

# ELECTIONS TO DIOCESAN LEADERSHIP

*The following positions will be elected by the diocesan convention. Nominees and bios follow in the subsequent pages.*

## **Diocesan Council**

The following positions will be elected at the regional pre-convention meetings, scheduled to take place before the convention in October. Nominations may be submitted up until the date of your pre-convention meeting.

- Northern: 1 person, any order  
*Elected 9/15:* The Rev. Jim Perra - Grace, Traverse City
- Central: 1 person, must be clergy  
*Nominee:* The Rev. Dr. Jared Cramer - St. John's, Grand Haven
- Southern: 1 person, any order  
*There have been no nominations submitted for this position.*

## **Standing Committee (2 Lay, 1 Clergy)**

The Standing Committee serves as the council of advice to the bishop and assumes the ecclesiastical authority of the diocese when there is a bishop vacancy in addition to other duties.

Lay Nominees:

- *There have been no nominations submitted for this position.*

Clergy Nominees:

- The Rev. Brian Coleman - St. Thomas, Battle Creek
- The Rev. Dr. Randall Warren - St. Luke's, Kalamazoo

## **Provincial Synod Delegates (1 Clergy, 2 Lay, plus alternates)**

The Provincial Synod is the governing body of Province V of the Episcopal Church. It meets once every three years in the Spring preceding the General Convention. Of those elected, at least one person must be a deputy to the next General Convention.

The 2021 Synod Meeting is planned to be an online gathering.

Nominees:

- Susan Mencarelli - Holy Trinity, Manistee

## ELECTIONS

### WESTERN MICHIGAN - DIOCESAN COUNCIL NOMINEES (CENTRAL)

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#### **The Rev. Dr. Jared Cramer**

St. John's Episcopal Church in Grand Haven

**Order of Ministry:** Clergy

**What experience, gifts, and perspective can the nominee offer in the service of our Lord in this office?**

In my mid-thirties, after more than a decade of priestly ministry, I am deeply committed to the present and future of the Episcopal Church in Michigan. Born and raised in Grand Haven, Michigan, for the past ten years I have served as the rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Grand Haven, MI. As a part of that ministry, I work with our parish's El Corazón Latino

Ministry Initiative—a Spanish-speaking worshipping community intentionally placed at the heart (el corazón) and not the edges of our congregation, with a particular focus on immigration justice. I hold the degrees of Bachelor's in Biblical Studies, Master of Divinity, Master of Sacred Theology, and Doctor of Ministry. In 2020 I began the Executive Master of Nonprofit Administration at Mendoza College in the University of Notre Dame. I believe that my decade of experience in this diocese, my passion for under-represented communities, and my gifts and training in the areas of finance and administration could help our diocese.

**Please list the nominee's most recent PARISH LEVEL ministries and offices.**

Rector - St. John's Episcopal Church  
Mission Developer - El Corazón Latino Ministry Initiative

**Please list the nominee's most recent DIOCESAN, CHURCH-WIDE ministries and offices.**

2015, 2018, 2021 - Alternate Deputy to General Convention  
2010-2016 – Dean of the Lakeshore Deanery, Convener of the Deans of the Diocese  
2012-2015 – Commission on Ministry (Chair from 2013-2015)

**Please list the nominee's most recent COMMUNITY involvement and/or service.**

2020 - Present – Founder and Co-Chair of the Tri-Cities Puentes Initiative (501c3 focused on building bridges—punts—and cultural understanding through the celebration of the Hispanic and Latinx community in the Tri-Cities area.)

2019 - Present – Founder and Co-Chair of the annual Grand Haven Hispanic Heritage Fiesta

2013 - 2018 – Current – Leadership Team, Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Initiative North

2014 - 2017 – Board Member, Humanity for Prisoners (Treasurer, 2015 - 2017)

**Please list the nominee's participation in anti-racism training(s), including the year in which it was taken.**

I have been active with the the Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance (LEDA) since 2014, participating in various trainings, workshops, and conferences. I served on the LEDA Leadership Team for Northwest Ottawa County until that team ceased work in 2018. At the parochial level, in the previous program year, 2019–2020, I facilitated the “Sacred Ground” gatherings project for St. John’s and the surrounding community, a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. “Sacred Ground” is part of “Becoming Beloved Community,” our church’s long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society. As we approach the fall of 2020, in conjunction with Humanity for Prisoners, I am facilitating a book study on Jim Wallis' book /America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege and the Bridge to a New America."

# ELECTIONS

## WESTERN MICHIGAN - STANDING COMMITTEE NOMINEES



**The Rev. Brian Coleman**  
St. Thomas, Battle Creek

**Order of Ministry:** Clergy

**What experience, gifts, and perspective can the nominee offer in the service of our Lord in this office?**

I have administrative, pastoral and communication gifts to offer in this office. I have a wide range of experience serving in diocesan ministries. I pray fervently and daily for the health and well-being of our diocese and hope to be able to support our work toward healing and reconciliation in the face of the bishop's suspension.

**Please list the nominee's most recent PARISH LEVEL ministries and offices.**

Rector

**Please list the nominee's most recent DIOCESAN, CHURCH-WIDE ministries and offices.**

Current: Deputy to General Convention, Plainsong Farm Board of Directors

Recent: Standing Committee, Diocesan Restructuring Taskforce

**Please list the nominee's most recent COMMUNITY involvement and/or service.**

I serve as a Trustee for the Battle Creek Community Foundation, on the City of Battle Creek's Human Relations Board, and am active in local LGBTQI advocacy and support.

**Please list the nominee's participation in anti-racism training(s), including the year in which it was taken.**

After the murder of George Floyd, I like many other conscientious white Americans took it upon myself to learn about how I have contributed to the abysmal state of race relations in our country. Two book were especially impactful: White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo and How to be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi.

Diocesan Racial Healing Workshops (2010, 2015, 2018)

2012 Elimination of Racism Training Program through the W.K. Kellogg Foundation

2010 E/RACE Training

# ELECTIONS

## WESTERN MICHIGAN - STANDING COMMITTEE NOMINEES

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### **The Rev. Dr. Randall Warren**

St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Kalamazoo

**Order of Ministry:** Clergy

**What experience, gifts, and perspective can the nominee offer in the service of our Lord in this office?**

I have served on our Standing Committee for three years. During that time I have functioned as the Standing Committee liaison to the Commission on Ministry and have striven to streamline the interactions between the COM and the Standing Committee. I have a great deal of experience in group process, organizational complexity, and dealing with difficulties. My chaplain's clinical residency was in a level 1 regional trauma center on the south side of Chicago, and I have served as an independent consultant for a variety of parishes. I am trained and experienced in group process and dynamics, and was a peer consultation leader for the Chicago Center for the Study of Groups and Organizations. I believe I have many gifts and experiences which are pertinent to our present day and situation.

**Please list the nominee's most recent PARISH LEVEL ministries and offices.**

I am currently the Rector of St. Luke's Church, Kalamazoo.

**Please list the nominee's most recent DIOCESAN, CHURCH-WIDE ministries and offices.**

I was a member of the TEC Title IV Education Committee, a diocesan deployment officer, a diocesan misconduct case manager, and a deacons' school instructor in pastoral care. I have been an independent consultant for several parishes and have been published in the areas of liturgy, congregational dynamics, and spirituality. I was a contributor to Enriching Our Worship 2. I currently serve on our Diocesan Finance Committee.

**Please list the nominee's most recent COMMUNITY involvement and/or service.**

I and my parish are members of Interfaith Strategies for Advocacy and Action (I.S.A.A.C), a community organizing group to which I contribute regularly with both money and time. I served on the leadership team of Kalamazoo United, an ecumenical venture which brought almost

4,000 Kalamazoo Christians together to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and commit to greater ecumenical cooperation. I have been part of numerous interfaith dialogues through the Kalamazoo Community College. I was the originator and am the liturgist for the Bronson Park Churches' annual joint Palm Sunday celebration.

**Please list the nominee's participation in anti-racism training(s), including the year in which it was taken.**

I participated in a CrossRoads 2.5 day anti-racism in Chicago around the year 2000. I also participated in a 2016 Eliminating Racism and Claiming/Celebrating Equality (E.R.A.C.C.E.) 2.5 day training, "Understanding & Analyzing Systemic Racism," in Kalamazoo. I also participated in the 30 week training program offered by Just Faith in 2014/15. I was a guest speaker at an I.S.A.A.C. sponsored worship service focused on overcoming racism and last month had a personal appointment with an assistant Kalamazoo Police Chief to discuss the dynamics of race and our community's policing.

# ELECTIONS

## WESTERN MICHIGAN - PROVINCIAL SYNOD NOMINEES

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### **Susan Mencarelli, MA**

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Manistee

**Order of Ministry:** Laity

**What experience, gifts, and perspective can the nominee offer in the service of our Lord in this office?**

Church Experience:

I was baptized as an infant, confirmed as a youth, and married as a young woman in St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Kalamazoo. My church attendance after my marriage depended on the inclinations of my husband and my children.

I've been a member of the United Church of Christ for three years, a Unitarian Universalist for three years, an Evangelical Covenant for ten years and now I'm back at the Episcopal Church (finally! and I intend to stay put).

When I was at the Evangelical Covenant Church I served as a Secretary to the Leadership Team for 1 year, a Coordinator of the Nursery for over 2 years, a Youth Leader for over 2 years, the Coordinator for Vacation Bible School for 2 years and as a Deacon for over 2 years. During this time I completed a three year program through Grace Springs Center for Christian Spirituality in Traverse City and am certified as a Spiritual Director.

While I've been a member at Holy Trinity I've served as the Chairperson for ECW and as Clerk to The Vestry. I was also privileged to attend and graduate from EfM and DCDI. I completed EfM Mentor training in Grand Rapids a couple of years ago, but haven't started a group yet.

Work Experiences:

From the age of about 16 until age 30 I worked in food service, child care, and education. I earned an MA degree in Psychology when I was 30. For the past 30 years I've worked as a psychologist with individuals with developmental disabilities & mental illnesses, as a domestic violence & sexual assault counselor and as an adjunct faculty at a community college.

Family Experience

I was married two weeks after I graduated from college in 1982. My husband John & I have raised a birth son, an adopted son and a goddaughter. Both our parents have died as well as other family members so we are extremely mindful how fragile human lives are and treasure the time we have to spend with those we love. Several members of our family have struggled with divorce, domestic violence and substance abuse. We had to learn a lot about boundaries. We do our best to stay in touch with family & friends and are becoming more adept at texting and Zoom meetings and figuring out safe ways to socialize during the pandemic.

#### Community Experience

For the past 23 years, I've been a part of several community organizations including the Manistee County Family Advocates, the Human Services Collaborative Body, the Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Response Team, Parents & Friends of Gays & Lesbians and the Lions.

I am also a member of Spiritual Directors International and the American Psychological Association.

#### Gifts:

I believe I listen well to others and to God. I try my best to abide in God's Love so I can live by my Baptismal and Marriage Vows. I try to learn as much as I can every day to live my best life and to help others live their best lives. I try to help out with the work of creating the Kingdom of God on earth and to live in the present moment.

#### **Please list the nominee's most recent PARISH LEVEL ministries and offices.**

I am currently the Clerk to the Vestry at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Manistee. I am also our church's representative on the Safe Harbor Steering Committee through Everyday Christians Helping Others (E.C.H.O.) which provides overnight lodging & to individuals & families who are homeless during the winter months (I was one of the two people in Manistee County to get this Ministry started over 10 years ago).

#### **Please list the nominee's most recent DIOCESAN, CHURCH-WIDE ministries and offices.**

None.

#### **Please list the nominee's most recent COMMUNITY involvement and/or service.**

I attend the Manistee County Human Services Collaborative Body, the Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Response Team, Parent & Friends of Gays and Lesbians and the Manistee Lions once a month. Recently I developed a referral form to be used by 4 different Law Enforcement Agencies to improve the connections between victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault and service providers. I just completed a 4-year term of secretary to the Lions.



**Please list the nominee's participation in anti-racism training(s), including the year in which it was taken.**

During the first five years of my work at CHOICES of Manistee County, Inc., a domestic violence agency, I participated in several trainings that were designed to help individuals become more aware of their own biases in the areas of race, gender, education, economic status and sexual orientation. This would have been from 1998 to 2003. A few years ago, maybe in 2018, I went to an Episcopal Church in Grand Rapids and completed the Anti-Racism Training required of persons in leadership positions. Last month, I read the book "White Rage" by Carol Anderson and participated in Zoom book group. This is a difficult, but important book to read.

# RESOLUTIONS TO THE CONVENTION

## JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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### RESOLUTION 1 -

#### **A Joint Resolution Calling for the Creation of an Assisting Bishop Position in the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan**

*Whereas*, we highly value the deepening relationship between our dioceses and hope to continue finding ways to creatively share resources and ministry so that the Good News of Jesus Christ may be effectively proclaimed in congregations that are healthy, mission-focused, and led by faithful lay and clergy leaders; and

*Whereas*, both our dioceses are seeking faithfulness in times marked by economic uncertainty, political unrest, racial injustice, a global pandemic, and a cultural context which calls for a bold and unified message of God's love; and

*Whereas*, we also affirm, as dioceses of The Episcopal Church, the teaching of our prayer book (BCP 855) that Christian ministry is most fully exercised by clergy and laity joined with the sacramental and apostolic leadership of a bishop; and

*Whereas*, we uphold and respect the decision of the Standing Committees to retain the ecclesiastical authority during the suspension of our Bishop; and

*Whereas*, at a Joint Standing Committee meeting on August 31, 2020 the Standing Committees of the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan voted to appoint a part-time Visiting Bishop; and the Standing Committees of Eastern and Western MI, acting jointly, ask the joint convention of our dioceses to create the position of a part-time Assisting Bishop for the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan; therefore be it

*Resolved*, that this Joint Convention of the Episcopal Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan create the position of a part-time Assisting Bishop, in accordance with Title III, Canon 12.9 (m) of the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, who will serve both dioceses with primary roles of teaching, preaching, pastoral care particularly to the clergy, providing sacramental rites, and advising the Standing Committees; and be it further

*Resolved*, that our Joint Convention urge the Standing Committees, under their authority as the Ecclesiastical Authority of each Diocese, to appoint the current Visiting Bishop to the position of Assisting Bishop; and be it further

*Resolved*, that the Joint Standing Committees, as allowed by Canon, determine the work to be done by the Assisting Bishop and the ecclesiastical authority to be delegated to him or her, if any; and be it further

*Resolved*, that the Assisting Bishop's tenure shall continue until our dioceses have made a godly decision with regard to our future relationship with our current Bishop, with the possibility of the Assisting Bishop either being a shepherd to us in reconciliation with our Bishop or as a guide in a faithful separation from him and discernment of new beginnings for the Episcopal Church in the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan.

**Rationale:**

- We believe that, an Assisting Bishop could provide wise counsel and leadership in this tumultuous time and serve as a helpful advisor to our Standing Committees, augmenting, and supporting their leadership. This is in no way a denigration of the leadership of any other order of ministry, nor a claim for the superiority of the episcopate. Rather, it is an affirmation of St. Paul's words in Romans 12, "We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us." We believe the distinctive gifts of a bishop are needed at this time in our shared life.
- We acknowledge our strong laity, deacons, and priests who provide leadership in exemplary ways as The Episcopal Church in Eastern and Western Michigan. Still, our governance and ecclesiology envision the focused care, oversight, and direction for ministry by a Bishop.
- Canon III.12.9(m) indicates that, in the absence of a Bishop Diocesan, the Standing Committee can make this invitation: "(m) Assisting Bishops are those bishops whose primary roles are teaching, preaching or providing sacramental rites at the invitation of the Ecclesiastical Authority of the diocese where the Assisting Bishop has been invited to participate for particular times and places."
- We believe the Holy Spirit is active in our diocesan leadership, guiding our clergy and lay leaders. We have seen that activity, particularly in the increased shared ministries between the two Dioceses. We believe an Assisting Bishop can enable us to walk through the path ahead of us with grace, faithfulness, and a strong commitment to being the Body of Christ in our time.

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**Resolution Signatories**

### *The Standing Committee of Eastern Michigan*

Janet Huff-Worvie (President; St. John's, Otter Lake), the Rev. Brian Chace (Vice-President; Trinity, West Branch), the Rev. Dan Scheid (St. Paul's, Flint), the Rev. Lydia Speller (Grace, Port Huron), Gary Grinn (Secretary; St. Paul's, Gladwin), Bill Thewalt (St. Christopher's, Grand Blanc).

### *The Standing Committee of Western Michigan*

Dave Croal (President; St. Mark's, Coldwater), Anne Davidson (St. Mark's, Coldwater), Carole Redwine (St. Philip's, Grand Rapids), the Rev. BJ Heyboer (Secretary; St. Mark's, Newaygo), the Rev. Jodi Baron (St. Philip's, Beulah; Holy Trinity, Manistee), the Rev. Diane Pike (Southwest Michigan Episcopal Covenant - Dowagiac, Niles, St. Joseph), Martha Bartlett (St. James, Pentwater), the Rev. Dr. Randall Warren (Vice-President; St. Luke's, Kalamazoo).

### *Eastern Michigan Clergy*

The Rev. Heather Barta, The Very Rev. Judi Boli (St. Paul's, Saginaw), The Rev. Ann Grady (St. Christopher's, Grand Blanc), The Rev. Mary Jo Hudson (St. Matthew's, Saginaw), The Rev. Thomas Manney (St. Paul's, Bad Axe and St. John's, Dryden), The Rev. Curt Norman (St. John's, Saginaw), The Rev. Pam Renna (St. John's, Saginaw).

### *Eastern Michigan Laity*

Mary Baukus (St. John's, Saginaw), Kathryn Coman (St. John's, Saginaw), Angela Campbell (St. Christopher's, Grand Blanc), Marcia Hoffman (St. John's, Saginaw), Melanie Hollman (St. John's, Saginaw).

### *Western Michigan Clergy*

The Rev. Molly Bosscher (St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids), The Rev. Brian Coleman (St. Thomas, Battle Creek), The Rev. Dr. Jared Cramer (St. John's, Grand Haven), The Ven. Beth Drew (Trinity, Three Rivers), The Rev. Paula Durren (Retired), The Rev. Michael Fedewa (St. Paul's, Muskegon), The Rev. John Hills (Retired), The Rev. Dr. David Meyers (St. Peter's-by-the-Lake, Montague), The Rev. Nurya Love Parish (Plainsong Farm, Rockford, Holy Spirit, Belmont), The Rev. LaRae Rutenbar (Retired), The Rev. Anne Schnaare (Trinity, Marshall), The Rev. Thomas Scott (Retired), The Rev. Joel Turmo (St. Timothy's, Richland)

### *Western Michigan Laity*

Alicia Hager (St. John's, Grand Haven), Trish Harris (St. Thomas, Battle Creek), Karen Nisja (St. John's, Grand Haven), Karen Keese (St. Thomas, Battle Creek), Kathryn Dingwall (St. Thomas, Battle Creek)

## RESOLUTION 2 -

### A Joint Resolution Calling for Racial Healing and Equity

The Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan resolve and affirm that Black Lives Matter.

#### **Rationale:**

Genesis 1:26-27 states that God created all of humanity in the divine image and bestows dignity upon all. God promises to redeem, reconcile, and restore the whole creation through Christ. When Black lives are treated as though they don't matter, Christians everywhere should be able to stand up and assert without hesitation that Black lives certainly do matter, have dignity, worth, and value. God created Black people in God's image. God redeems Black lives in Christ. Black lives matter to God.

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#### **Resolution Signatories**

##### *Eastern Michigan Clergy*

The Rev. Brian Chace, ret. Trinity, West Branch; the Rev. Dan Scheid, St. Paul's, Flint; the Rev. Lydia Speller, Grace, Port Huron; the Rev. Ken Hitch, St. John's Midland; the Rev. Canon Michael Spencer, St. Christopher's, Grand Blanc; the Very Rev. Judy Boli, St. Paul's, Saginaw;

##### *Eastern Michigan Laity*

Genevieve Field, St. Paul's, Flint; Joseph Kennedy, St. Paul's, Flint; Sheryl Kennedy, St. Paul's, Flint; Jelecia Ford, St. Paul's, Flint; Audrey Stevens, St. Paul's, Flint; Holly Richardson, St. Paul's, Flint; Rafael McDaniel, St. Paul's, Flint; Rose Duncan, St. Alban's, Bay City; Joan Miska, St. Paul's, Flint; Walt Peake, St. Paul's, Flint; Lisa Hrit, St. Paul's, Flint; Frank Burger, St. Christopher's Grand Blanc; Elizabeth Flusher, St. Paul's, Flint; Meghan Cherry, St. Paul's, Flint; Debbie Bommarito, St. Paul's, Flint; Alexandra Wesley, St. Paul's, Flint; Janet Huff-Worvie, St. John's, Otter Lake; Janet Baker, St. Paul's Flint; Gary Grinn, St. Paul's, Gladwin;

##### *Western Michigan Clergy*

The Rev. Brian Coleman, St. Thomas, Battle Creek; the Rev. Joel Turmo, St. Timothy's, Richland; the Rev. Dr. Jared Cramer, St. John's, Grand Haven; the Rev. Jodi Baron, Holy Trinity, Manistee and St. Philip's, Beulah; the Rev. Christian Baron, Holy Trinity, Manistee and St. Philip's, Beulah; the Rev. William Fleener, Sr., St. Paul's, Muskegon; the Rev. Diane Pike, Southwest Michigan Covenant; the Rev. Nurya Love Parish, Holy Spirit, Belmont; the Rev. BJ Heyboer, St. Mark's, Newaygo; Dave Croal, St. Mark's, Coldwater; the Rev. Canon Valerie Ambrose, Diocesan Staff; the Rev. Dr. Randall Warren, St. Luke's, Kalamazoo; the Rev. Deacon Cynthia Nawrocki, St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids; the Rev. Susan York, St. Mark's, Grand Rapids; the Rev. Canon William Spaid, Diocesan Staff;

*Western Michigan Laity*

Yvonne Fleener, St. David's, Lansing; William Fleener, Jr., St. David's, Lansing; Matthew Roney, Grace, Traverse City; Evan Knill, Holy Spirit, Belmont; Judy Fleener, St. Paul's Muskegon; Anne Davidson, St. Mark's, Coldwater; Carole Redwine, St. Philip's, Grand Rapids; Joyce Henry, St. Philip's, Grand Rapids;