Candidate Biographies

People's Warden (one to be elected)

Jonathan Gloster

Mr. Gloster has attended Christ Church since 2001. He has served on the Vestry as Property and Finance Committee Chair. He served as Parish Treasurer for over 5 years He has served on several other task forces and committees during his time at Christ Church. He is also an Usher, LEM and Lector. Jonathan Gloster has served as the Diocese of NJ Treasurer since November 2020. He currently serves on the Diocese of NJ Reparations Commission and the Urban Renewal Task Force. He just completed his first term as Peoples Warden.

Vestrymember full three-year term (two to be elected)

Karen Colabaugh

Karen Colabaugh has been attending Christ Church for about seven years. She began attending with her now-husband, Chris, as they sought to find a church that suited both of their Christian backgrounds. Karen and Chris were both received into the Episcopal faith in 2021, and their two children, Cecilia (4) and Matilda (2) were both baptized at Christ Church. Karen is a music educator and has been active in music ministry all her life as a flutist and singer. Recently she began to tackle the task of digitizing the Christ Church music library to create a comprehensive record of all the music owned by the church. She hopes to finish this year!

Melbourne Garber

Melbourne Garber has attended Christ Church since 1999. He has served twice on the Vestry, being the Property Chair, during one of his tenures. He has also served Christ Church in a professional capacity during the renovation of the church in the early 2000's, when he was the project structural engineer for the rehabilitation of the tower and steeple. He also was the engineer responsible for the design of the ramp in the Cloister. He is an Usher, Lay Eucharist Minister and Lector. He has been a member of Christ Church Black Heritage Committee and has given presentations during the Black History month activities.

Deputies to the Diocesan Convention (three to be elected)

Gordon Arsenoff

Gordon joined Christ Church in fall 2016 after moving from St. Louis, MO. He has participated in the choir since 2021 and was a member of the search committee that brought Suzanne McDonald to Christ Church as organist and choir director. He has served as an Annual Meeting Committee chair twice in years before COVID, as a Diocesan Convention deputy twice, and as a delegate to the Northern Convocation

once. As of this meeting he is rotating off the Vestry, having served a single three-year term with the music portfolio. Since its first move to virtual gathering in 2020, he has been a faithful member of the Tuesdayers book group.

Karen Bemis
Karen Bemis has attended Christ Church since 2009. She has served on the Christ Church Audit Committee recently and on the Vestry in the past. She is a regular participant in the Tuesdayers book study group. Karen serves as the chair of the oversight committee for the Episcopal Campus Ministry at Rutgers (ECMR). Karen has been elected as a Diocesan alternate deputy to General Convention for 2027; she attended several previous General Conventions (2012, 2015, 2022, 2024). As part of her General Convention work, Karen joined the Green Caucus which is a group of deputies and interested people lobbying within The Episcopal Church for environmental justice; as part of that, Karen is helping plan and lead a Creation Care compline series. Karen is also on several Diocesan committees, including the diocesan Audit Committee and the Clergy Compensation Standing Committee.

Isha Davies
Mrs. Dyfan-Davies was married at Christ Church in 1990; She christened their daughter and granddaughter at Christ Church in 1993 and 2022 respectively. She served as a vestry member for one term in the late 1990s responsible for outreach. She has also served as Alternate to the Diocesan Convention for a year in the early 2000s, as well as served in other task force committees including Stewardship and Boaz immigration outreach. She is currently the chair of the Annual Meeting Nominations Committee at Christ Church New Brunswick.

Alternate Deputies to the Diocesan Convention (three to be elected)

Tisha Abbott

Chris Davies
Christopher Adebayo Davies became a member of Christ Church New Brunswick in June 1987. He married Isha Dyfan at Church in September 1990 and Christened his daughter in 1993.He served as usher from 1987 to present. He also served two terms as vestry member from 1994 to1997 and then from 2003 to 2005 responsible for fundraising and special events. He served on the Search Committee that appointed Reverend Debra Piggins as Rector. He also served as a member of the teaching staff of the Rite 13 programme for young children which subsequently became the J2A group. He became Eucharist minster from 2001 to present and is currently serving as member of Christ church choir.

Stephen Greenwood

Delegates to the Northern Convocation (six to be elected)

Gerri Callahan
Gerri has attended Christ Church for twenty years. In the past, she has served on the Vestry and as a representative to the Diocesan Convention. Gerri also served as coordinator and participant for the Prayer Ministry during its duration. Presently, Gerri participates in Tuesdayers book group.

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Jeffrey Fields
Jeffrey is an active member of Christ Church and one part Chair of the Stewardship Committee. He joined the church in 2016 with the help of his girlfriend who is now his wife. He has Ushered during the 8am and 10:30am services. He got confirmed in 2019 and got married in June of 2023 to his wife Ashlinn Stansbury- Fields.

Ashlinn Stansbury-Fields
Ashlinn is an active member of Christ Church and one part Chair of the Stewardship Committee she is also head acolyte. Ashlinn grew up in this church so she has been a member for 28 years. She got baptized here and she got married to her husband Jeffrey Fields at the church in June of 2023. In the past she helped in the nursery and helped during the annual meetings watch the children that needed to be watched. She has also helped her mom Margaret Brown- Stansbury with the Christmas Pageants.

Jeremiah Weston
Jeremiah has been a member of Christ Church since the tenure of Reverend Joan Fleming as Rector. He remains an active member of the congregation and attends services as his schedule allows.

Monica Williams
Monica has been a member of Christ Church since the tenure of Reverend Joan Fleming as Rector. She remains an active member of the congregation and attends services as her schedule allows.