

Lay Delegates and Alternates to Diocesan Convention

The Church of the Holy Comforter maintains a lay Delegate team that consists of three Delegates and three Delegate Alternates. The Vestry has identified and voted on one new lay Delegate and three new Alternate Delegates for the three-year term beginning on April 15, 2025.

Jeanne Firey and Candace Dibblee will continue to serve as lay Delegates in 2025, which completes the third year of their terms.

Robert Bruce will be a lay Delegate. Margy Collom, Guy Kiyokawa and Susan Lyons will be lay Delegate Alternates this year and will have the opportunity to be substitute lay Delegates this year. They can transition to lay Delegate in 2026.

The job of a Convention Delegate is to provide a link between the congregation and the Diocese by representing the congregation at the diocesan levels, and by reporting back to the congregation on events, actions and decisions that occur. The Convention is the annual business meeting of the Diocese and is presently held over a weekend in the fall. Convention conducts elections, votes on the budget, resolutions, any other actions presented, and hears reports.

Responsibilities:

- Attendance and representation of the parish at the annual Diocesan Convention, which takes place over a weekend in the fall.
- Stay up to date (via Diocesan mailings) re: pending issues
- Advise their vestry and congregation of issues pending before the Diocese, seek their opinions, and report back to them when actions are taken.
- Attend special sessions, as necessary.

- All delegates should report back to the congregation as a whole as well as the vestry/mission committee after Convention. This can take place in a forum, annual meeting, vestry meeting, or through the newsletter, blog post, etc.
- Meet as a team with Trinity's delegates (including all alternate delegates) to discuss issues at hand. Retiring lay delegates should pass on information to all new lay delegates. All information should be shared with alternate delegates, as they may be called upon unexpectedly to act on behalf of the lay delegates.
- Assist the chaplain in training the parish's new delegates: ensure that the paperwork is filed with the Diocese for new delegates so that they may receive official communications; pass on pertinent materials; explain structure, unfamiliar terms, current issues; introduce new delegates at larger gatherings.

Qualities Sought:

- A lay delegate should be someone who can represent the congregation and vote on its behalf on a variety of subjects.
- As an existing member of the parish:
- Be faithful and steadily present in Sunday worship.
- Reflect a deep commitment to the Christian faith and to the Church's ministry.
- Be a proportional, pledging member of the parish.
- In most cases, manifest leadership abilities and commitment within the parish and/or diocese.