

## Biographies of Nominees

### Ian Alexander

**Christ Church Cathedral (Greater Victoria)  
Nominated for Lay General Synod**



I am a “cradle Anglican,” and a lay canon of the Diocese of Islands and Inlets. My family roots are on the West Coast, though I spent most of my academic and professional life in Toronto (including a 25-year career with the CBC). Since moving to Victoria in 2007, I have worshipped at Christ Church Cathedral and maintained an independent consulting practice.

I have served on the Cathedral’s Council and Management Team, on Diocesan Council and Finance Committee, and on the Council of General Synod for the national church. I continue to be active as volunteer and consultant to various church bodies, including recently the Dioceses of Toronto, Huron and New Westminster.

I am currently the Prolocutor of General Synod, serving as associate and assistant to the Primate, and an *ex officio* member of all national church committees. In that capacity I will, God willing, preside at the primatial election during the meeting of General Synod in London, ON next June. It would be a privilege to also represent this diocese as a voting member of that Synod, during a time when important decisions will be taken affecting the future of our church.

**Christine Conkin**

**St George, Cadboro Bay (Greater Victoria)**

**Nominated for Clergy General Synod**



I have long been passionate about being the church now and into a changing future. We live it at St. George's, Cadboro Bay where I am Incumbent, alongside everyone across our Diocese and beyond, guided by the faith, hope and love of Christ. Before I was ordained almost 20 years ago, I served in national church ministry (1998-2001), and have continued to be connected with colleagues and friends across our broad church. Honoured to be back at General Synod in 2023, I discovered that the conversation and work of "where do we go from here?" is only becoming more urgent. I look forward to sharing my experience in different parishes, along with the collective wisdom, spirit and practice of the Diocese of Islands and Inlets and returning with learnings to share as we continue to move forward in God's mission.

**Denise Doerksen**

**Holy Trinity, North Saanich (Western Peninsula and Gulf Islands)**

**Nominated for Clergy General Synod, and Clergy Provincial Synod**



The Reverend Denise Doerksen, incumbent of Holy Trinity in North Saanich creatively leads and revives congregations to fulfill their potential wherever they are situated. Over the decades she has developed her skills and experience in helping churches re-imagine themselves by empowering lay leaders to acquire a new sense of identity and purpose.

Denise's ministry experience has also included being on the Human Resources sub-committee of diocesan council, Diocese of Qu'Appelle; a member of the Diocese of New Westminster, Ordained Ministry Group; a member of the Steering Committee of Circles of Support and Accountability, South

Saskatchewan; a Board Member of CoSA, South Saskatchewan; a Youth Outreach Priest at Central Collegiate in Moose Jaw, SK; a Godly Play program developer at several churches, (most recently at St. Thomas Anglican Church, Chilliwack, B.C.); an ELCIC Synod Delegate of Peace Lutheran Church; a Duty Chaplain for the Royal Canadian Air Force at 15 Wing Moose Jaw; and currently a part-time Chaplain at William Head Institution. Apart from her MDiv, Denise has obtained a Spiritual Direction Certificate from The Haden Institute; an Ambiguous Loss Certificate from the University of Minnesota; A Critical Stress Management Certificate from Weber University, and Intentional Interim Ministry Certificate from the IM Network.

**Kirsten Evenden**

**St. Mary, Nanoose Bay (Mid-North Island)**

**Nominated for Clergy General Synod, and Clergy Provincial Synod**



While I have only been clergy in our diocese since my ordination in 2022, I have been a member of our Synods for over 20 years and have served the diocese and mid-Island region in numerous capacities. Currently, I am Priest in Charge both at St. Mary, Nanoose Bay, and St. Anne and St. Edmund Parksville sharing the Word and God's infinite love in Oceanside and beyond.

Having attended my first synod at age 17, I have always loved being part of the conversation as we seek ways to connect and grow in a changing world. I firmly believe that the is Holy calling us forward in new ways and am excited to be part of the conversation as we discern what our future holds. I welcome the opportunity to serve our diocese as we further the work of the Anglican church within our diocese and beyond.

**Julie Foster**

**St Paul, Nanaimo (Cowichan Mid-Vancouver Island)**

**Nominated for Lay Provincial Synod**



I was born and lived in Vancouver the traditional territory of the Musquem until 1981. My husband and I moved to Port McNeill and attended St John Gualbert in Port McNeill. I worked 23 years as Corporate Services manager with Forestry and 7.5 years with the RCMP. The Church was a shared United /Anglican Church. In this Parish I was Peoples Warden, Rector's Warden, treasurer, part of Refugee committee, Outreach committee, Stewardship (different times), Worship committee. I helped in setting up the secondhand bookstore and over saw it for 10 years, and involved in many Parish activities youth programs, VBS etc.

In 2011 after both my husband and I completed EFM we felt called to Yalis (Alert Bay). After discussions with our Priest, the Archdeacon and Priest in Alert Bay and prayer we started a new journey. We were in Alert Bay until 2020 attending services at Christ Church. We were both involved in the church as Wardens (at different times). A small, rural church means one participates in all the different roles over time. In Alert Bay I led the service at the multi care hospital once a month and many times the Service when the Priest was away. After my husband Denis died, I moved to Nanaimo in 2020, attending St Paul, Anglican.

At the Parish level I am a Lay Minister, on Parish Council, Pastoral Care and PWRDF representative. and on the stewardship committee. I am a Lay Minister, /A and Lay Eucharist. I am co leader for contemplative prayer and lead a Gospel study weekly. I am a Synod Representative and Provincial Synod Representative in 2024. In the Diocese I was on Diocesan Council for one term, on program committee and Creation Care committee. I was a safe church facilitator and parish representative. At the Provincial level I was previously at Provincial Synod and on Executive Council. I am a member of the Anglican Communion Peace and Justice network. I am honored to be a member of the Order of the Diocese. I write poetry, volunteer at Literacy Nanaimo and I am an Oblate with the Sisters of Saint John Divine (hopefully Second Profession by time of Synod).

### **Helen Love**

**St. Michael & All Angels, Royal Oak (Western Peninsula and Gulf Islands)  
Nominated for Lay General Synod, and Lay Provincial Synod**



Helen Love currently serves as People's Warden at St. Michael & All Angels, Royal Oak. She has been a member of Diocesan Council (DC) for the past year, and also serves on the Operations Committee and Asset Management Committee as a lay representative from DC.

Helen is a retired Project Manager where she specialized in leading large healthcare and secondary education information technology projects. Helen is married to Ricky and has two children (Marcus &

Georgina) who are completing secondary education and starting their careers. Helen has a horse (Anika) and finds her happy space exploring the regional parks on horseback or with her new dog (Leo).

**Susan Rand**

**Holy trinity, North Saanich (Western Peninsula and Gulf Islands)**

**Nominated for Lay Secretary, Officer of Synod**



I migrated to Victoria from Edmonton 40 years ago and have attended 3 Anglican churches over the years – the Cathedral initially, St. Mary’s Metchosin after that and Holy Trinity North Saanich for the past 7 years. Over the years, I have served as Treasurer of Cathedral School, on the Cathedral finance committee, on the Board of Camp Columbia before its demise and on various community boards such as the Cridge Center for the Family and Beacon Community Services. I’m currently the Treasurer at Holy Trinity, in my third term on the Diocesan Educational Trust Board, and have served as Diocesan Lay Secretary for the past year. Semi-retired from a career in health IT consulting and with 6 children and 12 grandchildren between us, I live in North Saanich with my partner and our 2 black labs.

**Jenny Replogle**

**The Synod Office (Greater Victoria)**

**Nominated for Clergy General Synod**



While I am new to the Anglican Church of Canada, taking part of the legislative work of the church has been a part of my ministry for a long time. I served as a youth delegate to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and more recently have served as a clergy deputy (delegate) to the General Convention of The Episcopal Church. In the latter role, I have served on the legislative committees for Rules of Order and Constitution and Canons. At the last GC, I focused on enabling ecumenical partnerships and articulating the place of new liturgies in our theology.

I am passionate about this work because one of the ways that we live out our baptismal vows is through how we do things as a church in our governance and structure. I care deeply about making sure that we carefully consider our policies and processes to be sure they are consistent with our vows to respect the dignity of every person, seek and serve Christ in all people, and safeguard the integrity of creation as we live out our work as the church. I would be honored to continue this work representing our diocese at General Synod.

**Heather Robinson**

**St. Dunstan, Gordon Head (Greater Victoria)**

**Nominated for Clerical Secretary, Officer of Synod**



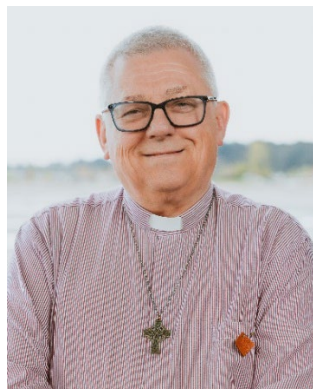
Ordained in the diocese of Huron in 2000, Heather came on the strength of the Diocese of Islands and Inlets in 2014. She was the Rector of St John the Baptist in Cobble Hill and then trained with the Interim Ministry Network; in that capacity she has served at St Philip-by-the-Sea, Lantzville and has been at St Dunstan's Gordon Head since 2022.

Heather was on the organizing committee for the diocesan conference in 2015. She has served as chaplain to St Margaret's School in Duncan and is the current ACW chaplain. She was elected to diocesan council in 2023.

**Lon Towstego**

**Parish of Central Saanich (Western Peninsula and Gulf Islands)**

**Nominated for Clergy General Synod, and Clergy Provincial Synod**





I enjoy serving the church in any capacity and am a person that enjoys meetings. I seek the presence of God and spiritual and theological meanings within a church gathering. I will be prayerful and serve to the best of my ability to any elected position.

I became part of a local church, St. James, Nanaimo and on the Parish Council. I later became a warden and served for several years until I started in Seminary. I am married to Marian, and we have multiple children, grandchildren, and a cat, Mabellina.

In 2008 I went back to school and completed a Dr. of Ministry with Luther College. My thesis project is titled, "Walking Well Together as Church and First Nation, Inuit, and Metis People. (Copies available by request)

My current appointment is as Incumbent of The Parish of Central Saanich, St. Stephen, St. Mary. Bishop Anna appointed me as Archdeacon of Western, Peninsula & Gulf Islands.

I love watching Canadian Football League games, still cheering for the Saskatchewan Roughriders.

Favourite Food: Steak, potato, and mushrooms on the BBQ

Least Favourite Food: Hmm. Canned tuna

Favourite Book: "Against the Tide- The Story of Adomnan of Iona." I love books and reading.

### **Trish Vollmann-Stock**

**St John the Baptist, Duncan (Cowichan Mid-Vancouver Island)**

**Nominated for Clergy General Synod, and Clergy Provincial Synod**



I want to offer myself to serve the Diocese of BC (Dioceses of Islands and Inlets) and the wider church in standing for election to both General Synod and Provincial Synod, and re-election of diocesan council. I'm standing because I feel called. The issues the General Synod will discuss during the next few years are significant, sometimes controversial, and will impact all of our ministries and churches.

Prayerfully, I feel I bring to the role long-term experience of attending church, parish ministry as a warden spanning over two churches, organizational skills from being the chair of the We Together Conference and a member of the Reconciliation and Beyond team, through a 38-year career in business development at Canada Post; being a postulant in the covid era and recently ordained a vocational Deacon and elected to Diocesan council. I also possess the temperament to engage in synodical discussions by listening (including reading the paperwork!), praying and thinking before

speaking; willingness to speak out, speak up and question widely held assumptions; and a desire to see the whole church flourish; and, a profound faith and prayer life through a diaconal lens.

I believe the future of the broader church is of service and reconciliation, I am a guest relations officer at my local foodbank and deal with the unchurched, unhoused and discarded members of society, I believe the church is beyond the walls and into the streets and beyond. Thank you

**Michael Wolff**

**Christ Church Cathedral (Greater Victoria)  
Nominated for Lay General Synod**



Michael Wolff is the Diocesan Registrar and a member of Christ Church Cathedral parish. In his private life, he has been married for 44 years with two adult daughters. In 2022, Michael retired after 40 years practising law in the public and private sectors.

Michael has been involved with church activities from a young age: server, chorister, and lay eucharistic minister. He has served as a parish councillor, a synod delegate and a warden for parishes in Victoria and Ottawa. Most recently, he completed 6 years as a Cathedral warden. He was a member of Diocesan Council in the 1980s and the 1990s, and currently is completing 6 years as a member of Diocesan Council and the Diocesan Finance Committee. In the National Church, he has experience as a member of General Synod.