

ELECTIONS TO DIOCESAN LEADERSHIP

WESTERN MICHIGAN

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

Diocesan Council

The council serves as the governing authority of the diocese and administers the secular affairs including the budget, managing resources, creation of task forces, and more. The Council is composed of a minimum of 12 members and as many as 17, including an appointed youth representative.

The following positions are up for election to three year terms at their regional pre-convention meeting:

Northern Region (One vacancy, may be clergy or lay)

- *There are no nominations at this time.*

Central Region (One vacancy, may be clergy or lay)

- The Rev. Nurya Love Parish - Holy Spirit, Belmont)

Southern Region (Two vacancies, at least one must be laity)

- Judith Buchanan - Church of the Good Shepherd, Allegan

Standing Committee (1 Lay, 2 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:

- *No nominations have been submitted.*

Clergy Nominees:

- *No nominations have been submitted.*

Submit a nomination

The deadlines to submit nominations are one day ahead of the applicable regional pre-convention meeting for Diocesan Council and by October 12 for Standing Committee. [Click here to submit a](#)

[nomination.](#)

ELECTIONS

WESTERN MICHIGAN - DIOCESAN COUNCIL, CENTRAL REGION REPRESENTATIVE



The Rev. Nurya Love Parish

Holy Spirit, Belmont

Order of Ministry: Clergy

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

I'm putting my name forward for Diocesan Council because I believe the next chapter in history will be an important time for the Episcopal Church in Western Michigan. I bring the perspective of a clergyperson who started a new ministry, following God's call, which became a cooperating ministry for the diocese and a legal agency for the Episcopal Church. In that role I manage budgets, staff, fund development and organizational strategy. I also serve a small congregation which was growing before the pandemic but has been greatly challenged over the past couple years. As a priest who has vowed to take my share in the councils of the church I believe I am called to take counsel with other leaders in the diocese for the future mission and health of the church.

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

Rector, Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, 2016-present

Associate Priest, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 2011-2016

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

Author, Lesson Plans that Work Climate Justice lessons (churchwide formation resources), 2021

Executive Director, Plainsong Farm & Ministry (a cooperating ministry of the Diocese of Western Michigan and an Episcopal Service Corps young adult ministry site)

Deputy to General Convention, 2018 & 2021/2

Advisory Council for the Stewardship of Creation, 2015-2018

Founding Editor, Grow Christians (online formation ministry of Forward Movement), 2016-2018

Alternate Deputy to General Convention, 2015

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

Explore & Soar Reading Club Board, 2019-present

Please list the nominee's participation in anti-racism training(s), including the year.

Duke Divinity School Leadership Education, 2019; Becoming Beloved Community, 2018

Diocesan Anti-Racism Training, Diocese of Michigan, 2010

ELECTIONS

WESTERN MICHIGAN - DIOCESAN COUNCIL, SOUTHERN REGION REPRESENTATIVE



Judith Buchanan

Church of the Good Shepherd, Allegan

Order of Ministry: Laity

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

I have been an active member of Good Shepherd in Allegan since moving from Virginia in 1979. Like most members of smaller parishes I have been involved in various aspects of our church, such as vestry member (Senior Warden, Clerk), choir, ECW, outreach, fellowship, worship committee. For several years I selected all the hymns for Sunday services and I have been licensed to lead services, lay read, serve chalice, take communion to the sick and shut-in etc. Those of you who also attend smaller parishes understand that each person is both cook and bottle-washer as needed.

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

I served again as Senior Warden from 2017-2020, and have just been nominated for another term of three years on Vestry. Now I am on the Outreach, and Music and Worship Committees. I will be facilitating a class in dismantling racism (based on the Sacred Ground Curriculum) which we are calling "Embracing Diversity." Almost everyone in the parish is involved in the Allegan County Fair Good Shepherd food booth. We built our food booth inside the arts and crafts building over 50 years ago, and have been maintaining it every year, except 2020 - Covid year. As in past years I bake the nut pies (chocolate walnut and pecan) and serve three or more shifts to wait on customers. Y'all come!

As co-director of the Baby Closet, I write grants and grant reports, order supplies for the many layettes we provide for needy families in Allegan County, and so I have the pleasure of meeting these folks when they come to pick up the layette, diaper bag, car seat and pack n play (as needed).

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

I have been serving as a member of the Diocesan Council for three years. I am the liaison to the Council for Dismantling Racism in EDWM. I would be pleased to serve a second term.

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

As co-director of the Good Shepherd Baby Closet, I write grants and grant reports, order supplies for the many layettes we provide for needy families in Allegan County, and have the pleasure of meeting these folks when they come to pick up the layette, diaper bag, car seat and pack n play (as needed). Now, inspired by the good work St Luke's is doing, we are offering families in Allegan County one box of diapers each month for each of their babies. What a joy and privilege it is to serve in this way!

My studies (primarily through the diocesan workshops and classes from the Justice League), and work toward furthering the Beloved Community envisioned by our wonderful Presiding Bishop Curry has affected my teaching of English writing at WMU. My students study isms in our society that have disadvantaged particular groups of the society and develop a plan to create a more equitable society.

Please list the nominee's participation in anti-racism training(s), including the year.

I have been on the original task force group from EDWM (2018/19) as one of the representatives of the Southern Region since the formation of the group. We all attended a two-day workshop that was very valuable. The seven members in our Southern Region group studied the entire 20-week recommended course, Sacred Ground, in 2020 via zoom meetings. I will be conducting a training at Good Shepherd this Autumn. We are all eager to see more training take shape in the congregations of our joint diocese. I also have joined several National and Provincial zoom discussions on how to present, shape and enhance the Sacred Ground curriculum.