyson House Student Foundation



The Tyson House community continues to faithfully serve the students of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, offering a welcoming space for formation, fellowship, and worship. This past year has brought both transitions and growth as we have deepened our commitment to accompaniment with college students and young adults in their spiritual journeys.

The fall semester brought several noteworthy initiatives. In partnership with the UTK Wesley Foundation, our students participated in a fall retreat at Camp Wesley Woods in Townsend, strengthening ecumenical bonds and providing space for spiritual renewal. We launched a structured academic-year catechism program offering students deeper engagement with Christian faith and Anglican tradition. On the Feast of St. Francis, our community participated in a greenway cleanup with Keep Knoxville Beautiful and the UTK Catholic campus ministry, connecting our faith to care for God's creation.

The weekly rhythm of life at Tyson House centers on prayer, study, fellowship, and service. Sunday evening worship features Eucharist and dinner at 6:04 PM, with music provided by Br. Andrew Morehead from the Diocesan staff. The House remains open for daily prayer and fellowship, with weekly Bible study and catechism gatherings. Smokey's Pantry, our FISH Hospitality food pantry, continues to serve students and community members in need, while regular AA meetings connect us to the wider community.

At the end of the fall semester, Fr. RJ Powell, who served at Tyson House for the last ten years, received a call to serve as Priest-in-Charge at St. Andrew's in Maryville. We are grateful for his dedicated service and vision for Tyson House. Fr. Sean McEwan, Curate at St. Andrew's, now serves as our interim chaplain, while Mr. Ben Gouffon serves as our new Lay Chaplain and Ministry Coordinator.

This ministry thrives because of faithful financial support from the diocese, those who prepare Sunday meals, collect food for Smokey's Pantry, serve on our Council, and most especially, our students embodying Christ to one another and to this campus. We remain grateful for the Diocese's investment in the formation of young adults.

Faithfully submitted on behalf of the Tyson House community,

The Rev. RJ Powell & the Rev. Sean McEwen



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## Report from Project Canterbury



Project Canterbury had a great 2025! We started the semester talking about St Julian of Norwich, where we learned about her writings and impact on the church in medieval England. We practiced Lectio Divina through the lens of the wise Saint. Project Canterbury helped in assisting Shrove Tuesday, which is always a fantastic time for students to get together, enjoy pancakes, and reflect on ourselves ahead of Lent. Towards the end of March, we partnered in a great service project with ETN youth, where we made hygiene kits for local shelters. At the end of the Spring 2025 semester, we came together to meet at Father Will's house. This is always a great end to the semester as we prepare for summer break. We picked up after summer break with a tea and cake party, welcoming new and current students alike.

This semester, our meetings focused more on how to read the Bible, whether in a prayer/contemplative way, a political way, or for use in daily life. We also discussed the history of the Bible and learned different methods of interpreting scripture. To finalize the year of 2025, we gathered at Father Will's house once again, where we held a gingerbread making competition and wished each other all a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

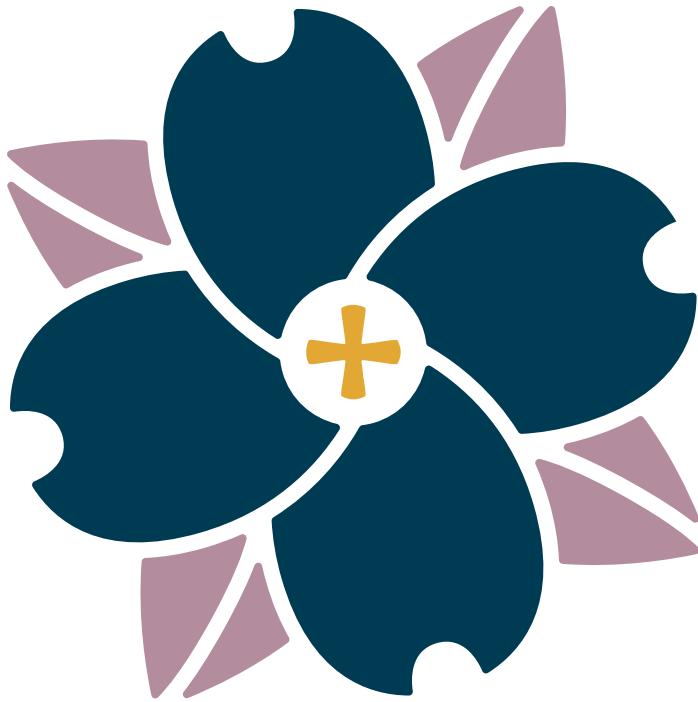


Every week we meet for Project Canterbury, we share a meal. These are often made by one of the students, Father Will, or by a local restaurant. We eat, laugh, and learn about the church and how to grow in our own faith. We end the night in compline in our chapel. Here, we turn off all the lights and pray by the light of handheld candles. We chant hymns, reflect on the words of the prayer, and prepare ourselves for the week ahead with God. 2025 was a successful year for Project Canterbury, creating life-lasting memories with each other, and with great excitement for the year 2026 to come.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Will Levanway  
*Chaplain, Project Canterbury*

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# Equip Disciples

THE 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE

**Reports: Diocesan Partners  
and Non-Profit Organizations**



## Episcopal Church Women of East Tennessee

### 2025 Officer Installation

In the spring of 2025, the officers for the Episcopal Church Women of the East Tennessee Diocese were installed by the Right Reverend Bishop Brian Cole. The 2025 officers and board members included:

- Karen McKinney, President, Church of the Ascension
- Nancy Bosson, Treasurer, Church of the Ascension
- Pat Rutenberg, Secretary, Church of the Ascension
- Mary Lee-Baer, Molly Tucker Fund, St. Paul's, Athens
- Ginger Jacocks, Church Periodical Club, St. Paul's, Kingsport
- Elizabeth Colonna, Missions, Good Samaritan
- Arline Caliger, By-Laws, St. Francis of Assisi, Ooltewah
- Venice Peek, Historian, Church of the Ascension
- Mardel Fehrenbach, Altar Guild, Church of the Ascension

### Mollie Tucker Scholarship Recipient

This year, the Mollie Tucker Scholarship was awarded to Gabbie Marie Yoder of St. Paul's, Athens.

### Diocesan Women's Day Conference

The Diocesan Women's Day Conference took place at the Church of the Ascension on Saturday, October 25. The event was sponsored by the Diocese ECW, and all women of the Diocese were invited to participate.

### Program Highlights

The day began with a worship service. Andrea Steward, of St. Andrew's, Maryville, delivered the homily, and Bishop Brian Cole served as Celebrant.

The central focus of the conference was the screening of the film *The Philadelphia Eleven*. This was followed by a meaningful and robust discussion led The Rev. Amy Morehous, Church of the Ascension, and other female clergy who attended the meeting.

The conference concluded with lunch and a business meeting.

More than 60 people attended the conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen McKinney  
*President of East Tennessee ECW*



## Report on Companion Diocese Relationship with Kondoa

Our relationship with our companion diocese in Kondoa, Tanzania continues to flourish in many ways.

A group of 5 pilgrims, the first all female group, were in Tanzania from May 21-June 6.

Initially, the group stayed in Arusha for some cultural outings including Shanga (a Lutheran school for disabled students), the Tanzanian cultural center, and shopping the Tanzanian way.

The group visited villages with Bishop Given and Reverend Lilian Gaula's (Baba and Mama). Some parish churches have a physical building that is completed (mud bricks, cut outs for windows and a metal roof), some just a structure of bricks forming a building, waiting for a roof. In one village, we worshiped under an acacia tree which felt like nature's cathedral.

Following our time in the villages worshipping with these precious people, the group went on safari to the Ngorongoro crater as well as the Serengeti plains. The Serengeti was a change from previous pilgrimages and will be revisited again since it was amazing!! ([Here is Margaret's story we previously published.](#))

In this densely populated Muslim area, it is important to note that a group of Caucasian women coming on their own with a female priest speaks loudly in a culture where women, as a whole, do not have a voice. The women in Kondoa are the backbone of the Anglican Church and it gave them strength to see other women coming to be with them and encourage them.

Our spiritual leader was a Lutheran pastor. She baptized 247 people in the 5 villages as well as helping with a wedding and several confirmations. Throughout the pilgrimage, Lutherans and Anglicans intertwined in worshiping our God. A special part of this pilgrimage included a joint Anglican/Lutheran service during our visit to Dodoma, the nations' capital.

East Tennessee's diocese continues to work with the Anglican diocese of Rochester, England in helping to support this area of Tanzania which is extremely poor. As a diocese, we are channeling our funds to support the schools and women's empowerment program which have been established by Baba and Mama.

The St Peter and St Paul Primary School has become a highly regarded school and is thriving.

The secondary school in Chemba is scheduled to open January 15, 2026 after many delays caused by changes required by the Tanzanian government.

The Women's empowerment program helps young women develop skills in reading, sewing, cooking, entrepreneurial concepts as well as developing confidence in themselves. It is a 5 month program where they leave their families to live in Kondoa and build these skills.

Our relationship with Kondoa has been brought to the attention of The Episcopal Church Missionary Center to help encourage other dioceses to reach out to others to share the love of Christ. ([Link](#))

The next pilgrimage will be set once the recent political unrest in Tanzania is settled. Kondoa itself, as well as safari sites, are all safe. It is the places we must travel through that have experienced some unrest. Tanzania has always been a safe country in which to travel. These latest events are quite disheartening!

For any questions, or interest in future pilgrimages, please contact Elizabeth Colonna, 423-552-1425, [elizabethacolonna@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethacolonna@gmail.com)

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Colonna



## Metropolitan Ministries (MetMin) 2026: Sowing Seeds of Hope

As we turn the clock on 2025 everyone here at Metropolitan Ministries would like to thank you for your generosity and prayers. Your support has made a significant difference in the lives of our neighbors, our volunteers, and our staff. As we begin a new year, we ask for your continued support in prayers, giving, and volunteering. Over the past three years, MetMin has worked through our strategic plan to further develop our core services since opening the Impact Hub. Our 4 pillars of service are home stabilization, homeless outreach, supportive services, and rehab, recovery, and housing.

Home Stabilization—to serve as an emergency assistance to prevent home eviction and utility disruption for the well-being of children and adults. MetMin provided \$396,743 in financial assistance, serving 1592 households that impacted 1592 adults and 2035 children

Homeless Outreach Shelter and Housing—to provide a direct pathway from homelessness to stable housing through emergency shelter, housing forward, and relocation services. MetMin provided \$124,134 in financial assistance, serving 404 Households that impacted 680 adults and 413 children.

Supportive Services—to provide wrap around services from supplemental nutrition, transportation, personal hygiene, clothing, showers, SNAP applications, etc.

MetMin provided \$160,593 with providing 20,301 impacting 4810 Households impacting 6795 adults and 3709 children.

Rehab, Recovery and Housing—to provide safe and secure pathways to seek treatment for addiction by building bridge gaps with shelter, treatment facilities, transportation, and sober living. MetMin provided \$15,257 in financial assistance, serving 91 households impacting 91 adults. MetMin assumed responsibility for the STEPTN program in 2025. The syringe exchange program focuses on the reduction of spreading communicable diseases, provides testing, education, and guidance, and builds trust through relationships that provide pathways to rehabilitation and recovery. Individuals who participate in this program are 60% more likely to seek treatment. Over 4000 individuals throughout Southeast Tennessee participate in this program.

Special Services provided to our guests include: The MetMin Chapel is held each Sunday at 11:30 and is followed by a hot meal. MetMin has begun our prayer team to lift up our guests, their needs, and requests. In 2025 we held Thanksgiving for 80 individuals here at the Impact Hub and on Christmas Day we had Christmas service followed by brunch for 70 individuals. Additionally over 70 children with toys, and 25 households with Thanksgiving meals. MetMin is able to do these special services through strategic and caring partnerships with churches, organizations, and individuals who believe in serving with hope, love, and grace.

Looking forward to 2026, MetMin is finalizing the purchase of the adjacent property for expansion, especially with an intention for housing. MetMin is working with a team to help place shelters at churches for those who are ready to begin transitional housing and supportive services with the support of a church congregation.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Bill Rush, *CEO*



# Equip Disciples

THE 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE

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## Report of Sewanee Trustees to the 2026 Diocesan Convention

The University of the South is the only institution of higher education founded and governed by the dioceses of the Episcopal Church. The bishops, clergy, and laity of more than two-dozen dioceses form the core of the University's Board of Trustees.

### How does the Diocese of East Tennessee engage with the University?

The most recent University reports indicate that 105 students from the Diocese of East Tennessee are enrolled in the College, with an additional 4 Seminarians from the Diocese. Seventy-six School of Theology alumni serve in the Diocese, and there are 11 EFM groups. Financial support from our Diocese helps Sewanee meet its students' financial needs. 100% of seminarians who apply for financial aid receive support.

### How do your Trustees serve the Board and the University?

Your Trustees serve on the following committees: Agenda Committee (Anna Graham), Church Support & Relations (The Rev. Matthew Farr), Enrollment & Student Success (Anna Graham, Chair), Orientation & Trustee Development (Anna Graham), and Resolutions & Memorials Committee (Sarah Johnson). Bishop Brian Cole also serves as a Regent. The Regents of the University establish, maintain, and govern the University in all ways other than those powers that are expressly vested in the Board of Trustees.

### An update on the School of Theology

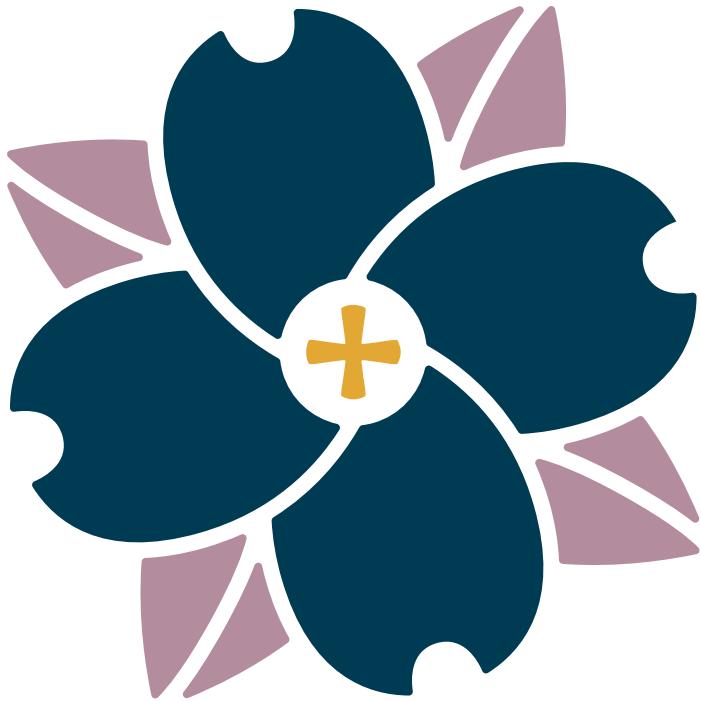
For the 2025-2026 academic year, the Seminary's residential enrollment stands at 67 students, an increase of 9 from 2024 and 21 from 2023. Advanced degree enrollment increased to 80, up 4 from 2024. The Summa Theological Debate Society welcomed 39 campers, up 14 from 2024 and 30 from 2023. Webinars and livestreamed lectures on the online lectures and webinars portal, launched last year, continue to offer theological education and free content to the Episcopal Church. The School of Theology now provides two new certificate programs. A Certificate of Advanced Study (with options in Liturgy or Preaching) is for Master of Divinity (M.Div.) clergy seeking advanced coursework alongside students in the Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) program. The Certificate of Ministerial Studies, offered in a hybrid format, provides additional education and theological training for ordained clergy trained in local settings who wish to strengthen their professional and spiritual formation. Coursework includes study in liturgy, preaching, and parish administration. The completed renovation of Hamilton Hall has helped drive enrollment and interaction among students, faculty, and staff through upgraded classrooms, faculty offices in one location, and a shared space for gathering. Hiring Rev. Sara Ardrey-Graves as the new associate dean for spiritual and professional development signals a shift away from a focus solely on community life. This new role allows the associate dean to be more directly involved in shaping co-curricular educational experiences for seminarians preparing for both lay and ordained ministry.

### An update on the College of Arts & Sciences

The 2025-2026 year marks several milestones in enrollment efforts. Fall 2025 welcomed 457 first-year students and 22 transfer students, bringing the total to 479 new students at the Mountain.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anna Graham (2028), Sarah Johnson (2027), Lay Trustees,  
and The Rev. Matthew Farr (2026), Clergy Trustee

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# Equip Disciples

THE 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE

**Financial Reports**



# Equip Disciples

THE 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE

## 2026 Proposed Budget

	2025 Budget	Proposed adjustments	2026 Proposed Budget
Voluntary Commitments	\$2,026,314.00	\$ 40,837.00	\$2,067,151.00
E.E.C. Support (Episcopate)	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 8,021.00	\$ 133,021.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 23,000.00	\$ 2,833.00	\$ 25,833.00
Trust Fund Income (Seminarians)	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 2,445.00	\$ 14,445.00
Prior Year Voluntary Commitments	\$ -	\$ -	
Interest Earned	\$ -	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 80,000.00
<b>Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,186,314.00</b>	<b>\$134,136.00</b>	<b>\$2,320,450.00</b>
Release of Reserve Funds	\$ 39,526.00	\$ 6,110.15	\$ 45,636.15
Carryover from Formation & Lay Ministry		\$ 27,000.00	\$ 27,000.00
Curacy Funds	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 75,000.00
<b>Fund Transfers</b>	<b>\$ 84,526.00</b>	<b>\$ 63,110.15</b>	<b>\$ 147,636.15</b>
<b>Total Funds Available</b>	<b>\$2,270,840.00</b>	<b>\$197,246.15</b>	<b>\$2,468,086.15</b>

<b>Diocesan Ministry</b>			
Bishop & Council	\$ 1,440.00	\$ 1,110.00	\$ 2,550.00
Safe Church Training	\$ 900.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 1,500.00
Community Partnerships	\$ 12,000.00	\$ -	\$ 12,000.00
Peace/Anti Racism	\$ -	\$ 7,250.00	\$ 7,250.00
Stewardship	\$ 3,500.00	\$ -	\$ 3,500.00
Spiritual Formation - EFM	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 3,775.00	\$ 5,525.00
Spiritual Formation - Cursillo	\$ 4,525.00	\$ (4,525.00)	\$ -
Grace Point Camp & Retreat Center	\$ 127,621.00	\$ (10,925.00)	\$ 116,696.00
Episcopal Institutions	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00
Liturgical Commission	\$ 750.00	\$ -	\$ 750.00
Office of Communications	\$ 117,991.00	\$ (1,715.00)	\$ 116,276.00
Evangelism	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Archives	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Standing Committee	\$ 4,500.00	\$ -	\$ 4,500.00
<b>Total Diocesan Ministries</b>	<b>\$ 276,477.00</b>	<b>\$ 570.00</b>	<b>\$ 277,047.00</b>

<b>Mission Within the Diocese</b>			
Support for Mission and Lay Ministry	\$ 125,188.00	\$ 8,637.00	\$ 133,825.00
School for Contemplation & Discipleship	\$ -	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
Becoming Beloved Community	\$ 15,000.00	\$ (2,000.00)	\$ 13,000.00
Support for Camp Scholarships	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00
Support for Congregations	\$ 51,610.00	\$ (6,610.00)	\$ 45,000.00
Support for Campus	\$ 184,355.00	\$ 245.00	\$ 184,600.00
Support for Youth	\$ 126,868.00	\$ 9,759.00	\$ 136,627.00
Support for Young Adults	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 225.00	\$ 9,225.00
<b>Total Mission Within the Diocese</b>	<b>\$ 516,021.00</b>	<b>\$ 35,256.00</b>	<b>\$ 551,277.00</b>



# Equip Disciples

THE 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE

## 2026 Proposed Budget

<b>Mission Beyond the Diocese</b>				
	Sustainable Development Goals	\$ 15,832.00	\$(15,832.00)	\$ -
	TEC Pledge	\$ 273,356.00	\$ 16,317.55	\$ 289,673.55
	General Convention Deputies	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00
	ECW	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
	General Convention Bishop	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00
	Lambeth Conference	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
	Province IV Synod Pledge	\$ 2,187.00	\$ 313.00	\$ 2,500.00
	Synod Deputies	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00
<b>Total Mission Beyond the Diocese</b>		<b>\$ 309,375.00</b>	<b>\$ 798.55</b>	<b>\$ 310,173.55</b>

<b>Clergy Support</b>				
	Clergy Transition	\$ 176,777.00	\$ 10,119.00	\$ 186,896.00
	Clergy Professional Development	\$ 5,500.00	\$ -	\$ 5,500.00
	Commission on Ministry	\$ 248,000.00	\$ 60,095.60	\$ 308,095.60
	Medical Insurance - Retired	\$ 14,160.00	\$ 960.00	\$ 15,120.00
	Sabbatical Scholarship	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
	Support of Clergy & Family	\$ 7,700.00	\$ (2,700.00)	\$ 5,000.00
	Support for Retired Clergy	\$ 500.00	\$ 40.00	\$ 540.00
<b>Total Clergy Support</b>		<b>\$ 453,637.00</b>	<b>\$ 68,514.60</b>	<b>\$ 522,151.60</b>

<b>Support for the Episcopate</b>				
	Bishop's Ministry	\$ 183,962.00	\$ 55,170.00	\$ 239,132.00
	Support for the Bishop's Ministry	\$ 80,000.00	\$ -	\$ 80,000.00
	Bishop Search & Transition Reserve	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00
	Office Salaries	\$ 280,258.00	\$ 16,226.00	\$ 296,484.00
	Staff Continuing Education	\$ 10,000.00	\$ (2,000.00)	\$ 8,000.00
<b>Total Support for the Episcopate</b>		<b>\$ 564,220.00</b>	<b>\$ 69,396.00</b>	<b>\$ 633,616.00</b>

<b>Fixed Costs for Ministry</b>				
	Accounting & Audit	\$ 37,000.00	\$(12,000.00)	\$ 25,000.00
	Convention & Journal	\$ 14,050.00	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 18,450.00
	Diocesan House Expenses	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 30,550.00	\$ 95,550.00
	Maintenance Reserve	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00
	General Insurance	\$ 25,060.00	\$ (6,560.00)	\$ 18,500.00
	Workers Comp	\$ -	\$ 6,321.00	\$ 6,321.00
<b>Total Fixed Costs for Ministry</b>		<b>\$ 151,110.00</b>	<b>\$ 22,711.00</b>	<b>\$ 173,821.00</b>

<b>Contingencies/Reserves</b>				
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,270,840.00</b>	<b>\$197,246.15</b>	<b>\$2,468,086.15</b>
	<b>Funds Remaining</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>



# Equip Disciples

THE 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE

## Budget vs. Actual 2025 (unaudited)

		Actual To Date	Annual Budget	Over/(Under)	Variance
Voluntary Commitments		\$2,099,300.55	\$2,026,314.00	\$ 72,986.55	104%
E.E.C. Support (Episcopate)		\$ 125,241.77	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 241.77	100%
Miscellaneous		\$ 22,039.73	\$ 23,000.00	\$ (960.27)	96%
Trust Fund Income (Seminarians)		\$ 13,600.79	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 1,600.79	113%
Prior Year Voluntary Commitments		\$ 10,093.25	\$ -	\$ 10,093.25	
Interest Earned		\$ 67,655.88	\$ -	\$ 67,655.88	
<b>Revenue</b>		<b>\$2,337,931.97</b>	<b>\$2,186,314.00</b>	<b>\$151,617.97</b>	<b>107%</b>
Release of Reserve Funds		\$ -	\$ 39,526.00	\$ (39,526.00)	0%
Curacy Funds		\$ -	\$ 45,000.00	\$ (45,000.00)	0%
<b>Fund Transfers</b>			\$ 84,526.00	\$ (84,526.00)	0%
<b>Total Funds Available</b>		<b>\$2,337,931.97</b>	<b>\$2,270,840.00</b>	<b>\$ 67,091.97</b>	<b>103%</b>

<b>Diocesan Ministry</b>					
Bishop & Council		\$ 2,816.12	\$ 1,440.00	\$ 1,376.12	196%
Community Partnerships		\$ 13,131.64	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 1,131.64	109%
Stewardship		\$ 1,250.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ (2,250.00)	36%
Christian Spiritual Formation		\$ 1,899.99	\$ 6,275.00	\$ (4,375.01)	30%
Grace Point Camp & Retreat Center		\$ 110,778.18	\$ 127,621.00	\$ (16,842.82)	87%
Episcopal Institutions		\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ (1,500.00)	0%
Liturgical Commission		\$ -	\$ 750.00	\$ (750.00)	0%
Office of Communications		\$ 110,906.55	\$ 117,991.00	\$ (7,084.45)	94%
Standing Committee		\$ 2,062.31	\$ 4,500.00	\$ (2,437.69)	46%
<b>Total Diocesan Ministries</b>		<b>\$ 242,844.79</b>	<b>\$ 275,577.00</b>	<b>\$ (32,732.21)</b>	<b>88%</b>

<b>Mission Within the Diocese</b>					
Support for Mission and Lay Ministry		\$ 123,413.31	\$ 125,188.00	\$ (1,774.69)	99%
Becoming Beloved Community		\$ 12,268.65	\$ 15,000.00	\$ (2,731.35)	82%
Support for Camp Scholarships		\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -	100%
Support for Congregations		\$ 41,570.00	\$ 51,610.00	\$ (10,040.00)	81%
Support for Campus		\$ 146,147.13	\$ 184,355.00	\$ (38,207.87)	79%
Support for Youth		\$ 126,142.57	\$ 127,768.00	\$ (1,625.43)	99%
Support for Young Adults		\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ -	100%
<b>Total Mission Within the Diocese</b>		<b>\$ 462,541.66</b>	<b>\$ 516,921.00</b>	<b>\$ (54,379.34)</b>	<b>89%</b>



# Equip Disciples

THE 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE

## Budget vs. Actual 2025 (unaudited)

<b>Mission Beyond the Diocese</b>					
	Sustainable Development Goals	\$ 16,250.00	\$ 15,832.00	\$ 418.00	103%
	TEC Pledge	\$ 273,345.93	\$ 273,356.00	\$ (10.07)	100%
	General Convention Deputies	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	100%
	ECW	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (1,000.00)	0%
	General Convention Bishop	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	100%
	Lambeth Conference	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	100%
	Province IV Synod Pledge	\$ 2,404.00	\$ 2,187.00	\$ 217.00	110%
	Synod Deputies	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	100%
<b>Total Mission Beyond the Diocese</b>		<b>\$ 308,999.93</b>	<b>\$ 309,375.00</b>	<b>\$ (375.07)</b>	<b>100%</b>

<b>Clergy Support</b>					
	Clergy Transition	\$ 180,249.54	\$ 176,777.00	\$ 3,472.54	102%
	Clergy Professional Development	\$ 2,338.38	\$ 5,500.00	\$ (3,161.62)	43%
	Commission on Ministry	\$ 256,523.69	\$ 248,000.00	\$ 8,523.69	103%
	Medical Insurance - Retired	\$ 12,980.00	\$ 14,160.00	\$ (1,180.00)	92%
	Sabbatical Scholarship	\$ 5,140.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 4,140.00	514%
	Support of Clergy & Family	\$ -	\$ 7,700.00	\$ (7,700.00)	0%
	Support for Retired Clergy	\$ 523.30	\$ 500.00	\$ 23.30	105%
<b>Total Clergy Support</b>		<b>\$ 457,754.91</b>	<b>\$ 453,637.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,117.91</b>	<b>101%</b>

<b>Support for the Episcopate</b>					
	Bishop's Ministry	\$ 183,934.16	\$ 183,962.00	\$ (27.84)	100%
	Support for the Bishop's Ministry	\$ 87,004.79	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 7,004.79	109%
	Bishop Search & Transition Reserve	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	100%
	Office Salaries	\$ 301,151.54	\$ 280,258.00	\$ 20,893.54	107%
	Staff Continuing Education	\$ 3,686.81	\$ 10,000.00	\$ (6,313.19)	37%
<b>Total Support for the Episcopate</b>		<b>\$ 585,777.30</b>	<b>\$ 564,220.00</b>	<b>\$ 21,557.30</b>	<b>104%</b>

<b>Fixed Costs for Ministry</b>					
	Accounting & Audit	\$ 29,666.67	\$ 37,000.00	\$ (7,333.33)	80%
	Debt Forgiveness	\$ 62,140.60	\$ -	\$ 62,140.60	
	Convention & Journal	\$ 2,595.72	\$ 14,050.00	\$ (11,454.28)	18%
	Diocesan House Expenses	\$ 95,844.92	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 30,844.92	147%
	General Insurance	\$ 26,768.07	\$ 25,060.00	\$ 1,708.07	107%
	Maintenance Reserve	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	100%
<b>Total Fixed Costs for Ministry</b>		<b>\$ 227,015.98</b>	<b>\$ 151,110.00</b>	<b>\$ 75,905.98</b>	<b>150%</b>

<b>Contingencies/Reserves</b>					
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$ 2,284,934.57	\$ 2,270,840.00	\$ 14,094.57	101%
	<b>Funds Remaining</b>	\$ 52,997.40	\$ -	\$ 52,997.40	



# Equip Disciples

THE 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE

## December 2025 Fund Balances (unaudited)

FUND BALANCES				Gain/Loss Amount
Operating Fund			\$1,585,700.90	
Bishop & Council Resource Fund			\$ 452,210.10	
Opportunity Fund (See Detail Below)			\$2,543,333.00	\$126,422.36
Mission Growth Fund			\$266,559.82	
Transit Fund			\$3,666,199.20	
Z.C. Patten Trust			\$29,662.49	
St. Thomas Fund			\$152,462.90	
St. Barnabas Fund			\$0.00	
Kondoa Donation Fund			\$0.00	
Sophia'S Kondoa Knowledge Fund			\$3,036.86	\$2,350.00
			\$8,699,165.27	\$128,772.36
<b>TRUST FUNDS: (Restricted)</b>				
1. Grace Point Scholarship Fund			\$ 75,872.08	\$1,451.22
2. Innovative Community Ministry Fund			\$ 639,690.18	\$12,235.34
3. W.S. Keese Memorial Fund			\$ 52,777.04	\$558.97
4. Goldie Mayfield Fund			\$ 209,342.16	\$4,004.09
5. Middle East Mission Fund			\$ 44,798.02	\$856.85
6. Miscellaneous Income Fund			\$ 244,897.30	\$2,593.71
7. East Tennessee Missionary Fund			\$ 35,758.34	\$378.71
8. Robinson Fund			\$ 3,650,632.04	\$38,664.04
9. Bishop Sanders Scholarship Fund			\$ 213,190.90	\$1,971.60
10. St. Mark'S Lee Scholarship			\$ 23,752.15	\$454.31
11. Stevenson Memorial Book Fund			\$ 5,388.03	\$57.07
12. Theological Education Fund			\$ 338,279.93	\$3,582.85
13. Vim Costa Rica			\$ 128,141.73	\$1,357.16
14. Vim Francophone			\$ 218,522.45	\$2,314.38
15. John B. Robertson Fund - Vanguard			\$ 166,364.82	\$3,959.59
			\$ 6,047,407.17	\$74,439.89

OPPORTUNITY FUND LOANS as of 08/31/2025	State	Date	Rate	Term	Original Loan Amount	Balance	Last Payment Date	2025 Cumulative Principal	2025 Cumulative Interest
All Saint's School, Morristown		Jul-22	2.93%	15	\$ 402,000.00	\$ 267,245.78	11/21/25	\$ 24,478.74	\$ 8,205.23
Ascension, Knoxville		Dec-17	2.93%	15	\$ 299,880.93	\$ 177,033.46	12/1/25	\$ 40,160.93	\$ 6,952.02
Grace Point Camp & Conference Ctr		Jul-22	3.33%	15	\$ 1,100,000.00	\$ 105,241.13	12/3/25	\$ 69,444.26	\$ 4,763.50
Grace, Chattanooga		Nov-10	2.93%	15	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	PAID IN FULL	\$ 5,053.24	\$ 86.61
St. James, Greeneville		Apr-22	2.93%	15	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 11,919.61	12/26/25	\$ 6,548.02	\$ 3,029.39
St. James, Knoxville		Dec-22	3.35%	15	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 419,888.92	12/15/25	\$ 31,074.66	\$ 14,914.69
St Joseph the Carpenter, Sevierville		Dec-22	4.37%	15	\$ 72,000.00	\$ 60,779.80	12/8/25	\$ 4,115.31	\$ 2,983.08
St. Peter's, Chattanooga		Jun-11	2.93%	15	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 43,544.41	12/1/25	\$ 39,319.39	\$ 1,899.41
St. Paul, Seymour		Dec-22	4.37%	15	\$ 29,750.00	\$ 12,216.38	12/18/25	\$ 7,008.67	\$ 700.76
St. Paul, Kingsport		Sep-16	2.93%	15	\$ 31,793.00	\$ 15,581.12	12/16/25	\$ 2,171.23	\$ 491.13
St. Paul, Kingsport - HVAC		Apr-21	2.93%	15	\$ 34,015.78	\$ 23,193.73	12/16/25	\$ 2,445.23	\$ 718.54
<b>Total Loans</b>					<b>\$ 3,169,439.71</b>	<b>\$ 1,136,644.34</b>		<b>\$ 231,819.68</b>	<b>\$ 44,744.36</b>



# Equip Disciples

THE 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE

## 2025 & 2026 Voluntary Ask Report

Parish	City	2025			2026		
		Ask	Commitment	Over/(under)	Ask	Commitment	Over/(under)
All Saints Episcopal Church	Morristown	38,808	38,808	0	43,240	43,240	0
Christ Episcopal Church	South Pittsburg	13,945	11,810	(2,135)	11,669	0	(11,669)
Christ Episcopal Church	Chattanooga	25,446	25,446	(0)	20,250	20,250	0
Christ Episcopal Church	Rugby	4,076	4,080	4	4,252	4,252	0
Church of the Annunciation	Newport	6,689	6,689	(0)	7,194	7,194	(0)
Church of the Good Samaritan	Knoxville	80,216	80,216	(0)	80,226	80,226	0
Church of the Good Shepherd	Knoxville	29,166	29,166	(0)	31,225	31,225	0
Church of the Good Shepherd	Lookout Mountain	202,026	202,026	(0)	201,144	201,144	0
Episcopal Church of the Ascension	Knoxville	171,156	171,156	(0)	163,577	163,577	0
Episcopal Church of the Nativity	Fort Oglethorpe	22,474	22,474	0	18,938	18,938	0
Episcopal Church of the Resurrection	Loudon	34,873	30,000	(4,873)	33,476	33,476	0
Grace Episcopal Church	Chattanooga	77,335	77,335	(0)	67,207	67,207	0
Holy Cross Episcopal Church*	Hixson	0	0	0	26,859	16,500	(10,359)
St Alban's Episcopal Church **	Hixson	13,073	0	(13,073)	0	0	0
St Andrew's Episcopal Church	Maryville	43,377	43,377	0	44,144	44,144	0
St Andrew's Episcopal Church	Harriman	10,770	10,770	0	11,260	11,260	0
St Clare's Episcopal Church	LaFollette	1,868	1,868	(0)	2,749	2,749	0
St Columba's Episcopal Church***	Bristol	4,237	0	(4,237)	0	0	0
St Elizabeth's Episcopal Church	Knoxville	56,106	56,106	(0)	57,807	57,807	0
St Francis Episcopal Church	Norris	21,016	21,016	(0)	25,701	25,701	0
St Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church	Ooltewah	33,570	33,570	(0)	28,427	28,427	0
St James Episcopal Church	Greeneville	23,118	23,118	(0)	24,548	24,548	0
St James Episcopal Church	Knoxville	64,243	56,000	(8,243)	65,414	65,414	0
St John the Baptist	Battle Creek	1,063	1,063	(0)	1,284	1,284	0
St John's Episcopal Cathedral	Knoxville	322,747	322,747	(0)	336,055	336,055	0
St John's Episcopal Church	Johnson City	48,414	48,414	(0)	53,256	53,256	0
St Joseph the Carpenter Episcopal Church	Sevierville	7,577	7,577	0	8,975	8,975	0
St Luke's Episcopal Church	Knoxville	5,235	5,235	0	6,812	6,812	0
St Luke's Episcopal Church	Cleveland	67,785	67,785	0	80,986	71,174	(9,812)
St Mark's Episcopal Church	Copperhill	6,579	6,579	(0)	7,494	7,494	0
St Martin of Tours Episcopal Church	Chattanooga	38,487	38,487	0	36,232	36,232	0
St Mary the Virgin***	Jonesborough	1,190	600	(590)	0	0	0
St Michael's Episcopal Church	Kingsport	16,135	16,135	0	15,548	15,548	0
St Paul Episcopal Church	Seymour	3,359	3,500	141	3,737	3,800	63
St Paul's Episcopal Church	Athens	30,498	30,498	(0)	34,651	33,400	(1,251)
St Paul's Episcopal Church	Kingsport	53,535	53,535	(0)	47,892	47,892	(0)
St Paul's Episcopal Church	Chattanooga	221,870	221,870	0	239,719	239,719	0
St Peter's Episcopal Church	Chattanooga	63,987	63,987	(0)	64,534	64,534	0
St Raphael's Episcopal Church	Crossville	16,499	16,499	0	16,967	16,967	0
St Stephen's Episcopal Church	Oak Ridge	68,536	68,536	0	64,185	64,185	0
St Thaddaeus Episcopal Church	Chattanooga	10,175	16,500	6,325	0	0	0
St Thomas Church	Elizabethton	3,109	3,109	0	5,017	3,108	(1,909)
St Timothy's Episcopal Church	Signal Mountain	122,867	122,867	(0)	133,644	125,767	(7,877)
Thankful Memorial Episcopal Church	Chattanooga	13,270	13,270	1	14,976	14,976	0
Trinity Episcopal Church	Gatlinburg	10,237	10,000	(237)	7,390	7,390	0
<b>Totals</b>		<b>2,110,744</b>	<b>2,083,824</b>	<b>(26,920)</b>	<b>2,148,660</b>	<b>2,105,848</b>	<b>(42,813)</b>

\* Holy Cross, Hixson, did not start their voluntary commitment until 2026.

\*\* St Alban's, Hixson, and St. Thaddaeus, Chattanooga, merged as Holy Cross and thus there is not a 2026 commitment for these lines.

\*\*\* St Columba's, Bristol, and St Mary the Virgin closed in 2025, thus there is not a 2026 commitment.



# Equip Disciples

THE 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE

## 2022-2024 Parish Audit Report

Parishes	Audit Year			Parochial Report
	2022	2023	2024	2024
1 Athens, St. Paul's	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2 Battle Creek, St. John the Baptist				Yes
3 Bristol, St. Columba's	Yes	Yes		NA
4 Chattanooga, Christ Church	Yes	Yes		Yes
5 Chattanooga, Grace Church				Yes
6 Chattanooga, St. Martin's	Yes	Yes		Yes
7 Chattanooga, St. Paul's	Yes	Yes		Yes
8 Chattanooga, St. Peter's	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
9 Chattanooga, St. Thaddeus	Yes			Yes
10 Chattanooga, Thankful Memorial	Yes	Yes		Yes
11 Cleveland, St. Luke's				Yes
12 Copperhill, St. Mark's	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
13 Crossville, St. Raphael's	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
14 Elizabethton, St. Thomas'	Yes	Yes		Yes
15 Farragut, St. Elizabeth's				Yes
16 Fort Oglethorpe, Nativity				Yes
17 Gatlinburg, Trinity				Yes
18 Greeneville, St. James'	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
19 Harriman, St. Andrew's	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
20 Hixson, St. Alban's				Yes
21 Hixson, Holy Cross			Yes	NA
22 Jefferson City, St. Barnabas				NA
23 Johnson City, St. John's	Yes	Yes		Yes
24 Jonesborough, St. Mary the Virgin				Yes
25 Kingsport, St. Christopher's	Yes	Yes		NA
26 Kingsport, St. Michael's				Yes
27 Kingsport, St. Paul's	Yes	Yes		Yes
28 Kingsport, St. Timothy's	Yes	Yes		NA
29 Knoxville, Ascension	Yes	Yes		Yes
30 Knoxville, Good Samaritan	Yes	Yes		Yes
31 Knoxville, Good Shepherd	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
32 Knoxville, St. James'	Yes	Yes		Yes
33 Knoxville, St. John's Cathedral	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
34 Knoxville, St. Luke's	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
35 LaFollette, St. Clare's	Yes	Yes		Yes
36 Lookout Mountain, Good Shepherd	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
37 Loudon, Resurrection	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
38 Maryville, St. Andrew's	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
39 Morristown, All Saints'	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
40 Newport, Annunciation	Yes	Yes		Yes
41 Norris, St. Francis'	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
42 Oak Ridge, St. Stephen's				Yes
43 Ooltewah, St. Francis of Assisi				Yes
44 Rugby, Christ Church	Yes	Yes		Yes
45 Sevierville, St. Joseph the Carpenter				Yes
46 Seymour, St. Paul				Yes
47 Signal Mountain, St. Timothy's	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
48 South Pittsburg, Christ Church		Yes		Yes
49 All Saints School	Yes	Yes		NA
50 Episcopal School of Knoxville			Independent	
51 DIOET	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
52 St. Peter's School, Chattanooga		Yes	Yes	NA
53 St. Nicholas School			Independent	



## 2025 Opportunity Fund Grants

### Episcopal Diocese of East Tennessee 2025 Grants

#### **Opportunity Fund**

The yearly income from the fund is divided and made available to the Bishop and Council for grants: one-half to church expansion and one-half to social ministries. Throughout its history, the Opportunity Fund has awarded grants for **Church Expansion** in the amount of **\$2,084,595** and for **Social Ministry** in the amount of **\$1,670,264**.

- a. Church expansion grants include money for land purchases for future sites; land, buildings, and equipment for existing worshiping communities; and building and equipment needs of parishes beyond the means of the congregation.
- b. Social ministry grants include assistance to parishes and worshiping communities within the Diocese that seek support for ministries that meet basic human needs (food, shelter, and energy, as well as emotional, educational and spiritual) and those ministries that seek to affect personal and/or societal transformation through education, rehabilitation and allocation of resources according to the mission and ministry of the Church. Ministries may be separate entities but must have significant Episcopal Church involvement and their grant applications must be approved by Vestry/Council/Board of Directors of their sponsoring Diocesan organization.

Grants awarded in 2025 were as follows:

<b>Church Expansion</b>	
<b>Total Church Expansion</b>	<b>\$199,000</b>

#### **Social Ministry**

<b>Total Social Ministry</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
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#### **Innovative Community Ministry Fund**

The mission of the Innovative Community Ministry Fund (ICMF) is to stimulate, encourage and promote innovative community ministries of Episcopal parishes in the southeast region of the Diocese of East Tennessee.

Grants awarded in 2025 were:

<b>ICMF Grant award in 2024</b>	
<b>Total ICMF</b>	<b>\$0</b>



# Equip Disciples

THE 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE

## Grace Point Financial Reports: 2026 Budget

Accounts	Budget
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### Revenues

#### Usage Fees

	Camp Fee	\$117,150.00
	Lodging	\$194,600.00

#### Contributions

	Gifts	\$7,300.00
	Scholarship	\$7,000.00
	Annual Fund	\$10,000.00

#### Fund Transfers

	Grace Point Operational Support	\$18,000.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>		<b>\$354,050.00</b>

### Expenses

#### Food Service

	Summer Food Service Staff	\$9,000.00
	Camp Meals	\$28,000.00
<b>Food Service Total</b>		<b>\$37,000.00</b>

#### Lodging Expense

	Lodging (Retreat) Food	\$10,000.00
	Retreat Supplies	\$1,500.00
	Contract Cleaning	\$30,000.00
	General/Cleaning Supplies	\$3,500.00
	Equipment Purchase	\$2,500.00
	Equipment Upkeep	\$3,000.00
	Lodging Food Service	\$5,000.00
<b>Lodging Total</b>		<b>\$55,500.00</b>

#### Camps

	Dean Staff Supplies	\$100.00
	Program Supplies	\$9,000.00
	Uniforms	\$1,400.00
	Staff Training	\$2,500.00
	Grace Point Day	\$1,000.00
	Annual Fund Expense	\$500.00
<b>Outreach Camps</b>		
	Camp Jim Muir	\$1,200.00
<b>Total Camps</b>		<b>\$15,700.00</b>

#### Utilities

	Telephone	\$7,000.00
	Water & Sewer	\$15,000.00
	Electric / Propane	\$32,300.00
<b>Utilities Total</b>		<b>\$54,300.00</b>



# Equip Disciples

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EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE

## Grace Point Financial Reports: 2026 Budget

### Building & Grounds

Building Repairs & Maintenance	\$4,500.00
Water Treatment Facility Maintenance	\$14,000.00
Painting	\$500.00
Equipment Purchase	\$3,500.00
Equipment/Small Hardware	\$3,120.00
Equipment Upkeep	\$5,000.00
Grounds Upkeep	\$700.00
Garbage & Pest Control	\$8,000.00
Swimming Pool Expense	\$7,000.00
<b>Total Building &amp; Grounds</b>	<b>\$46,320.00</b>

### Vehicles / Equipment

Truck Insurance/Registration	\$1,550.00
Boat License	\$250.00
<b>Total Vehicle / Equipment</b>	<b>\$1,800.00</b>

### Gas & Lubricants

Tractor	\$900.00
Mowers/Weedeaters	\$1,000.00
Truck	\$1,000.00
Boats	\$1,000.00
<b>Total Gas &amp; Lubricants</b>	<b>\$3,900.00</b>

### General Administrative

Salaries / Program Support	\$40,000.00
Part-time Services	\$23,000.00
Continuing Education	\$5,000.00
Travel - Job Related	\$10,000.00
Hospitality	\$500.00
Publicity / Development	\$380.00
Office Equipment/ Supplies	\$800.00
Postage	\$250.00
Printing	\$600.00
Professional Services	\$5,000.00
Audit	\$6,000.00
General Insurance	\$45,000.00
Property Taxes	\$3,000.00
<b>Total General &amp; Administrative</b>	<b>\$139,530.00</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$354,050.00</b>

<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$354,050.00</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$354,050.00</b>
<b>Total Diocesan Support</b>	<b>\$18,000.00</b>



# Equip Disciples

THE 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE

## Grace Point Financial Reports: 2025 Budget vs. Actual (unaudited)

Revenues				
		2025 Budget	Actual	Percentage
Usage Fees				
	Camp Fee	\$115,000.00	\$114,377.67	99.46%
	Lodging (includes day usage)	\$185,000.00	\$239,739.84	129.59%
Contributions				
	Gifts	\$6,000.00	\$6,668.00	111.13%
	Scholarship	\$8,565.00	\$0.00	0.00%
	Annual Fund	\$10,000.00	\$12,523.89	125.24%
Fund Transfers				
	Grace Point Operational Support	\$28,000.00	\$28,000.00	100.00%
	<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$352,565.00</b>	<b>\$401,309.40</b>	113.83%

### Expenses

#### Food Service

	Food Service Staff	\$9,000.00	\$11,518.60	127.98%
	Camp Meals	\$33,000.00	\$27,876.41	84.47%
	<b>Food Service Total</b>	<b>\$42,000.00</b>	<b>\$39,395.01</b>	93.80%

#### Lodging Expense

	Lodging (Retreat) Food	\$10,000.00	\$11,809.90	118.10%
	Retreat Supplies	\$1,500.00	\$1,242.12	82.81%
	Contract Cleaning	\$30,000.00	\$57,463.57	191.55%
	General/Cleaning Supplies	\$2,600.00	\$3,605.05	138.66%
	Equipment Purchase	\$2,500.00	\$2,696.99	107.88%
	Equipment Upkeep	\$4,500.00	\$2,558.35	56.85%
	Lodging Food Service	\$5,000.00	\$6,844.75	136.89%
	<b>Lodging Total</b>	<b>\$56,100.00</b>	<b>\$86,220.73</b>	153.69%

#### Camps

	Dean Staff Supplies	\$100.00	\$0.00	0.00%
	Program Supplies	\$7,500.00	\$9,030.42	120.41%
	Uniforms	\$1,400.00	\$1,447.35	103.38%
	Staff Training	\$3,235.00	\$128.42	3.97%
	Grace Point Day	\$2,000.00	\$803.12	40.16%
Outreach Camps				
	Camp Jim Muir	\$1,400.00	\$1,150.00	82.14%
	<b>Total Camps</b>	<b>\$15,635.00</b>	<b>\$12,559.31</b>	80.33%

#### Utilities

	Telephone	\$6,000.00	\$7,392.49	123.21%
	Water & Sewer	\$11,300.00	\$14,994.54	132.70%
	Electric / Propane	\$33,400.00	\$42,126.28	126.13%
	<b>Utilities Total</b>	<b>\$50,700.00</b>	<b>\$64,513.31</b>	127.25%



# Equip Disciples

THE 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE

## Grace Point Financial Reports: 2025 Budget vs. Actual (unaudited)

### Building & Grounds

Building Repairs & Maintenance	\$6,060.00	\$1,668.73	27.54%
Water Treatment Facility Maintenance	\$11,500.00	\$14,429.00	125.47%
Painting	\$500.00	\$54.85	10.97%
Equipment Purchase	\$4,200.00	\$2,694.94	64.17%
Equipment/Small Hardware	\$3,120.00	\$1,840.21	58.98%
Equipment Upkeep	\$5,000.00	\$1,631.11	32.62%
Grounds Upkeep	\$1,300.00	\$405.24	31.17%
Garbage & Pest Control	\$12,000.00	\$7,770.19	64.75%
Swimming Pool Expense	\$6,000.00	\$6,940.92	115.68%
<b>Total Building &amp; Grounds</b>	<b>\$49,680.00</b>	<b>\$37,435.19</b>	75.35%

### Vehicles / Equipment

Truck Insurance/Registration	\$2,100.00	\$2,747.99	130.86%
Boat License	\$250.00	\$70.00	28.00%
<b>Total Vehicle / Equipment</b>	<b>\$2,350.00</b>	<b>\$2,817.99</b>	119.91%

### Gas & Lubricants

Tractor	\$1,200.00	\$371.78	30.98%
Mowers/Weedeaters	\$1,500.00	\$824.53	54.97%
Truck	\$1,100.00	\$798.57	72.60%
Boats	\$1,000.00	\$1,706.78	170.68%
<b>Total Gas &amp; Lubricants</b>	<b>\$4,800.00</b>	<b>\$3,701.66</b>	77.12%

### General Administrative

Salaries / Program Support	\$40,000.00	\$40,525.55	101.31%
Part-time Services	\$23,000.00	\$24,831.51	107.96%
Continuing Education	\$5,000.00	\$4,930.81	98.62%
Travel - Job Related	\$10,000.00	\$10,117.80	101.18%
Hospitality	\$700.00	\$430.97	61.57%
Publicity / Development	\$200.00		0.00%
Office Equipment/ Supplies	\$250.00	\$827.93	331.17%
Postage	\$250.00	\$224.00	89.60%
Printing	\$600.00	\$540.77	90.13%
Professional Services	\$1,500.00	\$9,847.65	656.51%
Audit	\$6,000.00	\$12,333.33	205.56%
General Insurance	\$41,800.00	\$32,058.25	76.69%
Property Taxes	\$2,000.00	\$3,183.00	159.15%
<b>Total General &amp; Administrative</b>	<b>\$131,300.00</b>	<b>\$139,851.57</b>	106.51%

<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$352,565.00</b>	<b>\$386,494.77</b>	109.62%
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<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$352,565.00</b>	<b>\$401,309.40</b>	113.83%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$352,565.00</b>	<b>\$386,494.77</b>	109.62%
<b>Net income</b>		<b>\$14,814.63</b>	
<b>Interest Income</b>		<b>\$1,043.28</b>	



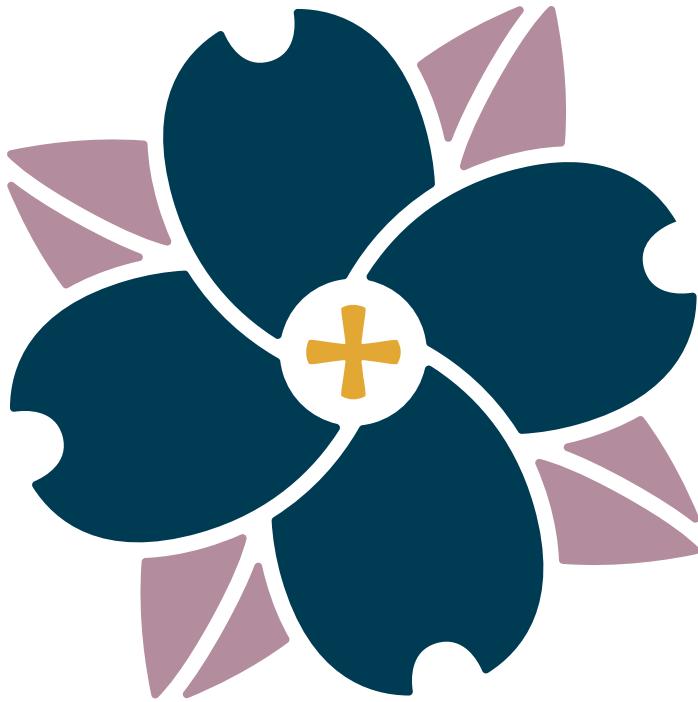
# Equip Disciples

THE 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE  
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## Grace Point Financial Reports: 2025 Balance Sheet (unaudited)

Distribution account	Total
Assets	
<b>Bank Accounts</b>	
5-100100 - GP Operating (Suntrust)	\$ -
5-10010102 GP Camp Retreat (Pinnacle)	\$ 63,731.81
5-100101 Grow in Mission (Suntrust)	\$ -
5-100115- DIOET Grow in Mission (Pinnacle)	\$ 132,014.75
<b>Total for Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$ 195,746.56</b>
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	
5-100201	\$ 500,000.00
<b>Total for Accounts Receivable</b>	<b>\$ 500,000.00</b>
<b>Other Current Assets</b>	
Episcopal Endowment Corporation	\$ -
<b>Total for Other Current Assets</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Total for Current Assets</b>	<b>\$ 695,746.56</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
5-100400- Furniture and Fixtures	\$ 105,234.88
5-100401 - Equipment Purchase	\$ 191,624.48
5-100402- Tractor	\$ 20,725.95
5-100403 - Art Barn	\$ 24,510.39
5-100404- Commons Remodel	\$ 163,556.37
5-100405- New Pool/Pavilion	\$ 584,760.80
5-100410- General Capital Maint.improvements	\$ 43,112.00
5-100420- Construction in Progress	\$ -
2022 Retreat Construction	\$ -
2022 Retreat Furnishings	\$ -
<b>Total for 2022 Retreat Construction</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
2023 Retreat Construction	\$ -
2023 Retreat Furnishings	\$ (279,448.82)
<b>Total for 2023 Retreat Construction</b>	<b>\$ (279,448.82)</b>
<b>Total for 5-100420- Construction in Progress</b>	<b>\$ (279,448.82)</b>
5-100499- Accumulated Depreciation	\$ (178,143.07)
Accumulated depreciation	\$ (365,485.54)
Retreat Village Buildings	\$3,988,551.53
Vehicles	\$ -
<b>Total for Fixed Assets</b>	<b>\$4,298,998.97</b>
<b>Total for Assets</b>	<b>\$4,994,745.53</b>

Liabilities and Equity	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Opportunity Fund Loan	\$ 100,477.64
<b>Restricted Funds</b>	
5-500400- Scholarships	\$ 48,844.84
5-500401 Jonah Massey Scholarship	\$ 1,055.00
5-800600- Retreat Village Funds	\$ 683,791.11
5-800605- Chapel Maintenance Fund	\$ 9,300.00
5-800620- Discretionary Fund	\$ 7,814.38
5-800630- Outdoor Education Grant	\$ 12.06
<b>Total for Restricted Funds</b>	<b>\$ 750,817.39</b>
<b>Total for Other Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 851,295.03</b>
<b>Total for Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 851,295.03</b>
<b>Total for Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 851,295.03</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
Opening balance equity	\$1,626,593.48
Retained Earnings	\$2,410,062.92
Net Income	\$ 106,794.10
<b>Total for Equity</b>	<b>\$4,143,450.50</b>
<b>Total for Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>\$4,994,745.53</b>



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**Additional Information**



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## Episcopal School of Knoxville Parking Map



### Parking and Entry Notes

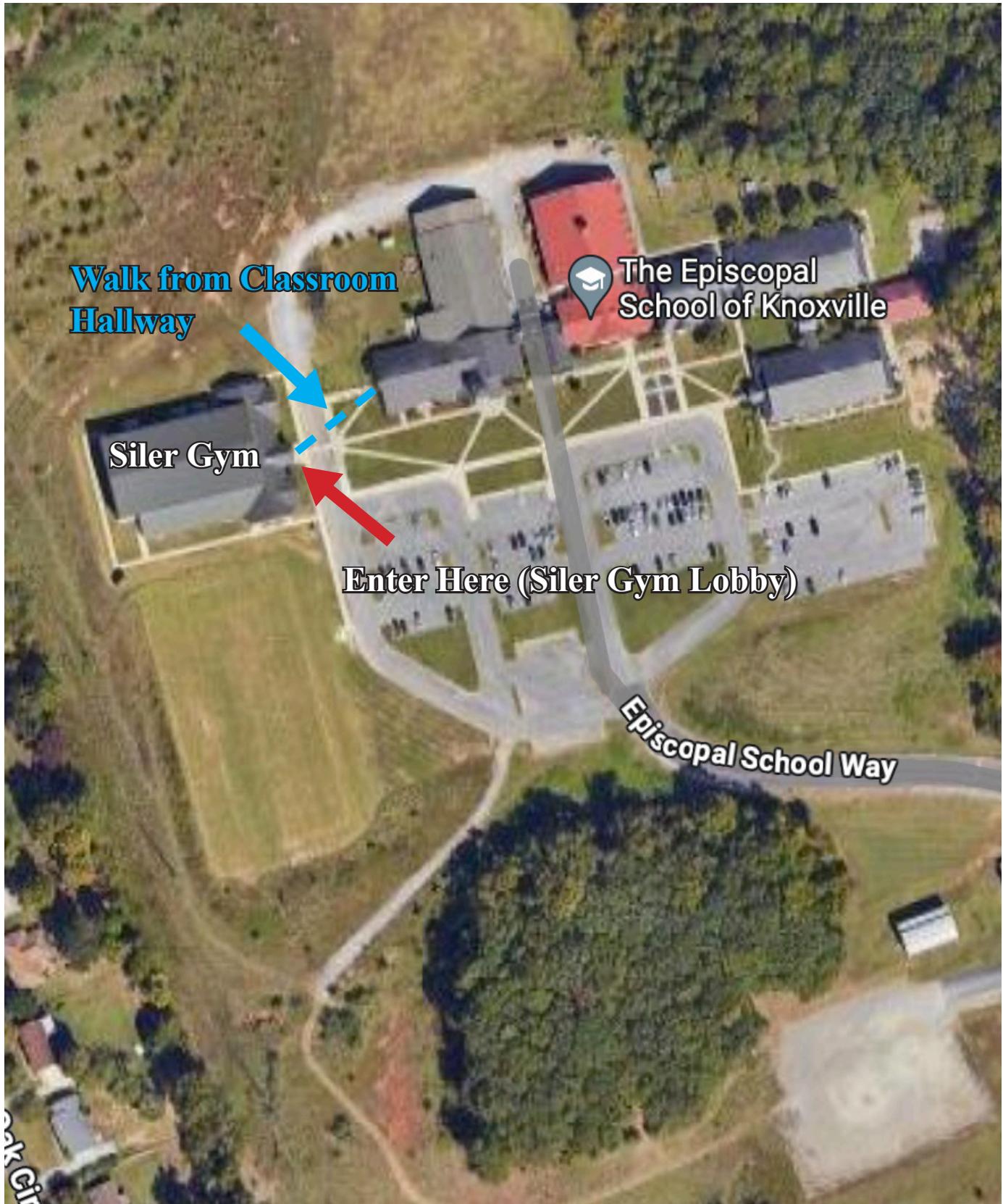
Please carpool whenever possible from your hotels. The lots marked in purple are the primary parking lots for delegates, alternates, ex-officio, and visitors. The lots marked in blue are additional parking on gravel or grass. Please be aware that Episcopal School Way ascends a steep hill for those who wish to walk from the lower lot closest to the diocesan office. Please see next page for entry points of Googe Hall and Siler Gym.



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## Episcopal School Entry Map





## Table Assignments

**As we gather for our business sessions in Siler Gymnasium, please proceed to your table as assigned by delegation. Lay and Clergy delegates as well as ex-officio members may be seated at numbered tables. Visitors and alternates may be seated at additional un-numbered tables, seats, and the bleachers.**

**Microphones will be labeled and the chair will remind delegates of speaking protocol. The microphones in the main aisle are for speaking For and Against. The microphones in front of each side of the gym are for points of order, questions, or other designated purposes.**

**Hearing assistance devices are available at the AV table in the rear of the gym.**

### In Alphabetical Order by Common Name

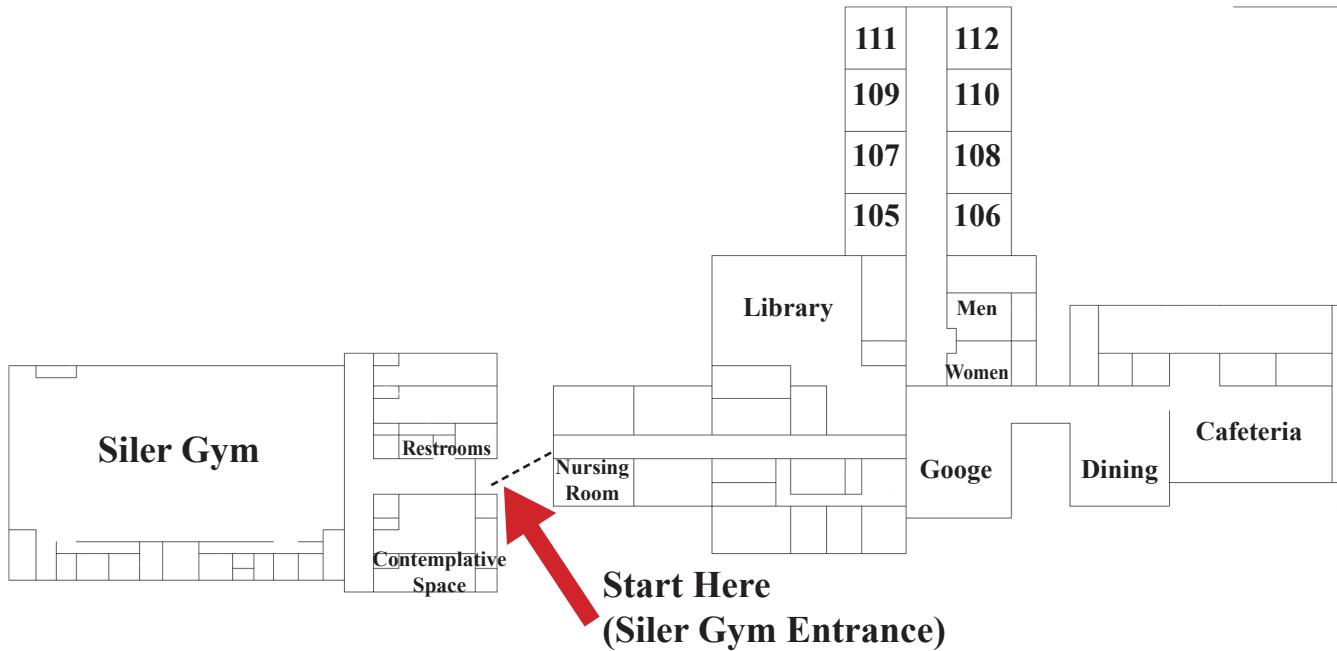
All Saints, Morristown – 28  
Annunciation, Newport – 11  
Ascension, Knoxville – 23  
Christ Church, Chattanooga – 2  
Christ Church, Rugby – 18  
Christ Church, South Pittsburg – 11  
Good Samaritan, Knoxville – 13  
Good Shepherd, Knoxville – 27  
Good Shepherd, Lookout Mountain – 4  
Grace, Chattanooga – 27  
Holy Cross, Hixson – 28  
Nativity, Fort Oglethorpe – 24  
Resurrection, Loudon – 12  
Southside Abbey – 3  
St. Andrew's, Maryville – 26  
St. Andrews, Harriman – 9  
St. Clare's, LaFollette – 22  
St. Elizabeth's, Farragut – 10  
St. Francis of Assisi, Ooltewah – 7  
St. Francis, Norris – 1  
St. James, Greeneville – 24  
St. James, Knoxville – 17  
St. John's Cathedral, Knoxville – 6  
St. John's, Johnson City – 22  
St. John the Baptist, Battle Creek – 13  
St. Joseph the Carpenter, Sevierville – 21  
St. Luke's, Cleveland – 15  
St. Luke's, Knoxville – 1  
St. Mark's, Copperhill – 26  
St. Martin of Tours, Chattanooga – 9  
St. Michael's, Kingsport – 5  
St. Paul, Seymour – 2  
St. Paul's Kingsport – 29  
St. Paul's, Athens – 12  
St. Paul's, Chattanooga – 16  
St. Peter's, Chattanooga – 8  
St. Raphael's, Crossville – 15  
St. Stephen's, Oak Ridge – 3  
St. Thomas, Elizabethton – 8  
St. Timothy's, Signal Mountain – 14  
Thankful Memorial, Chattanooga – 17  
Trinity, Gatlinburg – 21  
Tyson House, Knoxville – 14  
Youth – 18, 19  
Non-Parochial – 20  
Ex-Officio – 25, 30



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## Episcopal School of Knoxville Facility Map and Notable Locations



### Ministry Fair

The Ministry Fair will take place in Googe Hall. There you will find tables featuring information for a number of Episcopal ministries from across our diocese and nation.

### Nursing Room

For those who need added privacy for nursing, please feel free to use Room 134 (last classroom on left going to Siler Gym). The room features curtains that may be drawn.

### Contemplative Space

For those who may need a respite from the activities of the day, or who need a space for prayer and contemplations, we have designated Room 120 in the Siler Gym building as a contemplative space.



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## Testimonial Biographies



### **Ethan Garner, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Chattanooga**

Hello! My name is Ethan Garner, and I am a current student at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. I have been serving as the youth and children's ministry intern at St. Paul's Chattanooga for around one and a half years now. I grew up Episcopalian, but I didn't feel as connected to the church until I got to college. Throughout each week, I began to appreciate the opportunities that working with the youth provided me. This allowed me to grow and discover new passions that I would have never been able to connect with if it weren't for the opportunity that I was given.



### **Freida Herron, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Maryville**

Freida Herron completed the Episcopal Preaching Foundation's Lay Preaching training program and is a Licensed Lay Preacher at St. Andrew's in Maryville. She has been a Lay Preaching instructor for the Diocese since 2024. Freida is on the St. Andrew's Vestry and has served the Family Promise, Youth Formation, and Warming Shelter ministries at the Parish. Before her retirement Freida was a Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Tennessee's College of Social Work and a psychotherapist in Maryville. She and Susan Cooper live on Rich Mountain in Townsend on the boundary of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.



### **Davyda Hammond, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Oak Ridge**

Davyda Hammond is a member of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Oak Ridge, TN. Vocationally, she is a safety engineer at Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) and a seminarian pursuing a Master of Divinity at Duke University. Davyda previously earned a Ph.D. in Environmental Health Engineering from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Yet her true passion is ministering God's Word to others. Her heart is anchored in the truths of Colossians 3:23: "Whatever your task, work heartily, as serving the Lord and not men." She is married to Derrick Hammond, and they are proud parents of two adult daughters.



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## Workshop Descriptions

### Friday Workshops

#### **Safe Church Training**

Friday February 20th, 12:00 PM

Church of the Ascension

All parochial clergy, church staff, and convention delegates are required to be in compliance and current with their Safe Church requirements by Saturday, February 21, 2026. To help with this the diocese will offer in-person training from 12:00-4:00 PM on Friday, February 20th at Church of the Ascension. This just in time opportunity is before Convention Eucharist. This training is for clergy, staff, and convention delegates who still need to complete their course requirements. Additional public in-person opportunities will be offered throughout 2026 and online training can be completed any time before the deadline.

For more information about Safe Church Requirements, visit: <https://dioet.org/safe-church/>. If you have any questions, contact your Parish Safe Church Coordinator or Emily Kirk, Diocesan Parish Support Specialist and Safe Church Administrator at [ekirk@dioet.org](mailto:ekirk@dioet.org) or 865-966-2110.

#### **Community CPR**

Friday February 20th, 3:00 PM

Church of the Ascension

According to the American Heart Association, immediate CPR can double or even triple a person's chance of survival after cardiac arrest. To make this lifesaving skill accessible to as many people as possible, the diocese is offering a free Community CPR session. Attendees will have the chance to learn CPR and other vital lifesaving techniques from certified instructors and ask any questions they may have. Please note, this is not a formal certification course. If you are interested in receiving official certification or hosting a training session at your parish, please speak with the instructors on-site or contact a local organization.

#### **Blower Test and Carbon Neutrality**

Friday February 20th, 1:00 PM

Diocesan House

Join Bruce Glanville and members of the Carbon Neutrality Task Force for a demonstration of a "blower test", a method of finding and measuring building inefficiencies. Learn about how this testing method can increase your building efficiency, reducing your utility costs, and increasing your dollars for ministry. We'll also have information on carbon neutrality for parishes, our new carbon footprint assessment analysis process, and information on the solar installation with representatives from Solar Alliance. Participants will have time to travel to the Community CPR class should they wish to attend both.

## Saturday Workshops

### **Called to Serve: Stories and Pathways to Licensed Lay Ministry**

Freida Herron, Ed Hochnedel, and Rev Mandy Lippe

Lay preachers Ed Hochnedel and Freida Herron will share stories about lay preaching ministry and the newly formed Episcopal Preaching Foundation Lay Preaching Network. Rev. Mandy Lippe will provide an overview of the revised pathway for diocesan-trained lay licensed ministry. Join us to learn about the resources and continuing education now available for lay preachers, and discover how our diocese is expanding and strengthening the pathways for lay ministry formation and service.

### **Nurturing the Inner Life: Godly Play & Contemplative Parenting (morning only)**

Kathleen Crevasse

This workshop explores the practices that ground the intersection of Godly Play and contemplative parenting and discover how they transform not just our work with children, but our own spiritual lives as well. Whether you guide children in your parish, at home, or across both spaces, this workshop invites you into a deeper way of being with children—one that honors their innate experiences of being with God.

### **Youth Panel: Opportunities, Experiences, and Strategies (afternoon only)**

Jesse Adkins and members of the Diocesan Youth Council

Enjoy this opportunity to hear from a panel of youth who have distinguished themselves as leaders in the diocesan youth community. They will discuss various opportunities for youth to get involved, share their experiences of how youth ministry has transformed their lives, and offer suggestions for how to boost youth participation in your parish. If your parish is trying to figure out how to engage youth or you are looking to get involved with diocesan youth ministry, this is a great opportunity to ask questions and learn!

### **The School for Contemplation and Discipleship: An Overview and Invitation**

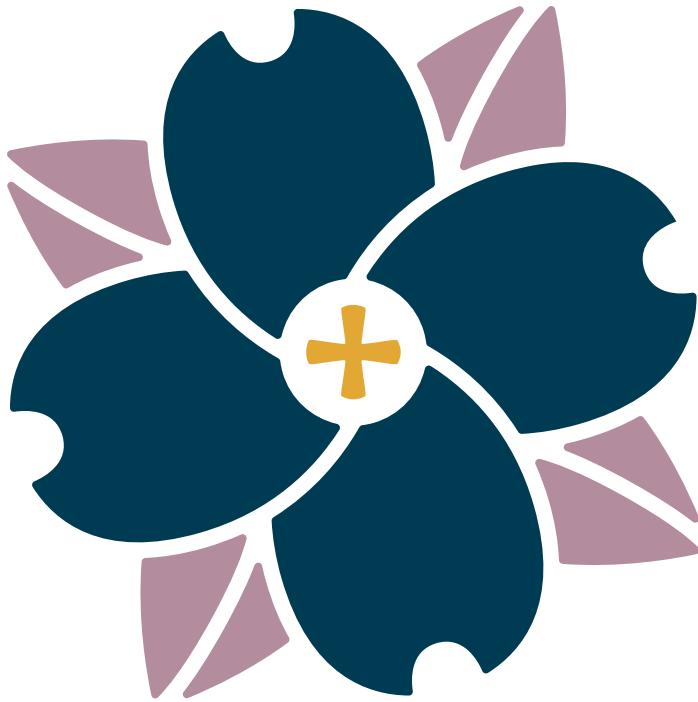
Canon Emily Bruner Doane and Rev Casey Perkins

Canon Emily Bruner Doane will present the development of the School for Contemplation & Discipleship, highlighting the events and resources now available on the new website. Together with Rev. Casey Perkins, she will introduce Breathe, a new day retreat offering from the school designed for parishes to host in their own communities. Discover how the school's contemplative formation resources can deepen spiritual life and discipleship in your parish and community.

### **Rooted and Ready: Thinking Outside the Box of Adult Formation**

Rev Claire Brown

Join the Rev. Claire Brown for an opportunity to engage with the changing landscape of adult formation. Whether you're launching a new program or revitalizing an existing one, you'll discover new energy, connect with like-minded leaders, and develop your skills to lead and teach God's word.



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**Documentation Submitted  
to the Floor**



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## Nominations from the Floor

### Lay Disciplinary Board Nominees Term Ending 2028- Vote for ONE



**Gary Dreier**, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Oak Ridge

*Nominated by the Rev. Bailey Norman, St. Stephen's, Oak Ridge*

Gary Dreier was received into the Episcopal Church in 1980. He is a former Deputy to the General Convention and former Chancellor of the Diocese of Fond du Lac. He presented at a pre-diocesan convention meeting on proposed revisions to Title IV of the Churchwide Canons and worked on revisions to the Diocesan Sexual Misconduct Manual. He is a former Senior Warden, Junior Warden and Vestry Member, as well as a former Sunday School Teacher. He engaged in the private practice of law from 1977 through 2024. He lives in Oak Ridge with his wife, Jane.



**Oren Whightsel**, Christ Church, Chattanooga

*Nominated by the Rev. Dr. Will Levanway, Christ Church, Chattanooga*

A member of Christ Church since 2016, Oren moved to Chattanooga in 2015 to teach in the English Department and the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Program at UTC. Originally from the Tampa Bay area, they lived in Chicago and Bloomington for many years. Oren attained their PhD in Rhetoric from Illinois State University in 2012. They worked in the nonprofit sector in Florida and Illinois within agencies that served children in subsidized childcare as well as working in hospice. Oren also serves on Title IX committees. Oren lives with their partner, five cats, and two tortoises.



## Commission on Ministry Report

The Commission on Ministry has had some prayerful and heartfelt work this past year. As followers of Christ, we are all called to ministry by virtue of our Baptismal Covenant. For those that are sensing a call to ordained ministry there is the Holy work of discernment. The Commission on Ministry, alongside clergy in their parishes, are sojourners in this discernment journey of those who are feeling the “tug” of a call to ministry. Whether it is to seek a more enriched lay ministry or a call to ordination to the diaconate or priesthood, we walk with people and their clergy throughout this process.

The Commission On Ministry members in our Diocese are some of the most compassionate and dedicated listeners you will ever meet. Each of our meetings begins with prayer and check-ins with each other. As we listen, discuss and learn from people in the process, it is done with a spirit of curiosity and kindness for this Holy work of discernment.

This past year we have celebrated the ministries of The Rev. Mark Colbert (Good Samaritan, Knoxville), The Rev. Rebecca Paluzzi (St. John’s, Johnson City), The Rev. Rebecca Wright (University of The South, Sewanee), and The Rev. Ryan Lockwood(Diocese of the Great Lakes) all being ordained as priests in our Diocese. We also had The Rev. Kelly Cofelt (St. Peters, Chattanooga) who was ordained as a Vocational Deacon. And at the Convention Eucharist this year, God willing, we will ordain Heather Holland, Whitney Kimball Coe, and Adam Ballintoy to the transitional diaconate.

Currently we have 19 people in their journey of discernment, with 7 of those people in seminary or other formation. Each of these persons is assigned a liaison or “Shepherd” from the Commission as a contact person and supporter throughout their process.

Our process for the discernment process in our Diocese is ever evolving. Our job at the Commission on Ministry is to listen deeply and help those in the process to find the path through their call to ministry. We have changed the format of “Here I Am Day” to make it more accessible to the various regions of our diocese by having smaller gatherings with a dinner and time to answer questions about the various orders of both lay and ordained ministry. It is a way for people to engage with members of the COM and the various ministries within our Diocese.

For those discerning a call to ordained ministry as a priest or deacon, the process begins with a conversation with their parish clergy. The next step in the journey is for the person and their priest to then meet with the Bishop. The Bishop then may recommend and commend the person to the COM and the formation of a local discernment committee; (AKA the CID - Companions In Discernment). The CID then meets with the aspirant for 10 sessions of deep listening in discerning their call. The CID then makes a report to Bishop and the Commission about what they are hearing from the aspirant about their call. The Bishop may then invite the person to the Commission of Ministry retreat for a weekend of reflection and more listening to the aspirant about their call to ordained ministry. The COM will then make recommendations to the Bishop about next steps for the aspirant in their process of formation; starting seminary or other formation in preparation for ordination and/or lay ministry.

We continue to update and revise the discernment process and the Discernment Handbook for those curious about a call to ordained ministry. You can find the current edition here along with other information about the discernment process here: <https://dioet.org/discrim-a-call/>

In the year ahead the Commission on Ministry will continue to engage in listening, learning and discerning with those in the process of following their call to ministry within the Church.

As mentioned, our process for discernment and formation is ever evolving. This past year, in collaboration with The Rev. Canon Joe Woodfin and other key players from the Diocese, we are updating and improving our formation process for the diaconate and also the priesthood for those on non-traditional tracks.

We also are excited to have Canon Emily Bruner Doane as the new Canon for Formation and Lay Ministry in our Diocese. We are working closely with her in helping people in their discernment and formation.

Finally, we are grateful for having The Rev. Amy Morehous who has faithfully served as the COM Chair and Co-Chair this past year. Amy will continue serving as a member of the COM. In this coming year, The Rev. Elizabeth Farr and The Rev. L. Gordon Brewer will serve as Co-Chairs of the COM. We also are happy to have Ms. Janelle Wagoner join us as a lay member of the COM.

As always, we invite all those who are contemplating a call to lay ministry or ordained ministry to begin conversation with their local parish clergy. The call to ministry often catches us by surprise. Be curious about that and begin those conversations about what God is calling you to..

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. L. Gordon Brewer, *Co-Chair*  
The Rev. Elizabeth Farr, *Co-Chair*

**COM Members:**

Mr. Alan Ragsdale  
The Rev. Amy Morehous  
Ms. Jennifer Dunn

The Rev. Drew Bunting  
Ms. Janelle Wagoner  
The Rev. Claire Brown

The Rev. John Mark Wiggers  
The Rev. Ashton Simms  
Mr. Jon Humber- Staff Liaison