

**Minutes of the 143 Annual Convention  
Diocese of Western Michigan  
November 3-4, 2017  
Kalamazoo, Michigan**

The Rt. Rev. Wayne Hougland called the 143<sup>rd</sup> annual diocesan convention to order at 10:00 a.m. Friday November 3, 2017 with a prayer and welcome to delegates and guests. The convention prayed Morning Prayer together. The chancellor, William Fleener, Jr., announced that a quorum was present.

The Bishop introduced those on the Dias: the Rev. Canon William Spaid Secretary of Convention and Canon to the Ordinary; Janet MacKenzie, Dispatcher of Business/Time Keeper; Bill Fleener, Jr., Parliamentarian; as well as Jane Puvogel, Registrar; Mike Paulin, Nominations Chair; the Rev. Wayne Nicholson, Resolutions Chair.

The Bishop also introduced diocesan staff and volunteers:

Canon to the Ordinary & Convention Secretary– Bill Spaid  
Bishop’s Executive Assistant –Molly Ettwein  
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 Addis  
Finance Assistant – Catherine Rhodes (not attending)  
Others who are part of the Bishop’s extended staff:  
Chancellor - Bill Fleener, Jr.  
Pastoral Care and Counseling - Dr. Kenneth Reid (not attending)  
Treasurer - Ivan Egnatuk  
Assistant Treasurer - Dave Croal  
Archdeacon – Marilou Schlotterbeck  
Deacon for Sustainable Development Goals and D.R. Missions – Beth Drew  
Deacon for Domestic Mission – Cindy Nawrocki  
Jubilee Officer – Martha Bartlett  
Chaplains to the retired – Ed and Ann Emenheiser

The Bishop welcomed the Rt. Rev. Jeffrey Lee, Bishop of Chicago, who is our convention keynote speaker. He also welcomed and thanked the Spanish interpreter Diana Sagatume.

There were a number of procedural announcements and convention adopted the Rules of Order and accepted the minutes of the 2016 convention. The convention gave seat and voice to the chancellor, Lay Standing Committee members who are not delegates, Lay Diocesan Council members who are not delegates, clergy serving in congregations who are licensed but not canonically resident, Bishop’s staff, licensed Lutheran pastors serving in Episcopal congregations. Youth delegates were also given seat, voice and vote.

The following 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.

The Bishop announced a number of clergy changes within the diocesan community since our last convention:

- ***Retirements***

Pat Finn, St. Paul's, Muskegon  
Dennis Remenschneider, ELCA, St. Paul's, St. Joseph  
Joseph Gary Hamp, St. Andrew's, Big Rapids  
Chris Anderson, ELCA, St. Gregory's, Muskegon

- ***Ordinations***

BJ Heyboer, Priest, St. Mark's Newaygo & St. John's, Fremont – December, 2016  
Sister Diane Stier, Priest, Emmaus Monastery, Vestaburg – May, 2017  
Nicholas Phares, Transitional Deacon, St. Thomas, Battle Creek, June, 2017  
Michael Wood, Transitional Deacon, St. Martin's, Kalamazoo- June, 2017  
Lily Marx, Priest, St. Gregory's, Muskegon, July, 2017  
John Infante Pinzon, Priest, St. John's, Grand Haven, October, 2017

- ***Resignations***

Bonnie Edwards, St. Barnabas, Portage  
Jim Croom, Holy Trinity, Wyoming

- ***New Calls***

Christian Brocato, St. Mark's, Grand Rapids  
John Autio, ELCA, St. Paul's, Greenville  
Nurya Love Parish, Holy Spirit, Belmont  
Linnea Stifler, Emmanuel, Hastings  
Lily Marx, St. Gregory's, Muskegon  
David Brower Interim, Holy Trinity, Wyoming

We welcomed to the diocese:

Karen Joy Kelly, from Diocese of Southwestern Virginia  
Jim Steen, from Diocese of Chicago

The Bishop introduced Interim Clergy who are present and not canonically resident:

Kathryn Costas, Grace, Traverse City

The Bishop recognized Postulants to Priesthood:

- Peter Homeyer, Holy Cross, Kentwood, Church Divinity School of the Pacific
- Radha Deitenbeck Kaminski, Grace, Holland, SW, Austin
- Kellan Day, Grace, Grand Rapids – Sewanee
- Eileen Stoffan, St. Paul's, Muskegon – Bexley Seabury

Postulants to the Diaconate:

- Michael Berghuis, All Saints, Saugatuck
- Pat Vinge, St. Martin's, Kalamazoo
- Jan Gockerman, St. Mark's, Grand Rapids
- Wendy Pearson, Trinity, Marshall
- Elizabeth Kinsey, St. John's, Sturgis
- Micheal Hueschen, St. Luke's, Kalamazoo

We paused to remember Deacon Judith Neiman, St. Martin of Tours, Kalamazoo; and Richard Shinn, Canonically Resident in Diocese of Michigan, and member of St. Andrew's in Big Rapids who died this year.

Bishop's Address (available in audio file)

Announcements

Noon Day Prayer and silence in remembrance of those on the *In Memoriam* list

Lunch recess

At 1 p.m. the Bishop called the convention to order and introduced the Rt. Rev. Jeffrey Lee, twelfth bishop of Chicago and author of *Opening the Prayer Book* in the New Church's Teaching Series and *Gathered for God* to be published in 2018. Bishop Lee's address on initiating change is available in audio file.

At 2:30 p.m. the business session began with announcement of a quorum and the Bishop invited Mike Paulin, chair of the nominations committee and chief teller, who announced the slate of candidates and gave directions for voting.

For Standing Committee: one clerical position for a three year term

The Rev. Randall R Warren was nominated and was elected by Acclamation

Three lay people were nominated for two positions with three year terms on the Standing Committee:

David Croal, St. Mark's, Coldwater

David Hawley-Lowry, Grace, Holland and

Martha Bartlett, St. James', Pentwater

Ballots were distributed and collected

Mr. Paulin announced that there were three open positions for Province V synod representatives – 1 clergy and 2 lay for three year terms. The Bishop introduced Ms Gennie Callard, president of Province V, to speak about the role of the Province. The Bishop then entertained a motion to suspend the Rules of Order to provide for nominations from the floor. It was moved/seconded and the motion carried.

The Rev. Cindy Nawrocki, St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids name had previously been put in nomination for the clergy position.

For the two Laity positions The Rev. Jodi Baron nominated David Hawley-Lowery (Grace, Holland) and the Rev. Val Ambrose nominated Joyce Henry (St. Philip's, Grand Rapids) for 3 year terms. Nominations were closed. All the nominees were elected by acclamation.

The Convention affirmed by applause the deanery elections to Diocesan Council:

- Lakeshore, Lily Marx, Clergy Rep, St. Gregory's, Muskegon
- Grand Valley, Pam Chapman, Deanery Chair, St. Philip's, Grand Rapids (GV will elect Lay Rep at their next meeting)
- Eastern, Ivan Egnatuk, Trinity Marshall
- St. Joseph, Gerry Stackhouse, St. Mark's, Paw Paw

The Bishop introduced Bill Fleener, Jr. who was asked to introduce the process for restructuring including the report, the budget, and the resolution with its constitution and canon changes

The Bishop invited Jen Adams and others to present the Restructure report.

Here is a brief summary of restructure report:

The purpose was to look at how to best do the mission we are called to do.

In 2015 appointed structure team that began the process.

It involved the whole diocese – survey, interviews with deans.

Council then was involved. Surveyed a number of other dioceses. Recommendations were made to convention in 2016 and follow-up work was presented in deanery meetings.

The consent was our current system was not working efficiently enough for the work we want to do; there was lots of input and helpful criticism, lots of budget work done.

The Restructure Committee proposes:

Organizing by three regions, maps are available

Standing Committee can make changes to regions as necessary

Develop ministry networks which are thematic

Create canon missionaries – facilitate connections and relationships. Will work with the Bishop and congregations on congregational health and vitality, collaborative ministry, clergy health and deployment with more diocesan staff on ground for resourcing various ministries throughout the diocese.

Proposed budget allows 2 ½ positions for now but hopefully moving to three full-time positions.

Cost \$221,000 with a gap of about \$30,000

Grant from the Whittemore Foundation total of approx. \$30,000/year for 3 years

Redefine membership of the Diocesan Council

The Bishop introduce Mr. Ivan Egnatuk, Treasurer, to 'move' approval of the proposed budget. The Bishop introduced Tammy Mazure, David Croal to talk about the Budget and budget process. Following a brief explanation of the budget voting was done by cards and the budget was approved.

The Bishop invited the Rev. Wayne Nicholson, Chair of the Resolutions Committee, to open the Resolutions process. We began with Resolution #3, Diocesan Restructure Resolution.

Wayne Nicholson moved adoption of the resolution on structure including canonical changes. Chancellor, Bill Fleener explained the proposed amendments to canon 7.01 and 8.05 which were printed in the program on page 19, and moved their adoption on behalf of the Constitution and Canons Committee. Seconded.

Eric Peterson, Resurrection Battle Creek - moved to correct the typo for clarity's sake. The Chancellor noted that spelling typos can be corrected without the amendment of the body. The motion died without second.

The Amendments were approved.

The Rev. Nurya Parish, Holy Spirit, Belmont, moved amendment of Canon 3.04 – to read

- (a) Two youth delegates and one alternate from each of the three Mission Regions shall be selected by each Region, at its first meeting following the preceding Diocesan Convention, and (b) Four at large Youth Delegates and four at-large alternates shall be appointed by the Bishop Diocesan....

The rationale given was to maintain the current number of youth representatives on Diocesan Council. There was no discussion, and the matter was approved.

The Rev. Jared Cramer moved to amend Canon 8.05 by striking all of section c – “either the Chairperson or the Vice-chairperson must be a member of the clergy.” Following discussion, the Bishop called for a count with tellers. Approved 96-48.

The proposal as amended comes before the body

The Rev. Brian Coleman and Ross Mast spoke to the proposal, a question was raised about election process for diocesan council. There will be an evolution of process which will take about 2 years.

Bill James, St. Luke's Kalamazoo moved reconsideration of striking Canon 8.05c, but it was not able to go to floor.

Brian Coleman with support of 7 including himself, Suzanne Fritz, Trinity, Marshall; Gabe Keese, St. Thomas Battle Creek; Karen Keese, St. Thomas, Battle Creek; Jared Cramer St. John's Grand Haven; Anne Schnaare, Trinity, Marshall; and Dave Croal, St. Mark's Coldwater called for vote by orders on the whole proposal.

The whole restructure proposal passed in both the clergy and lay order.

The Bishop introduced Chief Teller's Mike Paulin for results of election for Standing Committee  
170 votes cast 86 were needed to elect  
Martha Bartlett 141  
Dave Croal 103  
David Hawley Lawry 96. There were 2 openings so Martha Bartlett and Dave Croal were  
elected.

There were several brief informative presentations:

- Health Insurance Updates, etc. – MsTammy Mazure
- Domestic Missions – The Rev.Cindy Nawrocki
- Examining Our Own Racism – The Rev.Cindy Nawrocki
- Plainsong Farm Ministries – The Rev. Nurya Parish
- Holy Land Trip – Mr. Douglas Mohrmann

Following some brief announcements the Convention was recessed until Saturday at 1:00 p.m.

The Bishop reconvened convention and introduced a number of brief informative presentations.

- Episcopal Youth Event Video – Ms Gennie Callard
- Dominican Republic Ministry video – The Rev. Beth Drew
- UTO – Ms Gail Donovan
- Albion Community Gardens – the Rev. Darlene Kuhn and Mr. Dick Porter

The Business Session Resumed with the announcement of a quorum.

The Bishop introduced The Rev. Wayne Nicholson, Chair of Resolutions Committee who moved the adoption of Resolution 1 – On Anti-Racism Training for Elected Diocesan Committees/Commissions. Following a second, there was discussion. The Rev. Jared Cramer moved to amend the resolution by addition of a 4<sup>th</sup> clause which would say, “Direct Diocesan Council to develop a policy to enable the implementation of this resolution.” The motion carried, and the main motion came to the floor as amended with further discussion ensuing. The resolution was passed.

The Rev. Wayne Nicholson moved the adoption of the following Courtesy Resolutions:

Resolved that this 143<sup>rd</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan recognizes the 165<sup>th</sup> birthday of Julia Chester Emery, who along with Ida Soule, founded the United Offering in 1889, later called the United Thank Offering (UTO). She was the secretary of the Woman’s Auxiliary at the age of 22, a position she held for 40 years. Ms Emery helped establish a network of women volunteers to support mission work in the Episcopal Church through “box work” – boxes of necessary gifts – which were given annually to missionaries throughout the world. She also fought tirelessly for the canonical status of women ordained through the Diaconess program, a precursor to women’s ordination. Monetary collections given to the United Thank Offering funded women missionaries - domestic and foreign, missionary bishops, built diaconess houses, and later established a pension fund for women missionaries. In

addition, the United Thank Offering has built Churches, schools, and hospitals, purchased vehicles, and started new ministries, work that continues to this day. In 2015 the UTO Board created the *United Thank Offering Julia Chester Emery Internship* and recently hired its third intern. Ms Emery's work continues through the spiritual discipline of gratitude as demonstrated through daily thanksgivings for God's blessings and gifts to Blue Boxes which have given \$133,242,104.47 in grants and gifts to missionaries during the last 128 years. These annual grants to churches, dioceses, young adults, and seminarians support mission and ministry throughout the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion. Julia Chester Emery was a remarkable woman in the Episcopal Church whose legacy touched the lives of many including those in the Diocese of Western Michigan. Through gatherings and grants, we recognize her contributions to the work of women and mission in the Episcopal Church.

Resolved that this 143rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan offers its appreciation to the management and staff of Radisson Plaza Hotel and Suites for their hospitality; to Joan Smith, working tirelessly with details too many to mention; to the parish of St. Luke and The Rev. Dr. Randall Warren for today's inspired and uplifting Eucharistic celebration.

Resolved that this 143rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan send greetings to the Rt. Rev. Robert R. Gepert, eighth Bishop of the Diocese of Western Michigan and his wife Anne Labat-Gepert.

Resolved that this 143rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan send greetings to the Rt. Rev. Edward L. Lee, seventh Bishop of the Diocese of Western Michigan and his wife Kathryn.

Resolved that this 143rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan send greetings to Mrs. Marjorie Bennison, wife of the late Rt. Rev. Charles E. Bennison, fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Western Michigan.

Resolved that this 143rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan send greetings to The Rt. Rev. Cate Waynick, Bishop Provisional of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan; The Rt. Rev. Wendell N. Gibbs, Jr., Bishop of the Diocese of Michigan; The Rt. Rev. Rayford Ray, Bishop of the Diocese of Northern Michigan; and The Rt. Rev. Julio Cesar Holguin, Obispo de la Iglesia Episcopal Dominicana and Moisés Quezada Moto, Obispo Coadjutor.

Resolved that this 143rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan send greetings to the Rt. Rev. Rafael L. Morales Maldonado, Obispo de la Iglesia Episcopal Puertorriqueña, and the people of Puerto Rico as they continue to recover from the destruction of hurricanes.

Resolved that this 143rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan send an expression of deep gratitude for the work of Episcopal Relief and Development as they work tirelessly to relieve the sufferings of so many of God's children.

Resolved that this 143rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan send greetings and warm wishes to The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop, and prayers for his ministry to, on behalf of, and among us.

Resolved that this 143rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan send greetings to The Most Rev'd Dr Justin Welby, and prayers for his ministry to our diverse Communion.

Resolved that this 143rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan express its thanks to The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey D. Lee, Bishop of Chicago, for his words of encouragement.

And finally, last but certainly not least, be it resolved that this 143rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan extends our thanks to Jane Puvogel, Register of Convention, Musette el Mohammed, - former Dispatcher of Business and current convention registration coordinator, and to Bill and Kay Hanson - convention registration volunteers. For many years they have gracefully and cheerfully put in countless hours before and during Convention assisting the lost and the late, and welcoming those who actually do things on time.

All of the courtesy resolutions were adopted by acclamation.

The Bishop introduced Joan Smith to announce next year's convention which will be November 2 & 3, 2018 at the Radisson in Downtown Lansing.

The Bishop thanked those who were completing term of service including:

- Standing Committee
  - Mary Perrin
  - David Croal
  - Martha Bartlett
- Diocesan Council
  - David Croal
  - Ross Mast
  - Joan Smith
- Commission on Ministry: Charles Thomas
- Province V Synod
  - Jared Cramer
  - Pam Chapman
  - Gennie Callard (Now Province V President)

In his closing remarks the Bishop thanked Camp Counselors, Youth Mentors for Youth Delegates, Convention Volunteers, Parishes which hosted Confirmation Services. Following the Closing Prayer for the Church, the Bishop adjourned the Convention.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. Canon William Spaid  
Secretary of Convention