

**Clergy Province V Representative to the Executive Council
Nominee Biographical Information**

You have been nominated to be the Province V Representative to the Executive Council of the General Convention!

Please provide the following information:

Name	The Rev. M.E. Eccles
Mailing address	311 N Westgate Rd.; Mount Prospect, IL 60056
email address	rev.m.e.eccles@gmail.com
Phone	312-933-4713
Congregation	St. Martin of Tours, Des Plaines, IL
Diocese	Chicago

And confirm that you understand that, if elected, you will also serve on the Province V Executive Board.
(Duties and responsibilities are provided on an additional sheet.)

I understand that, should I be elected the clergy Province V representative to Executive Council, I would also serve on the Province V Executive Board.

Please answer the following questions

Current service in the Church (parish, diocese, province, churchwide) and in the community.

Rector (¾ time) - St. Martin of Tours in Des Plaines, IL
 Member – Deacon Leadership Team – Diocese of Chicago
 Clergy Deputy to 81st General Convention – Diocese of Chicago
 Province V Clergy Representative to Executive Council
 Member, Economic Justice Loan Committee
 Chair, Constable & Roanridge Grant Committee
 Chair, Legislative Committee 17 (Accessibility & Inclusion) for 81st General Convention

Prior service (same as above, with dates, including offices and positions held).

Rector (¾ time) – St. Martin of Tours in Des Plaines, IL	2013 - Present
Executive Council – Province V clergy representative	2022 - Present
Clergy Deputy – 81 st General Convention	Present
Chair – Legislative Committee 17 (Accessibility & Inclusion) for 81 st General Conv.	Present
Chair – Constable & Roanridge Grant Committee	2022 – Present
Member – Economic Justice Loan Committee	2023 - Present
Member – Deacon Leadership Team – Diocese of Chicago	2022 - Present
Clergy Deputy – 80 th General Convention	2022
Secretary – Legislative Committee 15 (Ministry) for 80 th General Convention	2021 - 2022
Member – Bexley-Seabury Seminary Federation Board of Directors	2012 - 2022
Chair – Task Force for Clergy Formation & Continuing Education	2019 - 2021
Member – Search Committee for 13 th Bishop of Diocese of Chicago	2020 - 2021
Clergy Deputy – 79 th General Convention	2018
Dean – Elgin Deanery, Diocese of Chicago	2015 - 2021
Alternate Clergy Deputy – General Convention	2012, 2015
Clergy Delegate – Province V Synod	2015, 2018
Volunteer – General Convention House of Deputies Secretariat	2009, 2012, 2015, 2018
Member – Standing Committee, Diocese of Chicago	2011 - 2013
Warden – Diocesan Council, Diocese of Chicago	2010 - 2013
Member – Diocesan Council, Diocese of Chicago	2008 - 2010
Co-Chair – Diocesan Convention, Diocese of Chicago	2012, 2013
Assistant/Associate/Interim – St. Simon’s in Arlington Heights, IL	2007 - 2013

Education (institutions, degrees, fields of study, and dates).

Seabury-Western Theological Seminary	M.Div. - Anglican Studies	2007
Loyola - Institute for Pastoral Studies	M.A. - Pastoral Counseling	2005
Seabury-Western Theological Studies	M.T.S. - Anglican Studies & Pastoral Counseling	2003
Lake Forest College	B.A. - Theatre: Lighting Design	1991

Publications; special skills.

moderately proficient Microsoft computer skills, Zoom (including hosting), FaceBook Live

Any other qualifications/experience which make you an especially appropriate nominee for this position.

It was an honor to be elected to serve the last two years of Bishop Matthew Cowden's term on Executive Council; and I understand now why the terms are 6 years long! There is so much to learn and so many moving parts. It is only as I'm approaching my final meeting that I feel like I comprehend how the meetings work and dovetail with the additional committee work each member is assigned. I am certain this experience will serve me well should I be elected to a full term.

Then, there is the perspective I bring as a transgender person. Because I didn't transition until I was well established in my life and ministry, I experienced ordained ministry as both a woman (an out, married lesbian) and a man (a "straight white male"). This lived experience makes me even more aware of privilege and the consequences for those who don't have it; and I am committed to helping the church live into our baptismal vows to love and respect all God's children.

What are 3 important issues facing the Episcopal Church in the next 2 years? How do you think the Church might respond to each of these? How do you imagine contributing as a member of the Executive Council?

Racism - It is disturbingly prevalent within the church and the world. The Episcopal Church is striving to do better – to learn the real history of congregations, dioceses, etc. It seems to embrace the work of Becoming Beloved Community. But that's not enough; we can do better. I bring my hunger for deeper discussions and actions that lead us to understand what repentance looks like and how to work toward reconciliation.

Relevance - dwindling numbers of attendees indicates the Church is not meeting the spiritual needs present in our communities. Part of the problem is we tend not to go out into the community to determine the need, choosing instead to lean on old ways of doing ministry. If the church continues to measure success by the Average Sunday Attendance metric, I fear we will become even less relevant. How many people is the backpack ministry reaching? Who comes together to support a Creation Care Garden? These are examples of living the life Christ calls us to.

Parish viability – similar to relevance, it asks the question: can congregations survive with less money and less than full-time ordained leadership? Absolutely...and...both dwindling finances and a supply/demand issue for ordained leadership is creating a complicated landscape for congregations that are not near cities and cannot afford a full-time clergy person. The Church needs to support creative ways to meet the needs of all members. That is part of the work of Executive Committee in understanding Mission Within and Mission Beyond the Church and how to support sustainable solutions.

The missional priorities identified by the General Convention continue to include Evangelism, Racial Reconciliation, and Environmental Stewardship. What experience do you bring to these initiatives?

There is so much going on throughout The Church and Province V to address these priorities and knowing who is doing what inspires others and prevents reinventing the wheel. That is why participating in the It's All About Love gathering last summer was important because making connections helps ministries grow. Focusing on Racial Reconciliation is where my energy is, beginning with participating in one of the first online Sacred Ground groups during Covid, taking Bexley-Seabury's Pathways course on The Doctrine of Discovery, and assisting a parishioner in the creation of Social Justice Stations of the Cross for the last three years.

What motivates you at this time to take on the responsibility of serving as a representative to Executive Council?

Because of the acquired knowledge and experience gained over these last two years, I believe I have proven I am a good fit for what is required. Additionally, as a ¾ time parish priest, I have a flexibility that allows me to devote the time needed to fulfil this role. And I hope my prior service exemplifies my passion for serving the Church.