



The Rev. Sean Ekberg
Episcopal Church of the Resurrection
OKC, OK

Father Sean graduated from Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, TX in 2015. He served two years as a curate at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Bartlesville, OK and then was called to be the rector of Episcopal Church of the Resurrection in 2017. Over the last two years, Resurrection has grown in faith and congregation size. He has worked on multiple building projects and overseen the renovation and revitalization of ECOTR.

He serves on the Leadership Council of St. Crispin's, and has created two events (The Bishop's Cup, St. Crispin's Cookoff) to help raise funds and awareness for our beloved camp and conference center. He is a program mentor for Theology and Ethics at the diocesan Iona School for Ministry, has served on Secretariat, and has been active with New Beginnings, Cursillo, and many other Diocesan groups.

Father Sean has exhibited the willingness to serve his church, this diocese and the people in it at every turn and would be a valuable addition to Standing Committee due to his experience with multiple diocesan groups and his time spent working alongside them. He is the husband of Nicole Ekberg and dog-dad to Kevin, the mini-schnauzer.

Field Griffin

***St. Patrick's Episcopal Church
Broken Arrow, OK***



Previously served on the Standing Committee from 2007-2014. Appointed by Bishop Ed to fill unexpired 2007 term, then elected in 2008 and 2011.

Member of our diocese for 40 years at St. Andrew's, then St. Patrick's. Have served on Commission on Missions, Diocesan Council and Diocesan Stewardship Committee.

Member of BACAM/Commission on Ministry since 1991.

Served as Senior Warden and vestry member numerous times in each church. I have also served as Chair of our Stewardship Campaigns, Sunday School teacher, VBS teacher, & Youth group.

I look forward to serving our diocese as a member of the Standing Committee.



Robert Yadon

**St. Patrick's Episcopal Church
Broken Arrow, OK**

I am Robert Yadon I have lived in the Tulsa area my inter life I am seeking nomination to the Standing Committee. I have been a member of Saint Patrick's Broken Arrow for twenty five years. I have been married to my wife Nanci for twenty five years. I am school teacher for Tulsa Public Schools for twenty eight years. At Saint Patrick's I have served as junior warden and have been the Clerk of the Vestry for the last twenty two years. I have also served as delegate to Diocesan Convention. At the Diocesan level I have served on the Counsel on Mission and currently serve as the Chairman of the Nomination Committee for the Diocesan Convention.

The Rev. Tim Baer

**Grace Episcopal Church
Yukon, OK**



I've been tremendously blessed to have been formed as a Christian and as a priest by this amazing diocese. I grew up at St. Paul's Cathedral and was active in parish and diocesan youth ministries. My call to ministry was nurtured at St. Anselm's of Canterbury in Norman, who sponsored me to discern a call to ministry. This Diocese sent me to Seminary in 2008.

In 2003 I served at General Convention on the Official Youth Presence, where I learned the ropes of the larger Church and the bureaucracy and systems that support it (that was quite a Convention to dive in for the first time). I served in 2006 as a lay Deputy to General Convention from this Diocese. While in Seminary, I volunteered at General Convention 2009. During my ordained ministry I have focused on my local call – at St. John's Tulsa as Curate, and at Grace Church Yukon, as re-developer and planter of this amazing community.

Over the last three General Conventions, there were moments I wished I was there, but many more when I was glad I was not. It is a long convention and at times frustrating. Our denomination knows that our social influence and numbers are diminishing, yet we often make choices that do not empower discipleship and growth on a local level. We talk about changes we could make for the future... but we don't always follow through (the TREC Report for example).

After much prayer, I feel called to put my name back in the arena. The General Convention is beautiful and empowers amazing ministry when it is working well. I believe the church works best when we are empowering local ministry and focused on impacting lives through the Gospel. We have tremendous leadership in our Presiding Bishop. I feel I can represent the younger (under 40) demographic of the church.

The Rev. Tim Baer Grace Episcopal Church - Yukon, OK

I would like to see the General Convention and the larger church focusing its efforts on Christian formation, intentional development of new congregations, and empowering ministry in our parishes. Being an inclusive church and taking on important social issues is important to me. But this happens best on the local level, and only if we are actually transforming lives and being people of faith, hope and love. We cannot be people who say the right things... but we must be doers of the Word, as James says in Scripture. I'm a pragmatist, as well as an idealist, at heart.

In the coming years, the Conventions work with liturgy and worship, our Anglican Communion relationships, and our ability to support vital congregational ministry will be very important. I want to see us empower congregational growth – not for growth sake, but so that we can have a deeper impact in our communities. The Episcopal Church is still at a tipping point in the United States and I want to be a moderate voice of reason, faithfulness, and urgency should I be elected to represent Oklahoma as a Deputy.

In addition to serving at General Convention 2003, and as an Oklahoma Lay Deputy to General Convention in 2006, I have served in my ordained life on the Diocesan Standing Committee and Diocesan Council, as well as, most recently on the Bishop Search Committee in 2019. My 16 years of experience, my relationships, and knowledge of this diocese prepares me well to represent us.

The Rev. Kay Bowman

**All Saints' Episcopal Church
Miami, OK**



The Rev. Kay Boman-Harvey serves as deacon at All Saints', Miami. She was ordained to the vocational diaconate in 1996. She is a four-time deputy to General Convention. In the diocese she has served on the Diocesan Council, the Youth Board, and the St. Crispin's Board. She was also on the design team for EYE in 1996 and has attended 6 events over the years in a variety of capacities. She also participated in the Bible school in our companion diocese of Uruguay. Before ordination Kay was a vestry member, lay reader, choir member and a youth sponsor at All Saints'. Kay is a retired high school foreign language teacher with 37 years of experience in Oklahoma and Kansas. She currently continues her involvement in public schools by substitute teaching and serving on the Miami Public Schools Enrichment Foundation board and the district's long-range planning committee. She also serves on 1 the board of the Ottawa County Farmers market and with Teachers Toolbox, a ministry at All Saints' that provides supplies at no cost to teachers of Ottawa County. Kay is a widow with three stepchildren, six grandchildren and several godchildren. She enjoys travel, knitting, trivia contests, and all manner of the arts.

The role of a Deputy is as varied as the number of people involved. On the surface it seems that the job is to attend the General Convention and vote on issues presented to the Convention ranging from the budget to church canons, and public policy. In my experience it is so much more. Once elected it is the responsibility of Deputies to perform their duties for 3 years, both before and after the actual convention. One must stay abreast of trends and issues before the Church and make himself/herself available for surveys, committees, and other tasks as may be needed. As a deacon I feel it is vital that all in the church be represented and heard. As Deputies we are asked to vote based on the information provided and prayerful consideration.

The Rev. Kay Bowman All Saints' Episcopal Church - Miami, OK

Being a deputy is hard work and not a pleasure trip for those involved. The days are long and taxing but knowing that you represent this wonderful diocese makes the effort rewarding. With each convention I have learned so much about the Church at large and how Oklahoma plays a part in this diverse community. I have served as a committee member for three of the conventions I attended with a focus on education and ministry. The Church is evolving and I want to be a participant in the evolution. The sessions are challenging, the worship is exhilarating, and the communities created as deputations, committees, dioceses and provinces are long-lasting. As a deacon the charge is to bring the concerns of the world to the Church. Being a deputy helps me fulfill that charge. It would be a privilege to continue this work.

As a deacon in a small, rural community in the diocese I daily witness the struggles that congregations experience. As church attendance declines the challenges to maintain a functioning worship community increase. It would be easy to just cocoon at home and await the outcome. However, that will not effect good change but will ensure failure. We must continue the work of the Jesus movement and use the vast resources that our diocesan community, as well as the entire Church, offers all of us to further the kingdom of God. While we honor our past, it is imperative that we love in the present so that the future church is alive and well for generations to come.

The Rev. Dion Crider

***Episcopal Church of the Resurrection
Oklahoma City, OK***



I've taken the words of the sermon at my ordination to heart: that as clergy, we're meant to go and be a difference maker for the people we serve. Since then, I've tried to model that in my ministry. My desire is to have as active a role as possible at Convention. As a deputy, I see that as taking part in the discussion about issues impacting the broader church while also ensuring that the voice of our diocese is not lost in the conversation. Also, I think that as a deputy, prayer is central to everything – asking God's guidance and discernment for what he is calling us to be as the Church.

Having worked for two Fortune 100 companies over the past thirty years, I have a good sense of corporate politics. I'm able to quickly identify power structures in an environment and how to work among them with people to get things done. I believe that will help me effectively work with other deputies at Convention on legislation. Sometimes, the path to action may be clear, but more often it requires working together to find the best road.

As a Generation-X person, I bridge the gap between the 65% of the Church over the age of 55 and the 13% under the age of 40. That allows me to understand the positions and needs of both groups when discussing legislation.

The Church is reaching a point where we must consider a broader supplementation of bi-vocation clergy in our churches that cannot support fulltime priests. As a deacon who was formed through our IONA School for Ministry, I went through the same coursework as the bi-vocational priests. This gives me a good frame of reference of those who are locally formed. I also have close relationships with those priests who have been placed in missions across the diocese and know the benefits and opportunities they face within that ministry.

The Rev. Dion Crider Episcopal Church of the Resurrection - OKC, OK

Finally, the work of Convention requires exposure to a wide variety of issues in a limited amount of time. Through my secular work, I have honed my skills to be someone who can synthesize data and quickly formulate an appropriate response. I believe in the timeframe we have at Convention that is a crucial skillset.

There is a lot of concern about declining numbers across all mainline denominations. Through what I have witnessed, I firmly believe that growing churches are ones rooted in our teaching and practice of Jesus Christ as Lord. If that is core to our identify, then the work of Convention should be staying focused on the goals needed to accomplish this.

We have to realistically address the concerns of an aging membership base as well as clergy population. The Church will need to be open to how ministry might change over the next five to ten years and what needs to be done now to get there. I believe this includes broadening the use of locally trained bi-vocational clergy. We must also be willing to take a hard look at our governing structures within the Church and be willing to make the hard decisions on how/if those need to change to support the mission of the church.

There must be a renewed emphasis on evangelization and making Jesus known to the growing number of people who don't know Him. For the members in our churches who do, we need to find ways to ensure that church isn't just something done on Sunday but that the same focus forms us for the other six days of the week as well.

I have been a member of the Episcopal Church since the late 90s. My wife Linda and I have three adult daughters who were raised in the Church. In my non-Church life, I have worked the past twenty-one years for Love's Travel Stops. The majority of that was spent in Information Technology, ten years as Director of Retail Systems. Two years ago, I made a career change to store Operations where I coordinate activities in thirty departments for our COO.

Prior to being ordained, I was involved in a number of ministries including various lay positions in liturgy, prison outreach, Cursillo, and providing worship music at a local retirement community. After my ordination in 2017, I was assigned to the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection at the same time that the Rev. Sean Ekberg was called as the new rector. I've witnessed firsthand the success of reaching the unchurched as he has implemented foundational practices: making Jesus known to the unchurched, ensuring they are welcomed into a loving community, and that the message they hear is centered on Jesus and the Gospel. Over the past two years, I have assisted executing this plan in whatever way he has needed.

The Rev. Mary Ann Hill

***St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church
Tulsa, OK***



The Rev. Mary Ann Hill has been rector of St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church and Preschool, in Tulsa, for eleven years. She currently serves the Diocese of Oklahoma as President of the Standing Committee, and has been member of Diocesan Council, Dean of the Tulsa Region, a clergy alternate deputy to the 2012 General Convention, and a member of the St. Simeon's Board of Trustees. She is a member of the national organization Gathering of Leaders.

In 2017, encouraged by the growing Latino ministry at St. Dunstan's, Mary Ann wrote a successful application that resulted in our diocese being awarded a Mission Development Grant from the Episcopal Church for the purpose of bringing a Latino missionary to Tulsa. In addition to that grant, St. Dunstan's was awarded Lilly Endowment National Clergy Renewal Grant in 2016.

Deputies gather at the General Convention to take part in "the councils of the Church." A deputy is called to do his or her best to discern God's calling for whole Church through prayer, study, and listening to others. Deputies must be well-prepared, attentive, and willing to put in long hours for the good of the Church - before, during, and after the Convention. Before the Convention, deputies study proposed legislation. Following convention, deputies report back to the diocese.

I am interested in serving as a General Convention deputy because I feel that we, as a diocese, have much to offer the greater Church, and at the same time, we need to be able to weigh in on some the issues before TEC that will affect us as a diocese.

For example, prayerbook revision is likely to come before General Convention again. I believe there are ways to allow for greater flexibility without sacrificing the traditions which have nourished so many in the past, and that also appeal to younger generations of seekers.

The Rev. Mary Ann Hill St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church - Tulsa, OK

I believe the most pressing issue is the mission of the Church. The report on attendance that came out right before the Labor Day weekend showed a continuing downward trend that is predictable but alarming. One source of frustration for me is that we are continually asked to fund church-wide structures (what we used to call the National Church) that are top-heavy and unwieldy, and that take funds away from potential areas of growth. Our new Latino mission in Tulsa began with a mission planting grant from TEC. The funding for those kinds of grants was gutted at the last convention, while at the same time, church-wide infrastructure was expanded. In order for the Episcopal Church to thrive in an uncertain future, we must be more focused on the mission of the Church than on maintenance of outdated structures.

The Rev. Everett Lees

***Christ Church
Tulsa, OK***



I have been ordained since 2009. I served as curate at St. Patrick's in Broken Arrow before being called to Christ Church Episcopal in Tulsa where I have served the past 7 years. I am a graduate of Seminary of the Southwest and Virginia Theological Seminary. I am active in Gathering of Leaders, Society of Catholic Priests, and have served the diocese on Standing Committee and the Same Gender Blessing Committee.

The role of General Convention deputy is to take part in the councils of the church by discerning God's desire for the church. A deputy should understand the desires and priorities of the diocese and work to pursue those. In addition, a deputy needs to listen to the diverse voices throughout the church and actively work for the building of the Kingdom of God.

There are three narratives or issues the church is wrestling with today: prayer book revision, structural reform, and spiritual renewal. My hope is to provide a thoughtful, productive voice to those three conversations, in addition to the myriad of questions the church is tasked with addressing. Bishop Curry's ministry is forcing us to ask what it means to be a people who are part of the Jesus movement, and what are we doing to further Christ's mission in the world. Whether we are a large congregation or small congregation we can witness to the redeeming love of Jesus Christ. General Convention must support that work. The Episcopal Church has to come to grips with some realities, we are smaller and older as a population than we were 20 years ago. Our median worship size has moved to 60, which means half of our congregations have less than 60 people each Sunday in attendance. The discussions at General Convention need to reflect that reality.

The Rev. Everett Lees Christ Church - Tulsa, OK

The spiritual renewal of the people is the most pressing issue facing the church. The deep questions about worship, church structures, and church renewal can only take part as a result of who God is and what God is calling us to do and be. Episcopalians who read and reflect on Holy Scripture, pray, and serve are better able to discern those questions. My observation is that the church is ready to move past the battles we have had recently and actively engage the mission and ministry of the church. This renewal affords us the energy and the space to answer tough questions and make difficult decisions. The church began as a small body of people who were energized by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Good News of God in Jesus Christ, so our depth and commitment is more important than our numbers.

Henry Baer

**Grace Episcopal Church
Yukon, OK**



I grew up at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Huntington, CT. After getting married, we attended Christ Church, Oxford, CT where I was the church Treasurer. Twenty eight years ago, my family relocated to Oklahoma to raise our three children and advance my career. This was one of the best decisions we made.

We attended St. Paul's Cathedral for a number of years before transferring to St. John's in Oklahoma City where my wife worked and our children attended. I became church Treasurer and also served as Senior Warden. Five years ago, we transferred to Grace Church, Yukon to attend church with our son and daughter-in-law, as they launched Grace Church. For the past 10 years, I have served as the Treasurer of our Diocese. Additionally, I have been a Deputy to the General Convention for the past three conventions.

Through my service as Treasurer of two churches and the Diocese, along with the experiences at the past three General Conventions, I see my role as a Deputy to direct energy in the areas which will help our churches, diocese and the greater church flourish. There are many important national and worldwide issues that need our attention, but without healthy, growing local parishes, the work in the larger church will not flourish. We need to be relevant in our local communities and state. We must attract younger families to get involved in church; have our members get involved in local outreach programs, which show others the love of Jesus. Doing Jesus's work in our communities is rewarding for both those who receive and those who participate. Change can be difficult, but that is what is needed to jump start our Church. It all starts at the local level. I would like to see the General Convention and the The Episcopal Church spend more attention on the growth and development of local churches, whether through grants to restart churches, or training programs to assist churches evolve so younger generations see its relevance. Our energy must shift from survival mode to an active participation in its spiritual growth and outreach ministries.

Henry Baer Grace Episcopal Church - Yukon, OK

At the last General Convention, I was a member of the Church Pension Committee. I found this a very rewarding assignment. The financial security for our clergy and lay employees in retirement is very important. My financial experience, along with others on the committee, provided a voice of sound business practices; we were the realists making sure other members understood regulatory constraints.

Convention will again discuss liturgy, music, marriage, the environment and the greater Anglican Communion. These are all very important issues to discuss. Many are very relevant to my concern of making the church a place in which young families want to participate; where they can get to know Jesus and spread His joy to others through their actions in the community.

I would be honored to represent our Diocese at General Convention.

Julia Ayala Harris

***St. John's Episcopal Church
Norman, OK***



I am an active member at St. Johns Norman and currently enjoy the role as the parish's youth minister. At the diocesan level, I recently served on the Bishop Search and Nominating Committee. On the denominational level, I have served on Executive Council since 2015 and was elected to its leadership team, the Executive Committee, in 2018. Through Executive Council, I am on the Joint Standing Committee for Mission within the Episcopal Church, the Evangelism Grants Committee, and the Racial Reconciliation staff officer advisory committee. Additionally, I serve on the Task Force for Women, Truth and Reconciliation, a body that I helped to create as a deputy at the 2018 General Convention where I spearhead several initiatives in line with the MeToo movement within our church context.

Shortly after I was elected to be a deputy to the last General Convention, I was appointed to be Vice-Chair of the legislative committee on Social Justice and United States Policy and a member of the House of Deputies Special Committee on Sexual Harassment and Exploitation. Further, I worked with the Presiding Bishop's staff to create TEConversations, which focused on the Presiding Bishop's priorities of racial reconciliation, evangelism, and creation care. I believe that our unique church structure is best expressed through our General Convention where we have a democratic process for our shared discernment as a church body of faithful believers. The role of the deputy is to be an active part of that common discernment through study, listening to others, sharing ideas and experiences, as well as participating in productive conversations. Further, I believe that my hard work at the 2018 General Convention displays a commitment to this common discernment.

Julia Ayala Harris St. John's Episcopal Church - Norman, OK

The most pressing issue that I see facing our church today is summed up in this question: how do we live into being The Jesus Movement? It's a question for our congregations, church structures and our personal lives. Our traditional ways of being church have found themselves strained by the context of our 21st century culture. Many churches have seen declining attendance, increases in building maintenance costs, and their neighborhoods change. How do these churches maintain their functional needs while reaching into their neighborhoods to show the love of Jesus? This membership in The Jesus Movement is a difficult and sacred journey that we are embarking on, but it is also a journey that we are traveling together.

The Diocese of Oklahoma is full of rich diversity and beauty with a long history of leadership in the deputies that it sends to General Convention and I have been able to see this firsthand. We Oklahoma Episcopalians have a profound appreciation for what it means to love our neighbor as ourselves. The Diocese of Oklahoma is my home and I would be honored to serve again as a deputy to General Convention in 2021 in Baltimore.

Kate Huston

**St. Paul's Cathedral
Oklahoma City, OK**



I currently serve as the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at the Diocese of Oklahoma. In addition to my role at the Diocese, I also serve as the Assistant Secretary of Convention and the Treasurer of Forma (the church-wide professional organization for formation and Christian educators). I attended General Convention in 2012, 2015, and 2018. A native Oklahoman, I grew up as a member of Saint John's, Norman and as an active youth and young adult in the Diocese attending Saint Crispin's Summer Camp. In 2010 I felt a call to lay ministry and switched course from a previous career as a professor of political science at Oklahoma City University to a role as the Director of Formation at St. Paul's Cathedral. In January of 2019, I moved to my current position as Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. My love and dedication to the Episcopal Church is strengthened every day I serve in ministry to the people of our Diocese. I am excited by the opportunity of attending General Convention again and believe strongly in the leadership of our lay and clergy members. My daughter, Brigid Grace, and I live in Oklahoma City and attend St. Paul's Cathedral.

The role of Deputy to General Convention is to listen to the Spirit and where the Spirit is calling us to go as the ministers and people of the Church. This requires being open to the wide diversity of opinions found across the Church. The role of Deputy requires you to educate yourself, to think critically, and make decisions about the important issues facing us today. It is also essential deputies be responsive to those they represent by listening to the views expressed by those around our Diocese.

Kate Huston St. Paul's Cathedral - Oklahoma City, OK

I would love to serve as a returning Deputy because I firmly believe in the democratic governance of our Church and believe it is a shared responsibility between all the ministers of the Church – lay and ordained. Further, I believe discussing the most pressing issues we face today, collectively, serves to strengthen our communities of faith and our ability to respond to the world. I enjoy educating myself on the issues and thinking critically and creatively about the problems we face. In 2015 I served on the Governance and Structure Committee which was tasked with considering all of the resolutions regarding the re-structuring of the church. From 2016 to 2018 I was appointed to the Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance (PB&F), the committee tasked with developing the budget for the national church over the triennium. I have been re-appointed to Program, Budget, and Finance for the current triennium, 2018 to 2021

The most pressing issue in the Church today is our focus on governance and administration over the mission of the Church. Administration is necessary for any organization, but I am concerned with our focus on maintaining administrative structures at the cost of our mission. It is necessary for us to engage not only in the conversations about re-focusing on our mission and ministry but to actively work towards taking the steps to pursue mission and ministry as a Church. We made some first steps, but I believe the process is on-going.

Robert Yadon

**St. Patrick's Episcopal Church
Broken Arrow, OK**



My name is Robert Yadon, I have lived in the Tulsa area my entire life. I have been a member of Saint Patrick's Broken Arrow for twenty five years. I have been married to Nanci for twenty five years. I am a school teacher for the Tulsa Public Schools for twenty eight years. At Saint Patrick's I have served as junior warden and have been the Clerk of the Vestry for the last twenty two years. I have also served as a delegate to Diocesan Convention. At the Diocesan level I have served on the Counsel on Mission and currently serve as the Chairman of the Nomination Committee.

I would be honored to serve as a deputy in 2021. I see my role as a representative of the people who make up our Diocese, both the majority and minority. If elected, I will join in conversation with others to hear their opinions. I anticipate a wide variety of topics, which will require an open mind to fully understand the ramifications of each vote.

I believe serving as a deputy to General Convention will be a growth experience for me in my faith and life. There will be many opportunities to meet people from different parts of the country and different views on the issues facing the Episcopal Church. This will be an opportunity to learn how other dioceses and congregations have addressed various topics of concern to our diocese and congregations. I hope to bring new ideas back to help strengthen our diocese.

The most pressing issue facing our church today, in my opinion, is congregational development. Many congregations are dwindling in size and we must learn how to attract and retain parishioners of all ages, ethnic backgrounds and sexual orientations. In the past several years, I have seen congregations close in our diocese, while others grow. We must learn from the successes and work to assist struggling parishes, so our diocese can share the good news of Jesus with more Oklahomans.