

**Minutes of the 144<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention**  
**Diocese of Western Michigan**

November 2-3, 2018  
Radisson at the Capitol  
Lansing, Michigan

The Rt. Rev. Wayne Hougland called the 144<sup>th</sup> annual diocesan convention to order at 10:00 a.m. Friday November 2, 2018 with a prayer and welcome to delegates and guests. The convention prayed Morning Prayer together. The chancellor, William Fleener, Jr., announced that a quorum was present.

The Bishop introduced those on the Dias: Canon Bill Spaid, Secretary of Convention and Canon Missioner; Janet MacKenzie, Dispatcher of Business/Time Keeper; Bill Fleener, Jr. Parliamentarian. Also serving us were the Rev. Jen Adams, Resolution Chair; Fred Skidmore, Nominations Chair & Head Teller; and the Rev'ds. Mike Wood and Pat Vinge – Registration Co-chairs.

The Bishop also introduced the diocesan staff and volunteers:

- Bill Spaid, Southern Region Canon Missioner
- Val Ambrose, Central Region Canon Missioner
- Anne Hallmark, Northern Region Canon Missioner
- Katie Forsyth, Canon for Evangelism & Networking
- Gennie Callard, Bishop's Assistant for Children, Youth, Young Adults
- Tammy Mazure, Bishop's Assistant for Finance & Benefits
- Molly Ettwein, Executive Assistant – Molly Ettwein
- Cathy Rhodes, Finance Assistant (did not attend)

Others who are part of the Bishop's extended staff:

- Chancellor – Bill Fleener, Jr.
- Pastoral Care and Counseling – Ken Reid (did not attend)
- Assistant Treasurer - David Croal
- Archdeacon – Marilou Schlotterbeck
- Deacon for Sustainable Development Goals & DR Missions – Beth Drew
- Deacon for Domestic Mission – Cindy Nawrocki
- Jubilee Officer – Martha Bartlett
- Chaplains to the Retired Clergy- Ed and Ann Emenheiser

The Bishop briefly introduced our keynote speaker the Rt. Rev. Robert Wright, Bishop of Atlanta.

The convention adopted the Rules of Order and went on to give ex-officio seating approval with voice to Chancellor – Bill Fleener, Jr.; Standing Committee Laity who are not delegates; Diocesan Council Laity who are not delegates; Clergy serving in congregations who are licensed but not canonically resident; and Bishop's staff and Lutheran pastors serving Episcopal congregations.

The convention also gave seat, voice and vote to our youth delegates. It was noted that after we pass a second reading of a constitutional change later in the convention we will no longer need to give approval because the youth delegates will be entitled to seat, voice, and vote.

The Bishop and Parliamentarian made several announcements about procedures and protocols for speaking and general behavior on the floor of convention.

The first item of business on the floor was determination of the status of Church of the Holy Spirit in Belmont who had petitioned the Bishop for parish status. Having completed the requirements of Canon 21.04, and with the approval from the Standing Committee and Diocesan Council, the Bishop entertained a motion to accept Holy Spirit as a parish in the Diocese of Western Michigan. With unanimous consent of the assembly, the Rev. Nurya Parish, and parish delegates Donna Scott, Mary Macomber, and Clare Parish came forward to receive the Certificate of Union which read:

To all the faithful in Christ Jesus throughout the World, Greetings:

Be it known unto you by these Presents that we, Wayne M. Hougland, Jr. by Divine Providence Bishop of Western Michigan, Admit as a parish in union with the Diocese of Western Michigan Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, in northern Kent County including Alpine, Plainfield, Sparta, Algoma, Tyrone and Solon Townships, and an Ecclesiastical Corporation in the State of Michigan, which address is 1200 Post Drive, Belmont, Michigan, 49306, having completed the canonical requirements to be admitted into Union with this Convention, and upon a vote of the Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan, declare that they are hereby admitted as a Parish of the Diocese of Western Michigan with all the rights, responsibilities, and prerogatives pertaining thereto.

Given under my hand and seal in Lansing, Michigan this second day of November in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Eighteen, during the One hundred forty fourth Convention of the Diocese, and in the sixth year of my consecration.

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IX Bishop of Western Michigan

The minutes of the 143<sup>rd</sup> Diocesan Convention in November of 2017 at the Radisson Hotel in Kalamazoo were approved.

The convention elected the following officers:

Secretary, the Rev. Canon William Spaid

Co- registrars, the Rev. Michael Wood, St. Barnabas Portage, and the Rev. Patricia Vinge St. Martin's Kalamazoo

Parliamentarian: Mr. Bill Fleener, Jr., St. David's Lansing

Assistant Treasurer: Mr David Croal, St. Mark's Coldwater

The Bishop announced changes in clergy since the last convention:

### **Retirements**

- The Rev. Michael Fedewa retired from St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids January, 2018
- The Rev. Wayne Nicholson retired from St. John's, Mount Pleasant July 2018
- The Rev. John Meengs retired as deacon at All Saints, Saugatuck July 2018
- The Rev. Marilou Schlotterbeck retired as deacon at St. Philip's, Beulah September 2018
- The Rev. Paula Durren, Retired from Church of the Mediator, Harbert October 2018

### **Ordinations**

- The Rev. Michael Wood, St. Martin of Tours, Kalamazoo – Priest (12/17)

- The Rev. Nicholas Phares, Central Gulf Coast ordained by Bishop Kendrick for Bishop Hougland - Priest (12/17)
- The Rev. Peter Homeyer, Church of the Holy Cross, Kentwood – Transitional Diaconate (6/18)
- The Rev. Jan Gockerman, St. Mark’s, Grand Rapids - Deacon (6/18)
- The Rev. Pat Vinge, St. Martin of Tours, Kalamazoo – Deacon (6/18)
- The Rev. Francis Berghuis, All Saints, Saugatuck – Deacon (6/18)

### **Resignations**

- The Rev. Aaron Evans, St. John’s, Sturgis
- The Rev. Greg Brown, Emmanuel, Petoskey (to North Carolina)
- The Rev. Barbara Wilson, St. Augustine’s, Benton Harbor to St. Paul’s, DeKalb, IL in January, 2019

### **New Calls**

- The Rev. Peter Homeyer, Priest-In-Charge at Holy Trinity, Wyoming July 2018
- The Rev. Michael Fedewa, Priest-In-Charge at St. Paul’s, Muskegon November 2018
- The Rev. David Brower, Interim Rector at Church of the Mediator, Harbert October 2018
- The Rev. John Kirkman, Priest-In-Charge at St. John’s, Ionia September 2018
- The Rev. Michael Wood, St. Francis of Assisi, Shelbyville and St. Barnabas, Portage
- The Rev. Diane Pike starts 12-1-18 Southwest Michigan Episcopal Covenant (St. Paul’s, Dowagiac/ Trinity, Niles/ St. Paul’s, St. Joseph)

### **Other Changes in the Diocese**

- Tom McPherson, CR from SW Florida (formerly from Western Michigan)
- Anne Hallmark, CR from Diocese of Virginia

### **Deaths**

- The Rev. Betty Carlson, died August, 2018 – Deacon who served at Emmanuel, Petoskey
- The Rev. Robert A. Smith, died March, 2018 – Priest who served at St. Paul’s, Dowagiac

The Bishop also introduced the Rev. Kathryn Costas, Interim Rector at Grace Episcopal Church in Traverse City who is not canonically resident.

The following people were also recognized:

#### ***Candidate for Ordination to the Priesthood***

- Abby Bok VanderBrug, St. Andrew’s, GR

#### ***Postulants to the Priesthood:***

- Kellan Day, Grace, Grand Rapids (Sewanee)
- Radha Deitenbeck Kaminski, Grace, Holland (Seminary of SW, Austin)

- Kellan Day, Grace, Grand Rapids (Sewanee)
- Eileen Stoffan, St. Paul's, Muskegon (Bexley Seabury)
- Derek Quinn, St. Barnabas, Portage (Sewanee)
- Philip Zoutendam, St. Andrew's, GR – (Duke)

***Postulants to the Diaconate:***

- Wendy Pearson, Trinity, Marshall
- Elizabeth Kinsey, St. John's, Sturgis
- Michael Hueschen, St. Luke's, Kalamazoo

The Bishop gave his address *Moving Deeper*

Following the Bishop's address and Noon Day Prayer, the convention recessed for lunch.

The Bishop called the convention back to order at 1:30 pm and introduced the keynote speaker, the Rt. Rev. Robert Wright, Bishop of Atlanta.

After Bishop Wright's address and a brief break, Bishop Houglund called the convention back to order at 3:35 p.m. and the Parliamentarian, Bill Fleener, Jr., announced that we had a quorum for conducting business.

The first item of business was the election of Standing Committee members. Fred Skidmore, St. Andrew's Grand Rapids, chair of the nominations committee presented the slate of five clergy and explained the balloting procedures. Ballots were passed out and then collected. There was one lay person nominated to serve on the Standing Committee, and Anne Davidson, St. Mark's Coldwater was elected by acclamation.

The next item of business was presentation of the proposed budget. Assistant treasurer Dave Croal, St. Mark's Coldwater, moved the adoption of the budget; there was support. Dave introduced Ms Tammy Mazure who explained significant parts of the budget and answered questions. Following a brief discussion the budget was approved.

The Bishop then introduced Canon Val Ambrose and Ms Barb Kelly, St. Phillip's, Beulah, who gave an update on the work of the Parish Vitality Taskforce, and Barb introduced the Assessment Tool noting that this is a "Beta" version with potentially some other tweaks to it.

Canon Bill Spaid reviewed the proposed changes to the Constitution of the Episcopal Church as required by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church. Then Bill Fleener, Jr. gave a report on the work of General Convention on behalf of the General Convention deputies.

The Bishop announced the Episcopal Church Women's nominations for "Distinguished Woman of the Year Award" who were Helen Little from Holy Spirit, Belmont; Carol Abbott from St. David's, Lansing; Jean Kracker from St. Mark's, Paw Paw – who is also a delegate to diocesan convention – and Emily Baker from St. John's, Sturgis. Emily was chosen to be honored at the

Triennial Dinner in Austin, Texas and will be further recognized at the Diocesan ECW Annual Meeting in May 2019.

Gennie Callard was invited to speak about the youth ministry in the diocese, especially about the camp which strives to develop a community which is sacrificial, restorative and Spirit filled.

The Bishop invited Fred Skidmore, Nominations Chair and Chief Teller, to give the results of the election of two clergy representatives to the Standing Committee. Eighty-seven were needed to elect, and the Rev. Jodi Baron was elected on the first ballot with 96 votes. A second ballot needed to be taken to elect the other clergy representative. Ballots were distributed for the second vote. People were instructed to vote for one person. Ballots were marked and collected.

The Bishop invited Katie Forsyth, Canon for Networking and Evangelism, to speak about her job and new tools for connecting, including *The Feast* a new magazine for both Eastern and Western Michigan. She introduced the new diocesan website and pointed out some of the features of it. She also described the new Episcopal Church Asset Map and encouraged people to review the information it contains and update it.

The Bishop announced that results of the second ballot will be available in the morning. General announcements were made. The Bishop invited people to stand for closing prayers and adjournment until tomorrow.

Saturday November 3, 2018

Following the Convention Eucharist and Confirmation at St Paul's Church in downtown Lansing, the Bishop called the convention to order at 1:03 pm. The Parliamentarian announced a quorum, and Canon Spaid made brief announcements.

The Convention affirmed elections to the Diocesan Council from the northern and southern regions, the central region did not have any vacancies. Those elected and affirmed are Patrick Foster and Christian baron from the northern region, Laurie Atwater, Judy Buchanan and Thom McPhearson from the southern region, and Sydney Pattok youth representative.

The Bishop announced two new appointees to the Commission on Ministry – Janet Gockerman, Susan Lund-Coyle, and Diane Stier.

Election chair Fred Skidmore announced Standing Committee election results: 89 were needed to elect - Cramer 23, Coleman 44, Schnaare 31, Heyboer 77 – there was no election. Under the Rules of Order Cramer was removed. The third ballot was distributed.

The Bishop invited the Rev. Jen Adams chair of the Resolutions Committee to open the resolutions process. There are five resolutions, one as a response to the Bishop's Address.

The first resolution is a second reading of a constitutional change which requires a vote by orders, which has to do with the composition of diocesan convention Article IV.2.h, which will

read “youth delegates shall be selected as prescribed by canons.” The pertinent canon was read. There were some questions addressed. The resolution was passed in both orders.

The second resolution refers to Furthering the Jesus Movement in Western Michigan, submitted by the General Convention Deputation. It was noted, as a correction that the Healing Racism Commission has been changed to Commission on Dismantling Racism. The Rev. Brian Coleman presented a pre-filed amendment with the addition of calling upon the Bishop to appoint a liturgical commission. Fr. Coleman noted that the presenters had overlooked that the General Convention had requested this addition. The amendment passed. The resolution as amended was presented and passed.

The subject of the third resolution is Parish Vitality and Viability Assessment, submitted by the Parish Vitality task force. The resolution was passed as submitted.

The fourth resolution calls upon the convention to amend Canon II.28.01 regarding parish audits to read:

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 and The Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan Policy “Annual Audit of Congregations”. Copies of audit reports shall be submitted to the Diocesan Treasurer for review by September 1 following the close of the fiscal year.

(a) Congregations who fail to complete and submit the audit proscribed for them, by Diocesan Policy, by September 1, will be seated at diocesan convention without voice.

(b) Any congregation who fails for two consecutive years to complete and submit the audit proscribed for them, by Diocesan Policy, by September 1, will be seated at diocesan convention without voice or vote.

(c) Any congregation who fails for three consecutive years to complete and submit the audit proscribed for them, by Diocesan Policy, by September 1, shall specifically request of Convention, by motion, permission for seat, voice and or vote. Without the granting of such a motion the congregation shall not have seat, voice or vote at Convention.

The Rev. Jared Cramer submitted a pre-filed amendment to strike the clause “and the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan Policy ‘annual Audit of Congregations.’” There was discussion. The amendment was defeated. Bill James of St. Luke’s proposed an amendment to remove section (c) from the resolution. There was discussion. The amendment failed. We returned to the main resolution. The resolution as submitted was adopted.

The fifth resolution is in response to the Bishop’s Address as we engage intentionally in discernment with the Diocese of Eastern Michigan. Because this resolution was not printed in the convention booklet, the text is printed here:

Be it resolved, that this 144th Convention of The Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan honors and upholds the process of discernment the Diocese of Eastern Michigan is currently undertaking,

Be it further resolved, that we welcome the call for us to continue to find ways for our dioceses to walk and work together,

Be it further resolved, that we will continue to hold the Diocese of Eastern Michigan in our prayers as they continue to discern their and our future,  
Be it further resolved, that we will hold our Standing Committee and Diocesan Council in our prayers as they discern and act on what is best for us, our diocese, our Bishop and the larger community going forward,  
Be it further resolved, that we commit our selves to being open to and actively involved in working together with the Diocese of Eastern Michigan in what ever forms the future brings.

Andrew Garrett, Church of the Mediator, Harbert, proposed an amendment to the third resolve removing the word “their and our future” add the words “our shared future” which was adopted. The resolution as amended passed.

Fred Skidmore, nominations chair and chief teller, announced a successful third ballot. Eighty were needed to elect. The results were Coleman 34, Schnaare 32, and Heyboer 92. The Rev. BJ Heyboer was elected to Standing Committee. Fred was thanked for his work as well as the candidates.

The Bishop took a moment of personal privilege to thank Molly Ettwein for her many years of service to the diocese as she retires. Molly was presented with a purse to an ovation from the convention.

Bill Fleener announced the answers to the “Trivia Questions”

The Bishop invited the Rev. Jen Adams to present the courtesy resolutions which were adapted by acclamation.

Resolved that this 144<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan offers its appreciation to the management and staff of Radisson Hotel in Lansing for their hospitality; to the parish of St. Paul’s and The Rev. Karen C. Lewis for hosting our Convention Eucharist and Service of Confirmation, and to the St Paul’s Episcopal Church Gospel Choir for lifting our spirits and our prayers in song.

Resolved that this 144<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan extend its gratitude to Joan Hilles Smith who has served as Convention Planning Chair for “a very long time,” for her working tirelessly with details too many to mention, and for supporting us all in this gathering of ministries and prayer.

Resolved that this 144<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan extend its love and gratitude to Molly Etwein, Assistant to the Bishop. Molly’s organizational skills, kindness, and wisdom have served us all. We are grateful and offer her blessings as she retires.

Resolved that this 144<sup>th</sup> 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 144<sup>th</sup> 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 144<sup>th</sup> 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 144<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan send greetings to The Rt. Rev. Cate Waynick, Bishop Provisional of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan; The Rt. Rev. Wendell N. Gibbs, Jr., Bishop of the Diocese of Michigan; The Rt. Rev. Rayford Ray, Bishop of the Diocese of Northern Michigan; and The Rt. Rev. J Moisés Quezada Moto, Obispo de la Iglesia Episcopal Dominicana.

Resolved that this 144<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan send greetings and warm wishes to The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop, and prayers for his ministry to, on behalf of, and among us.

Resolved that this 144<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan send greetings to The Most Reverend Dr Justin Welby, and prayers for his ministry to our diverse Communion.

Resolved that this 144<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan express its thanks to The Rt. Rev. Robert Wright, Bishop of Atlanta, for the challenge, inspiration, and hope given us in his Convention address.

The Bishop acknowledged people who were completing terms on Standing Committee and Diocesan Council. Special recognition went to Joanie Smith and Tom Perrin who have served a number of terms on Diocesan Council.

We are still working on plans for next year's convention. Gennie Callard announced the winners of the Trivia contest.

The Bishop thanked camp counselors and youth mentors and youth delegates, General Convention deputies and those who participated in General Convention, thanks to St. David's in Lansing for their assistance. Also, thanks to Anne Davidson, Vendor chair, Joan Smith convention chair and all the convention volunteers.

The Bishop expressed his gratitude to the diocese for the support and hospitality he and Dana receive in their visitations.

Dave Croal asked for our prayers and good wishes to Ivan Egnatuk, treasurer of the diocese who has been ill.

The Bishop closed the convention with a prayer and a blessing, and adjourned the convention.



Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Canon William Spaid  
Secretary of Diocesan Convention