

Diocesan Council Nominees 2025 (per Transitional Canons)

To affect the reunification of our two dioceses at this year's (2025) Diocesan Convention, each diocese will elect **3 clergy and 3 lay members** to Council to create a membership.

2025 Nominees

Clergy: The Rev. Martha Ambrose, St. John's, Marietta
The Rev. Jeff Packard, St. Andrew's, State College
The Rev. Deacon Dr. Brian K. Shaffer, St. Andrew's, Shippensburg
The Rev. Ryan Tobin, Church of the Nativity & St. Stephen's, Newport

Lay: Cn. Anthony Alexander, St. Stephen's Cathedral, Harrisburg
Mrs. Elaine Austin, St. Thomas, Lancaster
Mr. Richard Koch, St. Stephen's Cathedral, Harrisburg
Ms. Tracey L. Knerr, St. Andrew's, Shippensburg

From the following nominees, elect: **3 Clergy and 3 Laypersons**.

Clergy Nominees



The Rev. Martha Ambrose
St. John's, Marietta

Having served on the Council of Trustees with the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, I am happy to continue with the work of the new joint Diocesan Council within the reunified diocese. As a crafter in fiber arts, I incorporate a creative perspective that may enable us to explore various layers of life together. This new partnership will continue to evolve and develop fresh understandings as we seek to share the love of Christ within our local communities and with the wider world.



The Rev. Jeff Packard
St. Andrew's, State College

I have a long relationship with the Diocese of Central PA, having grown up here, gone through the ordination process, and served in the past as a rector. After being out of the diocese for 17 years, I returned in the fall of 2017. It has been a privilege to serve on the Diocesan Standing Committee and on the Disciplinary Board since coming back. I have seen a lot of changes in the diocese, serving under three different bishops. I hope to be a part of the current job of bringing our two dioceses together again. This is a difficult task and will require persistence, flexibility, and cooperation. I believe I bring all of these gifts, along with the long view, to be a part of the reunification process and meet any challenges along the way. If elected, I will faithfully serve.



The Rev. Deacon Dr. Brian Shaffer
St. Andrew's, Shippensburg

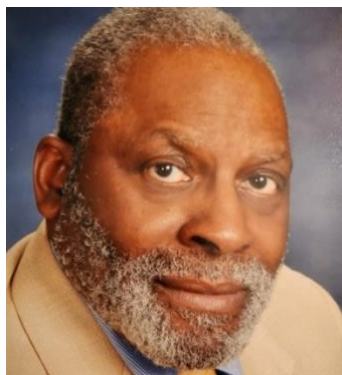
My dedication is to both my Baptismal Covenant and my Deacon Ordination Vows, which command me to love and serve. My gifts are shaped by a blend of communication skills, project management expertise, and a steadfast dedication to social justice, all grounded in a rich spiritual life characterized by discernment and reflection. My strong public speaking and writing abilities enable me to articulate the Gospel message clearly, inviting others into the heart of relational ministry, both in speaking and in active listening. An ethos of service, love, and faithfulness guides my deep commitment to engagement and relational ministry. My servant heart will always be respectful, inclusive, and grounded in love.



The Rev. Ryan Tobin
Church of the Nativity & St. Stephen's, Newport

I am proud to serve as the Rector of the Church of the Nativity & St. Stephen in Newport, a role I was called to earlier this year as I ended a 17-year career in state government. I have been told that I have the mind of a bureaucrat but the heart of a priest; and so, I believe that I can be useful to our new diocese by serving on the Diocesan Council. I hope to support the work and mission of the diocese with my gifts: administrative know-how, attention to detail, and an eye for the finer points of policy.

Layperson Nominees



Cn. Anthony Alexander
St. Stephen's Cathedral, Harrisburg

Currently, I serve as a Eucharistic Minister, a second term on vestry, and teach at the adult forum in my parish. Formerly, I served on the Standing Committee, as the SC representative to the COM, and on the Council of Trustees as well as a former Convocation Convenor. Given the call to be involved in the ministry of reconciliation, I am on the Diocesan Dismantling Racism Commission and was chaplain and formerly the president of the Bishop Nathan Baxter Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians. I am blessed with the ability to get along with people who are not like me.



Mrs. Elaine Austin
St. Thomas, Lancaster

As the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania becomes a part of the Diocese of The Susquehanna it is important that institutional history is not forgotten. I have been a member of the Council of Trustees both as a Convenor of the Lancaster Convocation and as a member elected by Convention. My years of experience give me knowledge of the history of property which we own, especially Brookland Retreat Center and St. Andrews in the City. It is valuable to know that history in order to make wise decisions in the future.



Mr. Richard Koch

St. Stephen's Cathedral, Harrisburg

I have been a member of the Council of Trustees for the past 5 years. My experience on the COT has given me good insights into the operations and challenges of both the Diocese and the parishes. My time on the Shaped by Faith Commission has given me a unique experience with the visions and challenges that are faced by many of our parishes. I bring to the reunified Diocesan Council this experience and my 40 years of professional and community leadership experience in my career, professional societies, my parish and in my community as an elected and appointed official. I was born and raised in Central Pennsylvania (Lancaster County) and have a Bachelor's degree from Elizabethtown College and a Master's degree from Pennsylvania State University.



Ms. Tracey L. Kerr

St. Andrew's, Shippensburg

The gifts and skills I bring to the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania and this ministry include:

- Meet our neighbors where they are with love and compassion—my guide.
- Question to understand perspectives to inform conversation, moving others forward in their thinking.
- Lead with integrity and grace. Experience at the local, state and national level in education and volunteer work.
- Serve others: Vestry, community meal team, schedule the worship leaders, collaborate with Grace Place and Communities Cares shelter to facilitate Think Tank. Previously, served two Vestry terms at the flagship parish in the Diocese of New Jersey. Served on the finance committee and as chair of the personnel, planned giving committee and stewardship committees.