

# Nominations

**For positions to be elected at the 174th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee on October 09, 2021**

## Diocesan Treasurer

**ONE clergy or lay person to be elected to a 1-year term**

### Michael Weber (St. Aidan's, Hartford)

Michael Weber is a member of St. Aidan's where he has served as Senior Warden, Bishop's Committee member and treasurer. He joined the Diocesan Finance Committee in 2016 and has served as Diocesan Treasurer since 2020.

Mike holds a Bachelor's Degree from UW-Eau Claire in Elementary Education and Library and Media Education as well as a Master's Degree in Media Technology from UW-Stout. Mike taught at Central Middle School in Hartford as the Library Media Specialist and District Technology Director. After 34 years in education he retired in 2011. He then worked part-time as a Media Technology Consultant for the District for 5 years.

He has also served as board member and treasurer for the Wisconsin Educational Media and Technology Association (WEMTA) and treasurer for the Hartford Lions Club.

Mike is married to Linda and has a son (Tim) and a daughter (Jessica). In retirement Mike likes to travel, visit their 5 grandkids, and ride his bike. Late winter is a special time for making maple syrup.

## Executive Council

**TWO clergy persons to be elected to three-year terms**

**TWO lay persons to be elected to three-year terms**

### The Rev. Don Fleischman (St. Luke's, Madison)

Don is the Rector of St Luke's Episcopal Church on Madison's East Side. The perspective to ministry that Don brings has been informed by being bi-vocational for most of his pastoral career. Because of this experience, he seeks to help folks integrate the sacred into every part of their lives.

Alongside Don's call to ministry, he had a 20-year career as a media producer at UW-Madison. That experience allows him to be able to see the big picture outcome of a project and then break it into performable and achievable steps. It also means that he knows how to complete and project and deliver a product on-time and within a budget. That time as a media producer turned out to be essential during the early months of the pandemic. He provided consultation to many parishes about how to get their worship online, and with the help of many colleagues, produced a weekly diocesan livestream worship service from March 2020-December 2020.

In addition to being the Rector at St Luke's Madison, Don also serves as the president of the Wisconsin Council of Churches Finance Committee. He has also served as Rector at St Barnabas Richland Center, 2010-2016, and Interim Chaplain at Saint Francis House from 2019-2021 in the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee.

### The Rev. TJ Humphrey (St. Paul's, Beloit)

The Reverend TJ Humphrey has been the Priest in Charge at St Paul's Episcopal Church in Beloit, WI since July of 2019. Before becoming Episcopalian and attending Nashotah House Theological Seminary, he was an ordained minister in the Christian Reformed Church of North America for seven years, where he primarily worked with youth and college students. Prior to his time in the ministry, TJ was a shop foreman for a glass company in St Louis for several years. Fr TJ is married and has two kids (a two-year-old and a five-year-old). Other than family and Jesus, his passions are bourbon, woodworking, backcountry hiking, and hockey (not necessarily in that order).

### **The Rev. Bramwell Richards (Zion, Oconomowoc)**

Bramwell is a deacon serving at Zion Episcopal Church. He has been there since June 2020. In addition to serving at services, he is responsible for our home communion ministry. Bramwell also leads a Zoom based Anglican Rosary group which has participants from across the diocese. Before moving into the Diocese of Milwaukee, Bramwell attended the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Detroit, MI for 11 years. There he was on the vestry, ran the parish website, and led an Education for Ministry group.

While completing his Masters in Library and Information Science, Bramwell was the VP External for the graduate student council and also served as on the executive body of the Ontario Graduate Association.

Bramwell has been married to Josie for 12 years. He is the Electronic Services Librarian at Nashotah House Theological Seminary. He has a Masters of Theological Studies, a graduate certificate in Education, a Masters of Library and Information Science, and an undergraduate degree in Business Administration.

### **The Rev. David Simmons (St. Matthias, Waukesha)**

The Rev. David Simmons has served as Rector of St. Matthias Episcopal Church in Waukesha since 2008. He has a passion for fostering collaboration and seeking innovative ways to share the Gospel. He has served as the President of the Standing Committee and on the Executive Council. He currently serves as the Diocesan Ecumenical Officer and on the Title IV Disciplinary Board. David was an alternate to General Convention in 2012, 2015 and 2018. He represents the Episcopal Church at the National Council of Churches and is the Chair of the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee. He is an oblate of and is confessor to the Order of Julian of Norwich.

St Matthias is a center of leadership around issues of homelessness and low-income housing in Waukesha County. David is a member of the board of the Housing Action Coalition of Waukesha County and is a past president of Hebron Housing Services.

David has been married to Micky since 1992, and has two children, Brendan and Brigid. He is a volunteer percussion instructor at Waukesha West High School, and a drummer in Celtic Nations Pipes and Drums. His hobbies include Kendo, music composition, and board games.

### **The Rev. Debra Trakel (St. Boniface, Mequon)**

The Rev. Debra Trakel has been a grateful priest in the diocese of Milwaukee for twenty-six years. In October she will be privileged to begin as the Interim Rector of St. Boniface, Mequon. Prior to that she has served as Rector of Christopher's, River Hills; St. James', Milwaukee, and priest-in-charge at Holy Cross, Wisconsin Dells. Most recently she has been serving in Interim Ministry for the Greater Milwaukee Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Debra also served on the diocesan staff as the Bishop's Assistant for Pastoral Care during Bishop White's tenure. She is also licensed as a psychotherapist in the states of Illinois and Wisconsin.

Debra has previously been a member of our diocese's Standing Committee, Executive Council and Commission on Mission and Development. She is currently a member of the Renewal Task Force for the diocese, teaches in the Deacon Formation School and mentors new clergy.

She is married to Carlynn Higbie where they dote on their rescue dog, Kirk. When Debra is not in a church they worship at Trinity in Wauwatosa where Carlynn has been a member for many years. And they are delighted to be watching their four grandchildren grow.

### **Judith Miller (St. Mark's, Milwaukee)**

Judith has been an active member of St. Mark's since she moved to Milwaukee from Madison in 2016. Currently she is a member of the Vestry and has occasionally led quiet days and lectio divina groups. Previously (1983-1990) she served on the Commission on Ministry (Diocese of Pittsburgh) and Board of Trustees (1988-1990).

While in Pittsburgh, she also was trained and served as a Community Dispute Mediator (1989-1990) with the Pittsburgh Mediation Center. She moved to Madison in 1995. From 2002-2010, she was a non-attorney member of the District 9 (Dane County) investigative Committee of the Office of Lawyer Regulation, Wisconsin State Supreme Court. (This committee investigates allegations of ethical violations by attorneys filed by members of the public.)

Judith completed training (2013-2014) in spiritual direction from the Spiritual Guidance Training Program, Siena Retreat Center, Racine, Wisconsin. In 2015, she completed the Ten Week Program in Retreat Giving/Spiritual Accompaniment at St. Bueno's Jesuit Spirituality Center in Wales, UK. She currently serves on the summer spiritual direction team at the Jesuit Retreat House in Oshkosh.

She is single, received a B.A., Art History, from the University of Pittsburgh, and retired in 2016 after 21 years as a project manager with Epic Systems in Verona, Wisconsin. Prior to that position, her career was in other health care administration and project management. Upon retirement, she moved to Milwaukee to serve in a volunteer role at a recently opened Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in South Milwaukee.

## **Roger J. Mukasa (Grace, Madison)**

Roger has been an active member of Grace Episcopal Church (Grace) since 1994. He has served Grace as Treasurer, Lay Eucharistic Minister, Finance Committee member and delegate to the Diocesan Convention. Roger has worked for the University of Wisconsin, Madison, the Wisconsin Legislative Assembly, State of Wisconsin Investment Board, World Council of Credit Unions, Wisconsin Department of Administration, MGE Energy Corporation, Exelon Corporation, Wisconsin Department of Health Services and PBS Wisconsin. Roger is currently the Finance Manager at PBS Wisconsin, in Madison, Wisconsin. He is also on Slipstream's Board Executive Committee and chairs the Board Fiscal and Audit Committee; Slipstream is a Madison, Wisconsin, based nonprofit, whose mission is to accelerate climate solutions for everyone by empowering all to adopt new practices and technology.

Born in Kampala, Uganda, Roger's grandfather, the late Rev. Ananias J. Binaisa, baptized him in the Anglican Church of Uganda. Roger met Kabura, his wife, in high school in Nairobi, Kenya, when Roger was a refugee from Uganda. Kabura was born in New York and grew up in Kenya. After high school, Roger and Kabura sang with the Nairobi, Kenya, Anglican All Saints Cathedral choir. Roger confirmed his Christian Faith in the Anglican Church of England in London, UK. That year, Roger and Kabura married in East Setauket, New York, then moved to Madison, Wisconsin for college.

Both completed undergraduate and graduate studies at University of Wisconsin, Madison (UW). They have been married for 35 years and have three children, who were baptized and confirmed at Grace; Nalubega (a UW graduate) works in Los Angeles, California; Nabukenya works in Cashton, Wisconsin, and Nakanwagi works in Madison, Wisconsin.

## **Standing Committee**

**ONE clergy person to be elected to a four-year term**

**ONE lay person to be elected to a four-year term**

### **The Rev. Lars Skoglund (St. Michael's, Racine)**

The Reverend Lars Skoglund is Rector of St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Racine, having previously served in the diocese as Vicar of St. Aidan's Hartford and, prior to ordination, lay pastoral assistant at Trinity Baraboo and St. John the Baptist Portage. He was recently appointed the Dean of the South Convocation.

Within the Diocese, Lars has participated in DCDI, Fresh Start, and Camp Webb, where he served as counselor and, more recently, co-director. A life-long Wisconsinite, Lars has consented to be nominated for Standing Committee as an expression of his deep love for this place, and of his desire to be a part of the exciting future God has in store for us. Having served in a handful of different settings across the diocese, he is committed to demonstrating respect by listening carefully, making decisions prayerfully, and speaking the truth in love.

Lars and his wife Katie, a registered dietician, have twin toddlers - Oskar and Eleanor Jayne - who are a tremendous amount of fun. They all enjoy taking hikes and really good books.

### **The Rev. Melesa Skoglund (St. Andrew's, Madison)**

The Rev. Melesa McEwan Skoglund has served as Associate Rector at St. Andrew's Madison since 2019. She entered the Diocese of Milwaukee in 2011, when she and her husband were received into The Episcopal Church at St. Paul's Milwaukee, where they were members. Melesa currently serves on the Diocesan Renewal Task Force.

Prior to ordination, Melesa worked in Milwaukee's nonprofit sector for City on a Hill and the Alzheimer's Association, and served on the board of Interchange Food Pantry. In those positions she specialized in nonprofit operations, donor management, and program coordination/creation. At St. Andrew's, she shares parish leadership with the rector, and has been a part of a Lilly Endowment clergy cohort to promote ecumenical collaboration in Dane County.

Melesa lives in Madison's Meadowood neighborhood with her husband of eight years, Erik Skoglund, and her three-year-old son.

### **Gregory B. Bell (Christ Church, Whitefish Bay)**

Greg and his wife Sybil have been active members of Christ Church since 2002. He has served the parish as Junior and Senior Warden (2 terms), Vestry member, chair of the parish Finance Committee, elected delegate to the Diocesan Convention, co-chair of the Stewardship Committee, and is a current member of the Beloved Community Team.

Greg had 30 years of experience in corporate communications. He was the former director of global external communication for JohnsonDiversey (now Diversey). He was also director of communication for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and press secretary to Archbishop Rembert Weakland. Since retiring in 2008, Greg has partnered with companies and organizations to develop strategic plans and processes. He also facilitates board, committee, and staff retreats. Greg has worked with such organizations as the Community Action Partnership, the anti-poverty policy and membership organization, the Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation (WECC), and the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance.

Greg has been married to Sybil for 47 years. They live in a condo on the Milwaukee River. They have four adult children and four grandchildren. He holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Northern Michigan University. He pursued graduate studies in religious education and pastoral studies, as well as group facilitation at Loyola University, and dispute resolution at Marquette University.

### **Adam McCluskey (St. Dunstan's, Madison)**

Adam is an active member of St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church in Madison. He is currently serving his second term as a member of the Vestry and as part of the Outreach Committee. Before moving to Madison in 2014, Adam worked as the Director of Christian Education at Calvary Episcopal Church in Batavia, IL.

Additionally, Adam has worked in manufacturing and landscaping, and was the first person in his family to graduate with a college degree. A native of Youngstown, OH, he received his Masters of Divinity from General Theological Seminary in New York, NY in 2012. During that time, he worked as a seminarian at St. Ignatius of Antioch, an Episcopal church on the upper west side of Manhattan, and ministered to shut-ins and youth. He completed his clinical pastoral education internship at New York Presbyterian, where he primarily worked in the emergency department. He is passionate about Christian formation and education. Currently, Adam is a stay-at-home parent and volunteer and lives in Madison with his wife, Philosophy, and their five-year-old son, Wren.

### **Janice Watter (St. Bartholomew's, Pewaukee)**

Jan is an active member of St. Bartholomew's in Pewaukee where she has served in many capacities, including Senior Warden for four years, search team leader, Community of Hope leadership team, Lay Reader, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd assistant, communications, and parish administration. She has been a deputy for the diocesan convention many times and served 2 terms on Executive Council during which she was elected vice-president for her final 2 years. Most recently, Jan was co-chair of the Bishop Search Committee before the search was suspended due to the difficulties posed by the COVID pandemic.

Jan has a long history of volunteer leadership positions in the community including Elmbrook Education Foundation President and Scholarship Committee Chairperson, Friends of the Brookfield Public Library founding member, and many school district committees and task forces.

Jan has been married to Jeffrey for 34 years and has two adult children, Ted and David; a daughter-in-law, Heather; and two grandchildren, Ellie and Max. Now retired, Jan worked as Operations Manager at Our Next Generation for 5 years and Nashotah House in fund development, alumni relations, and communications. Prior to working with the non-profit organizations, she worked in interior design and project management and taught in the interior design degree program at WCTC.

## **Title IV Disciplinary Board**

**TWO clergy persons to be elected to three-year terms**

**ONE lay person to be elected to a three-year term**

### **The Rev. Maureen Martin (St. James, West Bend)**

Mother Maureen in the Priest in Charge at St James West Bend. Maureen is a 2020 graduate of Nashotah House and is originally from The Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Her family joined the Episcopal Church at St Lukes, Los Gatos California, where she enjoyed the beauty of Anglo Catholic worship coupled with a mission for justice. She and her husband David have raised three children and are the doting parents of their ex-racer Roxy the Greyhound.

## **The Rev. Joel Prather (St. Bartholomew's, Pewaukee)**

Father Joel Prather read St. John's Gospel at the age of 19 for the first time and was utterly amazed at what Jesus said and did. That amazement continues to this day.

He's served as Rector in the Diocese of Milwaukee since 2014, first at Christ Church, Delavan and now at St. Bartholomew's, Pewaukee. A native Chicagoan, after graduating from Illinois State University he spent nine years with State Farm Insurance until he heard God say "go" on the shores of the Amazon in Brazil in 2003. So they "went" to the great state of Wisconsin to study at Nashotah House. After seminary, he and his wife Tammy were called to the Diocese of Dallas to plant a new Church. Upon its reception as a Mission of the Diocese and moving into its own facilities, Father Joel accepted the call to the Diocese of Milwaukee.

Father Joel is passionate about evangelism, Church growth, crossing barriers with the Gospel, helping the Scriptures become real for people, leadership development and strengthening relationships that help transform congregations and their communities.

Fr. Joel is the Vice President of the Executive Council and he has served on Commission on Mission & Development and the Multicultural Ministry Team.

He and his family love to travel and are always seeking out great local bakeries and coffee shops. Father Joel enjoys reading monastic literature, listening to heavy metal, and can always be found with a cup of coffee nearby.

## **Beth Durant (Christ Church, Whitefish Bay)**

Beth Durant is an active member of Christ Church. She has served in a variety of ways including, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, vestry member, delegate to Diocesan Convention, Lay Eucharistic Minister, Usher, Christian formation teacher, Member and Chair of Nominating Committee, Member and Co-Chair of Stewardship, and Member of Search Committee.

Beth has volunteered extensively for her alma mater, Carleton College: Alumni Board, Admissions Representative, Annual Fund, and chair of the Milwaukee Alumni Club. Beth is married to Ted Durant, and they have 2 daughters, Sarah and Polly, both of whom are married to men named Michael. Beth and Ted are relishing their new roles as grandparents to a grandson and grandbaby on-the-way. Beth is the Director and a teacher at Community Preschool of Whitefish Bay, a parent co-op that serves children ages 2-5.

## **John Washbush (Trinity, Wauwatosa)**

John Washbush is a member of Trinity Episcopal Church, Wauwatosa, and has served the Church at the parish, diocesan and denominational level. He has served as a Lay Deputy to the General Conventions four times, serving as an officer of a legislative committee in the House of Deputies for the last three, and he was elected in 2019 to serve as a Lay Deputy to the General Convention which will take place in 2022 (delayed due to COVID-19 pandemic).

At the parish level, John has served in a wide variety of leadership, service and liturgical ministries including verger, vestry member, Junior Warden and Senior Warden; as a member or chair Stewardship, Building & Grounds, Worship Planning, Personnel, Christian Formation, Communications, and Technology Committees. He has worked with outreach ministries including Sundries from the Avenue, Red Door Clothes, and Homeless Outreach; and liturgically has been a Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Chalice Bearer, Acolyte, and Eucharistic Visitor.

Beyond the parish, John serves the Diocese of Milwaukee on the Executive Council and as Parliamentarian for Diocesan Convention. He has served on the Standing Committee and the Commission on Ministry. He has served the diocesan convention as a member of the Resolutions Committee, the Convention Planning Committee, and has worked with the Committee on Constitution and Canons, the Committee on the Dispatch of Business, and the Committee on Credentials.

As a Communication Arts teacher at Hamilton High School in Sussex, John teaches 9th through 12th grade students media production, oral communication, composition, and literature. After school he works with the Robotics team, the Drama program, the National Honor Society, and as the video coordinator for athletics program.

# **Trustees of Funds and Development, Inc.**

## **TWO persons (lay or clergy) to be elected to three-year terms**

### **The Rev. Gary Manning (Trinity, Wauwatosa)**

The Rev. Gary Manning has served the people of Trinity, Wauwatosa since 2004. Over the past 17 years, Gary has also served in a number of capacities on behalf of the Diocese of Milwaukee: as an Executive Council member from 2005-2008 and 2013-2016; as a member of the Board of Directors for St. John's on the Lake from 2009-2011, and as a member of the Standing Committee from 2017-2020. He was also a longtime trainer for the Diocesan Church Development Institute (here in Milwaukee and in three other dioceses) from 2006-2019. In addition to his current parochial responsibilities, Gary has recently partnered with two colleagues to form ChurchWerkes, LLC, a consulting and coaching ministry for clergy and congregations.

### **Jennifer Williams (St. Paul's, Milwaukee)**

Jennifer is completing her first term on the Trustees of Funds and Endowments board, where she serves as chair of the Investment Committee. Jennifer is a Certified Financial Planner / Certified Trust and Fiduciary Advisor and currently works for Wells Fargo Bank as a Fiduciary Advisory Specialist, developing multigenerational financial plans for clients of the bank. She has been in the financial services industry for 20 years and her professional experience has been an asset to the Trustees of Funds and Endowments. In addition to her financial certifications, Jennifer received a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from Marquette University and a Master's Degree in Nursing Science from UW-Milwaukee.

A Milwaukee native, Jennifer lives in downtown Milwaukee with spouse, Andre and daughter, Alexis. An avid cook and hostess, Jennifer also enjoys outdoor activities such as canoeing and hiking.