

# ADDENDUM-11/12/2019: NOMINEES

## Disciplinary Board (1 Lay Person & 2 Deacons or Priests)

### Neal Dickert, Church of the Good Shepherd, Augusta

I would be honored to serve as a Lay representative to the Disciplinary Board of the Diocese. I have served two previous terms on this Board and feel that my experience in church activities and my involvement in the Judicial system equips me to assume this responsibility.



I am a communicant at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Augusta and have been a member of that Parish most of my adult life. My involvement at the church includes serving several terms on the Vestry, to include two terms as Senior Warden, a former member of the Board of the Episcopal Day School, and a graduate of the EFM program through the School of Theology at Sewanee.

My career in the legal profession consists of a number of years as a practicing attorney and eleven years as a Superior Court Judge for the Augusta Judicial Circuit. While on the bench, I was selected to be the Chair of the Institute of Judicial Education for the State of Georgia. When I retired from the bench in 2007, I returned to private practice and devote most of my time to mediating civil and domestic disputes. I have served on a number of community and professional boards to include a former member of the Board of Governors for the Georgia Bar Association, a member of the board of the Augusta Partnership for Children, Tuttle Newton Home, and the Augusta Bar Foundation. My wife Floride and I have been married for 50 years. Our one son, Neal Jr., and his wife Rachel, are physicians in Atlanta. They have blessed us with three wonderful grandchildren.

## Diocesan Council (1 Lay Person, Deacon, or Priest) General Convention

### Cuffy Sullivan, Collegiate Church of St. Paul the Apostle, Savannah



I am a member of the Collegiate Church of St. Paul the Apostle in Savannah, where I serve on the Vestry, sing in choir, and served as Centennial Co-Chair when we celebrated our church's 100th anniversary. Married to Justin, we have three daughters; Leila, Fiona and Verity. Leila is a sophomore at Agnes Scott College, and the twins are sophomores at Savannah Arts Academy. They are familiar faces around the diocese, as they have participated in numerous summer camps, Happening, New Beginnings and mission trips. I was a member and then president of EYCS, and was co-founder and Executive Director of the Savannah Children's Choir, which was founded at St. Paul's. Currently, I work with Charles H. Chewning Interiors as Design Coordinator, and also do contract work with the Savannah Philharmonic and the Georgia Historical Society. I'm also the Director of Operations for RISE Chorales, a young women's choral ensemble. I have 30+ years in nonprofit management, and hold a BFA in Historic Preservation from the Savannah College of Art and Design.

## Deputy – Ordained (4 Deputies and 4 Alternates)

### The Rev. Leeann Culbreath, Deacon

God is reforming and renewing the Episcopal Church in exciting ways, and the Diocese of Georgia has an important and unique voice in this process. I would love to amplify our voice and contribute to this renewal as a Deputy to General Convention, and I am thrilled to be nominated.

After meandering through several denominations in my youth, I discovered the Episcopal Church in college and immediately knew it was home. Twenty-five years ago, I was confirmed in the Diocese of Ohio and I was



ordained to the diaconate in the Diocese of Georgia in 2013. Throughout my adulthood, I have attended or served in Episcopal churches all over the country—from small-town Ohio, to suburban Chicago, to rural Wyoming and Montana, to South Georgia. What a blessing it's been to find a home at God's table no matter where God sent me! I've witnessed the beautiful diversity of the Episcopal church, as well as the unity borne through our common prayer, sacraments, and ecclesiology.

In recent years, I've served at the national level as a co-founder of the Young Deacons Task force for the Association for Episcopal Deacons, a regular contributor to Episcopal Migration Ministries projects, and a coordinator for the Episcopal Tent at the annual Wild Goose Festival in North Carolina, which offers Episcopal worship, hospitality, and discussions in an ecumenical setting. At the Provincial level, I have served on the Province IV Regional Consultative Group for the Stewardship of Creation.

In the Diocese of Georgia, I founded and continue to lead the Creation Care Commission, and I served on the Commission on Ministry for two years before entering the discernment process for the priesthood in 2018. I have also been active in the deacon community, served as a Spiritual Director and Green Director for Honey Creek Camp, and served on the Commission on Healing Justice. Current local ministry activities include serving as a founding Co-Chair of the South Georgia Immigrant Support Network, a humanitarian non-profit focused on immigrant detention, and supporting St. Barnabas's community garden/orchard and Creation care ministries. In the past, I've helped launch food pantry, perinatal bereavement, disaster relief, and environmental stewardship ministries, and served as a chaplain at a family violence shelter.

I am a graduate of CDI and EfM and a former EfM mentor. Now, I'm enrolled in the ACTS program (non-residential seminary) at Sewanee with anticipated completion in January 2021.

We need a strong and mission-focused national church so congregations of all types and sizes can flourish in the Way of Love. I long to offer my gifts more fully to this critical work. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

# ADDENDUM-11/12/2019: CANON CHANGES

The Committee on Constitution and Canons received two sets of proposed changes to the Canons of the Diocese of Georgia. Bishop Benhase and diocesan staff drafted the proposal for changes to Canon I.13 to conform the Canons to recent practice.

## Canon I.13

The Committee on Constitution and Canons met on September 4, 2019. They reviewed the following proposed changes to Canon 1.13 (Diocesan Agencies, Commissions and Boards) and voted to endorse this proposal, as amended, to Convention. The changes as amended by the Committee are shown below:

### Canon 13.2

#### Current

There shall be a Commission on Ministry consisting of six Clerics, one of whom shall be a Deacon, and five Lay communicants. The Bishop annually shall appoint the members of the commission with the consent of the Diocesan Council. The Commission on Ministry shall have the duties specified in the General Canons. The Bishop shall appoint clergy to the Board of Examining Chaplains.

#### Proposed

*There shall be a Commission on Ministry consisting of an interview committee of three to six clergy, at least one of whom shall be a deacon, and an equal number of lay communicants plus a chair who shall be a priest. The Bishop shall appoint the members of the commission annually with the consent of the Diocesan Convention. The Commission shall have the duties specified in the Canons of The Episcopal Church. The Bishop shall appoint such clergy members of the Commission who shall comprise the Board of Examining Chaplains with one chaplain for each of the following six areas: Holy Scripture; Liturgy and Church; Church History; Theology; Theory and Practice of Ministry in Contemporary Society; and Ethics & Moral Theology.*

### Canon 13.3

#### Current

There shall be a Honey Creek Commission, the members of which shall be appointed annually by the Bishop with the consent of Diocesan Council. The commission shall act in accordance with its charter as approved by Diocesan Council.

#### Proposed

*There shall be a Honey Creek Development Committee, the members of which shall be appointed annually by the Bishop with the consent of Diocesan Council or Diocesan Convention. The committee shall serve with the Executive Director of Honey Creek and other diocesan staff to support the current and future development of Honey Creek as a mission asset of the Diocese.*

### Canon 13.4

#### Current

There shall be a Commission on Worship, the members of which shall be appointed annually by the Bishop with the consent of the Diocesan Council. It shall assist the Bishop and the Congregations of the Diocese in liturgical and musical matters, provide leadership in good liturgical and musical usage and practice, serve as liaison with the Standing Liturgical Commission and the Standing Commission on Church Music, and plan and carry out programs within the Diocese consonant with its purposes. The commission shall also give advice on preliminary plans for any construction in Mission and Parish Congregations. Any such plans for renovation, enlargement, or initial construction shall include the recommendations of this commission when submitted to the Bishop and Standing Committee for approval and funding permission.

## Proposed

*The Bishop with the consent of the Diocesan Council shall appoint ad hoc task groups, teams, or consultants, from time to time, to assist Congregations of the Diocese in:*

- (1) Addressing particular liturgical and musical matters;*
- (2) Planning property renovations, enlargements, or initial construction;*
- (3) Attending to conflict within a congregation;*
- (4) Developing strategic plans for future mission opportunities; or,*
- (5) Dealing with other challenges and opportunities the Bishop and Diocesan Council identify.*