



171ST ANNUAL CONVENTION | OCTOBER 21-22, 2023  
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF IOWA

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS TO THE 171st ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF IOWA

The Committee on Nominations, appointed by the Bishop following the 170th Convention, has prepared nominations for diocesan office as directed by Canon. Additional nominations may also be made from the floor of the Convention at the proper time, and per Canon 4, Sec. 5. It is understood that any such persons would have given their consent to having their names placed in nomination. It is also understood that terms run from convention to convention. The Committee on Nominations places in nomination the names of the following persons to fill vacancies in diocesan elective offices:

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### THE STANDING COMMITTEE

[Article IX, Sec. 1-2](#)

**1 Cleric and 1 Lay Member** to be elected by Orders for 3-year terms expiring 2026

This committee acts as a council of advice to the Bishop; they approve or disapprove candidates for Holy Orders, the ordination of deacons and priests, all elections to the Episcopate in the General Church, selling church property and are responsible for the life of the Diocese in the absence or incapacity of the Bishop.

#### Nominees to The Standing Committee

##### Clergy

The Rev. Diana Wright (Trinity, Carroll, Trinity, Denison, St. Paul's, Harlan)

##### Lay Members

Alescha Caldwell (Christ Church, Clinton)  
Ed Gillott (St. John's by the Campus, Ames)  
Jolene Phelps (St. Paul's Cathedral, Des Moines)

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### DIRECTORS OF THE EPISCOPAL CORPORATION

[Canon 7, Sec. 2-3](#); [Canon 15, Sec. 6](#)

**1 Cleric and 1 Lay Member** to be elected by Orders, At Large for a 3-year term  
expiring in 2026

**1 Cleric** to be elected by Orders for a 2-year term expiring 2025

**1 Lay Member** nominated by the **Southwest Chapter** for a 3-year term expiring in 2026

**1 Cleric** nominated by the **Metro Chapter** for a 3-year term expiring in 2026

**1 Cleric** nominated by the **Three Rivers Chapter** for a 3-year term expiring in 2026

This Board heads the Corporation that acts as the legal body for the Diocese under the laws of the State of Iowa. The directors are trustees of all diocesan properties and monies. They also are responsible for the Iowa Diocesan Foundation Fund, which is a flexible and convenient investment fund for congregations as

well as diocesan endowments and bequests. The directors necessarily are involved in the areas of property and securities. The Directors also assist the Bishop in setting mission and ministry priorities, and assessing the work of its various Commissions.

Individual Responsibilities of Members of the Board of Directors:

1. Attend all board meetings and functions, including the annual orientation event.
2. Be informed about the Diocesan plan, mission, services, policies, and programs.
3. Review agenda and supporting materials prior to board and committee meetings.
4. Serve as liaison to committees and commissions as requested by the Bishop and offer to take on special assignments.
5. Be willing to ask questions, take responsibility and follow through on assignments.
6. Keep up to date on developments in the local, state, the broader church, and in the Anglican Communion.
7. Assist the Board in carrying out its fiduciary responsibilities, such as reviewing the periodic financial statements and the annual audits.
8. Attend Chapter meetings and assist in unifying chapters and the diocese.
9. Chapter Representatives are expected to:
  - Represent to the Board the needs and concerns of the chapter congregations.
  - Be a liaison for the Board in keeping the Chapter congregations informed of Diocesan issues.
  - Follow through with congregations facing financial difficulties as reflected through falling behind in their stewardship share.

Nominees to the Board of Directors

At Large

Cleric — At Large – three-year term

The Rev. Holly Scherff (St. John’s Church, Shenandoah)

Cleric - At Large two-year term

Lay Member — At Large

Paula Sanchini (Christ Church, Cedar Rapids)

Chapter Representatives

Cleric — Metro Chapter

The Rev. Jean Davis (St. Paul’s Cathedral, Des Moines)

Lay Member — Southwest Chapter

RJ Fitzgerald (St. Paul’s Church, Harlan)

Cleric—Three Rivers Chapter

The Rev. Brian Gross (Christ Church, Cedar Rapids)

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## **THE DISCIPLINARY BOARD**

(Canon 35, Sec. 2)

**3 Clergy and 2 Lay Members** to be elected for 2-year terms expiring in 2025

The Disciplinary Board shall be elected at diocesan convention for matters of Ecclesiastical Discipline.

### Nominees to The Disciplinary Board

#### Clergy

The Rev. Nora Boener (Trinity Church, Iowa City)  
The Rev. Eric Rucker (St. Andrew's Church, Des Moines)  
The Rev. Catherine Schroeder (Grace Church, Boone)  
The Rev. Anne Williams (St. Mark's Church, Anamosa)

#### Lay Members

Cynthia Danielson (St. Michael's, Mount Pleasant)  
Ann Papouchis (St. John's, Mason City)

Respectfully Submitted,

171st Convention Nomination Committee  
The Rev. Kristine Leaman, chair

**171<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Iowa  
October 20, 2023**

**Nominations  
Biographical Information**

**The Board of Directors**

**The Rev. Holly Scherff**

**Cleric at Large (3 yr. term)**



- Canonical Status* Priest of the Diocese of Iowa
- Employment* St. John's Episcopal Church, 1/2 time; First Congregational UCC in Red Oak, 1/4 time; school bus driver
- Parochial Service* Present: Priest in Partnership, St. John's. Plan and preside over services, work with the music committee in planning music, perform all altar duties, arrange flowers, plan and lead bible study, make Eucharist bread  
Past: Same as above. Have always been at St. John's
- Diocesan Service* Present: Liaison for Disaster Relief and Development also for Episcopal Relief and Development  
Past: Have traveled to Swaziland three times. Once to help with construction of a home, once as part of a dental health team, and the last as part of my seminary training
- Provincial, National, or International Service* Present: NA  
Past: Have training in Disaster Chaplaincy with National Disaster Interfaith Network
- Civic Service* Present: Board President for M.A.Y. Mentoring, Room at the Table, Shen Pride  
Past: Rotary, Holly's Hope Board
- Why do you feel God is calling you to this office* Representing/supporting the small churches has always been a passion of mine
- What gifts and talents could you bring* I live in a small rural community, am bi-vocational, and passionate for the small church

**Dr. Paula Sanchini**



*Canonical Status*  
*Employment*  
*Parochial Service*  
  
*Diocesan Service*

Communicant in good standing, Christ Church, Cedar Rapids  
Professor of Biology and Environmental Science, Coe College  
Present: CEC Vestry, Finance Commission, Swazi Companions group. CEC  
Welcome-Renew-Serve Capital Campaign Team (ad-hoc)  
Past: Adult Formation committee, Outreach/Jubilee Commission  
Present: Vice-President, Board of Directors of the Episcopal  
Corporation, Executive Committee, Leadership Council, Three Rivers  
Chapter Representative to the Board of Directors, One World One  
Church Commission

Past: One-year term, Board of Directors of the Episcopal Corporation,  
Bishop Search Nominating Committee

*Why do you feel God is  
Calling you to this office*

I continue to be drawn to diocesan service by the track record of resilience achieved by this diocese during a time of transition. The Episcopal Diocese of Iowa has prepared itself for the challenge of developing more sustainable structures and practices at both parish and diocesan levels. This process started with a Revival and led to inviting experienced guides to offer workshops that addressed challenges identified by congregations. Gilead Grants expands those efforts by intentionally investing in innovations planned and carried out by parishes and their partners. As the post-pandemic timeline lengthens, many congregations have been able to regather members and welcome some new ones as they become more deeply connected to their communities. Many challenges remain ahead, but also a willingness to use the gifts of digital tools to interact on important issues like we did at the recent Joint Chapter meeting. I'm motivated to serve on the Board of Directors in order to help the next steps unfold. It's an energizing, spirit-filled time to engage in diocesan service.

*What gifts and talents  
do you feel you bring*

I have experience serving on committees and boards that manage budgets and provide oversight of programs that I am not directly participating in. I am currently completing a term as a Chapter Representative on the Board of Directors and understand the current challenges that are before both the Chapters and Board of Directors. If elected as an At Large member, I'll come prepared for meetings and be willing to serve on committees of the Board as needed.

**Lay Member at Large**

**Ms. RJ Fitzgerald**



*Canonical Status* Communicant in good standing, St. Paul's Harlan  
*Employment* Sorella Search Partners, LLC

*Parochial Service* Current: Actively attend and participate as a lector, St. Paul's Harlan  
Past: Was the Christian Education Director for three years at the United Methodist Church in Harlan (this church was disaffiliated and I am now a member of the Episcopal Church)

*Diocesan Service* NA

*Civic Service* Present: NA  
Past: Boy Scouts, MYF Leader.

*Why is God calling  
you to this office* To use my gifts for the good of the church and its people

*What gifts and talents  
could you bring* 30 years of corporate experience in the government, private, and public sectors.  
Financial acumen.

**Lay Member – Southwest Chapter**

**The Rev. Jean Davis**



*Canonical Status* Deacon, St. Paul's Cathedral, Des Moines

*Employment* Retired attorney

*Parochial Service* Present: Deacon at St. Paul's Cathedral, Des Moines  
Past: Eucharistic Minister, lector, and usher

*Diocesan Service* Present: I serve on the Commission on Ministry and am part of the planning committee for the Summer Ministry School and Retreat.  
Past: NA

*Civic Service* Present: I am very active in my community  
Past: Same

*Why is God Calling you to this office* I think God's call to service, be it in the Diocese or in my local community, is continual and life-long

*What gifts and talents could you bring* I am a good listener and work well with others. I can also bring life experiences to my service.

**Cleric – Metro Chapter**

**The Rev. Brian Gross**



*Canonical Status* Priest in the Diocese of Iowa

*Employment* Priest in Charge at Christ Church, Cedar Rapids

*Parochial Service* Present: Priest in charge of a congregation  
Past: Dean of the Cathedral in my previous diocese

*Diocesan Service* Present: Just starting to get involved.  
Past: Standing committee president, Stewardship trainer

*Civic Service* Present: NA  
Past: Board of directors of Laramie Soup Kitchen, Board Chair of County Commission against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Trainer for the National Alzheimer's Association, served on the Governors board for improved mental health services, trainer for suicide awareness and response, on the board for the Cathedral Home for Children (organization for children who have self destructive behaviors).

*Provincial, National, and or International service* Past: Deputy to General Convention

*Why is God Calling you to this office* It is a way for me to become more involved in the Diocese of which I am new.

*What gifts and talents could you bring* I believe that my organizational skills and entrepreneurial spirit will serve well in this position. I also believe that being new to the diocese I can bring a new set of thoughts and ideas that perhaps have not been considered yet.

**Cleric – Three Rivers Chapter**

## The Standing Committee

### The Rev. Diana Wright

**Cleric**



*Canonical Status* Priest of the Diocese of Iowa

*Parochial Service* Present: Priest in charge, Trinity Cluster  
Past: NA

*Employment* Priest in charge, Trinity Cluster

*Diocesan Service* Present: Member of One World One Church (OWOC)  
Past: Disciplinary Board, Board of Directors

*Civic Service* Present: Boone County Soil and Water Commission

*Why is God calling you to this office* I would like to be involved in the church at a level different than parish ministry.

*What gifts and talents could you bring* Experience, voice of small churches, a voice for women and the LBGTQ+ community, and experience living in a rural area and the issues faced by people there.

### Mr. Ed Gillott

**Lay Member**



*Canonical Status* Communicant in good standing, St. John's by the Campus, Ames

*Employment* Part-time bus driver for the Ames Community School district and Northcrest Community

*Parochial Service* Present: Lay Reader, Eucharistic Minister, videographer, CROP walk coordinator, and EfM Mentor  
Past: Sr. Warden, Jr. Warden, Finance Committee, Stewardship Committee, Youth Group leaders.

*Diocesan Service* Present: Standing Committee, Ways and Means Committee, Property Committee, GILEAD grant selection committee, Metro Chapter co-convenor  
Past: Volunteer on the ECCC youth summer camps, Jr. and Sr. High conferences and multiple Cursillo teams

*Civic Service* Present: Member of the Ames Noon Kiwanis, leadership team for the Cyclone Country Aktion Club, and a volunteer on the Ames Social Services Evaluation Team (ASSET).  
Past: Past president of the Ames Noon Kiwanis, BooSt together for Children Board of Directors, Habitat for Humanity, and a Food at First volunteer

*Why is God Calling you to this office* I am seeking a second term to help our local congregations thrive. While serving the last 3 years on the Standing Committee and six years on the Board of Directors before that, I have actively participated in discussions and have worked on the Ways and Means Committee, the Property Commission, the GILEAD grant review team, and as co-convenor for the Metro Chapter. I take the governance responsibility of the Standing Committee seriously by making attendance at meetings a priority, and reviewing the materials in advance. I believe our top consideration in all decisions should be 'How do we help our local congregations thrive?'

*What Gifts and talents could you bring* In addition to 50 years experience working with youth and our local parish community, I have management and budget experience with non-profit organizations, and experience as a building inspector for the City of Ames. I have served on several non-profit boards that focus on early childhood, youth, and adults living with disabilities. With this experience I have developed a knack for working with a broad range of people, active listening, a sense of humor, and a joy of living.

**Ms. Jolene Phelps**

**Lay Member**



- Canonical Status* Communicant in good standing, St. Paul's Cathedral, Des Moines
- Employment* Retired owner of Phelps Enterprises, Inc., Currently doing contract work for Principal Financial. Moved to Iowa in 2016
- Parochial Service* Present: Chapter (vestry)-two terms, Clerk of Vestry as a replacement, Music Librarian, Vestment coordinator (choir and acolyte), Genesis II, Vision Task Force, Acolyte Team  
Past: Grant writing Team, Choir member, Administrator for Summer Fine Arts Camp, coordinator of 25th anniversary to celebrate becoming a cathedral, 20 years of teacher training and leadership.
- Diocesan Service* Present: Three-year term on Board of Directors, member of Metro Chapter  
Past: None
- Civic Service* Present: Organization involvement was curtailed during Covid where upon my focus became care of neighbors within the surrounding area of downtown Des Moines. Reaching out through DSM organizations and St. Paul's -- continuing to focus on downtown residents.  
Past: Justice for Our Neighbors - office volunteer and committee member for fund raising. Reading program volunteer participant for grade school children.
- Why is God Calling you to this office* I believe a call from God is demonstrated through a call from the community to serve as needed. I will respond with yes to the request from my spiritual leaders although I do not know how that is to be manifest - I simply trust the call. And I have experienced the energy, excitement and joy surrounding our Iowa Diocese.
- What Gifts and talents could you bring* A willingness to ask questions and to seek answers from a multitude of sources. A three-year term on the Diocesan Board of Directors and two-three-year terms on the vestry at St. Paul's has taught me to listen carefully to the shared wisdom and creative solutions that people of good faith can generate when they earnestly listen to one another.

**Ms. Alesha Caldwell**

**Lay Member**



- Canonical Status* Communicant in good standing, Christ Church, Clinton
- Employment:* Retired
- Parochial Services:* Present: Lay leader, lead Morning prayer, Bible Study  
Past: Church Treasurer, Vestry Member, Junior Warden, Youth Group Leader, Sunday School Teacher, VBS Leader, Finance Committee Member
- Diocesan Service* Present: Board of Directors, Alternate delegate to General Convention 2024  
Past: Board of Directors
- Civic Service* Present: Volunteer at the Closet, part of GRO or Great River Outreach in Savanna, Illinois, Bible Study leader  
Past: Volunteer at the Food Pantry
- Why is God Calling you to this office* I hear continually God's call to serve, I have served and am serving on the Board of Directors for three elected terms in 9 years. I have insight with age, and am a faithful communicant
- What Gifts and talents could you bring* Discernment, and hearing God's voice



## The Disciplinary Board

### The Rev. Nora Boener

Cleric



- Canonical Status* Priest of the Diocese of Iowa
- Employment* Present: Associate Rector at Trinity Iowa City, Interim Missioner for Beloved Community at Episcopal Diocese of Iowa
- Parochial Service* Present: Trinity Iowa City 2014-current  
Present: Godly Play Teacher at various congregations
- Diocesan Service* Present: Safe Church, Safe Communities Advisory Group  
Past: Reparations Task Force, Seminary Intern at Beloved Community Initiative, Youth Ministry Development Team
- Civic Service* Present: Steering Committee Member of Johnson County Interfaith Coalition  
Past: Family Folk Machine Board Member, Community Cares Crew for Iowa City Public Schools

*Why do you feel God is calling you to this office* God has placed on my heart a deep love for mercy and justice that stems from our call as Christians and the Baptismal Covenant. I hold our vow to "seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself" with deep gravity.

*What gifts or talents could your bring* I have experience balancing challenging and painful conversations with pastoral need. Within these conversations, I believe that sometimes the kindest and most true thing we all do is to bring the truth to light so restorative justice can begin. I am grateful for our commitment to maintain a safe church for all people. I am honored to serve both on the Safe Church, Safe Communities advisory council for the diocese and as one of two trainers of trainers for Safe Church, Safe Communities in the diocese

### The Rev. Eric Rucker

Cleric



- Canonical Status* Priest of the Diocese of Iowa
- Employment* Priest, St. Andrew's Church, Des Moines; Campus Chaplain, Simpson College
- Parochial Service* Present: Assisting Pries, St. Andrew's, Des Moines  
Past: NA
- Diocesan Service* Present: YMDT member, Bishop's Worship Planning Team, Disciplinary Board  
Past: NA

*Why do you feel God is calling you to this office* I try to bring a posture of non-judgement, openness, and deep listening that I hope could be helpful to this team

*What gifts and talents could you bring* I try to bring a posture of non-judgement, openness, and deep listening that I hope could be helpful to this team.

**The Rev. Catherine Schroeder**

**Cleric**



*Canonical Status* Priest of the Diocese of Iowa

*Employment* Retired teacher, Webster City

*Parochial Service* Present: Priest at Grace, Boone; Good Shepherd, Webster City  
Past: NA

*Diocesan Service* Present: EPIC Counselor 2023  
Past: Team player in zoom church with Boone, Webster City, and Retired supply clergy

*Civic Service* Present: Kiwanis member '23, Ministerial member '22, Pufferbilly Days volunteer '23, Boone & Scenic Valley Railroad Volunteer '12  
Past: Little League Umpire

*Why do you feel God is calling you to this office* I want to give back to the Diocese and be that listening ear. God has given me so much and I feel that I need to be supportive to the ones that have asked me to serve in this position.

*What gifts and talents could you bring* I have an objective sense and can evaluate a situation in a non-critical point of view.

**The Rev. Anne Williams**

**Cleric**



*Canonical Status* Priest of the Diocese of Iowa

*Employment* Chaplain at Anamosa State Penitentiary and Vicar at St. Mark's Church, Anamosa

*Parochial Service* Present: Vicar, St. Mark's Church, Anamosa  
Past: Lay reader and treasurer at St. Mark's

*Diocesan Service* Present: Disciplinary Board  
Past: EfM mentor and trainer, Commission on Ministry (member and chair), Board of Directors, Standing Committee, JPIC

*Provincial, National, or International Service* Present: EfM Trainer  
Past: Prison Ministry Commission

*Civic Service* Past: President of community theater, chair of the Library Board

*Why do you feel God is calling you to this office* The years of experience I have had as first an active lay person in this diocese, then 20 years as a priest, service as an EfM mentor and a trainer, Commission on Ministry, Board of Directors and Standing Committee

*What gifts and talents could you bring* An ability to see the larger picture and a gift for discernment

**Cynthia Danielson**

**Lay Member**



*Canonical Status* Communicant in good standing, St. Michael's Church, Mount Pleasant

*Employment* Retired

*Parochial Service* Present: Senior Warden, Lector, Eucharistic Minister, Worship Leader, Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister  
Past: Treasurer

*Diocesan Service* Present: Disciplinary Board  
Past: Disciplinary Board

*Civic Service* Present: Board Member of Iowa Judges Association. 2019 recipient of the Iowa Judges Association Award of Merit.  
Past: Founding member of the Rec Center Ltd. (funded and built a community recreation complex), Regional Library Board, trained mediator, Junior Achievement, Girl Scouts, Friends of the Library, chamber of Commerce President, numerous professional boards and commissions, including the Supreme Court Grievance Commission (responsible for lawyer discipline)

*Why is God calling you to this office?* I feel that my personal strengths and experiences are gifts from God and my service in this way allows me to give thanks for those gifts

*What gifts and talents could you bring* As a result of my training as a mediator and my career, I've learned to look at things from all angles and to delay forming opinions of making judgements until all information has been provided and everyone heard.

**Ann Papouchis**

**Lay Member**



*Canonical Status* Communicant in good standing, St. John's, Mason City

*Employment* Northwestern Steakhouse, Mason City

*Parochial Service* Present: NA  
Past: Meals on Wheels Rep, Vestry 3 terms, Youth Group Leaders, Candidate for the Deaconate

*Diocesan Service* Present: Disciplinary Board  
Past: NA

*Civic Service* Present: Food Bank  
Past: Red Cross volunteer, HIV/AIDS education

*Why is God calling you to this office* It is a privilege to serve and be asked.

*What gifts and talents could you bring* A clear calm demeanor.