

Mr. Scott Avedisian- Deputy to General Convention

Scott Avedisian, Chief Executive Officer of the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority, was born in Warwick and educated in the public schools of Warwick and Washington, DC. He was graduated from Providence College, received his master's in public administration from Roger Williams University. Prior to heading up RIPTA, Scott was Mayor of the City of Warwick for 18 years and a member of the Warwick City Council for nine years.

A lifelong Episcopalian, Scott served for three years as the President of The Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island. He served for a year as a member before becoming President. In this position, he helped lead the Diocese during the election of Bishop W. Nicholas Knisely. He currently serves as a member of the Cathedral Chapter. Avedisian has also served as the Chancellor of the Diocese and as the Parliamentarian of Diocesan Convention. He previously was appointed by Bishop Geralyn Wolf to Diocesan Council. He has also served as a Judge on the Ecclesiastical Trial Court and a member of the Committee on Resolutions. He has been a delegate to Diocesan Convention for more than a decade.

Avedisian was elected as a Deputy to the 2015 and 2018 General Conventions and was appointed as a first-time Deputy to the Dispatch of Business Committee. A lifelong member of Trinity Episcopal Church in Pawtuxet Village, Avedisian also served two different stints on the vestry at Trinity – for a total of 12 years. He also served as Senior Warden for an additional three years.

The Rev. Sunil Chandy- Commission on Congregational Development Deputy to General Convention

Fr. Sunil Chandy is Rector of Christ Church Westerly, an active, creative, multi-staff, program church. In our diocese he served as Deputy to General Convention, Program and Budget, Project Resource and is active in the Narragansett Deanery. Before Rhode Island, he served two dioceses (Newark and NJ) He served as President of Standing Committee, Commission on Ministry and Congregational Development and as Deputy to General Convention.

He loves his vocation and is especially fond of evangelism. Sunil is a recent "empty nester." Although he enjoys binge watching TV shows, he craves work that is important and meaningful! He seeks to serve on the Commission on Congregational Development and as a deputy to General Convention.

Ms. Laura E. Clark- Deputy to General Convention

Since my baptism at St. Matthew's, Jamestown, I have served as a church schoolteacher, confirmation class mentor, vestry member and currently as a thrift shop volunteer and choir member. Outside of St. Matthew's, my main connection to the Diocese is through the Episcopal Conference Center (ECC). I co-led a parenting conference last fall and am a visiting staff member in the summer. As an ECC committee member, I was involved in the recent Rise Together 70th anniversary celebration.

In my "day job" as a licensed mental health counselor at Thompson Middle School in Newport, I have to opportunity to positively impact students as well as the honor of holding their pain when life gets complicated. This fills me daily with gratitude.

Ms. Deborah Collins-Commission on Congregational Development

After moving to Rhode Island from Virginia in 1997 to take a position at Brown University, Deborah became a member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, East Greenwich. At Brown, Deborah was Director of Research and Evaluation for the Northeast Regional Education Laboratory and, later, Associate Director of the Leadership Alliance. Her educational research career largely focused on issues of equity and diversity. St. Luke's became a constant, loving source of community to her and helped balance and inform both her faith and intellectual development. Serving on the vestry, singing in the choir, and participating in the worship and service of St. Luke's were primary activities for Deborah until her retirement from Brown. At that time, seeking to expand the church's reach into the community, she took on leadership of St. Luke's newcomer program and collaborations with local community organizations. This later led to a one-year term with the Diocesan Commission on Congregational Development, where she has enjoyed learning about the Diocese and its work.

The Rev. Greta Getlein Commission on Finance

I am the vicar at St. Paul's, Pawtucket. I've been in this diocese now for 5 years and have really enjoyed taking my part "in the councils of the church" by serving on the Standing Committee for four years (one as Secretary, this year as President), and serving as the liturgical coordinator for diocesan liturgies for three years. In most of my jobs over the years in restaurants, hospitals, hospices, home care, and church, I have sought to know as much as I can about as much as I can. For example, once hired to wait tables in a restaurant, I chose also to learn to cook on the line, to prep, to bartend, and to keep the books. So now, as I rotate off the Standing Committee, I'm choosing to learn about how the budget is made – how are the decisions considered and made, how are priorities considered and set, etc. At St. Paul's I have focused a great deal on our financial accounts and our budgeting process. I would now like to broaden my work to the diocesan level and to learn some new things on the way.

The Rev. Patrick Greene- Deputy to General Convention

I am a thirty-five-year-old priest born and raised in Rhode Island. I currently live in Barrington, RI with my wife Carmen, our children Jackson and Hazel, and our dog Tucker. I graduated Summa Cum Laude with a B.A. in Philosophy from the University of Rhode Island in 2006 and from Virginia Theological Seminary with my M.Div. in 2010. I was ordained to the diaconate in May of 2010 and to the priesthood in December of 2010. I served as the Assistant to the Rector at St. Paul's Wickford, RI from 2010 to 2014. From 2014 through 2018 I served as the Priest-in-Charge and then Rector of Saints Matthew & Mark in Barrington, RI. In November of 2018, I began serving as the Rector of St. John's in Barrington. In our diocese I have served on the leadership team for Happening, as the Dean of the Narragansett Deanery, as a member of Diocesan Council, as a Deputy to General Convention in 2015, as the Chair of our Deputation to General Convention in 2018, and as a member and president of the Standing Committee.

**The Venerable Janice L. Grinnell- Deputy to General Convention
Delegate to Provincial Synod**

Jan Grinnell is Archdeacon and has been ordained Deacon for 28 years, and has served liturgically at St. Michael's, Bristol; Trinity Church in Newport; St. Paul's, Wickford; and St. Augustine's at URI, where she was Chaplain to the campus. She is one of the formation directors for the Province I School for Deacons. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Association for Episcopal Deacons (AED), is a founding member and Board member of the Center for Reconciliation, and a Board member of Trinity Village (a new addiction recovery house for women and children in Portsmouth, RI). She has served as the Province 1 Synod deputy since 2013 and served on the Commission on Ministry. She had been a clergy deputy to General Convention (GC) twice in 2015 and 2018; and, served on the 2015 GC Drug and Alcohol and the 2018 Racial Reconciliation Legislative Committees. Another one of Jan's contributions to the Diocese was facilitating the Yes³! Curriculum to help participants identify and embrace their God given purpose. Jan's secular employment over the years has focused on IT consulting. She has worked for several large companies and has owned her own certified Woman Owned Enterprise (WBE), Grinnell Appreciative Consulting, LLC for eleven years. Jan is married to Ann Hamm and they have four married children and three grandchildren.

The Rev. Elizabeth Habecker- Standing Committee

A proud native of New Jersey, I was born and raised in Montclair, New Jersey. My University days were spent in Ohio where I lived for some time and taught high school English. When I made the decision to seek to serve the Episcopal Church as an ordained minister, it was at the beginning of the new opportunity for women to be ordained to the priesthood. In 1977 I was among the first women to be ordained, which was at the Cathedral in Portland, Maine. I have lead congregations in Maine, New Jersey, and California.

I have served as a member of the Standing Committee in Los Angeles, as well as a member of the Commission on Ministry and a Deputy to General Convention. In The Diocese of Rhode Island I have served as Priest-in-Charge of Christ Church, Lincoln for two years, and as Interim Priest-in-Charge at St. Michaels, Bristol for three years. I am currently Interim Priest-in-Charge at St. Thomas in Greenville. For Three years I served on the Commission for Congregational Development with one year as Chairperson.

My three children live in various parts of the country: Sarah and her family live in Arizona, Bill lives in Los Angeles, and Katie lives in Yarmouth, Maine. I am thrilled to be grandmother of 6, and a great grandmother of three.

After serving the church in the Diocese of Los Angeles for over 20 years, I retired in 2013, and moved back to the East coast. I am happily a resident of Bristol, RI, and am very pleased to be serving in the Diocese of Rhode Island.

Mr. Richard S. ‘Scott’ Hovanec- Diocesan Council

Scott Hovanec is a retired Navy Chief, currently working in the War Gaming Department of the Naval War College in Newport, RI. He is responsible for leading the technical staff maintaining multiple computer networks of differing classification levels; managing a \$1.5 Million annual Life Cycle Management program for over \$6 Million in hardware inventory; and providing project management for system and facilities installations and upgrades. He also sits on the Board of the Academy of Information Technology at Rogers High School in Newport. Holy Cross in Middletown has been his spiritual home since 2005, where he serves as Senior Warden. He is the Lay Dean of the Aquidneck Island Deanery and sits on the Diocesan Council. Scott has been married to his lovely bride Sandy for 33 years, and they have three beautiful daughters. He spends his free time keeping his two rescue German Shepherds (Marlow and Sierra) out of trouble, sharpening his photography skills, building Lego sets, and he enjoys reading fantasy adventure, science fiction, and military history.

The Rev. Nathan Humphrey- Deputy to General Convention

I am the rector of St. John’s, Newport. I have served on Diocesan Council since 2013, and as its vice president since 2016. In 2018 I was honored to serve as a clerical deputy to General Convention in Austin, and I would be humbled to be elected to General Convention 2021 in Baltimore, the city where I was ordained in 2001. Following convention, I was appointed by House of Deputies President Gay Clark Jennings and Presiding Bishop Michael Curry to the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget & Finance. In Austin, I was the only member of the Rhode Island deputation to remain on the floor for every session, and I worked tirelessly to bring people together for common mission. The best way to decide whether to vote for me is to ask the other deputies what they thought of my service in Austin. They are all wonderful, trustworthy people.

Ms. Lora MacFall- Deputy to General Convention

Lora is a member of St. Andrew’s by-the-Sea, Little Compton. She is currently Senior Warden, delegate to Convention and past chair of the Parish Life, member of the Finance, Outreach, 1914 and Search committees, Junior Warden, and Treasurer. As past Senior Warden, she facilitated the move from Mission to Parish status.

Diocesan involvement: Lora is past Chair of the Standing Committee, member of Bridgebuilders, chaired the Search & Nominations and Transitions Committees for Bishop Knisely, received the first Bishop’s “Anchor of Hope” award, delegate to General Convention 2018. She is presently the Bishop’s Warden to the Chapter for the Cathedral of St. John and member of the Strategic Planning Committee for the Cathedral.

Lora has also been involved in various community services. For 28 years she was a retail business co-owner. Prior to that, she was a cartographic editor for the Hammond Map Co. She is now retired, enjoying her children, grandchildren, and travelling with her husband.

The Rev. Alvin Marcetti- Diocesan Council

Father Al trained at Cranmer Hall, University of Durham and was ordained in the Church of England. He has been canonically resident in the Diocese of Rhode Island for the past five years. He is the Vicar of Christ Church, Lonsdale in Lincoln, RI. Currently he serves on the diocesan disciplinary committee and on the board of directors of Saint Mary's Home for Children. He served as priest-in-charge at St. Mary's, East Providence for five years before taking up his current position. Prior to that he was an assistant priest at St. Augustine's in Tempe, AZ. Fr. Al is married, has a 14-year-old granddaughter, and a cocker spaniel- all of which keep him challenged and busy. His pastimes are cooking, entertaining, reading Proust and other long, engrossing novels. His current theology hero is the former Bishop of Durham, N.T Wright.

Mr. David C. Olsen- Standing Committee

My name is David C. Olsen and I have been a lifelong Episcopalian on a spiritual path that has guided me to Grace Church, Providence. I currently serve as the Junior Warden at Grace Church and I was previously the President of the Board for the Grace Church Apartments which have since been sold. Although now retired, I was the city treasurer in Warwick for many years. During my tenure, I served on the executive board of the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. This group provided government finance officers with information on the best financial practices and sound investment strategies. My history runs deep within the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island. My father was the Rev. Howard C. Olsen who was the rector of St. Barnabas, Warwick for 35 years and he also served on the diocesan Standing Committee. My grandfather was Roy W. Howard who was the first headmaster of St. Dunstan's School. I look forward to the opportunity of serving on the Standing Committee.

Mr. Dave Seifert- Deputy to General Convention

Dave Seifert, an elected 2018 General Convention deputy, is a member and former senior warden at Grace Church, Providence. He currently consults on strategic communication for the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island, editing RISEN magazine and writing for the diocesan e-newsletter. Through his business, Seifert Communication, he works with clergy and lay leaders to help them create more vital church communities. Dave is a former missionary for transitions in the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas and has coordinated communication strategy and implementation for bishop search processes in Kansas and Rhode Island. He held strategic corporate communication leadership positions with Hallmark Cards and Sprint for 20+ years before launching his business in 2006. He has more than 30 years of lay ministry experience in the Episcopal Church. He is married to the Rev. Lavonne Seifert.

The Rev. Beth Sherman- Deputy to General Convention

The Rev. Beth Sherman is Vicar of St. Augustine's Church in Kingston, and St. Augustine's Chaplain to the University of Rhode Island. She returned to the diocese in July of 2018 after serving for seven years as Rector of St. Francis' San Francisco. She is currently a member of the diocesan Creation Care Task Force. In her earlier life in Rhode Island, she was on Standing Committee, the Congregational Development Committee, and the Advisory Board to ECC. She has recently become a part of the Mindfulness group at URI, which is committed to making mindfulness meditation available to students, faculty and staff. She and her parishioners are working to make their beautiful acre of land, which includes a labyrinth, more accessible to the URI community, as well as having it mirror the parish's commitment to sustainability.

Ms. Olive Swinski - Deputy to General Convention & Delegate to Provincial Synod

Hi, my name is Olive Swinski, and I am a parishioner at Church of the Redeemer in Providence. At my church, I am the Convener of the Flower Guild and a new choir recruit. On the diocesan level, I am a member of the Congregational Development Commission and Diocesan Council. In addition to my current involvement in the church, I am a Clinician/ Social Worker for Community Care Alliance in Woonsocket for their Healthy Transitions team, which specializes in mental health services for 16-25-year olds. Highlights from my past include being an Episcopal Service Corps participant at the Deaconess Anne House in Saint Louis, Missouri; and RSCM participant in Newport and in New York City. I feel as though the Episcopal Church is at a turning point, and my hope is that my younger perspective will help to re-imagine the Episcopal Church at the national level.

The Rev. Dante Tavolaro- Deputy to General Convention

My name is Dante Tavolaro and I am the Assistant Rector of St. Luke's, East Greenwich and the Chaplain at Rhode Island College. I have a passion and enthusiasm for church governance on both the local and national level. I serve on the diocesan resolutions committee, and have previously served on Diocesan Council, the Jonathan Daniels House board, deputy to General Convention (2009, 2012, 2015), and the Joint Nominating Committee for the Election of the Presiding Bishop (2012-2015). In my free time I can be found reading at local coffee shops, baking bread, or cooking meals with friends.

The Rev. Joyce Thorne- Diocesan Council

I am a cradle born Episcopalian who became an ordained vocational deacon May 22, 2010 and retired as an active deacon this year on the day of my ordination. I live in Pawtucket and attend Church of the Redeemer, Providence. I am the mother of a retired Air Force Tech Sargent and have two granddaughters. I served as an active deacon in four parishes, Christ Church, Lincoln, St. Luke's, Pawtucket, St. Mark's, Warwick and St. Paul's, Pawtucket.

I served on the Finance Committee for three years and served as a bookkeeper for four years at Emmanuel Church, Cumberland and for several other churches for a year. I now serve as Emmanuel's parish secretary. Most of my adult life, I have spent in the accounting field working for MIT and various bank/mortgage companies. As part of my outside diaconal ministry, I am able to funnel job postings to various persons in need of employment plus I email job postings to several parishes within this diocese and do visitations at various nursing homes to those who have no one to visit them.

The Rev. Veronica Tierney- Deputy to General Convention

Veronica Tierney serves as Priest-in-Charge at Saints Matthew and Mark Church, Barrington. She has previously served as part-time Priest-in-Charge at Christ Church, Lincoln; Long-term Supply Priest at Holy Cross, Middletown and St. Columba's, Middletown; and Assistant Chaplain at St. George's School, Middletown. She currently serves on the ECC Advisory Board and the Program and Budget/Finance Commission and is a past member of the ECC Strategic Planning Team, and the Parochial Report Review Committee. In 2018, Veronica completed a PhD in Early Christian Theology at Boston College. Prior to ordination, she worked for ten years in the investment management industry. Veronica is married to Peter Tierney, and they live in Woonsocket.