



A Call for Nominees

at the 154th Convention of the Diocese of Bethlehem

As our two dioceses prepare for reunification, the Transitional Canons will direct how each of our elected bodies will merge with the corresponding committee in the other diocese. The Transitional Canons indicate elections are needed in two of our bodies for the year 2026: Diocesan Council and General Convention Deputies

Elections will be held for the following:

THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Open Positions Six to be elected: Three (3) clergy and three (3) laypersons.

Membership of the Council for the Diocese of the Susquehanna will include twelve members, 6 clergy and 6 lay: The Diocesan Bishop and Assistant Bishop, and The Diocesan Treasurer. The Chief Financial Officer and Chancellor shall serve as ex officio members. The Council shall elect a Secretary from among its members.

Function: The duties of the Council will be to articulate the mission priorities of the diocese and shall annually communicate to the Convention for its consideration and approval of those priorities, together with programs and services to implement this strategy, setting these programs and services in an order of a priority and including criteria and standards for evaluating same.

The Council members will work with the Finance Committee to prepare and submit annually to the Convention for its consideration and approval a proposed operating budget for the diocese as well as a schedule of clergy compensation.

The Diocesan Council shall have the powers and duties to buy and sell real estate, securities and other investments, to receive, hold, administer, and properly dispose of all property, real and personal, which may be given, granted, conveyed, bequeathed, or transferred to the Diocese.

The Diocesan Council shall have a Finance Committee and may form any other Committees that it deems necessary to achieve its work. The Finance Committee shall monitor the financial affairs of the Diocese; shall provide for an annual audit of the Diocese; and shall recommend to the Diocesan Council the proper and prudent administration of such real or personal property as may have been granted to the corporation known as the Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna, or any real or personal property designated for the use of the Episcopal Church in this Diocese. Such recommendations shall include recommendations for the approval of all investments or change in investments held by and under the control and supervision of the Diocese.

Meetings: It is expected that the Council will meet monthly by Zoom with the possibility of an occasional in-person or hybrid meeting.

DEPUTIES TO GENERAL CONVENTION

Open Positions Elect four (4) Clergy and (4) Laypersons - (to be ranked by the total amount of votes received so that 2 serve as deputies in each order and 2 serve as alternates.)

The Diocese of the Susquehanna will be represented by a deputation of eight: 4 clergy and 4 lay members elected at the 2025 Joint Convention of the Diocese of Bethlehem and the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. The deputation will include 4 alternate clergy and 4 alternate lay members.

The election of 4 clergy and 4 lay persons from each diocese will yield 2 clergy to serve as deputies and 2 clergy to serve as alternates, and 2 lay persons to serve as deputies and 2 lay persons to serve as alternates. The distinction between deputy and alternate will be determined by the percentage of votes received.

If a deputy is unable to serve, they will be replaced with a deputy from the same predecessor diocese as the deputy who has withdrawn.

A Chair and a Vice Chair of the deputation, each from a different legacy diocese, shall be chosen by and from among those elected.

Functions: The work of the Diocesan Deputation begins with preparation in months preceding the General Convention and may include online committee work as assigned by the President of the House of Deputies. At the Convention, responsibilities include committee work; faithful, prayerful, and conscientious participation in plenary sessions, committee hearing and worship. Deputies will be asked to participate at the direction of the Diocesan Communications department in offering periodic updates back to the diocese during the course of Convention. Following Convention, the Deputation continues to inform and integrate the work of General Convention in the diocese.

Meetings: Attendance at the 82nd General Convention of the Episcopal Church, July 2027 in Phoenix, Arizona. Various planning meetings in preparation to be set by the committee. The cost of deputies' registration, travel, hotel and expenses (at a per diem rate) will be covered by the Diocese of the Susquehanna for 4 deputies elected in each order as well as 2 alternates from each order.

The deadline for nominations is **July 18, 2025**.

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF BETHLEHEM

2025 NOMINATING PETITION

I submit my name to the Nominating Committee for consideration for the following position to be filled at the next Diocesan Convention.

I seek nomination to: _____ Diocesan Council _____ General Convention Deputy

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____

PARISH NAME AND CITY: _____

Check one: CLERGY: _____ LAY: _____

Number of years as a communicant in good standing in the Diocese: _____

Positions held within your parish and/or
Community Activities:

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

Diocesan Offices and / or Diocesan Committee
Involvement:

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

I understand the nature of this position and its requirements of time, travel, and energy. I am willing to be considered for nomination, and if nominated, I will run, and if elected, I will faithfully serve.

(Signature of Candidate)

(Date)

The gifts and skills I bring to the Diocese of Bethlehem and this ministry include (100 words /625 characters or less):

- Nominations must be received by **July 18, 2025. This is a firm date.**
- Include a digital headshot photo.
- Email completed form and photo to Paula Lapinski at paula@diobeth.org
- Forms can also be mailed: 321 Wyandotte St., Bethlehem, PA 18015