

## VESTRY NOMINEES

Below is a list of the vestry nominees, followed by their biographical statements.

**Jim Jordan**

**Elise Keddie**

### **Jim Jordan**

After living in other areas of California, most recently for 21 years at The Sea Ranch, Joan and I moved to Davis and St. Martin's in 2022, where I'm serving as an usher. We've found worshipping at St. Martin's to be a fulfilling way to know God's presence in our lives. A lifelong Episcopalian, in the past 50 years I've served in many capacities – Lay Reader, Eucharistic Minister and Visitor, Vestry Member, Senior Warden, Convention Delegate – at Christ Church, Bangkok, St. Jude's, Cupertino, and St. Innocent of Alaska Episcopal Mission and as a founder of its successor Shepherd by the Sea Episcopal/Lutheran Mission, Gualala. In the Diocese of El Camino Real, I served on the Committee on Culture and Technology and in the Diocese of Northern California on the Standing Committee, Structure Task Force, and as a Deputy to General Convention. For The Episcopal Church, I served on the Committee on Science, Technology, and Faith. I hope to apply my experience to the challenges and opportunities confronting this joyous, thriving, multi-faceted parish.

### **Elise Keddie**

I've been a member of St. Martin's for more than 25 years. A cradle Episcopalian, I grew up in the San Joaquin Valley and lived in the southeast for graduate school, but most of my adult life has been here in Yolo County. I am an active choir member; previous parish participation includes Vestry, Belfry Campus Ministry Council, and Diocesan Convention delegate. I am involved at a national level as a Coordinator for General Convention (Episcopal Church's policy convention held every three years) working with teams of volunteers staffing logistics and support areas. I am an Education for Ministry graduate (small group formation program) and a Companion of the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross.

# CONVENTION DELEGATE NOMINEES

Below is a list of the convention delegate nominees, followed by their biographical statements.

**Maria Acuna-Feldman**

**Anthony Amato**

**Joe Bender**

**Carole Hom**

**Elise Keddie**

**Janet Lane**

**Lynn Zender**

**Gabe Avila (Alternate)**

**Kimo Kimokeo (Alternate)**

## **Maria Acuna-Feldman**

I ask for your support in representing St. Martin's at the 2023 Diocesan Convention. I've previously served as a convention delegate and gained a deeper understanding of our Diocese and the wider Episcopal Church. It'd be an honor to represent St. Martin's and our ministries once again. I have served on the Ministry Council and on Vestry (as Senior Warden and Junior Warden). I serve as a Eucharistic Minister and Eucharistic Visitor, on Altar Guild, and this year will be chair of the Hospitality Committee. At the Diocesan level, I am a member of the Episcopal Community Services Board and participate on Regional Discernment Teams. Thank you.

## **Anthony Amato**

Firstly, I would like to thank the parish for entrusting me to represent St. Martin's at last year's Diocesan Convention at Faith Episcopal Church in Cameron Park. As a young person aspiring to become a priest, it was an enormous blessing to meet so many new and supportive people, as well as to enjoy a firsthand experience of our diocesan leadership in action. For me, the last two years as a St. Martin's parishioner and member of the choir have filled me with such joy and peace, much of which has stemmed from the rewarding experiences that our church's volunteer opportunities have provided me. My first year on the Vestry and as your parish clerk has also been immensely educational and has enriched my path towards the priesthood in more ways than I could have imagined. I would therefore consider it a privilege to once again serve as a convention delegate for the upcoming 2024 (virtual) Diocesan Convention. I am most thankful for your consideration.

## **Joe Bender**

I am an undergraduate student at UC Davis, majoring in Linguistics. I discovered the Episcopal Church through The Belfry, where I learned that God loves everyone, no matter who you love. I was baptized at St. Martin's during last year's Easter Vigil and confirmed three weeks later during Bishop Megan's visit. Since then, I have had the pleasure of serving as an acolyte and enthusiastically participating in the life of our congregation. Currently, I am a member of the Sacred Ground circle and join in weekly Morning Prayer. I am also an active Belfry member and

serve on the Executive Board of the Cal Aggie Christian Association. I would be honored to help represent St. Martin's at this year's Diocesan Convention.

### **Carole Hom**

A job at the local university brought me to Davis in 1986. I have been a member of St. Martin's since around 1989 when my dear spouse dragged me, kicking and screaming, into the Episcopal Church. Eventually, I grew to love the liturgy. My long-time service on the Worship Committee demonstrates that God, indeed, has a sly sense of humor. I've also had leadership roles on St. Martin's Vestry (including as Senior Warden), what used to be the Ministry Council, Belfry Campus Ministry Council, various other committees, and in two of our Rector calling processes. I currently chair the Flower Guild, sing in the choir, and co-facilitate a Sacred Ground Circle with Kim. I've previously served as a delegate to our Diocesan Convention and would be honored to do so again.

### **Elise Keddie**

I've been a member of St. Martin's for more than 25 years. A cradle Episcopalian, I grew up in the San Joaquin Valley and lived in the southeast for graduate school, but most of my adult life has been here in Yolo County. I am an active choir member; previous parish participation includes Vestry, Belfry Campus Ministry Council, and Diocesan Convention delegate. I am involved at a national level as a Coordinator for General Convention (Episcopal Church's policy convention held every three years) working with teams of volunteers staffing logistics and support areas. I am an Education for Ministry graduate (small group formation program) and a Companion of the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross.

### **Janet Lane**

I was raised at St. Cross Episcopal Church in Hermosa Beach, CA, but my faith journey took several twists and turns before I came to St. Martin's. It is here that I've learned to feel God's love and presence in all aspects of my life and to strive to live out my faith in my everyday life. My spouse, Bob, and I got married at St. Martin's in 2007. We live in east Davis with our five cats. I am active in a number of St. Martin's ministries, including Worship, Buildings and Grounds, Families Together, DCMH and, as you know, I work part-time in the office. I have served on vestry twice (and have been Sr. Warden too). I am winding down my career as an English as a Second Language writing and speaking skills specialist at UC Davis. I would be honored to serve as a Convention delegate and to represent St. Martin's with the rest of the delegation.

### **Lynn Zender**

Lynn Zender has been active at St. Martin's since the late 1970s. She has served on the Vestry twice and has been Sr Warden. She has been active on the Social Justice and Outreach Committee and Caring Ministries and recently was on the Ministry Council. At the diocesan level, Lynn is co-chair of the Commission for Intercultural Ministries and the co-chair for the Racial Justice Audit effort. She has been a delegate to Convention several times and would like to be one again in 2024!

### **Gabe Avila (Nominee for Convention Delegate Alternate)**

I joined St. Martin's in 2013 and I am so glad I did! What a wonderful community. I have been active in many ministries, including Stephen Ministry, ushers, greeters, Eucharistic Visitors, Helping Hands, the Vestry, and more. In these ministries, I grew my connection with God and with the parish. I was constantly awestruck by the kindness of those who served alongside me. In 2020, it was a joy to become part of St. Martin's staff, first as Communications Technology Coordinator and more recently as the Church Operations Director. As part of the staff, I continue to gain and am always impressed by how much goes into every aspect of worship and governance. Should I be called to serve as a delegate, I would be pleased to learn more about how the larger church operates and supports the parishes in its orbit. I am a father to two very active elementary-aged children (we do ALL the sports!), and in my (albeit limited) spare time I love to write fiction novels.

**Kimo Kimoeko (Nominee for Convention Delegate Alternate)**

My position with the USDA-Forest Service brought me to UC Davis in 1998 to head up a partnership with my agency, the College of Ag & Env Sci. & The Internship. & Career Center to assist with student advising, internships and placement. I was able wrap up a rewarding career in this position and have enjoyed retirement since 2009. My journey of faith has been diverse and all over the denominational table. It has been scary, full of wonder, frustration, sadness and joy. Thankfully, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and faith communities along the way have provided me shelter, nourishment, and support. Since 2018 St. Martins Episcopal Church has provided me this shelter, nourishment, and support. In the last five years, I have become more involved in several ministries of our church, such as assisting in worship as a Eucharistic Minister, Crucifer and usher. I am also involved in the Messenger Ministry in checking in with those members who are limited in their ability to come to church. I am currently completing my three-year term on the Vestry, having spent the last two years as Co-Senior Warden. These past three years have been a time of spiritual growth that was challenging and fulfilling. Being part of St. Martin's community, no matter what I am involved with, it is with awe that I experience the powerful way the Spirit of God moves in my life and in the life of our parish. I would consider it a privilege to be a delegate/alternate to the Diocesan Convention.