

*Deputy to the
81st General
Convention*

*Clergy Deputy -
Late Nominee*



The Rev'd Vicki Burgess
Nashville

Biography

The Rev. Vicki Tucker Burgess retired from St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Nashville, where she served 2007- end of 2019. Before seminary, she was a technical writer and editor, taught writing at a community college, and served as director or board member of several non-profits serving the unhoused or victims of domestic violence. Research and editing credits in The Rev. Dr. Chris Bryan's *And God Spoke*, 2002; *Render to Caesar*, 2005; and *The Resurrection of the Messiah*, 2011.

Currently: Board of Examining Chaplains, Disciplinary Board, Diocesan Pension Fund committee. Chaired the Diocese's Deputation for the 2009, '12, '15, and '18 General Conventions. Board of Trustees for the University of the South, Sewanee. She's married to husband Tom; son Benjamin; son Nicholas and daughter-in-law, Catherine; and daughter Sally. Their backyard chickens' beautiful eggs are now worth a fortune.

Question Responses

- 1) What is your theological understanding of the office for which you are a candidate?

As a member of the House of Deputies – lay people together with priests and deacons – I see the largest gathering of Episcopalians at General Conventions to be full of potential for the ministries to which we're called to be in full expression. That is, where we are called to represent and bear witness to Christ and to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; making space for the Episcopal Church to proclaim the Gospel and to provide a large stage for the voices of those in need: that work begins within the Church at its General Convention and its creation of community necessary for an authentic proclamation of hope to the world and just rules for how we operate within our churches and missions.

2) How is your understanding of the mission of the church related to the office for which you are a candidate?

Our mission is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. And despite the “shenanigans” on full display on the floor of General Convention, where the microphones and screens and that strange phenomenon of such a large crowd providing a kind of cover for more strident voices and the less-compassionate impassioned speeches, there is an abundance of reconciling community happening at General Conventions. Particularly at any committee’s open hearings on resolutions of polarizing interest, you will see people offering heartfelt and sometimes emotional testimony about the issue... and you will find committee members carefully attending to what is said. It is the task of those committee members to take what is heard in an open hearing and then shape resolutions with what they discern the Spirit to be saying to the Church. You will find reconciling and good-news-sharing amongst the members of deputations, in casual conversations with deputations’ tables nearby (but whose geography may be the other side of the country), and certainly at the magnificent variety of worship our Church offers. God’s love is infinite, and at General Convention, if you pay attention, you will perceive just a taste of the depth and breadth and height of God’s reconciling love in the gathering of so many of God’s people.

Bishop and Council

***Lay nominee,
Southwest
Missionary
Convocation - Late
Nominee***

George Bishop
St. Paul's, Franklin

Biography

George Bishop currently serves as the Senior Warden of St. Paul's, Franklin, where he is also a lay reader and chalice bearer. George is an EfM graduate and a Stephen Minister. He has also been an adult volunteer for Mountain T.O.P. After graduating from Sewanee, George attended seminary at St. Stephen's House in Oxford, England, and earned a M.A. in Theology from the University of Oxford. George then attended law school at UT Knoxville. He is currently entering his 48th year as a practicing attorney with Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis in Nashville.

Question Responses

- 1) What is your theological understanding of the office for which you are a candidate?
- 2) How is your understanding of the mission of the church related to the office for which you are a candidate?

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The Rev'd Robert Osborne
St. Joseph of Arimathea, Hendersonville

Biography

Robert was born and raised in the state of Connecticut. He completed his undergraduate studies at Messiah College. During his time there, he was granted the opportunity to study abroad at several institutions, including: Chiang Mai University, Uganda Christian University, and the University of Oxford. His undergraduate research interests centered upon sociology, cultural anthropology, and world religions. From there, he went on to study human rights at the University of Oslo Faculty of Law. Robert felt a call to ministry after working in the field of human rights and peacemaking in Northern Nigeria. He completed a Master of Divinity at Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry in Ambridge, PA and was ordained to the priesthood in March of 2019. His interest and vocational path have ranged from working in the insurance industry, prison ministry, refugee work, interfaith dialogue, coaching competitive rock climbing, peacebuilding and human rights work in the USA and around the world.

Question Responses

- 1) What is your theological understanding of the office for which you are a candidate?

It is a part of the spiritual role of a priest to participate in the councils of the Church, of which General Convention is one. I see our participation in these councils with bishops, priests, and laity from across our church, as an act of honoring my ordination vows
- 2) How is your understanding of the mission of the church related to the office for which you are a candidate?

The mission of the Church is carried out individually and corporately. To equip and enable the Church for the latter, we need structures, councils, and discussions. General Convention is a venue for all of those. Through handling the business, decisions, and significant conversations within the Episcopal Church, General Convention helps equip church-wide groups, dioceses, parishes, and individuals for their part in the mission of the Church.