



The Episcopal Church  
in Wyoming



**Name:** April French  
**Church:** St. Matthew's Cathedral  
**Applying for:** General Convention Deputies/Provincial Synod

**A brief summary of current and past volunteer positions within the church?**

- \* The Episcopal Church: Member, Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations (term: 2024-2030); Secretary, House of Deputies, Social Justice and International Policy Legislative Committee (2024, General Convention 81 in Louisville)
- \* Diocese of Wyoming: Member, WEJust Task Force & Chair of Racial Justice Subcommittee (2024-present); Chair, Committee on Nominations & Elections (2024-present); Lay Deputy, General Convention 81 (2023-2024); Director, Canterbury Fellowship (2019-2021)
- \* St. Matthew's Cathedral (2018-present; Laramie, WY): lay preacher (2024-present), Vestry member (2022-present), choir member, lector, and eucharistic minister (2018-present), chair of transition committee (2019)
- \* All Saints Episcopal Church, Belmont, MA (2011-2014, 2017-2018): Eucharistic minister, lay preacher, and adult education instructor
- \* Christ the King Episcopal Church, Arvada, CO (2015-2016): Clerk of the Vestry, facilitator of visioning process
- \* Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Vancouver, BC (2007-2011): Member of Parish Council, eucharistic minister, worship leader, Sunday School teacher, small group leader

**What do you want to accomplish in this leadership role?**

A self-professed "church nerd," I would find it a great honor to serve again as a lay deputy for the Diocese of Wyoming in the House of Deputies at the 82nd General Convention in Phoenix. If I am elected by the diocese to serve in this role, I would hope to represent the diocese well in my preparation for and tasks during the General Convention. A member of the Standing Commission on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations for The Episcopal Church, it would be essential for me to attend the 82nd General Convention, so I would be most grateful for your vote!

**If you have served on other boards, what is your greatest accomplishment and greatest disappointment?**

Perhaps my greatest accomplishment and greatest disappointment came during my service as the secretary of the Social Justice and International Policy Legislative Committee during the 81st General Convention in Louisville. On that committee, I utilized my expertise in Soviet history to strengthen a resolution on the war in Ukraine and to address specific questions concerning a resolution about the situation of Armenians who had recently been forced to flee Azerbaijan. As a committee, we worked hard for months before the General Convention to conduct hearings on many resolutions, including several on the situation in Gaza and Israel. Although a few of those resolutions were passed, I found it disappointing that the House of

Bishops did not pass some of the stronger positions that the House of Deputies wanted to take with respect to the realities on the ground at the time for Palestinians in Gaza. As we have seen in the 15+ months since the 81st General Convention ended, the situation has without question escalated to famine and genocide. Despite this disappointment, it has been deeply encouraging to see that in their statements concerning the situation in Gaza, Presiding Bishops Michael Curry and Sean Rowe have respectively cited the resolutions specific to the Israel-Palestine war that came out of our legislative committee and were approved by the House of Bishops and House of Deputies.

**How do you invite God's Presence? When is God most present to you in your work?**

God is most present to me in my work when I am most present to the image of God in the people with whom I am working. In those moments, it is as though God's presence is flowing through me toward other people. I find myself inviting God's presence as I breathe deeply and seeking to see people and circumstances from God's perspective. As I am growing in my calling to stand for social justice, I experience God's presence in real ways, because it feels like I am following the heart of Jesus with the help of the Holy Spirit.

FAITH ON THE NEW FRONTIER

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