



# 2025 DIOCESAN ELECTIONS

STANDING COMMITTEE, DISCIPLINARY BOARD, & TRUSTEE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH

Nominee profiles are listed alphabetically within each category.

# STANDING COMMITTEE

Each voting member of Convention is to select one lay person from the Acadiana Convocation and one priest from the Lake Charles Convocation.



# KATHY KNIERIM

## ACADIANA CONVOCATION



Member of Ascension, Lafayette

- **Parish Involvement/Activities**

Kathy is an active member of Ascension. She serves as a lector and lay Eucharistic minister and is conscientious in the job of scheduling lectors and filling in wherever needed. She participates in adult classes and bible studies at Ascension, has served on various committees, and in the past she has served two terms on the vestry.

- **Diocesan Involvement/Activities**

She has served as a delegate to diocesan convention for a number of years and for this past year has served on the diocesan council to fill a one-year vacancy. She values the broader church community that extends beyond the local parish.

- **Wider Church Involvement/Activities**

Kathy serves as the faculty advisor for the Wesley United Campus Ministry, an interdenominational campus ministry at UL Lafayette.

- **Personal Involvement/Activities**

Kathy is a long-time chemistry professor at UL Lafayette. She loves the outdoors, especially going canoeing and enjoys sharing her interests with others.

# THE REV. DR. MITZI GEORGE

## LAKE CHARLES CONVOCATION



- **Parish Involvement/Activities**

The Rev Dr. Mitzi George has been a member of our diocese for more than 40 years. She is a retired teacher and served as a bi-vocational priest for several years. She has served as rector at Good Shepherd in Lake Charles since 2022 and is married to Kevin George, a lifelong Episcopalian. They have two children and five grandchildren.

- **Diocesan Involvement/Activities**

Mother Mitzi has served on the Standing Committee twice, the Diocesan Council numerous times and as Diocesan Youth Director. She served as Diocesan Disaster Coordinator under Bishop MacPherson and currently works with Joy Owensby as diocesan representative for disaster relief in Southwest Louisiana.

- **Wider Church Involvement/Activities**

Mother Mitzi holds advanced degrees in both education and theology/ministry.

- **Personal Involvement/Activities**

Mother Mitzi has a long history of service to the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana having served under four bishops. She looks forward to her continued service for the diocese.

Rector of Good Shepherd, Lake Charles

# DISCIPLINARY BOARD



# THE REV. ANDREW CHRISTIANSEN



- **Parish Involvement/Activities**

Originally from Michigan, The Rev. Andrew Christiansen has served as rector at St Michael's and All Angels in Lake Charles since January 2023. His wife Rachel teaches at Bishop Noland Episcopal Day School.

- **Diocesan Involvement/Activities**

Beginning in 2018, prior to being called to St Michael's, Drew has served in Western Louisiana as a school chaplain, youth minister and associate priest.

- **Wider Church Involvement/Activities**

Drew has a interest in church history and is currently working on a doctorate in the area of Lutheran theologians during World War II.

- **Personal Involvement/Activities**

In the community, Drew plays bass for the "Jumpin' Jehoshaphats", a local music ministry to assisted living centers in the Lake Charles area. He is also a member of the Lake Charles Rotary. He is honored to be nominated for the difficult but necessary work of Title IV.

Rector of St. Michael and All Angels, Lake Charles



# THE REV. DAWNELL STODGHILL



Priest-in-Charge of St. Andrew, Mer Rouge  
Vicar of Redeemer, Oak Ridge

- **Parish Involvement/Activities**

I am currently the Priest in Charge of St. Andrew's Episcopal church in Mer Rouge, LA. This parish is yoked with the Church of the Redeemer in Oak Ridge, LA of which I am the Vicar. I have been in this position since November of 2021. I also serve as the Co-Vicar of Iglesia Episcopal La Esperanza de Familias Unidas since 2015.

- **Diocesan Involvement/Activities**

I have had the pleasure of serving on many boards including the Standing Committee, Diocesan Council, Commission on Racial Reconciliation, Allies for Immigrants, Hardtner Board of Trustees and previously on the Disciplinary Board. I have also been involved in Cursillo.

- **Wider Church Involvement/Activities**

During my time on the Commission for Racial Reconciliation, I helped to organize a training on racism for Province VII.

- **Personal Involvement/Activities**

My husband Whit and I have been married for 30 years and have raised two wonderful children. We keep ourselves busy with four churches between us, but I do find time to quilt on occasion.

# UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH

Each voting member of Convention is to select a cleric to serve a 3-year term as a Trustee to Sewanee: The University of the South





# THE REV. MICHAEL BORDELON



Rector of St. Barnabas, Lafayette

## ■ **Parish Involvement/Activities**

As the Rector of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church since 2019, I have led our parish through significant transitions, fostering a thriving community centered on discipleship, hospitality, and encouragement. We have experienced growth in attendance, financial giving, and, most importantly, in the spirit of discipleship and engagement with the wider community. Our parish continues to expand its outreach efforts, deepening our mission within the local community and strengthening our commitment to spiritual formation.

## ■ **Diocesan Involvement/Activities**

Beyond the parish, I have served extensively within the Diocese of Western Louisiana. My involvement includes serving on multiple committees and commissions, such as Camp Hardtner, the Commission on Liturgy and Music, Diocesan Council, the Youth Commission, and Public Relations. Additionally, I currently serve as a trustee for the Episcopal School of Acadiana and am preparing to assume the role of Dean of the Acadiana Convocation. These experiences have allowed me to contribute to the wider diocesan mission while fostering relationships that strengthen our collective ministry.

## ■ **Wider Church Involvement/Activities**

My engagement within the wider Episcopal Church extends beyond diocesan boundaries. I have previously served as a trustee of Sewanee and currently serve as co-chair of the Committee on Church Relations. Recently, I completed my tenure as chaplain for Province VII of the Daughters of the King. Additionally, I have represented the Diocese of Western Louisiana at the last two General Conventions and served on the Commission on the Dispatch of Business in 2022. These roles have given me valuable insight into the broader church and have reinforced my passion for strengthening its institutions.

## ■ **Personal Involvement/Activities**

My connection to Sewanee is deeply personal, and I am eager to give back to the institution that has shaped my ministry. Over the years, I have had the privilege of walking alongside several individuals in their discernment process, with one parishioner beginning studies at the School of Theology this fall. This ministry of formation is critical to the Church, the diocese, and to me personally. I am committed to ensuring that Sewanee remains a place where future generations of clergy and lay leaders can grow in faith, wisdom, and service.

# THE REV. KRISTEN PAUL



Rector of Trinity, Natchitoches

- **Parish Involvement/Activities**

Mother Kris has served as rector of Trinity in Natchitoches since June 2024.

- **Diocesan Involvement/Activities**

In addition to serving as rector at Trinity, Natchitoches, Mother Kris is a member of Bishop Owensby's diocesan staff and serves as the Missioner for Wellness and Mental Health. In this role, Mother Kris develops mental health and wellness initiatives within the diocese.

- **Wider Church Involvement/Activities**

Mother Kris served as a student trustee at Sewanee from 2022-2024. Her seminary experience provided specialized training in pastoral counseling and spiritual direction. She specializes in cognitive behavioral therapy and trauma work with a focus on healing religious trauma.

- **Personal Involvement/Activities**

Mother Kris holds several degrees including a Master of Divinity from the University of the South, degrees in counseling (B.A. and M.A.) and a law degree from Arizona State. She has operated a counseling service in several states since 2003.