

## Provincial Council Nominees

*Lay Representative to Provincial Council -- Two nominations were received*

♣ Adam Hamilton-Ferguson, DioCNY

Statement: My name is Adam Hamilton-Ferguson, and I attend Grace and Holy Spirit Church in Cortland, NY (Diocese of Central NY). We are a blended parish (TEC/ELCA), which means that we both maintain our historical memberships in the Diocese of Central NY and the Upstate NY Synod, and have a joint board which governs the parish day-to-day. What I will bring to Provincial Council as a Lay Representative is a valuable “via media” perspective—including both orthodoxy (my liturgical practice is Anglo-Catholic) and a view to the future. As more parishes are faced with painful options, blending with our communion partners provides a way to maintain and expand our Episcopal and extended family. Additionally, my parish recently (and successfully) completed a search process involving both the Diocese and the Synod, which we were told has been one of the first of its precise kind in TEC—affording the chance to be a valuable advisory resource. I invite and welcome your votes, and look forward to serving you if elected.

Bio: Dr. Adam Hamilton-Ferguson lives in Cortland, NY with his husband, son, and foster son, and is a confirmed lay communicant of Grace and Holy Spirit Church, Cortland. In addition to being a Full-Time Lecturer in the English Department at SUNY Cortland, he is currently Clerk of the Vestry, Immediate Past Senior Warden (in Charge) and Past Chair of the joint Mission Leadership Board. He has also served as a delegate to Diocesan Convention since 2016. At the diocesan level, he is currently a member of the Diocesan Board (Diocese of Central NY). In 2018, he was elected to the House of Deputies, and was active in both the CNY deputation and the LGBTQIA+ Caucus, officially recognized for the first time by GC 80. In 2022, he was elected as an Alternate Deputy to GC 81. He also serves on the Interim Task Force to Study Household Diversity.

♣ Yamilka M. Maldonado Mitchell, DioPR

Bio and Statement: Mi nombre es Yamilka M. Maldonado Mitchell, para mi es un gusto presentarme. Actualmente tengo 25 años, soy orgullosamente puertorriqueña y pertenezco a la Iglesia Episcopal desde pequeña donde he tenido la oportunidad de crecer y desarrollarme aprendiendo de la fe y de la religión. Adicional se me han presentado grandes oportunidades las cuales he dicho sí. En los veranos del 2015 al 2017 tuve la oportunidad de trabajar en City Camp en Philadelphia, esto como iniciativa de la Diócesis de Philadelphia. En este campamento tuve la oportunidad de conocer diversas iglesias alrededor de la diócesis, confraternizar con feligresías, trabajar en equipo y llevar la palabra de Dios a los niños y sus familias. A partir del 2017, luego del Huracán María comencé a ser parte de la Mesa de Líderes, del Ministerio Juvenil de la Iglesia Episcopal Diócesis de Puerto Rico. Dentro de este ministerio tuve la oportunidad de aprender, crecer espiritualmente, desarrollarme como líder y llevar el evangelio a los jóvenes de nuestra diócesis. En el ministerio se realizaron varias actividades como la pascua juvenil, torneos, misas por arcedianato, encuentros de jóvenes, participaciones en diversas actividades de la diócesis y retiros. Tuve la oportunidad de ser la Sub-Coordinadora para el año 2022-2023. En el ámbito profesional cuento con un Bachillerato en Ciencias Naturales y este año con el favor de Dios culminé mi Maestría en Recursos Humanos. Actualmente laboro en la Diócesis de Puerto Rico, en el Centro Diocesano como Asistente Administrativa de Enlace para la Oficina de

Administración. Anteriormente ejercí como Coordinadora de Recursos Humanos y por todo lo aprendido me motivé a realizar una maestría en este campo. Gracias a Dios he logrado muchas metas en el ámbito profesional y las que faltan. Estoy super agradecida por la oportunidad de presentarme y espero que podamos trabajar de la mano para seguir evangelizando y llevando la Palabra de Dios al mundo.

Translation: Bio and Statement: My name is Yamilka M. Maldonado Mitchell, and it's a pleasure to introduce myself. I am currently 25 years old, proudly Puerto Rican, and have been a member of the Episcopal Church since childhood, where I've had the opportunity to grow and develop while learning about faith and religion. I've also been presented with significant opportunities, which I've embraced wholeheartedly. From 2015 to 2017, I had the privilege of working at City Camp in Philadelphia, an initiative of the Diocese of Philadelphia. At this camp, I had the chance to explore various churches around the diocese, engage with parishioners, collaborate within teams, and share the word of God with children and their families.

Following Hurricane Maria in 2017, I became involved with the *Mesa de Líderes*, the Youth Ministry of the Episcopal Church Diocese of Puerto Rico. Within this ministry, I had the opportunity to learn, grow spiritually, develop as a leader, and spread the gospel to the youth of our diocese. The ministry organized various activities such as youth Easter events, tournaments, archdeaconry masses, youth gatherings, participation in diocesan activities, and retreats. I served as the Assistant Coordinator for the year 2022-2023.

Professionally, I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Natural Sciences, and this year, with God's favor, I will complete my Master's Degree in Human Resources. I currently work at the Diocese of Puerto Rico, in the Diocesan Center, where I serve as the Administrative Assistant Liaison for the Office of Administration. Previously, I worked as a Human Resources Coordinator, and my experiences motivated me to pursue a master's degree in this field. I am thankful for the professional goals I have achieved by the grace of God, and I look forward to continuing to spread the Word of God to the world.

## **Clergy (Deacon or Presbyter) Provincial Member of Executive Council of The Episcopal Church**

*Four nominations were received*

♣ Archdeacon Walter Baer, Europe

Statement: On Executive Council my aim would be to strengthen the connections between the Episcopal Church's international jurisdictions and the domestic church. A passion of mine is for the growth and maturation of the Episcopal Church in areas outside the US, especially in places where the message of the fully inclusive Love of Jesus is not known. I continue to be very active in ecumenical, interfaith, and justice (especially LGBTQ+ and refugee) issues on local, national, and international levels. I've served as a priest in 4 dioceses, 4 provinces, 6 General Conventions and as VP of Province 2, and have engaged in mission work in the Dominican Republic and Honduras, as well as in Haiti and Cuba. In New Orleans, my parish had a large Spanish-speaking community, as well as an African immigrant ministry. Currently, in Europe, I live and work in a context where four churches of the Anglican Communion overlap. We work closely with the Old Catholic and Lutheran Churches as well. I am fully fluent in English and German and have studied French and Spanish.

Bio: The Ven. Walter Baer is the Archdeacon and transition officer at the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe. He was born in Monroe, Wisconsin, to Swiss/Austrian immigrant parents and grew up in a multi-lingual household. His spouse since 2012 is Peter Neusser. They have two grown children. Before ordained ministry, Walter worked as an environmental engineer. His ministry includes being Canon to the Ordinary in Western Louisiana. As the rector of St. Thomas Church, Monroe, LA, he was a community organizer and did mission work in Province IX. He engaged in Interfaith work, Hispanic Ministry, hurricane recovery, and community organizing while rector of Grace Church, New Orleans, LA. As chaplain and later as interim head of K-12 St. Martin's Episcopal School Metairie La. (suburban New Orleans), he led mission trips to Cuba. His work in the Convocation began in 2015 as interim of the Old Catholic Church of Austria, Vienna, Austria 2015. He became Archdeacon in 2017, a position that entails transition ministry, communication, ecumenical/interfaith, and administrative work. Walter has a B.S. in chemical engineering from the University of Wisconsin, an M.Div. from Nashotah House, and a D. Min., Columbia Theological Seminary, 2011 (Thesis with Walter Brueggemann and Kathleen O'Connor on exilic prophets and trauma studies in the context of New Orleans Hurricane Katrina victims).

♣ The Rev. Theodora Brooks, DioNY

Statement: I'm honored to offer myself as a candidate and ask for your support for Clergy Provincial Member of Executive Council. I am a multi generation Episcopalian born in Liberia, West Africa and for over 25 years I've served as Priest in Charge of St. Margaret's Church in the South Bronx. I also serve the Church on the Diocesan and National levels and I am on the Boards of Organizations that offer supportive services to those in need. If elected, it is my intention to carry the needs and advocacy of this International Province to the wider Church. Along with the members of Executive Council, I'll add my voice and use my gifts to support the programs and policies adopted by General Convention so that the ministry and mission of the Episcopal Church remains a beacon hope and healing to all people, especially victims of the many tools of exclusion.

Bio: The Rev. Theodora Brooks was born in Liberia, West Africa where she received her undergraduate degree in Theology at Cuttington University and was ordained to the Diaconate and Priesthood. She received the Masters of Divinity (M.Div.) degree from Virginia Theological

Seminary, her Masters of Sacred Theology (STM) degree from General Theological Seminary and serves as the Priest in Charge of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in the Longwood Community of the South Bronx. Rev. Brooks is the mother of two sons and believes that the Church is a gathering place for the community and sees her ministry as one where every person is welcomed, acknowledged and respected regardless of the many labels of exclusion that society uses to silence, exclude and exploit the needs of others. She strongly believes that Church is not limited to the hours of the liturgy. "Church" is what happens after the Dismissal when we are told to "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord."

♣ The Rev. Luke Fodor, DioWNY

Statement: My Bishop (Sean Rowe) prompted me to consider offering myself for service in the wider Episcopal Church and encouraged me to submit my name for Executive Council. While I have had a history serving the wider church circles, when I became the Rector at St. Luke's, Jamestown (WNY) in 2014, I focused my energy on my parish. With the arrival of a curate, I feel I can again share my passion and energy for church leadership more widely. Over the last 20 years I have served the church as a lay youth ministry in a suburban parish, worked for TEC at the Episcopal Church Center first in Young Adult ministry and then for Episcopal Relief & Development before getting ordained in 2011. Since 2011, I have served as a priest in the Dioceses of Long Island and Western New York. In addition to serving as Rector, I am also the Vicar of the summer Chapel of the Good Shepherd at Chautauqua Institution and as the Dean of the Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Denary. I am a General Convention deputy (2022 and 2024), serving a second term on the Diocesan Standing Committee and as the Co-Chair of the Joint Board of Examining Chaplains in Western New York. In church-wide circles, I served a term on the board of FORMA (2011-2014). In the 10 years of my rectorship, I have witnessed first-hand the changing nature of the church and worked to bring growth and vitality to my parish. Before COVID, I had increased our attendance by 25% (we are not quite back to our pre-pandemic numbers but are on track to return there in the next two years) and have increasing pledging by nearly 40% over this period by securing an additional 35 pledging units. I have conducted several capital campaigns for building restoration, organ repair and a new piano resulting in over \$4 million. Recently in the last three years, we have expanded the work of our parish by launching two community-based programs: 1) Grow Jamestown, which is a grant-funded Food Access Program (of \$195,000) that runs a Public & Mobile Market, a gardening program, and monthly community dinner; 2) New Neighbors Coalition, which is a grant-funded immigrant support network (funded through a \$150,000 NYS Department of State grant) that coordinates refugee resettlement, migrant support services and works to celebrate the culture of new arrivals. I believe that my life and career experiences position me well to serve the Episcopal Church on Executive Council. I have extensive board leadership experience both within and outside of the Church—including co-chairing the Jamestown Renaissance Corps, serving on the Jamestown Community College Board of Trustees (SUNY), and various municipal City Commissions. I feel God's call to offer my gifts to Executive Council.

Bio: The (Very) Rev. Luke Fodor is Rector of St. Luke's, Jamestown, Vicar at Chapel of the Good Shepherd, and the Dean of Chautauqua-Cattaraugus. He has three graduate degrees from the University of Durham in England, NYU, and Bexley Hall in Columbus, OH. In WNY, he serves on the Diocesan Standing Committee, Board of Examining Chaplains and is a twotime

General Convention deputy. In the 10 years of his rectorship, Luke has thrown himself into serving the community well beyond the walls of his church. Under his leadership, St. Luke's has taken on the operation of the Jamestown Public & Mobile Market and has started the immigration support eXort, New Neighbors Coalition, which works with asylum seekers and refugees. He has increased stewardship by 37% in his tenure and tripled the annual budget from \$425,000 to \$1.2 million. Before ordination, he worked for 8 years on the staff of the Presiding Bishop and for Episcopal Relief & Development at Episcopal Church Center in NYC.

♣ The Rev. Keith McCoy, Deacon DioNJ

Statement: Dn. McCoy has served the Diocese of New Jersey on a variety of committees, and also served as archdeacon to Bp. George Councill. He was elected and served as an alternate to General Convention three times, and has been a member of the TEC Archives Board since 2018. He has been president and co-managing director of The Fund for the Diaconate of The Episcopal Church since 2015. For over 30 years, Deacon McCoy was a public library administrator, working with boards, staff, and customers, and he currently works as a library consultant. He would bring to the Executive Council extensive experience in working with and on boards, a broad knowledge of The Episcopal Church, and a sense of spirit-based service. He lives in Edison NJ with his husband, Chef Kir Rodriguez, and occasionally with a small flock of chickens.

Bio:

W. Keith McCoy 917-526-3763

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Ordained Ministry

1985 - 1987 Deacon, Christ Church, New Brunswick NJ

1985 - 1986 Deacon, All Saints, Highland Park NJ

1987 - 2000 Deacon, Grace Church, Plainfield NJ

2001 - present Deacon, St. John's, Somerville NJ

Secular Employment

1978 - 1985 Entry level or middle management positions

East Brunswick, Plainfield

1985 - 2018 Director or Assistant Director

South Amboy, Rahway, Roselle, Somerset County

2020 - present Interim Administrator positions

Edison, LibraryLinkNJ, Hillside, Rochelle Park

Education

1976 A.B., Harvard College, Cambridge MA

1978 M.S., Drexel University, School of Library & Information Services, Philadelphia PA

1985 Theological Studies, Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey

#### Community Activities

- New Jersey Library Association: Second VP 2014 - 2017; Treasurer 2002 - 2010; Investment Sub-Committee, 2002 - 2016, 2022 - present; Chair, Public Relations Committee 1999-2001; President's Award 2007; occasional articles, New Jersey Libraries.
- Public Library Association: book reviewer and editorial referee, 2010 - 2018
- Diocese of New Jersey: Alternate Deputy to General Convention, 2006, 2015, 2018; Committee on the Diaconate, 1987 - 1990, 1994 - 2002, chair 1995 - 2002; Standing Committee on Clerical Compensation, 2018 - 2021, chair 2019 - 2021; Archdeacon 2005 - 2013; Instructor in preaching, School for Deacons, 2008 - 2014.
- Archives of The Episcopal Church, board of directors, 2018 -
- Historical Society of The Episcopal Church, member 2018 -
- Fund for the Diaconate board, 2001 - 2007, 2011 - present; president, 2015 - present
- Association of Episcopal Deacons: board of directors 2003 - 2009.

#### Publications

Over 600 book reviews for professional journals such as Library Journal, Public Libraries, Interracial Books for Children, RQ, Voice of Youth Advocates and Yankee Book Peddler. Published monographs on church and library history, and theology. Published articles on history, library science, liturgy, management, and theology in a variety of professional publications. Quarterly column (2007-2021) for Diakoneo on human relations.