



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF  
**FORT WORTH**



**CONVENTION 2019**

# **THE WAY OF LOVE**

**Reports to the 2019 Diocese Convention  
Of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth**

**Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Decatur Convention Center**

**Reports to the 2019 Diocesan Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth**

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Clergy Licensed:

None to Report

Dimissory Letters:

Out: The Rev. Robert Gross to Diocese of Nebraska  
The Rev. Scot McComas to Diocese of Arizona  
The Rev. Lisa Neilson to Diocese of Texas  
The Rev. Andrew Wright to Diocese of Newark

In: The Rev. Christopher Rodgers from Diocese of Dallas

Lay Licenses:

Worship Leader	0
Eucharistic Minister	17
Eucharistic Visitor	0

In addition, all bishops have offered the Sacrament of Anointing during various hospital and pastoral calls.

The Rt. Rev J. Scott Mayer  
Provisional Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Rayford B. High, Jr.  
Assisting Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Sam B. Hulse  
Assisting Bishop

**Report of the Board of Examining Chaplains to the 2019 Diocesan Convention**

Dr. Edward Waggoner, Assistant Professor of Theology

The Rt. Rev. Sam B. Hulseley Chair in Episcopal Studies

Director, Episcopal Church Studies Program, Brite Divinity School

Submitted: October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Report

The Board of Examining Chaplains convenes only at the request of the bishop. The Board was not activated during the last year. Should there be need to convene in the coming year, members of the Board will be ready to serve.

**Report of the Brite Divinity School Episcopal Church Studies Program to the 2019 Diocesan Convention**

Dr. Edward Waggoner, Assistant Professor of Theology  
The Rt. Rev. Sam B. Hulsey Chair in Episcopal Studies  
Director, Episcopal Church Studies Program, Brite Divinity School  
Submitted: October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019

We are very pleased to report the accomplishments of students at Brite Divinity School during the 2018-2019 school year.

Isabella (Izzy) Leo received the Bishops Ted Gulick and Wallace Ohl Award for Pastoral Leadership from the Episcopal Church Studies Program in April, 2019. Izzy is continuing her M.Div. studies at Brite Divinity School and is in discernment for ordination in the diocese of Fort Worth.

Jonathan Cabrera received a book award from the Episcopal Church Studies Program in April, 2018. Jonathan is an M.Div. student at Brite Divinity School.

We would like to thank the clergy and bishops who have contributed to our weekly Eucharist service in the Robert Carr Chapel at Texas Christian University during the last year: Rev. Andrew Wright, Rev. Wil Gafney, and many others from the Diocese of Fort Worth. These times of prayer and worship continue to be important to the group of students, faculty, and administrators from Brite Divinity School and TCU who have made participation in this service a regular part of their spiritual lives. Special thanks go to Rev. Andrew Wright, who organized the rota for our Wednesday Eucharist services and also celebrated and preached on several occasions.

With thanks and joy for what we have accomplished during the 2018-2019 school year, we look forward to the next.

## **Report of the Chancellors to the 2019 Diocesan Convention**

Sandy Liser, Chancellor

Kathleen Wells, Assistant Chancellor Bill Greenhill, Assistant Chancellor

Submitted: September 24, 2019

### **Assistance to Diocesan Entities:**

The chancellors assisted the Bishop, staff, and diocesan entities, e.g., attended regular and special meetings; reviewed, drafted, and negotiated contracts, leases, canons, and policies; researched and advised church officials on canonical, legal questions; and conducted training:

Standing Committee

Corporation Board

Executive Council

Finance Committee

Management Committee

Risk Management Committee

Constitution and Canons Committee

Ecclesiastical Discipline

Served as Convention parliamentarian (Assistant Chancellor Greenhill)

### **Assistance to Congregations:**

The chancellors continued to work directly with congregations on general legal and canonical matters, e.g., charitable and tax exempt status generally, relocation, elections, vestry requirements, bylaws, incorporation of related entities, school issues, leases, and title to property.

### **Assistance in Litigation:**

Counsel of record in Tarrant County/Texas Supreme Court/U.S. Supreme Court; Hood County (Brants Trust); Wichita County (Burns Trust) litigation.

Assisted, coordinated with outside counsel for the Diocesan parties, counsel for Episcopal Church, counsel for congregations in litigation.

Monitored Diocese compliance with supersedeas order, including maintenance of property and expense reporting.

### **Other Activities:**

Coordinated with Bishop and Canon plans for forming effective plan for future of Diocese after the property litigation is concluded.

Actively participated in Constitution and Canons Committee and the Corporation. Pending litigation:

No. 141-237105-09; The Episcopal Church, et al v. Salazar, et al (141<sup>st</sup> District Court, Tarrant County, Texas). No. 02-15-00220-CV; The Episcopal Church, et al v. Salazar et al Court of Appeals, Second District of Texas Fort Worth. No. 18-0438; Franklin Salazar, et al v. The Episcopal Church, et al, Supreme Court of Texas. Received notice from the Supreme Court of Texas first for substantive briefing on the very favorable opinion from the Fort Worth of Appeals. Subsequently,



the Supreme Court of Texas granted the petition for review filed by the Iker parties and the conditional petition filed by the Diocese and The Episcopal Church. Oral argument is set on December 5, 2019 in Austin, Texas.

No. C2009233; Ronald D. Wenner, Trustee of the Cynthia Brants Charitable Remainder Unitrust v. The Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth, et al; 355th District Court, Hood County, Texas (abated)

No. 4:10-CV-00700-Y; Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth v. Iker; U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas, Fort Worth Division (administratively closed, pending resolution of Tarrant County diocesan case)

No. 4:10-CV-00783-Y; All Saints Episcopal Church v. Iker; U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas, Fort Worth Division (administratively closed, pending resolution of Tarrant County diocesan case)

No. 177,121-C; In Re Lillian M. Burns Trust; 89<sup>th</sup> District Court, Wichita Falls, Texas (trust terminated, trustee severed out, remaining claims (abated)

### **Ongoing Education:**

In addition to the ongoing continuing education in the chancellors' respective legal practice fields, Chancellor Sandy Liser had the opportunity to attend the Episcopal Chancellor's Network Conference in September 2019. Significant and useful written materials were provided and are available as a resource to the Diocese through the Diocesan Office.

Goals for 2019:

- Select new Assistant Chancellor or specialized chancellors as needed for specific needs.
- Form effective attorneys group in various legal specialties.
- Continue work to secure favorable determinations in pending diocesan litigation
- Assist congregations in locating and selecting their own chancellors to assist with their individual needs.

## **Report from Commission on Episcopal Schools in the Diocese of Fort Worth**

The Rev. William Stanford, Chair

Submitted: September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019

The Commission on Episcopal Schools met twice during the year. The first meeting concerned how the Commission is authorized to carry out its mission as stated in the Canons of the Diocese. David Madison attended and was helpful regarding this. That meeting also generated ideas about having a Professional Development Day, which were developed at a second meeting.

Many thanks to All Saints' Episcopal School, which hosted our first (at least in recent memory) Professional Development Day for all the schools in the Diocese prior to the opening of school in August. Teachers and aides from All Saints', St. Christopher, St. Martin's, and Trinity were in attendance.

## **Commission on Ministry Report to 2019 Diocesan Convention**

The Rev. William Stanford, Chair

Submitted: September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019

The Commission on Ministry meets as needed throughout the year. It is the Commission's responsibility to receive applications for admission to the process for ordination, interview aspirants, postulants, and candidates for Holy Orders, monitor their continuing formation, and commend them to the Bishop and Standing Committee for ordination when all requirements have been met.

There are presently 8 people in the process of ordination in the Diocese of Fort Worth. They are: Lainie Allen, Nick Busken, Corrie Cabes, Ted Clarkson, Leslie Guinn, Maddie Hill, Paula Jefferson, and Bryant Matheu. We are privileged to work with this group of extraordinarily gifted people.

Four of them, Lainie Allen, Corrie Cabes, Leslie Guinn, and Maddie Hill are scheduled for ordination to the Transitional Diaconate on November 24 at 4 pm at All Saints Episcopal Church.

Please keep all of these people in the process in your prayers as they prepare for service here and in the wider church.

### **Commission Members**

William Stanford, Chair

Sidia Miranda

The Rev. Bradley Dyche

The Rev. Amy Haney

Christy Campbell-Furtick

The Rev. Dana Wilson

Barbara Evans-Chowning

Roberta Skelton

Linda LaMarca

## Communication and Evangelism Committee Report to 2019 Convention

Katie Sherrod

Submitted: September 19, 2019

The Communication & Evangelism Committee's goals remain consistent: to keep the people within our diocese connected to news and activities, to provide church leadership with information relevant to their ministry, and to reach those seeking a closer connection to God with the Good News. Our diocese continues to show our faith to the world through our website, various social media sites, the *Common Purpose* quarterly newsletter, and email.

The communication team of the diocese at the time of this report is Katie Sherrod, communication director. Until the end of August, she had the part time assistance of Susan Kleinwechter, social media coordinator, who generously offered her time even as she and her husband prepared for their September departure to their new home in the mountains of North Carolina.

The communication team worked with Bishop Scott Mayer to publish a statement that was signed by all the Episcopal bishops in Texas regarding the conditions in detention centers on the border, and in distributing news releases to the secular news media. This resulted in news coverage by major newspapers in the state and an interview with Bishop Mayer on KRLD Radio, as well as coverage in Episcopal Church related news sources: Episcopal News Service, Episcopal Café, the Living Church..

The team also assisted in preparing and distributing a statement from the bishop in the wake of the mass shooting in Odessa, which is part of our sister diocese of Northwest Texas.

### God Loves All Initiative

A major communication effort has been launching the Evangelism Media Initiative for the diocese which went live on October 1. This grew out of a request from clergy in charge of congregations for a marketing campaign for The Episcopal Church in this part of the world, as a response to the unloving messages being proclaimed by many high-profile religious leaders. A committee of clergy and laity was formed, and a target audience, a theme, and a goal emerged.

The **target audience** is, not the people already in our pews, but the unchurched, the dechurched, people who have been wounded by the Church, people who have been told that God hates them, people hungry for a closer connection to God.

The **theme** is God doesn't hate; God loves all. Yes, all.

The **goal** is to help people find a closer connection to God, hopefully in and through The Episcopal Church. But the main thing is telling them of our loving, liberating, life-giving God.

To accomplish this, we have created a microsite, which is a website narrowly focused on one theme, in this case, the love of God for all humanity. The URL is [godlovesall.info](http://godlovesall.info). The topics covered on the site include LGBTQ, Civil Discourse, Ancient/Modern, Racial Justice, Women, Creation Care, and Re/Marriage. All material related to these topics is sourced from The Episcopal Church, much

of it through links to either the diocesan website or to The Episcopal Church website. Everything related to the campaign – ads, banners, brochures, business cards - points to the microsite.

People will be able to access the microsite directly via the URL or through the diocesan website. Once there, they can explore as little or as much as they choose. We invite them to dig deeper, for we have a good case to make.

The site includes videos of local people telling of their experience in The Episcopal Church – a gay couple, a family with adopted children, a woman priest. Soon to be added are a divorced and remarried couple and a couple who left a mega Bible church because they were tired of hearing only of a harshly judgmental God. Katie Sherrod did the interviews, wrote the scripts, directed the shooting of B-roll (additional footage) and worked with videographer Eduardo Rosario to edit and produce the videos.

While our hope is that this campaign will lead folks to our congregations, the goal is to help them find a closer connection to a loving, liberating, life-giving God.

The site will be pointing people to the listing of our local congregations on the diocesan website, so we have been working with the clergy to make sure they are preparing their congregations, their buildings and their websites and social media sites to be as welcoming as possible.

Banners saying ‘God loves you. Yes, you,’ and ‘‘God doesn’t hate,’’ each with the godlovesall.org tag, were carried by members of the East Deanery in the Fort Worth Pride Parade and were at the booth at the Pride Festival. Business cards stating ‘‘God doesn’t hate, God loves you. Yes, you’’ and the url were handed out during the parade and at the booth.

Nearly all the work on this campaign has been done in-house, which has kept the cost below \$10,000.

### **Setting up edfw.org accounts**

Consuming much of our time this year has been assigning all clergy and diocesan leaders edfw.org accounts through which to do their diocesan business, and helping train them on ways to use the accounts. We are doing this to ensure our leaders and committees have secure ways to share and store information and that diocesan business and assets remain with the diocese.

Edfw.org accounts offer

- Professionalism – Email sent from people filling diocesan leadership roles should look like it comes from the diocese, not from a personal email account. And with another entity using our name and our shield, it is vital that it be clear who is communicating on our behalf.
- Trust – People outside our diocese who email official entities have more confidence in an institution than they do in individuals who represent only themselves. Anybody can say they work for the diocese but your email address shows that you do.
- Security – If someone hacks a leader’s personal email account, their problem becomes the diocese’s problem, and finding out what diocesan information hackers may have

accessed could be difficult. The person who has been hacked will most likely have to contact their service provider even to get back into their account. If someone hacks an edfw.org account, which is less likely because we automatically enforce decent password strength, we can administratively suspend your account, assess the damage, reset your password, and let you back in. You have help from diocesan staff who care about the situation, and the diocese has the digital oversight to protect its information.

Edfw.org accounts also give access to Google GSuite for Business, which the diocese applied for and got for free as a non-profit. GSuite offers robust secure resources to our diocesan leaders and committees. GSuite allows members of committees to work collaboratively from anywhere, on any device connected to the Internet. Individuals have access to their own Drive, a cloud storage service for documents, photos, videos, pdfs, etc. Committees each have Shared Drives, which allows the whole committee to work together in a secure space. Files belong to the team, not the individual. Even if members leave, the files stay where they are so work can continue.

See infographic that follows this report.

### **Other major areas of communication efforts**

The major areas of communication efforts this past year have been:

- Supporting the ministry of Bishop J. Scott Mayer as fourth provisional bishop of the diocese, through coverage of his visitations, ordinations, and other events via news stories, videos, photos posed on the web site and on social media.
- Recording, editing, and posting the podcast of Bishop Mayer's sermons. The podcast was launched last year. There are now 17 episodes. <https://diofw.podbean.com/>
- Supporting the ministry of our assisting bishops Rayford B. High, Jr. and Sam B. Hulsey with coverage of their visitations, ordinations, and confirmations.
- Distributing seasonal messages of the bishop via video and news stories. These statements on Ash Wednesday, Easter, and Advent are shared with the Episcopal Diocese of Northwest Texas.
- Offered communication support as the diocese partnered with Tarrant Area Churches and the Islamic Association of Tarrant County for the March 31 interfaith service, "Joining Hearts and Hands, Community Prayer for the Victims in New Zealand" at the Islamic Center in Fort Worth.
- Creating content for and publishing *Common Purpose*, the quarterly print newsletter. In the middle of the year we were blindsided by news that the printer we used had gone out of business, so we had to scramble to find and get bids from other printers. That delayed production by nearly six weeks, but we are on schedule for four issues this year.
- Supporting our congregations with the creation of news releases about significant events and outreach in the life of the congregations with news releases to the secular media on Ashes to Go offerings, and the blessing of pets around St. Francis Day. These often result in news coverage by the secular media of our various congregations.
- Assisting St. Christopher with news releases and publicity about the April visit of former presiding bishop, Katharine Jefferts Schori.

- Provided materials and communication training at the Leadership Training Day on February 23 at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Keller, for all diocesan leaders.
- Helping churches update their websites and begin the process of creating new ones.
- Helping our churches and schools to claim their listings on Google (which also affects Google maps), so that images and location information could be corrected and enhanced, making it easier for people to find us when they are searching for us. People want to see where they're thinking about going, and photos will help them recognize when they've found the right building. For a first-time visitor, this can reduce their stress about visiting.
- Supporting Good Shepherd, Granbury, with news releases and other graphic resources for the celebration of their new worship space.

## Changing landscape

The communication landscape continues to change at an incredible pace. The communication team works to keep up through participation with groups such as Episcopal Communicators, Church IT Network, and the Society of Professional Journalists. The diocesan communicators are pleased to see more and more people becoming comfortable with new ways of communicating. People are finding us and hearing the story we have to tell.

- Nine videos were shot, edited, and produced for the diocesan YouTube channel to date. These included Bishop Mayer's Lenten and Easter messages as well as his sermons, visitations, and ordinations in the diocese. These videos had 670 views.
- Our website grew in the past year and the number of people we reach continues to grow. The majority of traffic to our site is now on mobile devices, so the website is organized and designed specifically for ease of use on phones and tablets.
- People visit our website [episcopaldiocesefortworth.org](http://episcopaldiocesefortworth.org) a lot, with a fairly consistent rate of about 200-300 visits to the site per day. There is a small spike every Sunday and a larger spike around each major church holiday (see chart). People are regularly searching for a church to attend, and when they land on our page every Sunday, many click "Find a Church," which is where we point them to individual church websites. It's important that, when they click from our page over onto a specific church's site, the first page they see prominently features service times and a map or a link for directions.
- **People are engaging with our website in ways that you may not expect.** The most viewed page on our website is consistently "What Do Episcopalians Believe?" **It remains consistent with previous years that our website content offers much to seekers looking to understand more about The Episcopal Church and a Christian life.**
- Our social media marketing on Facebook and Twitter brings the second-highest number of referrals to our website, after search. Our social media marketing works.
- The clicks to our website from our congregations' websites have notably increased. **We ask our congregations to join us in sharing our stories and information digitally.**



- On Facebook,
  - Our Facebook audience has 959 fans, up from 822 fans last year and 754 the year before, so audience continues to grow year by year. We have fans around the globe.
  - Two posts reached more than 2,000 people: the joint statement by all Texas bishops on the conditions in detention centers on the border, and the announcement that the Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney of Brite Divinity School had been honored by the Union of Black Episcopalians. Coming in close behind was the statement Bishop Mayer issued in the wake of the mass shooting in Odessa, and then the request for prayers for Bishop Wallis Ohl.
  - Our fans still are overwhelmingly geographically close to our diocese, with more women than men. Women are much more engaged with our posts.
  - With all the promise that social media has, we encourage our churches and people to seize opportunities and to share rich content on their own Facebook pages. **In the realm of digital evangelism, content at the intersection of faith and society in our state, where all our stakeholders live, and where our Episcopal values matter, is worth sharing. We are eager to help congregations understand why they should consider this and how to do it, including fearlessly moderating discussions.**
- On Flickr, our [diocesan Flickr photo galleries](#) have an engaging representation of activities around our diocese. These are photos of diocesan conventions, our bishops' visitations to congregations, ordinations, and other diocesan and congregational events.
  - Thus far since last year's convention, we have published 782 photos in 9 galleries.
  - Flickr is the #3 website people visit when they click away from our website. Number 1 is [episcopalchurch.org](http://episcopalchurch.org), and number 2 is the Episcopal News Service.

## Goals for 2020

- Increase reach of the God loves all campaign through billboards, movie theatre ads
- Devise and launch a strategy for our neglected Instagram account as outreach to a younger demographic while making better strategic use of our Twitter account.
- Market podcasts via major podcast services such as iTunes

If you have ideas or suggestions on improving communication, please share them with [katie.sherrod@edfw.org](mailto:katie.sherrod@edfw.org).





Since 2012, the diocese has used Google's G Suite for Business for free as a non-profit. This gives robust, secure resources to our diocesan leaders & committees. Your edfw.org account gives you access to these resources for diocesan work.

G Suite allows members of committees & governing bodies to work collaboratively from anywhere, on any device. The "place" for files & file sharing is in Google Drive, a cloud storage service where you can store almost any kind of file: photos, videos, .pdfs, Microsoft Office files, etc.



To access your Drive, sign into your edfw.org account & click on the 9-dot grid in the upper right hand corner of the screen by the diocesan logo. When the menu opens, click on Drive.

Your Drive encompasses Google Docs, Sheets, & Slides.



Gmail



Calendar



Drive



Docs



Sheets



Slides



<p>2 Parts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>My Drive</li> <li>Shared drives</li> </ul>	<p><b>My Drive (your stuff)</b> <b>Shared Drives (team stuff).</b></p>
<p><b>My Drive</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access your files everywhere - all you need is access to the Internet</li> <li>• Edit and make changes to your files</li> <li>• Access with various devices</li> <li>• Easy to search your files</li> <li>• View any type of file</li> <li>• Share your files &amp; set permission to view, edit, or comment.</li> <li>• Create and reply to comments directly on files to get feedback and make files more collaborative.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Shared Drives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow whole groups to work together in a secure space</li> <li>• Files belong to the team, not an individual</li> <li>• Even if members leave, the files stay exactly where they are so the committee can continue to share information &amp; get work done.</li> <li>• Documents don't get "lost" when committee members change because they are not on one member's personal computer.</li> </ul>	

Any files you put in a shared drive are automatically shared with members of the shared drive. We have restricted sharing outside the shared drives to protect the confidentiality of your committee's work.


As with any online storage system, the Drive is only as secure as the weakest password among its users. That is why we require a 10-character password on your edfw.org account.




**So now I'm going to have to check two email accounts - mine and this EDFW one? Yes. And here's why.**

Anyone serving the diocese in a leadership position should have a diocesan email account in which to conduct that business. This ensures that diocesan business and diocesan assets remain with the diocese.

 **Professionalism.** Email sent from people filling diocesan leadership roles should look like it comes from the diocese, not from your personal account (like @hotmail.com or @sbcglobal.net or @gmail.com) or from your personal employer, or from a parish. With another entity using our name and shield, it is vital that it be clear who is communicating on our behalf.

 **Trust.** People outside our diocese who email official entities have more confidence in an institution than they do in individuals who represent only themselves. Anybody can SAY they work for the diocese, but your email address SHOWS you do.

 **Security.** If someone hacks your personal mail account, your problem becomes OUR problem, and finding out what diocesan information that hackers accessed would be difficult. You might have to contact your mail service provider just to get back into your account! If someone hacks an edfw.org account, which is less likely because we automatically enforce decent password strength, we can administratively suspend your account, assess the damage, and reset your password, and let you back in. You have help from diocesan people who care about the situation, and the diocese has the digital oversight to protect its information. It's a win-win.

## **Congregational Assistance Committee Report to the 2019 Diocesan Convention**

The Rev. Deacon Dana Wilson, Chair

The Congregational Assistance Committee (CAC) met this year on April 29<sup>th</sup>. It is the responsibility of the CAC to support and oversee the grant process on behalf of the Bishop. Currently the Diocese of Fort Worth has four congregations receiving grants.

**St. Elisabeth/Christ the King, Fort Worth** received a two-year grant funding a half time curate. Father Christopher Thomas has served this congregation in fulfillment of the grant. The grant will conclude November 30, 2019. Father Thomas reports that he has learned so much from the priest-in-charge, Sandi Michels. They partner together to provide Holy Eucharist on Sundays and have developed a cutting-edge outreach program to a local school.

**St. Martin in the Fields, Keller** received a two-year grant funding a half time curate. Father Christopher Thomas has filled this position and the grant will end on June 30. Father Thomas provides much of the pastoral care at St. Martin as well as serving regularly in the liturgy. Scot McComas reports that it has been a huge help to have Fr. Thomas there in this rapidly growing congregation.

**The Episcopal Church of Wichita Falls** received a grant funding a fulltime position. The Rev. Topher Rodgers is serving this church in fulfillment of the grant. The grant ends June 30, 2020. Father Rodgers reports that it has been a great benefit for the Episcopal Church in Wichita Falls to have a resident priest. Routine pastoral care is now possible. Christian Education was resumed after many years. A robust stewardship campaign was conducted and outreach to the larger community has widened and deepened. Father Rodgers is meeting with the LGBTQ+ community at Midwestern State University and the church is now serving One Dollar lunches twice a semester to MSU students. Other outreach efforts also include ministry to a local school. Summarizing, Father Rodgers said that the grant has helped ECWF grow as the Body of Christ within its walls and, in turn, it has empowered ECWF to go out into the world as the Body of Christ to share the Good News of God's Kingdom in thought, word, and deed.

**St. Stephen Episcopal Church, Hurst** received a two-year grant for a halftime position. The Rev, Allison Liles serves this congregation in fulfillment of the grant. This grant concludes on August 30, 2020.

The work of these priests is awe inspiring and it has been a privilege to accompany and support them through this experience of ministry with the help of these grants. They are also making a significant difference in the life of our diocese by sharing their time and talents in deanery and diocesan roles.

## **Congregational Reports to the 2019 Diocesan Convention:**

Report for St. Luke's Stephenville  
The Rev. Bradley C. Dyche, Rector  
Submitted: September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

St. Luke's has continued to be active in Outreach and Mission in the past year. Their Food Pantry has two new projects. The first is they are working with 8 other local food pantries to offer fresh produce to close to several hundred families once a month. Many of that same group are founders for a new organization titled Homelessness Help, which is working to found a shelter in our area.

Secondly, in addition to feeding 300-400 students each Thursday, St. Luke's has begun a Campus Ministry with a Student Board. The students meet twice a month for Bible Study and Dinner, and many come to services on Sundays. Additionally, they are mentored by faculty and other adults in the parish. In October, the ECM hosted an event on campus entitled LGBTQ and the church, with a panelists representing other and no traditions and each segment of the LGBTQ community.

Report for the Episcopal Church of Wichita Falls (ECWF)  
The Rev. R. Christopher Rodgers, Priest in Charge  
Submitted: October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Grace, mercy, and peace to you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
ECWF is a mission in the diocese. ECWF was able to call me as full-time clergy in charge last year with the assistance of a generous, two-year diocesan grant. The following report comprises an update to our routine check-ins with the grant committee.

Is your current congregation encouraged by the growth they see? Yes, they are enthusiastic that decline has been reversed. We are rebuilding a community centered on the Eucharist.

Has there been an increase in attendance on Sundays? Other events? By the end of the 2018, ASA had increased to 26 meaning we have a 2<sup>nd</sup> convention delegate. Currently, comparing only same Sundays prior to my start, ASA has grown from 21 to 30, approximately a 42% increase. On Sundays that previously were lay led Morning Prayer, ASA has grown from about 15 to 30, roughly doubling the assembly. More people stick around for our third Sunday potluck and fellowship. There was no Christian Formation prior to my arrival and now we have completed two offerings that got between 20% to 40% of ASA.

Has stewardship increased? For the first time in many years, ECWF conducted a stewardship campaign. We used TENS materials and BC members gave stewardship messages on donating their time, talent, and treasure in the weeks leading up to ingathering.

2018 vs. 2019 ECWF PLEDGE TOTALS

Pledge Changes	2018 pledge	2019 Pledge	Change
Increased (5)	\$ 20,720.00	\$ 26,000.00	25%
Same (3)	\$ 3,700.00	\$ 3,700.00	0%
Decreased (3)	\$ 7,800.00	\$ 5,420.00	-31%
No Response yet (2)	\$ 3,900.00	\$-	-100%
Givers/Now Pl. (3)		\$ 5,500.00	
Totally New (6)		\$ 16,700.00	
TOTALS	\$ 36,120.00	\$ 57,320.00	59%

Notes:

- 2018 - 12 pledges for \$36,120; 2019 - 20 pledges for \$57,320
- No Response includes an anonymous 2018 pledge and 1 not heard from
- Givers/NowPl. means individuals were givers last year; now pledging
- Totally new means completely new to giving to ECWF in any form.

We are once again using TENS materials for 2019.

How has the ministry of the congregation increased during your time as Curate? Sunday 9:15 am Christian Formation – Episcopal Identity had 6 to 10 people attending

*A People Called Episcopalians* by Rev. Dr. John Westerhoff

*Jesus Was an Episcopalian and you can be one too!* by Rev. Chris Yaw

Tuesday 6:30 pm Christian Formation – Being series by Rev. Dr. Rowan Williams had 6 to 12 attending  
Weekday 5:30 pm Eucharists for all Major Feast Days

We have served three lunches for 40 – 50 MSU students at the Catholic Student Center

Fr. Topher preached at the MSU ecumenical service and helped impose ashes on Ash Wednesday

Fr. Topher met with the LGBTQ+ group at MSU several times to extend them welcome

Have you been able to brainstorm, plan, and implement ways to increase the ministry of the congregation? Have there been new activities planned with your involvement? What are they? I have grouped these two questions together because I feel they are interrelated. With the Bishop's Committee and at the Annual Meeting, we did a writing on walls exercise to explore the five marks of Anglican mission as approved by those churches in Communion with the Archbishop of Canterbury:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom-Evangelism
  - 1.1 Handwritten cards to people who went to Episcopal Churches in WF that we have not seen in a while – done and ongoing
  - 1.2 Mailing church info as well as events to people who went to Episcopal Churches in WF that we have not seen in a while – done and ongoing
  - 1.3 Posters on local community boards advertising ECWF events – done and ongoing
  - 1.4 Signs in the church yard advertising ECWF events and service times – need anchors or posts or changeable marquee; exploring temporary signs for Fall 2019 events



- 1.5 Revamped website along with social media presence – need new URL and overhaul; Facebook name changed
- 1.6 Participate in Diocesan advertising campaign – will do once EDFW goes live
- 1.7 Place special events in the Times and Record News religious section and calendar – done and ongoing
- 1.8 Have a presence at MSU, especially with LGBTQ+ students – done and ongoing
- 1.9 Create a relationship with Shepherd AFB, especially chaplains – have contact info; 4 military visitors
- 1.10 Create a relationship with United Regional, especially with chaplains – met with chaplain and on roster; routinely visit with chaplain when parishioner is in hospital
- 1.11 Garden boxes – explored; assigned a project team for feasibility and for proposal
2. To teach, baptize and nurture new believers–Formation
  - 2.1 Holy Eucharist every Sunday – scheduled presiders every Sunday prior to ordination to priesthood
  - 2.2 Renewal of Baptismal vows on key feast days – done and ongoing
  - 2.3 Baptize and confirm candidates who seek these sacraments and want to join the church –3 confirmation/reaffirmation/reception candidates identified, and class conducted
  - 2.4 Tuesday night classes on Being a Human, Being a Christian, Being a Disciple (Rowan Williams)
  - 2.5 Sunday morning classes on Episcopal Identity: A People Called Episcopalians (Westerhoff) and 2.6 Jesus was an Episcopalian (Yaw) – done and ongoing
  - 2.7 Five Good Minutes section of newsletter – bringing back with reboot
  - 2.8 Did you know section of newsletter – bringing back with reboot
3. To respond to human need by loving service–Outreach
  - 3.1 MSU \$1 lunches at Catholic Student Center four times per year – 3 in the past year
  - 3.2 Helping Rider HS students – spoke with principal; providing parking and “welcome wagon” cold drink hospitality to parents picking up students
  - 3.3 Helping Jefferson ES students – contacted principal; provided braded folders, underwear, socks, and school supplies for start of 2019 school year
  - 3.4 Styrofoam coolers for pet shelters – three sets of donations made
  - 3.5 Virginia Theological Seminary Annual Fund – budgeted for 2019
  - 3.6 General Theological Seminary Annual Fund – budgeted for 2019
  - 3.7 Trying to meet the Diocesan goal of 10% giving – budgeted 3% for 2019
  - 3.8 Garden boxes – explored; appointed project team for feasibility and for proposal
4. To seek to transform unjust structures of society–Social Justice
  - 4.1 WF Pride Event as a Sponsor – donated to be a sponsor and had a table at event
  - 4.2 MLK Day of Service – will do in 2020
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth–Environmental Stewardship
  - 5.1 Recycling cans for ERD – started and raised \$56.38 so far
  - 5.2 Recycling bin for single stream since WF no longer does this – started and ongoing
  - 5.3 Church yard landscaping that is environmentally sensitive – low or no water and emphasizes native plants – consultant contacted, and potential plants vetted

What outreach ministry have you and the congregation done in your community?  
 ECWF has a strong and well-established charism of giving to those in need. In my time at ECWF, we have been able to expand our outreach footprint as the Body of Christ in the community while maintaining all prior commitments.

- Power Paks for Head Start Children – weekend food program
  - Quarterly downtown dinner for the homeless and hungry – looking to expand our capacity to do more of these
  - Monday lunches for MSU students – looking to expand our capacity to do more of these
  - Adopt a family
  - Potluck leftovers taken to the homeless shelter
  - Several influential and frequent volunteers with Interfaith Outreach Services
  - Monthly ingathering of food donations for Interfaith Outreach Services
  - Little outdoor library
  - Budgeted outreach in 2019 to make donations to designated partners
- Respectfully submitted, Topher+

## Report of the Constitution and Canons Committee to the 2019 Diocesan Convention

Jon D. Back, Chair

Submitted: September 24, 2019

The Constitution and Canons Committee is charged in Canon III.9 of the diocesan canons to review any proposed amendments to the Constitution and Canons to ensure that their implementation will not generate unexpected problems with the remainder of those documents, to conduct an ongoing review of the Constitution and Canons to ensure that they are internally consistent as well as consistent with the churchwide Episcopal Church Constitution and Canons, and to make corrections to the Constitution and Canons where it is clearly a typographical error. The Committee also determines the style and layout of the presentation of the Constitution and Canons. Additionally, all resolutions submitted, whether directly affecting the Constitution and Canons or not, are reviewed by the Committee to verify whether a resolution has an impact on these documents.

The Committee met on 6 occasions in 2018. Members of the Committee currently include Jon Back, Jane Dennis, Christopher Thomas, Andrew Johnsen, Jennifer Rodgers, Lynne Waltman and Tony Hiatt. Fr. Andrew Wright resigned in June to take a new position in the Diocese of Newark. Jon Back accepted an appointment by Bishop Mayer as Committee Chair at that time. Many thanks to the hard work put in by the Committee as well as the support of Diocesan Chancellor, Sandy Liser, who is ex officio on the Committee. As the new chair, I wish to personally thank Fr. Wright for his prior leadership that has allowed me to continue the work of this committee.

The Committee's work in 2019 included a continuing review of the Constitution and Canons. The Committee interacted with other diocesan entities, such as the Corporation, the Standing Committee, the Schools Commission, the Executive Council, and the Bishop to ensure good input and guidance for our work. While there were only a few requests for changes to Canons or Constitution during this period, our major work was a review of changes made during the 79<sup>th</sup> General Convention. These are presented in resolution form to this Convention.

Typographical and Style Corrections identified in the Constitution and Canons in 2019 (required to be reported to Convention):

- To facilitate searches within the Diocesan Canons, a typographical change will be made to add the Roman Numeral of each of the Titled sections as a prefix to the current numbering system. For example, Title III, paragraph 9.3.3 currently only shows 9.3.3 with Title III only appearing at the bottom of the page. It will now show as III.9.3.3. This change recognizes that the most frequent use of Diocesan Canons is done using the PDF (Portable Document Format) version residing on the Diocesan website. Adding the appropriate Roman Numeral will aid those people searching when there could be more than one entry labeled as 5.2.2. When portions of the Canons are printed, the source Title will be obvious. This change is made under the guidance for typographical change in Canon III.9.3.3 and Canon III.9.3.5

*(These changes will be incorporated in the version of the Canons published following Diocesan Convention 2019)*

As the Chair, I am deeply grateful for the work of the Committee this year, for the support of the Diocesan Staff, and for the work of those who have served this Committee in previous years. I express again my thanks to Fr. Andrew Wright for his example and instruction with regard to the Constitution and Canons Committee.



**Report of the Corporation of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth to the 2019 Diocesan Convention**

Cherie W. Shipp, Secretary and John Banks, President  
Submitted: October 9, 2019

The Trustees of the Corporation met throughout the period. Our primary focuses were gaining an understanding of the nature and extent of the real estate owned or under control of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth and the real property held directly or by the Corporation, identifying and estimating the market value of diocesan endowments, working actively to safeguard those assets of the Diocese, and approving transactions involving real estate in the Diocese.

Currently, the Trustees do not have full control of or access to the endowments nor the real estate owned by the Diocese. However, it is our understanding that the following accounts exist:

The Diocesan Fund	The Endowment for the Episcopate
The E.D. Farmer Fund	Memorial Scholarship Fund
The Anne S. and John S. Brown Trust	
The Betty Ann Montgomery Farley Trust	
The Reverend Efrain Huerta Fund Benefiting Hispanic Ministries	

The ACNA 2019 and 2020 budgets included support of \$33,000 and \$30,000, respectively, from The Endowment for the Episcopate to underwrite the costs of ACNA Bishop Iker. The total amount of endowment funds used for other ACNA activities since our last report is unknown. The combined market value of all accounts as of the date of our report is also unknown.

During the last twelve months, the Corporation was asked to consider/approve the following:

- As previously reported, the ACNA congregation worshipping in the All Saints Wichita Falls building dissolved. The sacramental items were inventoried and moved to ACNA parishes. We have requested through our attorneys that transferred items be safeguarded and the buildings and contents be insured, properly maintained, and safeguarded.
- We were asked to approve a listing agreement for the All Saints--Wichita Falls property but declined. As a result, it is our understanding the property was not sold.
- As previously reported, it is our understanding St. Lawrence Grapevine is in the process of constructing additional facilities. We have not approved any liens on the property.
- As previously reported, Trinity Fort Worth is in the process of renovating the facility. Separately, there was a small fire in a lighting fixture in the sanctuary. Thanks Be to God a parishioner noticed the fire and it was doused before it spread.
- Trinity-Fort Worth renovated and expanded a preschool building.
- St. Vincent's—Bedford received a one academic year delay in complying with Fire Marshall requirement that they add a sprinkler system. They will continue negotiating.
- St. Anne's—We approved liens on the building for costs to replace the roof.
- St. Stephens—Wichita Falls is repairing the facility after a fire. Thanks Be to God it was not more extensive.

It is possible additional real estate transactions occurred in the Diocese that were not brought to the Corporation for approval.

The Trustees also met during the year to discuss the filings made at the Texas Supreme Court.

**Deanery Reports:**

Southwestern Deanery Report:

The Rev. Bradley C. Dyche, Dean

Submitted: September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

The Southwestern Deanery will meet on October 13<sup>th</sup> of this year. Delegates from St. Luke's, Stephenville and Church of the Good Shepherd in Granbury will be present. The Treasurer of the Diocese will be present to facilitate a conversation about the proposed Budget. Leaders of the Deanery were elected in late 2018 to serve until January of 2020. Those leaders are:

Dean: Bradley C. Dyche

Subdean: Malcolm Cross

Representative to Executive Council: Jon Back

Alternate Representative to Executive Council: David Shockley

## Report of the Diocesan Office to the 2019 Diocesan Convention

The Rev. Canon Janet Waggoner,

Canon to the Ordinary/Transition Ministry Officer/Administrative Officer

Submitted: October 2019

### Vision and Growth

The purpose of the diocesan office is supporting the work of God as manifest through the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement in here in North Central Texas. Our congregations are at the heart of this work.

In the year since the 36th Diocesan Convention in November 2018, Bishop Scott Mayer and the diocesan staff have continued to dedicate ourselves to the five key ministries that are uniquely those of an Episcopal diocese:

- Visioning of God's mission and how that mission is lived out here in the 24 counties of North Central Texas
- Coordination of God's mission in this region, particularly as related to things that flow from/impact all Episcopalians and future Episcopalians here
- Relationship with our wider communities, ecumenical partners, The Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion
- Leadership development, nurturing those currently in leadership and raising up new leaders
- Support to congregations and clergy in the various tasks that create and sustain a healthy environment conducive to the flourishing of ministry (administration, finance, communication, facilitation, personnel, property, litigation, etc.)

The congregations in the Diocese of Fort Worth continue to thrive, touching lives outside the walls in which we gather for worship Sunday by Sunday and inviting the folks we meet in our various ministries to join in the spiritual community around God's table. The emphasis in and through the ministries of our congregations is *building relationships* with our neighbors.

Our congregations continue to benefit from the grant funding so generously brought to us through the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church and the Advisory Group on Church Planting, as well as from our diocesan New Life Fund. St. Alban's in the Theatre in Arlington and St. Luke's in the Meadow in Fort Worth used grant funds to pay their clergy full-time. Both congregations have grown to the point that they can support their clergy full-time on their own. St. Elisabeth/Christ the King in Fort Worth, the Episcopal Church of Wichita Falls, St. Stephen's in Hurst, and St. Martin-in-the-Fields in Keller continue to receive grant funds to support their up-and-coming clergy as their congregations change and grow.

### Clergy Transitions

This was a year of steady faithfulness by the clergy of the diocese. The vast majority of the congregations of our diocese continued under the ongoing leadership of their clergy. Trinity Episcopal Church, Fort Worth and St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Keller are experiencing a season of transition after their rectors departed for other calls. Capable interims are leading these congregations forward. The search process at Trinity is well under way, and a new rector will likely be called by the end of 2019. The search process at St. Martin's will get under way in 2020.

Following is a list of clergy who have made leadership transitions in/with their congregations the year since Convention 2018:

- The Rev. Andrew Wright resigned as interim rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, Fort Worth and accepted a call as canon to the ordinary in the Episcopal Diocese of Newark.
- The Rev. Canon Linda Taylor accepted a call as interim rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, Fort Worth.
- The Rev. Scot McComas resigned as rector of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Keller and accepted a call as rector of Church of the Nativity in Scottsdale, Arizona.
- The Rev. Ron Pogue accepted a call as interim rector of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Keller.

### Staff of the Diocese

Our diocesan staff team served enthusiastically and faithfully in the midst of a challenging year. Adriana Cline (financial assistant), Michele King (administrative assistant/assistant to the bishop), Katie Sherrod (director of communications), and Janet Waggoner (canon to the ordinary/transition ministry officer/administrative officer) continue their ministries with the diocese. In January 2019, the diocesan office flooded, and our offices were closed for over two months. The Rev. Karen Calafat and the people of St. Luke's in the Meadow offered our staff space in their offices, and we were so grateful for their hospitality! We were also grateful to the people of our diocese for their patience with our lack of smooth-running operations during this time. Also in early 2019, Tracie Middleton's work for the diocese came to a close. Tracie continues as a deacon of the diocese, serving at Trinity Episcopal Church, Fort Worth. When you see her at diocesan convention, please share your gratitude for her 4 years of smart, good-hearted service to our diocese. In September, social media consultant Susan Kleinwechter and her husband, Gil, retired to North Carolina. We greatly miss her keen wit, her sharp mind, and her great proof-reading skill. In October, Steve Grenzow joined the diocesan staff as communications and administration assistant. Steve comes to us with a background in technology, training and communications. Welcome, Steve!

### Serving the Diocese

Diocesan-wide, our work together in ministry had two foci: (1) engaging our neighbors in God's love and (2) preparing for transition and transformation in our diocese as litigation comes to a close.

In late 2018, leaders from around the diocese expressed strong desire to engage our unchurched and de-churched neighbors in God's love. In a cultural climate where hostility and hate are on the rise, a group of clergy and lay folks came together to create an evangelism initiative to let people know "God doesn't hate" and "God loves you; yes, you!" The springboard for the evangelism initiative is a microsite at [godlovesall.info](http://godlovesall.info). Additional information about and continuing plans for this unfolding initiative can be found in the communications report. When you see Katie Sherrod, please extend your gratitude to her for her creativity and leadership in this powerful initiative, which is already capturing the hearts and imaginations of folks in our local communities and in the wider Episcopal Church.

Preparations are being made for the unfolding of new ministry opportunities in our diocese. The Strategic Advisory Committee and Decision-making Guidelines Committee have been created to support the work of the Executive Council, Standing Committee and Corporation by clarifying roles and visioning for new ministry possibilities. Father Kevin Johnson and St. Alban's have led the way forward in creating and test-driving a parish ministry discernment process. In September, this

process was presented for the consideration of the Clergy, Standing Committee, and Executive Council. Careful discernment by our congregations about the ministries to which they are being called will prepare us all for the powerful opportunities that lie ahead for us in ministry with our neighbors in all of our local communities.

## CAPACITY-BUILDING IN CONGREGATIONS

Increased ministry capacity of congregations throughout the diocese through acquisition and coordination of excellent resources:

- Partnership in the coordination of a community interfaith service at the Islamic Association of Tarrant County following the New Zealand mosque shootings in early 2019
- Supported the efforts of St. Luke's, Stephenville, to obtain grant funding for their campus ministry at Tarleton State University
- Supported the efforts of 4Saints Food Pantry to obtain grant funding to expand their food pantry and its ministries
- Upheld the efforts of Good Shepherd, Granbury, as they planned and prayed and worked together to build and bless a new building to house their worship and ministries
- Encouraged and sustained the ministries of St. Mary's, Hillsboro and St. Mary's, Hamilton, through presence and other resources
- Came alongside Trinity, Fort Worth, and the Episcopal Church of Wichita Falls as they recovered from flood (Trinity) and fire (Trinity and ECWF)
- Supported and facilitated the work of the Executive Council and its committees, the Standing Committee, and the Corporation of the diocese
- Supported the work of the deaneries of the diocese
- Coordination and facilitation of diocesan convention

## ADMINISTRATION

Provided continuing administrative support for ministries of congregations and the diocese

- Financial/accounting support
- Insurance/pension support
- Records/reporting support
- Litigation support

## COMMUNICATIONS

*The Communications Team of the diocese, Katie Sherrod and Steve Grenzow, files a separate communications report for the consideration of Convention.*

## CLERGY SUPPORT

Continued to support clergy in a variety of ways, to encourage them and to increase their effectiveness in ministry:

- Bishop Mayer and the diocesan staff hosted two Clergy Days, both held in Fort Worth.
- Coordinated the annual clergy gathering for renewal of vows and blessing and distribution of holy oil
- Provided pastoral care to clergy and their families in times of celebration and need

## EVANGELISTIC/ENTREPRENEURIAL EFFORTS

Provided support, facilitation and guidance for key ministry initiatives

- With support from around the diocese through the New Life Fund, sustained curacy positions to enhance ministries of congregations and provide positions in the diocese for recently ordained clergy
- Created the micro-site [godlovesall.info](http://godlovesall.info) and rolled out a new evangelism initiative around the themes “God doesn’t hate” and “God love you; yes, you!”

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

- Built and sustained partnerships around the region, including
  - Tarrant Churches Together
  - Brite Divinity School
  - Seminary of the Southwest
  - Sewanee School of Theology
  - Texas Impact

It is a profound joy to serve our congregations and communities in partnership with our diocesan staff and *all of you*. May God continue to bless us in the ministries to which we are called and to multiply the effectiveness of our efforts to love and to serve, for the good of our communities and to the glory of God.

Faithfully, and with all blessings,  
The Rev. Canon Janet Waggoner  
Canon to the Ordinary/Transition Ministry Officer/Administrative Officer

**Report from Ecumenical Officer for the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth**

The Rev. William Stanford, Ecumenical Officer

Submitted: September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Actions and Activities:

Involvement with Tarrant Churches Together for MLK Day of Service, Loading Dock Fundraiser for TCT.

Attended memorial service for victims of Tree of Life shooting at Congregation Ahavath Shalom.

Arranged and attended meeting between Imam Bakash and Fort Worth faith leaders to plan memorial service for Christ Church victims at Fort Worth Islamic Association mosque.

Attended memorial service for Christ Church victims at Fort Worth Islamic Association mosque.

Continued participation in Sons of Abraham when possible.

## **Report of Education for Ministry to the Diocesan Convention 2019**

The Rev. Deacon Dana Wilson, EfM Diocesan Coordinator

Submitted: September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

Education for Ministry (EfM) is a four year distance learning program in theological education from the School of Theology at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tn. The Episcopal Diocese of Ft. Worth has been offering the EfM program since 2009. Currently there are five active EfM groups in the diocese, 9 mentors, and 42 participants.

\*St. Luke's, Stephenville – Co-mentored by Cristy Campbell-Furtick and Becky Damron, 8 participants

\*Trinity, Ft. Worth – Co-mentored by Karen Shepherd and Elinor Normand, 10 participants

\*St. Christopher's, Ft. Worth – mentored by Ms. Marti Fagley, 8 participants

\*Good Shepherd, Granbury – Co-mentored by Suzi Robertson and Susan Pinter, 8 -participants

\*Good Shepherd, Granbury – Co-mentored by Leslie Guinn and Sidia Miranda, 8 participants

In September of this year the Diocese of Ft. Worth hosted its fifth mentor training at St. Luke's, Stephenville. Thirteen persons attended: twelve from three of dioceses in Texas and one from the Diocese of Western Louisiana. The trainers traveled to us from North Carolina and California. I extend my deepest gratitude on behalf of the Diocese for the hospitality extended to these folks by the St. Luke's, Stephenville, EfM community. The Diocese of Fort Worth is recognized by the EfM staff at the University of the South as a great place to come and do training events. The next mentor training is tentatively scheduled for September 18 - 20, 2020 at St. Luke's, Stephenville.

I am continuing to serve once every other year as a trainer for EfM Coordinator Trainings held at the University of the South in Sewanee. My next scheduled training is in November of 2020. Plans for the future of EfM in the Diocese of Ft. Worth are to encourage congregations/clergy that do not have an EfM group to consider starting one. There are several of us from the Diocesan EfM Community available and willing to come and speak about EfM to your Christian Education committee and/or congregation.

EfM transforms lives through study, reflection, prayer and community. Transformed lives transform the Church and a transformed Church has the power through Christ to transform the world. Please contact me for more information or assistance with starting a group or finding a group to join.



## **Report of the Executive Council to the 2019 Diocesan Convention**

The Rev. Bradley C. Dyche, Secretary

Submitted: September 24th, 2019

Approved by the Rt. Rev. Scott Mayer

The Executive Council is charged to carry out the policies, programs, and directives of the Diocesan Convention between meetings of the Diocesan Convention. Generally, the Executive Council has charge of the development, implementation, and coordination of the ministry and mission of the Diocese to include a wide range of collaboration, development, oversight, and support of diocesan ministries and initiatives, as described in Canon III.1 of the diocesan canons.

Since the last meeting of the Diocesan Convention, the Executive Council has met on four occasions. Highlights of their work include: approving Bishop Mayer's appointments to the Finance Committee and the Convention Planning Committee; creating a Strategic Advisory Committee; creating a Ministry Discernment Committee; approving updates to the Diocesan Offices; engaging MapDash; and approving grants provided by the Mission and Outreach Committee of the Diocese.

Detailed Summary of Actions follows on the next page

**Summary of Actions – January 2019– September 2019**

<b>01/12/2019 – St. Christopher’s Episcopal Church, Fort Worth</b>			
<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Moved</b>	<b>Seconded</b>	<b>Disposition</b>
Approve Minutes	Eichenberger	Banks	Passed
Adopt Agenda	Evans-Chowing	Minor	Passed
Approve Bishop’s appointments to Finance Committee	Minor	B. Walker	Passed
Approve Bishop’s appointments to Convention Planning Committee	Eichenberger	Minor	Passed
Accept the Treasurer’s Report	Stanford	Cariker	Passed
Change the Venue for Diocesan Convention 2019 to Decatur	Cariker	Hiatt	Passed
Approve creation of a Strategic Advisory Group	Management Committee	n/a	Passed
<b>03/18/2019, St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, Stephenville, TX</b>			
<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Moved</b>	<b>Seconded</b>	<b>Disposition</b>
Approve minutes	Cariker	Minor	Passed
Approve the report of the Convention Minutes Review Committee	Minor	Cariker	Passed
Approve appointments to Strategic Advisory Committee	Mayer	Evans-Chowning	Passed
Approve the creation of a Ministry Discernment Committee	Cariker	Hicks	Passed
Allow the Management Committee to make decisions on behalf of Executive Council on matters concerning litigation, while ongoing	Cariker	Minor	Passed
Accept the Finance Report	Chowning-Evans	Minor	Passed
Approve the redirection of funds (for repairs at Diocesan Offices)	Cariker	Minor	Passed
<b>05/18/2019, First United Methodist Church of Decatur, TX</b>			
<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Moved</b>	<b>Seconded</b>	<b>Disposition</b>
Approve Minutes	Chowning-Evans	Minor	Passed
Adopt Agenda	Minor	Haynes	Passed

Appoint Bradley Dyche as Secretary	Ray	Hicks	Passed
Express appreciation for the ministry of Andrew Wright	Sherrod	Hicks	Passed
Approve additional payments to Diocesan Staff for work completed	Management Committee	n/a	Passed
Approve engagement of MapDash	Sherrod	Evans-Chowning	Passed
Approve Financial Statements	Finance Committee	n/a	Passed
Continue our emphasis on planning for the future	Minor	Ray	Passed
<b>09/14/2019, St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, Fort Worth, TX</b>			
<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Moved</b>	<b>Seconded</b>	<b>Disposition</b>
Approve Minutes	Chowning-Evans	Minor	Passed
Adopt Agenda	Minor	Cariker	Passed
Adopt meeting dates of EC for 2020	Chowning-Evans	Cariker	Passed
Approve site for Diocesan Convention 2020	Cariker	Minor	Passed
Adopt Housing Resolution for Canon to the Ordinary	Minor	Hicks	Passed
Approve Denominational Health Plan Options for 2020	Hicks	Stanford	Passed
Accept Finance Report	Finance Committee	n/a	Passed
Accept the Audit	Finance Committee	n/a	Passed
Accept the Table of Assessments	Finance Committee	n/a	Passed
Approve proposed 2020-2022 Triennial Budget	Finance Committee	n/a	Passed
Approve Grants for Mission and Outreach	Finance Committee	n/a	Passed

## **Report of the Convention Planning Committee of the Executive Council to the 2019 Diocesan Convention**

The Rev. Canon Janet Waggoner, Chair  
Submitted: October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019

The 2019 Diocesan Convention will be held at the Decatur Convention Center in Decatur, Texas, on November 8-9, 2019.

The convention planning committee is a committee of the Executive Council and is continuing to lead the diocese as it comes together annually at our Diocesan Convention. Earlier in 2019, the Executive Council decided that, for ease of planning and preparation, our Annual Convention will be held at the Decatur Convention Center in Decatur, Texas or the Cleburne Convention Center in Cleburne, Texas.

Once again, in order to ease burdens on the environment, all convention materials will be available online. All delegations are responsible for their delegates' access to convention materials, and the planning committee recommends print copies only if/as necessary. Delegates and guests are encouraged to bring their electronic devices to access materials online during the convention.

In response to requests from members of diocesan convention in 2018, Convention Eucharist will be held on the Friday evening of convention at 7:00 pm.

Volunteers Paula Jefferson and Jennifer “Tuck” Rodgers are putting fresh energy and new ideas into exhibits and vendors at convention. Look for what’s new this year!

The 2019 chairs of key committees at convention are as follows:

- The Rev. Bill Stanford, Resolutions Committee
- Mr. Bryant Matheu, Elections Committee
- The Rev. Topher Rodgers, Nominations Committee
- The Rev. Amy Haynie, Credentials Committee
- Ms. Paula Jefferson, Dispatch of Business Committee

The Right Rev. Eugene Sutton, Bishop of the Diocese of Maryland, will be our preacher at convention. He will also offer a presentation on “The Way of Love,” which is our convention theme this year.

The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth will be held on November 13-14, 2020, at the Cleburne Conference Center in Cleburne, Texas.

## Report of the Finance Committee of the Executive Council to the 2019 Diocesan Convention

Judy Graber, Committee Chair

Submitted: August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019

The Finance has had a busy year. The Committee's responsibilities and focus this year have centered on

9 main areas:

1. Oversaw the expenditure of funds to ensure that we remained in compliance with the budget;
2. Created the Diocesan Budget for submission to the Convention;
3. Provided financial training as needed to congregations;
4. Ensured that all congregations were audited and all Parochial reports were filed
5. Anticipated the cash needs of the Diocese
6. Reviewed requests for revolving loans and grants for Parishes and Congregations;
7. Oversaw the system of internal controls for the Diocese;
8. Scheduled and reviewed the most recent Audit;
9. Reviewed and approved grant proposals put forth by the Mission and Outreach Committee.

Specifically, when creating the budget, the Finance Committee asked for input on the budget from all Budget managers and other stake holders. We prepared a draft and asked the Treasurer to attend each Deanery meeting to submit the budget and ask for revisions. Revision suggestions were limited.

We met periodically to receive and review the monthly financial statements. We followed up on budget Variances and submitted the budget to Executive Council, as needed.

We supported the efforts on the part of the Diocesan Leadership in executing the New Life Fund Campaign. We made recommendations to the Executive Council on allocation of Grant proceeds supporting existing congregations and closing the new church plant in Parker County.

We focused on receiving the congregational audits and Can report that all the outstanding audits Have been received. Many thanks to the congregations for making this happen.

As of this writing all assessments but one are current for this year; we are in communication with The Congregation and anticipate it will be current by Convention. All outstanding revolving loans are Current. No new loans were requested, therefore none were approved.

Following last year's lively discussion about the budget, we have made one change in the reports. They now include a page of what and how much each transaction is for. Everything is fully explained and transparent.

The diocesan 2018 financial statements were audited, and we were issued a clean opinion.

## **Report of the Management Committee of the Executive Council to the 2019 Diocesan Convention**

The Rev. Bradley C. Dyche, Secretary

Date: September 25, 2019

The Management Committee is defined by Canon III.1.4.3. The Committee meets prior to each Executive Council meeting to monitor progress on Executive Council initiatives and resolves, undertake work delegated by the Executive Council, recommend action on time sensitive matters, recommend actions concerning committees, and develop the agenda for each Executive Council meeting.

The members of the Management Committee are the Bishop, the President of the Standing Committee, the President of the Diocesan Corporation, the Diocesan Secretary, the Diocesan Treasurer, the Diocesan Chancellor, Chair of the Finance Committee, the Canon to the Ordinary, and Director of Communications.

The Management Committee fulfilled its primary ongoing responsibility of reviewing and preparing for Executive Council meetings. The Management Committee meetings were on January 8<sup>th</sup>, March 7<sup>th</sup>, May 14<sup>th</sup>, and September 10<sup>th</sup> of this year. Highlights included: Approving the Agendas for the Executive Council meetings; Forming and engaging in the work of a Strategic Advisory Committee; hearing reports from the Chancellor and Treasurer; and preparing for a Discernment Process in each EDFW congregation.

## **Report of the Historiographer to the 2019 Diocesan Convention**

Karen Shepherd, Historiographer

Submitted: October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019

As Diocesan Historiographer, I am custodian of the history of the Fort Worth Diocese which is gathered in the Archives at the diocesan office. Books and other printed material, meeting minutes, news articles, photographs, digital records, and objects of all sorts make up the eclectic collection. Many of the books and journals date back well into the 19<sup>th</sup> century and reflect a time when Texas Episcopal churches were part of a missionary diocese. At the same time, we can't forget that what is happening in today's congregations will be tomorrow's history. Every church is represented in the collection, and we would appreciate your sending any news or pictures of special or even ordinary events, either by email or snail mail, to the diocesan office so that your stories may be part of the diocesan record. If anyone would like to speak to me about starting or maintaining your own church archives, I'd be glad to give whatever advice I can.

## Report of the Mission and Outreach Committee to the 2019 Diocesan Convention

Donna Clopton, Chair

Submitted: September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

The Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth, through its **Mission and Outreach Committee**, awarded grants to programs that assist those who are underserved in our communities, strongly involve personal participation by our congregations, and that will be strengthened by the endorsement of the diocese.

Whether you are an individual member of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth, a group of members of a congregation within the diocese, or a combined group such as a group of congregations in your deanery, you are encouraged to submit an application. Funds are offered in two categories:

- Beyond the Diocese Outreach Impact Program – This category includes special outreach needs beyond the geographical boundaries of the diocese, both inside and outside the United States. The available funding budgeted for this category was \$4,847.
- Matching Grant Outreach Program – This category includes outreach within the diocese. These funds are to be used to match or to provide seed money for congregations or groups to fund or undertake an outreach need that they could not do on their own. The Matching Grant Outreach Program budgeted \$32,313.

The committee met on September 7, 2019 to discuss grant applications and select the recipients of the 2019 grants. The following committee members were present:

- Dr. Jane Dennis, St. Luke's of Stephenville, TX
- Mr. Fred Morgan, St. Alban's, Arlington, TX
- Mrs. Gretchen Smith, All Saints, Fort Worth, TX
- Mother Karen Calafat, St. Luke's, Fort Worth, TX
- Cana Janet Waggoner (ex-officio)
- Ms. Donna Clopton, St. Christopher's, Fort Worth, TX

As a result of our responsibility to make a fair and equal distribution of funding, a rubric was used to determine how the projects met the guidelines for the grant. We used four components:

- Matching funding is explained well and shows support of the church community
- Description of the project is understandable and combines church community involvement
- Description of how the previously awarded grant was spent according to grant objectives and guidelines
- The Episcopal Outreach Grant goals of community and parish involvement are met in the grant's overall description.

Each component was graded on a scale of 1 to 4, with 1 being poor and 4 being excellent. The committee has also made a commitment to meet in December of 2019 to rewrite the grant goals and objectives more clearly and give more feedback in writing as how the rubric will be scored for each grant. We are asking in future that grant recipients will show receipts and spreadsheets of how the money was spent from the grants awarded.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GRANT DISTRIBUTION – September, 2019  
(unless otherwise noted, granted amounts were as requested)

GRANTS FOR OUTREACH BEYOND THE DIOCESE

1. St. Christopher, Fort Worth – “India Leprosy Medical Mission” - \$2,250 (requested \$3,500)
  2. Trinity, Fort Worth – “Zambian Assistance Project” - \$3,306
- TOTAL GRANT FUNDS TO BE DISTRIBUTED – \$5,556

GRANTS FOR OUTREACH WITHIN THE DIOCESE

1. St. Elisabeth/Christ the King, Fort Worth – “AV Cato” - \$1,500
2. St. Alban’s, Arlington – “Addressing Student Hunger at UTA” - \$3,000
3. St. Luke’s, Stephenville – “Episcopal Campus Ministry” - \$5,700
4. St. Luke’s, Stephenville – “St. Luke’s Food Pantry” - \$5,000
5. Fort Worth East Deanery – “4Saints Food Pantry” - \$4,000
6. St. Luke’s in the Meadow, Fort Worth – “Coffee on the Corner” - \$2,300
7. St. Christopher, Fort Worth – “Laundry Love” - \$5,000
8. Church of the Resurrection, Decatur – “Free Little Library” - \$275
9. St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Keller – “Service Sunday” – \$2,000
10. St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Keller – “Walk a Mile in My Shoes – Union Gospel Mission” - \$2,250 (requested \$3,000)
11. St. Christopher, Fort Worth – “Christian Community Assistance Non-Food Essentials” - \$500 (requested \$2,250)

TOTAL GRANT FUNDS TO BE DISTRIBUTED - \$31,525

Grant funds available 2019

\$32,313 (Inside the diocese) + \$4, 847 (Outside the diocese) = \$37,160

Grant funds to be distributed 2019

\$31,525 (Inside the diocese) + \$5,556 (Outside the diocese) = \$37,081

Grant funds to be reserved for distribution in 2020 – \$79

## **Report of the Nominations Committee to the 2019 Diocesan Convention (Summary)**

The Rev. Topher Rogers, Chair

Submitted: September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Elect four (lay) Deputies and four Alternates to General Convention 2021:

- Louis Eichenberger
- Marti Fagley
- Bob Hicks
- Cynthia Hill
- Katie Sherrod
- Brent Walker
- Kathleen Wells
- Aidan Wright

Elect four (clergy) Deputies and four Alternates to General Convention 2021:

- Karen Calafat
- Bradley Dyche
- Amy Haynie
- Tony Hiatt
- Kevin Johnson
- Topher Rogers
- David Madison
- Lynne Waltman
- Dana Wilson

Elect one lay member for Standing Committee:

- David Skelton
- Laura Fleming

Elect one clergy member for Standing Committee:

- Chris Jambor
- Tony Hiatt

Elect two lay Member-at-Large for the Diocesan Executive Council

- Cathy Estrada
- Mary Ferguson
- Beth Mewhinney
- Suzi Reid

Elect one clergy Member-at-Large for the Diocesan Executive Council:

- Kevin Johnson
- Topher Rogers
- Noy Sparks

Elect one lay member of the Disciplinary Board:

- Luci Hoad
- Connie Lefler

Elect two clergy members of the Disciplinary Board:

- Karen Calafat
- Amy Haynie
- Ayo Omoniyi
- Topher Rogers

Elect one lay member as Trustee of Sewanee, University of the South:

- Jill McClendon
- Jennifer Rogers

### **Report of the Nominations Committee to the 2019 Diocesan Convention (Full Report)**

The Rev. Topher Rodgers, Chair

Submitted: September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019

The nominations committee chair and the committee members were appointed by the Bishop and the Standing Committee. We used email, telephone, and in person discussions to conduct the committee's work.

The diocese was canvassed for qualified nominees via the EDFW newsletter, EDFW email updates, the new EDFW Google email for the committee, phone calls, and in person suggestions. Per canon, nominations were closed 9 September 2019 and have all been vetted as well as verified. In total, there are 36 nominees for 17 open positions. Per canon, the nominations are being submitted to the Convention. As we move toward said Convention, the committee will be available to answer any questions or to provide further clarifications on the process.

Nominations may still be made from the floor until the opening of the 2019 Convention. We will work to ensure that any and all floor nominations fully comply with proper canonical procedures.

## Nominations

### **General Convention 2021 Deputy, Lay**

#### **Elect four deputies and four alternates:**

##### **Louis Eichenberger - St. Christopher's, Fort Worth**



I am a semi-retired nuclear engineer and goat farmer, living with my extended family on our hilltop property between Weatherford and Springtown.

Since my return to the Ft. Worth Diocese in 2009, I was active in the various forms of the Episcopal Church in Parker County until the end of efforts to maintain / establish an Episcopal church presence in Parker County and now attend and sing in the choir at St.

Christopher's Church in Ft. Worth. I have been the Dean of the previous Western Deanery and served as secretary and executive

council representative for the Southwestern Deanery due to attendance at ECPC. I was chairman of the Structures Committee for one year until a job made it impossible for me to continue in that position. I have served in various capacities on the Executive Council for five years and was on the Risk Management Committee during its existence. I am currently serving on the Finance Committee (since 2017) and on the Resolutions Committee for the 2019 Diocesan Convention. I have volunteered with the convention organizations and for our official delegations at the last two national conventions but did not have any official function at those conventions. Based on my attendance at the previous conventions, I now feel prepared to take the next step in national convention participation and would like to be one of the alternate delegates for the Diocese of Fort Worth to the 2021 Baltimore national convention.

##### **Marti Fagley – St. Christopher's, Fort Worth**



I am a member of St. Christopher Episcopal Church in Fort Worth. I teach Sunday School, serve on the Vestry as the Liaison for Christian Education, and mentor an Education for Ministry group at St. Christopher's. I served as a Lay Delegate to the 78<sup>th</sup> and 79<sup>th</sup> General Conventions and was on the Credentials Committee in Austin and hope to represent our Diocese again with your support. For many years I was very active in the church plant for The Episcopal Church in Parker County, including serving on the Vestry, as Senior Warden, Representative to and Dean of The Southwest Deanery. As part of the church plant, I attended

the Genesis Training for Cultivating New Ministries in the Episcopal Church. I have served on Executive Council, as a delegate to Diocesan Convention, as a member of the Standing Committee and as President of the Standing Committee. I sit on the Province 7 Board of Daughters of the King representing the Diocese of Fort Worth. Walt and I have been married 41 years; have 4 children and 10 grandchildren. Last year I retired from the Securities and Exchange Commission and spend time with our family, volunteering at church, traveling, and working on genealogy.

**Bob Hicks – St. Christopher’s, Fort Worth**



Robert, or Bob, as he prefers, has been an active member of St. Christopher Episcopal Church and the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth for over 19 years. He actively supports the growth in mission and ministry of our congregations and the Diocese and has a detailed understanding of church governance and financial management. He currently serves on the Standing Committee (2018-2020) and is its President. He served as Diocesan Treasurer for five years; Lay Deputy (2012) and Alternate Lay Deputy (2015 & 2018) to General Conventions; Lay Rep on Executive Council; and member on the Constitution and Canons, C&C Overhaul, Diocesan Structure,

Finance, and Policy committees. He is a trustee for the Fund for the Endowment of the Episcopate. At St. Christopher, Bob served two terms on the vestry; was Senior Warden and Vestry Clerk, Chair of the Planning Committee and Advance Commitment Team Leader for the successful building expansion during the difficult years from 2002 to 2009. Bob serves on the Finance Committee; is an usher; is a delegate to diocesan convention and is the Clerk of the Vestry.

Bob retired in 2004 after 34 years of service with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development where he served as Director of Operations for Multifamily Housing for the Southwest Region for the six years before retirement. He is a retired Professional Engineer with degrees from Texas A & M University in civil engineering and architectural construction.

He is married to Joan. They will celebrate their 46th wedding anniversary in February. They love to travel by RV to state and national parks. Bob also is interested in his family history and genealogy. Bob would be honored to represent the Diocese as a Lay Deputy to the 2021 General Convention.

**Cynthia Hill – All Saints, Fort Worth**



My family joined the Episcopal Church in 2003, after having spent time in the church while our children attended St. Alban’s Episcopal School and then All Saints’ Episcopal School. For the diocese I have served two terms on the Commission on Ministry, two terms as SubDean of the Fort Worth West Deanery, and one term as a Lay Trustee to the University of the South. At All Saints’ Fort Worth, my home church, I am the Godly Play Coordinator, and I am fortunate to teach Godly Play almost every Sunday. I belong to the Godly Play Foundation College of Trainers and lead trainings both within and outside the

diocese. At All Saints’ I have served as part of the Kenya Mission Team since 2009, a Diocesan Convention Delegate, and past Pastoral Care Commission Chair. I have a Masters in Ministry from Nashotah House and a Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of North Texas. Additionally, I have studied with Jerome Berryman, the founder of Godly Play at General Theological Seminary in New York.

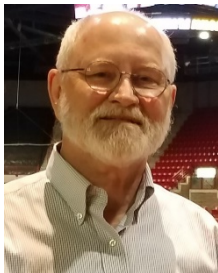
**Katie Sherrod – St. Luke’s in the Meadow, Fort Worth**



I was received into The Episcopal Church by Bishop Clarence Pope in 1985. As a member of Fort Worth Via Media and as communications volunteer for the Steering Committee North Texas Episcopalians, I worked with others in our diocese as we struggled to remain in The Episcopal Church. I attended every General Convention from 1991 to 2006 as a reporter. After the diocese reorganized, I was honored to be elected as a deputy for the 2009, 2012, 2015, and 2018 General Conventions. I served as deputation chair in 2018. I was elected to the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church at General Convention 2009 and served for six years on that body. I served on the

Communications Committee of General Convention 2009 and chaired that committee for General Convention 2012. I served on the General Convention Committee on Governance and Structure at General Convention 2015, and on the Committee on Churchwide Leadership at General Convention 2018. I have served on the Council of Advice for the President of the House of Deputies and on the Executive Council's Task Force on the Episcopacy. I am currently serving on the Task Force to Study Sexism in TEC & Develop Anti-Sexism Training. I believe my broad knowledge of The Episcopal Church and my experience in its governance has served our diocese well. I hope to continue this service to the diocese as a deputy for General Convention 2021.

**L. Brent Walker – The Episcopal Church of Wichita Falls**



Brent has served on church vestries and at the altar for 3 separate churches. Currently for ECWF, he is a Bishop’s Committee member, Treasurer, Eucharistic Minister, on the Altar Guild, coordinates the preparation of the bulletins, music selections, readers, and servers for Sunday Eucharist. In the dioceses of Dallas and Fort Worth, he has served as delegate to Diocesan Convention numerous times. Positions in EDFW since 2008, have included Executive Council (several terms as Northern Deanery Rep), Disciplinary Board (a 3-year term), and Finance Committee (a 6-year term). Attending the last three

General Conventions, he was Alternate Deputy-Lay4 in 2012, and the Deputy-Lay4 in 2015 and Alternate Deputy-Lay1 in 2018. In addition to volunteering for Interfaith Outreach Services locally, he also has served on the board for 7 years including roles as secretary and is currently chair-elect for 2019.

A Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Texas, Brent retired from 30 years of public service with the mentally ill, then worked 10 years in family violence with Air Force families, and currently works part-time at Midwestern State University. Married for 49 years, he has 3 children and 5 grandchildren.



**Kathleen Wells – Trinity, Fort Worth**



Kathleen Wells is an active member of Trinity Episcopal church in Fort Worth. The many areas of Trinity in which she has served and participated include serving on the vestry, serving as chancellor, membership in Daughters of the King, Contemplative Prayer Group, and Education for Ministry group. On the diocesan level she served as chancellor (2009-2015); she served as Assistant Chancellor for Litigation from 2015-2018; she served on the Constitution & Canons Committee, the InReach Committee and is the counsel of record for the diocesan parties in pending litigation with breakaways. For the Episcopal Church writ large, she served on the Steering Committee North Texas Episcopalians; deputy to General Conventions in 2009, 2012 (chair), 2015, and 2018; she was a member of the Standing Committee on Constitution & Canons (2009-2015); Council of Advice to the Presiding Bishop’s Chancellor, 2015; General Convention Resolution Review Committee, 2015; Episcopal Chancellors Network, 2009-present; Assistant Chancellor for the Navajoland Area Mission, 2015-present.

**Aidan Wright – St. Alban’s, Arlington**



Aidan Wright was a Deputy to General Convention in 2018 where he served as a committee officer and helped to bring about the re-inclusion of the Diocese of Cuba into the broader Episcopal Church. He served the Fort Worth Diocesan Convention as a member of the Resolutions Committee last year and attended as a Delegate from St. Alban’s the year before that. His home parish at this time is St. Christopher’s in Fort Worth, where he is co-leading the Christofolks group and running an evening bible study. Aidan spent six years in camping ministry as a counselor at Camp All Saints Episcopal Camp in the Diocese of Dallas. He is currently an actor and set designer in the DFW theater community. But since he doesn’t enjoy being a starving artist, he works at Dallas Heritage Village at Old City Park handling their marketing, social media, and digital content in order to pay the bills.

**General Convention 2021 Deputy, Clergy**

**Elect four deputies and four alternates:**

**Karen Calafat - St. Luke's in the Meadow, Fort Worth**



The Reverend Karen A. Calafat is Rector of St. Luke’s in the Meadow in Fort Worth where she has served for 5 years. She is currently on the Standing Committee, Mission and Outreach Committee. and President of the Disciplinary Board. Karen is a founding Board Member of 4Saints Episcopal Food Pantry, and a Board Member of The Grove Retirement Home in East Fort Worth, as well as in the rotation of clergy who offer the Opening Invocation at Fort Worth City Council Meetings. She is a Certified Spiritual Director and enjoys opportunities to practice this vocation. When not fulfilling her mission to “help people live better,” Karen can be found hiking some mountain or canyon in one of our National Parks.



**Bradley C. Dyche - St. Luke's, Stephenville**



The Rev. Bradley C. Dyche is the Rector of St. Luke's Stephenville. In the great Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth, he currently serves as Secretary of the Diocese as well as on the Commission on Ministry, the Disciplinary Board, the Finance Committee, and the Strategic Advisory Group. He has been ordained 17 years. Additionally, he has served the Dispatch of Business Committee at every General Convention since 2000, managing the Calendar of Business for the House of Deputies since 2012. In seminary, he interned at the Office of General Convention. If elected, he says, "Our Diocese has been greatly supported by the wider Episcopal Church, and I would be honored to represent our joys, concerns and needs at the next General Convention."

**Amy Haynie – Trinity, Fort Worth**



The Rev. Amy Haynie is the Associate Rector at Trinity Episcopal Church in Fort Worth. Amy earned a Bachelor's degree in Nursing from Midwestern State University, and then attended seminary at Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, graduating cum laude with a Master of Divinity degree. She was ordained a priest in December 2011 while serving at St. Martin in the Fields in Keller. In the diocese of Fort Worth, Amy has served on diocesan staff and as president of the Standing Committee. She served as a deputy to the 2012 & 2018 General Conventions, and as an alternate to the 2015 General Convention.

Amy has been married to David Haynie since 1992, and they have two young adult sons, Sam and Ben. They also have a 12-year-old Pomeranian, Johann, to keep them company in the empty and almost remodeled nest.

**Tony Hiatt – Resurrection, Decatur**



Tony Hiatt has served as Priest-in-Charge of the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection in Decatur since August 1, 2015. He is a graduate of Brite Divinity School and the Iona School for Ministry; while in seminary, he assisted in the revival of Cursillo in the diocese. Tony was ordained to the transitional diaconate in October 2014 and to the priesthood in April 2015. He served as Transitional Deacon at St. Luke's in the Meadow Episcopal Church, during which time he was instrumental in the conception and planning for Four Saints Food Pantry. He remained at St. Luke's as Assisting Priest prior to his appointment to what was then known as the Episcopal Church of Wise County. During his tenure in Decatur, the church has acquired a permanent worship space, moved from Mission Station to Mission status, and has increased attendance and membership by almost 100%.

Tony and his wife Lydia have lived in the Fort Worth area since 1999 and attended St. Anne's and Trinity Episcopal Churches prior to Tony's ordination. As a bi-vocational priest, Tony maintains his secular employment as an engineer with Trinity Industries in Dallas. He and Lydia have been married for 36 years and have three adult children and four grandchildren.

**Kevin Johnson – St. Alban’s, Arlington**



Kevin was called to serve as Priest-in-Charge of St. Alban’s, Arlington in 2015. Prior to this he served parishes in the Dioceses of East Carolina and West Texas, and as an engineer officer in the U.S. Army. A graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and Virginia Theological Seminary, Kevin also holds certificates in Congregational Development, Facilitating Organizational Change Management, and Spiritual Direction. For the broader church Kevin has served on the deputation to the 2018 General Convention, Fort Worth; Standing Committee, Dioceses of Fort Worth and East Carolina; Board of Trustees, East Carolina; Commission on Ministry, East Carolina; and as chaplain for the National Liturgical Arts Conference. In the larger community Kevin has helped envision, organize and found four non-profit organizations: the Neighbor to Neighbor Community Center, Ruth’s House Shelter for Victims of Domestic Violence, the Inclusive Faith Coalition, and the 4Saints Food Pantry. Kevin recharges by tossing on his backpack and exploring foreign environs.

**David Madison - All Saints – SAES, Fort Worth**



The Rev. David Madison is the executive director of the Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools (SAES). Prior to accepting this position, he served as assistant head of school and head of the upper school at All Saints’ Episcopal School in Fort Worth. Earlier, he served the parish as a parochial associate. Madison graduated from Austin College, earned a law degree from Baylor University, and then attended seminary at Nashotah House in Wisconsin, graduating cum laude with a Master of Divinity degree. He was ordained a priest in September 2004. In May 2014, he completed a Doctor of Ministry degree at Virginia Theological Seminary. In the Diocese of Fort Worth, Madison served as president of the Standing Committee and also Title IV Intake Officer. He served as a deputy to the 2009, 2012, 2015, 2018 (alternate) General Conventions of The Episcopal Church; in 2012, he served on the Program, Budget & Finance Committee and in 2015 on the Dispatch of Business Committee.

**Topher Rodgers – The Episcopal Church of Wichita Falls**



The Rev. R. Christopher Rodgers, aka Father Topher, fervently believes in practicing resurrection. The radical hospitality of proclaiming the Good News of God’s Kingdom as well as saying what Jesus said and doing what Jesus did promises new life for ALL people. Father Topher returned to his hometown to be Priest in Charge of the Episcopal Church of Wichita Falls (ECWF). In the span of one year, attendance has doubled, pledges have increased 59%, Christian formation has restarted, and mission as well as outreach have been extended to our neighbors at Midwestern State University, Jefferson Elementary, and Rider

High School. This shared growth occurred while maintaining the great outreach efforts already underway at ECWF.

Father Topher believes the renewal of the Episcopal Church centers on recovery of Episcopal identity. This inherited treasure is the middle way (via media), the harmony of Scripture, Tradition, and Reason, common worship, praying what we believe (lex orandi, lex credendi), the nexus of right thinking/right action (orthodoxy/orthopraxy), the Creeds, the Sacraments, and being the Body of Christ in the world.

He holds a BA in History, a BA in Government, an MPA, and an MS in Applied Economics, all from UT Dallas, as well as an MDiv from Virginia Theological Seminary. Prior to answering a call to ordained ministry, he was a senior analyst at the US Government Accountability Office, the Federal Reserve, GM Financial, and Fannie Mae.

Father Topher is happy to be part of the revival of the EDFW faithful remnant. He serves on the Finance Committee, Chairs the Nominations Committee, and welcomes further opportunities to serve.

**Lynne Waltman – All Saints, Fort Worth**



The Rev. Lynne Waltman is an assisting priest at All Saints’ Fort Worth with ministries including administration and Bible Study. She leads a Centering Prayer Group that meets weekly.

She has been involved with ministry at Saints’ for many years before she was ordained priest in 2016. As a lay person she served on the All Saints’ Vestry, as Junior Warden, Sunday school teacher, lector, and Eucharistic Minister. She was chair of the Outreach and Mission Commission and led “one-day missions” to the Presbyterian Night Shelter to prepare and serve meals. Trained as a Short-

Term Missions leader, she trained members of the first mission team from All Saints’ to Belize about twelve years ago. She was part of this year’s mission to San Mateo, Belize.

On the diocesan level, she has been a member of the Diocesan Mission Commission, Health and Benefits Planning Committee, and is a current member of the Constitution and Canons Committee. For Diocesan Convention, she has served the past three years as chair of the Elections Committee and this year is serving on the Credentials Committee.

**Dana Wilson - St. Luke's, Stephenville**



Deacon Dana Wilson has been worshipping and serving in the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth since its reorganization began in 2009. Before coming to St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Stephenville, in 2014, Dana served as deacon for the Episcopal Church in Parker County from January of 2009 through May of 2013. At St. Luke's she serves on the Food Pantry, preaches regularly, and was instrumental in St. Luke's being designated a Jubilee Center in 2018 by the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church.

She is a graduate of the Education for Ministry (EfM) Program and has been mentoring EfM groups since 1986. In the Diocese of Fort Worth, she has helped to start and/or mentor EfM groups at the Episcopal Church in Parker County, St. Christopher's, Fort Worth, St. Luke's, Stephenville, and All Saints, Fort Worth. Dana has served as the EfM Coordinator for the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth for 5 years which includes hosting an EfM Mentor Training event each September since 2015. She also trains EfM Diocesan Coordinators at training events at the University of the South in Sewanee, TN.

Dana serves on the Congregational Assistance Committee in the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth and has been the chair of the committee for the past year. She has recently been appointed to the Standing Committee to serve the remainder of the term in the absence of the Rev. Scot McComas, who has moved to Arizona. She has also served on the Commission on Ministry in the early days of the reorganization of the Diocese of Ft. Worth (2009) and has recently (2018) been re-appointed. Dana received a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Eastern New Mexico University in 1974. In 2012 She received a Master of Arts in Women's Studies from Texas Woman's University where she focused her research on women and religion. She has been married to Gary Wilson for 46 years and they have three grown children and 10 grandchildren.

**Standing Committee, Lay**

**Elect one:**

**Laura Fleming – All Saints, Fort Worth**



I am an Episcopalian from birth and a member of All Saints' Episcopal Church Fort Worth since 1997. I have participated in the life of my church in numerous ways including, past vestry member, Sunday school teacher, and Outreach and Mission chairperson. I am currently an elected delegate representing ASEC and a Diocesan Executive Council lay member at large. Professionally, I am a licensed professional counselor in private practice. In addition to my business, I provide pro bono services to clients at Opening Doors for Women In Need. My personal goal for participating in the greater

life of the Episcopal church is to encourage and support an environment that is open, accessible and inviting for all.



**David Skelton – St. Mary’s, Hamilton**



Skelton has served as senior warden, junior warden, auditor, and treasurer at St. Mary’s. Immediately following the reorganization of the diocese, he arranged for the Episcopalians to rent St. Mary’s from the breakaway group for Sunday worship. The two groups have shared the building ever since, nearly always amicably. He and his wife Roberta have consistently provided leadership and hospitality for the continuing, vibrant ministry of St. Mary’s, one of the oldest continuing congregations in Hillsboro and this diocese. He also has served the diocese on the Steering Committee to reorganize the diocese and on the Ubuntu

(Listening) Committee.

He recently retired from decades in family medical practice in Hillsboro, Texas. Formerly chief of staff of Hill Regional Hospital and managing partner of his medical firm, he also has served that community in scouting and youth sports leagues, the Chamber of Commerce, on Historic Preservation boards, and as City Council member and Mayor Pro Tempore of the City of Hillsboro. In 2018, Skelton was selected by the Standing Committee to fill the remainder of Norm Snyder’s term. He hopes to be elected so that he can continue serving the diocese as a member of Standing Committee.

**Standing Committee, Clergy**

**Elect one:**

**Tony Hiatt – Resurrection, Decatur**



Tony Hiatt has served as Priest-in-Charge of the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection in Decatur since August 1, 2015. He is a graduate of Brite Divinity School and the Iona School for Ministry; while in seminary, he assisted in the revival of Cursillo in the diocese. Tony was ordained to the transitional diaconate in October 2014 and to the priesthood in April 2015. He served as Transitional Deacon at St. Luke’s in the Meadow Episcopal Church, during which time he was instrumental in the conception and planning for Four Saints Food Pantry. He remained at St. Luke’s as Assisting Priest prior to his appointment to what was then known as the

Episcopal Church of Wise County. During his tenure in Decatur, the church has acquired a permanent worship space, moved from Mission Station to Mission status, and has increased attendance and membership by almost 100%.

Tony and his wife Lydia have lived in the Fort Worth area since 1999 and attended St. Anne’s and Trinity Episcopal Churches prior to Tony’s ordination. As a bi-vocational priest, Tony maintains his secular employment as an engineer with Trinity Industries in Dallas. He and Lydia have been married for 36 years and have three adult children and four grandchildren.

**Chris Jambor – All Saints’, Fort Worth**



Fr. Chris Jambor has been rector of All Saints’ Church since 2003, and a priest in the Diocese of Fort Worth for 21 years, following a successful career as a pediatrician. After the reorganization of the Diocese, he served on the Standing Committee in 2009 and 2010 and as president of that body in 2010. He represented the Diocese as deputy to General Convention in 2009. He serves on the executive Council and as Dean of the Fort Worth West Deanery. During his tenure, Fr. Jambor has encouraged and supported mission partnerships with Holy Cross Anglican School in Belize and the creation of Amazing Grace School in Kenya for girls orphaned by AIDS. Local mission projects include the ongoing support of WestAid Food Bank, providing weekend food packages for 150 kids through the Como Recreation Center, and two Maundy Thursday Foot Clinics which provided more than 150 pairs of shoes, socks, and manna bags to the homeless in Fort Worth. He also hired as a pastoral assistant the first woman priest to be licensed in the Diocese of Fort Worth.

**Executive Council Members at Large, Lay  
Elect two:**

**Cathy Estrada – All Saint’s, Fort Worth**



Catherine Estrada is a lifelong Episcopalian. She joined All Saints in 1966 when she was 6 years old. She attended All Saints Episcopal School in Vicksburg, Mississippi for grades 10, 11, and 12th. Currently, Catherine is an Alternate Delegate for the Anglican Convention. Ms. Estrada has an undergraduate degree in Political Science from Hampshire College, and a Masters in School Administration from Texas Christian University. She currently sits on several boards: Uplift Education, Reading Partners, and Tex Protects. Catherine is being honored in October by Tex Protects for her work, dedication, and advocacy on behalf of the abused and neglected children of Texas. Past boards include: Texas State Psychology Board (7 years), and Communities in Schools Advisory Board at Texas Education Agency (5 years).

**Mary Ferguson – St. Luke’s, Stephenville**



My name is Mary Ferguson. I am delighted to be nominated for an at large position on executive council for the diocese of Ft Worth. My husband Mike and I have been members of St Luke’s Stephenville since 2009. Since then I have served in several capacities at our parish: altar guild, quilters, children’s Sunday school, and co- director of the ECM campus lunch program. I am also a graduate of EFM. My Bachelor’s degree is in Nursing. Mike and I live in Hico with our dog and we have three grown children.

**Beth Mewhinney – St. Luke’s, Stephenville**



Beth was born and raised in Arlington, VA, and has lived in Stephenville, TX for the past 33 years. She is a member of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Stephenville. She was recently received into the church after having attended regularly for the past 3 years. She is currently enrolled in the EfM program and is in Year 3.

Beth recently retired from a career as a licensed professional counselor and is involved in several of St. Luke’s ministries. She is also part of the local coalition to help the homeless in Erath County.

Beth is the mother of two adult daughters and has four grandchildren.

**Suzi Reid – St. Luke’s in the Meadow, Fort Worth**



One of my favorite prayers is, “And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord...” Having been a member of St. Luke’s in the Meadow since December 1969, has been a blessing to me and my family. We have been encouraged to “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. And love your neighbor as yourself.”

During the 47 years, my joy and service has included participation in these roles: Liturgical Committee, Lay Eucharistic Minister, Chalice Bearer, Altar Guild, Flower Guild, President of the Women of St. Luke’s, Sunday School teacher, EYC sponsor (12 years), Stephen Ministry, Deanery delegate, Convention delegate, greeter, day school secretary, St. Francis Garden Guild, Lay Reader, and participant in Cursillo #70, as well as a current member of Executive Council.

Having taught art to K-5th graders for 35 years (1980-2015), it has been another opportunity to “be Christ in the world.” Together with my students, we studied art, communication of feelings, beauty, cultures, and history. We had a good time, and no one gets angry at their art teacher because students want and need to share.



**Executive Council Member at Large, Clergy**  
**Elect one:**

**Kevin Johnson – St. Alban’s, Arlington**



Kevin was called to serve as Priest-in-Charge of St. Alban’s, Arlington in 2015. Prior to this he served parishes in the Dioceses of East Carolina and West Texas, and as an engineer officer in the U.S. Army. A graduate of the University of Texas at Austin and Virginia Theological Seminary, Kevin also holds certificates in Congregational Development, Facilitating Organizational Change Management, and Spiritual Direction. For the broader church Kevin has served on the deputation to the 2018 General Convention, Fort Worth; Standing Committee, Dioceses of Fort Worth and East Carolina; Board of

Trustees, East Carolina; Commission on Ministry, East Carolina; and as chaplain for the National Liturgical Arts Conference. In the larger community Kevin has helped envision, organize and found four non-profit organizations: the Neighbor to Neighbor Community Center, Ruth’s House Shelter for Victims of Domestic Violence, the Inclusive Faith Coalition, and the 4Saints Food Pantry. Kevin recharges by tossing on his backpack and exploring foreign environs.

**Topher Rodgers – Episcopal Church of Wichita Falls**



The Rev. R. Christopher Rodgers, aka Father Topher, fervently believes in practicing resurrection. The radical hospitality of proclaiming the Good News of God’s Kingdom as well as saying what Jesus said and doing what Jesus did promises new life for ALL people. Father Topher returned to his hometown to be Priest in Charge of the Episcopal Church of Wichita Falls (ECWF). In the span of one year, attendance has doubled, pledges have increased 59%, Christian formation has restarted, and mission as well as outreach have been extended to our neighbors at Midwestern State University, Jefferson Elementary, and Rider

High School. This shared growth occurred while maintaining the great outreach efforts already underway at ECWF.

Father Topher believes the renewal of the Episcopal Church centers on recovery of Episcopal identity. This inherited treasure is the middle way (via media), the harmony of Scripture, Tradition, and Reason, common worship, praying what we believe (lex orandi, lex credendi), the nexus of right thinking/right action (orthodoxy/orthopraxy), the Creeds, the Sacraments, and being the Body of Christ in the world.

He holds a BA in History, a BA in Government, an MPA, and an MS in Applied Economics, all from UT Dallas, as well as an MDiv from Virginia Theological Seminary. Prior to answering a call to ordained ministry, he was a senior analyst at the US Government Accountability Office, the Federal Reserve, GM Financial, and Fannie Mae.

Father Topher is happy to be part of the revival of the EDFW faithful remnant. He serves on the Finance Committee, Chairs the Nominations Committee, and welcomes further opportunities to serve.

**Noy Sparks – All Saints’, Fort Worth**



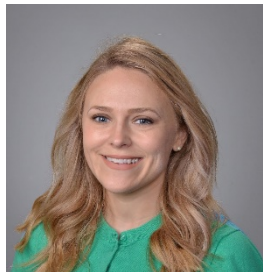
Fr. Sparks is a native of Fort Worth. He began his ministry as a Baptist preacher and was ordained an Episcopal priest in Florida. He returned to Texas in 2016 to serve as a chaplain at All Saints’ Episcopal School and currently is on staff at All Saints’ Episcopal Church. A native of Ft. Worth, he holds a Master of Theological Studies from the Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando, FL. Fr. Sparks has been married to Lynda Kay Hellewell since 1969 and they have three children and nine grandchildren. His leadership roles include, but are not limited to:

- Chapter 1 Associate Priest for Pastoral Care- All Saints Episcopal Church, Ft. Worth, TX. 2017- present
- Chapter 2 Interim Chaplain for Middle and Upper School- All Saints Episcopal School, Ft. Worth, TX. 2016-2017
- Chapter 3 Priest in Charge- St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, Hamilton, TX. 2016-2017
- Chapter 4 Priest in Charge- Christ Church Episcopal, Longwood, FL. 2013-2016
- Chapter 5 Assistant Priest- Cathedral Church of St. Luke, Orlando, FL. 2012-2016
- Chapter 6 Professor of Humanities- Valencia College, Orlando, FL. 2003-2016

**Disciplinary Board, Lay**

**Elect one:**

**Luci Hoad – All Saint’s, Fort Worth**



Luci currently works as the Dean of students for 11th and 12th grade at All Saints’ Episcopal School. She has been an Episcopalian since 1984 and a member of All Saints’ Episcopal Church since 1995. She has held various positions within the church including: greeter, Sunday school teacher, sub deacon, vestry member, youth leader, Maundy Thursday foot clinic and pilgrimage chaperone. Within the Diocesan of Fort Worth, she has held previous positions including: delegate, resolutions committee and LTC convened for a diocese seminarian. Within the community she volunteers for The Warm Place, Junior Service League, and the Good Neighborhood

Animal Rescue.

**Connie Lefler – All Saint’s, Fort Worth**



I am now retired and thoroughly enjoy volunteer work. In the diocese, I am a delegate to Diocesan Convention and have been a delegate or alternate for many years. I am currently a lay member of the Diocesan Disciplinary Board and also served on the Disciplinary Board in the past. I served on the diocesan Constitution and Canons Committee for seven years, and I have served as sub-dean for Fort Worth West Deanery.

At All Saints’ Episcopal Church Fort Worth, I am on the Finance Committee and the Facilities Committee. I have served on the Vestry, been Senior Warden and Junior Warden, and have chaired several committees.

In the community, I am on the Resident Council at The Stayton where I live. I served on the board of the Mental Health Association and chaired its Finance Committee. I am in the Junior League of Fort Worth and the Tarrant County Medical Society Alliance.

My education includes a PhD in Biochemistry from UNC-Chapel Hill. I also have an MBA from TCU which facilitated my management of my husband’s OB/GYN office for twenty years.

**Disciplinary Board, Clergy**

**Elect two:**

**Karen Calafat – St. Luke’s in the Meadow, Fort Worth**



The Reverend Karen A. Calafat is Rector of St. Luke’s in the Meadow in Fort Worth where she has served for 5 years. She is currently on the Standing Committee, Mission and Outreach Committee. and President of the Disciplinary Board. Karen is a founding Board Member of 4Saints Episcopal Food Pantry, and a Board Member of The Grove Retirement Home in East Fort Worth, as well as in the rotation of clergy who offer the Opening Invocation at Fort Worth City Council Meetings. She is a Certified Spiritual Director and enjoys opportunities to practice this vocation. When not fulfilling her mission to “help people live better,” Karen can be found hiking some mountain or canyon in one of our

National Parks.

**Amy Haynie – Trinity, Fort Worth**



The Rev. Amy Haynie is the Associate Rector at Trinity Episcopal Church in Fort Worth. Amy earned a Bachelor’s degree in Nursing from Midwestern State University, and then attended seminary at Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, graduating cum laude with a Master of Divinity degree. She was ordained a priest in December 2011 while serving at St. Martin in the Fields in Keller. In the diocese of Fort Worth, Amy has served on diocesan staff and as president of the Standing Committee. She served as a deputy to the 2012 & 2018 General Conventions, and as an alternate to the 2015 General Convention.

Amy has been married to David Haynie since 1992, and they have two young adult sons, Sam and Ben. They also have a 12-year-old Pomeranian, Johann, to keep them company in the empty and almost remodeled nest.

**Ayo Omoniyi – St Martin’s in the Field, Keller**



Ayo is a deacon at St Martins in the Field, Episcopal Church, in Keller, Texas. He was ordained at St. Martin’s on December 18, 2017 by Bishop Scott Mayer.

Ayo is married to Tope, and they have three beautiful children, two in college and one in high school. When he’s not working and serving at church, he loves playing cards, listening to reggae music, and cooking. Born in Nigeria, he was baptized, and confirmed in the Church of Nigeria, part of the Anglican Communion. He has deep roots with other family

members in church ministry. His grandfather was one of the first ordained catechists by the missionaries in Odo-owa, Ekiti State, Nigeria. His brother was ordained as a priest in the Anglican Church of Nigeria at 23 years old.

Ayo holds an Associate of Arts in General Studies from El-Reno Junior College, El-Reno, Oklahoma (1986), a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism (Public Relations) from Central State University, Edmond, Oklahoma (1987) and a Master of Criminal Justice Administration from Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma city, Oklahoma (1992).

**Topher Rodgers – The Episcopal Church of Wichita Falls**



The Rev. R. Christopher Rodgers, aka Father Topher, fervently believes in practicing resurrection. The radical hospitality of proclaiming the Good News of God’s Kingdom as well as saying what Jesus said and doing what Jesus did promises new life for ALL people. Father Topher returned to his hometown to be Priest in Charge of the Episcopal Church of Wichita Falls (ECWF). In the span of one year, attendance has doubled, pledges have increased 59%, Christian formation has restarted, and mission as well as outreach have been extended to our neighbors at Midwestern State University, Jefferson Elementary, and Rider High School. This shared growth occurred while maintaining the great outreach

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He holds a BA in History, a BA in Government, an MPA, and an MS in Applied Economics, all from UT Dallas, as well as an MDiv from Virginia Theological Seminary. Prior to answering a call to ordained ministry, he was a senior analyst at the US Government Accountability Office, the Federal Reserve, GM Financial, and Fannie Mae.

Father Topher is happy to be part of the revival of the EDFW faithful remnant. He serves on the Finance Committee, Chairs the Nominations Committee, and welcomes further opportunities to serve.

**Trustee, Sewanee, University of South, Lay  
Elect one:**

**Jill McClendon – Resurrection, Decatur**



Jill McClendon is a lifelong Episcopalian. She and her husband, Phil, participated in the reorganization of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth, beginning in 2008, and were active with the establishment of the Episcopal Churches of Parker County and of Wise County, where she currently serves as Bishop's Warden. She also served as Dean of the Western Deanery and was Delegate to the annual Diocesan Convention several times. Jill recently completed Education for Ministry (EFM) training, as well as EFM mentor training, and hopes to start a new EFM group in the near future. Professionally, she was a U.S. Foreign Service Officer, having served as a U.S. Diplomat at several Embassies overseas. McClendon's educational background includes a BA in history/political science and business administration/economics with a minor in psychology, an MA in political science/international relations, and coursework toward an MA in education.

**Jennifer Rodgers – The Episcopal Church of Wichita Falls**



Jennifer Rodgers is an ardent Episcopalian and the wife of a newly ordained priest, Topher Rodgers. She loves the church and is passionate about its ministry in the world. She has served in numerous church roles including vestry member, lay catechist, choir member, and is currently part of the EDFW Constitutions and Canons Committee. A graduate of TCU, she is a proud Horned Frog with a BS, summa cum laude, in Economics. She is also a proud Comet, holding an MS in Applied Economics from UT Dallas. Jennifer has recent experience with residential seminary life, having relocated to Alexandria, VA for her husband to attend Virginia Theological Seminary, while continuing her long tenured career with the Federal Reserve. She understands the opportunities and challenges that come with seminary life, as well as the importance of supporting Episcopal seminaries because of the invaluable educational and formational experiences they offer. If elected, she would be honored to serve as the Trustee for Sewanee, University of the South, in order to represent the interests of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth as well as seminarians and seminary families.



## Report of the Registrar to the 2019 Diocesan Convention

Tracie Middleton, Registrar

Submitted: October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019

### Canonically Resident Clergy

#### Priests

1. Barbarito, Melanie
2. Barber, J. Fred
3. Barnett, Edwin
4. Benko, Andrew
5. Benko, Hope
6. Bridge, Melvin
7. Calafat, Karen
8. Coggin, Bruce
9. Dyche, Bradley
10. Ellison, Andrew
11. Gotcher, Vernon
12. Haynie, Amy
13. Hazel, Jim
14. Hiatt, Tony
15. Horton, Jim
16. Jambor, Chris
17. Johnson, Kevin
18. Kesler, Walter
19. LaRue, Michael
20. Madavaraj, Samuel
21. Madison, David
22. McClain, M. Sam
23. Moore, Courtland
24. Payne, John
25. Reeves, Frank
26. Reynolds, Jim
27. Robertson, Karen Sue (“Suzi”)
28. Rogers, Christopher (“Topher”)
29. Shannon, Marvin (“Johnson”)
30. Slaughter, Susan
31. Smith, Jesse
32. Sparks, Noy
33. Stanford, Bill
34. Stanley, John
35. Thomas, Christopher
36. Thornley, Edward
37. Upham, Judy
38. Waggoner, Janet
39. Waltman, Lynne
40. Ware, Jordan Haynie
41. Winston, William

#### Deacons

1. Marks, Sharla
2. Middleton, Tracie
3. Nocher, Janet
4. Omoniyi, Ayo
5. Penner, Henry
6. Ruiz-Riquer, Cynthia
7. Sutherland, Linda
8. Wilson, Dana

## Changes

	Name (First Last)	Order	Date
<b>Ordained</b>			
<b>Transferred by Letters Dimissory:</b>			
from EDFW to Diocese of Chicago	Annette Mayer	Priest	10/22/2018
from EDFW to Diocese of Nebraska	Robert Gross	Priest	11/2/2018
from Diocese of Dallas to EDFW	Christopher Rogers	Priest	2/6/2019
from EDFW to Diocese of Texas	Lisa Nielson	Priest	2/15/2019
from EDFW to Diocese of Newark	Andrew Wright	Priest	7/9/2019
from EDFW to Diocese of Arizona	Scot McComas	Priest	8/13/2019
<b>Licensed</b>			
<b>Deceased</b>			
<b>Released / Removed</b>			
<b>Suspended</b>			
<b>Deposed</b>			
<b>Restored</b>			
<b>Admitted as Postulants</b>			
since last convention:	Bryant Matheu		2/25/2019
	Paula Jefferson		6/20/2019
previously:	Nick Busken		4/14/2016
	Ted Clarkson		8/15/2017
<b>Admitted as Candidates</b>			
since last convention:	Maddie Hill		5/1/2019
	Lainie Allen		6/20/2019
	Corrie Cabes		6/20/2019
	Leslie Guinn		7/12/2019



## Report of the Standing Committee to the 2019 Diocesan Convention

Robert Hicks, President

Submitted: September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Subject to the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church and the authority of the General Convention, the authority of the Church in the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth is vested in the Diocesan Convention, the Bishop and the Standing Committee. When there is no Bishop, the Standing Committee is the ecclesiastical authority of the diocese. When there is a Bishop, the Standing Committee is the Bishop's council of advice. The Standing Committee gives advice and consent for all bishops elected in the Episcopal Church; recommends persons for ordination; gives advice and consent concerning property transactions; and assists the Bishop in the appointment of members to diocesan committees and in other administrative matters.

There are six members of the Standing Committee elected by the Diocesan Convention; half are clergy and half are laity. Each member serves a three year term. The Standing Committee elects its officers and fills vacancies occurring prior to the expiration of the term of a member.

Current members:

Robert Hicks, President (Nov. 2020)  
The Rev. Christopher Jambor, Secretary (Nov. 2019)  
Dr. David Skelton, MD (Nov. 2019)  
The Rev. Deacon Dana Wilson (Nov. 2020)  
Dr. Jane Dennis, PhD (Nov 2021)  
The Rev. Karen Calafat (Nov. 2021)

The Standing Committee met the second Tuesday each month except August at 3:00 pm at Trinity EC. Bishop Mayer, Canon Janet Waggoner, and Chancellor Sandy Lisar are invited to all meetings. Elinor Norman served as Clerk.

The Standing Committee took the following actions during the 2019 diocesan year:

1. Elected Norm Snyder, President and Fr. Jambor, Secretary of the Standing Committee for the 2019 convention year. Following Norm Snyder's sudden death in December 2018, Robert Hicks was elected President.
2. Selected Dr. David Skelton MD to complete the remainder of Norm Snyder's term on the Standing Committee.
3. Selected The Rev. Dana Wilson, Deacon at St Luke's, (S), to complete the remainder of The Rev. Scot McComas' term on the Standing Committee. Fr. McComas accepted a position as rector at EC of the Nativity in Scottsdale, AZ.
4. Consented to the Election of fifteen (15) Bishops:  
The Rev. Jennifer Anne Reddall as Bishop, Diocese of Arizona  
The Rev. Kimberly D. Lucas as Bishop, Diocese of Colorado  
The Rev. Mark D. W. Edington as Bishop in Charge of the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe

- Rvdo. Canon Cristobal Olmedo Leon Lozano as Bishop, Diocese of Ecuador  
 Litoral
- The Rev. Dr. Cathleen Chittenden Bascom as Bishop, Diocese of Kansas
- The Rev. Phoebe A. Roaf as Bishop, Diocese of West Tennessee
- The Rev. Megan Traquair as Bishop, Diocese of Northern California
- The Rev. Canon Susan Brown Snook as Bishop of San Diego
- The Rev. Thomas James Brown as Bishop, Diocese of Maine
- The Rev. Canon Kathryn McRossen Ryan as Bishop Suffragan, Diocese of Texas
- The Rev, Dr. Jonathan Folts as Bishop, Diocese of South Dakota
- The Rev. Dr. Shannon MacVean-Brown as Bishop, Diocese of Vermont
- The Rev. Cannon Lucinda Ashby as Bishop, Diocese of El Camino Real
- The Rev. Dr. Bonnie A. Perry as Bishop, Diocese of Michigan
- The Rev. Martha “Marty” Stebbins as Bishop, Diocese of Montana
5. Interviewed and approved the Candidacy for Holy Orders for:
    - Mattie Hill, sponsored by All Saints (FW)
    - Lainie Allen, sponsored by St Luke’s ITM (FW)
    - Corrie Cabes, sponsored by St Martin ITF (Keller)
    - Leslie Guinn, sponsored by Good Shepherd (Granbury)
  6. Certified and consented to the Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate for:
    - Mattie Hill, sponsored by All Saints (FW)
    - Lainie Allen, sponsored by St Luke’s ITM (FW)
    - Corrie Cabes, sponsored by St Martin ITF (Keller)
    - Leslie Guinn, sponsored by Good Shepherd (Granbury)
  7. Contacted clergy and laity throughout the Diocese to fill positions for the Credentials, Nominations, Resolution, Elections, and Dispatch of Business committees; developed slate of nominees, including Chair, for each committee; and recommended appointment of the slate of nominees to Bishop Mayer. Note that members of the Credentials, Nominations and Resolutions committees are jointly appointed by the Bishop and Standing Committee.
  8. Recommended to Bishop Mayer that Malcolm Cross be appointed to fill the Standing Committee position on the Finance Committee.
  9. Provided advice and consent concerning property transactions:
    - Approved the sale of St. Andrew’s (FW) rectory
    - Approved the sale of St. Matthew’s (Comanche) rectory
    - Disapproved the sale of All Saints (Wichita Falls) church (real) property
    - Disapproved the sale of All Saints (Wichita Falls) personal property
    - Disapproved the lease of St, Vincent’s (Bedford) school (real) property pending additional information
    - Approved the encumbrance of Trinity (FW) school property and loan application for church HVAC system
    - Approved the sale of St. Andrew’s (FW) property in Hansford County
    - Approved encumbrance of St. John’s church (real) property for a loan for new roof
    - Approved agreement to save donation of \$1.2M to St Mary’s (Hillsboro) in an account with Edward Jones until after litigation
    - Approved agreement to create inventories of items of personal property that may have been removed from various churches in the diocese that are not currently under our control

10. Other Actions:

President, Standing Committee appointed to the Strategic Advisory Group

President, Standing Committee added to distribution list for issues relating to the ongoing litigation

Coordinated the meeting times for the Standing Committee and Corporation to coordinate with the Bishop's schedule

Google Shared Drive set up for Standing Committee; Standing Committee meeting minutes from 2009 have been uploaded to shared drive; and all members of Standing Committee are using edfw.org email.

It was my pleasure to serve with the members of the Standing Committee, Bishop Mayer, Canon Janet+ and Sandy. A very, very special thank you goes out to Elinor for serving with us and keeping up with us. To members of the Diocesan Convention, thank you for your service and support.