



EPISCOPAL DIOCESE
of West Texas

The Episcopal Diocese of West Texas
Offices to be Filled by Election at the 123rd Diocesan Council
February 18 – 20, 2027
McAllen, TX

All persons recommended for any nominations must be eighteen years of age or older and communicants within the convocation from which they are nominated.

Officers of the Diocese

Secretary, Treasurer, and Chancellor of the Diocese. They shall be elected annually by the Council. Present incumbents are **eligible**.

Description of duties: Canon 2.

Other Officers of the Diocese

Assistant Chancellors, Registrar, Archivist, and Historiographer, shall be elected annually by the Council. Present incumbents are **eligible**.

Description of duties: Canon 2.

Standing Committee

One clergy and one layperson are to be elected for a three-year term.

Retiring incumbents, the Rev. James Derkits and Ms. Mary Hayden Manning are **ineligible**.

Description of duties: *The Standing Committee meets about four times a year and serves as a Council of advice to the bishop diocesan. Among its responsibilities are granting or withholding consents to the election of bishops throughout the Episcopal Church and interviewing seminarians and recommending to the bishop whether or not they be made candidates for ordination. The Standing Committee is composed of 6 persons, 3 clergy and 3 lay. In the event that the office of bishop is vacant, the Standing Committee serves as the Ecclesiastical authority for the diocese. Persons serving on the Standing Committee should be familiar with the Constitution and Canons, aware of issues in the wider Anglican Communion, and be persons who are willing to undertake a wide range of leadership needs and discernment. Due to the small number of individuals elected to the Standing Committee, it is strongly recommended that nominees come from various convocations.*

Constitution and Canons of the General Convention
Article IV

In every Diocese a Standing Committee shall be elected by the Convention thereof, except that provision for filling vacancies between meetings of the Convention may be prescribed by the Canons of the respective Dioceses. When there is a Bishop in charge of the Diocese, the Standing Committee shall be the Bishop's Council of Advice. If there be no Bishop or Bishop Coadjutor or Bishop Suffragan canonically authorized to act, the

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Standing Committee shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese for all purposes declared by the General Convention. The rights and duties of the Standing Committee, except as provided in the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention, may be prescribed by the Canons of the respective Dioceses.

Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of West Texas

Article V

Section 1. The Annual Council shall elect a Standing Committee consisting of three priests and three lay communicants eligible for election to membership in the Council. One priest and one lay communicant shall be elected annually by the Council, and they shall serve for a term of three years. No member of the Standing Committee after serving a full term or part of a term thereon shall be eligible to serve again on the Standing Committee for a full year after such service. A vacancy may be filled for the unexpired term by a majority vote of the remaining members.

Section 2. The Standing Committee shall have all the authority conferred upon it by the General Constitution and Canons, and in addition thereto, shall have such authority and perform such duties as may be prescribed by the Canons of the Diocese.

Canon 3

Section 1. The Standing Committee shall annually elect its own president and other officers under the temporary chair of the previous year's chair, at or immediately following adjournment of the Council. It shall keep a record of its proceedings, and annually report its proceedings to the Council, except such as pertain to the exercise of its function as a council of advice to the Bishop.

Section 2. No member of the Standing Committee, during his/her term as a member thereof, shall be eligible to election to membership on the Executive Board.

Executive Board

Two clergy and four laypersons are to be elected for three-year terms.

Retiring incumbents, the Rev. Jamie George, Mr. Monty Lee, Mrs. Traci Maxwell-Phillips, Ms. Ivette Sullivan, Mr. Markus Villarreal and the Rev. Mike Woods are *ineligible*.

Description of duties: *The Executive Board is required to meet two times a year but can meet more often. The Board functions in a way similar to a parish vestry, including preparing the diocesan budget and submitting it to Council for approval. The Executive Board appoints several departments and committees, including the Finance Department and the Nominating Committee. Members of the Executive Board serve as liaisons to the various departments and commissions of the diocese. A knowledge of (and experience in) ministries representing the breadth of the diocese is an asset to persons who serve on the Executive Board. At the same time, a willingness to engage diocesan ministry and learn the breadth of the diocese is the most basic requirement for service on the Executive Board.*

Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of West Texas

Article IV

Section 1. There shall be an Executive Board of the Diocese formed and constituted according to the Canons.

Section 2. The Bishop shall be the President of the Executive Board. Other bishops of the Diocese, if any, in the order of their ecclesiastical precedence in diocesan authority,

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shall be vice presidents, and shall take precedence over elected vice presidents, if any. The Executive Board shall elect its other officers.

Section 3. The Executive Board shall, during intervals between meetings of the Council, have full power and authority to act for the Council in all matters not expressly reserved by the Constitution and Canons exclusively to the Council; provided, however, that no action may be taken by the Executive Board in direct contravention of a previous action taken by the Council.

Canon 4

Section 1. The Diocesan Executive Board shall be constituted as follows:

- (a) The Bishops of the Diocese ex officio, with right of voice and vote.
- (b) Six clergy and twelve lay communicants canonically resident in the Diocese, who shall be elected by the Council for terms of three years. Each annual Council shall elect two clergy and four lay communicants to serve for the full term of three years.
- (c) No member of the Board shall be eligible to re-election until one year after his/her previous term of office shall have expired.
- (d) The Executive Board shall have power to fill vacancies in its own membership occurring between meetings of the Council, subject to the limitation in (c).
- (e) No member of the Executive Board, during his/her term as a member thereof, shall be eligible to election to membership on the Standing Committee.

Episcopal Church Corporation of West Texas Trustees

One clergy and one layperson to be elected for a three-year term. Retiring incumbents, the Rev. Bryn Caddell and Mr. Raudel Garza are **eligible**.

Description of duties: *The Episcopal Church Corporation of West Texas holds title to the permanent funds and other property belonging to the diocese. It has authority to receive bequests and donations, and to sell or mortgage property to which it holds title. As such, Trustees should have an understanding of/interest in financial, real estate, and property matters. The Trustees work with the bishop on designating certain restricted funds as they are needed in ministry. The bishop may call a meeting of the Trustees, as needed, to discuss important real estate transactions. Communication and approvals are done via email.*

Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of West Texas

Canon 6

Section 1. The Episcopal Church Corporation in West Texas, a corporation organized under the Laws of Texas and by virtue of a resolution of the Diocese, shall be governed by a Board of Trustees consisting of the Bishops, the Treasurer of the Diocese, the Chancellor of the Diocese, Assistant Chancellors, ex officio, and six other members consisting of three clergy and three lay communicants of the Diocese, elected by the annual Council. One clergy and one lay member shall be elected annually for a term of three years and shall be eligible to re-election without interim for one additional consecutive three-year term. No person so elected to and serving two consecutive terms shall be eligible to re-election for a full year after such service. The Bishop shall be the president of the corporation. The Board itself shall elect its other officers, adopt its own bylaws and provide for a Finance Committee and other committees. Any vacancies on the Board shall be filled by a vote of the majority of the remaining members of the Board.

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Sewanee: The University of the South Trustees

One layperson to be elected to a three-year term. Retiring incumbent, Mr. Johnson Jeffers is **eligible**.

Description of duties: *The Trustees of the University attend the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees, promote Church support and student enrollment, and report to the annual Council the condition and progress of said University. This term begins in October.*

Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of West Texas

Canon 11

Section 1. The University of the South, at Sewanee, Tennessee, a corporation, being owned jointly and equally by this and other dioceses of the Church, is hereby recognized as an educational institution that is jointly supported by this Diocese.

Section 2. In conformity with the constitution of the University of the South, the Bishop, and the Bishop Coadjutor, if any, and the Suffragan Bishop(s) shall be members of the Board of Trustees, ex officio; and one clergy and two lay communicants of this Diocese shall be elected Trustees of the University of the South by the Council, for a term of three years or until their successors are elected, with the term of one elected trustee expiring each year. Trustees may be re-elected without interim, and any successors must be of the same order, clerical or lay.

Section 3. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term of a trustee by election at the next convening annual council. If a vacancy occurs before the annual meeting of the Trustees, the Bishop shall appoint a temporary trustee to hold office until the next annual Council.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the Trustees of the University to attend the meetings of the Board of Trustees, to promote Church support and student enrollment, and to report to the annual Council the condition and progress of said University.

TMI Episcopal Board of Governors,

One-person, either clergy or lay, and communicants of the Diocese, shall be elected for a three-year term and follow term limits as described in the TMI Bylaws. Retiring incumbent, Ms. Samantha Owen is **eligible**.

Description of duties: *The elected member of the Board of Governors shall serve as a full member of the Board of Governors being subject to the TMI Bylaws. The Board of Governors shall file a written report at each Annual Council and that report shall include a statement of financial condition.*

Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of West Texas

Canon 14

Section 2. The management of the school and the responsibility for the financial and physical development shall be directed by a Board of Governors consisting of no more than 22 persons appointed for three-year terms by the Bishop and confirmed by the Diocesan Council. Governors may serve successive terms. The Governors shall elect a president from the Board membership. The Bishop shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Board with the power to vote. The school shall be operated on its own financial responsibility in accordance with its Charter and By-laws, the laws of the State of Texas and the Canons of the Diocese except that no real estate belonging to the said

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Corporation shall be alienated or encumbered without the approval of the Trustees of the Episcopal Church Corporation in West Texas.

Section 3. One member of the Board of Governors shall be elected annually by the Council from those nominated by the Diocesan Nominating Committee and/or others nominated from the Council Floor. Nominees may be clergy or lay communicants of the Diocese. The elected member will serve as described in Section 2 and will function as a full member of the Board of Governors being subject to the TMI Bylaws, which includes term limits. Vacancies shall be filled for the remainder of the term by the Annual Council, but may be temporarily filled until that time by selection of the Bishop. Three positions within the Board of Governors will be designated for the elected Diocesan members.