

GULF ATLANTIC DIOCESE

WE WELCOME OUR
NEWLY ELECTED DIOCESAN LEADERSHIP



SYNOD 2020
BISHOP NEIL LEBHAR



Description of Positions

Following is a short description of each elected position as summarized from our Diocesan Canons.

ACNA Provincial Council (Canon XXV):

- The Synod shall elect one (1) clergy and two (2) lay to serve 5-year terms as members of the Provincial Council. The member of the clergy nominated must be serving either on the Standing Committee or the Diocesan Council at the time of nomination.
- Terms are staggered to provide for continuity of leadership

Standing Committee (Canon VIII, Proposed Canons):

- 3 Clergy, 3 laypersons, 3-year terms. Meets 3-4 times/year online plus one face to face meeting.
- Laypersons must be communicants in good standing in a member church of the Gulf Atlantic Diocese.
- Is a council of advice to the Bishop
- Approves of candidates for ordination, transfers from other denominations, admission of new parishes
- Annually reviews of the work of the Bishop
- Serves as Ecclesiastical authority in the Absence of a Bishop
- Selects Nominating Committee for Bishop Election

Diocesan Council (Canon IX):

- In addition to the Bishop, the Chancellor, the Diocesan Deans, the Treasurer, the Secretary of the Synod, and the chair of the Standing Committee, there are 6 at-large members: 3 Clergy, 3 laypersons, each with 3-year staggered terms. Meets 3-4 times/year via Go2Meeting online. One face to face meeting.
- Implement policies and programs adopted by the Synod.
- Responsibility for the finances and programs of the Diocese.
- Present a proposed budget for the coming year to the Synod.

Ecclesiastical Trial Court (Canon XXIII):

- Hears charges for the trial of any priest or deacon subject to its jurisdiction.
- The Court shall consist of four (4) members of the clerical order and three (3) members of the lay order.
- The Court shall elect from among themselves one person to serve as Presiding Judge.
- Charges for which a clergy person may be presented and tried and the procedures for adjudicating such charges are contained in Title IV of the Canons of the ACNA.

Secretary of the Synod (Canon IV):

- The Secretary takes the minutes of the Synod proceedings, and enters them in a journal.
- Attest to the public acts of the body.

Meet Our New Diocesan Leadership

Each of the following leaders were nominated by their Senior Pastor and elected at Synod 2020 by lay and clergy delegates from each church in our diocese.

ACNA Provincial Council - Lay Representative



Mrs. Karissa Bodoh
Incarnation Tallahassee, FL
karissabodoh@gmail.com

Karissa and her husband, Rev. Can. Taylor Bodoh, planted Incarnation Tallahassee in 2015. Though her roles are ever-changing, she currently serves as a missional community leader, evangelism trainer, and Mercy Team member. Prior to church planting, the Bodohs started and led an InterVarsity campus ministry at FSU for 10 years. Karissa found her passion for raising up leaders while discipling students and mobilizing them to reach their peers. More recently, she taught liberal arts and led chapel at a Christian school; now she home-educates her two favorite students (daughters Avila and Norah).

Standing Committee - Lay Representative



Dr. Sam Ashoo
Trinity Anglican Church (Thomasville, GA)
sam.ashoo@gmail.com

Dr. Sam Ashoo is an emergency physician in Tallahassee. He is married to Jill Ashoo and father to their 3 children. Sam was previously a member of St Peter's Anglican Church. He and Jill joined St Peter's in 2006 and were confirmed as Anglicans. At St Peter's, Sam was involved in foreign missions. As his wife became a staff member, he continued serving by: serving in the 5pm service music team for over 10 years, teaching the spiritual gifts assessment course for over 8 years, teaching adult education courses, and finally serving as a member of the vestry before departing in late 2018. Since then, Sam has been attending Trinity Anglican Church in Thomasville, Ga.

Standing Committee - Clergy Representatives



The Rev. Alex Famer (3 year term)
Servants of Christ, Gainesville, FL
alex@servantsanglican.org

The Reverend Alex Farmer is the Rector of Servants of Christ Anglican Parish, Gainesville, Florida. He was a founding member of the Gulf Atlantic Diocese, in the Anglican Church in North America (2009). He has already served one term as a member of the standing committee, and was the first Financial committee chairman. Prior to the formation of our Diocese Alex served as canon and church planter from the Diocese of Southern Nyanza, Kenya (2006-2009 when Servants of Christ was founded. He was also the former Rector of St. Michael's Episcopal Parish, Gainesville from 2002 until 2005. Prior to that, he served as Associate Rector at All Souls, Jacksonville, where he was also the youth pastor.

Before attending Trinity School for Ministry (Ambridge, PA) in 1997, Father Alex was a commercial property underwriter for Aetna in Jacksonville. He celebrated twenty-nine years of marriage to his wife, Jody in September. They have three adult children; Jake (28), Charleigh (26), and Samantha(24), and a grandson Cooper (20 months). He is on the executive team for our Diocesan Summer Camp Araminta in Melrose (150 campers pre-Covid) and is a board member of the Alachua County Christian Pastors Association. He also enjoys Hiking, kayaking and golf and reading.



The Rev. Michael Petty
St. Peter's Anglican Cathedral (Tallahassee, FL)
mpetty@stpetersfl.com

(2 year term - replacing a member of the Standing Committee who has resigned to join the diocese staff team.)

The Rev. Canon Dr. Michael Petty is currently Canon for Adult Formation at St. Peter's Anglican Cathedral in Tallahassee, Florida where he has served for the past 15 years. He also serves as director of the cathedral's Charles Simeon Institute which focuses on raising up a new generation of priests in the ACNA. He is married to Sara and together they have a son, Graham, who is married and in lives in Pensacola, Florida.

Diocesan Council - Lay Representative



Ms. Julie O'Steen
St. Peter's Anglican Cathedral (Tallahassee, FL)
osteen.julie@gmail.com

Julie O'Steen is a lifelong educator currently serving as the Director of Strategic Product Initiatives at Zaner-Bloser, a K-5 curriculum publishing company. She leads cross-functional projects to develop literacy products and professional development services for teachers and schools. Before transitioning to corporate roles in 2006, she was a classroom teacher for eight years. Julie is a member of St. Peter's (Tallahassee) where she serves as a lay eucharist minister, member of the Vestry, and lay mentor in the Charles Simeon Institute's Summer Fellows Internship Program. She's served as chair of the Mission Engagement Task Force and co-chair of volunteers for the annual English Fayre. In the Tallahassee community, Julie is a board member of Word of South, a music and literature festival, and its volunteer coordinator.

Diocesan Council - Clergy Representative



The Rev. Chris Jones
St. Peter's Anglican Cathedral (Tallahassee, FL)
christopher.d.jones@gmail.com

Fr. Christopher's call is as a son, brother, uncle, mentor, friend, community builder, cultural translator, advocate for the marginalized, and most importantly, a follower of Jesus Christ. Being born and raised in the metropolis that is New York City, he was prepared to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God in places such as Singapore, Indonesia, Myanmar, and in various cities throughout the United States. He received his first university degree from the State University of New York and then went on to earn a Master's in Public & International Affairs from the University of Pittsburgh (where he studied Human Security). It was at Pitt that fr. Christopher heard afresh his call to ordained ministry. After graduating and working in the corporate world for a couple of years, he was admitted to Trinity School for Ministry, and finished his Master's degree in Divinity with an emphasis in church planting. After Trinity, he was called to Florida to plant a church with fellow seminary graduates in a historically black and entrepreneurial neighborhood that fell on tough times. God's work through that church came to fruition as they witnessed drug users being delivered from their disease, multiple [child and adult] baptisms, and disciples made that were, in turn, being trained to make disciples. Fr. Christopher has a passion to see sons and daughters being grafted into God's family. He loves to spend time with close family and friends, and really (really) likes Asian food and skeet shooting. He's currently the Priest Associate at Saint Peter's Anglican Cathedral where he spends most of his time making the Catechism come alive for 9th and 10th graders.

Ecclesiastical Trial Court - Lay Representatives



Mr. Sam Garrison
Grace Anglican Church (Fleming Island, FL)
garrisonsp@gmail.com

Sam Garrison is Board Certified by The Florida Bar as an expert in Criminal Trial law and specializes in defending clients throughout North Florida in serious criminal matters. He also represents clients in matters involving city, county and local governments, with a focus on land use, application of government regulations, public records and constitutional law. Sam is a graduate of Samford University and the University of Illinois College of Law. He previously served 10 years as an Assistant State Attorney in Clay and Duval counties with more than 70 jury trials to his credit, including capital cases and a specially designated Governor's assignment to Alachua County. He currently serves as general counsel for the Town of Orange Park and The Crossings at Fleming Island Community Development District (Eagle Harbor). He is rated AV (Preeminent) by Martindale-Hubbell, has served as a trial instructor at the National Advocacy Center in Columbia, South Carolina, and is a past president of the Clay County Bar Association. In 2017, he was appointed by Florida Governor Rick Scott to the Board of Trustees for St. Johns River State College. Sam values integrity and enjoys the challenge of solving complex legal problems on behalf of his clients. He and his family proudly call Clay County home.



Mrs. Carol Lyn Kuhn
Christ Church Anglican (Savannah, GA)
okatty1984@aol.com

Carol Kuhn received her Juris Doctorate, Magna Cum Laude from the Walter F. George School of Law, Mercer University and practiced as a corporate defense lawyer at national law firms in Oklahoma and Georgia. In addition, she received certification in and practiced as a litigation mediator. Before attending law school, she earned a Master of Public Health degree and served as Coordinator of Children & Youth Services at a Nashville, Tennessee Community Mental Health Center. Carol has served as a Vestry member, Lay Eucharistic Minister, planned retreats and community religious programs, including serving as Lay Director and Board Member of the Coastal Georgia Walk to Emmaus, and been an administrator and group leader for Bible Study Fellowship. She has aided in and served on foreign mission trips. Currently, Carol has completed half of the requirements of a MAR degree at TSM. Carol and her husband of 35 years have 7 children.

Ecclesiastical Trial Court - Lay Representatives *Continued*



Mr. Bill Norwood
Trinity Anglican (Thomasville, GA)
billnorwood@pmkm.com

Bill Norwood has been in active law practice for over 50 years, graduating from University of Georgia Lumpkin School of Law in 1967. He has tried in excess of 400 jury trials, and has been recognized by his peers by election to The American College of Trial Lawyers, International College of Trial Lawyers, International Society of Barristers, American Board of Trial Advocates, and, Georgia Board of Bar Examiners, among others. He was a member of Institute for Advancement of American Legal System, the Task Force that produced the revision to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and chairman of the Judicial Selection Panel for Federal Judges from Georgia for 12 years. He is semi-retired and lives in Thomasville, GA, where he is the former Senior Warden of Trinity Anglican Church.

Ecclesiastical Trial Court - Clergy Representatives



The Very Rev. Canon Keith Allen
Christ Church Vero Beach
kallen@christchurchvero.org

Fr. Allen began serving as the Rector of Christ Church Vero Beach in January 2020 and more recently as the Dean for the Gulf Atlantic Diocese Southern Deanery. For ten years prior, he served as Rector of Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Madison, Miss, and Dean for the Mid-South Anglican Convocation (ADOTS) from 2012 to 2016. His Anglican ministry began in 2004 as the Church Planter and Vicar for Church of the Holy Spirit – The River in Blacksburg, Va. He later served as Executive and Teaching Pastor for Church of the Holy Spirit, Roanoke, Va. Raised as a Southern Baptist, Fr. Allen began his Christian ministry in 1990, working in various staff positions in Southern Baptist churches throughout the Carolinas.

Since 2017, Fr. Allen has served as the ACNA Provincial Canon for Myanmar. In 2016, he was Chairman of the Board for Rwanda Ministry Partners, and from 2011 to 2014 a Board Member for Anglicans for Life.

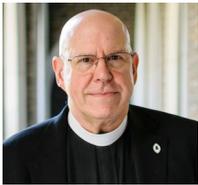
Currently, Fr. Allen is working on a Doctor of Ministry degree in Organizational Leadership from Asbury Theological Seminary. He holds degrees in Global Studies and Biblical Studies from Liberty University School of Divinity and Southeastern Baptist Theological College. He is married to Rev. Kimberly Allen and they have two adult children.

Ecclesiastical Trial Court - Clergy Representatives - Cont'd



The Rev. Dr. Travis Boline
All Saints Anglican Church (Tallahassee, FL)
tsboline@gmail.com

The Rev. Dr. Travis Boline serves as rector at All Saint's Anglican Church in Tallahassee, FL. She received her Master of Divinity Degree from Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, PA in 2000 and her Doctor of Ministry in Spiritual Formation and Preaching from Beeson Divinity School in Birmingham, AL in 2011. Mtr. Travis also serves the Anglican Church in North America as Provincial Secretary. In the Gulf Atlantic Diocese, she serves on the Ordination Preparation Team and the Constitution and Canons Committee. Mtr. Travis and her husband, Doug, have two grown children.



The Rev. Sudduth Cummings
St. Peter's Anglican Cathedral (Tallahassee, FL)
scummings206@comcast.net

Fr. Cummings is a native of Missouri, and a graduate of Phillips University in Oklahoma, The General Theological Seminary in New York and Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University in Dallas for his doctorate. Ordained in 1971 he has served parishes in Oklahoma, Texas, Maryland, Connecticut and Florida as well as teaching at Trinity School for Ministry and Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. After retiring to Tallahassee, he has served as an interim and supply priest and teaching in the Adult Formation and Charles Simeon Institute programs at St. Peter's and is a member of the diocesan Ordination Process Team. He is married to Charlotte A. Cummings for fifty-one years. His principal areas of interest are Spiritual Theology and spiritual direction, Church History, Liturgy,

Ecclesiastical Trial Court - Clergy Representatives Cont'd



The Very Rev. Andrew Rowell
ChristChurch (Montgomery, AL)
arowell@christchurchanglican.net

The Very Reverend Andrew Rowell was raised as the son of a Baptist minister and became a follower of Jesus at the age of fifteen. He is married to Miriam “Mimi” Suber Rowell, who is a Critical Care Registered Nurse. Andrew and Mimi have two sons, Ebenezer (“Eben”), who is five, and Ezekiel (“Zeke”), who is two.

Fr. Andrew serves as Rector of Christchurch in Montgomery, Alabama. He is the Dean of the Western Deanery and serves on the Constitution and Canons Committee. Fr. Andrew serves the ACNA as a member of Provincial Council, the Governance Task Force, and the Board of Directors for ARDF-US. He serves on the Board of Trustees of the American Anglican Council and the Steering Committee for the Anglican Legal Society. He has a passion for preaching and teaching God’s Word, for sending the church out into the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, and for good and godly order in the Church. Prior to becoming Rector of Christchurch, Andrew was Associate Rector for Evangelism & Discipleship (2012-15) and Associate Rector for Youth & Families (2008-12) at St. Peter’s Anglican Cathedral in Tallahassee, Florida.

Andrew received his undergraduate degree from Duke University (1995, magna cum laude), his law degree from the University of Virginia (1999), and his Masters of Divinity from the Duke University Divinity School (2008, summa cum laude). In his prior professional life, Andrew served as a homeless shelter night manager, a speechwriter for the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services, a clerk for the late Honorable Francis Allegra of the Court of Federal Claims, and a tax attorney at Hogan & Hartson (now Hogan Lovells) in Washington, D.C.

Synod Secretary Re-elected



The Rev. Lynne Loulan Ashmead
Church of Our Savior (Jacksonville Beach, FL)
lynneashmead@gmail.com

Lynne graduated from Englewood High School, Jacksonville (1961) and the University of North Florida (BBA, Management, 1983). Lynne and her husband Bob served as missionaries for the American Lutheran Church in Jos, Nigeria from 1967 to 1972 and in Lae, Papua New Guinea from 1973 to 1975. Upon their return to the United States, she worked in administrative positions for various corporations in the Jacksonville area, retiring as a Director from CSX Transportation in 1999. In 1999, Lynne was ordained as Vocational Deacon by Bishop Stephen Jecko in the Diocese of Florida. She was ordained Priest by Archbishop Benjamin Nzimbi in the Anglican Church of Kenya in 2007. From 2004 until her “retirement” in 2011, Lynne served as Executive Assistant to the Dean of the Southeastern Convocation of the Anglican Communion Network and later as an administrator and first Registrar of the Anglican Church in North America. Lynne is assisting Priest at Church of our Savior, Jacksonville Beach.