

**Name:** Rev. Jen Crompton

**Order:** Clergy

**Congregation:** St. Benedict's Los Osos and SLO Episcopal Campus Ministries.

**Nominated for:** Commission on Ministry

**Please tell us why you feel called to serve and what you can contribute to this particular body.**

I am strongly called to contribute to the leadership development of this diocese. Having recently benefited from the experience of our diocesan discernment process, I would like to give back through service on this committee. My experience with hiring staff, leadership development, and human resources during my previous career of over ten years working in Higher Education and my passion for discernment, which I now bring to my call to ministry, is a good fit for this work. I am grateful for the support I have received and know that this is a way I can return that gift.

**Please give some brief background on your church activities.**

I have been serving as the Community Trailblazer for the last two years, helping to engage the people of the church with our communities through a process of getting to know ourselves more deeply, discovering our passions, and putting them into action. This work has been deeply grounded in spiritual discernment. Supporting members of my current community through the Lay Preaching course has been truly rewarding. I've also been able to walk alongside folks as they discern which ministry might be a good fit for or if possibly working with a neighbor partner, might be a better fit for their passions. Sometimes, the discernment leads to the realization that it's time to enjoy a well-deserved rest. All paths are valid. I also serve on the diocese deanery discernment committee and have previously served on the Bishop Search Committee and as a delegate for my congregation before my ordination.

**What is the most pressing issue facing the diocese in the next 5 years and how would you work to address it if elected?**

Learning how to listen to those we bring in as we implement our adaptive changes. As we learn to engage our neighbors and communities in new and connected ways, adapting to our contexts, new people will be drawn into our communities. We must find new ways to listen to their feedback, joys, and concerns. This might be about accessibility issues we've yet to work through or the possibility of a new community partnership. We will be stretched beyond our comfort zone to lean into our imaginations and experiment more. If elected, ensuring that the church leaders are prepared for these issues would be necessary for my work. I hope to encourage more offerings for lay ministry and be aware of the need for adaptive leadership skills during the discernment process for future ordained leaders. I also hope to encourage more congregations to support more of their own unique leaders to engage with the discernment process.