

Nominations for the 62nd Arizona Diocesan Convention

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81st General Convention Deputies

Nominees - Clerical Order

Elect Four

The Rev. David Benedict Hedges, BSG - Rector at St. Michael's and All Angels, Tucson, AZ



Current: Rector, St. Michael & All Angels Tucson; Member of Standing Committee; Secretary, Creation Care Commission; Professed Brother, Brotherhood of Saint Gregory

Past: Clerical Deputy to 80th and 78th General Conventions, Bishop Transition Committee, Trustees (Diocese of Chicago), Rector St. Peter's, Sycamore IL

Candidate Questions:

1. What do you think are the greatest opportunities or challenges facing the Episcopal Church at this time?

Studies of public perception of Christians reveal that among the general public who are not Christians, we are understood to be judgmental, hypocritical, homophobic, transphobic, and racist. The Episcopal Church's great opportunity is to proclaim that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is none of these things: that we practice repentance of sins rather than judgment and hypocrisy, and that we strive to respect the dignity of every human being. The great challenge facing us is that we continue to rest on our historic image as "the church of presidents" rather than realizing that our Church is not well known to the general public, and therefore we must make ourselves well known. We cannot assume our neighbors know our Church or our Lord – we must be about proclaiming to the world that Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life and that this means that Jesus Christ is Love.

2. What gifts and talents will you bring to the position for which you seek nomination?

One gift I bring is a commitment to the recent direction of the Episcopal Church toward greater inclusion, openness, and justice, combined with a passion for our heritage as a church which proclaims the faith as understood through the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds – creeds which continually call us into the strangeness of God and the radical nature of the Gospel.

My experience in church governance includes service on the Diocesan Council, the Trustees of the Diocese of Chicago, and the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Arizona, for which I am in my second term. I served as a Deputy to the 78th General Convention (Salt Lake City, 2015) for

the Diocese of Chicago, and to the 80th General Convention (Baltimore, 2022) for the Diocese of Arizona.

3. What does it mean to be an Episcopalian at this time in our history?

House of Deputies President Julia Ayala Harris noted in her sermon at the Baltimore General Convention that the establishment posture of the Episcopal Church “has taken us as far as we can go.” At this point in history, she encourages us to turn to the image of new wine in new wineskins. This means we need a new self-understanding that is not based on wealth and privilege but on care, concern, risk, and daring – not serving as chaplains to society but as leaven, calling ourselves and the world around us to repentance from racism, environmental destruction, and continual rage and spite. In a world committed to enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, and envy, our meaning and message must be love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

4. What sustains you in your spiritual life?

As a member of a religious community, the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory, my spiritual life is centered on the Daily Office of the Book of Common Prayer, daily meditation, regular study of Scripture and spiritual literature, and the offering of our labor through the tithe. Brothers offer their ministry as service to others and to God’s glory. This way of spiritual life in a community with others has sustained me in my walk with Christ.

The Rev. Dr. Robin B. Hollis - Deacon



Current: Director, Deacon Formation Academy, Episcopal Diocese of Arizona, Standing Committee Clergy Member, Clergy Deputy to 80th General Convention, Diocesan Anti-racism Committee member/assisting as a facilitator, Secular role: Management consultant providing services emphasizing leadership & organizational development, training, strategic facilitation, grant writing and economic workforce development for local youth-centered & Opportunity Youth non-profit organizations.

Past: Senior executive managing teams within industries of healthcare, global high-tech distribution, finance, and information technology. (2) Member of 2018 80th General Convention Task Force for Clergy Formation & Continuing Education. (3) Previous church roles as Lay Leader & Vestry member, youth group leader/Sunday school superintendent (4) Community service organizations volunteer including YMCA, Girl & Boy Scouting, School Advocate, Fiesta Bowl Band Championship.

Candidate Questions:

1. What do you think are the greatest opportunities or challenges facing the Episcopal Church at this time?

Our greatest opportunities can be found in the challenges we face. As members of the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus movement we are in a position to be responsive, relevant, and courageous advocates for our communities and those in need. We can provide the leadership and presence

grounded in love, our Baptismal Covenant, and in sharing the Good News. When presented with the challenge of today's chaotic, volatile, uncertain, and often divisive environment we can strive to be an inclusive and safe harbor, an action-oriented change agent, and a living testament to the power of the Spirit.

2. What gifts and talents will you bring to the position for which you seek nomination?

I have had the privilege to serve as a Clergy Deputy at the 80th General Convention in addition to having served on an Interim Body/Task Force. With this experience, I can be a more effective deputy immediately with my understanding of the governance, the processes, and the nuances of our governance system. Being blessed with the abilities to imagine the future, build relationships, and develop/implement innovative approaches, my talents of leadership, collaboration, empathy, and resourcefulness will serve as a foundation for furthering the mission of our diocese. As a Deacon, I am called to look for ways to bring the world to the church and the church to the world. With my passion for our Lord and guided by the Spirit, I am an enthusiastic team member who works for the success and development of others helping them live to their potential while working together to deliver results.

3. What does it mean to be an Episcopalian at this time in our history?

To be an Episcopalian means to follow Jesus, walk the way of love, and have hope for the future. It means the courage to be a member of the Jesus movement, and the strength to speak truth to power. It means we are transparent in our work, acknowledging our imperfections and taking action to be willing to change and forgive. We have the power to lead positive transformation as we listen, reach out, and embrace non-traditional ways of thinking and acting. We can be a community without conformity that leads by example respecting the dignity of every human being and "bearing each other's burdens" (*Galatians 6:2*).

4. What sustains you in your spiritual life?

My spiritual life is sustained through prayer, study, community, and my family. While I try to live into my rule of life, I find myself leaning into the power of the Spirit as well as the continual guidance of a Spiritual Director. I find that through music, daily devotional readings, and talking to God, I grow in my spirituality. I have found that integrating music and walking the labyrinth (even a virtual one) opens up my listening to the Spirit. I am also blessed and enriched through the experience of leading deacon formation as it brings a new level of spiritual joy and understanding.

The Rev. Canon John E. Kitagawa



Current: Deputy to 80th General Convention, Baltimore, 2022; Co-Chair Legislative Committee #9 Racial Justice & Reconciliation; Co-Chair the Presiding Officers' Working Group on Truth Telling, Reckoning, and Healing; Member the Presiding Officers' Advisory Group on Becoming Beloved Community Implementation

Past: Priest in Charge, St Paul, Tombstone, 2018; Rector, St Philip's, Tucson, 2001-2015.

Candidate Questions:

1. What do you think are the greatest opportunities or challenges facing the Episcopal Church at this time?

I have been working in the area of racial justice, equity, and reconciliation for many years. This just completed General Convention passed significant resolutions aimed at Building the Beloved Community. Legislation is wonderful and I celebrate what we've just done. However, the hard work is ahead and I want to be a part of it. The opportunity is for the Episcopal Church to grow in its living into all the Baptismal promises we make and renew. I hope the result will be a more just and equitable church, and as we minister in the world around us, a more just and equitable society.

2. What gifts and talents will you bring to the position for which you seek nomination?

I bring a lot of knowledge and experience. I understand the ministry of governance in the Episcopal Church and learned how to navigate the complex system of the General Convention to get things done.

3. What does it mean to be an Episcopalian at this time in our history?

We are reclaiming our heritage as a branch of the Jesus movement, and we are trying from a faith position to stand for justice, equity, healing, and reconciliation.

4. What sustains you in your spiritual life?

In retirement, I've come to appreciate the sustenance I get from working in the community with fellow volunteer construction workers, prisoners, and future homeowners at Habitat for Humanity, Tucson. We begin every morning by circling up and praying. For me, this is very much faith in action. I love to talk about issues, but even more, I love making a difference for hard-working families through action. The Holy Eucharist, prayer, and reading are essential to my spiritual life.

The Rev. Scot McComas - Rector at The Episcopal Church of the Nativity, Scottsdale, AZ



Current: Rector, Church of the Nativity; Disciplinary Committee President; Diocesan Endowment Committee Member; NE Phoenix Deanery Dean; Certified Lombard Mediator;

Past: Diocese of Ft. Worth: Deputy to 2018 General Convention & Province 7; Standing Committee; Executive Council; Episcopal Schools Commission Chair; Constitution and Canons Committee.

Candidate Questions:

1. What do you think are the greatest opportunities or challenges facing the Episcopal Church at this time?

I think that the greatest challenges are also our greatest opportunities for how to remain faithful as followers of Jesus in a world that is increasingly more secular. We continue to see a shift in society as to its relationship with organized religion. However, the Episcopal Church has always “stood up” to support those who are and have been, on the margins of life. To me, this Gospel imperative continues to give hope. The Episcopal Church does not “water down the Gospel.” For that, I’m proud to be an Episcopalian.

Over the last 100 years or so, the Episcopal Church has worked to end childhood labor; support the Civil Rights Movement with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and others; to support gender equality by being one of the first mainline churches to ordain women; to ordain LGBT+ folks (those single and in partnerships/marriage); and to support all of God’s children, including our Transgender siblings in Christ.

By keeping faithful to the Gospel, as the Church has, we often are known as a church that “practices what we preach,” especially pointing out that God loves all. Period. And we are to do the same, as we inculcate the concept of, “All are Welcome. No Exceptions!”

2. What gifts and talents will you bring to the position for which you seek nomination?

I am seeking the position of Deputy to General Convention 2024, and have been a deputy before, in 2018. As in 2018, I will bring a dedicated interest and study of the resolutions before the General Convention and look to speak to these resolutions, when necessary or applicable. In 2018, I read or skimmed almost all 350 resolutions before the General Convention began. There is a collective wisdom of discernment through the Holy Spirit at General Convention, and it is exciting to what our Church might face next. Specifically, I have great interest in the following committees:

1. Governance & Structure;
2. Congregational & Diocesan Vitality;
3. Churchwide Leadership

Throughout the Covid pandemic, our church learned to be nimble and that has served us well. For example, because of Covid, the 2022 General Convention in Baltimore was shortened from 9 days to 4 days and many hearings occurred online via Zoom. That was what I call, “the silver lining in the Covid cloud.” The Church needed to adapt, due to Covid, and did so in a successful and faithful manner. Many of the online tools we now use (i.e. Zoom, etc.) have helped the Church to conduct its business beforehand, and in a manner that freed up precious time and resources during the actual Convention. I support this going forward and would encourage us to listen as the Spirit continues to speak to our Church in how we do our business and legislation.

3. What does it mean to be an Episcopalian at this time in our history?

It is essential to be mindful of where the Episcopal Church has been, is now, where it has failed in history and how we can atone for our shortcomings and sins. I am particularly pleased with the Church's examination of the *Doctrine of Discovery* and the need to focus on Racial Reconciliation and Justice. However, we need to do more, such as working together more as a Church in the reconciliation with our Native and Indigenous communities.

Only three dioceses out of about 109 have passed diocesan resolutions that honor and acknowledge the land: Minnesota, Olympia (the western part of Washington state), and Arizona. But why not more dioceses? That's the next issue for the Church to be engaged with. I'm hoping the General Convention of 2024 in Louisville, KY, will address this head-on and there will be an honest look at our siblings in Christ who are native and indigenous to the land.

4. What sustains you in your spiritual life?

What sustains me individually, in the community of Nativity, and the Diocese of Arizona is my prayer life. It is my relationship with Christ and the constant presence I feel when serving others, whether it is the parish I am lucky to lead or the various committees in the diocese or the Church. We have many faithful folks, who work hard and do their best to be faithful to where they see God calling them to be a follower of Jesus. I am honored to walk with all our siblings in Christ.

The Very Rev. Troy D. Mendez - Dean at Trinity Cathedral, Phoenix, AZ



Current: Trinity Cathedral, Dean, 2014-to present
Diocese of Arizona, Bishop's Search Committee Member, 2018
Virginia Theological Seminary (Alexandria, VA), Board of Trustees, 2013-present
One Community Foundation (Phoenix), Multicultural Advisory Board, 2017-present
St. George's College, North American Committee (Jerusalem), Treasurer, 2012-2015

Past: St. Margaret's Episcopal Church (Palm Desert, CA), Associate Rector, 2011-2013
Church of Our Saviour (San Gabriel, CA), Curate, 2009-2011
Virginia Theological Seminary (Alexandria, VA), Student, 2006-2009
Park 'N Fly (Los Angeles), Regional Sales Manager, 2004-2006
Delta Air Lines (Los Angeles), Sales Representative, 1996-2004

Candidate Questions:

1. What do you think are the greatest opportunities or challenges facing the Episcopal Church at this time?

The Episcopal Church is on the cusp of significant realigning moments. New generations of leaders are raising up new ideas and new ways to be the church in the world. All of us have experienced the radical shifts that happened during COVID. Some of our innovations are now here to stay, while others have transitioned back to more traditional approaches. Our congregational makeup has changed since 2019, and many clergy are facing overwhelming expectations from their respective congregations. Herein lies our great opportunity!

The Episcopal Church of 2022 is well-positioned to continue welcoming all people, from all walks of life, from all backgrounds, from all socioeconomic levels, from all ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations, and gender identities. We are the church that the modern world desperately needs; a church that is committed to Jesus and his way of love.

Our goal as a church should mirror the aspiration that the author John Stott once wrote about when he writes, “A healthy Christian fellowship includes people of all types, backgrounds, and ages, and there are new depths of friendship and mutual sharing to be discovered.” We are the church that has the capacity to make this type of fellowship possible, not only for ourselves alone but for the entire world!

Every day the Holy Spirit is sending people to our doorsteps to hear the Good News that Christ proclaims through us. We are on the cusp of becoming a new church for a new world. This is an exciting time and one that will define our ministry for generations to come.

2. What gifts and talents will you bring to the position for which you seek nomination?

Having served twice as the head of the Arizona deputation to the General Convention, I now have a good deal of experience in compiling information on committee participation, leading training of all deputies prior to the convention, and collaborating with our bishop’s office on the logistics of attending the General Convention.

Being connected to many parts of the church is vital for this position, in order to understand what is on the hearts and minds of the attendees of the General Convention. In my current position at Trinity Cathedral, I am blessed to know so many Episcopalians in our diocese who are doing outstanding ministry in their home churches. Several times a year, various ministry groups convene at the cathedral to dream about how their respective ministries can continue to blossom and flourish. These gatherings help me understand what is on the hearts and minds of Episcopalians in Arizona.

Furthermore, in my ongoing work as a trustee of Virginia Theological Seminary, and in my work collaborating with the board of The General Seminary of the Episcopal Church, I am able to interface with students, priests, and bishops from almost every diocese of the Episcopal Church when our board is in session three times per year.

Furthermore, my experience at the General Convention in Austin and in Baltimore helped me establish good relationships with colleagues all over the world, only furthering my understanding of the needs and concerns of the Episcopal Church.

3. What does it mean to be an Episcopalian at this time in our history?

To be an Episcopalian in 2022 means to listen carefully to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the world. When Jesus teaches his followers how to bring good news to the poor, release the captives, recover sight to the blind, let the oppressed go free, and proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor, the people of the Episcopal Church hear Christ’s call and renew our commitment to Jesus’s ministry every time we renew our baptismal vows. We have a sense of urgency to take Jesus’ ministry seriously.

The call to live authentically in the Episcopal Church means to bring your entire self — your body, your mind, and your spirit — into all of the work that Jesus and his ministry is inviting you to do right here and right now. Being an Episcopalian encourages us to look further out on the margins and ask ourselves, “Who is not yet included?” We are being led by the Holy Spirit to explore being the healing and helping hands of God in a world that needs us now more than ever.

Episcopalians have a responsibility toward God, towards society, and towards one another to be agents of the Kingdom of God in today’s world. In the same way that Jesus sent the disciples out two-by-two to every village and town wherever he might go, he also sends us. Luke’s gospel writes that when the disciples returned they were filled with great joy. May it be so with us, too!

4. What sustains you in your spiritual life?

In seminary, I appreciated my Hebrew teacher's definition of the word "naphesh," translated into English as "soul." This presence of the soul implies not only something spiritual but uniquely physical as well – the very presence of life within us. And because this life force within us is physical, mental, and spiritual, scripture commands us to pay attention to the ways in which we care for our souls, our "very-ness."

Spiritually, I have created a practice of prayer, reflection, and meditation that I enter into daily. Variety helps, too, as I find the most fulfillment when I incorporate a variety of scripture, traditional prayers, sacred music, art, and an intentionally created environment in my practice.

Whenever I feel stuck in my spiritual life, I always return to music, especially singing. At home, I'll go to my piano, and begin playing my favorite songs, the hymn "Lead me, guide me, along the way," the Taizé favorite, "Christ my hope and Christ my joy," and occasionally some rendition of the Old 100th Psalm Tune. In this prayer practice, I listen to the still small voice of God, and immerse myself in God's everlasting love, God's "very-ness." It fills me up, so that I am able to sustain myself and do the good work that God gives me to do each and every day, always in the name of Christ's love.

The Rev. C. Hunter Ruffin - Rector at Church of the Epiphany, Tempe, AZ



Current: Rector, Church of the Epiphany-Tempe

Commission on Ministry - 2020-present

Creation Care Council - 2021-present

Valley Interfaith Project - 2018-present

Past: The Episcopal Church in Parker County - Priest-in-Charge Saint

Michael and All Angels, Dallas - Associate for Mission and Outreach

Commission on Ministry, The Episcopal Church in North Texas -

2017-2018 The Gathering, Diocese of Dallas - 2016-2017

Candidate Questions:

1. What do you think are the greatest opportunities or challenges facing the Episcopal Church at this time?

As with many things in life, the greatest opportunity and the greatest challenge are opposite sides of the same coin. For The Episcopal Church, our greatest opportunity is in reaching new people with the Good News of Jesus Christ. We have an opportunity to reach people with a gracious understanding of the Gospel that invites people of all sorts to know the love of God at this time in human history. We offer an understanding of God's love that is true to the historic faith of the Church and is also generous in who is being welcomed into the Church.

The greatest challenge for The Episcopal Church is finding a way to empower our congregations to do the work of evangelism in such a way that it is neither manipulative nor off-putting to the people we encounter in our communities. Perhaps the challenge within this is providing the foundation necessary for a conversion to happen within our church so that our people know and experience the love of God so deeply and so personally that we cannot help but to share the Good News with people we meet.

2. What gifts and talents will you bring to the position for which you seek nomination?

For a deputy to the General Convention, it is quite important to see the larger picture and where The Episcopal Church is going in its future, but seeing the larger picture needs to begin with an understanding of our connectedness to one another and to others in the world. It is one of my gifts that I see the connections between people and how one action creates a ripple effect across the system of the Church. I also bring with me a talent for strategic thinking and analysis. Through my gifts for learning, strategic thinking, and moving from thought to task, I believe that I am a strong candidate for serving our diocese at the next General Convention.

3. What does it mean to be an Episcopalian at this time in our history?

To be an Episcopalian right now in our history is to be in a minority position within the Christian faith in the United States. For us, it means that remaining committed to the teachings of Jesus Christ is as important as it has ever been. We are learning how to be the church that is becoming more and more focused on forming mature disciples of Jesus Christ through the patient practices of faith, hope, and love so that we then move outward to become mature Christian leaders in our communities and in the world.

4. What sustains you in your spiritual life?

I am sustained in my spiritual life by my daily practice of prayer. Being in regular conversation with God either through the reading of The Daily Office or my practice of the Daily Examen, it is being in a close relationship with God that I am sustained in my spiritual life.

Of course, I am also sustained by the worship life of our parish as we gather together to enter into the sacramental life of the church and to be sustained by the love of God made known in those outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace.

Nominees - Lay Order

Elect Four

Cody Bro - St. John the Baptist, Glendale, AZ



Current: School Teacher, Standing Committee, Vestry, Deputy to GC80

Past: Altar Guild Director, VBS Coordinator, Sunday School Teacher, Chapel Rock Summer Camp

Candidate Questions:

- 1. What do you think are the greatest opportunities or challenges facing the Episcopal Church at this time?**

Staying true to our historic faith while adapting to the needs of our modern world.

2. What gifts and talents will you bring to the position for which you seek nomination?

I have served as deputy to the General Convention at Baltimore and having attended General Convention before I know firsthand that experience at Convention is necessary to be able to contribute meaningfully. As a younger Episcopalian, I would be honored to bring my experience and perspective to this role.

3. What does it mean to be an Episcopalian at this time in our history?

Episcopalians represent historical, loving, Christianity at a time when the public perspective on Christians is that of people who are judgemental and condemning.

4. What sustains you in your spiritual life?

Prayer, fellowship.

Dr. Dawn Conley - St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Litchfield Park, AZ



Current: Sociology Professor/Realtor, Deputy to General Convention 2022, Karl and Virginia Arizona Chapter President of The Union of Black Episcopalians, Province VIII (BAM) Black African Ministries Network Co-convenor (through 2022) St Peter's Litchfield Park Montessori School Board Chair (through August 2022) and Vestry Member

Past: Former member of The Episcopal Church Commission on Human Affairs, Former member of Episcopal Church Young Adult Advisory Council, One of the authors of the Episcopal Church TAP (Teen AIDS Prevention) manual, Province I Diocese of Connecticut Youth Representative, Episcopal Church Representative to Nation Council of Churches (NCC) and World Council of Churches (WCC) Young Adult Gathering and Conference planner and attendee for WCC Young Women's Gathering that created the publication Young Women Demand a Violence-Free World.

Candidate Questions:

1. What do you think are the greatest opportunities or challenges facing the Episcopal Church at this time?

I think the greatest opportunity for the Episcopal Church is to reach those that are disconnected, seeking, and searching to be part of a Body of Christ. The Episcopal Church (TEC) motto is ... All Are Welcome. We have the unique opportunity to be hospitable and show Christ's love through our actions. The possibilities are endless when we open our hearts, minds, and souls to all of God's creation! I believe one of the challenges facing the Episcopal Church is relevancy and

relating the message of the Gospel to people in the pews and those we have yet to reach. Stretching our “comfort zones” of tradition would be a huge step in connecting across boundaries. We must walk the talk and Let Go and Let God (The Holy Spirit) lead us!

2. What gifts and talents will you bring to the position for which you seek nomination?

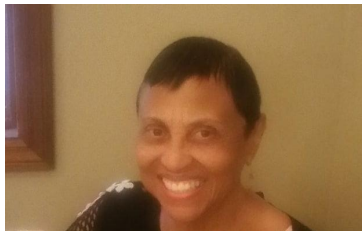
I represented The Diocese of Arizona as a Deputy to the General Convention in 2018 and 2021 (2022). I have a servant spirit and always seek to serve when called. Professionally, I am a college professor and I have worked in social services with a diverse array of people. I have lived in 9 states, and Washington DC. Having lived in urban, suburban, and rural communities, helps me to relate with a diverse array of people. I bring a spiritual eye, prayerful soul, and continual focus and determination to make sure inclusion, as seen by God, is a goal the church can reach.

3. What does it mean to be an Episcopalian at this time in our history?

Wow! Good question. I am a fifth-generation Episcopalian. I have been active in The Episcopal Church (TEC) since I was a young child, in the choir, then youth groups, young adult activities, and currently advocacy. I have been a member of the church, as current events write the soon-to-be history. Episcopalians have the opportunity to help heal the world by showing the Love of Christ. It is time to Walk the Talk. We have the best example in Jesus!

4. What sustains you in your spiritual life?

I am sustained through prayer and reading the Bible. Jesus’ many examples give me confidence that God can turn ANYTHING around, including the ills of this world. As a result, my faith has grown tremendously, and I simply have comfort in knowing that God is a prayer answerer!



Canon Judith Conley - Trinity Cathedral, Phoenix, AZ

Current: Deputy to General Convention 2022, Member of General Convention Standing Committee on World Mission, Chair of the Aims and Prophetic Ministries Committee for the Society of The Companions of the Holy Cross

Past: Former member of TEC Executive Council, Former Member of The Anglican Consultative Council, joint Standing Committee (Primates and Council). Member of the Task Force on Reimagining The Episcopal Church. Chaired Diocesan Anti Racism Committee Presently the Chair of the Aims and Prophetic Ministries Committee; Society of The Companions of The Holy Cross.

Candidate Questions:

1. What do you think are the greatest opportunities or challenges facing the Episcopal Church at this time?

I believe the issues that are most pressing in TEC are; racism, inclusion, and evangelism. We have been moving forward at a snail's pace in our journey in the Jesus Movement. We profess our walk in love, but we haven't found boots that quite fit. Our baptismal covenant, the way of love literature, and the exciting programs we have are available to assist us. We have what it takes to be a beloved community. We need to be bold enough to tell our stories and bolder to listen to others.

2. What gifts and talents will you bring to the position for which you seek nomination?

I am a Senior Deputy, which means I have attended at least 7 General Conventions. Because I have had the experience of past Conventions, and know the "ropes" I can share that with those who are new to the process. I served on the Executive Council, Chaired the Finance Committee on The Presiding Bishop's fund for World Relief (now known as Episcopal Relief and Development). I was elected to the Anglican Consultative Council (one of the four instruments of unity in the Anglican Communion and the only legislative body in Communion). I was a member of the Task Force to Reimagine the Episcopal Church and I presently serve on one of four Standing Committees in TEC; The Standing Commission on World Mission.

3. What does it mean to be an Episcopalian at this time in our history?

It is an exciting time to be an Episcopalian now because we are challenged to live in the way of love. We are speaking out and speaking up for those who don't have the voices or power to do so. We are also spending time learning to love ourselves. Opportunities have expanded for a more diverse and inclusive church.

4. What sustains you in your spiritual life?

I am sustained by being a member of a community of believers in the congregation where I worship and a community of women (The Society of the Companions of The Holy Cross) whose aims are prayer, a practice of peacemaking, and simplicity. In addition, in the grand scheme of things, knowing that we are connected to other faith traditions in our beloved community is fulfilling.

Canon Clyde Kunz - Episcopal Church of St. Matthew, Tucson, AZ



Current: Consultant to nonprofit organizations; Board Member, Forward Movement; President, Standing Committee, Diocese of Arizona; EfM Program Coordinator, Diocese of Arizona; Title iv Intake Officer, Diocese of Arizona

Past: Former Board Member (appointed by PB Katherine Jefferts Schori), Episcopal Church Foundation; Lay Deputy, General Convention 2018; Former Member, Arizona Diocesan Council (no longer in existence)

Candidate Questions:

- 1. What do you think are the greatest opportunities or challenges facing the Episcopal Church at this time?**

The Church finds itself today in the position of losing membership overall, while simultaneously making great strides to reach out to communities that have been traditionally marginalized, including people of color, the LGBTQ+ communities, and those who have been ill-served by other Christian denominations. Those challenges also create a great opportunity for the Church to demonstrate its relevance in the 21st century. Great strides have been taken! The number of women – and women of color! – who has been elected Bishop in the past few years is extraordinary, but there is more work to be done to bring people “on the margins” not just into the fold, but into leadership roles as well. The 2022 General Convention made progress in this direction, electing for the first time its President and Vice-President, a Latina and an Indigenous woman - in those roles, representing as well a generational shift in leadership. That needs to be celebrated.

Moving forward the Church will also need to look at its governance structures. For example, does its organization into nine “provinces” make sense in 2022 and beyond? Are there institutional barriers to the inclusion of all people in leadership? And as the Church shrinks in membership, we should be taking a hard look at the Church’s budget. Does it require a reduction? Or can modifications to our institutions allow us to re-allocate resources to doing more of the work of Jesus – caring for the poor, the widow, the prisoner, and the hungry?

2. What gifts and talents will you bring to the position for which you seek nomination?

My involvement in the national Church (Episcopal Church Foundation board, Forward Movement board, deputy at General Convention) has enabled me to become acquainted with many in Church leadership and has taught me a great deal about the institutional structures that are necessary for the Church’s operations. Those experiences have also shown me areas in which the Church could be more lean and efficient and could better use its significant resources to support missional work.

My own professional experience as a consultant to nonprofit organizations (and several faith communities of various denominations) has taught me a great deal about issues of nonprofit governance, which is the primary focus of the General Convention. Prior to my work in the nonprofit sector, I worked in the banking industry and was an investment advisor; a great deal of the work of the Convention concerns matters of finance, and I believe I also bring those strengths to the fore.

3. What does it mean to be an Episcopalian at this time in our history?

The Episcopal Church today is truly a “big tent” with room for people of many perspectives. As many others have done, I came to the Episcopal Church as an adult, having been raised in a much more dogmatic denomination. This Church has allowed me to discover my own spirituality, and develop a deep personal relationship with God, all in the setting of traditional worship. I would describe myself as “theologically progressive and liturgically traditional.” Others may (and do!) describe themselves otherwise, and that is JUST FINE in the Episcopal Church. It has been gratifying these past 9 years to observe Presiding Bishop Michael Curry’s emphasis on the “three pillars” of Creation Care, Racial Reconciliation, and Evangelism. He has really tried to focus the work of the Church outward, rather than inward. In a world that is in so much need of what the Church has to offer, we can no longer expect people in need to walk through our doors; we are reaching out to them. I believe the Church is headed more and more in that missional direction.

4. What sustains you in your spiritual life?

As an EfM Mentor, I am regularly engaged not only in regular scripture study, but the study of other theological texts as well, AND (with the group I mentor) engaged in theological discussions on a regular basis. As one of the homilists in my own parish (about once every 8 weeks or so) I have the opportunity to engage on a deeper level with the readings for the Sundays on which I preach, researching what various theologians have to say about the readings, listening to blog posts on those readings, etc.

My own prayer life is vitally important to me! Prayer takes many forms, and for me, I am able to communicate my heart's desire to God in several ways: traditional prayer, of course, but also through seeking (and creating) moments of stillness in my busy life. I often find deep spiritual meaning while becoming absorbed in classical music, or simply while walking my dog through my neighborhood in the early morning hours before the world around me becomes noisy and busy.

Although I don't use it as regularly as I probably should, the Forward Movement app (called "Day by Day") has not only the short Forward Day by Day meditation in it but also offers the Daily office each and every day of the year. When time permits, I find a quiet space and sit with my phone for Morning Prayer, Noonday Prayer, and Evening Prayer (both long and short versions are provided, depending on how much time I have!)

Dan Packard - All Saints' Episcopal Church, Phoenix, AZ



Current: Attorney/Institutional Trust Officer managing endowments and trust funds for large nonprofits and institutions; General convention deputy, 2022; Province VIII delegate, 2022; Rules of order committee, GC 2022; Dispatch of the business committee, GC 2022.

Past: General convention deputy, 2015; Chapel Rock interim executive director, 2012-2014; Diocesan counsel, 2008-2017; Diocese of Arizona

finance committee, 2008-2017; All Saints' Phoenix Sunday School teacher, youth leader, and Rite 13 leader, 2005-2012

Candidate Questions:

1. What do you think are the greatest opportunities or challenges facing the Episcopal Church at this time?

In my opinion, the greatest opportunity and challenge are almost the same thing. It's staying true to the gospel and being a prophetic voice to the world for justice and peace. Most churches today are facing temporal challenges, such as declining attendance. That is certainly a challenge and one that we shouldn't ignore. However, the church is much more than our buildings and what we do on Sunday inside them. Primarily, it's how we embody and represent Jesus outside of our own walls. Coming together in the General Convention once every 3 years is an opportunity for renewal, team building, and learning from each other's experiences as we work toward our common objectives. I've been blessed to have made many friends and colleagues across the church in many different dioceses, and I'd be honored to be elected by you to continue working with them toward our common mission.

2. What gifts and talents will you bring to the position for which you seek nomination?

I've held a number of positions in my parish, the diocese, and the national church. A few of these include vestry member, warden, EfM mentor, youth leader, diocesan council and finance committee, and Chapel Rock interim executive director. Outside of my church work, I bring over 30 years of experience as a lawyer, CPA, and MBA. I've also owned several businesses and founded 2 nonprofits, and I currently work in nonprofit endowment and trust administration for a large bank. I work very well with teams, and I enjoy working with diverse people from different backgrounds, in order to craft well-rounded solutions to problems. I'm a good listener and a lifetime learner. I will work hard to focus these gifts on the benefit of the church and the general convention.

3. What does it mean to be an Episcopalian at this time in our history?

This is a great time to be an Episcopalian. The world, and especially our country, sorely needs a positive message of hope and love. We're blessed to have an amazing leader in Michael Curry, who has represented our church so passionately and articulately everywhere he's been. He's also led us to maintain our focus on being the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement and to bring our unique gifts as a church to face the challenges of the world in a prophetic way that is faithful to Jesus' life and message.

4. What sustains you in your spiritual life?

I'm blessed to have a strong support network that includes members of my church family, a spiritual advisor, and many clergy friends with whom I have become close over the years. Aside from that, I regularly engage in meditation and enjoy reading. I have some very close friends who share my passions for service and doing what we can to help others. Facing challenges in my life, I have many places where I can turn. But, none of them come before prayer and faith in God. God's love is what guides my life every day.

Secretary of Convention - Elect One - One Year Term

Nominees

The Rev. Dr. Perry M Pauley - Trinity Cathedral, Phoenix AZ



Current: Associate Priest, Trinity Cathedral, 06/22 – Present

Past: Associate Rector, Christ Church of the Ascension, 08/21 – 06/22; Vicar, St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, 11/20 – 08/21; Director of Operations, PuriFi Labs, 07/2016 – 08/21.

Candidate Questions:

1. What do you think are the greatest opportunities or challenges facing the Episcopal Church at this time?

I believe that the greatest challenge and opportunity for the Episcopal Church are related. We have a great message for all people: No matter who you are or where you come from, we believe that you are a part of God's family. That's good news to all people and a message that draws people in. The problem is that most people don't know about us or what we believe, so the Episcopal Church is one of the "best-kept secrets" when it comes to communities of faith.

2. What gifts and talents will you bring to the position for which you seek nomination?

I am seeking reelection to this position, so I will use the experience I have gained as Secretary to continue to do the best job I can. I will faithfully participate (in a non-voting capacity) in the Standing Committee business and will keep detailed records of our Diocesan Convention.

3. What does it mean to be an Episcopalian at this time in our history?

The wisdom of *Via Media* seems invaluable today. When we look at the events of the world, we see fractures everywhere, from political parties and even the denominations of our fellow siblings in Christ. To be an Episcopalian means to be committed to being open-minded, open-hearted, and creative. Without compromising or capitulating, we need to strive for daring solutions rooted in generosity, inclusion, justice, and understanding. It's hard work, but I believe Episcopalians are uniquely situated to be creative problem solvers.

4. What sustains you in your spiritual life?

I am particularly grateful for friendship this year. I am blessed to have many wonderful people who are part of my life, the kind of people who challenge me, support me, pray for and with me, and take good care of me. Friends have been a great source of comfort and support for me lately.

Standing Committee - Three-Year Terms

Nominees - Clerical Order - Elect Two

The Rev. Susan Armer - Vicar at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Clarkdale, AZ



Current: Vicar, Standing Committee

Past: Vicar, Rector, Canon Pastor, COM, Hispanic Ministry

Candidate Questions:

1. What do you think are the greatest opportunities or challenges facing the Episcopal Church at this time?

The call to follow Christ is a call to love as Jesus did along with the need to deflect or redirect those who would harm others who they see as unworthy. It is to learn from and, as far as that is possible, rectify our own abuse of others. It is to make visible the presence of a loving God in our lives and in the work, while we protect and defend the creation. All of this necessitates humility, balance, and commitment which I find in the Episcopal Church. Balance requires vision and attention, humility requires self-awareness and humor, and commitment requires dedication and prayer which wraps around and enfolds it all. This is the Episcopal Church I know.

2. What gifts and talents will you bring to the position for which you seek nomination?

I have been part of 5 dioceses in my time as an ordained person. During those years, I have been friends and served with 3 bishops and served with 4 more. I heard the joy and the frustration of that office, and I have learned from each of them. I also served on several Diocesan Commissions and learned how important clear, honest, and supportive feedback is to a bishop who desires to serve the Diocese well. I bring that experience with me, which I believe is important to the Standing Committee.

3. What does it mean to be an Episcopalian at this time in our history?

A willingness to have our feet in tradition while reaching for the leading of the Holy Spirit. Being open and unafraid to follow the Way of Christ in our time and place.

4. What sustains you in your spiritual life?

Prayer, study, gardening, and hiking (also birdwatching) in the community and alone.

Fr. Gerardo+ Brambila - St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Mesa, AZ



Current: St. Mark's Mesa, Vicar. Standing Committee Vice-President
Commission of Ministry member Hispanic group, member.

Past: St. Mark's Mesa, Vicar. Standing Committee Vice-President
Commission of Ministry member Hispanic group, member.

Candidate Questions:

1. What do you think are the greatest opportunities or challenges facing the Episcopal Church at this time?

Membership, and financial growth, after the pandemic “quarantine” and the need to rebuild the church. We have the privilege and chance to turn these challenges into opportunities, for the sake of the Gospel and the growth of the Kingdom of God Almighty.

2. What gifts and talents will you bring to the position for which you seek nomination?

For the last seven years; I have been serving in several positions within the diocese. I’m currently the Standing Committee Vice-President. I’m a member of the Commission of Ministry and also a member of the Hispanic Group, in the Diocese of Arizona. I’m a senior priest and pastor, with more than 20 years of experience in multicultural and bilingual communities. I’m actually serving as the Vicar of St. Mark’s in Mesa. I have been faithful to my commitments, I’m a hard-working team member and I would love to have the opportunity to serve for three more years, in this capacity.

3. What does it mean to be an Episcopalian at this time in our history?

To be an Episcopalian minister in our times is to serve our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, loving and caring for our neighbors, without distinctions. Truly and honestly representing our Episcopal identity of the Jesus movement. Working hard, preaching the Gospel with words, and deeds, in our everyday life. Serving our local and surrounding communities.

4. What sustains you in your spiritual life?

Daily prayer has been a discipline for more than 30 years. The love and support of my family, wife, and children. The love and support of my Bishop and my colleagues, within the diocese, and the church at large. Reading, meditating, and exercising, as I’m able to do so.

The Reverend Alison Lee - Rector at The Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, Flagstaff, AZ



Current: Interim Rector, Church of the Epiphany Flagstaff; Deacons’ Council member; Creation Care Council member; Flagstaff Youth Cooperative - Ecumenical Pastors’ Council; LCM|Canterbury - Lutheran & Episcopal Young Adult Campus Ministry Board Member

Past: Priest in Charge, St. Andrew’s Nogales; Diocesan Health Benefits Task Force, Cruzando Fronteras board member

Candidate Questions:

1. What do you think are the greatest opportunities or challenges facing the Episcopal Church at this time?

The greatest challenge is the dwindling number of faithful in the Church, so more people are having to do the same work of evangelism, pastoral care, outreach, worship, and so forth, and we all, lay and clergy alike, are at serious risk of burn-out. Compounding this, it seems to be difficult for many of us to profess our faith openly in a way that invites others to explore the Episcopal Church. We are also hearing from young people that Christians are not authentic – we profess our faith, then behave differently once we step outside the narthex.

Our greatest opportunity is to become clearer about how the Holy Spirit calls us to serve as Christians – to evangelize, pastoral-ize!, care for the hungry, the naked, the imprisoned, to pray, and worship God. Some of that is done with words, and most with our actions 24x7.

There is a hunger for something greater than ourselves, people in and outside the Church long for transformation - a desire for faithful integrity, for living our lives according to what we profess. People outside the Church want to see Christians behave as disciples, to point the way, and to shine a light in a way that reflects the Beloved Community. Our greatest opportunity is to live the way God through Jesus and by the Holy Spirit has called and is calling us to live, our greatest challenge is how will each of us respond.

2. What gifts and talents will you bring to the position for which you seek nomination?

Joy, excitement, a sense of humor, and the belief and awareness that the Holy Spirit is moving in our midst, calling each of us to deeper faith and service, calling each of us to become the beloved community, inviting us to dance with God according to our unique gifts.

I am an active listener, hearing the unspoken as well as the spoken, and a connector, connecting people with each other, with ideas, and behaviors. As well, I am a macro thinker who dives into details and helps others see how our patterns, our systems, and our behaviors can challenge us in different creative and baptismal-living ways.

3. What does it mean to be an Episcopalian at this time in our history?

Because the Episcopal tradition is both Reform and Catholic, people are attracted to both elements of this Church. That statement implies a simplicity or a duality that is far more nuanced – the Church and people are a spectrum from protestant to catholic, progressive to conservative which means we recognize, honor, and struggle with the inherent complexity and difficulty in all our differences. In our Episcopalian ‘big tent’ we can practice faith in action as we sit with people of different minds and hearts, learn how to see one another as a beloved child of God even if we are in vehement disagreement, and simultaneously work for God’s kingdom here, now.

Being Episcopalian means we are fed and sustained by the Word, and the Sacraments, challenged to go forth and live authentically that we are born anew in Christ, and share the light of Christ with all our communities. No easy feat, as perhaps we are happy and complacent just where we are, and are not interested in exploring with curiosity and humility how our Triune God is calling us to change.

Being Episcopalian means that even as we may lose heart that the creation entrusted to us by God is being destroyed, people on both sides are harmed by racism, income inequity, and violence, we believe in not only God, and Jesus, but also the Holy Spirit who calls us always to opportunities for right action, to love.

Being Episcopalian now means that we have much work to do, and we have gifts to share.

4. What sustains you in your spiritual life?

Prayer, always prayer, whether it be in worship, driving, walking my dog, or sitting with others. The sense that God is always present, walking with me, sustaining, and supporting me, and offering abundant grace, mercy, and love; that the Holy Spirit is calling me into a deeper relationship with all creation, and with myself. As humans, we are not perfect by any stretch of the imagination and may do unkind, ugly things yet despite this, prayer reminds me that God loves us, and loves me. Prayer opens my heart, eyes, and ears to see that I/we are continuously invited to re/turn to God.

The Rev. Erika von Haaren - Interim Rector at Christ Church of the Ascension, Paradise Valley, AZ



Current: Interim Rector, Christ Church of the Ascension. Chair of Commission on Ministry 2018-2022. Lombard Peace Center Parish Conflict Manager since 2020. Enneagram Coach since 2021. Shame Resilience Curriculum Facilitator since 2014.

Past: Interim Vicar, Resurrection Gilbert 2020-2022. Vicar/COO, Saint Barnabas Scottsdale 2006-2020. Standing Committee, Diocese of AZ 2007-2011.

Candidate Questions:

1. What do you think are the greatest opportunities or challenges facing the Episcopal Church at this time?

The greatest opportunity and challenge the church faces is the continued need for the adaptability and inclusion of all God's people. It's a thrilling opportunity to meet others who are seeking, and it'll be a challenge to grow beyond our 'usual' way of doing business. In a world filled with those deconstructing from toxic faith lives, can we adapt to meet them where they are and help them heal? Can we include them in a way that feels authentic and gives Jesus back to them in a healthy way? And can we be bold enough to do this in a way that might look or feel unfamiliar to those of us who've been around this block for a while?

2. What gifts and talents will you bring to the position for which you seek nomination?

I bring an empathetic and open heart and a deep knowledge of strategic ministry planning and execution. I have a gift for synergizing the gifts of many to all point in a direction that's meaningful for the whole. I am passionate about making room for many voices and for facilitating the healing of many kinds. I am good at holding the tension between the church being a meaningful, familial community and being a strategic business that must be wise about its approach to marketing, presentation, leadership, and priorities. I also have a depth of

experience in both small and large congregations that informs my approach to all the conversations sure to arise in the Standing Committee.

3. What does it mean to be an Episcopalian at this time in our history?

To be Episcopalian at this moment means to be a devout, faithful, Bible-based tradition-holder, who is not interested in beating people over the head with faith. In a world/culture that is determined to separate, it means to unite people because we allow a diversity of feelings, experiences, and opinions. When younger people encounter Episcopal voices online, they find the church they always wished they could have been raised in. To be Episcopalian at this time means to be humbled by that trust and respect, and to have the opportunity to actually make room for all those who might find Jesus again because we welcome them fully. To be Episcopalian now is a responsibility we should not take lightly in the religious marketplace.

4. What sustains you in your spiritual life?

People. God's people in the world keep giving me hope in the midst of so many heart-rending pains, challenges, and divisions. To see acts of love, both great and small, that support the widow, the orphan, the oppressed, the forgotten...they show me Christ is alive and active in the world. They give me hope enough to pray, serve, to act yet again even when I think I am depleted. They nourish me so that when I am in the dark, it is they who bring me back to the light, again and again, inspiring, surprising, and motivating me with their care, compassion, and grace. God's people, living their faith in this difficult world, are truly sustenance to me.

Nominees - Lay Order - Elect Two

Sara Haas - Resurrection Episcopal Church, Gilbert, AZ



Current: Strategic Marketing Manager, TTEC; Website and Social Media Volunteer, Resurrection; Vicar Search Committee, Resurrection; HOA Board Treasurer

Past: Google Ads Campaign Strategist, TTEC; Self-Employed Non-Profit Consultant; Triennial Delegate, Diocese of Dallas; Vestry Member, Annunciation, Diocese of Dallas and St. Andrew's, Diocese of Oklahoma

Candidate Questions:

1. What do you think are the greatest opportunities or challenges facing the Episcopal Church at this time?

In the US younger people (Gen Z and Millennials) are more likely to say that they are not religious and this combined with the COVID-19 impact has led to a reduction in participation in organized religion overall. (Jesus in America Study, March 2022) We can no longer have an "if

we build it they will come” mentality and expect people to just show up on our doorstep on Sunday mornings. We have seen it at Resurrection, and that is why we partnered with the Bishop and began a 3-year journey with the organization Root, Thrive, Soar (RTS). RTS is based on the principle that it is time for Christians to recalibrate, and become involved in our communities through Christ-centered loving action that will draw people to our churches and to Jesus. It is a program that focuses on getting to know your neighbors face to face, eye to eye, and heart to heart.

2. What gifts and talents will you bring to the position for which you seek nomination?

As a lifelong Episcopalian, I have served in leadership roles since I was elected to the Youth Board in the Diocese of Oklahoma at age 15, so I know and understand what it takes to be a leader in the Episcopal Church, and have been doing so for over 30 years now. The skills I bring to the table include a background in strategy, problem-solving, and a deep understanding of what it takes to tell the story of an organization through social media, digital marketing, and website development. I’ve got a gift for administration, am passionate about fulfilling a strategic vision, and find joy in collaboration with others to deliver solutions that provide results.

3. What does it mean to be an Episcopalian at this time in our history?

I believe that being an Episcopalian at this time means living a Jesus-Centered life. The Way of Love is a great guide we have been blessed with from our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. Living the Way of Love as an Episcopalian, committing to the practices of Turn – Learn – Pray – Worship – Bless – Go – Rest, allows Jesus to change each of our lives and ultimately change the world.

4. What sustains you in your spiritual life?

So many things sustain me in my spiritual life, and it is hard to make a list of them. For certain having a rule of life based on the Way of Love, that includes regular worship and prayer as well as going out into the world and being a blessing to others. Also, my deepest belief is knowing that if something is of God it will stand, and if it is not of God it will not. I know my life works best when I am open to God’s guidance for me, even if I am not certain where that will end up taking me.

Diocesan Treasurer - Three-Year Term

Nominees - Elect One

Suzy Mortenson - St. John the Baptist, Glendale, AZ



Current: Current Treasurer of the Diocese, Treasurer of Chapel Rock, Treasurer for St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church

Past: I am a certified public accountant, active in ministry at St. John the Baptist. Was employed at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Arizona for 33 years, the last 10 years as the Director of Finance and Operations.

Candidate Questions:

1. What do you think are the greatest opportunities or challenges facing the Episcopal Church at this time?

I think The Episcopal Church is setting a standard for being Jesus centered and inclusive. I'm hopeful that people who might be disaffected or indifferent will see something in The Episcopal Church that restores hope and belief in God--

2. What gifts and talents will you bring to the position for which you seek nomination?

As a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), I feel that it is my responsibility to use my training and experience for the benefit of the Episcopal Church. The ability to understand and report financial data is my spiritual gift. During my tenure at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, I oversaw the financial operations and reporting for a multi-million dollar corporation. This gave me tremendous experience in tackling tough accounting issues while working to provide meaningful financial data to help us make the best decisions possible. I am currently the Treasurer for the Diocese and would be honored to serve another 3-year term. I am also the Treasurer for my home church and the Treasurer for Chapel Rock.

3. What does it mean to be an Episcopalian at this time in our history?

I am truly proud to be an Episcopalian at this time. I believe that our church is doing a lot of things right when it comes to being welcoming to all people, and recognizing that we are stewards of God's creation. We know that we haven't always done things correctly, and are willing to change to live more fully into God's plan for us.

4. What sustains you in your spiritual life?

Prayer, attending church and church events, reading the bible, and daily reflections.