Episcopal Diocese of Northwest Texas
2023 Nominating Committee Report

2023 Nominating Committee Report
Persons Running for Positions in the Diocese

NW TEXAS EPISCOPAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES – LAY TO 2028 – ELECT ONE

Mr. Dick Ford, St. Andrews, Amarillo
Mrs. Lysette Letz, St. Matthews, Pampa

STANDING COMMITTEE – CLERGY TO 2026– ELECT ONE

The Rev. Tammy Breitbarth, St. Andrews, Amarillo
The Rev. Amy Haynie, St. Nicholas, Midland

STANDING COMMITTEE – LAY TO 2026 – ELECT ONE

Ms. Mary Emeny, St. Andrews, Amarillo
Mr. Justin Sanders, Grace, Vernon

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL– CLERGY TO 2026 – ELECT ONE

The Rev. Dede Ballou, St. Andrews, Amarillo
The Rev. Justin Gibson, St. Stephens, Lubbock

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL – LAY TO 2026 – ELECT ONE

Mr. James Bakke, Holy Trinity, Midland Mr.
Brickland Easton, St. Stephens, Lubbock
Mrs. Mary Tinsley, Emmanuel, San Angelo

2023 Nomination Form

Nominee's Name	Dick Ford
Congregation Name and City	Amarillo
Address	PO Box 1368 Amarillo, TX, 79105
Email	dick@dickford.com
Cell Phone Number	(806) 679-7705



What position are you running for?	Northwest Texas Board of Trustees – Lay
What civic activities are you are currently involved in, or have been in the past?	Amarillo Independent School district Board of Trustees Amarillo City Planning and Zoning Commission CASA case worker Young boys Kids Inc/YMCA coach for basketball, football and baseball.
What church activities/positions are you currently involved in, or have been in the past?	Vestry JR Warden Finance committee Building committee
What activities or positions at the diocesan / provincial / national church level are you currently involved in, or have been in the past?	None
What about this elected ministry interests you? What do you hope to contribute if you are elected? Please include any gifts, talents, skills or experiences which shape the contributions you hope to make.	It would be an honor to serve the Dioceses in a leadership position. It is also a great opportunity to get to know other people in our Diocese. I also enjoy working with our Bishop as I feel he is a great leader. I believe my business abilities and experience would provide a good basis for decision making. My back ground is Real Estate investments, development and management. I also have a good finance back ground as we provide small commercial real estate loans and both capital and operating leases.
What are some things you have enjoyed doing or have an interest in doing in the diocese?	I enjoyed serving on the Executive Council. I believe serving on the Board of Trustees would provide a similar experience.
What two or three opportunities do you see facing the Church today - on the local, diocesan, or national scale? How are you currently responding or how do you hope to respond to these opportunities?	I feel that our Church provides a great spiritual experience. I believe there are a lot of people that would feel the same if they could only experience it.

2023 Nomination Form



Nominee's Name

Lysette Letz

Congregation Name and City

St. Matthew's, Pampa

Address

103 Blommaert St
Borger, TX, 79007

Email

lysetteletz@yahoo.com

Cell Phone Number

(806) 886-1208

What position are you running for?

Northwest Texas Board of Trustees – Lay

What civic activities are you are currently involved in, or have been in the past?

Upon an early retirement, I have volunteered a great deal of time primarily at the church and our day school. I have served on St. Matthew's Day School board and have been the treasurer since 2020. Daycare is a critical need in our community. I was instrumental in securing grants and managing the finances so that we were not able to just remain open, but set the school up for growth. We have built physical classrooms in order to open classes for infants and a special needs classroom.
I have also volunteered at the church which included assisting people with utilities and prescriptions. We are currently working on a project to assist people in getting Identification. Identification is important for employment, but the local food bank can only serve local individuals. ID's are needed to receive food as well.

What church activities/positions are you currently involved in, or have been in the past?

I am a Lector and have been a member of the Vestry, Sr. Warden, and this is my 11th year as the Treasurer.
I am also the video designer and videographer for Sunday services.

What activities or positions at the diocesan / provincial / national church level are you currently involved in, or have been in the past?

I have not held any positions at the Diocesan or National level.

What about this elected ministry interests you? What do you hope to contribute if you are elected? Please include any gifts, talents, skills or experiences which shape the contributions you hope to make.

The Trustees of the Diocese are instrumental in keeping the future of the church thriving. I would like to share my experience in a very active smaller church in the decision-making process. I am a Texas Tech Chemical Engineering graduate with a Rice University Certified Financial Planning certificate. As an engineer, I am a planner and frugal. I retired at the age of 40 with plans to share my talents as well as my resources. I am not a trained accountant, but I have taken online courses to further my knowledge. Spreadsheets and numbers are fun for me.

What are some things you have enjoyed doing or have an interest in doing in the diocese?

I haven't participated much in the Diocese level aside from Conventions. As a Vestry member, Day School board member, Treasurer for both, mother and grandmother, my attention has been local. My parents live south of Lubbock in Denver City, so travelling for meetings isn't an inconvenience. My husband and I do enjoy travelling a great deal. We recently went on a pilgrimage with the Catholic Sisters from Panhandle to Assisi, and we've been to Egypt and Greece in the last couple of years.

What two or three opportunities do you see facing the Church today - on the local, diocesan, or national scale? How are you currently responding or how do you hope to respond to these opportunities?

The largest opportunity I see the Church facing today is the decrease in church attendance. I believe creativity and an open mind are necessary to continue to share Christ with people. I do believe that people are searching for God, and the Church needs to be there. Change is necessary despite how uncomfortable that makes us. As a creature of habit, I, too, am challenged by stepping out to try different things. Our Vestry has began addressing ideas at a local level, but I do believe the Diocese has opportunity as well. I hope to be part of the conversation.

2023 Nomination Form



Nominee's Name	Tammy Breitbarth
Congregation Name and City	St. Andrew's Amarillo
Address	7005 ACHIEVE DR Amarillo, TX, 79119
Email	tmbreitb@suddenlink.net
Cell Phone Number	(806) 236-4140
What position are you running for?	Standing Committee – Clergy
What civic activities are you are currently involved in, or have been in the past?	This past winter I helped build raised beds at St. Peter's Episcopal Church Amarillo for their urban farm to market. In the past I have assisted in delivery of Snack Paks to Amarillo schools. This summer I assisted in handing out Snack Pak bags to families this summer. I have in the past and continue to participate in community clean-up projects.
What church activities/positions are you currently involved in, or have been in the past?	Currently a deacon assigned to St. Andrew's Amarillo, where I am involved in the following: Volunteer deacon for weekly school chapel for St. Andrew's Episcopal School Regular rotation as Deacon on Duty Serve as Sunday deacon &/or back-up deacon as assigned Create the clergy rota & communicate it to all clergy Monitor toiletries for our friends in need Attend weekly staffing of St. Andrew's church Attend monthly clergy staffing of St. Andrew's clergy
What activities or positions at the diocesan / provincial / national church level are you currently involved in, or have been in the past?	Currently on Board of Trustees for Sewanee, The University of the South Attend Diocesan Convention yearly Clergy sponsor for Canterbury retreat past 2 summers
What about this elected ministry interests you? What do you hope to contribute if you are elected? Please include any gifts, talents, skills or experiences which shape the contributions you hope to make.	I hope to be more involved on a diocesan level in order to expand my understanding of the peoples and issues of the entire diocese. This knowledge and growth will help me be a better steward and servant both at home in Amarillo and in the diocese at large. Having been an educator for 39 years, I love to work along side others to solve problems and seek solutions in a collaborative effort. Mainly, I hope to do what a deacon does--listen, learn, speak truth and serve.
What are some things you have enjoyed doing or have an interest in doing in the diocese?	As stated prior, I love to work with people, both through discussion on issues/opportunities as well as

physical/manual labor with projects such as cleaning-up, building, repairing, etc.

What two or three opportunities do you see facing the Church today - on the local, diocesan, or national scale? How are you currently responding or how do you hope to respond to these opportunities?

The main opportunities I see facing the Church today are as follows.
1.)Expand the teachings of Beloved Community beyond the clergy toward action at the parish, diocesan, and community levels.
2.) Continue to take active service beyond the building walls into our communities at large.
3.) Speak and act on the truth of Love & inclusion, taking it into our world which seems to be more divided each day.
4.) Find ways to assist in the small outlying parishes and missions who do not have full-time clergy.

2023 Nomination Form



Nominee's Name	Amy Haynie
Congregation Name and City	Saint Nicholas, Midland
Address	5501 Heartland Court Midland, TX, 79707
Email	rector@stnicksmt.org
Cell Phone Number	(214) 695-2627
What position are you running for?	Standing Committee – Clergy
What civic activities are you are currently involved in, or have been in the past?	When I had school-aged children, I was heavily involved in PTA and the booster clubs of my children's activities. I usually organized some large event, or was the secretary of those clubs.
What church activities/positions are you currently involved in, or have been in the past?	I am the rector of Saint Nicholas' in Midland and still in my first year, learning the ropes. I am also a member-at-large of the Daughters of the King.
What activities or positions at the diocesan / provincial / national church level are you currently involved in, or have been in the past?	Diocesan level: I have been a member of the Standing Committee of Fort Worth, and President for one year. I worked on diocesan staff of Fort Worth. Provincial: I have taken groups of teens to Episcopal Youth Event from my own diocese and also from other dioceses in the province as a provincial project. National: I have been a diocesan clergy deputy or alternate for the last four General conventions. I am a current Trustee on the Church Pension Group board.
What about this elected ministry interests you? What do you hope to contribute if you are elected? Please include any gifts, talents, skills or experiences which shape the contributions you hope to make.	All of my experiences as a priest have been in the diocese of Fort Worth. I am curious and eager to see how other dioceses operate and govern. I am highly organized and can bring order to any project, group, or mess. I find great pleasure in moving a task forward after prayer and discernment.
What are some things you have enjoyed doing or have an interest in doing in the diocese?	I have greatly enjoyed the Fresh Start and the Presbyter's Conference of the diocese. Those have allowed me to get to know my clergy colleagues. I look forward to getting to know my lay colleagues from other congregations. Since the diocese of Ft Worth and Northwest Texas have been connected through the bishop for a number of years, I know some of the lay leadership, and I look forward to meeting others.

What two or three opportunities do you see facing the Church today - on the local, diocesan, or national scale? How are you currently responding or how do you hope to respond to these opportunities?

In this time and place where white Christian nationalism seems to get all of the attention, I am looking for ways to make space for those of us who are not that. We have a great opportunity to be healers of those hurt by that theology. How to remain relevant to those who have gone away from Christianity or been pushed out of Christianity is the task I suspect will occupy the rest of my time on this earth as a priest.

2023 Nomination Form



Nominee's Name	Mary Emeny
Congregation Name and City	St. Andrews, Amarillo
Address	PO Box 148 Bushland, TX, 79012
Email	maryemeny@gmail.com
Cell Phone Number	(806) 433-4585
What position are you running for?	Standing Committee – Lay
What civic activities are you are currently involved in, or have been in the past?	Founding board member of Habitat for Humanity, San Antonio and Amarillo HFH affiliates. Founding member of The Democracy Collaborative. Locally, founded Wildcat Bluff Nature Center, currently serving on boards of Amarillo Area Foundation, United Way, Don Harrington Discovery Center, High Plains Public Radio
What church activities/positions are you currently involved in, or have been in the past?	Twice served on vestry; two years Jr. Warden and once a discernment committee chair. Currently serve as Eucharistic minister and visitor; usher, lay reader, accolyte, bell choir member,
What activities or positions at the diocesan / provincial / national church level are you currently involved in, or have been in the past?	Delegate to the National Convention 2022 and 2024 One term on the Standing Committee Diocesan convention speaker 2021 - follow up for about a year with an online group around creation care. I work locally with the garden ministry at St. Peter's. Spoke to Diocese of Texas Clergy Conference - Nov. 2022 Scheduled to speak at Seminary of the Southwest, Jan. 2024
What about this elected ministry interests you? What do you hope to contribute if you are elected? Please include any gifts, talents, skills or experiences which shape the contributions you hope to make.	All of the above as shaped both my understanding of how organizations work most effectively and my understanding of God works through everything we do to manifest His kingdom on this planet, our home. All I can share effectively is what my experience has taught me and what my heart calls forward.
What are some things you have enjoyed doing or have an interest in doing in the diocese?	I have enjoyed all of the above. Each has deepened my understanding and appreciation of the church and has offered me the opportunity for some wonderful friendships. I would like to see all our young people have the opportunity to experience a culture other than ours (preferably in another country or a vastly different area of this country) as it is critical for future leaders to experience perspectives other than those they have grown up with.

What two or three opportunities do you see facing the Church today - on the local, diocesan, or national scale? How are you currently responding or how do you hope to respond to these opportunities?

I am delighted with the leadership our Church is providing in our openness to everyone, inclusion at all levels of decision making and in our thoughtful discernment and work to address racism and our very mixed history around race and Indian schools.

I do hope we can find ways to provide better support for tiny outposts and small congregations and I hope we can look at what financial divestments or shifts would bring us more in line with the gospel and our global climate crisis....a tough one in our diocese, which relies so heavily on oil and gas money.

2023 Nomination Form



Nominee's Name	Justin Sanders
Congregation Name and City	Grace Vernon
Address	2424 Nabers Street Vernon, TX, 76384
Email	justinsanders1976@gmail.com
Cell Phone Number	(940) 886-6950
What position are you running for?	Standing Committee – Lay
What civic activities are you are currently involved in, or have been in the past?	Member of Masonic Lodge, past board president of North Central Texas AHEC, nurse at NWT Diocese Camp Quarterman. Past state VP of Texas Administrators of Continuing Education
What church activities/positions are you currently involved in, or have been in the past?	Junior and Senior Warden
What activities or positions at the diocesan / provincial / national church level are you currently involved in, or have been in the past?	Disaster Relief Coordinator (past)
What about this elected ministry interests you? What do you hope to contribute if you are elected? Please include any gifts, talents, skills or experiences which shape the contributions you hope to make.	I feel like I can bring a voice for the mission churches in the diocese. I also work with the youth every summer so I can bring insight into how they are feeling about the church. I have spent my career in medicine and education. I feel service to the organizations one belongs to helps the organizations grow.
What are some things you have enjoyed doing or have an interest in doing in the diocese?	I love working the summer camp every summer. It is so refreshing to work with the youth and see their love of Christ. I am ready serve in any way the diocese needs.
What two or three opportunities do you see facing the Church today - on the local, diocesan, or national scale? How are you currently responding or how do you hope to respond to these opportunities?	I feel we may be missing out on servicing our LGBTQ community in the mission churches. The members of this community, especially in rural areas need a place they can worship freely without judgement. I feel we can do a better job of going where they are and showing them all religions do not feel the same. We at Grace Vernon have helped work our local Pride event as well as beginning to reach out to members of the LGBTQ community to let them know we have a place for them. The key to any organization like ours is to get the youth involved and get them to be prepared to lead for the future. I

who are in need of hearing about God's love and share what we have to offer, both in spiritual and tangible resources, And if we are blessed by their presence on a Sunday or another day, make them feel as welcome as possible. I try to help in this area by being on the Newcomers Committee and participating in Newcomers' luncheons.

At our last National Convention, there was a lot of talk about the Episcopal Church's part in the slave trade and the Indian Boarding Schools. I was awed by the honesty and courage shown by our leadership and lay people as we faced together this painful past. I feel to be what God truly wants us to be, we must continue the work done at Convention by supporting reparations to the families of those wronged. For my part I'll support whatever actions the National church and encourage others to do so.

2023 Nomination Form



Nominee's Name	Dede Schuler Ballou
Congregation Name and City	St. Andrew's, Amarillo
Address	5805 Nicholas Circle Amarillo, TX, 79109
Email	dedesballou@gmail.com
Cell Phone Number	(806) 220-5151
What position are you running for?	Executive Council – Clergy
What civic activities are you are currently involved in, or have been in the past?	Volunteered as a grief group leader at Heal the City Free Health Clinic, board member of Haven Health Clinic, Treasurer of Planned Parenthood of Amarillo and the Texas Panhandle, AISD volunteer math tutor, Amarillo Little Theater volunteer for set design, volunteer chaplain at BSA Hospital, Junior League of Amarillo, grief recovery facilitator for a local non-denominational church, member of Pi Beta Phi Alumnae Association.
What church activities/positions are you currently involved in, or have been in the past?	I was ordained Deacon in 2006 and am currently assigned to St. Andrew's, Amarillo. In that capacity, I serve at the altar at a variety of services, proclaim the Gospel, preach and teach when requested, provide pastoral care, officiate at weddings and funerals under the direction of my Rector. I also serve on a Breakfast Team that serves a hot breakfast between Sunday services, and on the Stream Team that live-streams Sunday services on FaceBook and YouTube. Previously as a lay person, I served on the vestry, finance committee, and outreach committee, as well as lay reader, Eucharistic Minister and Eucharistic Visitor.
What activities or positions at the diocesan / provincial / national church level are you currently involved in, or have been in the past?	I have previously served as a clergy member of the Standing Committee and twice served as a clergy member of the Executive Council. I also served on the Board of the Bishop Quarterman Conference Center.
What about this elected ministry interests you? What do you hope to contribute if you are elected? Please include any gifts, talents, skills or experiences which shape the contributions you hope to make.	I have previous experience serving on Executive Council and believe that with my 30+ years as an accounting and finance professional, I bring relevant background to address the financial affairs of the diocese and provide good stewardship of diocesan resources. I also bring a Diaconal voice to the Council's work, having one foot in the church and the other in the world.
What are some things you have enjoyed doing or have an interest in doing in the diocese?	I enjoy the collegiality of all the diocesan committees I have worked on and appreciate participating in the larger church community and would welcome the opportunity to serve

2023 Nomination Form



Nominee's Name	Justin Gibson
Congregation Name and City	St. Stephen's, Lubbock
Address	7023 Winston Ave. Lubbock, Tx, 79424
Email	jgibson@ststephens-lubbock.org
Cell Phone Number	(806) 441-5789
What position are you running for?	Executive Council – Clergy
What civic activities are you are currently involved in, or have been in the past?	I am currently involved with two organizations. One organization is a community organizing group called West Texas Organizing Strategy (WTOS). I am also involved with the South Plains Homeless Consortium. Both of these groups are devoted to alleviating the strains of poverty in the Lubbock community.
What church activities/positions are you currently involved in, or have been in the past?	I am currently serving as the rector of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Lubbock, Tx.
What activities or positions at the diocesan / provincial / national church level are you currently involved in, or have been in the past?	I have served on the Standing Committee in the Diocese of the Rio Grande and have served on the board of the Province VII Anti-Racism Network.
What about this elected ministry interests you? What do you hope to contribute if you are elected? Please include any gifts, talents, skills or experiences which shape the contributions you hope to make.	I am interested in serving and sharing in the life of the diocese. We have a diocese that has been stewarded well and cared for deeply and I would like to continue in that work. As far as gifts and talents that I might possess, I hope to bring a discerning and open mind to the decisions that will be made on the Executive Council.
What are some things you have enjoyed doing or have an interest in doing in the diocese?	I have enjoyed helping with the collaborative youth group in Lubbock and our shared VBS. I am interested in in serving on a diocesan committee and I hope that this will be an opportunity to get to know the diocese better and deepen relationships.
What two or three opportunities do you see facing the Church today - on the local, diocesan, or national scale? How are you currently responding or how do you hope to respond to these opportunities?	I see many opportunities for expanding the mission of the church. There are opportunities for creation care ministries, social justice, and spiritual formation. It is my hope that we can get energized and engaged in the community.

2023 Nomination Form



Nominee's Name	James Bakke
Congregation Name and City	Holy Trinity, Midland
Address	1613 W Pecan Ave Midland, TX, 79705
Email	bakke50@gmail.com
Cell Phone Number	(432) 889-7839
What position are you running for?	Executive Council - Lay
What civic activities are you are currently involved in, or have been in the past?	Habitat for Humanities Christmas in April Jubilee Center Blessing of the Badges Meals on Wheels Keep Midland Beautiful 3-11 Ministries
What church activities/positions are you currently involved in, or have been in the past?	Financial Committee Trust Fund (Committee to designate funding for non-profits) Vestry Senior Warden Pastoral Care Usher Foyer Group Wednesday Morning Men's Breakfast
What activities or positions at the diocesan / provincial / national church level are you currently involved in, or have been in the past?	Elected Delegate
What about this elected ministry interests you? What do you hope to contribute if you are elected? Please include any gifts, talents, skills or experiences which shape the contributions you hope to make.	I hope my contribution would be my ability to successfully listen and properly discern the actual needs of the people of this wonderful diocese. We have small, medium, and large churches and all are important and need to be heard and represented. The empathy I feel for our fellow members as a lay person will help in working with clergy for this Executive Council. Since I have been on the Financial Committee and Senior Warden of our church, this will greatly help in making me an exceptional candidate for this position.
What are some things you have enjoyed doing or have an interest in doing in the diocese?	I have enjoyed being a delegate for three conventions. We have a very diverse group of people, and all have a joy of service to Christ in their hearts. This is a wonderful place to learn how to serve Christ. I so much look forward to learning how to work as a lay person for the Executive Council.

What two or three opportunities do you see facing the Church today - on the local, diocesan, or national scale? How are you currently responding or how do you hope to respond to these opportunities?

I think one very important opportunity we face today is seeing through all the negative around us to embrace and spread the idea, "If it is not about love, it is not about God!" In all that we do and say, we must serve all people because dear God and Jesus Christ love all of us, not just the ones we like.
Another is the changing habits and demographics of our churches. We are getting older and the number of younger members coming to our church is changing. This is something that is facing us today and we need to find a way to resolve this issue.

2023 Nomination Form



Nominee's Name	Brickland Easton
Congregation Name and City	St. Stephen's Lubbock
Address	4907 14th St. Lubbock, TX, 79416
Email	bricklande@gmail.com
Cell Phone Number	(806) 831-7030
What position are you running for?	Executive Council - Lay
What civic activities are you are currently involved in, or have been in the past?	Former President of the Lubbock Chorale Board, Supporter of the 30 Minute Club at University Medical Center, Meals on Wheels Volunteer
What church activities/positions are you currently involved in, or have been in the past?	Standing Committee, Executive Council, former Vestry member
What activities or positions at the diocesan / provincial / national church level are you currently involved in, or have been in the past?	Standing Committee (2020-2023), Executive Council (2017-2020), Delegate to Convention for 12 years
What about this elected ministry interests you? What do you hope to contribute if you are elected? Please include any gifts, talents, skills or experiences which shape the contributions you hope to make.	I was born and raised in the Episcopal church. Baptized on Holy Saturday, confirmed at the age of 14, and sent to my first convention at the age of 16. Serving on Executive Committee would allow me to continue to offer everything I can to aid in the functionality of the Diocese of Northwest Texas. I hope to not only provide a voice for this diocese, but to also form a greater understanding of the way God works in making us truly Episcopalian. If elected, I hope I can bring another youthful voice to the Executive Council.
What are some things you have enjoyed doing or have an interest in doing in the diocese?	The people of Northwest Texas are like none other. Being born and raised in this diocese, many of you have watched me grow up. Many of you have taught me what it means to be an Episcopalian, and the value of my church family. It has been an honor to work with all of you during my time in diocese endeavors, most recently on Standing Committee. I hope you will trust me to continue to work alongside you in my capacity on Executive Council. I have enjoyed getting to know you, and I hope we can continue to work together for this diocese in the years to come.
What two or three opportunities do you see facing the Church today - on the local, diocesan, or national scale? How are you currently responding or how do you hope to respond to these opportunities?	The Church continues to struggle. As we move out of the pandemic and into a new era of worship, we struggle with connecting with what we once were. I think that, as the

2023 Nomination Form



Nominee's Name	Mary Tinsley
Congregation Name and City	San Angelo
Address	3301 Cornell Ave San Angelo, TX, 76904
Email	marytins@hotmail.com
Cell Phone Number	(325) 234-2341
What position are you running for?	Executive Council - Lay
What civic activities are you are currently involved in, or have been in the past?	I am currently a volunteer for CASA representing children in foster care. In the past I have been a volunteer victim's advocate and board member for Assault Victim Services (now known as Rape Crisis Center). I've also been on the board of Goodwill Industries.
What church activities/positions are you currently involved in, or have been in the past?	I have been a vestry member. I am a Lay Eucharistic Minister. I serve on the Altar Guild and the Newcomer's Committee. I'm also a coordinator for our "First Monday Burgers and Bingo" which provides a night out and dinner for folks who live in group homes. I help prepare and distribute meals for Emmanuel's part in Kids Eat Free and our local soup kitchen.
What activities or positions at the diocesan / provincial / national church level are you currently involved in, or have been in the past?	I'm currently serving on the Commission on Ministry for the diosese. I was a Deputy for the 80th and 81st General Conventions.
What about this elected ministry interests you? What do you hope to contribute if you are elected? Please include any gifts, talents, skills or experiences which shape the contributions you hope to make.	I am fascinated by the way a Diocese of our size functions. The more involved I can be in the committees of the Diocese, the closer I feel to my fellow NWT brothers and sisters and better understand the way our diocese works. I have served on several secular and non-secular administrative committees, I am well aware of the importance of sticking to an agenda, following agreed upon format while at the same time truly hearing what fellow members have to say.
What are some things you have enjoyed doing or have an interest in doing in the diocese?	I'm a convention "geek", so I truly enjoy the part family reunion, part business aspects of our diocesan conventions. Also, it's been a real blessing to be a member of the Commission on Ministry. It's inspiring to visit with inquirers and hear their stories.
What two or three opportunities do you see facing the Church today - on the local, diocesan, or national scale? How are you currently responding or how do you hope to respond to these opportunities?	Our dwindling numbers on the local, diocesan and national stages is an opportunity to rethink how we present ourselves to our communities. I'd like to see us go to folks

again. At some point, I would love the opportunity to attend General Convention to represent the Diocese of Northwest Texas.

What two or three opportunities do you see facing the Church today - on the local, diocesan, or national scale? How are you currently responding or how do you hope to respond to these opportunities?

As a Deacon, I believe the Church is called to be inclusive and welcoming to those beyond the walls of the Church, especially the marginalized and unchurched, and that all of us are called to meet the needs, hopes, and concerns of our Brothers and Sisters in Christ. I think our greatest challenge is to be creative in how we "do" ministry in ways never considered before. I strive to share the love of Christ with not only those who come through the doors of the church, but beyond in the wider community.