

Diocese of Western Michigan
142nd Diocesan Convention 2016 Minutes

The Bishop opened convention at 10:00 a.m. Friday November 4, 2016 with Morning Prayer and then called the convention to Order at 10:16 a.m. Following the announcement of a quorum by Chancellor William Fleener, Jr., and a few brief announcements, the Bishop introduced people on the dais – the Rev. Canon William Spaid, Secretary; Ms Janet MacKenzie, Dispatch of Business; and Mr. William Fleener, Jr., Parliamentarian.

Diocesan staff were also introduced - Canon to the Ordinary & Convention Secretary– Bill Spaid; Bishop’s Executive Assistant –Molly Ettwein (not attending); Bishop’s Assistant for Children, Youth, and Young Adults- Gennie Callard; Bishop’s Assistant for Finance and Benefit Administration– Tammy Mazure; Bishop’s Assistant for Communication – Karmel Puzzuoli; Finance Assistant – Catherine Rhodes (not attending); Chancellor - Bill Fleener, Jr.; Pastoral Care and Counseling - Dr. Kenneth Reid (not attending); Treasurer - Ivan Egnatuk; and Dave Croal- Assistant Treasurer.

The Deans of the Diocese were also introduced: Brian Coleman, Eastern – St. Thomas, Battle Creek; Jared Cramer, Lakeshore – St. John’s, Grand Haven; Rebecca Crise, St. Joseph – St. Mark’s, Paw Paw; and Jim Croom, Grand Valley – Holy Trinity, Wyoming & Holy Spirit, Belmont.

Other introductions included Archdeacon – Marilou Schlotterbeck; Deacon for Millennium Development Goals and Dominican Republic Missions – Beth Drew; and Deacon for Domestic Mission & Jubilee Officer – Cindy Nawrocki.

The Rules of Order were adopted.

There was a motion, with second, to give seat and voice to Chancellor - Bill Fleener, Jr.; Standing Committee Laity who are not delegates, Diocesan Council Laity who are not delegates, clergy serving in congregations who are licensed but not canonically resident, Bishop’s Staff, and Lutheran pastors serving Episcopal congregations. Included in the motion was giving seat, voice and vote to all youth delegates present. Motion carried.

The officers of convention were elected: Secretary, William Spaid, EDWM; Registrar, Jane Puvogel, St. Martin’s, Kalamazoo; Chancellor, Bill Fleener, Jr., St. David’s, Lansing; Treasurer, Ivan Egnatuk, Trinity, Marshall and Assistant Treasurer, David Croal, St. Mark’s, Coldwater.

At 10:30 a.m. the Bishop introduced Mike Paulin, chair of nominations and elections, to lead the convention through the balloting and election process.

Elected to a three year term on the Standing Committee are the Rev. Zachariah Char and Ms Judy Fleener.

Elected in canonical order as clergy deputies to the General Convention of the Episcopal Church to be held in July 2018 in Austin, Texas are the Rev’d. William Spaid, Brian Coleman, Anne Schnaare and Nurya Love Parish. Clergy alternates to the General Convention are The Rev’d. Jared Cramer, Cindy Nawrocki and Paula Durren.

Elected in canonical order as lay deputies to the General Convention of the Episcopal Church to be held in July 2018 in Austin, Texas are William Fleener, Jr., St. David's, Lansing; Anne Davidson, St. Mark's, Coldwater; Thomas W. Perrin, St. Martin's, Kalamazoo; and Mary Wylie Simpson, St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids. Lay alternates to the General Convention are Pamela Chapman, St. Philip's, Grand Rapids; Barbara J. Kelly, St. Philip's, Beulah; and Amanda Henes, St. Mark's, Grand Rapids.

Balloting concluded at 10:50. Following the balloting the Bishop introduced new Clergy and changes in the Diocese since the last regular Convention in **November, 2015**

• ***Retirements***

Pam Sten, Trinity, Niles, November, 2015
Mary Frens, St. Mark's, Newaygo, June, 2016
William Whiting, Emmanuel, Hastings, June 2016
Paul Brisbane who **really** retired, Resurrection, Battle Creek, July 2016

• ***Ordinations***

BJ Heyboer, St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids, Transitional Deacon June 11, 2016
Sister Diane Stier, St. John's, Mt. Pleasant, Transitional Deacon, October 23, 2016

• ***Resignations***

Daniel Richards, Grace, Traverse City
Carlton Kelley, St. Paul's, Dowagiac
William Fleener Sr. who completed an interim at St. John's, Fremont

• ***New Calls***

BJ Heyboer, St. Mark's, Newaygo & St. John's, Fremont, July, 2016
Jodi Baron, St. Philip's, Beulah, August, 2016
Christian Baron, St. Philip's, Beulah, August, 2016

• ***Other Changes in the diocese***

Carlton Kelley, Interim Rector – Grace, Traverse City
Everett Klein, serving at Holy Trinity, Manistee
ELCA Pastor-Chris Anderson, priest-in-charge at St. Gregory's, Muskegon
ELCA Pastor-David Keller, priest-in-charge at St. John's, Charlotte
Deacon John Pinzon, at St. John's, Grand Haven (transitional deacon)

• ***Deaths***

Jack Van Hooser, May, 2016
[Robert McDougall-licensed in EDWM, Diocese of Michigan, November, 2015]

The Bishop introduced postulants and encouraged congregations to be generous in their support of our seminarians in a vulnerable time of their lives. Seminarians present at Convention were Nick Phares, Peter Homeyer, Radha Deitenbeck Kaminsky, and the Rev. Lily Marx.

At 10:55 convention took a brief recess to reconvene at 11:10 for the Bishop's Address

The Bishop's Address focused on the many outreach ministries of our various congregations. The transcript of his remarks will be published elsewhere in the journal. The Bishop concluded his remarks about noon. There were several brief housekeeping announcements and then the Bishop officiated at Noonday Prayer with a special observation for those listed *In Memoriam* in the convention program. Convention recessed for lunch about 12:15.

The Bishop reconvened convention at 1:15, and introduced the Rev. Eric Law, founder and executive director of the Kaleidoscope Institute, who was our keynote speaker. Fr. Law works to promote inclusive and sustainable churches and communities. He led the convention through several exercises focused on *Holy Currencies* including currencies of Time and Place, Gracious Leadership, Relationships, Truth, Wellness, and Money.

Following the first of Fr. Law's presentations, convention took a short break and reconvened at 2:30 and affirmed by acclamation the deanery elections to Diocesan Council:

Lakeshore: Phil Stoffan, Deanery Chair, St. Paul's, Muskegon

Lakeshore clergy representative: the Rev. Val Ambrose, Grace, Holland

Grand Valley clergy representative: the Rev. Cindy Nawrocki, St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids

Eastern clergy representative: the Rev. David Pike, St. David's, Lansing

St. Joseph clergy representative: the Rev. Linnea Stifler, St. Martin's, Kalamazoo and St Francis, Orangeville

Traverse: Barbara J Kelly, St. Philip's, Beulah

The Bishop introduced diocesan treasurer Ivan Egnatuk who moved the adoption of the proposed budget. There was a second and then Tammy Mazure, Assistant to the Bishop for Business and Finance, was introduced to talk about the formulation of the budget and to answer any questions.

During the budget discussion Tammy and Dave Croal spoke to the work of apportionment review committee, the congregational development fund and St. Michael's Fund. It was noted that not many applications have been received and people were encouraged to think of applying.

Tammy announced the Clergy Planning for Tomorrow May 19-20, 2017.

Fr. Michael Ryan asked a question about criteria for the grants. Tammy clarified that parishes need to be paying their full apportionment or the amount negotiated by the Apportionment Review Committee.

Seeing no one at the microphones, the Bishop called for adoption of the budget. The budget was approved by convention.

Point of Order:

The Rev. Michael Ryan chair COM – raised a question regarding the budget voting procedure and expressed concern for reimbursement of mileage which was clarified by the chancellor.

Question:

Michael Ryan asked whether the mileage rate for laity volunteers in the budget was withdrawn, and could it be put back in the budget. The chancellor ruled that convention would need to vote to approve reopening the budget.

The Rev. Michael Ryan moved to reopen the budget for discussion. The Rev. Jared Cramer supported the Motion. Following discussion and a vote the budget was reopened for discussion.

Michael Ryan then moved that we move \$2500 from \$10,000 excess on line 236 (and return it to line 125) to be used for mileage for laity on diocesan business. After further discussion the motion was approved.

The Bishop then asked for approval of the amended budget; there was a vote by voting cards, and the budget as amended was approved.

The Bishop invited the Rev. Jen Adams to present the report on the Restructure of the Diocese. Jen introduced members: Jill Budzinski, Stephen Holmgren, Brian Coleman, Freeman Gilbert, Bill Fleener, Jr. and Connie Remenschneider, consultant.

Jen highlighted the report (see Report to 142nd Diocesan Convention EDWM Structure Team) and opened the floor for questions and comments. Convention was given ten minutes for table discussions with written questions from the restructure team. The team requested that these forms be completed and turned in. Following the discussion the Rev. Brian Coleman expressed the team's thanks to Jen Adams for her work as chair. The Rev. Jared Cramer moved that convention accept and affirm the report. Following clarification from the Bishop that "accept" means the convention will receive the report, the motion was carried.

The Bishop declared a ten minute break, and following the break he welcomed the Rev. Eric Law for his second presentation. After the presentation a number of announcements were made and the Bishop recessed the convention until the third business session on Saturday afternoon.

The Convention Eucharist and Confirmation was held Saturday morning, November 5, at St. Thomas' Church in Battle Creek. After the liturgy and luncheon at McCamly Plaza, the Bishop called the convention to order at 1:15 p.m. with a thank you to the hotel staff for their excellent service. He also thanked Ms Joanie Smith for her hard work coordinating the details of convention.

A brief video highlighting the Pine Ridge Mission trip was shown.

The Bishop introduced the Rev. Wayne Nicholson, chair of the resolutions committee, to present resolutions and move their adoption.

The Resolutions Committee (the Revs. Sue York, William Whiting, and Wayne Nicholson) recommended a substitute resolution for the Resolution 1 in the Convention Booklet on Supply Clergy Compensation. The substitute reads:

Resolved that this 142nd convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan ask the Canon to the Ordinary to appoint a committee to examine compensation to supply clergy and to recommend by June 1 of next year to Bishop and Diocesan Council the minimum standards of compensation to be considered at our next convention. Furthermore this committee shall consist of 2 active clergy, one retired clergy who has performed this ministry, and two lay people.

Convention approved the substitute resolution for debate. There was discussion and the substitute resolution was approved.

Wayne continued with the courtesy resolutions. These resolutions are appended to the end of the minutes.

The Bishop introduced the Rev. Eric Law for his third presentation.

Ms Joan Smith announced that the 143rd Diocesan Convention will be held November 3 and 4, 2017 at the Radisson Hotel in Kalamazoo, MI.

The Bishop thanked the following people for completing their terms of service on the Standing Committee: the Rev. Patrick Finn, Mr. Brian Tillman; the Diocesan Council: Mr. David Hawley-Lowry, the Revs. Bonnie Edwards, Joel Turmo, Michael Wernick, and Jodi Baron; and on the Commission on Ministry: Mr. James DeGoede and the Rev. Anne Schnaare.

The Bishop closed the convention with a prayer and the convention was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Canon William Spaid
Secretary of Convention