Candidate Biographies

People's Warden (one to be elected)

Jonathan Gloster

Jonathan Gloster has served as the Diocese of NJ Treasurer since November 2020. Jonathan has attended Christ Church since 2001 after relocating to New Jersey from the Washington, DC area. 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 currently serves on the Diocese of NJ Reparations Commission and the Urban Renewal Task Force.

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

Jonathan Clark

I have been worshiping at Christ Church since 2008. I have served on the Stewardship Committee and have been co-chair and chair of Adult Formation. I am a lector and intercessor at the 8:00 am service, handle the "administrivia" for the Tuesdayers book discussion group, and have just completed a one-year term on the vestry, overseeing Discipleship. I would like the opportunity to continue to assist the rector and other lay leaders in helping us to grow as disciples of Jesus. Therefore, I seek your vote for a full term on the vestry with the responsibility of overseeing Discipleship.

Eleanor Forbes

Eleanor Forbes has been attending services at Christ Church for approximately 7 years. Professionally, she has worked in the banking and securities industry for over 20 years, in the area of compliance and regulations. She lives in Kendall Park, NJ with her two daughters, Gabrielle, 20 and Danielle 13. She's a member of several social organizations including the Middlesex County chapter of Mocha Moms, and the New Brunswick chapter of the NAACP. Eleanor is honored to serve as a member of the Christ Church Vestry.

Vestrymember two-year term (one to be elected)

Debra Lowe

As a devoted member of Christ Church since the late 1980s, I have had the privilege of serving in various capacities over the past decade. My academic background, including a master's degree in management and a bachelor's degree in English literature & writing, has equipped me with the skills needed to navigate complex challenges and communicate effectively. With over 30 years of experience in Human Resources, I currently serve as a Human Resources Business Partner at a property and casualty insurance company, where I advocate for the well-being and development of employees.

In addition to my professional commitments, I am actively involved with Anchor House, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to providing comprehensive and trauma-informed care for vulnerable youth and young adults. This role has deepened my understanding of the importance of community support and social justice, aligning closely with Christ Church's mission.
Should I have the honor of serving on the vestry once again, I am committed to supporting our church's mission through action and advocacy. My life goal is to leave the world better than I found it, and I believe that serving on the vestry allows me to contribute meaningfully to both our church community and the greater New Brunswick area. The prospect of making a tangible difference in the lives of others, in partnership with all of you, fills me with excitement and determination.

Thank you for considering my candidacy. I look forward to the opportunity to serve and to continue working together to fulfill the mission of Christ Church.

Deputies to the Diocesan Convention (three to be elected)

Karen Bemis

Karen has played several roles within the parish and diocese including Christ Church, New Brunswick, audit Committee, delegate to the Northern Convocation and Diocesan Convention, and deputy to the General Convention in 2015 (Alternate 2012). She supports anti-racism and campus ministry, serving as chair of the chaplaincy committee for the Episcopal Campus Ministry at Rutgers. Professionally, she conducts scientific research in volcanology and oceanography.

Mervis Johnson

Mervis has been a member of Christ Church since mid-1990s. She has served on various Stewardship Committees. She is a member of the Altar Guild, served as the Chairperson, from 2002-2013.After 38 years of service, retired from JP Morgan Chase, as a Vice President in the Bank's Corporate Division in New York.

H. Arthur Phills

Joined Christ Church in 1975. Elected to the Vestry in 1978, and participated in many parish functions and ministries since that time:

- Past Vestry Member for several terms;
- Rector's Warden from 2004 to 2008 and 2015 to 2017;
- People's Warden from 1994 to 1999;
- Property Chairman for multiple past years. Manage the first Exterior Restoration Effort of the Church in 1980, and participated in subsequent restoration efforts with the NJ Historic Trust;
- Participated in many other parish activities, such as the Living Stones Capital Campaign, Homeless Ministry, The Soup Kitchen, the Way of St. Paul, etc;

- Founding Member and past Chair of the Black Heritage Committee. The first Black Heritage program was celebrated at Christ Church in February 1994;
- Currently serving as Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM), which I have done for the past 20 years;
- Served as the Rental coordinator of the Church Spaces for many years; I transitioned this responsibility to the Property Committee at the end of 2024.
- Served on the Pastoral Care Committee for over 10 years.
- Chaired and participated in approximately five Parish Committee on Ministry (PCOM) s with Aspirants at Christ Church;
- Currently Co-Chair of the Men's Ministry;
- Served as the Chairperson for multiple Parish Nomination Committees in connection with Parish Meetings;
- Served as Diocesan Convention Deputy and Northern Convocation Delegate on several previous occasions;
- Current Member of the Diocesan "Committee on the Priesthood" (COP) - I have served on this diocesan committee for over 10 years. Attend monthly meetings – I have been functioning as the Secretary since 2014.

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

Meegan Adames

Meegan is an active member of Christ Church and formerly served as vestrymember, People's Warden, and Rector's Warden. She also volunteers with the Laundry Love ministry, teaches Sunday School, and is a Lector/Intercessor. Meegan and her husband were married at Christ Church in 2008 and both of their children, Graciela (13) and Nico (11), were baptized at Christ Church as well. Professionally, Meegan has worked as an educator in the New Brunswick Public Schools for over 21 years and currently serves as Principal of the New Brunswick Pathways in Technology Early College High School (PTECH). A proud Scarlet Knight, Meegan earned all three of her degrees from Rutgers University.

Jeffrey Fields

Jeffrey 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 just got married this past June to his wife Ashlinn Stansbury- Fields.

Ashlinn Stansbury-Fields

Ashlinn is an active member of Christ Church and a member of the Stewardship Committee she is also head acolyte. Ashlinn has grew up in this church so she has been a member for 26 years. She got baptized here and she recently got married to her husband Jeffrey Fields at the church this past June. 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.

Delegates to the Northern Convocation (six to be elected)

Karen Bemis

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Beth Binde

Beth was born in New Brunswick and grew up in nearby South Brunswick. She graduated from Rutgers University and later worked there for 38 years. About 15 years ago, she joined Christ Church. Her past church activities include the Renewal Team, the Way of St Paul, Chamber Choir and the Vestry. She currently serves in the Cathedral Chapter

Outside of Christ Church, she acts as treasurer for the Episcopal Campus Ministry at Rutgers (ECMR), the New Brunswick Free Public Library Board of Trustees, the New Brunswick Library Foundation Board and the Friends of the New Brunswick Free Public Library. She is employed as an information security analyst.

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