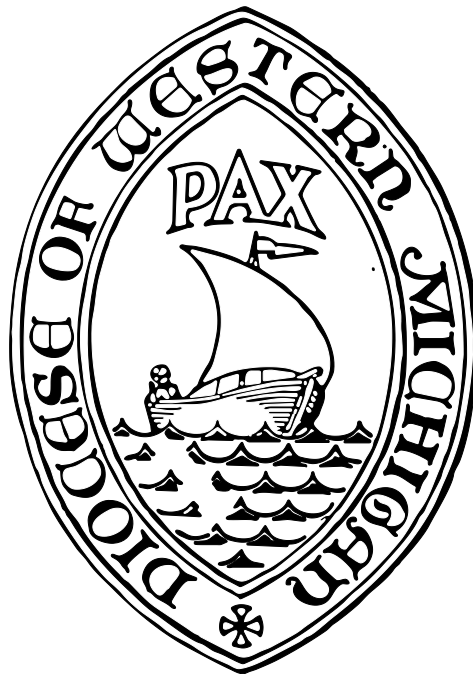


JOURNAL 2015

**One Hundred
and Forty-First
Annual Convention**



**EPISCOPAL CHURCH
DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN**

2015
JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS
of the
One Hundred and Forty First Annual Convention
of the Diocese of Western Michigan of the Episcopal Church
which met in Grand Rapids, Michigan
Friday & Saturday
November 6 and 7, 2015

**THE ASSOCIATION
OF THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN**

The Association of the Diocese of Western Michigan is a corporation formed under the laws of the State of Michigan authorized by the civil and canon laws to receive and hold any property, real or personal, for the use and benefit of the diocese or of any parish affiliated with the diocese. Contributions to the Association are deductible from the income of individuals and corporations subject to Federal Income Taxes within the percentage limits established by the United States Internal Revenue Code. Such contributions are also deductible from the estates of individuals subject to the Federal Estate Tax, under current tax law.

Suggested Form of Bequest

I hereby give, devise and bequeath to the Association of the Diocese of Western Michigan, a Michigan nonprofit corporation, the sum of _____dollars.

PRAYER FOR THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

O God, by your grace you have called us in this Diocese to a goodly fellowship of faith. Bless our clergy, and all our people. Grant that your Word may be truly preached and truly heard, your Sacraments faithfully administered and faithfully received. By your Spirit, fashion our lives according to the example of your Son, and grant that we may show the power of your love to all among whom we live; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Diocese of Western Michigan
Journal- 2015

2015 JOURNAL - DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

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THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

As of November 7, 2015

The Right Reverend Wayne M. Hougland, Jr., Bishop

DIOCESAN OFFICE:

Diocese of Western Michigan
535 S. Burdick, Suite 1
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

THE BISHOP.....The Right Reverend Wayne Hougland, Jr.

CANON TO THE ORDINARY.....The Rev. Canon William J. Spaid
Phone 269 381-2710, ext 11

BISHOP’S ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT.....Ms. Molly Ettwein
Phone 269 381-2710, ext. 14

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Phone 269 381-2710, ext. 12

DIOCESAN SECRETARY/ SECRETARY TO CONVENTION.....The Rev. Canon William J. Spaid
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ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES.....
Ms. Gennie Callard
Phone 269 381-2710 ext. 13

ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP FOR COMMUNICATIONS.....Ms. Karmel Puzzuoli
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FINANCE ASSISTANT.....Ms. Cathy Rhodes
Phone 269 381-2710, ext 17

YOUNG ADULT MISSIONER.....Ms. Kellen Day
Phone 269 929-5749

PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING.....Dr. Kenneth E. Reid
Phone 269 381-4442

DEACON FOR HEALTH MINISTRY.....The Rev. Karen McDonald

DEACON FOR MISSION WITH THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC..... The Rev. Beth Drew

DEACON FOR DOMESTIC MISSIONS The Rev. Cindy Nawrocki

CHANCELLOR.....Mr. William J. Fleener Jr.

CONVENTION TREASURER Mr. Ivan Egnatuck

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN PRESIDENT..... Ms. Janine Dekker

Committees/Commissions/Boards

STANDING COMMITTEE

The Rev. Mary E. Perrin, President	(2017)
The Rev. Valerie T. Ambrose	(2018)
Ms. Anne Davidson	(2018)
The Rev. Patrick Shawn (Pat) Finn	(2016)
Ms. Joyce Henry	(2017)
The Rev. Anne Elizabeth Schnaare	(2018)
Ms. Eileen Stoffan	(2017)
Mr. Brian Tillman (Secretary)	(2016)

DIOCESAN COUNCIL

The Right Rev. Whayne M. Hougland, Jr.

EASTERN DEANERY:

Mr. David Croal	(2017)
The Rev. Aaron Evans	(2018)
The Rev. Joel Turmo	(2016)

GRAND VALLEY DEANERY:

Mr. Ross Mast	(2017)
The Rev. Nurya Love Parish	(2018)
The Rev. Michael Wernick	(2016)

LAKESHORE DEANERY:

The Rev. Jodi Baron	(2018)
Mr. David Hawley-Lowry	(2016)
Ms. Joan Smith	(2017)

ST. JOSEPH DEANERY:

The Rev. Bonnie Edwards	(2016)
Mr. Tom Perrin	(2018)
Ms. Gerry Stackhouse	(2017)

TRAVERSE DEANERY:

Ms. Rosemary Hagan	(2018)
Mr. Corbin Lopez	(2016)
The Ven. Marilou Schlotterbeck	(2017)

Youth Delegate

Vacant

Ex-Officio

Chancellor William Fleener, Jr.
Ms. Tammy Mazure, EDWM

Committees/Commissions/Boards, continued

DISCIPLINARY BOARD

Ms. Rosemary Burke
The Very Rev. Brian R. Coleman
Mr. Ivan Egnatuk
The Rev. William R. Whiting

Intake Officer
Rev. Canon William Spaid

COMMITTEE ON CANONS: Mr. William J. Fleener, Jr., Chairperson

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE: The Rev. Wayne Nicholson, Chairperson

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE: Mr. Michael Paulin, Chair

FORMATION

Formation Committee, Director - Ms. Genevieve Callard
Camp Planning Committee, Director - Ms. Genevieve Callard

JUSTICE AND PEACE MINISTRIES

Jubilee Committee Coordinator: The Rev. Cindy Nawrocki

THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

Ms. LaDare Cox	2017
Mr. James DeGoede	2016
The Rev. Michael Fedewa	2018
Mr. Michael Hirt	2018
The Rev. Darlene Kuhn	2018
The Rev. Michael Ryan	2017
The Rev. Anne Schnaare	2016
Ms. Mary Simpson	2016
Mr. Charles Thomas	2017

THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. Philip Cousar
Mr. David Croal
The Rev. Bonnie Edwards
Mr. Ivan Egnatuk
Mr. Harold Kyvig
Ms. Tammy Mazure, Diocesan Representative
The Rt. Rev. Whayne Hougland, Jr., Ex Officio Member

Clergy
In order of Canonical Residence

Name	EDWM CR Date	Received From
English, The Rev. John L.	1/15/1963	Eau Claire
Williams, The Rev. Glen P.	9/1/1963	Louisiana
Hills, The Rev. John B.	8/15/1965	Northern Indiana
Frandsen, The Rev. Charles F.	1/15/1967	Nebraska
Fleener Sr, The Rev. William J. (Bill)	7/1/1971	Chicago
Reishus, The Rev. John W.	1/11/1976	Chicago
Walton, The Rev. Robert H.	3/1/1976	Michigan
Emenheiser, The Rev. D. Edward (Ed)	6/1/1976	Quincy
White, The Rev. Warner C.	1/15/1977	Chicago
Homeyer, The Rev. Charles F.	4/1/1980	Missouri
VanValkenburgh, The Rev. William B.	3/1/1981	Newark
Hostetler, The Rev. Hugh S.	1/1/1982	Northern Indiana
Pike, The Rev. David R.	6/5/1982	Ordination
Van Hooser, The Rev. Jack B.	9/1/1982	Chicago
Kirkman, The Rev. John R.	1/4/1983	Restored
Sherfick, The Rev. Kenneth L.	8/23/1984	Indianapolis
Toeller-Novak, The Rev. Thomas L.	11/19/1984	Roman Catholic
Clark, The Rev. Richard N.	4/10/1986	Arkansas
Meyers, The Rev. David C.	5/3/1986	Ordination
Nickerson, The Rev. Audra M.	5/3/1986	Ordination
Tillman, The Rev. Christine W.	5/3/1986	Ordination
Wolterstorff, The Rev. Claire K.	11/16/1986	Ordination
Stravers, The Rev. Richard L.	12/6/1986	Ordination
Dorrien, The Rev. Gary J.	8/3/1987	Albany
Hector, Jr., The Rev. J. Robert	9/1/1987	Milwaukee
Idema III, The Rev. Dr. Henry	9/1/1987	Chicago
Spaid, The Rev. Canon William J. (Bill)	10/19/1987	Maryland
Smith, The Rev. Robert A.	10/1/1988	Northern Michigan
Carter III, The Rev. Lander L.	8/29/1989	Central Florida
Murphy, The Rev. William M.	9/30/1989	Northern Indiana
Kountze, The Rev. Louise	1/1/1990	Chicago
Stoppel, The Rev. Dr. G. Corwin (Cory)	1/29/1990	Edmonton
McCabe III, The Rev. Charles P.	1/30/1990	West Virginia
Wilson, The Rev. Barbara A. T.	7/26/1990	Michigan
Draeger, Jr., The Rev. Walter R.	9/11/1990	Michigan
Neiman, The Rev. Judith A.	10/13/1990	Ordination
Nattermann, The Rev. Margaret (Peggy)	12/21/1990	Ordination
Inman, Jr., The Rev. John W.	2/23/1992	NW Pennsylvania
Smith, The Rev. Mary Bonnie (Bonnie)	4/5/1992	Ordination
Fedewa, The Rev. Michael C. (Mike)	9/23/1992	Western New York
Haughn, The Rev. Terry L.	10/1/1992	Michigan
Eickwort, SBC, The Rev. Sr. Kathleen	2/19/1993	Central New York
Brinkmoeller, The Rev. Leonard J.	1/12/1994	Northern Indiana
Brower, The Rev. Katherine M. (Kathy)	5/7/1994	Ordination
Adams, The Rev. Jennifer L. (Jen)	6/11/1994	Ordination
Schlotterbeck, The Venerable Marilou J.	8/6/1994	Ordination
Rutenbar, The Rev. LaRae J.	9/9/1994	Atlanta
David, The Rev. John S.	1/1/1995	Alaska
Harris, The Rev. Ladd K.	2/15/1995	Central New York

Clergy
Canonically Resident, Cont'd

York, The Rev. Susan (Sue)	6/22/1996	Ordination
Mikaya, The Very Rev. Henry C.	6/27/1996	New York
McLaren, The Rev. Beth A.	7/1/1996	Connecticut
Carlson, The Rev. Geraldine B. (Betty)	7/7/1996	Ordination
Hoop, The Rev. Kimberly A. (Kim)	11/16/1996	Ordination
Spangenberg, The Rev. Carol A.	1/23/1997	Michigan
Smith, The Rev. William H.	4/5/1997	Kenya
Hotra, The Rev. Nancy L.	6/21/1997	Ordination
Fulton, The Rev. Nancy C.	9/27/1997	Ordination
Comer, The Rev. Harold L. (Skip)	3/5/1998	Northern Indiana
Bartlett, The Rev. Stephen I. (Steve)	10/1/1999	Michigan
Breakey, The Rev. Pamela J.	3/2/2000	Pittsburgh
Guback, The Rev. Dr. Thomas H.	5/27/2000	Ordination
Frens, The Rev. Mary J.	6/17/2000	Ordination
Wagner, The Rev. Barbara J.	12/13/2000	Eastern Michigan
Dukes, The Rev. Lynne	2/9/2001	Florida
McDonald, The Rev. Karen L.	4/4/2001	Ordination
Perrin, The Rev. Mary E.	4/22/2001	Ordination
Green, The Rev. Patricia A.	5/29/2001	Northern Michigan
Brown, The Rev. Gregory B. F. (Greg)	6/2/2001	Ordination
Burke, The Rev. Celine A.	10/15/2001	Iowa
Klein, The Rev. Everett H.	12/1/2001	Ordination
Fout, The Rev. Jason A.	1/3/2002	Chicago
Durren, The Rev. Paula E.	5/26/2002	Ordination
Meengs, The Rev. John R.	6/15/2002	Ordination
Ambrose, The Rev. Valerie T. (Val)	9/3/2003	Western Oregon
Nawrocki, The Rev. Cindy	9/20/2003	Ordination
Hunt, The Rev. Canon Meredith	1/26/2005	Michigan
Whiting, The Rev. William R.	5/17/2005	Massachusetts
Allard, The Rev. Bradley R. (Brad)	11/19/2005	Ordination
Kunce, The Rev. Floyd A.	12/17/2005	Ordination
Marx, The Rev. Lily	6/10/2006	Ordination
Nicholson, The Rev. Wayne	9/26/2006	New York
Brower, The Rev. David	9/30/2006	Western New York
Anei, The Rev. Abraham	12/9/2006	Ordination
Char, The Rev. Zachariah	12/9/2006	Ordination
Schiesler, The Rev. Dr. Robert A. (Bob)	5/17/2007	Iowa
Holmgren, The Rev. Stephen	11/24/2007	Louisiana
Sten, The Rev. Pam	1/3/2008	Chicago
Crise, The Very Rev. Rebecca	3/1/2008	Northern Indiana
Croom, The Very Rev. James (Jim)	3/25/2008	California
Drew, The Rev. Beth	6/21/2008	Ordination
Novitsky, The Rev. Nicholas (Nick)	6/21/2008	Ordination
Bennett, The Rev. Dale	11/18/2008	Chicago
Potts, The Rev. Matthew	12/21/2008	Ordination
Coleman, The Very Rev. Brian R.	3/4/2009	Los Angeles
Scott, The Rev. Thomas C. H..	5/12/2009	Chicago
Evans, The Rev. Aaron	10/23/2009	Northern Indiana
Evans, The Rev. Rachael	10/23/2009	Northern Indiana
Weller, The Rev. Gretchen	10/23/2009	Ohio

Clergy
Canonically Resident, Cont'd

Richards, The Very Rev. Daniel P.	1/6/2010	Arizona
Cramer, The Very Rev. Jared	2/3/2010	Northwest Texas
Bell, The Rev. John Michael (Mike)	6/3/2010	Eastern Michigan
Ryan, The Rev. Michael J.	8/24/2010	Maine
Wernick, The Rev. Michael Alan (Mike)	10/5/2011	Southern Ohio
Parish, The Rev. Nurya Love	12/3/2011	Ordination
Warren, The Rev. Dr. Randall R.	2/8/2012	Chicago
Schnaare, The Rev. Anne Elizabeth	4/3/2012	Georgia
Edwards, The Rev. Bonnie E.	4/18/2012	Los Angeles
Kuhn, The Rev. Darlene M.S.	6/16/2012	Ordination
Turmo, The Rev. Joel L.	8/8/2012	Southwest Florida
Kelley, The Rev. Carlton F.	10/1/2012	Indianapolis
Stifler, The Rev. Linnea Ruth Peterson	12/22/2012	Ordination
Schark, The Rev. Frederick (Rick)	10/28/2013	Eastern Michigan
Hamp, The Rev. Dr. Gary D.	3/5/2014	Missouri
Shriver, The Rev. Domingo F. (Mick)	4/16/2014	New York
O'Dell, The Rev. Thomas Peyton (Tom)	10/14/2014	Nebraska
Baron, The Rev. Christian J.	12/20/2014	EDWM
Baron, The Rev. Jodi	12/20/2014	EDWM

Clergy - Licensed to Officiate

Name	Status	Canonical Residence
Anderson, The Rev. Christopher D.	LIC - ELCA	
Brisbane, The Rev. Paul	LIC	Colorado
Brook, The Rev. Dr. Robert C.	LIC	Michigan
Carey, The Rev. Brenton H. (Brent)	LIC	San Diego
Clapp, The Rev. Schuyler L. (Pete)	LIC	Eastern Michigan
Dickinson, The Rev. Hugh	LIC	Pennsylvania
Dressel, The Rev. Marilyn K.	LIC	Eastern Michigan
Eichenlaub, The Rev. Patricia	LIC	Michigan
Emrich, The Rev. Richard	LIC	Central New York
Engle, The Rev. Mark	LIC	Northern Michigan
Forrest, The Rev. William G.	LIC	Dallas
Friesner Jr, The Rev. Dr. James L.	LIC - ELCA	
Glidden, The Very Rev. Charles	LIC	Fond du Lac
Hamlin, The Rev. W. Richard	LIC	Michigan
Heil, The Rev. William	LIC - ELCA	
Hempstead, The Rev. James B.	LIC	Indianapolis
King, The Rev. Kathryn M.	LIC - ELCA	
Kircher, The Rev. Dr. Kathleen L.	LIC	Southwest Florida
Koehl, The Rev. William Ted (Ted)	LIC - ELCA	
Laycock, The Rev. John	LIC	Michigan
Lillvis, The Rev. David M.	LIC	Michigan
Louder, The Rev. David	LIC - ELCA	
McDougall, The Rev. Robert F.	LIC	Michigan
McGill, The Rev. William J.	LIC	Central Pennsylvania
McKenzie, The Rev. Richard D.	LIC - ELCA	
McLean Jr, The Rev. James R.	LIC	Arkansas
Michnay, The Rev. Kenneth	LIC - ELCA	
Morris, The Rev. John	LIC - ELCA	
Morrison, The Rev. Sam	LIC	Michigan
Nicholson, The Rev. Bill	LIC - ELCA	
Otis, The Rev. Tom	LIC - ELCA	
Randall, The Rev. Corydon	LIC	Michigan
Remenschneider, The Rev. Dennis	LIC - ELCA	
Sauerzopf, The Rev. Richard C.	LIC	Michigan
Semon-Scott, The Rev. Deborah	LIC	Michigan
Shinn, The Rev. Richard E.	LIC	Michigan
Slack, The Rev. James C. S. (Jim)	LIC	Dallas
Whitlock, The Rev. Robert A. (Robin)	LIC	Southwest Florida
Yakimow, The Rev. Karen	LIC - ELCA	

Candidates for Holy Orders
Postulants for Priesthood
Postulants for Diaconate

CANDIDATES FOR HOLY ORDERS

None

POSTULANTS FOR PRIESTHOOD

Phares, Mr. Nicholas Isaac (Nick)	Postulant-Priest
Stier E.C., Sister Diane	Postulant-Priest
Wood, Mr. Michael (Mike)	Postulant-Priest
Heyboer, Ms. B J	Postulant-Priest
Homeyer, Mr. Peter (Pete)	Postulant-Priest
Kaminsky, Ms. Radhajyoti Deitenbeck (Radha)	Postulant-Priest
Marx, The Rev. Lily	Transitional Deacon

POSTULANTS FOR DIACONATE

Berghuis O.P, Brother Michael Robert (Brother	Postulant-Deacon
Gockerman, Ms. Jan	Postulant-Deacon
Vinge, Patricia (Pat)	Postulant-Deacon

PARISHES IN UNION WITH CONVENTION

Albion	St. James
Allegan	Good Shepherd
Battle Creek	Resurrection
Battle Creek	St. Thomas
Beaver Island	St. James
Benton Harbor	St. Augustine
Beulah	St. Philip Big
Rapids	St. Andrew
Boyne City	Nativity
Cadillac	St. Mary
Charlotte	St. John
Charlevoix	Christ Church
Coldwater	St. Mark
Dowagiac	St. Paul
Elk Rapids	St. Paul
Fremont	St. John
Grand Haven	St. John
Grand Ledge	Trinity
Grand Rapids	Grace
Grand Rapids	St. Andrew
Grand Rapids	St. Mark
Grand Rapids	St. Philip
Greenville	St. Paul
Harbert	Church of The Mediator
Hastings	Emmanuel
Holland	Grace
Ionia	St. John the Apostle
Kalamazoo	St. Luke
Kalamazoo	St. Martin
Kentwood	Church of the Holy Cross
Lansing	St. David
Ludington	Grace
Manistee	Holy Trinity
Marshall	Trinity
Montague	St. Peter
Mt. Pleasant	St. John
Muskegon	St. Gregory
Muskegon	St. Paul
Newaygo	St. Mark
Niles	Trinity
Northport	St. Christopher
Orangeville	St. Francis
Paw Paw	St. Mark
Petoskey	Emmanuel
Plainwell	St. Stephen
Portage	St. Barnabas

Parishes In Union With Convention, continued

Richland	St. Timothy
St. Joseph	St. Paul
Saugatuck	All Saints
South Haven	Epiphany
Sturgis	St. John Three
Rivers	Trinity
Traverse City	Grace
Wyoming	Holy Trinity

NEW CONGREGATION STATUS

Belmont	Church of the Holy Spirit
Grand Rapids	Sudanese Grace Episcopal Church

SEASONAL CHAPELS

Harbor Springs	St. John
Leland	St. Peter
Onkama	St. Johns-by-the-Lake

RULES OF ORDER
141st Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan

I. ORGANIZATION

- A. The President having the Chair, the Convention shall be called to order.
- B. Each session of the Convention shall be opened with suitable devotions.
- C. The [lay delegation or entire delegation lay and clergy] of any parish that has not properly turned in their parochial report for the preceding year, prior to the beginning of a diocesan or special convention, shall not have the right to vote at that convention. Such a parish shall retain its right to seat and voice.
- D. The Secretary of the preceding Convention (or, in his/her absence, the secretary pro tempore to be elected via vote) shall call out the names of the Parishes and Missions in union with the Convention; and the lay delegates from each shall present their certificates of election, which shall be referred to a committee on Credentials, appointed by the President, consisting of one presbyter or deacon and one lay person. However, at the discretion of the Bishop, certificates of election may be required to be sent in prior to the Convention and be referred to the Committee on Credentials immediately preceding the opening session of the Convention, thereby eliminating the reading of the names of the Parishes and Missions.
- E. If provision has not been made for registration of clerical members before the opening session of the Convention, the Secretary shall call out the names of the clergy entitled to seats in the Convention and shall enter into the Journal the names of those who are present.
- F. The Committee on Credentials shall report.
- G. Quorum and right to vote from time to time shall be determined on the basis of clergy who have registered or answered present and lay delegates who have theretofore been seated by the Convention after the above reports.

II. GENERAL

- A. Nominations from the floor will not be accepted.
- B. When nominations are made for any office, the names shall be recorded in the order in which they were presented.
- C. Elections
 - 1. The Elections Committee Chair shall cause all names proposed for offices which are to be filled by balloting to be printed on a separate ballot for each office. Separate ballots shall be taken for each office and shall be the order of the day from such hour as the Convention shall fix.
 - 2. In all elections, a ballot shall be void unless the number of votes cast on the ballot is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled.
 - 3. In order for any person to be elected to any office, he/she must receive a vote on a majority of ballots cast.
 - 4. If all offices on a ballot have not been filled after two ballots, then the person who received the fewest number of votes on the second ballot will not appear on the third ballot. If balloting continues, the lowest vote getter will be removed from each successive ballot.

5. A person named on a ballot may remove his/her name from the ballot at any time during the balloting process.
- D. In case the Bishop shall withdraw from the sittings of the Convention, he shall appoint a Presbyter to preside during his absence.
- E. At any time before the final adjournment of the Convention, the President may, and if requested by any seven (7) members shall, call for the reading of the minutes of the sessions just completed; and after such reading the minutes shall be corrected, signed by the President and attested by the Secretary.
- F. All substantive resolutions shall be in the hands of the Resolutions Committee by at least forty-five (45) days prior to the Convention. Resolutions arising out of the Bishop's Address, submitted by the Chairperson of the Resolutions Committee, are excluded from this rule. A majority vote shall be required to permit consideration of later resolutions.
- G. No motion shall be considered as before the Convention until it is seconded and stated by the President.
- H. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received, unless it is to lay on the table, to move the previous question, to postpone to a set time, to commit, to amend, to substitute, to postpone indefinitely, or to divide it, and motions of any of these purposes shall have precedence in the order therein named.
- I. A motion to amend by substitution shall be in order.
- J. A motion to amend, to substitute, or amend by substitution must be in written form and presented to the Chair when the motion is made.
- K. A motion to adjourn and a motion to lay on the table shall always be in order and shall be decided without debate. A motion to lay on the table shall require a two-thirds vote of the members present.
- L. A question being decided, it shall not be reconsidered at the same convention without the consent of two-thirds of the members present nor without a motion being made by one of the majority on the prior decision.
- M. Every member present, when a motion is put, shall vote thereon unless excused by the Convention.
- N. The Convention shall vote by presentation of colored cards, except when requested by any delegate and supported by five others, the ballot shall be written. On the requisition of any two members, the yeas and nays shall be called and entered in the Journal. (Concerning the vote by order, see Articles III, Section 8, of the Constitution of the Diocese.)
- O. All committees shall be appointed by the President unless otherwise ordered by the Convention, and when he may deem it advisable, he may appoint on a committee, to report to the next Convention, a person qualified to be a delegate who is not a member of the Convention.
- P. When a member desires to speak, he or she shall arise and stand at one of the designated places, using the microphone, address the President in an audible voice. If more than one member arises and stands at one of the designated places, the President shall determine the preference, alternating between those who wish to speak for and those who wish to speak against the issue on the floor, when feasible.
- Q. No member shall speak more than once on the same subject without leave of the

Convention, except that the person making a motion may speak twice on that motion.

- R. Debate on any principle motion and on subsidiary motions addressed to it shall be limited to a total of two minutes per person, unless the limit shall be changed by majority vote of the Convention.
- S. No member shall withdraw from the Convention without leave asked and voted.
- T. These rules of order may be suspended on a two-thirds vote of the members present.
- U. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings of the Convention, except as otherwise provided herein above.



The 141st Annual Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Grand Rapids Airport – November 6-7, 2015

“Starting A Movement”

Bishop’s Address

The Rt. Rev. Wayne M. Hougland, Jr.

Good morning!

The Lord be with you.

Let us pray. (Silence)

We thank you, O most gracious God, that you have called us to be your people. Help us to know the greatness of our calling, so that we, having one spirit of faith and love, may live in the world as a new and holy generation. Give to us, O God, a new vision and a new charity, a new wisdom and fresh understanding, the revival of our brightness and the renewal of our unity, that the eternal message of your Son, may be proclaimed as the good news of the new age; through him who makes all things new, Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

I’m going to borrow a page out of our new Presiding Bishop’s Convention Address play book.

Bishop Curry always begins his comments to diocesan convention by reading and reflecting on a piece of scripture as a way to set the context for his remarks

Not a bad idea, huh?

A reading from the Gospel According to Mark.

Mark 8:27-39

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that I am?’ And they answered him, ‘John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.’ He asked them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Peter answered him, ‘You are the Messiah.’ And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, ‘Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.’

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose

it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.’

We heard this passage on September 13 of this year. It was the gospel lesson for the day I asked you to read my first pastoral letter on the emerging vision the Spirit is calling us to engage. The diocesan vision for mission we are forming. Remember?

It’s funny how the Spirit seems to work, you know?

This passage was the perfect reading for that day.

Here’s why:

This passage sits at the pivotal turning point in the Gospel according to Mark.

It is a hinge passage between the first half of Mark’s good news story where Jesus’ gathers, leads and begins teaching his disciples about the Kingdom of God come near and the second half of the story where Jesus leads his disciples to Jerusalem and the cross demonstrating what the good news looks like.

In this passage Jesus and his boys are way up north far from home in Caesarea Philippi, way out in the (boonies), in the middle of nowhere. They are as far away from Jerusalem and the temple as they get in this story, far away from everything known and familiar and comfortable. And in this distant unfamiliar place Jesus asks them his pivotal question, “But who do you say that I am?”

It’s a great question, isn’t it? Who(m) do you say that Jesus is?

This really is the question of questions for us. This is *THE* question for who call themselves Christian – for those who proclaim to be followers of Jesus and not just admirers.

Who(m) do you say that Jesus is?

Good ole Peter, my favorite of Jesus’ boys, gets it right. “You are the Messiah.” He says, even though he doesn’t fully understand what this means. So Jesus

tells him. To be the Messiah, my dear Peter, means I will undergo great suffering, it means I will be rejected by the powers that be, it means I will be killed, *and* it means I will rise again. It was hard for Peter to hear this.

And, if we are honest, it's a hard thing for us to hear, Jesus, our savior, my friends, is a loser. He is a selfless, sacrificial loser. Make no mistake about it. Jesus is a loser who throws the game, tosses in the towel, gives up the ghost on purpose, with purpose so that the world might finally see and know the true and awesome power of our God, a power and a grace that can and will and does overcome the very worst humanity can create by overcoming death itself.

Who(m) do you say that Jesus is?

He is not a winner like the ones we Americans traditionally worship and adore and long to be ourselves. Nor is a hero who rides in on his white horse like John Wayne or Clint Eastwood to violently beat down the enemy. Jesus does not, like a DC or Marvel comic book Super Hero, use other worldly powers to save us from our enemies.

No. He is, in truth, a hard truth, the anti-hero. The non-hero who loses badly and loses so completely it is embarrassing. They beat him badly. The score is completely lopsided. The "mercy rule" should have been called – it wasn't.

This is the Messiah, my friends. This is our Messiah, our savior, our Lord. He is a complete utter failure, a loser. And he is calling us to follow him. Calling us to follow him by denying ourselves, by taking up our cross, by losing our lives so that we might save our life. It's simply crazy utter foolishness to be a follower of Jesus the Messiah.

Who do you say that Jesus is?

This is the pivotal question.

Everything hinges on your answer, on our answer.

With this question and Peter's response everything turns in the Gospel according to Mark.

With this question everything turns for us.

We are at a pivotal turning point here in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan.

A year and half ago, at my first convention as your 9th Bishop I called us to "Change the Game." That was the theme – to change the church game by calling us all to live ever more intentional spiritual lives by creating and maintaining a rule of life as the way to perfect and strengthen our faith. I believe that the closer we are to God, the more intentional our relationship with God the better we come to know ourselves, the better we understand our calling and the better able we are to respond authentically to God.

As you've heard me say, it's all about relationship.

Our very understanding of God as Trinity is about relationship, about our mutual, intimate and loving God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. When we talk of God we are talking about a community of persons whose relationship emanates healing and wholeness, divinity and holiness. The Trinity teaches us that the nature of God is inherently relational, communal, connected, accepting, forgiving, vulnerable. So, if God's nature is inherently relational, then we must strive to be in community with each other as a reflection of God. **My deep and abiding hope for our diocesan community is we individually grow closer to God by practicing a rule of life and grow closer to one another strengthening our trust and bonds of affection so we might act faithfully in the world as the body of Christ!**

You see, it's all about relationships. Pursuing an intimate relationship with God leads to greater trust in God which leads to a stronger faith in God which will inevitably free us to take up our cross and follow God. Striving to be closer to one another leads to greater trust, greater honesty, greater vision among us setting us free to act faithfully in the world – together - as one.

Building and cultivating relationships has been my primary task these first two years. I believe doing so is the best most hopeful way forward for us. It is also an inherent, integral function of my role as bishop. One I take very seriously. I think this effort is bearing fruit. Hopeful, creative things are popping out there. We are starting to work together, starting to pull together, starting to see ourselves as more than just individuals in individual congregations. A beautiful spirit of collaboration is emerging among us. Here are some examples:

1. The Southwest Coalition of Episcopal Churches has been created among the congregations of Church of the Mediator, Harbert, St. Paul's, St. Joseph, St. Augustine's, Benton Harbor, and Epiphany, South Haven. They pulled together to host a Vigil for Climate Justice, at the Berrien County Courthouse. It was very well attended and garnered much media attention showing how our combined voices can be prophetic.
2. The congregations of St. Paul's, Dowagiac and Trinity Church, Three Rivers are working together in unique and creative shared clergy arrangement structured to ensure each congregation can continue Sunday Eucharist on a regular basis.
3. Holy Trinity, Wyoming and Holy Spirit, Belmont have also entered into a shared clergy arrangement that will benefit both congregations. For this to happen, both congregations had to give something up, sacrifice something. Beautiful.

4. Emmanuel Church, Petoskey and Nativity Church, Boyne City are working together on yet another shared clergy relationship that seeks to reach out beyond them to the smaller communities around them.
5. St. Andrews and St. Mark's, GR have a shared Youth Ministry program.
6. Leaders at St. Timothy's, Richland and Grace, Holland pulled off a first ever Progressive Youth Mission Trip this summer. Another is planned for next summer.
7. Holy Cross, Kentwood is not one but now part of Two Churches as it is successfully and creatively works with Ascension Lutheran Church.

These are just a few of the many emerging collaborative activities started in recent months and I have not even mentioned the continuing domestic and foreign missionary efforts we engage together including Reading Camp, (started in the diocese of Lexington under Bp. Sauls and his wife Ginger's initiative) Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, New Orleans and in the Dominican Republic where we just finished building the Church of San Mateo.

The Spirit is moving among us, y'all, drawing us together. A willingness to work collaboratively, a desire to share resources, a readiness to explore shared ministry is rapidly emerging in our diocese. This is a very hopeful and very, very healthy happening. We are the diocese of Western Michigan! We are one people, with one mission, united by one faith, one hope, one baptism. We need each other.

In a spirit of collaboration, we've spent this year discerning who we might be and what we might do as followers of Jesus. I invited you to attend three "Town Hall" style gatherings early this year. The purpose of these meetings was to prayerfully discern how the Spirit is calling *us* to serve one another and the world around us. Your diocesan council gathered all of your comments sat with, prayed over and distilled these at our retreat in May and again at our June meeting. Here is what we have resolved to do based on what we heard the spirit saying through you and again, thank you for participating in our regional Town Hall Meetings:

"We resolve to create a three year plan for the Diocese, the primary goals of which are: 1. Reaching our younger generations; 2. Caring for creation, our neighbors and our place by supporting programs addressing the needs for food, water, and shelter; 3. Seeking to raise up a deacon in each parish as a catalyst for mission; 4. Engaging in a process of asset mapping to identify the gifts given us to do God's work. In order to achieve these goals, we have identified the necessity to improve internal and external communication: first, to communicate with each other for mutual growth

and learning and second, to the world around us explaining who we are as Episcopal Church, what we stand for and what we are doing in the world."

Now, I don't know about you, but I think this is pretty dang cool. And hopeful and important. We sat and talked together. We listened, carefully, respectfully listened to one another. We were open and honest and vulnerable with one another sharing how we believe the Spirit is calling us to be one.

There is a movement starting among, us stirring. A movement, a shared action is forming among us such that we not only are beginning to see an emerging vision of what to do and where to go but also a vision of our shared identity as Episcopalians in this part of the world. Again, this is really, really cool and exciting and energizing. It represents an important and critical pivot point for us a diocese. It helps us answer Jesus question, "Who do you say that I am?" See? Our brand new PB would call our emerging vision, living into the dream of God. He would say that our fledgling movement is part of the Jesus Movement. A movement that is really a revival for Episcopalians as we boldly seek to proclaim Jesus to the world around us through word and deed. This is an exciting time to be an Episcopalian, my friend. It is a pivotal time for us and for our denomination.

I want to show you Bishop Curry's recent video introducing himself to the Episcopal Church and unpacking for us what he means by being the Jesus Movement. (ENS Video)

We live in exciting, hopeful times. This is a great time to be an Episcopalian and we may be ahead of the curve a bit with our emerging vision.

So let's unpack this resolution a bit shall we?

First, please understand that Diocesan Council is seeking to create a process for living into this emerging vision. The elements of the resolution are not final, end of discussion, carved in stone commandments. They are the framework for a conversation, a framework for starting a movement, a movement which will change over time. Second, your reflection and feedback are essential to continuing the conversation so please, if you haven't, go to our diocesan website, click on "Our Diocesan Vision" and share your thoughts.

Okay, the primary thing you said was we need better communication. Looking at your responses it appears you want better internal and external communication. The desire for internal communication revolved around two things:

1. How we communicate with God through spiritual practices and
2. How we communicate with one another within the diocese.

The focus on external communication was to:

1. How do we communicate ourselves, our lives into the world as a faithful response to our relationship with God? And
2. How might we best communicate to the world who The Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan how we are living out our calling?

Again, this is tremendously hopeful and exciting. What you are saying is you want to be connected to God and to each other. It says you want to be faithful and responsive followers of God. It says you desire to share your faith, your gifts, your resources so that all may know about the grace and peace of God. Not bad y'all! Not bad.

Four other themes were distilled from these gatherings. They are not listed in any particular order or priority.

1. **Reaching Younger Generations** seems pretty self-evident. If we want to leave this trust we've been given we must actively reach out to younger generations. We must understand that this effort should not be driven by a desire to save the church by bringing in ever newer crops of bill payers and pledge makers. No, this must be a sincere effort to share our faith with those who follow after us. The Gospel good news demands us to share it not to contain it or market it for the sake of saving the institutional church.
2. **Caring for our neighbors and nature and our place by supporting programs focused on food, water and shelter** was a huge constant theme distilled from our conversations. Many of us are already actively engaged in such important ministries ranging from Food Pantry's, to weekly feeding programs, to clothing and baby and diaper panti's. Thank you. Keep 'em going. The need for such, sadly, only continues to grow. I personally find the focus on water particularly intriguing. The state of Michigan is defined by waters. As a peninsula our borders are liquid gold. 20% of the world's fresh water surrounds us. It seems to me then, we have a unique calling to be stewards of this invaluable resource. How tragic it is that Flint, MI residents do not have clean drinking water when we are surrounded by such an abundance? Dumbfounding. Thank you must be given to your Diocesan Council who sent a \$2000.00 check to St. Paul's Episcopal Flint, to help overcome this water crisis. Thank you to all our congregations and individuals who raised and sent money to the same end. I see this tragic episode as an example of how our emerging vision can guide us moving forward. Another opportunity is looming in the Domin-

ican Republic as we are in the early stages of planning a mission to get water to an isolated village whose water source was rerouted to service the growing island resorts literally leaving a whole village of farming workers high and dry. We are defined by waters, the fresh waters the surround us and the waters of baptism in which we are buried with Christ, by which we share in his resurrection and through which we are reborn by the Spirit. Food, water, shelter; everyone needs fair and reasonable access to these. Stay tuned for a presentation on the Michigan Good Foods Charter coming up later in our convention.

3. **Raising up deacon in every parish as a catalyst for mission.** We just simply need to get out there, out in the world, out where the people are. I've been saying this since Day 1. 1st we need to attend to our relationship with God through a Rule of Life. 2nd we need to GO! Remember the incense story from my Consecration at Calvin College? We set the alarm off and the Calvin folks chased us out of the building into the streets?! I so love that story. It speaks to the truth....we must go to where the people are.....we must carry what is good and hopeful, holy and restorative out into the world so that everyone might know what we know.....God is loving, merciful....grace is present in the world here – NOW! That forgiveness and healing and resurrection are real, are possible, and readily available to all who ask.

Did you notice the movement in Bishop Curry's video? There were 3 movements...1. He started in the church. 2. Then he moved out through the church front door. 3. And walks out into the streets. That was completely intentional. We must make the same move!!

Those congregations willing to humbly GO into the world carrying grace and hope will thrive and flourish. (Those congregations) that cling to their pews, that (seek to cling to their resources, their buildings – will eventually lose them.) Those who seek to save their lives will lose them, but those who deny themselves, who take up their cross will save them.

So, the third area of focus in our emerging vision is to

3. **raise up a deacon, a servant, in every congregation to help lead us out into the world** because this is essential to the Jesus Movement.

We currently have 4 people training for the diaconate. I believe we will have 8 by this time next year. We are working collaboratively with the Diocese of Michigan and Eastern Michigan on this training. It is a 3 year program of study. It won't be easy. It will require sacrifice, it will require money, it will require time

and energy. But, if you hear a call stirring to serve the least and the last, and the lost....If you have a heart for the poor.....then you may have a call to be a deacon. I am looking to create a “Disturbance of Deacons”!.... People willing to disturb the waters by calling us up and out into the world because that’s where Jesus is leading us and where WE must go.....(PAUSE)

I’ve got some energy around this Y’all. The church can simply no longer be a worship club. If our sole purpose as church is to gather on Sunday’s then we’ve not heard the Gospel imperative to go spread the good news. If we are focused on church maintenance on church survival then our congregations will most assuredly die. If we do not seek to share ourselves, our souls, our stuff in the service of others then we are merely a worship club and not much more.

The final area of focus is a bit surprising to me. Surprisingly hopeful and unexpected. Diocesan Council heard in the your sharing, a desire to identify our assets. Spiritual, missional, and financial assets. The question is this.....If we want to communicate with each other better – relate and work with each other better – then we need to get a handle on what we have to know better what we might share.....Also, if we want to communicate to the wider world who we are and what we are doing then we need to list and catalog exactly what it is we are doing! Makes sense, doesn’t it?

So, the 4th vision work we might engage together is **4. Asset Mapping**identifying what we have.

I see this breaking down into 3 categories of asset analysis:

1. *Personal Spiritual Gifts Inventory*.....There are helpful instruments out there that can help us identify our personal, individual spiritual gifts....What if everyone in every congregation could clearly identify their spiritual giftedness? Many might be sitting on the sidelines doubtful about how they might engage the Jesus Movement. “How can I help?” some might say. A fair question. So, maybe we should help answer this question. Maybe we create a congregational database of spiritual giftedness. Remember, we are made for each other. We are made, designed to be in relationship with one another. We need each other. Christianity is not a sole act, an individual enterprise. We are the body of Christ – each one necessary and essential and valuable to the whole. The better we know ourselves, the better we know our gifts....the better those can be employed in the Jesus Movement, we have been baptized into.
2. A second area of Asset Mapping is simply *listing the ministries*, we, as congregations are doing. Feeding Programs, Baby Pantries,

Reading Camp, Youth Ministry, Young Adult Ministry, Water Purification equipment, providing medical equipment, etc.....there are literally hundreds of life-giving...life-saving ministries we engage in this diocese. Hundreds! We don’t even know the full extent of what we do and if we don’t know, how can the people of western Michigan know? They don’t. So let’s list them! Celebrate them! Share them with the rest of Western Michigan.....The church-wide office of the Episcopal Church in New York is already helping dioceses do just this and we are seeking to utilize this database. The platform already exists – we just need to engage it.

3. The final area of Asset Mapping is simple. It involves each congregation *listing our hard assets*. What physical property, furnishings and fixtures, financial holdings and investments do we have? What do we have? What do we own? How well are these gifts being utilized? What ongoing capital maintenance and improvements costs do we need to consider for roofs, boilers, organs, HVAC systems, stained glass windows, etc..? Do we have plans to address these? Might some of these be shared amongst our congregations? How might we think proactively about the stewardship of our physical assets? The better we know what we have the better able we can employ them in the Jesus Movement. Remember, we do not own our church facilities. We hold them in trust – for each other and for those who we raise up to join the Jesus Movement behind us, but most importantly we hold them in trust for those we are called to serve.

Imagine for a moment how identifying our assets, our spiritual, missional, and physical assets might change things. Imagine. How might this change how we see ourselves, understand our calling, our purpose, our potential? I believe that with this knowledge we will move from a position of fearful shortage to a position of thankful abundance.....see all we have?! We have so much my friends! There is nothing we need. We have everything we need. EVERYTHING! All we may lack is faith in God and trust in ourselves.

We have everything we need. Everything we need to start a movement or perhaps more accurately, we have everything we need to continue in Jesus’ movement. So, you might ask, how does a movement get started? How do I join the movement? Good questions. Let me show you a short, fun 3 minute Ted Talk video on starting a movement. It’s not as hard you might think. (Video)

Ok, so maybe Jesus is that shirtless dancing guy in the video the one willing to stand out and be ridiculed. The one willing to risk everything to dance to the

rhythm of God's song, a song that leads him to the cross. Maybe being part of the Jesus Movement is like dancing, dancing to the rhythm of God tune instead of our won. And, maybe, the first follower, Jesus' first dance partner is Peter, the one who recognizes and bravely proclaims Jesus as the Messiah. He answers Jesus' question, who do you say that I am by naming Jesus the Messiah, he joins the dance and everything changed for him, for Jesus and for us. So, maybe, when we hear in the Gospel according to Mark Jesus' question, "who do you say that I am?" what we are really being asked is, "will join in the dance?" Will you get up of your feet and come dance my crazy dance with me? Will you come to me, follow me, dance with me, throw your hands in the air and wave 'em like you just don't care? I'm a loser you know and I embrace losers, embrace the last, lost and the least. Will you risk embarrassment, risk ridicule, risk riches and come dance with me anyway? Will you invite others to dance with us?

We are at pivotal moment my friends, in our denomination, in our diocese, within ourselves. We are being invited, always invited to join the Jesus Movement. We are being invited to join in the dance. And everything is hanging on our answering one simple, elegant but oh so difficult question, "Who(m) do you say that I am?"

What do you say Western Michigan?

Wanna start a movement?

Good, let's dance!

Changes in the Diocese since May, 2014

Retirements

Skip Comer, St. Philip's, Beulah, May 2015
Robert Schiesler, St. Mark's, GR May 2015
Mike Bell, Trinity Manistee – September 2015
David Mellor, St. Paul's, Elk Rapids September 2015

Deaths

Joseph Howell, August 2014
Joseph Neiman, April 2015
Scott Anderson, September 2015

Resignations

Everett Klein, St. Peter's by the Lake, Montague July, 2014
Peggy Natterman, Nativity, Boyne City August 2014
Ken Tabor, St. John's, Ionia August 2014
Tom Otis, St. Christopher's, Northport January 2015
Daniel Scheid, St. Augustine's, Benton Harbor May 2015
John Kirkman, St. Mary's, Cadillac October 2015
Daniel Richards, Grace Traverse City – Leaving November, 2015

New Calls

David Brower, Cadillac to Greenville, May 2014
Tom O'Dell, Christ Church, Charlevoix July, 2014
Patrick Finn, St. Paul's, Muskegon, January 2015
David Meyers, Belmont to Montague, July 2015

Special Welcome

Randall Warren transition from Interim rector to Rector in Charge July 2014
Deacon Kim Hoop, Reassigned to Holy Cross, Kentwood
Deacon Greg Flentje, assigned to St. Luke's, Kalamazoo
Brent Carey, serving as Interim at St. Mark's, GR
Barbara Wilson, Interim at St. Augustine's, Benton Harbor September 2015
Richard Sauerzopf, interim at St. Philip's, Beulah October 2015
Jim Croom, Holy Spirit, Belmont AND Holy Trinity, Wyoming November 2015

Ordinations

Christian Baron – Ordained as Curate Grace, Holland December 2014
Jodi Baron - Ordained as Curate Grace, Holland December 2014

In Memoriam



In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our brothers and sisters. The Lord bless them and keep them, the Lord make his face to shine upon them and be gracious to them, the Lord lift up his countenance upon them and give them peace. Amen.

St. James Church, Albion: James R. Garrison, Lorene Humphrey, Helen Burns, Robert Huvendick

Church of the Good Shepherd, Allegan: Roger Reno Iehl, Sr., Ruth Virginia Tupper Washburn, Mary Joan Lange, Helen Gertrude Jewett Kibby

St. Thomas Church, Battle Creek: Fred Addison, Scott Allen Harrison, Julia Jane Campbell Holcomb, Timothy J. Robinson

St. Philip's Church, Beulah: Richard Kercher, Art Colville

St. Andrew's Church, Big Rapids: Ivan E. Estes, Dana Cory

Christ Church, Charlevoix: Bob Colt, Max Krell, Josie Stutzman, Fritz Puffpaff

St. Mark's Church, Coldwater: Frank Moler, Allie Grigg, Ray Smith, Sharon Butler, Phyllis Bunce

St. Paul's Church, Dowagiac: Evelyn Powers, Ross Graham, Brian Robinson

St. Paul's Church, Elk Rapids: Marjee Hunt, Grace J. Hesley, Marcia Merillat, Warren Gascoyne, Stan Scarborough

St. John's Church, Fremont: Nancy Schoerner

St. John's Church, Grand Haven: William Walter Wiedrich, William Walsworth Grant, Deborah Rae Wilson, Jean Everett Powell, Betty Jean Crow, Mary Abigail Stearns, Herbert Smith Guy, Kimberlee Ann Burch, Shirley Kathleen Sanders, Robert William Jenkins

Trinity Church, Grand Ledge: Catherine Elisabeth Smith, Michael Lynn Johnson

St. Mark's Church, Grand Rapids: Beverly J. Snoap, Craig J. Hecker, Dorothy L. Beeggs, Majorie C. Smith, Dorothea Pitts, Thelma L. Krueger/Hancke

St. Paul's Church, Greenville: Phyllis Dawson, Richard Rinehart, Gregory Durdle

Church of the Mediator, Harbert: Betsy Cole, Howard Heckmann

Emmanuel Church, Hastings: Gordon Babcock

St. Martin of Tours, Kalamazoo: Lawrence Kenneth Barkhouse, Arletta Penny, the Rev. Joseph Clayton Neiman, Barbara Jane (Watkins) Brown, Rodrick L. Hill

Church of the Holy Cross, Kentwood: Susan Lee Mast, Maxine Vroma, Irv B. Kroese

St. David's Church, Lansing: Beverly Jean Ware, Lawrence Lincoln Byers, Paula Audra Hawes, Donald Pinkston, Glynn Merritt Warren, Bonnie Shulnburg, Henry Charles Koenke, Georgia "Jean" Stanton Dooley, Jean Smith, Clayton M. Smith, Charles E. Henley

Trinity Church, Marshall: Donald F. Fitch, Ruth Ann Biggs, Beryl Virginia Gavitt, Judith Bernice Blank, Babetta A. Schmidt, Susan Warren, Blanche M. Pardoe, Helen Lou Mack

St. John's Church, Mount Pleasant: Joy Robinson, Shirley Robinson, Alice Louisell, Joseph Timmons, Paula Evett Shirley

St. Paul's Church, Muskegon: Ruth Ann Hovey, Germaine Jeanette Hofacker, Sally Laird, Ralph Mapes, Doris Petrongelli, Jean Poulson, Chuck Stromoski, Margaret White, Renee Whitney, Lila Allard, Nancy Cunningham, Betsy Cutler, Lila DeYoung, Odile Hahn, Brian Henry

Trinity Church, Niles: Patricia Herman Pointer, Marjorie Martin, Wilmer Eugene Baker, Brian Lee Robinson, Ross W. Graham, Marian T. MacNeill

St. Mark's Church, Paw Paw: Melvin Brown, Vivian Kinney, Norma Young

St. James Church, Pentwater: James B. Alfredson, Susan R. Amstutz, Janet Amstutz, Charles W. Churchill

Emmanuel Church, Petoskey: Margaret A. MacLeod, Kenneth I. MacLeod, June Hawthorne

St. Timothy's Church, Richland: Wayne Nelson, Ray Gan, Andrea Louise Risdon, Robert Buck Boudeman, James "Jim" Laurence, James Walter Pyle, Martha "Marti" Ozolins, David Mattson, Robin Barlow

All Saints Church, Saugatuck: Roger Mills, Richard Boehm, Steve Turner, Bud Gardiner, Susan Thomas

St. Francis of Assisi Church, Shelbyville: George Shoemaker, Martha Maurer

St. John's Church, Sturgis: F. Dewey Tennent, Marjorie Mitchell, Frederick M. Penner, Elizabeth Ann Jackson, Larry E. Lee, L. Robert Kline

St. Paul's Church, St. Joseph: Sally Cheek, Rosalyn Anna Zick, Arthur Leckner, Dr. Philip Peter, Alice Fecho, Dorothy Jean Blatchford McDonald

Grace Church, Traverse City: Bill Floyd Hankins, William L. Wise, Roy Theodore Okerstrom, John Paul Garrison, David L. Christensen, Kay Ellen Hollis, Maxine Elizabeth Ballentine, Charles G. McDougall, Yvonne Johnson, Helen Elizabeth Stanton Rigoulot, Molly Warner Lien, Christopher Colly Lyons

Holy Trinity Church, Wyoming: Gloria Mixter, Dorothy Ruth Lass, Janet Klumpp, Robert Boyer, Jeanne Miller, Jeanette Nelson, Katherine Hansma, Tammy Miller, Emily Richards

St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids: Eveyenn Irene Way Albee, The Rev. Joseph Andrew Howell, Arthur Riley, Lewis Jones, Hildegard Pierce, Paul Lemin, Ellen Decker Grant, Kathryn Ann Bush, Scott Meyer

CLERGY REGISTERED AT THE 141ST CONVENTION**The Rt. Rev. Whayne Hougland, Jr., Bishop**

Adams, Jennifer	~	Holland – Grace
Allard, Brad	~	Wyoming – Holy Trinity
Ambrose, Val	~	Holland – Grace
Baron, Christian	~	Holland – Grace
Baron, Jodi	~	Holland – Grace
Bartlett, Steve		
Bennett, Dale	~	Battle Creek – St. Thomas
Brown, Gregory	~	Petoskey – Emmanuel
Casey Fulton, Nancy	~	Mount Pleasant – St. John's
Char, Zachariah	~	Grand Rapids – Sudanese Grace
Coleman, Brian	~	Battle Creek – St. Thomas
Cramer, Jared	~	Grand Haven – St. John's
Crise, Rebecca	~	Paw Paw – St. Mark's
Croom, James	~	Wyoming – Holy Trinity
Drew, Beth		
Durren, Paula	~	Harbert – Mediator
Edwards, Bonnie	~	Portage – St. Barnabas
Evans, Aaron	~	Sturgis – St. John's
Evans, Rachel		
Fedewa, Michael	~	Grand Rapids – St. Andrew's
Finn, Patrick	~	Muskegon – St. Paul's
Fleener, Sr, William	~	Fremont – St. John's
Flentje, Greg	~	Kalamazoo – St. Luke's
Fout, Jason		
Frens, Mary	~	Newaygo – St. Mark's
Hamp, Gary	~	Big Rapids – St. Andrew's
Haughn, Terry	~	Orangeville – St. Francis of Assisi
Holmgren, Stephen	~	Grand Rapids – Grace
Hoop, Kim	~	Kentwood – Holy Cross
Hunt, Meredith		
Kelley, Carleton	~	Dowagiac – St. Paul's
Klein, Everett		
Kuhn, Darlene	~	Albion – St. James
Marx, Lily		
McDonald, Karen		
Meengs, John	~	Saugatuck – All Saints
Meyers, David	~	Montague – St. Peter's-by-the-Lake
Nawrocki, Cynthia	~	Grand Rapids – St. Andrew's
Nicholson, Wayne	~	Mount Pleasant – St. John's
Parish, Nura	~	Grand Rapids – St. Andrew's
Perrin, Mary	~	Kalamazoo – St. Martin of Tours
Pike, David	~	Lansing – St. David's
Richards, Daniel	~	Traverse City – Grace

CLERGY REGISTERED AT THE 141ST CONVENTION

The Rt. Rev. Whayne Hougland, Jr., Bishop

Rutenbar, LaRae	
Ryan, Michael	~ South Haven – Epiphany
Schark, Rick	~ Coldwater – St. Mark's
Schlotterbeck, Marilou	~ Beulah – St. Philip's
Schnaare, Anne	~ Marshall – Trinity
Shriver, Domingo	~ Ludington – Grace
Spangenberg, Carol	~ Lansing – St. David's
Sten, Pamela	~ Niles – Trinity
Stifler, Linnea	~ Orangeville – St. Francis of Assisi
Stoppel, Corwin	~ Saugatuck – All Saints
Toeller-Novak, Thomas	~ Allegan – Good Shepherd
Turmo, Joel	~ Richland – St. Timothy's
Warren, Randall	~ Kalamazoo – St. Luke's
Wewrnick, Mike	~ Kentwood – Holy Cross
Whiting, William	~ Hastings – Emmanuel
Wilson, Barbara	~ Benton Harbor – St. Augustine's of Canterbury
York, Sue	~ Grand Rapids – St. Mark's

LAY DELEGATES REGISTERED AT THE 141ST CONVENTION

Albion – St. James	Phyllis Cramer, Richard Porter
Allegan – Good Shepherd	Kandi Gibson, Ann Perrigo, Wendy Simmons
Battle Creek – Resurrection	Joe Orolin, Terri Orolin
Battle Creek – St. Thomas	Kathy Dingwall, Peter Kobs, Lorraine Petter
Belmont – Holy Spirit	Susan White
Benton Harbor – St. Augustine's	Freeman Gilbert, Les Knickerbocker
Beulah – St. Philip's	Shirley Henning, Keri McCumber
Big Rapids – St. Andrew's	Joanne Lemieux, Arthur Meissner
Boyne City – Nativity	Kay Holley
Cadillac – St. Mary's	Anita Hune, Dawn Paulin
Charlevoix – Christ Church	Mark Andresky, Don Collier
Charlotte – St. John's	Celeste Bavin, Sharon Frambes
Coldwater – St. Mark's	Audrey Croal, David Croal
Dowagiac – St. Paul's	Jennifer Frechette, Connie Plucienik
Elk Rapids – St. Paul's	Marcia Endo, Diane Geddes
Fremont – St. John's	David Kemble, Phillie O'Neil
Grand Haven – St. John's	Greg Borgman, Phyla Bramer, Janine Dekker
Grand Ledge – Trinity	Sallee Anderson, John Lanese
Grand Rapids – Grace	Maureen Birnie, Peter Bourland, Andy Saur
Grand Rapids – St. Andrew's	Marc Bush, Donna Johnston, Scott Leuchtmann, Mary Simpson
Grand Rapids – St. Mark's	Jeff Brown, Catherine Frerichs, Jennifer Julius, Pat Roy
Grand Rapids – St. Philip's	Pam Chapman, Barbara McCafferty
Grand Rapids – Sudanese Grace	Deng Jongkuch
Greenville – St. Paul's	LaDare Cox, Christine Ewell
Harbert – Mediator	Jan Anderson, Matt Conklin
Hastings – Emmanuel	Gary Platte, Susan Radant
Holland – Grace	Carol Myers, Bill Rocker, Robbie Schorle, Barb Vincensi
Ionia – St. John's	Sue Carter, Alvin Hawley
Kalamazoo – St. Luke's	Jim Forrest, Ben Jamieson, Mary Wangler
Kalamazoo – St. Martin of Tours	Laurie Atwater, Steve Barber, Tom Perrin
Kentwood – Holy Cross	Gwen Hendrickson, Co Walter
Lansing – St. David's	Carol Abbott, Andrea Flitton, Maria Leiby
Ludington – Grace	Ann French, Katharine McPike
Manistee – Holy Trinity	Jill Budzynski, Susan Lund Coyle
Marshall – Trinity	Jan Christner, Scott Neubecker
Montague – St. Peter's-by-the-Lake	Dick Howell, Deborah Wilson
Mount Pleasant – St. John's	Adam Baker, David Shirley
Muskegon – St. Gregory's	Linda Scheerer
Muskegon – St. Paul's	Helen Sherman, Don Vanderwest
Newaygo – St. Mark's	Iris Davidson, Aleta Wells
Niles – Trinity	Barry Borst, Gayle Borst
Northport – St. Christopher's	Jill Foerster
Orangeville – St. Francis of Assisi	Bias Liceaga, Colleen Vorwald
Paw Paw – St. Mark's	Jean Kracker, Gerry Stackhouse
Pentwater – St. James	AnnaMae Bush, Peter Bush

Petoskey – Emmanuel
Plainwell – St. Stephen's
Portage – St. Barnabas
Richland – St. Timothy's
Saugatuck – All Saints
South Haven – Epiphany
St. Joseph – St. Paul's
Sturgis – St. John's
Three Rivers – Trinity
Traverse City – Grace
Wyoming – Holy Trinity

David Jones, Nancy Turner
Donna Gorton, Pauline Keiser
Derek Quinn
Steve Schoenleber, Christine Wagley
Nancy Gamby, Pam Los
Janet MacKenzie, Jim Wright
Harold Bragg, Karla Donnell-Bragg
Connie Griffith, Nancy Nusbaum
MaryBeth Carlstrom, MaryLou Vernon
Elizabeth Blondia, Bob Foote, Rosemary Hagan, Chuck Wolterink
Dennis Klumpp, Jennifer Luurtsema

YOUTH DELEGATES REGISTERED AT THE 141ST CONVENTION

Abigail Dantes
Allison VanStone
Brendan Luurtsema
Catherine Eldridge
Claire Cleveland
Corbin Lopez
Elizabeth Stout
Emmanuel Luk
Kaitlyn Long
Margaret Hawley-Lowry
Morgan Luurtsema

Rt. Rev. Whayne M. Hougland, Jr.
Diocese of Western Michigan
2015 Record of Official Acts

1/4/15	Visitation - St. Paul's, St. Joseph	3/28/15	Grand Rapids – Bishop's Town Hall
1/6/15	Lakeshore Deanery Clericus	3/29/15	St. Luke's, Kalamazoo
	Grand Valley Deanery Clericus		Palm Sunday Service
	Standing Committee		
1/10/15	Confirmation Service –	4/2/15	Maundy Thursday Service
	Eve of the Baptism of our Lord		All Saints, Saugatuck
	St. Thomas, Battle Creek	4/3/15	Good Friday at Holy Cross, Kentwood
1/11/15	Visitation - St. John's, Grand Haven	4/4/15	Confirmation Service-
1/13/15	St. Joseph Deanery Clericus		The Great Vigil of Easter
	Eastern Deanery Clericus		St. John's, Grand Haven
1/16/15	Convocation at Seward	4/5/15	Visitation – St. Paul's, Greenville
	University of the South	4/7/15	Standing Committee
1/23/15	Bishop Whittemore Board Meeting	4/11/15	Kalamazoo – Bishop's Town Hall
1/25/15	Visitation – Emmanuel, Hastings	4/12/15	Visitation – St. Thomas, Battle Creek
		4/14/15	St. Joseph Deanery Clericus
2/3/15	Grand Valley Deanery Clericus		Eastern Deanery Clericus
	Standing Committee	4/16-17/15	Province V HOB
2/5/15	Visitation to The Whitcomb	4/18/15	Province V Synod
	Benton Harbor	4/16/15	Visitation – Trinity, Three Rivers
	Participate at Young Adult Gathering	4/25/15	Diocesan Celebration of EfM
2/8/15	Visitation – Grace, Grand Rapids	4/26/15	Visitation – Sudanese Grace
2/10/15	St. Joseph Deanery Clericus		Grand Rapids
	Eastern Deanery Clericus	4/30/15	Spring Deans' Meeting
2/15/15	St. Martin of Tours, Kalamazoo		
	by Special Invitation	5/2/15	ECW Annual Meeting
2/18/15	St. Barnabas, Portage		St. Peter's, Montague
	Ash Wednesday Service	5/3/15	Visitation – St. Philip's, Beulah
2/19/15	Deans' Winter Meeting	5/5/15	Lakeshore Deanery Clericus
2/22/15	Visitation – St. James, Albion		Grand Valley Deanery Clericus
2/15/15	Trinity Church, Indianapolis		Standing Committee
	by Special Invitation	5/9/15	Congregational Development Institute
		5/10/15	Visitation – Emmanuel, South Haven
3/1/15	Visitation – St. Timothy's, Richland	5/12/15	St. Joseph Deanery Clericus
3/3/15	Lakeshore Deanery Clericus		Eastern Deanery Clericus
	Grand Valley Deanery Clericus	5/15-16/15	Diocesan Council Retreat
	Standing Committee	5/18-22/15	College for Bishops, Virginia
3/7/15	Traverse Deanery Bishop's Town Hall	5/27-28/15	Spring Clergy Retreat, DeWitt, MI
3/8/15	Visitation – Christ Church, Charlevoix	5/30/15	Confirmation Service
3/10/15	St. Joseph Deanery Clericus		Octave of Pentecost,
	Eastern Deanery Clericus		Cadillac, MI
	Meet with Commission on Ministry	5/31/15	Visitation – St. Paul's, Elk Rapids
3/12/15	Meeting with New Bishops and Coaches		
3/13-17/15	House of Bishops – Kanuga	6/2/15	Lakeshore Deanery Clericus
3/21/15	Diocesan Council		Grand Valley Deanery Clericus
3/22/15	Visitation – Grace, Traverse City		Standing Committee
3/24/15	Chrism Mass and luncheon with Clergy	6/5/15	Visitation to St. Gregory's Abbey
	Dinner Meeting with Bishop Newcome	6/6/15	EDWM Bishop's Golf Outing, Gobles, MI
	Bishop of Carlisle	6/7/15	St. Paul's, Dowagiac by special invitation
3/26/15	Stewardship Meeting	6/9/15	St. Joseph Deanery Clericus
			Eastern Deanery Clericus

6/10/15	EDWM Finance Committee	10/4/15	Visitation – St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids
6/17/15	Celebration of New Ministry St. Paul's, Muskegon	10/6/15	Lakeshore Deanery Clericus Grand Valley Deanery Clericus
6/20/15	Diocesan Council	10/7/15	Finance Committee
6/21/15	Visitation – St. Christopher's, Northport	10/10/15	Congregational Development Institute Cursillo Annual Meeting & Eucharist
6/22-7/4/15	78 th General Convention Salt Lake City, UT	10/12-15/15	AMEN Conference
6/27/15	National Altar Guild Opening Triennial Dinner	10/17/15	Traverse Deanery Pre-Convention Mtg
6/27/15	Episcopal Relief & Devel. Reception	10/18/15	Visitation – Emmanuel, Petoskey
6/27/15	ECW-Distinguished Women – Luncheon	10/23/15	Bishop Whittemore Foundation Meeting
6/28/15	HOB Dinner	10/24/15	Diocesan Council St. Philip's, GR ECW Dinner
6/30/15	Sewanee School of Theology Reception & Dinner	11/1/15	Presiding Bishop Installation
7/7/15	Standing Committee	11/3/15	Lakeshore Deanery Clericus Grand Valley Deanery Clericus
7/12/15	St. John's by the Lake, Onekama Preach & Celebrate	11/4-5/15	Standing Committee EDWM Diocesan Convention Confirmation Svc Observance of All Saints
7/14/15	Eastern Deanery Clericus	11/10/15	St. Joseph Deanery Clericus Eastern Deanery Clericus
7/16-20/15	Dedication - San Simeon Dominican Republic	11/18/15	Meeting with Rt. Rev. Probal Dutta Diocese of Durgapur
7/23/15	Post-General Convention Informational Meeting for Diocese St. Mark's, Grand Rapids	11/21/15	Congregational Development Institute
7/24/15	Bishop Whittemore Board Meeting	11/22/15	Trinity, Niles by special invitation
7/26/15	Visitation – Nativity, Boyne City		
7/28/15	Diocesan Youth Mission, Grace, Holland	12/1/15	Lakeshore Deanery Clericus Grand Valley Deanery Clericus
7/30/15	Summer Deans' Meeting		Standing Committee
No August Scheduled Meetings/Events		12/4/15	Silver Tea, All Saints, Saugatuck
9/1/15	Lakeshore Deanery Clericus Grand Valley Deanery Clericus Standing Committee'	12/6/15	St. James, Albion by special invitation
9/2/15	EDWM Finance Committee	12/8/15	St. Joseph Deanery Clericus Eastern Deanery Clericus
9/8/15	St. Joseph Deanery Clericus Eastern Deanery Clericus	12/12/15	Meet with Standing Committee
9/9/15	EDWM Apportionment Review Committee	12/13/15	Visitation to St. John's, Ionia
9/12/15	Diocesan Council	12/15/15	Dedication of Medical Pantry St. Mary's, Cadillac
9/13/15	Visitation – St. Philip's, Grand Rapids	12/17/15	Meet with the Southshore Coalition
9/15/15	Traverse Deanery Clericus		
9/19/15	EDWM Missions Board Meeting		
9/20/15	Visitation – Grace, Holland		
9/23/15	Climate Justice Vigil, Benton Harbor, MI		
9/26/15	St. Joseph & Eastern Deaneries Pre-Convention Meeting		
9/27/15	Visitation - St. Mark's, Coldwater		
10/3/15	Lakeshore & Grand Valley Deaneries Pre-Convention Meeting		

Minutes of 2015 Diocesan Convention
November 6 and 7, 2015
Double Tree Hilton Hotel at the Grand Rapids Airport

Bishop Wayne Hougland called the 141st annual Diocesan Convention to order at 10:02 a.m. and then officiated at Morning Prayer. The order of service was printed in the convention booklet. Following Morning Prayer the Chancellor, William Fleener, Jr., announced that a quorum was present. The Bishop introduced the diocesan staff:

- 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 (on sabbatical)
- Bishop’s Assistant for Finance and Benefit Administration– Tammy Mazure
- Bishop’s Assistant for Communication – Karmel Puzzuoli
- Finance Assistant – Catherine Rhodes (not attending)
- Kellan Day, Young Adult Missioner

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 (not attending) Dave Croal-Assistant Treasurer (at convention)
- Deans of the Diocese:
 - ☐ Brian Coleman, Eastern – St. Thomas, BC
 - ☐ Jared Cramer, Lakeshore – St. John’s, GH
 - ☐ Rebecca Crise, St. Joseph – St. Mark’s, Paw Paw
 - ☐ Jim Croom, Grand Valley – Holy Trinity, Wyoming & Holy Spirit, Belmont
 - ☐ Daniel Richards, Traverse – Grace, Traverse City
- Archdeacon – Marilou Schlotterbeck
- Deacon for Millenium Development Goals and Dominican Republic Missions – Beth Drew
- Deacon for Health Ministries – Karen McDonald
- Deacon for Domestic Mission & Jubilee Officer – Cindy Nawrocki

The Rules of Order were adopted by acclamation.

The Bishop introduced those on the dais with him: Bill Spaid – Secretary of Convention, Musette El-Mohammed – Dispatch of Business, and Bill Fleener, Jr. – Parliamentarian

The Bishop entertained a motion to seat with voice (but not vote):

- 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

It was seconded and approved by acclamation.

The following people were elected officers of the diocesan convention by acclamation:

- Secretary, William Spaid, EDWM
- Registrar, Jane Puvogel, St. Martin's, Kalamazoo
- Chancellor, Bill Fleener, Jr., St. David's, Lansing
- Treasurer, Ivan Egnatuk, Trinity, Marshall
- Assistant Treasurer, David Croal, St. Mark's, Coldwater

The Bishop introduced the Nominations Chairperson, Mike Paulin from St. Mary's in Cadillac. Mr. Paulin explained the voting procedure and introduced nominees for Standing Committee both lay and ordained. Ballots were distributed and collected.

The Bishop introduced new clergy and clergy changes in the diocese since the last regular convention in May 2014.

• **Retirements**

Skip Comer, St. Philip's, Beulah, May 2015
Robert Schiesler, St. Mark's, GR May 2015
Mike Bell, Trinity Manistee – September 2015
David Mellor, St. Paul's, Elk Rapids September 2015

• **Ordinations**

Christian Baron – Ordained as Curate Grace, Holland December 2014
Jodi Baron - Ordained as Curate Grace, Holland December 2014

• **Resignations**

Everett Klein, St. Peter's by the Lake, Montague July, 2014
Peggy Natterman, Nativity, Boyne City August 2014
Ken Tabor, St. John's, Ionia August 2014
Tom Otis, St. Christopher's, Northport January 2015
Daniel Scheid, St. Augustine's, Benton Harbor May 2015
John Kirkman, St. Mary's, Cadillac October 2015
Daniel Richards, Grace Traverse City – Leaving November, 2015

• **New Calls**

David Brower, Cadillac to Greenville, May 2014
Tom O'Dell, Christ Church, Charlevoix July, 2014
Patrick Finn, St. Paul's, Muskegon, January 2015
David Meyers, Belmont to Montague, July 2015

• **Other Changes in the diocese**

Randall Warren, St. Luke's, Kalamazoo - transition from Interim rector to Rector July 2014
Deacon Kim Hoop, Reassigned to Holy Cross, Kentwood July 2014
Deacon Greg Flentje, assigned to St. Luke's, Kalamazoo March 2015
Brent Carey, serving as Interim at St. Mark's, GR 2015
Barbara Wilson, Interim at St. Augustine's, Benton Harbor September 2015
Richard Sauerzopf, Interim at St. Philip's, Beulah October 2015

Jim Croom, Holy Spirit, Belmont AND Holy Trinity, Wyoming - November 2015

• **Introduce Interim Clergy who are present and not canonically resident:**

Brenton Carey, St. Mark's, GR

Richard Sauerzopf, St. Philip's, Beulah

• **Deaths**

Joseph Howell, August 31, 2014

Scott Anderson, September 11, 2015

Joseph Neiman, April 15, 2015

• **Postulants to Priesthood:** (Radha & Sister Diane present)

BJ Heyboer, St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids, Sewanee

Nick Phares, St. Thomas, Battle Creek, Sewanee

Mike Wood, St. Martin's, Kalamazoo, Sewanee

Peter Homeyer, Holy Spirit, Kentwood, Church Divinity School of the Pacific

Radha Deitenbeck Kaminsky, Grace, Holland, still discerning where to go

Sister Diane Stier, St. John's, Mt. Pleasant, Bexley Seabury

• **Postulants to the Diaconate:** (none registered to attend)

Michael Berghuis, All Saints, Saugatuck

Pat Vinge, St. Martin's, Kalamazoo

Jan Gockerman, St. Mark's, Grand Rapids

The Bishop then gave his address to convention. The transcript of the Address is printed separately from the Minutes. Following the Bishop's Address there were a number of announcements, a moment of silence to recognize those *In Memoriam*. The Bishop closed the morning session with Noon Day Prayer and then the convention recessed for lunch.

At 1:30 p.m. the Bishop called the convention back to order and introduced Janet MacKenzie (Epiphany, South Haven) who presented the report for The Small Church Task Force. The report summary is in the convention booklet, and the full report with appendices is on line at the convention website:

<http://edwm.org/convention.html>

The Bishop introduced the Rev. Christian Baron (Grace, Holland) to speak about the St. Naucrati's Guild, a new guild for hunters and fishers that seeks to care for God's creation and provide fish and game for the hungry in our communities.

The Bishop called upon Nominations Chairperson, Mike Paulin, to report the election results to convention. In the lay order Anne Davidson (St. Mark's, Coldwater) was elected to a three year term on the Standing Committee. Eileen Stoffan (St. Paul's, Muskegon) was elected to a two year term on the Standing Committee. In the clergy order Val Ambrose (Grace, Holland) and Anne Schnaare (Trinity, Marshall) were elected to three year terms on the Standing Committee and Pat Finn (St. Paul's, Muskegon) was elected to a one year term.

The Convention then affirmed the elections of the following people to the Diocesan Council:

- Lakeshore, the Rev. Jodi Baron, Clergy Rep Holland, Grace 2018
- Grand Valley, the Rev. Nurya Love Parish, St. Andrew's GR – GV Deanery Chair 2018

- Grand Valley, the Rev. Michael Wernick, Holy Cross Kentwood – fill 1-year Clergy Rep term 'til 2016 to replace Parish
- Eastern, the Rev. Aaron Evans, (Clergy Rep) St. John's, Sturgis 2018
- St. Joseph, Tom Perrin, (Deanery Chair) St. Martin's, Kalamazoo 2018
- Traverse, Rosemary Hagan, (Deanery Chair) Grace, TC 2018
- Traverse, Corbin Lopez, St. Philip's, Beulah (1-year term to replace L. Glahn)

The Convention affirmed the following appointments to the Commission on Ministry:

- The Rev. Michael Fedewa, St. Andrew's, GR 2018
- The Rev. Darlene Kuhn, St. James, Albion 2018
- Michael Hirt, Holy Spirit, Belmont 2018

The Convention affirmed the following appointments to the Disciplinary Board for two year terms:

- Rosemary Burke, St. Martin's, Kalamazoo
- The Rev. William Whiting, Emmanuel, Hastings

The Bishop introduced David Croal (St. Mark's, Coldwater) Assistant Treasurer of the Diocese who moved the adoption of the proposed 2016 budget. Motion was seconded. Mr. Croal introduced Tammy Mazure, Assistant to the Bishop for Business and Finance, to highlight items in the budget and to answer questions. The budget was approved by a show of voting cards.

The Bishop introduced the Rev'ds Nurya Love Parish & Brian Coleman to make a presentation on the *Michigan Good Food Charter*.

The Rev. Cindy Nawrocki gave an update on domestic missions including our participation in the ministry at the Pine Ridge Reservation and the successful Reading Camps held during the summer.

The Rev Beth Drew gave an update on our diocesan partnership with the Dominican Republic including the completion of the church at San Simon and plans to provide fresh safe water for a nearby village.

The Bishop introduced the Rt. Rev. Stacy Sauls who is the Chief Operating Officer for the Episcopal Church, a post he has held since September 2011. He oversees the staff of the Episcopal Church in New York City, offices in Washington, D.C.; Miami; and Austin as well as staff across the U.S. and from Panama City to Edinburgh. Bishop Sauls coordinates the work of the Church's mission program, communication, finance and administration offices, while assisting the Presiding Bishop in his role as Chief Executive Officer. Bishop Sauls gave the convention Keynote Address and was the preacher at the convention Eucharist on Saturday November 7th.

Following Bishop Saul's address and question and answer time, the Bishop recessed the convention until 10:00 a.m. on Saturday.

Saturday November 7

The Convention Eucharist with Confirmation and Reception was held in the convention hall at 10:00 a.m. with Bishop Houglund presiding, and Bishop Sauls preaching. The Eucharist was enhanced by the music provided by the choir of St. Mark's Grand Rapids. Following the Eucharist the confirmands and their families and friends were invited to join the convention for a buffet lunch.

The Bishop called the convention to order at 1:07 p.m. and introduced Kellan Day, Young Adult Missioner, who spoke eloquently about her ministry and the young adults with whom she works.

The Rev. Jennifer Adams and Bill Fleener, co-chairs of the General Convention deputation, gave a report on the work of General Convention and acknowledged that items to be referred to dioceses were given to the Diocesan Council.

The Rev. Susan York and Joyce Henry gave an update on the Diversity Task Force including their goals to promote justice, develop networks, advocate for others, develop a ministry of presence that reflects diversity, provide training in healing racism. They asked for congregations to complete a survey and return it to them.

The Bishop introduced the Rev. Wayne Nicholson, Chair of the Resolutions Committee, who moved the adoption the following courtesy resolutions:

Courtesy Resolutions 2015

Resolved that this 141st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan offers its appreciation to the management and staff of the Doubletree by Hilton for their hospitality; to Joan Smith, and to Margaret Stretton and David Hawley Lowry, members of the Diocesan Altar Guild, and to the Choir of St. Mark's, Grand Rapids, and Dr. Gregory Crowell for today's Eucharistic celebration.

Resolved that this 141st 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 141st 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 141st 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 141st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan send greetings to The Rt. Rev. Todd Ousley, Bishop 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, Bishop of the Diocese of the Dominican Republic.

Resolved that this 141st 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 and among us.

Resolved that this 141st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan send greetings and expressions of gratitude to The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori for her years of faithful, unanxious ministry and leadership of The Episcopal Church.

Resolved that this 141st 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 141st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan express its thanks to The Rt. Rev. Stacy Sauls for reminding us that Jesus is, indeed, in the streets – and that to be a vital Church we must be there, too.

He then moved the adoption of Resolution I – Update Articles of Incorporation, which is printed separately. Seconded, no discussion. Approved.

Resolution 2 – Amend Canons to Clarify the Nature and Mission of Deaneries, Convocations, Chapters and their Leadership – was moved and seconded. A substitute resolution was submitted by the Rev. Jennifer Adams to allow a process of discernment in light of diocesan goals. The substitute resolution was approved and then adopted.

The Bishop introduced Mary Simpson, St. Andrew's Grand Rapids, who thanked the convention for their contributions of toothbrushes for refugees in Spain where her daughter is working

The Bishop announced that next year's convention will be held November 4 and 5 at McCamly Plaza Hotel in Battle Creek.

The Bishop thanked the following people who are completing terms on various committees:

Standing Committee

Judy Fleener
Cindy Nawrocki
Don Davies

Diocesan Council

Brian Coleman
Everett Klein
Susan Lund Coyle
Wes Hackett

Commission on Ministry

Jared Cramer
Judy Fleener
Michael Wernick

The Bishop closed Convention with the Prayer for the Church, a blessing, and dismissal
Convention Adjourned at 3:00 p.m.
Respectfully submitted

The Rev. Canon William Spaid
Secretary of Convention

Courtesy Resolutions 2015

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The 141st Annual Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan
Doubletree by Hilton, Grand Rapids – November 6-7, 2015

Resolution 1

Amend Articles of Incorporation with State of Michigan

Originator: William Fleener, Jr, Chancellor - EDWM

Resolution: Resolved that the 141st Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan authorized the chancellor, William Fleener, Jr., Esq., to update the Articles of Incorporation with the State of Michigan.

Rationale:

1. Articles were adopted twenty years ago (1994) and have not been amended since.
2. Some of the provisions are outdated (such as reference to owning a cathedral, references to the Executive Council [now Diocesan Council], etc.
3. I see no reason why we need to retain reference to the "Association" in the name of the corporation. I believe the name "Diocese of Western Michigan" is available, and thus suggest that the name be changed.

Substitute for Resolution 2

Offered by: The Rev. Jennifer Adams, Rector, Grace, Holland and The Very Rev. Jared C. Cramer, Rector, St. John's, Grand Haven, Dean of the Lakeshore Deanery, Convener of the Deans

Substitute Resolution

Resolved: *The Diocese of Western Michigan will maintain the current Deanery system as outlined in the canons and given shape in current practice, while also exploring other models for diocesan structure and administration. The Bishop will appoint a team to explore possibilities for restructuring that take into account:*

- *the new Diocesan vision and the call to "be the Jesus movement here in Western Michigan"*
- *the strengths and weaknesses of our current systems*
- *best practices that exist throughout The Episcopal Church learning from other Episcopal Dioceses that have recently done this kind of work and are experiencing new life and growth.*

Particular attention will include, but not be limited to, the following questions:

- *Are geographical deaneries the most effective method for collaboration and coordination in ministry? If not, then what model(s) might best serve the Diocesan vision, mission, and congregations.*
- *Is the gathering of a deanery convocation (consisting of both clergy and lay delegates) throughout the year the best use of time, energy, and resource for encouraging cooperation and relationships among the congregations of our diocese?*
- *What kind of leadership and staff structure is needed to connect Diocesan and local mission initiatives, respond to the needs of the current and future Episcopal Church in Western Michigan, foster better communication within the Diocese, enable effective and faithful decision making, and encourage collegiality and support among diocesan clergy.*

The team will seek input from all of the deaneries, clergy and parishes of the Diocese. The team will report to Diocesan Council and prepare recommendations for the 142nd Convention of The Diocese. And be it also,

Resolved: *During this time of discernment, the broader goals behind the canon changes that had been presented are still affirmed by this Convention, specifically*

- *The clergy in each deanery are invited to reflect upon what it might mean to see themselves as a "Chapter" instead of simply a geographical meeting of local priests. That is, what might it mean to see themselves as sisters and brothers committed to the growth of the "Jesus Movement" in our specific place? How might we see our Chapter gatherings as committed to spiritual growth instead of simply communication or study? How might this lens strengthen our relationships and the churches we serve?*
- *During the upcoming year, the Deanery Chairs, Vice-Chairs, and Deans shall work cooperatively among themselves and with their Deanery Convocations to plan a*

schedule for meetings that would best enable the growth of the kingdom and the building up of the Episcopal Church in their deaneries.

Rationale:

Our Diocese is in the exciting and faithful place of embracing a new vision and responding to the invitation to be “the Jesus movement” here in Western Michigan. Our new Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry is calling us to a new day in this church and he said in his introduction of church as movement that, “No movement can sustain unless it has infrastructure and organization. . . A movement’s gotta have organization.”

The structure is neither the vision nor the mission of a body, but good structures enable, encourage and support the mission to which the people have been called. Good structures and processes also support the people themselves.

Some next steps for our Diocese involve an evaluation of current structures and processes in order to strengthen that which is working well and also introduce some new ways of doing “the work we have been given to do.” Hopeful conversations about all of this have already begun in pockets and groups around the Diocese.

Given the energy around new possibilities and the reality that our current structures (including deaneries) are inconsistent in their effectiveness, this substitute resolution asks us to step back from canon changes that would simply endorse and expand that which already exists.

This substitute allows for the current canons (which already require at least three Deanery meetings annually and allow for more should a deanery see fit) and our current practices (including monthly gathering of Deanery clergy and the appointment of Deans by the Bishop) to carry on, defining and sustaining us where we are now. It then calls us to do the work of discerning how best to support this Jesus movement going forward with structures that enable the vision and mission to which we have been called.

Reports to 141st Annual Convention

The Small Church Task Force

Paula Durren, Mary Frens, Donna Johnston, Janet MacKenzie, Mick Shriver, Bill Spaid

The Small Church Task Force was born out of a resolution of the 140th EDWM Convention (May 2014), and was instructed as follows:

- Resolved, that this 140th Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan hereby calls upon our Bishop, with the advice and consent of the Diocesan Council and the Standing Committee, to establish a task force to create policies and structures and to propose models for effective ministry in smaller churches.
- Resolved, that this task force consult Scripture, the riches of our Anglican tradition, and the practices of other dioceses, ensuring that their work addresses questions of parish viability and how ministry can be most effectively shared among Christians so that the kingdom is furthered and the Gospel proclaimed; and be it further;
- Resolved, that this task force shall report on these models to our Bishop, who shall work with the task force to create a policy that shall be presented to Diocesan Council for consideration and action, with a final report, including any necessary amendments to our Constitutions or Canons.

In response to the above, the task force is presenting four proposals to the 141st EDWM Convention:

Proposal #1

Consider two staff positions related to Smaller Churches:

Canon to the Ordinary (a current position held by the Rev. Canon William Spaid), who works with parishes

in transition, and who with the Bishop helps to identify parishes as 'smaller churches' seeking assistance. He identifies parishes struggling with whether to continue. The Canon to the Ordinary also organizes and leads the Diocesan Congregational Development Institute and assists parishes in conducting Mutual Ministry Reviews.

The other duties of the Canon to the Ordinary do not allow for the extensive time required for re-imagining smaller church ministry.

A New Staff Position: either a Canon for *Smaller Church Ministry* or a *Bishop's Assistant for Smaller Church Ministry*.

This would be a full- or part-time position, depending on the discernment of the Bishop and the Diocesan Council, with the Bishop issuing the call. Ideally, this person would have been trained through the Diocesan Congregational Development Institute. Clergy serving part-time in Diocesan parishes may be a source for this position, having the advantage of already knowing the diocese. This person would report to the bishop and work in cooperation with the Canon to the Ordinary.

Funding for this position might be obtained through our current budget, or in cooperation with the Diocese of Eastern Michigan, or seeking grants from the National Church or Province V. Funding amounts and sources to be determined by the Bishop & Diocesan Council.

We imagine this Smaller Church Ministry staff person will do the following:

A. Work with teams of laity and clergy (at least one on

the team has completed or is in DCDI) who work with parishes needing assistance, such as the following:

1. Have been identified by the Bishop or Canon to the Ordinary and/or have requested assistance,
 2. Larger parishes that would like to Re-imagine their Mission and Ministry.
- B. Prepare the teams to “walk with” the assigned parish through a re-imagining process:
1. Self Study. Assure the team’s good listening skills as they ask -- first the leaders, then the congregants -- a series of questions to lift up a kind of current parish profile of the spirit. The self-study would also include an assets inventory.
 2. Train parish leaders in providing Deep & Holy Listening to each of the members and in lifting up themes from that listening.
- C. Train team members (both ordained and lay) to help the parish become a ‘birthing center’ for the movement of the Spirit. This process includes discerning opportunities for mission in their communities.
- D. Provide teams with ongoing supervision and support.
- E. Insure that the leadership skills of recent graduates of DCDI are helpfully utilized in the diocese.

Proposal #2

Continue EDWM participation in the Diocesan Congregational Development Institute.

This is an excellent program; current participants are likely candidates for teams reaching out to smaller

churches; the more graduates the diocese can produce, the wider the experience and practices obtained can be spread throughout the diocese.

Proposal #3

Use Canon 31 (on restoring congregational health) as an instrument in support of Congregational Health.

We encourage the bishop and Diocesan Council to utilize the “Healthy Parish” Canon to enable: the early identification of congregations needing additional support, and the initiation of a plan toward health and vitality. We encourage parishes to recognize that this Canon offers a positive opportunity.

Proposal 4

Perform Mutual Ministry Reviews.

We encourage the use of a Mutual Ministry Review that focuses on mission and supports good stewardship of resources. The review should help a Vestry establish a common vision and commitment, and identify the incremental work that needs to be done.

The Commission on Ministry

The Very Rev. Jared C. Cramer, SCP Chair

The previous year was a rich one for your Commission on Ministry. We welcomed new members with a lunch and time of relationship-building. We worked together to come up with a covenant for our work as laity and clergy on this commission. This covenant supported our canonical duties, as articulated in Title III, Canon 2 of the canons of the Episcopal Church. Those primary duties are threefold:

1. Implementation of the Title III canons related to ministry.
2. Determination of present and future opportunities and needs for the ministry of all baptized persons.
3. Design and oversight of the ongoing process for recruitment, discernment, formation for ministry, and assessment for readiness thereof.

One of my own goals as Chair was to broaden our focus from oversight of the process for discerning and forming people for ordained ministry. It is the ministry of all baptized persons which serves as the basis of the church's ministry and the commission must be aggressively engaged in cultivating that ministry.

To that end, during this previous year we have seen the implementation of a new process of preparation for the Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows (confirmation, reception and reaffirmation). The new process includes a recommended fourteen-week structure of preparation, drawing from the structure in the Book of Occasional Services and focusing on the discernment and strengthening of each person's ministry as a baptized person.

In the first stage, the candidates explore their own

stories and the stories of the church through Scripture and tradition. In the second stage, the candidates explore how we understand ministry as Episcopalians and what their own callings to ministry might be. In the final stage, the candidates are introduced to the rich spiritual traditions of our Anglican heritage so that they can each come up with their own Rule of Life to support them in their ministry as a baptized Christian. I look forward to next year's Commission on Ministry reviewing feedback on this process and making it even better.

We also published, near the end of this year, a new handbook for discerning your call as a baptized Christian. Through an immense effort from lay members of the Commission, this new book uses the rich process of discerning a call to ordained ministry as a guide for creating small groups of mutual discernment for laity. I look forward to the implementation of this new guide in the lives of our parishes.

Of course, we also continued our role in the oversight of those discerning and being formed for ordained ministry. We saw our first cohort of four diaconal candidates begin training this past fall. An additional five are discerning a call right now. We are overseeing twelve people discerning a call to priestly ministry, six of whom are postulants and in some form of training. We also celebrated the ordination of the Reverends Jodi and Christian Baron to the priesthood.

It has been an honor to serve you as Chair of this Commission for the previous two years. The clergy and laity with whom I have served have been faithful and diligent. I look forward to their work in the future.

Stewardship Committee

Thomas Perrin

The Diocesan Stewardship Committee continues to work to be available to every parish, vestry and Stewardship Committee in the Diocese of Western Michigan. We can help with just about any Stewardship issue with which your parish needs assistance. We can help with pledge drives, planned giving, stewardship of our bodies, stewardship of our planet...just about anything related to any facet of Stewardship. Please feel free to contact us if we can help.

Current Members of EDWM Diocesan Stewardship Committee:

Thomas Perrin thosperrin@gmail.com
Stephen Chase stephen.chase@comcast.net
Mike Fedewa mfedewa@sbcglobal.net
Michael Stifler oldtrek@gmail.com
W Richard Hamlin wrhamlin@juno.com
John Gork johngork1@yahoo.com
John Kirkman kirkmanjr@att.net
Dave Eitland deitland@gmail.com

The Deans of the Diocese of Western Michigan

The Very Rev. Jared C. Cramer, SCP

Dean of the Lakeshore Deanery & Convener of the Deans of Western Michigan

During the previous year, the bishop has been leading the deans in a re-orientation of our work. Under Bishop Gepert, our focus had been pastoral care of clergy and the diocesan local point person for any issues or challenges faced by our congregations. Bishop Hougland sees pastoral care of clergy as a fundamental aspect of his episcopal calling and is thus reorienting us around the strengthening of relationships between congregations and the creation of more effective communication between the local parishes and the diocesan office.

During the past year, one significant part of our work has been a series of meetings held with the chairs of our deanery convocations and the deans to find ways to make the deanery system more effective. The conversation was frank, prayerful, and focused on the best practices the deanery chairs and deans identified in our various ministry contexts.

From those conversations, we worked as a group to come up with the proposed changes to our diocesan canons that are being considered by this convention. Our hope is that this clarification of structure—much of which had previously existed in some of our deaneries but was simply unsaid and, thus, unshared—will strengthen the work of the church on a local level and will help us build more fruitful relationships among one another as Episcopalians in Western Michigan.

The deans have also continued their work organizing our clergy retreats. Our spring clergy retreat was May 27–28 at the St. Francis Retreat and Conference Center in DeWitt, MI. We continued conversation about

a possible covenant among the clergy of our diocese, one that could unite us under a shared rule of life and enable us to live our ordination vows with greater fidelity. Our retreat speaker had to cancel at the last minute due to family obligations, so we used the first keynote time for some open conversation with the bishop. During the second keynote time, I presented on the concept of rule of life in Christianity, particularly in the concept of priestly or diaconal spirituality. From that retreat, those gathered decided to offer the final draft of the rule as an “invitation” to clergy, asking them to try it on and see what worked and what might not. I’m grateful to the spirit of the clergy who gathered and their willingness to try this invitation from our Bishop out for a time. Next year’s spring retreat will be April 20–22 and will be a preaching conference hosted by the Episcopal Preaching Foundation.

The fall retreat would have been our clergy and spouse retreat, but the bishop and deans decided to cancel it and invite clergy and spouses instead to attend the AMEN Conference in Mackinac this year. I held a meeting with a handful of clergy spouses who have been invited by the bishop to craft a fall Clergy Household retreat for 2016. I look forward to hearing the work they will come up with.

I’m grateful to my fellow deans for their service, to our bishop for his leadership, and to the clergy and laity of this diocese who are committed to a more connected, vibrant, and active Episcopal Church in western Michigan.

The Lower Peninsula Diversity Task Force (LMDTF)

The Rev. Susan York

The Lower Peninsula Diversity Task Force, which is comprised of the Diocese of Western Michigan, Diocese of Eastern Michigan and Diocese of Michigan was established as a result of a Constable Grant awarded in 2014 to explore areas of cooperation between our three dioceses in the areas of healing racism and promoting diversity.

The twelve members, three from each diocese, attended two separate trainings with “Crossroads” located in Kalamazoo.

We have met six times in the past year, once by Skype and at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Flint Michigan where the Rev. Daniel Scheid, formerly of St. Augustine’s in Benton Harbor, and a member of the commission is their rector.

We have looked at various resources already available from the Episcopal Church and from other dioceses.

We have developed goals and have established five

objectives:

1. Ministry Objectives, Looking for opportunities to serve ways that promote justice and sustainability.
2. Networking, Developing connections with people in other faith groups, non-profits, and area businesses who can partner with us.
3. Advocacy-Identifying strategic ways of advocating for “the other” in our midst.
4. Ministry of Presence: being present at events that promote diversity and peaceful co-existence.
5. Training- Planning diocesan healing racism/diversity training events.
6. Communication- Developing methods of communication to disseminate information.

Members of the Task Force include: Diocese of Michigan: Emery Dumas, The Rev. Dr. Bill Hale, Jackie Spaan, Diocese of Eastern Michigan: Jelecia Ford, Bob Lotz, Rick Russell, The Rev. Dan Sheid, Diocese of Western Michigan: Joyce Henry, The Rev. Cindy Nawrocki, The Rev. Susan York- Convenor.

LARC – Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic

Dave Penniman, Representative to the LARC Retreat Planning Committee

The annual LARC Retreat brings together clergy and laity from Lutheran, Anglican, and Roman Catholic traditions, thus the acronym LARC. (Anglican, as used here, is understood in its broadest meaning.)

The retreat is always held in October, meeting from mid-day Tuesday to mid-day Thursday. There is a three-year rotation of bringing the speaker. In 2014, the speaker was the Rev. Margaret Rose, Deputy to the Presiding Bishop for Ecumenical and Interreligious Concerns. In the 2015, the speaker is Deacon Keith Fournier of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Richmond, Virginia. 2016 will be the next “Lutheran” year.

Every day includes communal prayer using a monastic schedule and a celebration of the Eucharist. There are often tears as we cannot fully celebrate Eucharist together.

The LARC Retreat facilitates serious ecumenical conversations in a setting of mutual prayer and warm friendship. The retreat includes time for silence and solitude, and time for informal and unstructured dialog. A highlight of each retreat is the “Bishops’ Hour” when the bishops share thoughts and ideas, and respond to questions.

The location of the retreat is the Augustine Center at the Sacramentine Monastery in Conway (a few miles northeast of Petoskey), near Crooked Lake and Little Traverse Bay. It is a beautiful and peaceful setting, and readily accessible.

Our diocesan budget includes funds for financial support for those attending, especially those who are first-time participants, or who must travel some distance.

Episcopal Peace Fellowship (EPF) of Grace Episcopal Church

Mary Pierce and Betsy Davidson, EPF Members

“They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”

– Isaiah 2:4

The Episcopal Peace Fellowship of Grace Church is a chapter of the National EPF connecting all who seek a deliberate response to injustice and violence. The EPF is committed to praying, studying, and taking action for peace and justice in our church, our community, and the world. Our baptismal vows call us to action by asking: “Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?”

We respond, “We will, with God’s help.”

We meet monthly to address issues of local, national, and international importance and determine the best course of action for those issues most relevant to the mission and objectives of EPF.

The EPF has accomplished the following in 2015:

- Conducted a letter-writing campaign on behalf of Bread for the World which solicited over 100 letters (the most ever written) to Michigan members of Congress asking them to renew and enhance childhood nutrition programs.

- Hosted a book discussion for parish members on *The Nonviolent Life* by John Dear which was attended by more than 20 people, from our parish and friends of Grace.
- Sponsored an Interfaith Peace Service which brought together individuals from Jewish, Islamic, Buddhist, Christian, and Native American faiths for the purpose of honoring all who died in war during the last year, praying for all those harmed by war, and praying for peace.
- Supported local community and civic groups in celebrating the International Day of Peace with the focus on how to create peace and nonviolence in our local communities.
- Worked with other local groups to try to ban use of retail plastic bags in Traverse City.
- Hosted the Welcome Hour at Grace Church on October 11 following the main Sunday service.

The EPF has several ongoing and future projects planned for 2016:

- We will be hosting another book discussion for our parish in January of 2016. The book chosen for this study is *The Powers That*

Be: A Theology for a New Millennium by Walter Wink. We are looking forward to this endeavor.

- We are working with local community groups also focused on peace and justice to educate the Traverse City community about the cost, financially and otherwise, of having the Blue Angels and the Thunderbirds demonstrate at the annual Cherry Festival in Traverse City. The focus of the campaign is to focus on the fact that these planes are instruments of war, not peace and justice. The demonstrations at festivals and other public events only serves to highlight our country’s military might and act as a recruitment tool.

Our chapter hopes that by publicizing our actions and accomplishments, we are able to encourage other churches in the diocese to consider forming an EPF chapter.

For more information on the Episcopal Peace Fellowship, e-mail bdavson@charter.net.

Diocesan Council

The Very Rev. Brian Coleman, Vice-President

What is Diocesan Council?

Diocesan Council, formerly known as Executive Council is essentially the “Vestry” of the diocese, and has responsibility for carrying out the will of the Diocesan Convention when it is not in session. This includes general oversight of all the commissions of the diocese; strategy, policy and development work in conjunction with the bishop; and fiduciary responsibility over the General Fund as specified in the annual budget of the diocese among other responsibilities.

How does Diocesan Council operate?

We meet several times throughout the year usually either in Grand Rapids or Big Rapids on Saturdays. Members of the council serve as liaisons to diocesan commissions and report to the council their activities. We have a yearly retreat where priorities and plans for the coming year are established. We work closely and cooperatively with the bishop and each other in carrying out the business of the diocese. We seek to do this prayerfully and conscientiously. Council meetings are open to the public.

Who makes up Diocesan Council?

The bishop is the presiding officer. We elect a vice-president (currently the Very Rev. Brian Coleman) and a secretary (currently Susan Lund-Coyle). Additionally Deanery Chairpersons serve on the council along with two other deanery members elected at their respective convocations. The Chancellor and the Treasurer of the diocese serve as ex-officio members.

Significant Actions taken in the past year:

- The Diocesan council met six times over the course of the year since our last convention. One of those meetings was a two-day retreat in May, held in Kalamazoo.

As a result of that retreat the Council developed a resolution outlining our understanding of the priorities expressed by the diocese through the Town Hall Meetings held early in 2015. In order to promote this resolution, Bishop Hougland included it as part of a pastoral letter read in every congregation of the diocese on September 13, 2015. A video of reflections from members of Diocesan Council accompanied the resolution.

- The Council undertook to reevaluate the Apportionment Review Process with the understanding that it would take responsibility for approving or denying requests for apportionment reduction based on the recommendations of the Apportionment Review Committee.
- The process for applying for Congregational Growth and Development or Mission and Outreach Grants was further developed by the Council, and deadlines for due dates were extended to enable congregations to avail themselves of this opportunity.
- The Council requested that the deputation to General Convention seek to address concerns of congregations with respect to the high cost of medical insurance through the Church Medical Trust.
- The Council adopted the Michigan Good Food Charter and proposed that a presentation be made about it to the Diocesan Convention.
- The council continues the process of overhauling the diocesan policies and procedures manual.

Domestic Missions: Pine Ridge

The Domestic Missions Team

On the mission trip to Pine Ridge we stay and work with the Re-Member organization. Re-Member “seeks to improve the quality of life through relationships, shared resources and volunteer services.” The Oglala



Lakota people reside on the Pine Ridge Reservation. The counties of Pine Ridge are the third poorest in the nation per the 2000 census. They were the poorest, but other reservations in South Dakota have become worse. The 28,000-38,000 people on the reservation live with 80-90% unemployment, a

per capita income of \$4,000, a teen suicide rate up to 4x the national average, 8x the national rate of diabetes, and a life expectancy that is the lowest in the nation. All of these things contribute to a great need. That is why Re-Member is there and why we go.

The greatest requests for help are for bunkbeds and outhouses. Bunkbeds are needed as many people live in one house - perhaps up to 20 in a two bedroom



mobile home! Outhouses are needed as many people do not have running water. So, we make bunkbeds and deliver them with a mattress, sheets, blankets and a new book, build outhouses and deliver them and dig the hole, skirt mobile homes (to insulate), build wheelchair ramps, clean up pow-wow grounds, roof houses, garden, etc.

In addition, there is an emphasis on cultural education. There are speakers every evening who share their life stories and the Lakota culture. We also visit the Badlands and Wounded Knee on Sunday, and then have a tour of some highlights of the reservation later in the week.



While at Re-Member, we stay in a large building with sleeping quarters for women on one side, and men on the other side. You get to experience bunkbeds again, just like at camp. All meals are eaten together.

Traveling to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota requires a two-day trip. We usually travel to Sioux City, Iowa the first day, and then continue to Pine Ridge the next. We travel by private car and car-pool when we can.

You will always remember your time in Pine Ridge, and the people you meet. They are so happy for us to be there. Seeing the kids' faces when we come with a bed for them is priceless. This may be the first time that they have not had to sleep on the floor.

You also realize how much work needs to be done to make amends for what our country has done.

The tentative dates for the 2016 trip will be September 23, 2016 through October 1, 2016.

Can you help? The Domestic Missions Board is seeking donations of any size hoodie sweatshirts for the people of the Pine Ridge Reservation.



West Michigan Episcopal Cursillo

Colin Cruttenden

Cursillo is an encounter with Christ. It is a weekend course in Christianity followed by a sustained, local community to help nourish your spiritual growth for the rest of your life. It is a means to form, sustain and link Episcopalians for Christ and His Church.



On the Three-Day Weekend, we bring together a diverse group of Episcopalians to share the richness of many modes of worship and broaden our appreciation for our Church. Lay people lead the weekend with two or three clergy members as spiritual advisors. Cursillo presumes that those who attend are already well-grounded in the faith. It is not intended to be a conversion experience, but an enriching and deepening of what is already there. It often provides new insights into our faith as well as fostering ministry among lay people.

The weekend begins on a Thursday evening in the Chapel with meditations and discussions. Then blessed silence is kept until after the worship on Friday morning. After breakfast, participants are assigned to table/family groups for the weekend. The three days are filled with talks and group discussions with emphasis on the doctrine of Grace, the Sacraments, and the great Cursillo tripod: Piety, Study, and Action. There is fellowship, singing, good food, and time for privacy, meditation, prayer, and walks. We celebrate Eucharist

each day. The weekend is spiritually enlivening and it presents the Cursillo method to live our Christian ideal.

The Cursillo community gathers several times throughout the year at different parishes throughout the diocese to offer support and strengthen your Christian walk through community. These gatherings are called Ultreyas. These Ultreyas are usually held on the third Sunday of the month from 3-5 p.m. with a potluck that follows.

Western Michigan Episcopal Cursillo celebrated 30 years of enriching lives in October with a grand celebration at St. Timothy Episcopal Church in Richland. Bishop Hougland celebrated Eucharist with us and we heard several testimonials of how Cursillo affected the lives and actions of our brothers and sisters in Christ and how they are living their Christian ideal in the world today. Music was a wonderful and inspiring part of the afternoon.

A spring Cursillo weekend will be held at St. David's Episcopal Church in Lansing. The weekend will start Thursday evening, April 28th and end Sunday afternoon, May 1st.



If you would like more information about Cursillo in the diocese, or would like a member of Cursillo to make a presentation, or answer questions at your parish, please express your request to WMEC30@gmail.com.

Photos from the Grand Celebration at St. Timothy's, Richland on October 10, 2015



Reading Camp in West Michigan (Albion)

The Rev. Darlene Kuhn

The 2015 Albion Reading Camp, held June 22-26, 2015, was a great success! We served 24 children with the help of 8 youth and 28 adults. We had four learning centers: Reading, Writing, Comprehension and Phonics.

The children were served breakfast and lunch through the state summer food program, and were provided with mid-morning and mid-afternoon snacks. A college professor thrilled the children with some simple kitchen experiments, and a journalist worked with the children to put together a story on the reading camp for the local newspaper. Three guest storytellers enthralled us with their favorite stories, and we swam in the school pool, played games and enjoyed ourselves immensely!

Several of us have been excited to be greeted enthusiastically by campers after the camp. They are looking forward to 2016!

Planning for the 2016 Albion Reading Camp is underway. The superintendent has asked us to consider holding the camp for two weeks. Another suggestion has been to hold two parallel camps, one for grade two and a second for grade three with the idea of following the students through two summer camps.

The need in Albion is great! I am working with many community leaders including the Albion Community School, Albion College, Albion Ministerial Association, the Albion Public Library and other interested individuals. The effort is great, but so are the rewards.

We too are looking forward to the 2016 Albion Reading Camp.

A video of the 2015 Reading Camp in Albion can be seen at edwm.org/reading_camp.html.



Children play with a dog named Guinness at the Benzie County Reading Camp in July 2015 sponsored by St. Philip's, Beulah

Reading Camps are for struggling students in grades 2-4 with the goal to motivate them to want to read.

Reading Camp tentative dates for 2016:

Albion: June 20 – June 24 (sponsored by St. James Church)
 Benzie County: July 18–22 (sponsored by St. Philip's, Beulah)
 Kalamazoo: August 8– 12 (sponsored by St. Martin of Tours)

Camp Directors:

The Rev. Darlene Kuhn, Albion - dmskuhn@gmail.com
 Kari McCumber, Benzie County - keric1212@gmail.com
 Chris Morgan, Kalamazoo - csmorgan1711@aol.com

Reading Camps are seeking donations of school supplies and are looking for volunteers to help next summer.

2014 Audited Financial Statements will be included in the 2016 Journal

Diocese of Western Michigan

Financial Statistics of Congregations and Missions

Year in parentheses is last year of filing if not 2014

REVENUE					EXPENSE			
City	Congregation	Plate & Pledge Income	Operating Revenue	Total Revenue	Operating Expense	To the Diocese	Outreach & Development	Total
Albion	St James Church	65,008	72,302	77,901	78,465	6,029	11,226	88,402
Allegan	Church of the Good Shepherd	45,021	85,944	85,944	78,995	6,124	6,136	85,131
Battle Creek	Church of St Thomas	231,438	326,766	485,073	317,179	30,802	158,903	474,092
Battle Creek	Church of the Resurrection	40,040	41,377	43,186	42,693	4,350	0	42,872
Belmont	Church of the Holy Spirit	61,385	61,395	67,877	68,977	4,775	5,911	68,977
Benton Harbor	St Augustines Church	95,905	107,805	135,425	140,161	8,500	24,251	140,161
Beulah	St Philips Church	135,354	208,728	299,587	203,631	18,921	3,734	207,258
Big Rapids	St Andrews Church	90,725	90,725	90,725	92,866	9,422	0	92,866
Boyer City	Church of the Nativity	18,293	26,687	27,193	17,945	1,971	1,153	18,542
Cadillac	St Marys Church	52,739	55,972	63,196	45,842	5,056	37,448	80,790
Charlevoix	Christ Church	108,512	111,413	116,413	94,762	10,000	3,000	94,762
Charlotte	St Johns Episcopal Church	42,110	55,463	55,463	64,839	3,449	61	64,839
Coldwater	St Marks Church	127,897	139,400	219,930	192,564	14,654	16,005	229,411
Dowagiac	St Pauls Episcopal Church	80,527	92,194	117,423	118,907	8,672	37,756	156,563
Elk Rapids	St Pauls Episcopal Church	84,791	92,898	103,708	100,975	8,391	9,578	111,348
Fremont	St Johns Episcopal Church	31,613	37,890	37,890	27,313	2,418	1,542	28,223
Grand Haven	St Johns Episcopal Church	303,430	345,308	441,113	349,415	30,508	69,107	409,726
Grand Ledge	Trinity Church	63,023	65,023	82,004	66,078	6,374	7,000	72,803
Grand Rapids	Grace Church	254,885	524,136	524,136	582,268	56,033	75,974	658,242
Grand Rapids	Grace Sudanese Episcopal Church	6,357	35,544	35,544	29,391	2,994	3,622	32,046
Grand Rapids	St Andrews Church	408,954	432,296	648,756	455,143	43,357	31,765	499,062
Grand Rapids	St Marks Church	330,366	470,719	590,637	510,842	61,225	94,338	595,454
Grand Rapids	St Philips Church	67,585	67,585	74,648	62,892	6,234	1,095	64,134
Greenville	St Pauls Church	72,209	74,405	75,830	70,910	7,057	7,915	75,830
Harbert	Church of the Mediator	149,158	179,320	239,283	176,476	14,983	71,227	248,136
Hastings	Emmanuel Church	111,951	122,871	143,996	122,871	14,003	7,607	131,229
Holland	Grace Church	363,453	408,872	674,519	424,786	43,235	227,667	632,015
Ionia	St John the Apostle Episcopal Church	38,008	41,680	45,240	37,450	4,063	6,348	46,044
Kalamazoo	St Lukes Church	424,431	521,330	688,258	521,330	60,521	148,028	687,524

Diocese of Western Michigan

Financial Statistics of Congregations and Missions

Year in parentheses is last year of filing if not 2014

			REVENUE		EXPENSE		
			Operating Revenue	Total Revenue	Operating Expense	To the Diocese & Development	Total
City	Congregation	Plate & Pledge Income					
Kalamazoo	St Martin of Tours Episcopal Church	216,904	217,656	279,196	210,089	16,203	31,234
Kentwood	Church of the Holy Cross	96,664	130,851	145,947	130,641	11,447	19,485
Lansing	St Davids Church	208,296	248,784	385,797	232,066	24,486	51,773
Ludington	Grace Church	50,499	99,085	99,085	101,902	5,786	1,300
Manistee	Holy Trinity Episcopal Church	60,706	93,914	94,434	89,523	9,068	3,611
Marshall	Trinity Episcopal Church	194,423	227,124	344,251	237,557	15,256	26,842
Montague	St Peters by the Lake Episcopal	57,071	73,035	80,937	73,102	5,048	1,687
Mt Pleasant	St Johns Church Episcopal	195,300	199,537	209,195	206,481	19,085	20,415
Muskegon	St Pauls Episcopal Church	175,704	187,087	239,912	176,896	28,155	38,321
Newaygo	St Marks Church	77,083	91,509	133,864	103,186	9,109	32,734
Niles	Trinity Episcopal Church	64,884	124,522	130,953	133,420	7,911	0
Northport	St Christophers Church	52,725	54,839	55,340	59,936	4,920	500
Norton Shores	St Gregorys Episcopal Church	74,653	98,920	100,042	62,594	10,126	0
Paw Paw	St Marks Episcopal Church	91,194	95,204	100,121	98,847	9,376	9,000
Pentwater	St James Church	29,229	72,995	105,330	72,444	5,472	8,793
Petoskey	Emmanuel Episcopal Church	341,214	358,825	595,124	358,824	39,288	39,879
Plainwell	St Stephens Episcopal Church	28,048	28,436	29,692	28,937	3,097	4,662
Portage	St Barnabas Episcopal Church	66,129	147,511	151,122	143,011	6,336	0
Richland	St Timothys Church	185,220	198,919	206,276	200,064	20,280	5,186
Saugatuck	All Saints Episcopal Church	147,445	170,194	216,101	171,111	15,353	17,013
Shelbyville	St Francis Episcopal Church	24,176	28,176	56,556	25,069	2,297	16,832
South Haven	Church of the Epiphany	94,078	112,147	127,897	163,015	4,800	6,968
St Joseph	St Pauls Episcopal Church	126,154	128,338	174,810	133,681	10,782	9,674
Sturgis	St John Episcopal Church	142,666	220,379	237,311	226,230	17,863	115,385
Three Rivers	Trinity Episcopal Church	56,659	69,207	81,462	69,207	8,332	20,790
Traverse City	Grace Episcopal Church	534,745	572,661	742,378	570,744	64,130	71,176
Wyoming	Holy Trinity Episcopal Church	144,703	182,386	186,815	182,386	16,098	8,790
Total		7,441,740	9,128,289	11,600,846	9,356,929	884,225	1,630,447
							10,978,643

Diocese of Western Michigan

Vital Statistics of Congregations and Missions

Year in parentheses is last year of filing if not 2014

— BAPTISMS —

City	Congregation	Active Members	Communicants in Good Standing	Others Active	Average Sunday Attendance	Sunday Eucharists	16 yrs and Older	Under 16 Years	Confirmed or Received
Albion	St James Church	87	65	8	42	62	2	0	5
Allegan	Church of the Good Shepherd	74	54	20	31	49	0	1	0
Battle Creek	Church of St Thomas	341	203	0	105	103	2	5	3
Battle Creek	Church of the Resurrection	29	29	1	19	37	0	0	0
Belmont	Church of the Holy Spirit	106	106	0	37	48	0	2	0
Benton Harbor	St Augustines Church	144	137	3	57	48	0	2	0
Beulah	St Philips Church	98	98	32	68	66	0	4	4
Big Rapids	St Andrews Church	49	49	2	30	50	0	0	0
Boyne City	Church of the Nativity	16	14	1	20	35	0	0	0
Cadillac	St Marys Church	56	40	10	33	66	0	0	0
Charlevoix	Christ Church	78	77	10	60	50	0	0	0
Charlotte	St Johns Episcopal Church	42	42	0	24	79	0	1	0
Coldwater	St Marks Church	262	172	0	84	52	0	0	10
Dowagiac	St Pauls Episcopal Church	83	83	0	42	104	0	1	0
Elk Rapids	St Pauls Episcopal Church	100	86	39	36	67	0	4	0
Fremont	St Johns Episcopal Church	40	20	4	24	2	0	0	0
Grand Haven	St Johns Episcopal Church	385	272	35	129	104	1	3	0
Grand Ledge	Trinity Church	104	59	0	34	43	0	1	0
Grand Rapids	Grace Church	459	168	48	149	104	1	10	3
Grand Rapids	Grace Sudanese Episcopal Church	145	44	0	65	30	14	2	0
Grand Rapids	St Andrews Church	489	342	3	159	156	1	8	0
Grand Rapids	St Marks Church	882	429	0	193	104	2	8	4
Grand Rapids	St Philips Church	81	60	2	34	52	1	2	2
Greenville	St Pauls Church	76	76	0	42	46	0	1	0
Harbert	Church of the Mediator	104	104	8	61	53	0	0	0
Hastings	Emmanuel Church	127	106	3	55	53	0	1	2
Holland	Grace Church	669	513	138	151	103	1	8	15
Ionia	St John the Apostle Episcopal Church	35	35	0	15	21	3	8	0
Kalamazoo	St Lukes Church	438	357	18	203	135	2	5	4
Kalamazoo	St Martin of Tours Episcopal Church	131	129	77	116	110	0	1	0
Kentwood	Church of the Holy Cross	127	121	4	56	0	0	0	2
Lansing	St Davids Church	234	191	7	109	106	0	6	0
Ludington	Grace Church	53	52	1	29	52	0	1	1
Manistee	Holy Trinity Episcopal Church	100	100	0	34	92	1	1	1

Diocese of Western Michigan

Vital Statistics of Congregations and Missions

Year in parentheses is last year of filing if not 2014

— BAPTISMS —

City	Congregation	Active Members	Communicants in Good Standing	Others Active	Average Sunday Attendance	Sunday Eucharists	16 yrs and Older	Under 16 Years	Confirmed or Received
Marshall	Trinity Episcopal Church	153	152	14	98	102	0	1	6
Montague	St Peters by the Lake Episcopal	103	97	4	47	49	0	3	0
Mt Pleasant	St Johns Church Episcopal	199	199	0	74	73	0	4	0
Muskegon	St Pauls Episcopal Church	179	179	1	66	97	0	5	0
Newaygo	St Marks Church	100	94	8	45	51	1	1	0
Niles	Trinity Episcopal Church	101	76	0	46	50	1	1	6
Northport	St Christophers Church	39	35	17	28	50	0	0	0
Norton Shores	St Gregorys Episcopal Church	129	89	0	50	84	0	2	0
Paw Paw	St Marks Episcopal Church	72	52	20	38	49	0	0	1
Pentwater	St James Church	43	38	5	23	42	0	0	1
Petoskey	Emmanuel Episcopal Church	339	254	29	128	99	2	4	4
Plainwell	St Stephens Episcopal Church	152	60	2	19	40	0	0	0
Portage	St Barnabas Episcopal Church	239	93	2	42	52	2	1	3
Richland	St Timothy's Church	73	73	178	84	53	0	4	0
Saugatuck	All Saints Episcopal Church	281	276	13	129	57	1	4	0
Shelbyville	St Francis Episcopal Church	33	33	3	15	49	0	0	0
South Haven	Church of the Epiphany	75	75	0	38	51	0	0	0
St Joseph	St Pauls Episcopal Church	128	120	0	58	51	2	5	0
Sturgis	St John Episcopal Church	131	131	21	62	97	1	1	0
Three Rivers	Trinity Episcopal Church	85	85	2	25	44	0	0	1
Traverse City	Grace Episcopal Church	594	472	0	229	156	0	2	7
Wyoming	Holy Trinity Episcopal Church	152	135	0	72	3,738	0	2	0
Total		9,644	7,251	793	3,762	7,416	41	126	85

2013 CONSTITUTION OF THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

As adopted by the
139th Annual Convention at
Grand Rapids, Michigan, on
April 20, 2013

2013

CONSTITUTION OF

THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

PREAMBLE

Dedicated to the worship and service of Almighty God in the Anglican and Episcopal tradition, this Constitution is ordained and established for the Diocese of Western Michigan.

ARTICLE I

ACCESSION TO PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH

This Diocese is a constituent of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, otherwise known as The Episcopal Church (which name is hereby recognized as also designating The Church) and accedes to the doctrine, discipline, worship, constitution, canons and authority of The Episcopal Church, and recognizes the authority of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church.

ARTICLE II TERRITORY

IN DIOCESE

The Diocese of Western Michigan embraces substantially the western half of the Lower Peninsula, including thirty-three counties and the islands jurisdictionally attached to any thereof, and extends north from the south line of said state a distance of three hundred miles, more or less, to the Straits of Mackinac, and is bounded west by the west line of said state opposite the western tier of counties hereafter named, and is bounded on the east by the east line of the several counties of Branch, Calhoun, Eaton, Ionia, Montcalm, Isabella, Clare, Missaukee, Kalkaska, Antrim, Charlevoix, and Emmett, and includes all of the territory within said counties, and includes as well all of the territory within the counties of Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph, Van Buren, Kalamazoo, Allegan, Barry, Ottawa, Kent, Muskegon, Oceana, Newaygo, Mecosta, Mason, Lake, Osceola, Manistee, Wexford, Benzie, Grand Traverse and Leelanau.

ARTICLE III ECCLESIASTICAL

AUTHORITY

Section 1. ECCLESIASTICAL AUTHORITY

The Bishop Diocesan is the ecclesiastical authority of the Diocese, or in the absence of the Bishop Diocesan, the Bishop Coadjutor shall be the ecclesiastical authority of the Diocese, if there be one; or, if there is no Bishop Coadjutor, the Standing Committee shall be the ecclesiastical authority of the Diocese in the absence of a Bishop Diocesan or Bishop Coadjutor.

ARTICLE IV

CONVENTIONS

Section 1. AUTHORIZATION

An Annual Convention shall be, and special Conventions may be, called and held in this Diocese, as shall be provided by Canon.

Section 2. COMPOSITION OF CONVENTION

The Annual Convention shall be comprised of clerical and lay delegates as follows:

- (a) The Bishop;
- (b) Each member of the clergy canonically and actually resident and having pastoral charge, or engaged in work requiring the exercise of clerical duties;
- (c) Each member of the clergy canonically and actually resident in the Diocese but not exercising clerical duties solely by reason of age or sickness;
- (d) Each member of the clergy canonically resident in this Diocese but who is on active duty in the Chaplain's Corps of the Armed Forces of the United States of America;
- (e) Each abbot, prior or acting head of a monastic community who is canonically and actually resident in the Diocese;
- (f) Professed and ordained members of a monastic community canonically and actually resident in the Diocese and having pastoral charge of a parish in the Diocese;
- (g) Lay delegates shall be adult communicants in good standing chosen as prescribed by Canon. Each congregation in union with Convention shall be entitled to not more than four lay delegates nor less than one lay delegate as prescribed by Canon.

- (h) Youth delegates shall be adult communicants in good standing, between the ages of 16 and 21 years. Each Deanery shall select one (1) youth delegate and an additional five (5) youth delegates shall be selected as prescribed by Canon.
- (i) All people who want to participate in the life, worship and governance of this Church shall be encouraged regardless of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities or age, except as otherwise specified by Canon. Every effort shall be made in every election or appointment process to include members of underrepresented groups.

Section 3. QUORUM

A majority of the clergy entitled to vote and a majority of the qualified lay delegates entitled to vote, duly assembled in Convention shall constitute a quorum. In the absence of a quorum, a majority of the voting members present may adjourn the Convention from time to time.

Section 4. OTHERS WHO MAY BE SEATED

The Convention may seat with voice, but without right to vote unless otherwise qualified, any person not listed in Article III, Section 2, above.

Section 5. OFFICERS OF CONVENTION

- (a) The Bishop shall be the presiding officer at any Convention. In the absence of the Bishop, the Bishop Coadjutor, if any, shall preside, or in the Bishop Coadjutor's absence the Suffragan Bishop, if any, shall preside. Otherwise, the Convention shall elect a president *pro tempore* from among its clerical members or a Bishop performing episcopal functions in the Diocese as provided by Canon.
- (b) The Convention shall elect annually by ballot members sufficient to fill any vacancy on the Standing Committee, whose eligibility and terms shall be delineated under the provisions of Title I, Canon 6, Section 6.01.
- (c) There shall be elected, or appointed, such other officers, committees, boards and trustees as shall be required by Canon, wherein their respective powers and duties shall be defined.

Section 6. LEGISLATION

The Convention shall have power to adopt such Canons and other legislation as it shall deem beneficial to this Diocese, and to amend or repeal the same, provided that such legislation shall be consistent with this Constitution and with the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention and not in conflict with any valid law established by civil authority.

Section 7. CONGREGATIONS

Provision shall be made by Canon for the organization of congregations and for their admission into union with the Diocese, and for their continuation therein or exclusion therefrom, or dissolution.

Section 8. VOTING

A simple majority vote shall be sufficient for the adoption of any motion, resolution or legislation, except as shall be otherwise required by Constitution or by Canon, or upon request of any seven members entitled to vote, the two orders shall vote separately, and concurrence of the requisite majority of each order shall be necessary for adoption.

ARTICLE V ELECTION

OF A BISHOP

The procedure for election of a Bishop shall be as provided by Canon, and the same procedure shall be applicable to election of a Bishop Coadjutor or a Suffragan Bishop. At any such election, a motion to go into committee of the whole shall be of highest privilege after the first ballot and shall be carried by one-third of the votes of each order.

ARTICLE VI AMENDMENT OF

CONSTITUTION

This Constitution or any part thereof may be amended in the following manner only: At least ninety days in advance of the annual Convention, the proposal to amend shall be submitted to the Bishop in writing, who shall give notice of the substance of the proposed amendment, not less than thirty days in advance of the Convention, to each member of the clergy entitled to seat and vote and to each congregation in union with the Diocese. The Bishop shall refer such proposal to an appropriate committee, which shall report to the Convention. After hearing the report of the committee, the amendment may be considered by the Convention and, if approved, or approved with change, then shall lie over until the next annual Convention. If the amendment is adopted at the second annual Convention by a majority of each order, the Constitution shall stand amended accordingly from and after the close of the day of final adjournment of the Convention at which such adoption occurs.

CANONS OF

THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

As adopted by the 137th Diocesan Convention at Traverse City, Michigan, on April 9, 2011; and,

As amended by the 138th Diocesan Convention at Traverse City, Michigan, on April 20, 2012; and,

As amended by the 139th Diocesan Convention at Grand Rapids, Michigan on April 20, 2013.

Effective April 21, 2013.

CANONS
OF
THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

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CANONS
OF
THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

PREAMBLE

Diocesan Canons are an organizational, legal, and financial document, through which the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan is enabled to carry out its mission and vision. Our mission, rooted in the Anglican and Episcopal tradition, is to worship God, to follow Jesus Christ, to grow together in the Holy Spirit, and to serve the world. Our vision is to live our values and be healthy, mission-focused diverse parishes with innovative, collaborative engagement at all levels.

TITLE I

ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

CANON 1 DEFINITIONS

Terms used in these Canons are defined, for purposes of this document, as follows:

- (a) “Bishop” refers to a Bishop Diocesan elected to that position as provided by the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese.
- (b) “Calendar Year” refers to a year beginning at the first moment of the day on January 1 and ending at the last moment of the day on the following December 31.
- (c) “Church” refers to The Episcopal Church as a constituent member of the Anglican Communion.
- (d) A “Communicant in Good Standing” shall include all persons who have received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism with water in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, whether in this Church or in another Christian Church, and whose Baptisms have been duly recorded in this Church. An “Adult Communicant in Good Standing” in a Congregation is a communicant in good standing who is sixteen (16) years of age or older in that Congregation; and who, for the previous year, have been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God. [As amended, April 21, 2012.]
- (e) The term “congregation” means a recognized body of worshipers in the Diocese.
- (f) “Diocesan Commission” refers to any and all institutions, councils, committees, commissions, task forces, ecclesiastical or other corporation, and any other group organized and performing a function for the Diocese, by whatever name or designation, as well as affiliated organizations and institutions.
- (g) “Diocese” refers to the Diocese of Western Michigan.
- (h) “Ecclesiastical Authority” refers to the Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese. During times when the Diocese is without a Bishop Diocesan, or the Bishop Diocesan is incapacitated or away, the Standing Committee is the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese.

- (i) The “fiscal year” of the Diocese, and of its constituent Parishes, Missions, and organizations, is the calendar year.
- (j) A “New Congregation” is a congregational ministry of the Diocese or of a sponsoring Parish; in the charge of the Bishop, or at the Bishop’s discretion and pleasure, a presbyter.
- (k) A “Parish” is a self-governing and self-supporting congregation within the Diocese, permitted to incorporate or is incorporated under the laws of the State of Michigan, in the charge of a Rector, and authorized to send lay delegates with voice and vote to Convention. The Governing Body of a Parish is a Vestry.
- (l) A “Seasonal Chapel” is any Summer or Seasonal Chapel within the confines of the Diocese which shall be under the control and direction of the Bishop; who, in turn, shall order the liturgical norm for such chapels and be responsible for appointing members of the clergy to officiate and celebrate, as the Bishop sees fit and proper. The Bishop has the discretion for purposes of administration, to appoint a presbyter, resident in the Diocese, as Priest-in-Charge, to function and administer such a chapel. All assets and real properties of such chapels shall be vested in the Diocese as provided under Title I, Canon 2, Section 2.02, of these Canons.
- (m) The term “vote by orders” is a vote taken at a Convention or other occasion in which clerical and lay votes are counted and reported separately.
- (n) The “year” for terms of Diocesan office, shall begin at the close of the annual Convention, and extend to the close of the next annual Convention of the Diocese.
- (o) A person qualifies as a “youth delegate” if, in addition to being a member of a Parish and of this Church, that person is attending high school, or its equivalent.

CANON 2 THE ASSOCIATION OF THE DIOCESE

Section 2.01. STATUS

The Diocese of Western Michigan is a non-profit, non-stock ecclesiastical trustee corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Michigan, and is custodian for the collection, holding, investment and management of:

- (a) All property and permanent funds of the Diocese except such as are or may be held by the Bishop as discretionary funds.

(b) All property and funds which may be conveyed to and held by it in trust for specified congregations, societies, groups or committees.

(c) All property and funds conveyed to it in trust for the furtherance of any religious, educational or charitable purpose of this Church.

Section 2.02. TITLE OF PROPERTY

All conveyances shall be made to, and title to all property belonging to the Diocese shall vest in the Diocese, to be held for such purposes as its articles provide, or as the Convention may direct by Canon or resolution, or as may be provided in any will, trust instrument or valid order of a court of competent jurisdiction; provided that title to such property may be conveyed to and held by the Bishop Whittemore Foundation, a Michigan Ecclesiastical corporation organized and operated for the purpose of furthering the work of the Diocese, whenever and to the extent the Diocesan Council deems it necessary or expedient, and subject to such terms and conditions, if any, as the Diocesan Council sees fit to impose.

A Parish or other entity of the Diocese must obtain the approval of both the Bishop and the Standing Committee before acquiring or disposing of real property, whether by purchase, gift, bequest, or otherwise. Title to real property shall be held *in trust* for the Diocese of Western Michigan, except as otherwise directed by the Bishop and the Standing Committee.

Section 2.03. SECURITIES AND CONTRACTS

The Diocese shall have full authority to buy and sell investments, securities, notes, mortgages, and to enter into leases and other contracts upon the approval of the annual Convention or Diocesan Council.

Section 2.04. DIOCESAN FUNDS

The use of Diocesan funds shall be determined by the Diocesan Council.

Section 2.05. EXTENSION OF AGENCY SERVICE TO VESTRIES AND OTHERS

If any Vestry, society, guild, circle, or board of any congregation of this Diocese shall desire to avail itself of the services of the Diocese as an agency for the safekeeping and management of funds or securities, it may do so under such form of agency agreement as may be approved by the Diocesan Council. Application for such service shall be pursuant to resolution of the governing body of the applicant and shall have the written approval of the Rector.

CANON 3 THE CONVENTION

Section 3.01. ANNUAL CONVENTION

The date, time and place of annual Convention shall be appointed by the Ecclesiastical Authority.

Section 3.02. SPECIAL CONVENTIONS

The Ecclesiastical Authority shall have power to call special conventions and shall do so when requested in writing by any five members of the Standing Committee.

Section 3.03. NOTICE OF ANNUAL OR SPECIAL CONVENTION

Written notice of the date, time and place of holding any annual or special Convention shall be transmitted by the Secretary, either by mail or electronically, to every member of the clergy in the Diocese and to the wardens of every Parish or new congregation without a Rector or Vicar at least thirty days before the date of meeting.

Notice of an annual Convention shall be accompanied by a copy of the provisions of the Constitution and Canons relating to the election of lay delegates and alternates. A form of certificate of election of lay delegates and alternates shall be made available electronically, which is to be completed and signed (actually or electronically) by the Rector or warden and by the secretary of the Vestry or the secretary of the annual meeting at which they were elected, and transmitted to the Diocesan Secretary in accordance with the instructions therefor.

Notice of a special convention shall specify the purpose or purposes thereof.

Section 3.04. SELECTION OF DELEGATES

Each parish or new congregation shall be entitled to representation by lay delegation at Diocesan Convention. Representation at Diocesan Convention by lay delegates shall be based upon the average Sunday attendance as reported in the annual parochial report filed in the current year. The number of delegates shall be determined by the following:

<u>Average Sunday Attendance</u>	<u>Authorized Number of Delegates</u>
1-100	2 Delegates
101-150	3 Delegates
151+	4 Delegates

Lay delegates and alternates shall be chosen at a preceding annual meeting of the Parish or Mission in accordance with the Parish or new congregation By-Laws, unless there be a vacancy, in which case it shall be filled as prescribed by such By-Laws. At least one lay member of a Parish's delegation shall where possible be a member of the Vestry.

Youth Delegates at any Convention shall be selected as follows:

- (a) One youth delegate and one alternate from each of the five Deaneries shall be selected by each Deanery, at its first meeting following the preceding Diocesan Convention. The Deanery shall have the authority to fill any vacancies that occur in these two positions.

- (b) Five at-large Youth Delegates and five at-large alternates shall be appointed by the Bishop Diocesan with advice from relevant Diocesan committees. The Bishop Diocesan shall have the authority to fill any vacancies that may occur in these positions.

Section 3.05. FUNCTIONS OF CONVENTION

A convention, whether annual or special, except as limited by Constitution or Canon, has Power to:

- (a) Prescribe its own rules of procedure;
- (b) Amend the Constitution;
- (c) Enact, amend, or repeal Canons;
- (d) Elect a Bishop Diocesan, in case of vacancy;
- (e) Elect a Bishop Coadjutor or a Bishop Suffragan as provided by Constitution or Canon;
- (f) Elect officers and confirm appointments as provided by Constitution or Canon;
- (g) Appoint commissions, committees, agencies, ecclesiastical or other corporations, and boards, *ad hoc* or otherwise, as necessary for the business of the Convention, and to define their duties;
- (h) Admit a congregation into union with the Convention in the manner prescribed by Canon, and to terminate such union;
- (I) Adopt, order filed, or reject reports of officers and other instrumentalities;
- (j) Adopt budgets; and
- (k) Approve resolutions.

CANON 4

OFFICERS: ELECTED AND APPOINTED

Section 4.01. QUALIFICATIONS

To be eligible to serve as an officer of any Convention, member of the Standing Committee or Diocesan Council, deputy to the General Convention or Provincial Synod, any member of the clergy or lay person must be a communicant in good standing, except that a lay person may be elected who has not previously been elected a delegate to the annual Convention.

Diocesan officers (except for the Standing Committee and the Diocesan Council) provided for in this Canon may be nominated by the Ecclesiastical Authority and, if there be no other nominations, elected by acclamation by the Convention.

All people who want to participate in the life, worship and governance of this Church shall be encouraged regardless of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities or age, except as otherwise specified by Canons. Every effort shall be made in every election or appointment process, to include members of underrepresented groups.

Section 4.02. PRESIDING OFFICER

The presiding officer shall be as provided in Article III, Section 5, of the Constitution. The presiding officer shall:

- (a) Control the order of business except as otherwise provided by rules prescribed by the Convention or by Canon,
- (b) Maintain order and decorum and accelerate the dispatch of business, and
- (c) Shall have no vote except in case of a tie.

Section 4.03. SECRETARY

The Secretary shall be elected by the annual Convention for a term of one year and shall have the duty to:

- (a) Attend to the giving of all notices of a Convention and shall perform all duties assigned by the presiding officer or by the Convention, or by Canon,
- (b) File and preserve all certificates of election of lay delegates and all written reports laid before the Convention;

- (c) Preserve in permanent form complete minutes of the proceedings of the Convention and all its records;
- (d) Deliver to the Bishop such documents of historical value as the Bishop may request;
- (e) Prepare, proofread and cause promptly to be printed, the Journal of the annual Convention, and shall transmit or disseminate a printed or electronic copy thereof throughout the Diocese at the direction of the Diocesan Council.

The Secretary may appoint an Assistant Secretary or secretaries with approval of the annual Convention.

Section 4.04. TREASURER

The Treasurer shall be elected by the annual Convention for a term of one year. Prior to engaging in the duties of office, the Treasurer shall give bond as required by Canon of the General Convention. Such bond shall be deposited with the Bishop.

The Treasurer or the Diocesan Financial Officer shall have the duty to:

- (a) Receive and safely preserve and account for all monies and other things of value which come into the Treasurer's possession or control, and to make disbursement therefrom when, as, and only to the extent, duly authorized;
- (b) Maintain in books belonging to the Diocese an accurate record in detail of all receipts and disbursements of money or other things of value and to maintain a separate complete account of each fund;
- (c) Obtain and keep on file proper receipts and vouchers evidencing all disbursements;
- (d) Present to the annual Convention, and deliver to the Diocesan Council upon request, a detailed report of the receipts and disbursements of each fund, and of the balance on hand;
- (e) Cause an audit satisfactory to the Diocesan Council to accompany the annual report;
- (f) Exercise diligence in the collection of all funds due and payable to the Diocese; and
- (g) Deliver promptly to a duly elected and qualified successor in office, all monies and other things of value which have come into the Treasurer's hands, or control and which have not been lawfully disbursed, together with all books, records, files, documents, receipts, vouchers, and correspondence pertaining to the office of Treasurer.

Section 4.05. ASSISTANT TREASURER

An Assistant Treasurer may be elected and shall give bond in the same manner as the Treasurer and shall assist the Treasurer as requested and perform the duties of Treasurer in case of absence or disability of the Treasurer.

Section 4.06. REGISTRAR

The Registrar shall be elected by the annual Convention for a term of one year and shall be the custodian of all diocesan documents and records not in the hands of the Bishop or required by Canon to be in the custody of some other officer.

Section 4.07. CHANCELLOR AND VICE CHANCELLORS

The Bishop shall appoint a Chancellor and may appoint such Vice-Chancellors as the Bishop deems necessary, all for a term of one year.

The Chancellor and Vice-Chancellors shall have the duty to, promptly, upon request from the Bishop prepare to the Bishop an opinion of the law or procedure relating to any question of law or legal procedure relating to the affairs of the Diocese, or any Parish.

The Vice-Chancellors shall assist the Chancellor and act under the Chancellor's supervision. In the absence or disability of the Chancellor, the Bishop may designate one of the Vice-Chancellors to act.

Section 4.08. HISTORIOGRAPHER

The Bishop may appoint without necessity for confirmation an Historiographer to serve at the pleasure of the Bishop. As the historian of the Diocese, the Historiographer shall prepare and file with the Registrar accurate records, or copies thereof of important Diocesan events.

Section 4.09. STANDING COMMITTEE

The annual Convention shall elect by ballot a Standing Committee consisting of four members of the clergy and four adult communicants in good standing for no more than two consecutive terms of three years each as provided in Title I, Canon 6.

Section 4.10. DIOCESAN COUNCIL

The annual Convention shall elect members of the Diocesan Council as required under the provisions of Title I, Canon 7.

Section 4.11. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Bishop shall appoint members of a Nominating Committee subject to confirmation by the Diocesan Council, to assist in nominating persons for appropriate offices, to be elected by the annual Convention, and to assist in the conduct and tally of elections and voting at a Convention. The term of office for members of the Nominating Committee shall be from the time of

appointment until the conclusion of the next subsequent annual Convention. No one who is a candidate for elective office shall serve on the Nominating Committee.

CANON 5

DEPUTIES TO GENERAL CONVENTION AND PROVINCIAL SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES

Section 5.01. ELECTION OF DEPUTIES AND ALTERNATES TO GENERAL CONVENTION

The annual Convention shall elect by ballot, not later than the next year preceding any General Convention, eight deputies to the General Convention, being four members of the clergy and four adult lay communicants in good standing together with an equal number of alternate deputies having like qualifications.

The four members of the clergy and four adult lay communicants in good standing first receiving a simple majority of the votes cast, shall be declared elected deputies. An election shall then be held for alternate deputies. The four members of the clergy and four adult lay communicants in good standing receiving the highest number of the votes cast, shall be declared elected alternate deputies. Alternate deputies are to be ranked in the order of their election.

Section 5.02. PROVINCIAL SYNOD

Every three years the annual Convention shall elect by ballot one member of the clergy and two adult lay communicants in good standing to serve as Diocesan representatives on the Provincial Synod for a period of three years. At the same time one member of the clergy and two adult lay communicants in good standing shall be elected to serve as alternate Diocesan representatives on the Provincial Synod for a period of three years. One representative, either clerical or lay, must be a deputy to General Convention.

Section 5.03. DUTIES

It shall be the duty of the Deputies to the General Convention and Provincial Synod to notify the Bishop and the Secretary of the Diocesan Convention at least three weeks before the session of the General Convention or Provincial Synod, as the case may be, whether or not they will attend the same; and it shall be the duty of the Bishop and Secretary, in case any deputies decline to attend such session, to notify the alternate deputies consecutively as provided in Canon 5, Section 5.01, above, of the vacancies as they occur, and to see that they are filled accordingly by some alternate deputy. If any vacancy shall occur in the delegation from the Diocese during a session of the General Convention or of the Provincial Synod, the Bishop, with the concurrence of such deputies or representatives as may be present, may appoint to fill such vacancy any person possessing the qualifications necessary for a deputy or representative, with preference to alternates present.

CANON 6

THE STANDING COMMITTEE

Section 6.01. COMPOSITION

In 2013, and every third year thereafter, one member of the clergy and one confirmed adult communicant shall be elected by the annual Convention, for three-year terms. In 2014, and every third year thereafter, one member of the clergy and two confirmed adult communicants shall be elected by the annual Convention, for three-year terms. In 2015, and every third year thereafter, two members of the clergy and one adult communicant in good standing, shall be elected by the annual Convention for terms of three years as terms expire. No person in the ordination process may serve on the Standing Committee.

Vacancies shall be filled at the next annual Convention by election for the remainder of the unexpired term, in addition to the positions elected as provided, above. [As amended, April 20, 2013.]

Section 6.02. ORGANIZATION

The Standing Committee shall elect at its first meeting following the annual Diocesan Convention a member to be president, a member to be vice-president and a member to be secretary. A majority shall constitute a quorum.

Section 6.03. EXPENSES

All necessary expenses incurred by members of the Standing Committee in attending its sessions shall be paid by the Treasurer from the General Fund.

Section 6.04. POWERS

During the interval between annual Conventions, the Standing Committee, by and with the approval of the Bishop, shall have the power to fill by appointment, any vacancy in any elective or appointive office of the Diocese, except as otherwise provided by Canon. Such appointment will be for the unexpired portion of the term.

Section 6.05. DUTIES

The Standing Committee shall have the duty to:

- (a) Call a special Convention when there is no Bishop Diocesan, Bishop Coadjutor or Bishop Suffragan.
- (b) Investigate and make a recommendation to the Bishop regarding any matter of difference arising between a member of the clergy and a congregation or Vestry, which

matter is first referred to the Standing Committee by the Ecclesiastical Authority. Such recommendation shall be binding upon the Bishop's approval.

- (c) Preserve in a book belonging to the Diocese, correct minutes of all proceedings of the Committee which shall be signed by the secretary and countersigned by the president. Such record shall be at all times subject to inspection by the Ecclesiastical Authority and a summary thereof shall be presented at the annual Convention next following.
- (d) Within 30 days following a meeting of the Standing Committee, a copy of the minutes of that meeting (whether or not yet approved as presented or corrected) shall be provided to each member of the Diocesan staff and to each member of the Diocesan Council. These minutes may be provided by electronic means.

Section 6.06. RECUSAL

The clergy or any member of a Parish involved in any matter pending before the Standing Committee shall recuse himself or herself from discussion and vote on that matter. In addition, no clergy or lay person who is connected to a Parish implementing a plan to restore congregational health or connected to a congregation undergoing a dissolution will be eligible for election/appointment to Standing Committee and if that designation occurs during a member's term their resignation would be required.

CANON 7 THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Section 7.01. COMPOSITION

The Diocesan Council shall be composed of the Bishop, a designated youth representative, the Chairperson of each Deanery Convocation, and two additional persons nominated by each Deanery and elected by annual Convention. The Bishop shall have the authority to appoint the designated youth representative on an annual basis or as vacancies arise. Each Deanery Delegation to Diocesan Council must include at least one lay person and at least one member of the clergy. The Chancellor and the Treasurer shall be *ex-officio* members of the Diocesan Council without vote.

Section 7.02. ELECTION

In the years in which a full term for Chairpersons of Deanery convocation begins, no other three- year term members will be elected to Council. In every other year, each convocation of the Deaneries shall nominate and the annual Convention shall elect one person, lay or clerical, to serve a three-year term on Diocesan Council. Members so elected to a three-year term shall not be eligible to succeed themselves more than once.

Vacancies between annual Conventions shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired

term by election of the same Deanery convocation from which the member causing the vacancy was nominated. All persons elected to fill vacancies shall be confirmed by election at the next annual Convention.

Section 7.03. OFFICERS

The Bishop shall normally serve as presiding officer. The Council shall elect from its ranks annually a Vice President. A secretary, who need not be a member of the Diocesan Council, may be likewise elected.

Section 7.04. FUNCTION

The Diocesan Council shall function as the executive committee of the Diocese acting with the authority of and in the name of the Diocese between meetings of the annual Convention and in accordance with such direction and limits as may be set forth by the Diocese in its own articles of incorporation or by such resolutions or canons that may be passed by the Convention.

Section 7.05. DUTIES OF THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL

The Diocesan Council shall:

- (a) Meet on sufficient occasions during the year on call of the presiding officer to enable it to carry out its function and duties;
- (b) Have general supervisory oversight over the work of all commissions of the Diocese;
- (c) Develop strategy, policy and work in the name of the Diocese in conjunction with the Bishop and all other agencies of the Diocese;
- (d) Receive, control, and expend through the Treasurer, all monies of the General Fund, for purposes designated by the Budget adopted by Convention, and as permitted and required by Title I, Canon 9 of these Canons; and
- (e) Submit a written annual report of its work to the annual Convention.
- (f) The Diocesan Council shall maintain, or cause to be maintained, a system of retirement pensions for all lay employees of the Diocese, commensurate with the Canons and directives of the General Convention. All such programs shall be reviewed annually in light of changing economic conditions and needs of such employees. The Diocese also recognizes the right of lay employees to enter into individual or collective bargaining with the Diocese on any economic issue.
- (g) Within 30 days following a meeting of the Diocesan Council, a copy of the minutes of that meeting (whether or not yet approved as presented or corrected) shall be provided to each member of the Diocesan staff and to each member of the Standing Committee. These minutes may be provided by electronic means.

Section 7.06. COUNCIL MEETINGS TO BE OPEN AND PUBLIC

All meetings of the Council shall be held in open session, with time, date, and place being announced by appropriate means to the entire Diocese, and members thereof, clerical and lay, shall be invited and urged to attend such meetings. Executive sessions shall be permitted upon two-thirds vote of all Council members present and voting for the considerations of personnel matters. The ultimate resolution of such personnel matters shall be reported and ratified by vote in open meeting.

CANON 8 DEANERIES AND CONVOCATIONS

Section 8.01. COMPOSITION

The Diocese shall be divided into five Deaneries, the same to be determined by the Diocesan Council.

Section 8.02. PURPOSE AND POWERS

The Deanery provides a vehicle for Parishes and new congregations in proximity to each other to undertake projects and activities in furtherance of their respective missions and the mission and vision of the Diocese, which would be too difficult for one Parish or new congregation to undertake alone, or which would so drain the resources of one Parish or new congregation as to make the effort impracticable.

The Deanery Convocation shall be responsible for carrying out the following duties:

- (a) Promoting and aiding in the implementation of cooperative ministries among the congregations in the Deanery;
- (b) Identifying and communicating program and ministry ideas to the appropriate Diocesan Commission;
- (c) Aiding Diocesan commissions in the implementation of programs and ministries in the Deanery;
- (d) Raising funds as necessary to its activities;
- (e) Providing a forum for discussion of upcoming Diocesan Convention business and disseminating and responding to Diocesan communications relating to Convention concerns;
- (f) Proposing names as required for membership on Diocesan Commissions; and
- (g) Performing such other duties assigned by these Canons or the Constitution.

Section 8.03. MEMBERS

The membership of each Deanery Convocation shall consist of the canonically resident clergy in that Deanery, the lay delegates to annual Convention from each congregation contained within the Deanery and the youth delegates to the annual Convention from congregations contained within that Deanery. Each Deanery Convocation may determine additional Deanery membership as desired.

Section 8.04. MEETINGS

Each Deanery Convocation shall meet not less than three times each year and such additional times as may be deemed necessary by the Chairperson or at the request of not less than 8 members of the convocation.

Section 8.05. OFFICERS

Each Deanery Convocation shall elect the following officers:

- (a) A Chairperson to serve for a three-year term beginning immediately after the conclusion of the annual Convention commencing in 2012. The Chairperson may be lay or clerical, and shall be elected by secret ballot by the Deanery Convocation. In case of a vacancy, the Deanery Convocation shall fill the vacancy in the same manner for the remainder of the unexpired term. The Chairperson shall preside at meetings of the Deanery Convocation, and shall carry out such duties and communications as the Deanery Convocation or the Bishop may assign.
- (b) A Vice-Chairperson, who shall preside at convocation meetings in the absence of the Chairperson.
- (c) Either the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson must be a member of the clergy.
- (d) A Secretary and a Treasurer, who each shall perform the customary duties of their respective offices.

Diocesan Council members from the Deanery shall be nominated by the Deanery Convocation, as provided by Canon 7, at a meeting held no more than 60 days, and no less than 30 days, prior to the annual Convention.

CANON 9 THE GENERAL FUND

Section 9.01. PURPOSE

The General Fund shall include all unrestricted funds of the Diocese and shall be used for the share of the Diocese in the General Church Program of The Episcopal Church as adopted by the

General Convention, support of Diocesan Parishes, new congregations and Commissions, the stipend and expenses of the Bishop and the salaries and expenses of the Diocese.

Section 9.02. SOURCES, RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

The General Fund shall be derived from income from designated and unrestricted endowment and trust funds and from the apportionments of each congregation. All monies due or accruing to the Fund shall be paid to the Treasurer, who shall pay no monies therefrom which have not been provided for by the Budget adopted at the annual Convention, unless authorized to do so by the Diocesan Council, or by the Bishop for expenditures under \$1,000.

Section 9.03. PARISH APPORTIONMENT

The Program and Budget of the Diocese, including its obligation to The Episcopal Church, shall be funded by an annual apportionment of each Parish based on its Net Operating Income. This income shall be the total operating income as shown on the most current annual Parochial Report.

A Parish may use as its Net Operating Income for this formula the average of the last three Parochial Reports, or the most recent Parochial Report, whichever is the smaller amount.

A Parish may then deduct from this amount the actual dollar amount of apportionment funds paid to the Diocese in the preceding year. This is the figure upon which the new apportionment is to be based.

The apportionment formula is as follows:

10% of the first \$75,000 (\$1 - \$75,000)
12% of the second \$75,000 (\$75,001 - \$150,000)
14% of the third \$75,000 (\$150,001 - \$225,000)
16% of any amount above \$225,001

This apportionment shall be paid in twelve equal monthly payments.

The Diocesan office will inform each Parish of its apportionment in a timely manner. Each Parish will then have a maximum of 45 days to respond in writing. If a Parish believes itself to be unable to meet the apportionment it must indicate in writing why that is so. The Apportionment Review Committee will then contact the Rector/Senior Warden to meet with them and to connect them with those groups in the Diocese that are prepared to offer assistance.

If a Parish will not work in good faith with the Apportionment Review Committee and the supportive groups within the Diocese, with the goal of strengthening the Parish and meeting the apportionment goal, the Bishop and the Standing Committee will have the option of prescribing a course of action for the health of the Parish, pursuant to Title II, Canon 31.

Section 9.04. BUDGET

The Diocesan Council shall:

- (a) Be responsible for submitting to the annual Convention for approval, a balanced budget incorporating all the work and program of the Diocese. The proposed budget shall be distributed to all Convention delegates at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual Convention.
- (b) Advise the National Executive Council of the amount the Diocese intends to pay towards the National Church Program that year; and
- (c) Have the authority during the course of the year to modify the budget approved by the annual Convention in any manner it deems necessary to balance expenditures with anticipated resources.

Section 9.05. BUDGET PROCEDURE

- (a) Six months before the commencement of the next Diocesan Convention, the Diocesan Council will ask the chairs of each Diocesan commission to prepare a proposed budget for the following year and submit it to the Diocesan Council not later than four months before the commencement of the next Diocesan Convention.
- (b) A proposed budget will be prepared listing all proposed receipts and expenditures and shall be presented to the Diocesan Council not later than two months before the commencement of the next Diocesan Convention.
- (c) The Diocesan Council will review the report and initiate the process of balancing the proposed expenditures with the forecasted receipts. Not later than one month before the commencement of the next Diocesan Convention, the Diocesan Council will approve a proposed balanced budget for the following year. The proposed budget will be distributed to all Convention delegates at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual Convention.

CANON 10 THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND CANONS

Section 10.01.

The Bishop shall appoint a Committee on Constitution and Canons to consist of such number of persons, clergy or lay, as the Bishop shall deem necessary. The Chancellor or a Vice-Chancellor shall serve as chairperson of the Committee. The members of the Committee shall serve a term commencing upon appointment by the Bishop and running through the close of the next subsequent annual Convention or until their successors are appointed.

Section 10.02. DUTIES

The Committee on Constitution and Canons shall review proposed revisions to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese referred to it by the Bishop. Such review shall be to determine the canonical propriety of said revision and the compatibility of the proposed revision with the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention, the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese and any other documents that may be relevant. The Committee shall report the results of such review to the Bishop, the Diocesan Council, and the annual Convention.

CANON 11 ELECTION OF A BISHOP

Section 11.01. ELECTION OF A BISHOP

The election of a Bishop Diocesan, or of a Bishop Coadjutor, or of a Bishop Suffragan, shall be made at a Convention, either annual or special, as described by these Canons. If such election occurs at an annual Convention it shall be required that notice of the Convention include notice of the intent to elect such a Bishop, and that such notice be distributed to Convention delegates not less than 60 days prior to the Convention. Notification of a special Convention called for the purpose of electing a Bishop Diocesan, a Bishop Coadjutor, or a Bishop Suffragan shall be distributed to Convention delegates not less than 60 days prior to the special Convention, and such notice shall state the purpose of the special Convention.

Section 11.02. PROCEDURE

The election of a Bishop Diocesan, or of a Bishop Coadjutor, or of a Bishop Suffragan shall be in the following manner:

- (a) Nominations shall only be made as follows to the Standing Committee no later than the date specified by the Standing Committee:
 - (1) By the Search Committee appointed as directed by the Standing Committee; and
 - (2) By petition, the form of which shall be determined by the Standing Committee, signed by no less than three (3) clergy members canonically resident in no less than two (2) Deaneries and by no less than three (3) lay members in good standing of at least two (2) Deaneries. The person nominated must indicate such person's willingness to be nominated and consent in writing to the normal background checks no later than the date specified by the Standing Committee.
- (b) All nominees whose nomination has been made as set forth in subsection (a) hereof shall be eligible for election and no nominations may be made from the floor of Convention.

- (c) The members of clergy and lay delegates to Convention shall vote by ballot and by orders. A concurrence of a majority of both orders shall be necessary for an election. If in either order less than 60 percent of all entitled to vote are present, two-thirds of the votes of those present in that order shall be necessary to determine the election. Absent non-stipendiary members of the clergy and absent retired members of the clergy shall not be counted in determining the majority of clergy.

Section 11.03. FAILURE TO ELECT

In case of failure to elect upon any ballot as herein provided, the Convention shall continue to ballot until an election occurs or the Convention adjourns.

CANON 12 THE BISHOP COADJUTOR

The Bishop Coadjutor, if any, shall be *ex-officio* a member of all Diocesan commissions of which the Bishop Diocesan is *ex-officio* a member. In the absence or disability of the Bishop Diocesan to act, the Bishop Coadjutor shall possess all the powers and perform all the duties of the Bishop Diocesan prescribed in these Canons.

CANON 13 COMMITTEES

The Bishop may establish committees whose duties, membership and duration shall be designated from time to time by the Bishop with the advice and consent of Diocesan Council.

CANON 14 COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

The Commission on Ministry shall be appointed by the Bishop. The Commission shall consist of nine members appointed for three year terms from members of the laity, deacons, and presbyters. The duties of the Commission will be to advise and assist the Bishop in the implementation of Title III of the Canons of the General Convention. No person in the ordination process may serve on the Commission on Ministry.

**CANONS 15 - 19
RESERVED**

TITLE II PARISHES

CANON 20 EQUALITY OF CONGREGATIONS

Section 20.01. EQUALITY OF CONGREGATIONS

All congregations, financially self-supporting or otherwise, shall be equal with respect to the Canons of the Diocese.

CANON 21 ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW CONGREGATIONS

Section 21.01. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW CONGREGATIONS

- (a) On recommendation of the Bishop and Standing Committee, the Diocesan Council may establish a new congregation, subject, however, to the provisions of Section 21.04 of this Canon.
- (b) If the gathering place for worship of the proposed new congregation be within ten miles of the church of any Parish in union with the Convention, the Bishop and Diocesan Council shall consult with the Rector and Vestry of each such Parish church before establishing the new congregation.
- (c) An application for establishment of a new congregation shall be made in writing to the Bishop. which application shall begin with a letter addressed to the Bishop, in form substantially saying:

“We, the subscribers, baptized, adult persons, residents of the town of _____ in the State of Michigan, request, pursuant to Title II, Canon 21, Section 21.01 of the Canons of the Diocese of Western Michigan that a new congregation be established at _____, to be known as _____. We promise obedience to the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church, the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Western Michigan, and to the Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Western Michigan.

The following items shall be attached to the application:

- (1) A description of the group (which may be identified by native language, ethnic group, geographic location, or other affinity) to be served by the proposed new congregation;
- (2) An explanation of the reasons why such group would be better served by the establishment of the proposed new congregation than by other existing parishes;
- (3) A description of the physical facilities to be used by the proposed new congregation;
- (4) A description of the arrangements proposed for taking charge of the spiritual affairs of the proposed new congregation;
- (5) A description of the relationship contemplated between the sponsoring Parish or Diocese and the proposed new congregation, including the arrangements for supervision of the financial affairs of the new congregation and any expectations for eventual self- sufficiency of the proposed new congregation; and,
- (6) An affirmation to the effect that the proposed new congregation will, if established, obey the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church in the United States of America, the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Western Michigan, and the Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Western Michigan.

The application shall include any additional information the Bishop may require to determine the need, and the adequacy of the arrangements, for such proposed new congregation.

- (d) After establishment of a new congregation under this Canon, the Bishop shall appoint a presbyter to have charge of the spiritual affairs of the new congregation under direction of the Bishop. The presbyter's salary shall be fixed within the approved Diocesan guidelines for clergy compensation. A new congregation established under this Canon shall not place itself under the charge, temporary or permanent, of any person without the consent of the Bishop Diocesan.
- (e) The Bishop and presbyter shall appoint an advisory committee from the members of the new congregation to serve until the new congregation holds its first annual meeting.
- (f) A meeting of the new congregation shall be held annually during the month of January on such date as may be fixed by the by-laws. The first annual meeting will be set by the Bishop or by the presbyter in charge of the congregation. The first annual meeting shall adopt by- laws; and the first and each subsequent annual meeting shall be held for the

following purposes:

- (1) The election of wardens, secretary, treasurer and not more than six other persons having the qualifications of voters, to constitute the advisory committee;
 - (2) Consideration and action upon recommendations of the presbyter or advisory committee concerning secular business of the new congregation;
 - (3) Reception of reports;
 - (4) Consideration and action upon proposed amendments to the by-laws; and,
 - (5) If admitted into union with the convention, election of the authorized number of lay delegates to represent the new congregation at the convention, as determined according to Title I, Canon 3, Section 3.04 of these Canons, together with the same number of alternates. Delegates must have the same qualifications as prescribed for delegates from parishes. If not so elected, the advisory committee may appoint delegates and alternates to the convention.
- (g) Special meetings of the new congregation may be called by the presbyter or advisory committee for purposes to be stated in the notice of the meeting.
- (h) Notices of the annual and all special meetings shall be given in accordance with Title II, Canon 22, Sections 22.03 and 22.04 of these Canons.
- (I) Qualification of voters is the same as provided in Title II, Canon 22, Section 22.05, of these Canons.
- (j) The wardens, secretary and treasurer shall have such duties as conform as nearly as practicable to those of the corresponding officers of a Parish. The treasurer shall give bond under the circumstances and in the form required by the Canons of this Diocese and of the General Convention, satisfactory to the Bishop and Standing Committee.
- (k) New congregations shall be incorporated under the Michigan statutes permitting incorporation of Protestant Episcopal Churches when they show evidence of being financially self-sufficient for at least one year. Title to all personal property given to or purchased by or for new congregations established under this Canon, and to monies contributed for operating purposes, shall vest in the treasurer of the new congregation and his or her successors in office, in trust for the new congregation, subject to use by the presbyter in his or her canonical administration.

- (l) The Diocese of Western Michigan shall hold title to all real estate given to, or purchased by or for, a new congregation established under this Canon. Donations of real estate for the benefit of a new congregation shall not be accepted except by consent of the Bishop and the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Western Michigan, as provided by Title I, Canon 2, Section 2.02 of these Canons.
- (m) Title to endowments and invested funds given or bequeathed for the use or benefit of a new congregation established under this Canon shall be held by the Diocese of Western Michigan, which shall administer the same for the purposes directed in the instrument of gift or trust, unless some other Trustee shall be named in such instrument and shall accept the trust.
- (n) When a new congregation is replaced by an incorporated Parish, such Parish shall be deemed the lawful successor of the new congregation and all property held in trust for the new congregation shall be conveyed to such Parish, provided such conveyance is not inhibited by the provisions of the trust, and provided further, that the provisions of Title I, Canon 2, Section 2.02 of these Canons are complied with.
- (o) Before any church, Parish house or other buildings shall be built by such a new congregation, or structural alterations made to any existing building, satisfactory drawings thereof shall be submitted to and approved by the Bishop Diocesan and the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Western Michigan, in conformance with Title I, Canon 2, Section 2.02 of these Canons.

Section 21.02. SUPERVISION OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

The financial affairs of the new congregation shall be supervised by the Diocese.

Section 21.03. DISSOLUTION OF A NEW CONGREGATION

On recommendation of the Bishop, the Diocesan Council may close a new congregation after giving the officers of the new congregation a reasonable opportunity to be heard. In such case, the real estate and invested funds held by, or for, the Diocese of Western Michigan for the benefit of such new congregation shall be administered for the benefit of the evangelical work of the Diocese and may be leased, mortgaged, sold or otherwise disposed of, with the advice and consent of the Bishop and the Standing Committee, as provided by Title I, Canon 2, Section 2.03 of these Canons. All personal property and funds in the custody of the new congregation treasurer shall be turned over, in such case, to the Treasurer of the Diocese, to be used under the direction of the Bishop and Diocesan Council for the evangelical work of the Diocese.

Section 21.04. CHANGE FROM NEW CONGREGATION STATUS TO PARISH STATUS

- (a) To become a Parish, a new congregation must make an application to the Bishop, which application shall begin with a letter addressed to the Bishop, in form substantially saying:

“We, the subscribers, baptized, adult persons, members of the new congregation of _____, request that the status of the new congregation be changed to a Parish, to be known as _____. We continue to promise obedience to the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church, the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Western Michigan, and to the Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Western Michigan.

The application shall provide the basis by which:

- (1) A need exists for the establishment of such a Parish;
- (2) A building has been acquired, or the use of a building provided.

The following items shall be attached to the application:

- (3) A copy of the congregation’s proposed, or existing, Articles of Incorporation;
 - (4) The congregation’s application for, or acceptance of, incorporation under the laws of the State of Michigan permitting incorporation as an Ecclesiastical corporation for Protestant Episcopal Churches;
 - (5) A copy of the congregation’s by-laws;
 - (6) Documentation establishing the congregation’s tax-exempt status;
 - (7) A copy of the previous year’s audited financial records of the congregation; and,
 - (8) Any additional information the Bishop may require.
- (b) If the location of the place of worship of the proposed Parish is within ten miles of the church of any existing congregation in union with this Diocese, the Bishop and the Diocesan Council shall obtain the consent from the Rector and Vestry of each such existing congregation before approving the change of status of the new congregation to a Parish.
- (c) The Bishop shall consult with the Diocesan Council and the Standing Committee regarding the merits of the application, and then shall submit a recommendation to Convention.

Section 21.05. APPROVAL BY CONVENTION

If, after the recommendation required by Title II, Canon 21.03 (c), above, the next annual Convention of the Diocese shall approve the same, the congregation shall thereby be admitted into union with the Diocese. If such recommendation shall not receive approval of the annual Convention of the Diocese, the annual Convention shall by resolution determine the disposition of the new congregation.

Section 21.06. CERTIFICATE OF UNION

Upon approval of the recommendation by the annual Convention, as provided by Title II, Canon 21, Section 21.04, above, the Bishop Diocesan shall issue a certificate of union. The Bishop's certificate that said union has been effected shall be retroactive to the close of the Convention which approved the recommendation, and shall be final and conclusive.

CANON 22 PARISH MEETINGS

Section 22.01. BY-LAWS

All by-laws adopted by any congregation shall be consistent with the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention and the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese.

Section 22.02. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

A Parish meeting shall be held annually in each congregation within the month of January. Such annual meeting shall:

- (a) Elect qualified adult communicants in good standing to the Vestry;
- (b) Consider and act upon recommendations of the Vestry concerning secular business of the Parish;
- (c) Receive reports of the Rector, secretary, treasurer, and other officers of the Parish and of its organizations; and,
- (d) Consider and act upon proposed amendments, if any, to the articles of incorporation or by-laws of the Parish.

Section 22.03. NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Notice of the date, hour and place of holding each annual meeting shall be given at a regular service on each of the two Sundays next preceding such meeting, by the Rector, or in the Rector's absence by a warden; or notice may be given with like effect by such publishing, posting, mailing or electronic means as the Vestry may direct.

Section 22.04. SPECIAL PARISH MEETING

Special meetings of a congregation may be called by:

- (a) The Rector; or,
- (b) Written consent of two-thirds of the Vestry; or,
- (c) Written consents of a majority of the Vestry if the Rector approves; or,
- (d) Consent of a majority of the Vestry if there be no Rector.

Notice of a special meeting shall state the purpose or purposes thereof and may be given in the same manner as notice of an annual Parish meeting.

Section 22.05. QUALIFICATIONS OF VOTERS

At all Parish meetings, whether annual or special, the right to vote shall be limited to baptized persons:

- (a) not less than 16 years of age,
- (b) whose baptisms have been duly recorded in said Parish,
- (c) who for a period of not less than six months preceding have been regular worshiper in the Parish; and,
- (d) who for not less than six months preceding have been bona fide regular contributors to its support, according to the method used in the Parish. Physical disability or absence from the Parish during the preceding six months shall not disqualify an otherwise qualified voter.

Before any vote has been taken, the presiding officer shall state to the persons present the foregoing qualifications of voters. The Rector and the wardens shall be judges of the qualifications of voters. If a warden is absent, the presiding officer may appoint a member of the Vestry to act in place of the warden. The judges of an election shall not permit an unqualified person to vote. Proxy ballots shall not be accepted.

Section 22.06. ORDER OF BUSINESS

Unless otherwise provided by by-law or resolution, the presiding officer shall control the order of business. The presiding officer may appoint tellers and other assistants. The secretary shall preserve a list of the names of all persons who voted for Vestry members. The list shall be signed by the judges of election.

CANON 23

THE VESTRY: ITS OFFICERS, MEETINGS, AND DUTIES

Section 23.01. ORGANIZATION OF VESTRY

The Vestry of a Parish shall consist of not less than six nor more than fifteen lay members. Within these limits the number may be fixed by by-law. Members of the Vestry shall be adult communicants in good standing as defined by Title I, Canon 17, Sections 2 and 3 of the General Convention, and shall be qualified voters of the congregation. Vestry members may not be a Spouse, Parent, Sibling, or Child of or reside in the same household as the Rector or any other Vestry member. [As amended, April 21, 2012.]

The by-laws of a Parish shall provide for multi-year Vestry terms, arranged so that an equal number of members are elected each year. An election of Vestry members shall be preceded by nomination. No voter shall vote for more candidates than the total number of Vestry members to be elected. A majority of all votes cast shall be necessary to elect.

Immediately following the annual meeting (unless otherwise provided by by-law) the newly constituted Vestry shall meet and elect for a term of one year:

- (a) a senior warden,
- (b) a junior warden,
- (c) a secretary,
- (d) a treasurer, and
- (e) the authorized number of lay delegates to represent the Parish at the Convention, as determined according to Title I, Canon 3, Section 3.04, together with the same number of alternates.

The secretary and the treasurer shall be *ex-officio* the secretary and treasurer, respectively, of the Parish, unless otherwise provided by by-law.

Section 23.02. QUALIFICATIONS

The wardens shall be Vestry members. The secretary and treasurer shall be qualified voters of the congregation who may or may not be members of the Vestry. The delegates and alternates shall be qualified voters of the congregation.

Section 23.03. VESTRY MEETINGS

Unless otherwise provided by by-law, the Vestry shall meet as often as once in each month in ten months of the calendar year at such day, place and hour as shall be fixed by resolution or by-law. Notice of a stated meeting, although desirable, shall not be legally necessary. The Rector, when present, shall preside at all Vestry meetings but shall have no vote except in the case of a tie. In the Rector's absence from the meeting, one of the wardens, if present, shall preside. In the case of a vacant cure, the Senior Warden, if present, shall preside, and if the Senior Warden not be present, the Junior Warden shall preside.

A special meeting of the Vestry may be called by the Rector at any time, upon notice given in any practical manner to each Vestry member. The purpose of the special meeting shall be stated as a part of the notice. In a vacancy of the Rectorate, a special meeting may be called by either warden at any time upon notice given in any practical manner to each other Vestry member.

No notice of any meeting at which the Rector and all members of the Vestry are present shall be necessary. Any or all members may waive notice in writing either before or after the meeting has been held. All waivers of notice shall be kept on file by the secretary.

A majority of the members of the Vestry, not counting the Rector, when duly assembled, shall constitute a quorum. Less than a quorum may transact business if there be no objections, but any business so transacted is subject to ratification at the next regular meeting of the Vestry.

Section 23.04 DUTIES OF VESTRY

The Vestry shall have the duty to:

- (a) Be helpful to the Rector;
- (b) Prepare, approve and present a balanced budget to the Annual Meeting of the Parish;
- (c) Employ and fix the compensation of all employees of the Parish provided that no person shall be employed or retained except by and with the approval of the Rector;
- (d) Provide maintenance for the Rector and such compensation as shall be agreed upon for employees of the Parish;
- (e) Elect and call a Rector in conformance with Title III, Canon 9, Section 3(a) of the Canons of the General Convention, and under procedures adopted by the Bishop Diocesan, in consultation with the Standing Committee;
- (f) Have charge, care and management of all property and temporal affairs of the Parish;

- (g) Supervise collection, control, and disbursement of all monies held by or for the benefit of the Parish;
- (h) Keep all buildings, structures, and tangible property of the Parish adequately insured against loss;
- (i) Assure that all treasurers and custodians of funds (other than banking institutions) obtained, contributed, held, or accumulated for the benefit of the Parish, or of any of its activities, shall be adequately bonded;
- (j) Assure that all treasurers and custodians of funds maintain records sufficient to enable proper accounting and audits;
- (k) Deposit all trust funds, permanent funds and all securities, which come under their control, using the Parish name and tax identification number, with a national bank, a state bank, the Diocesan Council pursuant to Title I, Canon 2, Section 2.05, or some other custodian approved by the Finance Committee of the Diocese, under a suitable deposit arrangement requiring not less than two signatures upon all checks and orders for withdrawals;
- (l) Manage trust funds and income therefrom strictly in accordance with the lawful express requirements of the instruments creating the trust;
- (m) Sell and convey unneeded personal property of the Parish when deemed for the best interest of the Parish to do so;
- (n) Pursuant to a vote of the congregation, at a meeting duly called, sell and convey real estate of the Parish, when deemed for the best interest of the Parish to do so, but only pursuant to written consent of the Bishop and Standing Committee first obtained. Acting within the limitations upon debt contained in Title II, Canon 27, and in compliance with the requirements of that Canon, to do any of the following acts, namely to:
 - (1) Cause necessary repairs to be made upon the Parish property;
 - (2) purchase necessary furnishings and equipment;
 - (3) mortgage real estate when deemed for the best interest of the Parish to do so, but only pursuant to written consent of the Bishop and the Standing Committee first obtained; and

- (4) acquire appropriate real estate; and, on real estate held in fee simple by the Parish pursuant to consent of the congregation given at a Parish meeting duly called and held, take down and remove or alter existing buildings, and erect, construct, or reconstruct, a church building, chapel, Rectory, and/or Parish house. This subsection shall not be held to apply to alterations which do not involve major structural changes to the buildings in question.

The foregoing duties of the Vestry shall always be subject to the authority of the Rector to direct the spiritual activities of the congregation subject to the Bishop or other person acting as the Ecclesiastical Authority and to Canon Law and the Rector's right to possession, use and control of the property of the Parish as provided by the canons of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church.

Section 23.05. DUTIES OF OFFICERS OF VESTRY

- (a) **WARDENS.** In case the congregation be without a Rector, the wardens shall preside at meetings of the congregation and of the Vestry, shall provide public worship as circumstances shall permit, and shall perform the duties required by Title I, Canon 6 and Title III, Canon 9 of the Canons of the General Convention.
- (b) **SECRETARY.** The secretary shall keep correct minutes of all meetings of the Vestry and of the congregation and shall sign the same and deliver the same to his or her successor. The records of the congregation and the Vestry at all times shall be safely and permanently kept open to inspection by the Bishop, the Rector, and all qualified voters of the congregation. The secretary shall be the custodian of the bond of the treasurer. The secretary shall assure that proper timely notice is given of all meetings of the Vestry and of the congregation.
- (c) **TREASURER.** The treasurer shall follow the Episcopal Church *Manual of Business Methods in Church Affairs*. The treasurer shall report to the Vestry at each stated meeting thereof, and whenever requested, all receipts and disbursements and the condition of the all Parish cash and investment balances. The treasurer shall make a like report to the annual Parish meeting. The treasurer shall give bond for the faithful performance of his or her duties. The treasurer's records shall be and open to inspection by the Bishop and shall be kept at the Parish office and promptly delivered to the treasurer's successor in office.

CANON 24 REGISTERS AND PAROCHIAL REPORTS

Section 24.01. DUTIES

It shall be the duty of all Rectors, vicars, and other clergy of the Diocese to record in the appropriate register all the official acts listed in Title I, Canon 6, of the Canons of the General Convention. In the case of a vacant cure, the senior warden shall perform this duty, and if the senior warden should not be available, the junior warden shall perform this duty.

Section 24.02. REPORTS

A report of every congregation and of every bishop, presbyter, and deacon not officially attached to a congregation shall be prepared annually as required by and in the manner set forth by Title I, Canon 6, of the Canons of the General Convention.

CANON 25 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO CONGREGATIONS

Section 25.01. ELIGIBILITY

Any congregation in union with the Diocese may make application for financial assistance from the Diocese. Such application shall be made through the Diocesan Council or such committee(s) as it may designate.

Section 25.02. PROCEDURE

The Diocesan Council shall establish and administer a process whereby congregations may apply for financial assistance from the Diocese. Such process shall be communicated to all congregations in the Diocese in an appropriate and timely manner and shall include, but is not limited to, the following:

- (a) Dates and deadlines for applications and/or steps within the application process.
- (b) Method of reporting from the applying congregation of:
 - (1) Conduct of a stewardship program for the support of the congregation and the Diocese;
 - (2) Activity and worship in the congregation in the preceding year; and,
 - (3) Expectations for the future of the congregation.
- (c) Method of accountability for use of assistance fund.

Section 25.03. FINAL APPROVAL

The final decision on all financial assistance grants shall be made by the Diocesan Council.

Section 25.04. FUNDING

Funds for financial aid to congregations within the Diocese shall be identified by the annual Convention as a part of the budget of the General Fund as described in Title I, Canon 9, Section 9.04, in a line item entitled, “Aid to Congregations.” In any given fiscal year, the total of all financial assistance granted by the Diocesan Council shall not exceed the total of the amount allocated for “Aid to Congregations.”

CANON 26 DISSOLUTION OF CONGREGATIONS

Section 26.01. DISSOLUTION

Whenever any congregation shall choose to dissolve or be determined by the Bishop and Diocesan Council to be virtually extinct, the Convention may exclude it from union with the Diocese, but without prejudice to subsequent application for readmission in the manner prescribed by Title II, Canon 21 for original admission.

In such case the real estate and invested funds that may be held by the Diocese or the Bishop Whittemore Foundation for the benefit of such congregation shall be administered for the benefit of the general missionary work of the Diocese and may be leased, mortgaged, sold or otherwise disposed of by the Bishop and the Diocesan Council pursuant to Title II, Canon 21, Section 21.03 of these Canons and pursuant to the requirements of the Canons of the General Convention. All personal property and funds in the custody of the treasurer of the congregation shall be turned over to the Treasurer, to be used under the direction of the Bishop and the Diocesan Council for the general missionary work of the Diocese.

Section 26.02. REORGANIZATION OF CONGREGATION AFTER DISSOLUTION

A dissolved congregation may be reorganized by the same procedure prescribed in these Canons. After reorganization has been completed, the reorganized congregation shall be entitled to the accrued investment funds derived from the predecessor congregation. The invested funds then continuing to be held by the Diocesan Council, and not in the meantime disposed of, shall be held for the benefit of such reorganized congregation, subject to such encumbrances as may have been created thereon in the meantime by action of the Diocesan Council or otherwise.

CANON 27

CONGREGATIONAL INDEBTEDNESS

Section 27.01. LIMITATIONS ON DEBT

No indebtedness shall be incurred by any congregation without the approval of both the Bishop and the Standing Committee, except:

- (a) Indebtedness for permanent improvements, replacement or additions to real estate or equipment, where the amount of such indebtedness, plus indebtedness of every kind already existing, shall not exceed 150% of the average annual receipts of such congregation during the three years then last preceding;
- (b) Indebtedness for current expenses where the amount of such indebtedness, plus all indebtedness heretofore incurred for current expenses and still existing, shall not exceed 20% of the total current receipts of such congregation during the preceding fiscal year; and the payment of all such indebtedness shall be provided for in the budget of the next ensuing fiscal year with reasonable expectation of its payment out of the receipts of the next two years; or,
- (c) Indebtedness incurred to finance existing loans, provided the total amount thereof be not increased.

In computing receipts under subsections (a) and (b) hereof, income from endowments, devises and bequests available for general purposes may be included; but principal and income not available for payment of debts, and receipts earmarked for non-parochial purposes shall be excluded.

Section 27.02. PLAN OF PAYMENT REQUIRED

Where approval of proposed indebtedness is required, the application therefore shall be accompanied by a plan of payment, and such approval shall not be granted in any event unless such a plan is deemed feasible by the Bishop and the Standing Committee.

Section 27.03. EXISTING INDEBTEDNESS

This Canon shall not apply to the refinancing of existing indebtedness, provided the total existing indebtedness is not increased.

CANON 28

AUDITS and INSURANCE

Section 28.01. AUDITS

As soon as may be after the close of each fiscal year, the accounts of all officers handling funds, whether of the Diocese or its auxiliaries, or of congregations and their auxiliaries, shall be audited in accordance with the Episcopal Church *Manual of Business Methods in Church Affairs*.

Copies of audit reports shall be submitted to the Diocesan Treasurer for review by September 1 following the close of the fiscal year.

Section 28.02. INSURANCE

- (a) All buildings and tangible personal property, owned or held in trust by the Diocese or by any congregation, shall be insured under the Diocesan Insurance program; including but not limited to hazards to be insured against, amount and sufficiency of such insurance for each congregation, and insurance carrier or carriers, shall be as prescribed by the Diocesan Council. Each congregation insured under this program shall pay to the Treasurer its fair share of the cost of the total Insurance program, which fair share shall be determined by the Diocesan Council.
- (b) Each congregation shall provide health insurance through the denominational health plan for all eligible clergy and eligible lay employees.

CANON 29 MINIMUM COMPENSATION STANDARDS FOR CLERGY

Section 29.01. ESTABLISHMENT OF STANDARDS

There is hereby established a minimum standard of compensation for all members of the clergy exercising a full-time, parochial, stipendiary ministry in the Diocese of Western Michigan. Compensation is defined as stipend, housing/housing allowance, and utilities.

The establishment of a minimum compensation standard is not meant to prevent a congregation from providing additional forms of compensation.

Section 29.02. ADOPTION, SCALE

The Diocesan Council shall adopt an annual Clergy compensation minimum for the next ensuing fiscal year. For those who have been ordained more than one year, the minimum standard shall be increased by an amount, to be determined by the Diocesan Council, for each year of ordained ministry beyond the first year to a limit of ten years.

Section 29.03. FAILURE TO COMPENSATE

In any case where compensation provided is below the minimum standard the position will be regarded as less than a full-time position. The Bishop, or the Bishop's representative, shall assist in negotiating a mutually agreeable solution.

Section 29.04. OTHER BENEFITS

Consideration for adequate reimbursement shall also be given by vestries in the areas of:

- (a) Reimbursement of automobile expenses;
- (b) Continuing education; and
- (c) Other professional expenses.

**CANON 30
PASTORAL RELATIONSHIPS****Section 30.01.**

Except upon mandatory resignation by reason of age, a Rector may not resign as Rector of a Parish without the consent of its Vestry, nor may any Rector canonically or lawfully elected and in charge of a Parish be removed therefrom by the Vestry against the Rector's will, except as hereinafter provided.

Section 30.02.

If for any urgent reason a Rector or Vestry desires a dissolution of the pastoral relation, and the parties cannot agree, either party may give notice in writing to the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese. Whenever the Standing Committee is the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese, it shall request the Bishop of another Diocese to perform the duties of the Bishop under this Canon.

Section 30.03.

The provisions of Title III, Canon 9, Section 12 of the Canons of the General Convention apply to pastoral relations in this Diocese.

The Bishop and the Standing Committee will have the option of prescribing a course of action for the health of the Parish, pursuant to Title II, Canon 31.

**CANON 31
RESTORING CONGREGATIONAL HEALTH****Section 31.01. PURPOSE**

This Canon is intended to address the exceptional case of a Parish whose continued viability as a self-sustaining entity appears to be in jeopardy, such that a degree of Episcopal intervention or oversight is needed as a means of restoring the health of the congregation. It is not intended to derogate from the traditional right and responsibility of Parishes in the Episcopal

Church to govern themselves. In those cases where an inquiry is initiated, and where a plan to restore congregational health is implemented is declared, it shall be the duty and obligation of all parties to strive to accomplish the speedy end or substantial amelioration of the conditions that led to the inquiry or to the implementation of a plan to restore congregational health, and to restore the congregation to spiritual and temporal health.

Section 31.02. INITIATION OF INQUIRY

An inquiry by the Ecclesiastical Authority leading to the implementation of a plan to restore congregational health under this Canon may be initiated only in one of the following ways:

The Bishop, believing that one or more of the conditions in Section 4 may exist, may initiate such inquiry;

The Standing Committee by vote of two-thirds of its members, believing that one or more of the conditions in Section 4 may exist, may petition the Bishop to initiate such inquiry; or if the Standing Committee is the Ecclesiastical Authority, it may initiate such inquiry by unanimous vote;

The Rector, both Wardens, or a majority of the Vestry of such Parish, believing that one or more of the conditions in Section 31.04 may exist, may petition the Ecclesiastical Authority to initiate such inquiry.

Section 31.03. INQUIRY BY ECCLESIASTICAL AUTHORITY

Upon proper initiation as provided in Section 31.02, the Ecclesiastical Authority, either itself or through persons it may designate, shall conduct such inquiry into the condition of the Parish as it deems appropriate. Such inquiry shall include conversations with persons in the Parish, and may also include written or oral questions to the Parish or members thereof and examination of any books and records of the Parish. The Parish must cooperate in the inquiry by answering such questions fully, accurately, and promptly, and by making available the books and records of the Parish upon reasonable notice. If, after such inquiry, the Bishop finds that one or more of the conditions in Section 31.04 exist in the Parish, the Bishop may, with the concurrence of two-thirds of the Standing Committee, implement a plan to restore congregational health. If the Standing Committee is the Ecclesiastical Authority, it may make such implementation following inquiry, by unanimous vote.

Section 31.04. CONDITIONS IN THE PARISH

No plan for restoring congregational health may be made except upon a finding, following inquiry, that one or more of the following conditions exist in the Parish:

- (a) The failure of the Parish, for two years or more, to consist of at least twenty-five adult Communicants of the Church or, for two years or more, to be financially self-supporting.
- (b) The failure for at least two years to elect a Vestry or a Rector (where the Parish is without a Rector).
- (c) The failure to pay the minimum clergy compensation as required by Canon; or the failure to make timely payment of premium under the clergy pension system as required by Canon, or of premium for any other obligatory insurance for clergy.
- (d) The refusal or willful failure to arrange for representation of the Parish at an annual Convention of the Diocese.
- (e) The failure or neglect to make canonically-required reports, including the annual parochial report to the Bishop, the annual pledge to the Diocese, and Parish audit report; or to pay duly-assessed Diocesan apportionments or assessments. Voluntary giving shall not be considered a Diocesan apportionment or assessment.
- (f) Persistent and significant instability or decline in the financial or temporal condition of the Parish, as evidenced by, for example, substantial invasion of the principal portion of endowment or trust funds, to such a degree that, in the judgment of the Bishop and two-thirds of the Standing Committee, the long-term viability of the Parish as a self-supporting entity is in jeopardy.
- (g) Persistent failure or neglect to conform to the business methods in church affairs required by the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church or of the Diocese, including those requirements relating to the bonding of treasurers or other custodians of funds, proper record keeping, proper maintenance of books of account, annual audit, and the maintenance of adequate insurance.
- (h) Persistent failure to provide for and fund health insurance through the denomination health plan for all eligible clergy and lay employees.
- (i) Persistent failure to keep all buildings, structures, tangible property of the Parish adequately insured against loss under the Diocesan insurance program or to pay any premiums coming due.

- (j) The purchase, use, or conveyance of property of the Parish, or the incurring of debt, other than in conformity with the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church and of the Diocese, except where such non-conformity was inadvertent and resulted in no substantial prejudice to the property or temporal interests of the Parish.
- (k) The failure to cooperate in an inquiry under this Canon, or in connection with any other canonical inquiry by the Ecclesiastical Authority or its designee, including the failure or refusal to provide full and accurate information on the state of the Parish and its affairs.
- (l) The failure to implement in good faith any plan or arrangement agreed to by the Parish under this Canon.
- (m) Apart from the foregoing, any deliberate and manifest breach of obligation of the Parish, set out in the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church or of the Diocese, but only if the following additional conditions are met:
 - (1) the Bishop shall have transmitted to the Parish a written warning summarizing the conduct or failure to act by the Parish which constitutes the deliberate and manifest breach under this section, indicating the reasons why such conduct or failure to act constitutes such breach, and explicitly directing the Parish to cease and desist from the conduct which constitutes the breach, or to act affirmatively as the canonical obligation requires; and
 - (2) within 30 days following transmittal of the warning and direction, the Parish shall have failed or refused to conform to the directive so provided, or shall have failed or refused to provide to the Bishop a written plan and agreement satisfactory to the Bishop to bring its conduct into prompt conformity with its canonical obligation.

Section 31.05. PERMITTED ACTIONS

If a plan for restoring congregational health is implemented in accordance with this Canon, the Bishop, with the concurrence of two-thirds of the Standing Committee, may require the application of one or more of the actions below, anything in the articles of incorporation or by-laws of such congregation to the contrary notwithstanding. The actions shall be considered independent actions with no requirement of exhaustion of certain actions before the application of others. If the Standing Committee is the Ecclesiastical Authority, it may require one or more of the following actions by unanimous vote.

- (a) A plan for the Parish to cure the conditions which led to the implementation of the plan for restoring congregational health, agreed to by the Parish within 90 days, and implemented thereafter in accordance with its terms.

- (b) Appointment by the Ecclesiastical Authority of five or more adult communicants temporarily to govern the affairs of the Parish as Warden and Vestry, notwithstanding any other canonical or other provision for such governance, until the Ecclesiastical Authority declares the end or sufficient amelioration of such conditions, or applies further measures under the Canons.
- (c) Designation of the Rector or the Parish Clergy-in-charge, until the Ecclesiastical Authority declares the end or sufficient amelioration of such conditions, or applies further measures under the Canons.
- (d) Conveyance of title of all real property of the Parish to the Diocese, which shall preserve and control such property in trust until the Ecclesiastical Authority declares the end or sufficient amelioration of such conditions, or applies further measures under the Canons.
- (e) Such other measures as the Ecclesiastical Authority shall determine with the advice and consent of two-thirds of the Standing Committee (or as determined by the Standing Committee acting unanimously, if it be the Ecclesiastical Authority), until the Ecclesiastical Authority declares the end or sufficient amelioration of such conditions, or applies further measures under the Canons.

CANONS 32 - 39 RESERVED

TITLE III ORGANIZING FOR

MINISTRY

CANON 40 ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN

Section 40.01. AUTHORITY

The Diocesan Council, which is representative of the five deaneries of the Diocese of Western Michigan, shall create such commissions, committees, and departments as shall be deemed appropriate to the mission and ministry of the Diocese. Each shall have a stated Mission, membership, and program and, when necessary, budget, which collectively shall be deemed the Administrative Plan for that year.

Section 40.02. ACCOUNTABILITY

Except for staff groups accountable directly to the Bishop, all such commissions, committees and departments shall be directly accountable to the Diocesan Council. The Diocesan Council shall provide supervision, interpretation, clarification, and direction to such groups as the Diocesan Council may deem necessary.

Section 40.03. COMMISSION REPORTS

Each commission shall report annually and in writing to the Diocesan Council and at other times the Council deems reports necessary. Copies of these reports shall also be sent to the Bishop as Presiding Officer. The Bishop and the Council shall submit in writing an annual report of their work to the annual Convention, including the annual report of the Treasurer.

Section 40.04. REPORT TO CONVENTION

The Diocesan Council shall report each year to the annual Convention on the Administrative Plan, providing the names, mission, membership, and budget for each commission, committee, and department which it has created to meet the mission and ministry needs of the Diocese.

Section 40.05. STAFF GROUPS

Staff groups are advisory committees appointed by the Bishop to assist diocesan staff persons who work directly under the supervision of the Bishop.

CANONS 41 - 49 RESERVED

TITLE IV ECCLESIASTICAL

DISCIPLINE

CANON 50

TITLE IV OF GENERAL CANONS

Section 50.01.

Those provisions of Title IV of the Canons of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church which are applicable to the Diocese are hereby incorporated as part of this Title. To the extent, if any, that any of the provisions of this Title are in conflict or inconsistent with the provisions of Title IV, the provisions of Title IV shall govern. The Canons in this Title shall take effect on July 1, 2011. The terms of previously elected members of the Diocesan Review Committee and the Ecclesiastical Trial Court shall terminate on June 30, 2011, except with respect to cases in progress on that date.

CANON 51

DIOCESAN COOPERATION

Section 51.01. DIOCESAN COOPERATION

The Episcopal Dioceses of Michigan plan to cooperate in the disciplinary process of any matter in any of these Dioceses going to the Disciplinary Board. When any General Canon shall allow information to be given to a Bishop, the only Bishop to whom information about a charge may be given shall be the Bishop of the Diocese in which the Respondent is canonically resident. The venue of any proceedings shall be in the Diocese in which the Respondent is canonically resident. [As amended, April 21, 2012.]

CANON 52

DISCIPLINARY BOARD

Section 52.01. DISCIPLINARY BOARD

The Disciplinary Board shall consist of a minimum of four, two lay and two clergy, members from each Diocese cooperating in the empaneling of the Disciplinary Board. A member of the Standing Committee of any Diocese may not serve on the Disciplinary Board. [As amended, April 21, 2012.]

Section 52.02. DIOCESAN REPRESENTATION

Each of the Dioceses cooperating in the empaneling of the Disciplinary Board shall have two clergy and two lay members on the Disciplinary Board. In addition, each Diocese shall take turns electing one additional clergy member. [As amended, April 21, 2012.]

Section 52.03. SELECTION OF MEMBERS OF DISCIPLINARY BOARD

Members of the Disciplinary Board, sufficient to fill any upcoming vacancies, shall be selected by the Bishop in consultation with the Standing Committee and approved by the annual Convention of the Diocese.

Section 52.04. TERMS

The initial terms of the members of the Disciplinary Board shall begin on July 1, 2011. Each member of the Disciplinary Board shall serve a two-year term. Except for the initial terms, each term shall begin on January 1 following election. At the first meeting of the Disciplinary Board after July 1, 2011, the members shall draw lots to determine which two members (at least one clergy and one lay) will be serving until December 31, 2011; and, which two members (at least one clergy and one lay) will be serving until December 31, 2012. Thereafter, each Diocese shall elect replacements for members of that Diocese whose terms have ended.

Section 52.05. SUCCESSIVE TERMS

Members may serve no more than two successive terms, after which they must vacate the office for at least one year before being reelected. If a member is appointed to fill a vacancy, the term of such member shall be the unexpired term of the member being replaced or until the next annual Diocesan Convention, whichever time is shorter. A member appointed to fill a vacancy, if otherwise qualified, will be eligible for election to complete the vacated term, and then eligible for reelection to a further full term. If the term of the vacated term would have concluded at the next annual Diocesan Convention, the member appointed to fill a vacancy, if otherwise qualified, will be eligible for election to two successive terms.

Section 52.06. CLERGY MEMBERS

The clergy members of the Disciplinary Board must be canonically and geographically resident within the Diocese, and remain so for the duration of their term of office.

Section 52.07. LAY MEMBERS

The lay members of the Disciplinary Board shall be adult communicants in good standing of a congregation within the Diocese, and remain so for the duration of their term in office.

Section 52.08. VACANCIES

Vacancies on the Disciplinary Board shall be filled as follows:

- (a) Upon the determination that a vacancy exists, the President of the Disciplinary Board shall notify the Bishop of the vacating member's Diocese of the fact of vacancy and request appointment of a replacement member of the same order as the member to be replaced.
- (b) That Bishop shall appoint a replacement Disciplinary Board member in consultation with the Standing Committee.
- (c) Persons appointed to fill vacancies on the Disciplinary Board shall meet the same eligibility requirements as apply to otherwise appointed Disciplinary Board members.
- (d) With respect to a vacancy created for any reason other than pursuant to a challenge as provided below, the term of any person selected as a replacement Disciplinary Board member shall be until the next annual Diocesan Convention. With respect to a vacancy resulting from a challenge, the replacement Disciplinary Board member shall serve only for the proceedings for which the elected Disciplinary Board member is not serving as a result of the challenge.

Section 52.09. PRESIDENT

As soon as practicable after the First day of January of each year, but no longer than 60 days after the First day of January of that year, the Disciplinary Board will meet and elect from its membership a President, who may be a member of the clergy or lay person, and who shall serve for a term of one year (until the replacement is elected).

Section 52.10. CLERK

The Disciplinary Board shall appoint a Disciplinary Board Clerk to assist the Disciplinary Board with records management and administrative support. The Clerk may, but need not, be a member of the Disciplinary Board.

Section 52.11. PRESERVING IMPARTIALITY

In any proceeding under this Title, if any member of a Conference Panel or Hearing Panel of the Disciplinary Board shall become aware of a personal conflict of interest or undue bias, that member shall immediately notify the President of the Board and request a replacement member of the Panel. Respondent's Counsel and the Church Attorney shall have the right to challenge any member of a Panel for conflict of interest or undue bias by motion to the Panel for disqualification of the challenged member. The members of the Panel not the subject of the challenge shall promptly consider the motion, and any testimonial or written evidence in support of the motion, if any, and determine whether the challenged Panel member should be disqualified from participating in that proceeding.

**CANON 53
INTAKE OFFICER**

Section 53.01. INTAKE OFFICER

One or more Intake Officers for the Diocese shall be appointed from time to time by the Bishop, according to the needs of the Diocese. The Bishop shall publish the name(s) and contact information of each Intake Officer throughout the Diocese.

**CANON 54
INVESTIGATOR**

Section 54.01. INVESTIGATOR

The Bishop shall appoint an Investigator in consultation with the President of the Disciplinary Board on an as-needed basis. The Investigator may, but need not be, a member of the Church.

**CANON 55
CHURCH ATTORNEY(S)**

Section 55.01. CHURCH ATTORNEY(S)

The Bishop, with the consent of the Standing Committee, shall appoint one or more attorneys to serve as Church Attorney(s). The Church Attorney shall be appointed no later than 30 days after the filing of a Charge with the Disciplinary Board. The person(s) so selected may, but need not, be members of the Church; but, must be a duly licensed attorney in the State of Michigan, and need not reside within the Diocese. The Church Attorney may be removed for cause by the Bishop with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee.

**CANON 56
ADVISORS**

Section 56.01. ADVISORS

In each proceeding under this Title, the Bishop shall appoint an Advisor for the complaining party and an Advisor for the Respondent. Persons serving as Advisors shall hold no other appointed or elected position provided for under this Title, and shall not include the Chancellor or any Vice-Chancellor of this Diocese or any person likely to be called as a witness in the proceeding. The role of the Advisor is found in General Canon IV.2 and is not meant to act necessarily as an attorney. The complaining party and the Respondent are each free to engage an attorney at their own expense.

CANON 57
COSTS AND EXPENSES
INCURRED BY THE CHURCH

Section 57.01. COSTS AND EXPENSES INCURRED BY THE CHURCH

The reasonable costs and expenses of the Disciplinary Board, the Intake Officer, the Investigator, the Church Attorney, the Disciplinary Board Clerk and the Pastoral Response Coordinator shall be the obligation of the Diocese in which the Respondent is canonically resident, unless the alleged offense took place elsewhere and the respective Bishops agree on a different cost allocation. Other costs shall be the responsibility of the individual parties incurring them.

CANON 58
RECORDS

Section 58.01. RECORDS OF PROCEEDINGS

Records of active proceedings before the Disciplinary Board, including the period of any pending appeal, shall be preserved and maintained in the custody of the Disciplinary Board Clerk, if there be one; otherwise by the Diocesan office in which the Respondent is canonically resident.

Section 58.02. PERMANENT RECORDS

The Bishop shall make provision for the permanent storage of records of all proceedings for clergy canonically resident in this Diocese under this Title at the Diocese and the Archives of The Episcopal Church, as prescribed in Title IV of the General Canons. The records may, but need not, be stored in electronic formats.

CANON 59
INVOLVEMENT OF THE CHANCELLOR

Section 59.01. INVOLVEMENT OF THE CHANCELLOR

The Chancellor of the Diocese of Western Michigan shall be available to provide advice and counsel to the Disciplinary Board on matters of procedure or on any matter touching upon ecclesiastical or civil law, to the extent such involvement is not inconsistent with the responsibilities of the Chancellor under Title I, Canon 4, Section 4.07, or Title IV, Canon 6, Section 56.01, above. However, the Chancellor shall not express a view on or have any involvement in the merits of a particular case before the Board.

CANON 60
POLICIES OF THE DIOCESE

Section 60.01. POLICIES OF THE DIOCESE AND DISCIPLINE

The Convention of the Diocese may adopt policies that require periodic training or certification. The failure to abide by these policies and attend any required training or certification process shall subject a person or congregation to the sanctions and discipline as provided in these Canons and in the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church.

CANONS 61 - 69 RESERVED

TITLE V

AMENDMENT, CONSTRUCTION, PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

CANON 70 AMENDMENT OF CANONS

Section 70.01. AMENDMENT OF CANONS

Any proposal to amend any Canon of the Diocese shall be submitted in writing to the Bishop not less than ninety days in advance of the meeting of the Convention at which time the same is to be offered. The Bishop shall cause the proposed amendment to be published not less than thirty days in advance thereof, to each member of the clergy entitled to seat and vote at the Convention, the lay delegates to Convention, if known, and a warden of each Parish in union with the Diocese. Such a proposal may be referred to an appropriate person or committee prior to the Convention if the Bishop feels that expert analysis and comment would be useful and enlightening to the Convention. Any persons or Committee so appointed may be asked to report to the Convention. If such amendment shall then be approved by vote of the Convention in accordance with Article III, Section 8 of the Constitution, the amendment shall become effective as of the close of the day of final adjournment of the Convention.

CANON 70 CONSTRUCTION

Section 71.01. CONSTRUCTION

These Canons, and this Diocese and its organizations, are subject to the Constitution and Statutes of the United States of America, the Constitution and Statutes of the State of Michigan, and the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church in the United States, as the same may, from time to time be amended or changed, and these Canons should be construed as being consistent therewith, anything herein to the contrary notwithstanding.

Section 71.02. CATCH LINE HEADINGS AND COMMENTS

The table of contents, index, cross-reference tables, catch line headings and comments, to the extent published with these Canons, are not part of the text of the Canons, and are not to be used in the construction of these Canons.

Section 71.03. SEVERABILITY OF PROVISIONS

Should any court of competent jurisdiction, whether civil or ecclesiastical, determine that any provision of these Canons is contrary to any governing law as identified in Title VII, Canon 70, Section 70.01, above, such provision shall be null, void and of no effect from such point forward;

but, such determination shall have no effect on any remaining Canon. Each Canon is severable from the remainder, and shall continue in force until repealed or amended.

CANON 72 PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 72.01. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority at all meetings of the Diocese and any of its Parishes and organizations, unless modified.

Section 72.02. SUSPENSION OR MODIFICATION OF RULES

At any meeting of the Diocese and any of its Parishes and organizations, a two-thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote, provided that a quorum has been determined to be present, may vote to suspend or modify the Rules of Order for that meeting only; and, provided that the suspension of the Rules shall not interfere with the ability of the meeting to adjourn.

CANON 73 PRESUMPTION AGAINST CONFLICT OF INTEREST

SECTION 73.01. PRESUMPTION AGAINST CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No contract of the Diocese, or of any Parish or constituent organization of the Diocese made with any member of the Diocese or of any Parish or constituent organization of the Diocese, or with a partnership or other group or association of which any such member shall be a member or with any corporation of which such member may be a member or director and no contract between this Diocesan corporation and any other corporation having common directors shall be invalid because of such facts alone.

CANON 74
REPRESENTATION OF POSITION OF DIOCESE

Section 74.01. REPRESENTATION OF POSITION OF DIOCESE

No public statement respecting a position on any issue attributed to the Diocese, any Parish in the Diocese, or any organization of the Diocese, may be made unless in full compliance with the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese, and the prior approval of the Bishop. The Bishop has the authority to issue blanket approvals, or to delegate this power by written authorization.

CANON 75
TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Section 75.01. TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS [Reserved]