

**Nominations for positions as Wardens, Vestry and delegates to the annual diocesan conventions are listed below with their bios. If you want to add your name to this list of candidates, please contact either of the wardens or Fr. Ralph. You must submit your name prior to February 22, 2026.**

**The motion to approve the Nominating Committee's Recommendations as is, and to publish these recommendations on February 9, 2026, was approved by the Vestry on February 5<sup>th</sup>.**

As the Nominating Committee, consisting of Bill Ferry, Sandy Rauschenberg and Ann Ryba:

We recommend that Liz Gabis be elected to a second one-year term as Senior Warden beginning February 1, 2026, and that her term as Senior Warden will end at the 2027 vote for a new Senior Warden.

We recommend that Bob Hoyler be elected to a second one-year term as Junior Warden beginning February 1, 2026, and that his term as Junior Warden will end at the 2027 vote for a new Junior Warden.

We also recommend extending the terms of all existing Vestry members, by class, for an additional year beginning February 1, 2026:

- a. We recommend that Lynn Mayberry, Wes Kimes and Sam Adams-Lanham be elected for one additional year on the Vestry and that their terms will end with the 2027 vote for new Vestry members.
- b. We recommend that Craig W. Anderson and Jeff Tolle be elected for one additional year on the Vestry and that their terms will end with the 2028 vote for new Vestry members.
- c. We recommend that Cathy Koehlinger, BJ Seagrist and Pat Okonek be elected for one additional year on the Vestry and that their terms will end with the 2029 vote for new Vestry members.

We recommend that Bob Wonder be elected to a 2-year term on the Vestry. His term will begin February 1, 2026, and end with the 2028 vote for new Vestry members. Bob is replacing Paul Carrubba who resigned when he moved.

We recommend that Suzanne Fleer, Jackie Kraus and Sam Adams-Lanham be elected as delegates to the 2026 Diocesan Convention.

Bios for all the candidates are included below:

### **Bob Wonder**

Llora and I have been married for thirty years and have one son, Austin, who lives in the city. We live within a few blocks of the church and enjoy walking our Golden Retriever, Stella Blue. Llora has an undergraduate from Northwestern and MBA from Loyola, mine are from Indiana University (Go Hoosiers!) with Executive Education at Insead University, Fontainebleau, France.

We had planned to retire in Florida, but God had a different plan. While we had been practicing Catholics prior to moving to Florida, we struggled to find a church that felt right for our faith journey. That all changed in 2017 when we met the rector for the Church of the Good Shepherd, the Episcopalian church in Dunedin. After attending a few Sunday services, we were convinced this was where we belonged.

In 2020 Llora and I moved back to Barrington to care for our aging mothers and on a fall Sunday we walked into St. Michael's where we were warmly welcomed by Jeff Cross. After our experience in Dunedin, this felt like the next stop in our journey. We weren't regular attendees for the first three and half years as Llora had 7 day per week care of her Mother. When we placed Llora's Mother in a wonderful Memory Care facility in South Barrington in 2024 it opened the opportunity for us to become more active members of the parish. Llora became involved with Katy's Christmas Basket ministry, the Food Drive ministry and the church Gift Shop. I was struggling with some serious health issues at the time which kept me on the sideline, but last year at Father Ralph's suggestion I started to participate in the Friday Men's Fellowship Group. I asked Father Ralph how I could play a more active role in the parish and after following his suggestion to pray for guidance I told him I would like to inquire if there was a Vestry opening. In my career I had large public company management and board role experiences that I thought might be able to add value to the challenges the Vestry faces. I look forward to joining the group.

### **Suzanne Fleer**

Delegate to 2026 Diocesan Convention

I have worshipped at St. Michael's since 1993. My contributions to the parish have been largely in the Worship Ministries- Lay Eucharistic Minister and currently Lector. I enjoyed singing in St. Michael's Senior Choir and accompanied the 9:00 Contemporary Service at the keyboard. As a member of St. Michael's Vestry, I was exposed to the governing body of the parish as well as to the larger governing body at the 2025 Diocesan Convention.

### **Jackie Kraus**

Delegate to 2026 Diocesan Convention

Dick and I have 3 children and 6 grandchildren. We joined St. Michael's Church in 1969, and have been actively involved in the life of the church over the years.

My involvement includes serving as President of ECW, member of Outreach, coordinator of the Youth Group, graduate of Bishop Anderson House, and instrumental in founding The Covenant of Relationship Between St. Michael's and Renk Diocese, Sudan in 1998. Diocesan involvement includes serving on the Board of ECW, Chair of United Thank Offering (UTO), Diocesan Council, Standing Committee, Convention Planning Committee and founding of the Commission on Global Ministry.

**Sam Adams- Lanham** - bio included with Vestry Members  
Delegate to the 2026 Diocesan Convention

### **Bios for Nominated Wardens and Vestry members:**

#### **Liz Gabis – Senior Warden**

After serving as Junior Warden in 2024, and then as Senior Warden in 2025, I have grown tremendously and now find myself walking closer with God. I consider my term of service to be a profound blessing, having discovered so many new friends at St. Michael's and getting to know other friends better.

My children and I have been a part of St. Michael's since 2011. In addition to serving on the Vestry, I serve on Martha's Guild (the funeral ministry) and the communion bread-baking ministry. I participate in the Foyers home dinner gatherings. I also enjoy making it to the women's Bible study group when I can (which hasn't been much lately, sorry ladies), and I still hope to join our book club one day. My children grew up at St. Michael's, and it's been a joy to listen to them perform their stringed instruments over the years and share their musical gifts with the church (Austin: violin, Tyler: double bass, and Lauren: cello). Outside of St. Michael's, I am a corporate attorney, and I enjoy the peace surrounding gardening and kayaking.

It is important to provide continuity on the Vestry during the search for a new Rector, so everyone on the Vestry has agreed to extend their terms one more year, for which I am very grateful. I look forward to another great year of worshipping, learning and serving together at St. Michael's.

#### **Bob Hoyler – Junior Warden**

I have been an active member of St. Michael's since about 2005. I have enjoyed Foyers, being a lector, Lay Home Eucharistic Ministry - taking communion to folks who are homebound and preaching occasionally. Recently I have been part of the pastoral care team. I am a widower and have four adult children. I served on the Vestry at Church of Our Saviour in Lincoln Park and am honored to be considered to extend the role of Junior Warden here at St. Michael's.

#### **Craig W. Anderson**

Craig Anderson and his wife, Jill, along with their children, have been members of St. Michael's for the past eight years. Craig and Jill were confirmed into the church shortly after they began attending. Before joining St. Michael's, they were active members of St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Church in Algonquin, IL.

For the past 10 years, Craig has owned a construction and remodeling business specializing in interior renovations. After earning his degree from Illinois State University, Craig spent approximately a decade working in the banking and financial services industry. However, he eventually followed his passion for design and construction, launching his own business to help

others transform underutilized or inefficient spaces into beautiful, functional environments that enhance the lives of their families. Craig has also served on St. Michael's Stewardship Committee. Craig and Jill have two children: Nico (12) and Kat (9). Jill and the children are actively involved in St. Michael's music ministry, participating in the bell choir and the children's choir, while Jill also serves as a Sunday school teacher.

Craig is honored to be nominated to continue his term on St. Michael's Vestry and looks forward to contributing to the church's mission. He is passionate about creating a welcoming and supportive environment for both new and existing families; while helping St. Michael's to continue to be a place they can truly call home.

### **Catherine Koehlinger**

Catherine Koehlinger and her husband Greg have been members of St. Michael's for approximately 20 years. Prior to returning to St. Michael's 3 years ago, the Koehlinger's were members of St. James Cathedral, Chicago, where Cathy taught Sunday School, leading St. James Godly Play class.

Cathy's career spans over 25 years in financial services including lending, credit/collections, financial operations, and insurance services. She is currently a day trader. Cathy is a graduate of Indiana University Kelley School of Business, B.A. in Accounting & Finance. She serves the Barrington Community as an elections judge and is Treasurer/Board member of the Cotswold Manor Residence Association, South Barrington.

The Koehlinger's have one child, daughter Anne, married to Philip Pankiewicz and one grandchild, 22-month-old Weston! I am honored to be asked to continue to serve on St. Michael's Vestry. I believe strongly in the three Christ based pillars of St. Michael's: individual spirituality, St. Michael's faith community and our outreach. I see only opportunities to work with the Vestry team and our member community to accelerate a path forward, supporting our vision, that clearly has positive and exciting momentum. Thank you. Cathy Koehlinger

### **BJ Seagrist**

I began attending St. Michael's with my wife, Mary Ann in 2021. Previously, we raised our three children (now adults) and were active at St. Lawrence, Libertyville. Since arriving at St. Michael's, I have continued my passion for music and enjoy singing in the choir. When not singing in the choir, you may find me in my wood shop, garden, or in the spring, most likely at the high school track where I coach pole vaulting. I am pleased and honored to have the opportunity to continue to serve St. Michael's as a member of the vestry.

### **Pat Okonek**

My wife Marilyn and I have been part of St. Michaels since the mid-90's and now attend the 8:00 AM service. I serve on the Outreach Committee and lead the Realm data base team and serve on the Finance Committee. I recently retired from finance strategy and governance roles in technology and consulting firms and have served on environmental organization and trade association boards. I am honored to continue serving on the vestry, and I am looking forward to the opportunity to serve and support our church's ongoing operating and financial agendas. I'm excited to be part of making St. Michaels welcoming to all, especially to young people who are facing unprecedented life challenges.

In my free time I enjoy the woods and water activities, reading, and traveling.

### **Sam Adams-Lanham**

I grew up attending St. Phillip's Episcopal Church in Palatine and have been a member of St. Michael's since 1989. I was married here in 1990, and my two now-adult children were baptized

and grew up attending Sunday school and youth choir; my younger kid was the youth representative to the vestry in 2013.

In the past, I've participated in or led a number of different meaningful ministries with St. Michael's; two that really stand out for me are teaching Catechesis of the Good Shepherd to 3 – 6 year-olds and 1st – 3d graders, and going on adult/family work trips to the Wind River Indian Tribes in Wyoming and doing Hurricane Katrina clean-up in the Gulf Coast. I am currently a brand-new member of the Outreach Committee.

In 2012, I started working in Adult Services at the Barrington Area Library, completing a Master's in Library & Information Science in December 2015. Since early 2017, I have been the Community Engagement Librarian at BALibrary, working alongside and for the benefit of Barrington area nonprofit leaders. This includes facilitating a local Courageous Community cohort and discussions; creating a plethora of programs and serving on various community committees and boards.

In both my personal and professional life, I see the impact of bias on people of color, members of the LGBTQ+ community, and those of differing socioeconomic status. I am very grateful that the Episcopal Church in general, and St. Michael's, in particular, works to encourage us to see and celebrate the inherent value and dignity of all other human beings.

### **Wes Kimes**

I believe that St. Michael's is at an exciting point of renewal and growth - a place to honor our legacy of 75 years while accepting the challenge of discerning God's calling for us as a parish family. I believe we are called to do that by deeply respecting and honoring our past while discerning what it means to be St. Michael's now and in the future.

I believe that we can do that in a way that Christ would want us to do in the context of the world today - to best serve our parish, our community, our diocese and the world in which we live - and in doing so, we have the chance to make a difference, one person at a time...

We have the opportunity to work collaboratively as vestry and Rector to cultivate congregation-wide conversations about who we are and where God is calling our faith community. It means working together to discern God's mission and vision for us and supported with sound stewardship of our gifts, our property and our resources.

St. Michael's and its people are very dear to me and it is a big part of my life. I am committed to serve our parish in any way, as we live into the opportunity and the challenge to discern what it means to be a faithful and thriving parish.

Thank you.

### **Lynn Mayberry**

My name is Lynn Mayberry and my husband, and I have been attending St Michael's since August 2000.

Through my years at St Michael's, I have been a Home Eucharistic Lay Minister, a reserve volunteer for Jr. & Sr. Lift, the leader for Foyers Ministry, a member of the Outreach Committee, a member of the Renk Ministry Partnership, and most recently have joined the St. Michael's Book Club.

Prior to my retirement 3 years ago, I worked 40 years as a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) RN at Evanston Hospital. I was a bedside patient care nurse for the first half of my career. The second

half of my career I was the unit Care Coordinator. In addition, I was the chairmen of the Nutrition Committee, sat on the hospital system wide Child Protection Committee, and I was the coordinator and developer of our unit's Simulation Parent Education Program (a simulation-based training program for our families preparing to transition their medically fragile baby to home). I also was a unit Research Nurse and enjoyed the several research projects that I was involved in. Outside of my hospital-based job I was a consultant, Key Opinion Leader and a member of the Speakers Bureau for Mead Johnson Nutrition.

My husband and I love spending time at our Wisconsin vacation home, gardening, swimming, boating, birdwatching, and reading. Now that we are retired, we are enjoying spending more time doing fun adventures with our daughters, son in laws and 4 grandchildren.

I feel blessed and honored to be considered to serve on the Vestry.

### **Jeff Tolle**

Jeff Tolle and his wife Judy have been members of the St. Michael's congregation since 2000. The Tolles are dedicated 8:00 service attendees where Jeff performs the duties of Lay Eucharistic Minister. Judy is a past St. Michaels vestry member. The Tolle's have two adult children, Edward and Madeline who do not live in the Barrington area.

Residents of Barrington since 1992, Jeff is also a Barrington High school graduate class of 1978. Having left the Midwest for the east coast in the early 80's after receiving a BA at Northern Illinois University. Jeff and his family returned to the Chicago area in 1987. The sense of community and serendipity drove the return to Barrington with Jeff's family.

The great friends and clergy with whom the Tolles have been a part has made the experience one of personal and spiritual growth. Jeff and Judy have been in commercial interior furnishings sales for over thirty years. The two have covered business development in the Midwest and western United States. Jeff brings a calm, honest and thoughtful approach to his personal and business dealings. He is persistent and a doer. A right brain thinker, Jeff's hobbies include acting, drawing and playing music in a garage band.