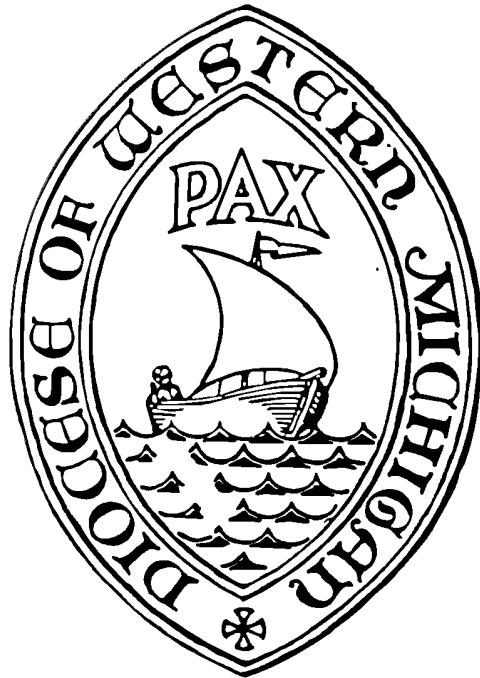


JOURNAL 2019

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



**EPISCOPAL CHURCH
DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN**

2019
JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS
of the
145th Annual Convention
of the Diocese of Western Michigan of the Episcopal Church
which met in Grand Rapids, Michigan
Friday & Saturday
November 1-2, 2019

**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.

Bp. Houglund Address 2019 Convention

Bless our clergy, and all our people. Grant that your Word may be truly preached and truly heard, your Sacraments faithfully administered and 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 who we live, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP p. 817).

There's more. Because we're Trinitarian, there'll be three. Almighty and ever living God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with us who take counsel in this convention for the renewal and mission of your church. Teach us and all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen (BCP p. 818).

One more. Everliving God, whose will it is that all should come to you through your son, Jesus Christ: Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (BCP p. 816).

Can't pray enough. It really is good to see all y'all. Our theme is The Way of Love: Practices for Jesus-Centered Life. Again, before I get into this more deeply, another huge thanks to your staff. The diocese is working really, really hard and doing a really good work, and behind the scenes, doing things and getting things done. And I really do appreciate and value each of you. Thank you so much, staff of Diocese. Thank you. Also, before I get started, I have to thank my beautiful wife Dana who's in the back. Hey, sweetie. [applause] And of course, our family, our two daughters and our three grandsons whom you'll see in just a few minutes. And to thank all of you for your continued, gracious kindness and support of me and this ministry. This is my seventh year as your bishop now. Can you believe that? It is unbelievable how time flies. It is unbelievable. It continues to be a great honor and a blessing, and I thank you for this.

So, we're going to start with some scripture. This is from the Letter to the Ephesians. "For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that according to the riches of His glory, He may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through His spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who, by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly more, far more that we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen." (Ephesians 3: 14-20).

A little background. I thought to set the scene, the tone of our convention, our theme, The Way of Love, nicely. This snippet from Ephesians-- just a little background on Ephesians. General scholarly consensus is that this was written by Paul, the apostle, but that it is possibly a composite work of three different letters. It was written or compiled some time during the 50s or early 60s AD, written in Greek, not English, possibly written while Paul was imprisoned in Rome. Optimism in the face of trial and hardship underlies much of the writing here. Hopefulness and thankfulness and encouragement are its main themes. Particularly as expressed in The Christ Poem of Philipppians, Chapter 2, which we don't see, which says, "Jesus, though he was in human form, did not regard being equal as God, but emptied himself, taking on the form of a servant. He humbled himself, becoming obedient unto death, even death on the cross. Therefore, God highly exalted him, so that, in the name of Jesus. Everyone, can I get an Amen?

Amen.

Right? Jesus Christ is what separates the church from being just another nice, well-meaning, nonprofit organization.

Amen.

It's about Jesus. It's about Jesus. This passage, 3:14-21, is a statement about God's overflowing grace. It's a prayer. Did you hear it? It's a prayer. It's a vision for the church's mission. "Through the church, the wisdom of God in its rich variety might be known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places." It's a vision for the church's mission, the church needs God's own strength and power and presence to be the church. We don't do this just because we decided to do this. We do this because God in Christ empowers us through our baptism to do this.

Amen.

Thank you. You are on it already. Thank you. Check's in the mail. [laughter] Amen. Yeah, there we go. Oh, there's a lot of Amens now. I shouldn't have said that. There'll be a lot of zeros in it. Okay. Just zeros. But anyways - just zeros - the prayer that this letter is praying-- there's three things in this prayer. One, that the church be strengthened inwardly. Okay? Inwardly. That Christ may dwell in the church. How crazy is that? That's actually what we're about in this, right, that the church may be strengthened inwardly, that Christ may dwell in the church, that the church may be firmly founded upon and growing in the soil of love. That the church may be firmly founded upon and growing the soil of love? This is what is in this prayer, that the church be strengthened inwardly, that Christ may dwell in the church, and that the church may be firmly founded upon and grow in the soil of love. It's a Trinitarian formula. Isn't that beautiful? Each are needed and have equal value.

It is the hope, my hope, that the church can come to know the infinite reach of God's love. Infinite. Beyond understanding. To know and be possessed by this love, the fullness of God which passes our understanding, so that we, the church, so filled with the fullness of grace, the grace of God, the reconciling Christ, may actually, actually, actually, really just share it. Right?

Amen.

We can't hold on to this stuff. It needs to be shared with the world, so that the world along with us can experience here and now and always, the Kingdom of God. Not fully present, but here in just little bitty glimpses. And this is the glimpse of it, when it's focused on Christ and when it's focused on love. I love this, and I want a percentage of whatever you sell off of this. [laughter]

That was good. Right? So, this is a beautiful image of Mary and Jesus. Right? See how colorful it is, and bright and hopeful? I think this is up in Bethlehem, when we were in Bethlehem a couple years ago. Right? And they told me that this is the image that those in Bethlehem have of Mary with Child. Why? Because it was in Bethlehem, right, where the good thing happened, right, the incarnation happened. As Anglicans, we love the incarnation, right?

Yes.

That's what Christmas is all about, right? And here's this beautiful-- this is actually Mary kind of happy. Other images that you see of Mother and Child are not colorful. It's brown and muted, right? And it's Mary not-so-happy with Child because that's the Jerusalem Mary with Child. You see? Good Friday, right? I love this image, this icon of Mary carrying Jesus into the world. Isn't that what we're called to do? I think it is, like Mary, carrying Jesus into the world. So, we're not simply filled by grace for our own satisfaction and contentment. We are filled so God's fullness and God's joy and God's peace and compassion and justice and mercy and forgiveness and goodness and love-- the love that we've

received in God through Jesus is unmerited; it's unearned and it's unending that we may carry this out into the world again and again and again and always.

And so, as it was with the 1st century church for whom a Letter to the Philippians was written, we, my brothers and sisters, need strengthening. We need a vision. We need practices and disciplines. We need encouragement to live the way of Jesus. We need encouragement to live the way of Jesus, which is the way of love, which, oh by the way, is the way of life - the way of life - so that the glory of God-- so that the glory of God-- not us, not the church, not some program or slogan or slick new thing may be glorified but God. God.

The Episcopal Church has done a really nice job putting together information on The Way of Love. Right there, episcopalchurch.org. I highly recommend that you take a look at it to move more deeply into practices that will help us be the people God has created us to be. Now I can sit down right there, and you would've heard a really good bishop's address. [applause] But wait, there's more. It's been a really crazy year for us.

Again.

What?

Again.

Again. Yeah. Yeah, okay. Thank you. Again, an Amen on, "This has been a crazy year." Good. It's been probably-- in the Diocese of Western Michigan, this has probably been one of the most historic years in our 145 years with respect to the amount of important transition and change that has taken place. I mean, historic changes, right? Historic changes. So, here's some. Yeah, we moved. We moved from the offices that have been in Kalamazoo for 50 years-plus back to Grand Rapids, to Holy Trinity Church, Wyoming. These are some of the scenes. Yeah. They're smiling then.

Yay.

Yay. Yeah. We're right across the parking lot from Peter. We're watching you, Peter.

That's what he wanted.

Yeah. [laughter] Right. That's fair. That's very fair. So really, you can come by. It's super convenient, right off of 131 or M-6. It's really super convenient. The offices are open Monday through Thursday - we're not going to be open on Friday any longer - 9:00 to 4:00-ish. Okay? If you come on Monday, call, just because there may or may not be somebody there. But Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, we're all going to be there. And we're out in offices in Traverse City and in Kalamazoo. So yeah. So that's what's happening there. So that's a huge-- oh, wait a minute. Let me go back. So, a huge change, right? This is a big transition. This was a big transition, moving back. This is something that we decided six years ago when we moved here. We made a decision, Dana and I, to live here and-- man, I have stuff falling all over the place-- Grand Rapids because we felt it was central to the diocese as a whole. It will put us in greater proximity to the largest number of us. So that's how we moved to Grand Rapids. And so, I was signaling that we're going to do this someday, and now, we've done it. And I need to acknowledge that this had not been easy on the staff. Right? This has not been an easy thing for the staff.

So in this, we had to say goodbye to Molly Ettwein whom we loved; Molly, and Cathy Rhodes who was also assisting. It just didn't make sense for them to be driving an hour to work part-time, and they were ready to go. So that was one of the big shifts in this move as well. There's been a lot of pressure on Tammy. Tammy's really tried to be as graceful as she can be in this, and she's done a great job in the midst of it. [applause] So thank you, Tammy. Tammy and Molly, and then Tricia when she came in with-- and the rest of the staff really worked crazy to help make this move happen. It wasn't easy, believe me, but we did it. So then after we did that, we spent some time in discernment considering

this dance that we've been invited to with our friends in Eastern Michigan. And we spent the spring trying to discern, what do we want to do with this new, crazy idea? And we spent some hard time in discernment, and then we came to this moment.

So, hey, Western Michigan and Eastern Michigan. Wayne Houglund here. We have been meeting today, the Diocesan Council and the Standing Committee, to discuss the invitation to dance with our friends in Eastern Michigan. The invitation was for me to serve for a three to up to five-year term as the Provisional Bishop of Eastern Michigan while continuing my duties as the Diocesan bishop here in Western Michigan. Over the course of this year, we've had three bishop's forum gatherings where you were invited to come. The Diocese of Western Michigan was invited to come and discuss and discern and prayerfully consider how we might respond to this polite invitation. And so today, after a couple of hours of discernment and conversation and reflection, we unanimously decided to accept the invitation and look forward to working with the Diocese of Eastern Michigan more intentionally as we move forward into the future. So, let's dance. Put on your red shoes and dance. Thanks. [applause]

Your bishop is silly. There you go. So that was a big deal. That's a big deal. That's another big transition point in the diocese. And then not long after that, Dana and I went on sabbatical, right, which I want to share some pictures. You ready?

Here we go. Here's some rolling pictures we took over two months, and we went overseas to Italy first. So that was Venice. And now, this is Florence. We saw some really cool things. We ate some pretty good food. We saw some of the greatest art in the world, Renaissance art. Oh, yeah, that was Disney World. [laughter] That's Siena. Siena is one of my favorite places I love. This is Assisi. That's Pompeii. Yeah, that was another-- I just threw some pictures of my boys in there. This is [laughter] Sorrento, Italy. I forget where that is. That's Rome, right? That's the Trevi Fountain. And that's the Colosseum, and that's Saint Peter's in Saint Peter's. This is Madrid, Spain. This is in San Sebastian, Spain, where the Basques are from. That's my boys again. This is Guernica in the Basque Lands, which my family is from. That's me and my mama in front of my grandfather's house. So that's where he lived. That's River. And this is at Bilbao. This is Toledo. No, this is Burgos. We followed the trip-- that's Santiago in Spain. I walked the Camino-- this is now Portugal. Isn't it pretty? This is Lisbon. Yeah. Bordeaux. Those are really good. This is the coast of Portugal.

We can't tell you how grateful we are for this opportunity. This is back in Seville. What a gift that you gave us, to spend this time-- wait, that's Granada. This is fabulous, right here. Valencia, Barcelona. Did I do everything now? Inside Barcelona. Thank you, thank you, thank you. A tremendous gift that we don't take lightly. So generous. Who gets to do that, right? It's such a gift. I want to encourage all of our clergy to ensure-- we want to encourage that it's in every one of the letters of agreement that you take a sabbatical because it's necessary. It's important and it's needed. And it's needed for the congregation as much as it is for the clergy. And I think it's a sign of good health that you allowed me to do this, and we really do appreciate it.

So we spent two months traveling. As you can see, it was wonderful. That was wonderful. The last part of it was horrible. We moved. We came back in July. And long story short is we had to move from the house that we've been renting in Grand Rapids because the owner of the house decided he wanted to sell it, and he gave us 10 days' notice before we were to go to Europe. And so we had to make a decision within 10 days of getting on the plane to go to Europe. And so Dana went to work. And so we moved in July from a five-bedroom house to a one-bedroom apartment. Yeah. We gave everything away. We literally gave everything away. Just about 90% of our stuff, we gave away to our children, which they wanted, to Goodwill and other places, what they would take. It's really hard to give stuff away. And we made a conscious decision that we were going to take this time to free ourselves of the stuff that we needed to get rid of, that we just needed to get rid of some stuff. And that's physical stuff,

some emotional, spiritual, other stuff that we've been carrying around for a while that our sabbatical helped us kind of get real with, and just let it go.

It was really hard. It was really hard letting go of stuff-- letting go of your stuff. I mean, we've been married for 35 years now. We've raised two children. We had every one of their homework papers, every art project they ever did, because it was Da Vinci, right? [laughter] It was like, "This is Rembrandt." And we had stuff that we've collected over the years that's just, "What do we do? Do we need this stuff, do we not need this stuff? Do we need this stuff, do we not need this stuff?" It's spiritual, and it was really hard. It was emotionally draining. Just all the memories that came back from all this stuff. How are we going to be in relationship with this stuff?

Let me show this, because this woman right here-- let me see if she comes up. How do I do thing? Should I just click it again?

Mm-hmm.

I don't want to just dump it. I want to be thoughtful about it. Choose items that spark joy for you.

Spark joy. It's not as easy as I thought it was going to be.

We're on board. We want to change. I just want it to be strong enough to change me.

I can let it go. Arigato.

I am going to figure out what sparks joy in my life. I can't believe you can touch the carpet.

New day, new joy.

Thank you for being here for us and wanting to help us.

I hope you know how much this means to me.

Here we go.

So a pitch from Marie Kondo. Isn't she cute? She's evil. [laughter] Does this spark joy in your life or not? And if it doesn't, let it go. Let it go. Does it spark joy or not? Let it go. It's hard. So that's what we did. And here's what I think happened or is happening, is that in order to-- we had to let go of stuff so that we can receive whatever it is that God has next. We had to let go of stuff, literally open up our hands so that we can receive whatever God has next. And that means living in a one-bedroom condo in downtown Grand Rapids where I don't have to shovel snow or mow the yard, that has covered parking. Right?

Amen.

More transition stuff. That didn't stop there -- that was hard on the staff, too. So, thank you, staff. I mean, I'm sure they were glad I was gone, but, more transition. Coming back, Gennie said, "You know what? I think it's time for me to end my time." We need to give it up for Gennie. [applause] 16 years in this position, and she really raised the bar in how we were doing youth camp, how we're caring for children and young adults. And she made the decision herself based on her own discernment and concerns that she has with her family and needs that she needs to address there. And so thank you, Gennie. Please know how much we honor her in this.

And so the response for new is another example of the growing and improving and increasing good health in this diocese. Here's the response. The response was, first of all, "Yay and thank you, Gennie." Right? "Good for you, and thank you for your work, and we honor you in that, and Godspeed on your next endeavors." The next thing that people said to me was, "What can we do? What can we do to pick up the pieces?" And so you'll hear from Bill Fleener, Jr. that the camp is going to continue next summer

at Camp Newaygo, and that the people who've been running it with Gennie are going to continue to run it in the future while we consider how to do this thing more fully with our partners in Eastern Michigan. And the third thing was, "Well, you know what? Maybe there's other things that we can be doing that we hadn't been doing in this area." These are all healthy, positive responses to this. Thank you. And then Tricia took another job with her tribe, her home denomination here in Grand Rapids, and Willa came-- where's Willa? Is she in here now, or is she still on the way? Oh hey, Willa. Stand up. [applause] So Willa has been helping me in the office and helping us in the office. And if you need a schedule or anything with me, you call her. Right? Yeah, she's great. We're really, really glad that she's here.

And then we had this. Yeah. That was a couple weeks ago. It was a really good day. It's an amazing thing. I was driving home from Bay City where the election took place. And I was by myself, and I thought, "What in the hell just happened? [laughter] Did that really just happen? Holy moly." Right? So again, this is a huge transition point at the Diocese, right, for us and for all Episcopalians in Michigan, really. Let me just make sure you're clear about what this is. This is not, "We're getting married." Right? There's no, "In the game," here. This is, "Let's dance." Let's try this out for a three- to five-year period and see how it works. Let's see how we might be able to share resources and staff and program and ministry and experience, and see if that might not broaden the presence of the Kingdom of God in this branch of the Jesus Movement, right, in Michigan. So let's try it out. Let's see how we can make this work in ways that haven't before.

So that's what this is all about. Each diocese will be managed independently, right, which means I'll be bouncing back and forth quite a bit. So, there's going to be some ping-ponging. Right?

Mm-hmm.

Katie can tell you about that. I don't know how this is all going to work out. Today's my first day on the job, by the way. Hi. I'm your bishop now, too. Right. Today's my first day on the job. Wow. We don't know how this is going to work, but we're going to seek to understand what the Spirit's calling us to in all this. I'm going to jump, I think, really quickly. Hold on. Hold on. I was thinking about something I was going to say. Yeah, I'm going to come back to that. No, I'm going to do that.

There's a lot of anxiety in the system around all the changes that we've experienced, right? This has been a tough year because of transition, so let's just acknowledge there is anxiety. There's anxiety within the staff. I've got my own anxiety around all this stuff. There is anxiety in Eastern Michigan around, "What does this mean for us? Are we going to be subsumed into the diocese of Western Michigan? What about our identity and what we've cultivated over these last 25 years, which is important and valuable and necessary?" For us, I think it might be, "Well, what does that mean with our relationship with our bishop, right, and what would that mean for his health and well-being?" Thank you for that concern, which I know is real. I've got my own stuff. Can I do this? Can we do this? I don't know, but we're going to give it a shot. And we can give it a shot because we have really good staffs. And that's going to make this job a whole lot easier.

Let me share this. See this right here? This is our website. It was voted by a national panel, the Polly Bond Award for Excellence, as the best website in the Episcopal Church. [applause] Yeah. Western Michigan. We're on the map.

We're on the map. And not only that, but our magazine that we do with the Diocese of Eastern Michigan was given an honorable mention as one of the three best diocesan magazines in the church. [applause] Yeah. Look at these guys here. The Three Amigos. The Three Musketeers. Not The Three Stooges. [laughter] So this is what makes this possible as well, is that the-- having the Canon Missioners in place has increased our capacity to address the questions and concerns on a local level exponentially. Joined with congregational transition, dealing with acute problems as they arise within the congregations locally, we've been able to address in far greater detail and capacity than we ever were before without them. And because of them, I am not in the weeds with a lot of stuff. Right? So, I can focus on being bishop up here and not in the detailed stuff, which you know I'm not really good at. And so, this is how this can maybe work.

Let me share some other good stuff. A lot of good stuff happening in the diocese. Signs of health. I've mentioned a few. Here's some more. Right? All the parochial reports were filed on time. [applause] 40 congregations have completed their annual audit for 2018. Yes. And all those remaining are in process, and they've contacted us so that we know. This is compared to 15 last year. Yeah. We have 23 people in the discernment process for holy orders. That compares with the Diocese of Los Angeles. I'm not kidding. Right? We have five apportionment requests that came to us this year, and all of those, we anticipate will fall within the 2020 proposed budget, which is really great. Now you have to understand, when we began this 10 or so years ago, it was 100 or more thousand dollars that was being rebated back, if you will. And now, it's 10 to 15 thousand. This is signs of health. The Dismantling Racism Task Force has grown from 5 members to 35. More on that later. All right?

Plainsong Farm has grown into a national leader in grassroots ministry and development. They just received a grant. Good stuff. The Vitality and Viability Congregational Assessments are ongoing. And as they are ongoing-- how many of you have had the assessment done yet with your Canon Missioners? So, we are actually tweaking it as we go along, which I think is a sign of good health. We have a balanced budget again. And the process of discernment with regards to our relationship with Eastern Michigan was really, really healthy. Every congregation in this diocese has an active ministry within their community. We're doing good now. Looking forward to 2020, there's a lot of stuff coming up.

We're going to create a youth and young adult ministry task force. I haven't filled the position that Gennie has vacated. We've kept the money in the budget. We don't want to take it out because we don't really know exactly what that's going to look like. But we should take some time to explore it and see what we've done well, what are the best practices that we might engage that we might have missed, how might we work with Eastern Michigan and Michigan. They're going to have a new bishop soon. And even Northern Michigan. How might we-- and this is a cul-de-sac of Michigan, and this is where the church works together more intentionally in this super important area of ministry. We're going to create a task force on the Hispanic ministry because it's a growing need and concern. And there are those who are already doing it, and we need to figure out how to do it really, really well. It is multifaceted. There's a lot of areas to engage in this. And so, let's do some exploring. We've allocated some money for that.

Creation of an Estate Planned Giving and Capital Campaigning Task Force. You realize, don't you, that we are in the midst of the largest transfer of funds in the history of the world from one generation to the next generation. Billions and billions of dollars are being transferred, and the church isn't even asking. We haven't even started asking. It's time for us to start asking. So, we're going to put together a task force to investigate that. [applause] Thank you. Thank you, friends. We're going to have another pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey in May, and Doug's going to talk about that a little bit later. Yeah.

Lambeth Conference 2020 in England. So really quick on that. Do you know what the Lambeth Conference is? Lambeth Conference?

No.

No? No? Raise your hand. So, okay. Lambeth Conference is a gathering of bishops who are in communion with the Archbishop of Canterbury at Lambeth Palace, which is where the Archbishop of Canterbury resides in England. And it has historically been an every 10-year gathering. It'll be 12 years by the time the next one comes. It is known as one of the four instruments of unity within the Anglican communion. We're part of the worldwide Anglican Communion. I represent us in the House of Bishops, leading to the House of Bishops, and then on into the Anglican Communion as well. And this Lambeth Conference is scheduled for 2020. There's been some controversy around the Lambeth Conference. To put it as simply as I can, the Archbishop of Canterbury invited every bishop who is in communion including openly gay bishops, which is new. However, any bishop who is openly gay who is married or partnered, their partner or spouse was not invited. So there you go. So there has been a lot of conversation in the House of Bishops. We've had two House of Bishops meetings since this. There are bishops who are not going because of this.

Dana and I have done a lot of praying and thinking over this. We have spoken with the bishops and their spouses who were not invited in the last House of Bishops meeting, and their encouragement to us was, "Go and speak on our behalf." [applause] So we're going to go. I've been communicating with Bishop Mary Glasspool, who is the assistant bishop in New York City, who is married to a woman, and her wife was not invited. And we've been communicating, and she expressed to me that this is an issue of hospitality. And so, what we're thinking about, Dana and I, is how can we go to Lambeth and create space for hospitality? If this is a hospitality issue, maybe we need to learn something about hospitality. Give them Southern hospitality or Midwestern hospitality. You know what I'm saying?

Yeah.

Right? So, we don't know what that looks like, but we're going to try to figure out how we can do that to create a safe space for people to come and be with each other and develop relationships with one another. So that's coming up.

This is really exciting. Read that. And this is not a done deal. This is something that's been a dream. I've been seeing this community for a number of years. It is specifically a dream of mine to create help with this community which is rapidly growing, find a way to create its own space, find its own space to exist where it can control its space, and live into the unique way of being Anglican/Episcopalian, and support not only some needs but other African cultures, not only just in Grand Rapids but beyond Grand Rapids into the country. And so there's more to come, we hope, on this. This is something to look forward to at some point. This is good stuff. That's good stuff. Ain't that good stuff?

Yes. [applause]

So again, I was going to talk about anxiety in this part. But let's just acknowledge that I have a lot of anxiety, and I know we do, too. I'm really working to take care of myself. I've lost 20 pounds, and I'm working out pretty regularly now. I still don't watch what I'm eating. There is someone in our diocese who is a pilot who is going to make available their plane on occasion so that I can fly sometimes over there or up there or wherever I need to go. We're really trying to do this right. And so, with all this transition and with some of the anxiety that is in the system, God was there embracing me back to the way of love. Right? This is, for me-- this is nothing new. This way of love is new language but ancient practices. It's new language but it is ancient, and it is actually Anglican in terms of, how do we create - and you've heard me say it - a rule of life, a way of living day in, day out that draws us into the

life of God? Right? And that's what this is all about. We'll spend some more time on this. But isn't it what we want to do, is to teach ourselves, to discipline ourselves, to live in the ways that are loving? And don't we want to teach our children those things? I think we do.

This is the presiding bishop. "Turn, learn, pray, worship, bless, go, rest. Turn. Figure out, how can I, every day, turn my life like a flower turning toward the sun, to turn my life in the direction of God's love, in the direction of Jesus? Learn. Every day, what can I learn from the Word of God through reading of scripture, reading of spiritual materials that help to train up the spirit, if you will, but to wrestle and to live with scripture, paying particular attention to those passages and teachings where we actually hear the voice of Jesus? Pray. To spend time every day, some real time-- it doesn't have to be long, but some real time in real prayer. And there are practices of prayer and different ways of prayer that can help us in that journey. Worship. The gathering Christian community, at least once a week, preferably for the Holy Eucharist if it is possible. To gather for worship as in community, where we are with other Christians and other believers and other followers of Jesus, where we can worship our God, open our lives to God, and be blessed by God and by each other. Jesus said, "Wherever two or three are gathered together in My name, there I am in the midst of them."

Turn, learn, pray, worship, but then bless. Somebody once said, 'We have been blessed so that we might be a blessing.' To each day, make a decision. 'I'm going to live my life as a blessing.' And at every turn in that day, at every moment of decision, 'How can I be a blessing in this day, in this way, in this moment?' And then to go. To go into the world. To go into the world and touch somebody's life, to go into the world and to love the way Jesus loves, to give the way Jesus gives, to forgive the way Jesus forgives, to "do justice and love, mercy, and walk humbly with God" like Jesus. And then after turning, learning, praying, worshipping, blessing, and going, to rest. It is not an accident that the seventh day of creation in the Book of Genesis is when God saw all that God had made, and God rested. The soul must rest. The spirit must rest. If God rested, who are we not to?

Amen.

Turn, learn, pray, worship, bless, go, rest. These are words that point to practices that can train up the spirit to follow in the way of Jesus and to look something like Jesus. The old hymn says it best. 'Breathe on me, breath of God. Fill me with life anew, that I may love what Thou dost love, and do what Thou wouldst do.' God love you, God bless you, and may God hold us all in those almighty hands of love." [applause]

Ain't he good? Oh my gosh, you guys. Train up the spirit. Train up the spirit to live like Jesus. Why are these practices important? Why are they necessary even? I'll tell you why. Relationship. Relationship, relationship, relationship, relationship. Our relationship with God, which forms our relationship with each other, which forms our relationship with ourselves. The way of Jesus Christ is the way of love, which is the way of life. Want to find yourself? Do you want to find your truest, most authentic self, the self-God uniquely created you to be? You do it in a relationship. You do it in community. Desmond Tutu calls it Ubuntu: I am only because we are. I make no sense wearing a pointy hat, walking down the street with a stick without you. I'm finding my most authentic self because of you. We need each other to find our most authentic self, that precious self that God created you uniquely to be.

And why the church? Why Jesus? Why all of this? Why? Relationships. It's about relationships. So that in the relationships, heaven can be revealed. That's what the Trinity is all about. It's to strengthen us for our journey daily, to carry us through the trials and tribulations of this crazy,

chaotic, constantly changing world. We need these practices to grow, to ground us in the faith and connect us to God, leading us to love as Jesus loved, a love that changed the world, a love that continues to change the world. It's about relationships.

And 2019, in this church, has been a year of historical transition with this diocese. And this change can make us anxious. It can make us insecure. It can make us uncomfortable. It can make us uneasy and uncertain. We might ask ourselves, where do we stand in all this change? Who are we? What's what? Right? And then add to this-- here comes the preaching now. Add to this reality, an ever increasingly divided and fearful societal life.

We live in troubling times. We live in troubling times. We live in troubling times. We live in times where children are gunned down in their schools and people are shot in synagogues or movie theaters or churches or in a Walmart. We live in troubling times. Vulnerable, desperate children are being separated from their parents at borders which were once open and welcoming to the least and the lost and the last and the losers. We live in a society now where the truth is merely relative and fact is completely irrelevant, depending on who's speaking, where power is used to divide the haves from the have-nots, where authority is misused for personal or political or financial gain, where personal ideology or theology or philosophy is held more important than the welfare of the community as a whole. Something is wrong, y'all. Something is wrong in our country. Something is very, very wrong. And I love this country. I know you do, too. You love it. It's my home. It's our home. And I'm telling you, something is wrong. Something is wrong.

We need the way of love in this country. We need the way of love in this country. Our country needs us to help it find a way through these dark times. We need to recommit our life to God and Jesus. Not to the church, to Jesus. We need to take seriously our relationships with God, the source of light and life. We need to practice, daily practice, the way of love as a way to being about a revival of hope. Because we need revival. We need a revival of hope and a renewal of faith and rebirth of compassion and forgiveness, a rekindling of liberty and justice for all, a reawakening of the truth. The truth. The truth which is that, in Jesus, there is no east or west. There is no red state or blue state. No Republican, Democrat, or Independent, Liberal or Conservative. No insider or outsider. There is only one way, and that way is love, as the way it's always been.

It's about love. It's about selfless, sacrificial love. That is the way of life. That is our way. It was Jesus's way. And so now is the time, the time for us to choose. Will we choose the way of love or not? Choose the way of life or not? The future will unveil itself by how we live today. We control the future, and it starts by how we live today. The Epistle to the Ephesians was written to people needing strength and encouragement and vision whilst living in difficult, dangerous times like ours. What was needed then is needed now. The church to be strengthened inwardly that Christ may dwell in the church at its center, and that the church be firmly founded upon and growing in the soil of love.

So that is our prayer, is we continue this Jesus Movement, this walking the way of love. The decision is ours. It's always been. It's not rocket science. Just love. Be of good courage, my friends. Hold fast to that which is good. For what is evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted. Help the afflicted. Support the weak. Shield the joyous. Honor all people. Love and serve all people. Choose the way of true life.

Choose the way of God. Choose it now. And the blessing of God, almighty Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you now and always.

Amen. [applause]

Official Acts of the Bishop 2019

January

2nd Meeting with Sr. Wardens Grace, Grand Rapids
19th St. Philip's Grand Rapids Annual Meeting
27th Visitation St. John's, Ionia

February

2nd Ordination of Abby VanderBrug
17th Visitation St. John's, Charlotte
20th Celebration of New Ministry, Installation of Rev.
Michael Fedewa
24th Visitation St. Paul's, St. Joseph

March

3rd Visitation St. Paul's, Greenville
10th Visitation St. Mary's, Cadillac
20th Celebration of New Ministry, Trinity, Grand
Ledge
24th Visitation Grace, Grand Rapids
24th Ordination of Kellan Day to the Transitional
Diaconate

April

3rd Celebration of New Ministry for Diane Pike
7th Visitation St. John's, Fremont
14th Visitation St. Paul's, Muskegon
16th Chrism Mass, St. Mark's, Grand Rapids
19th Visitation St. Philip's, Grand Rapids
20th Easter Vigil and Confirmation Service, St. Paul's,
St. Joseph

August

24th Visitation Christ Church, Charlevoix

September

1st Visitation St. Philip's, Beulah
8th Visitation St. Timothy's, Richland
15th Visitation Grace, Ludington
29th Visitation St. Mark's, Paw Paw

October

3rd Celebration of Ministry, BJ Heyboer St. Mark's,
Newaygo
24th Celebration of Ministry, Molly Bosscher, St.
Andrew's, Grand Rapids

November

3rd Visitation Sudanese Grace, Grand Rapids
9th Ordination, Michael Spencer, St. Christopher's,
Grand Blanc
10th Visitation St. John's, Otter Lake
14th Celebration of New Ministry James Smith, St.
John's, Sturgis
17th Visitation Trinity, Grand Ledge
24th Visitation St. Paul's, Gladwin

December

8th Visitation, St. Mark's, Coldwater
22nd Visitation, Church of the Epiphany, South Haven

Minutes of the 145th Annual Convention
Diocese of Western Michigan
November 1 & 2, 2019
Crowne Plaza Hotel
Grand Rapids, Michigan

The Rt. Rev. Wayne M. Houglund opened the 145th Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan at 10:00 a.m. with a prayer composed by St. Catherine of Sienna and proceeded to welcome delegates, visitors and guests to the convention. He then invited the Rev. Canon Michael Spencer, Canon to the Ordinary in the Diocese of Eastern Michigan and designated chaplain to convention, to officiate at Morning Prayer.

Following Morning Prayer the convention was organized and William Fleener, Jr., chancellor and parliamentarian, announced a quorum present. The Bishop introduced those sitting on the dais: The Rev. Canon William Spaid, Secretary of Convention, Janet MacKenzie Dispatcher of Business and Timekeeper (Epiphany, South Haven), Bill Fleener, Jr. (St. David's, Lansing), Parliamentarian. Other convention leaders were also introduced: Canon Katie Forsyth managing all the technology arrangements, The Rev. Jen Adams Resolutions Chair (Grace, Holland), and Fred Skidmore nominations chair (St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids). The Bishop also acknowledged the help and support of Registrar Carole Redwine (St. Philip's, Grand Rapids) and registration volunteers from St. Philip's Church in Grand Rapids.

The Diocesan Staff were introduced: The Rev. Canon Bill Spaid, Southern Region Canon Missioner, The Rev. Canon Val Ambrose, Central Region Canon Missioner, The Rev. Canon Anne Hallmark, Northern Region Canon Missioner, Canon Katie Forsyth, Canon for Evangelism & Networking, Tammy Mazure, Bishop's Assistant for Finance & Benefits, and Willa Williams, Executive Assistant.

Other volunteers who serve as the Bishop's appointees include Bill Fleener, Jr., Chancellor; Dr. Ken Reid, (St. Luke's, Kalamazoo) Pastoral Care and Counseling – (not attending); David Croal (St. Mark's, Coldwater) Assistant Treasurer; The Rev. Beth Drew, Deacon for Sustainable Development Goals & DR Missions; The Rev. Cindy Nawrocki, Deacon for Domestic Mission; Martha Bartlett (St. James', Pentwater) Jubilee Officer; and The Rev. Ed and Ann Emenheiser, Chaplains to the Retired Clergy.

The Bishop introduced our guests from the Diocese of Eastern Michigan: The Rev. Canon Michael Spencer, Canon to the Ordinary; The Rev. Valerie Fargo, Director of the Coppage-Gordon School for Ministry; McKenzie Bade, Facilitator of Youth and Young Adult Networks and Executive Director of Camp Chicagami; Sara Philo, Financial Manager; Angela Krueger, Assistant to the Bishop; The Rev. Dan Scheid, President of the Standing Committee. The Bishop pointed out that the "dance" we are doing together is working.

The Bishop welcomed our Keynote speaker Lisa Kimball from Virginia Theological Seminary and expressed that we would look forward to hearing her later in the day.

The Convention adopted the Rules of Order and gave seat and voice to the chancellor, 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, Lutheran pastors serving Episcopal congregations, and the Bishop's staff. The Bishop emphasized a number of procedural expectations outlined in the Rules of Order.

The Convention approved the minutes of the 2018 Diocesan Convention.

The Convention elected the following officers of Convention: Secretary, The Rev. Canon William Spaid; Registrar, Carole Redwine, St. Philip's, Grand Rapids; Chancellor/Parliamentarian, Bill Fleener, Jr.; Assistant Treasurer, David Croal, St. Mark's, Coldwater.

The Bishop announced new calls and personnel changes in the Diocese since the 2018 Convention:

Retirements

- The Rev. Brad Allard, Deacon at Holy Trinity, Wyoming
- The Rev. Cory Stoppel, Rector of All Saints, Saugatuck
- The Rev. Dr. Stephen Holmgren, Grace, Grand Rapids leaving in January 2020
- The Rev. Dale Bennett, St. Thomas, Battle Creek and moved to New York

Ordinations to Transitional Diaconate

- The Rev. Kellan Day, Grace, Grand Rapids
- The Rev. Abby Bok VanderBrug, St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids
- The Rev. Peter Homeyer, Trinity, Wyoming

Resignations

- The Rev. BJ Heyboer from St John's, Fremont
- Gennie Callard, Bishop's Assistant for Children, Youth and Young Adults
- Tricia Leistra, Diocesan Office Administrator

New Calls

- The Rev. James Lively, St. John's, Sturgis
- The Rev. Diane Pike, Southwest Michigan Episcopal Covenant
- The Rev. Molly Bosscher, St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids
- The Rev. David Brower, Interim at Mediator, Harbert
- The Rev. Kellan Day, Church of Incarnation, Highlands, NC
- The Rev. Michael Fedewa, St. Paul's, Muskegon
- The Rev. Alan James, Interim, Emmanuel, Petoskey
- The Rev. BJ Heyboer, St. Mark's, Newago
- The Rev. Becky Michelfelder, Interim, All Saints, Saugatuck
- The Rev. Nurya Love Parish, Holy Spirit, Belmont
- The Rev. Dr. Gail Shafer, Trinity, Grand Ledge
- The Rev. Abby VanderBrug, Christ Church, Greenwich, CT
- The Rev. James Smith, Lutheran Pastor, Trinity, Three Rivers

Deaths

- The Rev. Wayne Nicholson, retired from St. John's, Mt. Pleasant
- The Rev. Tom Toeller-Novak, retired from Grace, Holland
- Fr. Jude Bell, OSB of St. Gregory's Abbey in Three Rivers

- Marjorie Bennison, wife of the late Rt. Rev. Charles E. Bennison
- The Rev. Hugh Hostetler who served in Dowagiac, Plainwell, Three Rivers, and Grand Rapids
- Th Rev. Beth McLaren, former Associate at St. Luke's, Kalamazoo
- The Rev. Edward Scully, Fremont, Newago, Albion and the Diocesan Camp
- Canon Donalee Williams, former Music Director and Organist at the Cathedral of Christ the King

The Bishop introduced Interim Clergy who are present & not canonically resident: Kathryn Costas at Grace Traverse City, Alan James at Emmanuel Petoskey, and Becky Michelfelder at All Saints Saugatuck.

The Bishop also recognized

Candidates for Ordination to the Priesthood

- Radha Deitenbeck Kaminski, Grace, Holland (Seminary of SW, Austin)
- Eileen Stoffan, St. Paul's, Muskegon (Bexley Seabury)
- Philip Zoutendam, St. Andrew's, GR – (Duke)

Postulants to the Priesthood:

- Derek Quinn, St. Barnabas, Portage (Sewanee)
- Joanna and Kurt Unangst, St. Andrew's GR (Virginia)

Postulants to the Diaconate:

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

At approximately eleven o'clock the Bishop gave his annual address to the convention. Highlights of his address included the *Way of Love* and exploring the seven areas: Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Go, and Rest. He also spoke of his sabbatical time including photos from Sienna, Rome, Spain and Portugal. He spoke about the major task of moving the diocesan offices from Kalamazoo to the new Diocesan House in Wyoming, and changes in the diocesan staff especially paying tribute to the work of Gennie Callard for 16 years. He also emphasized the joint decision of the Standing Committee and Diocesan Council to "continue to dance" with the Diocese of Eastern Michigan, our award winning magazine *The Feast*, and the success of the canons missioner. Further, he outlined signs of health in the Diocese:

1. All Parochial reports filed on time
2. 40 congregations have completed their annual audit for 2018. The remaining congregations are in process. Compared to 15 completed audits at this time last year.
3. 23 persons in discernment for Holy Orders - 9 for Diaconate and 14 for Priesthood
4. Five Apportionment Review requests from five congregations with anticipated allowance within 2020 proposed budget
5. Dismantling Racism Taskforce has grown from five members to 35 members

6. Plainsong Farm has grown into a national leader and grassroots ministry development – receiving a Roanridge Grant for rural ministry
7. The vitality/viability congregational assessments are ongoing and being adapted as we go
8. Balanced 2020 budget
9. Process of discernment regarding our relationship with Eastern Michigan
10. Every congregation has an active service ministry within their community

The Bishop concluded with things to look forward to:

1. Creation of a Youth and Young Adult Ministry Task Force
2. Creation of a Hispanic Ministry Task Force
3. Creation of an Estate Planned-giving and Capital Campaign Task Force
4. Bishop's pilgrimage to Greece and Turkey in May
5. 2020 Lambeth Conference in England
6. Establishment of a Sudanese cultural center in Grand Rapids

Following the Bishop's address there were a number of brief announcements and then the Bishop invited Canon Mike Spencer to officiate at the Noon Office which included a moment of silence to remember those on the *In-Memoriam* list. After the Noon Office the convention recessed for lunch.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

(There was a technical issue with the audio recording normally used by the secretary to complete the minutes of this business session, and the minutes are based on the secretary's brief written notes.)

The Bishop called convention to order at 1:10 pm and introduced Dr. Lisa Kimball, Associate Dean of Lifelong Learning and the James Maxwell Professor of Lifelong Christian Formation at Virginia Theological Seminary. Dr. Kimball spoke about baptismal ministry and the Way of Love, and the full inclusion of all generations in the life and ministry of the church.

At approximately 2:45 the Bishop asked if a quorum was present and called for the beginning of our first business session. He introduced Fred Skidmore (St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids), Chair of the Nominations Committee and Chief Teller to begin the balloting for General Convention Deputies. The following people were nominated:

Lay Members

- Laurie Atwater, St. Martin's, Kalamazoo
- Pam Chapman, St. Philip's, Grand Rapids
- Anne Davidson, St. Mark's, Coldwater
- William Fleener, Jr., St. David's, Lansing
- Genia Lenore, Holy Trinity, Wyoming
- Matthew Roney, Grace, Traverse City
- Mary Simpson, St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids

Clergy Members

- Jennifer Adams, Grace, Holland
- Jared Cramer, St. John's, Grand Haven
- Brian Coleman, St. Thomas', Battle Creek

- Nurya Love Parish, Holy Spirit, Belmont
- Anne Schnaare, Trinity, Marshall
- Bill Spaid, Diocesan Staff

Ballots were distributed. We were directed to vote for four people in each order. After the ballots were collected, Fred introduced nominees for lay and clergy positions on the Standing Committee. There are two positions open - one lay and one clergy and one nominee for each available slot. Carole Redwine from St. Philip's in Grand Rapids and The Rev. Diane Pike of the Southwest Michigan Episcopal Covenant were elected by acclamation.

The Bishop introduced David Croal, (St. Mark's, Coldwater), assistant treasurer, to move the adoption of the proposed diocesan budget. The motion was seconded and Tammy Mazure, Bishop's assistant for Finance, was introduced to talk about the budget and the budget process. After answering questions, the budget was approved. Tammy also spoke about parish audits and health insurance enrollment.

There were several presentations including the work of the Dismantling Racism Team by Joyce Henry (St. Philip's, Grand Rapids); the proposed pilgrimage to Greece scheduled in 2020 by Doug Mohrman (Grace, Grand Rapids); and the planned camp program for 2020 by Bill Fleener, Jr.

The results of the General Convention Deputies election were announced: Lay deputies are Bill Fleener, Jr., Laurie Atwater, Pam Chapman, and Matt Roney. Clergy deputies are Jen Adams, Nurya Parish, Bill Spaid and Brian Coleman. Balloting then happened for alternate deputies.

The afternoon session wrapped up with Gail Donovan (St. David's, Lansing) presenting a video about the work and ministry of UTO (United Thank Offering) and reports from the diocesan Canons Missioner and Canon for Evangelism and Networking who jing-jing-jingled the work they've been doing. The Bishop, when he stopped laughing, thanked the Canons for the success of their ministry and expressed appreciation to the Bishop Whittemore Foundation for supporting these vital positions.

Fred Skidmore returned to the podium to announce the election of alternate deputies to General Convention: Anne Davidson (St. Mark's, Coldwater) lay alternate and Anne Schnaare (Trinity, Marshall) clergy alternate. The Bishop thanked the tellers for their work. There were several brief announcements and convention was recessed until Saturday afternoon.

SATURDAY

After the Convention Eucharist and Confirmation liturgy at Thornapple Covenant Church on Cascade Road and luncheon at the Crowne Plaza the Bishop called the convention back to order at approximately 1:30 pm. Chancellor Bill Fleener, Jr. announced a quorum present.

The first item of business was the affirmation of regional representatives to Diocesan Council. Robbie Schorle and Joan Smith, both from Grace, Holland were elected by the Central Region and Laurie Atwater from St. Martin's, Kalamazoo was elected by the Southern Region. Convention affirmed their elections by acclamation.

In the absence of the Resolution Chair, Jen Adams, the Bishop asked Chancellor Fleener who moved the adoption of the first resolution regarding cooperating ministries, and recognized Nurya Love Parish to speak to it. The text of the resolution is below:

Resolution 1:

Resolved, that the 144th Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan amend the following portions of Canon 1.1, Canon 1.8, Canon 1.28 to read:

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. A "Cooperating Ministry" is an organization, located within the diocese, whose mission, purposes, and activities have been determined by the Bishop and Diocesan Council, and ratified by the Diocesan Convention, to merit an established and recognized status as an ongoing partner in ministry with the diocese.

(Further Text of Canon 1, unchanged, will be saved for re-lettering to reflect the amendment per Canon 71.02).

Section 8.02 The Mission Region provides a vehicle for parishes, new congregations, and *cooperating ministries* 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 Mission Region shall be responsible for carrying out the following duties:

- (a) Promoting and aiding in the implementation of cooperation *collaboration* among the congregations and *cooperating ministries* in the Region;...

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, *or of all cooperating ministries* 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.

And be it further resolved that the 144th Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan add Canon 15 to read

CANON 15 COOPERATING MINISTRIES

Section 15.01 APPLICATION FOR COOPERATING MINISTRY STATUS

- (a) If a chaplaincy or organization, formed or to be formed for religious, educational or charitable purposes within this *diocese desires to enter into an agreement with the diocese as a Cooperating Ministry, such organization shall file an application with the diocese on forms approved by the Bishop. The application form must include the following:*

Financial records;

Summary of demographic research and/or asset mapping;

Summary of conversations between the applying ministry and any other cooperating ministries and parishes within ten miles.

If the Bishop determines that the purposes and activities of the chaplaincy or organization are sufficiently related to those of the diocese and that the organization should be considered for designation as a Cooperating Ministry, an Agreement for Designation as a Cooperating Ministry shall be executed by the organization and the diocese, which, among other items, shall contain the following provisions:

- a. The Agreement shall not be effective until it is approved by the action of the Diocesan Council. Upon such approval, the agreement shall be deemed provisionally approved, and in temporary effect until such time as it is ratified by the Diocesan Convention at its next regular meeting. The initial term of the agreement shall commence on the effective date and expire on March 31st of the second calendar year following the effective date.*
- b. The terms upon which the cooperating ministry shall be governed under relevant state and federal statutes, including a complete copy of its proposed by-laws.*
- c. The organization shall be required to deliver to the diocesan council within sixty (60) days after the end of its fiscal year an annual report describing its activities and present a financial statement for such fiscal year, including an operating statement in reasonable detail and a balance sheet.*
- d. The organization may use the title A Cooperating Ministry only so long as the agreement shall remain in force and effect.*

Section 15.03 RENEWAL OF COOPERATING MINISTRIES

The agreement may be renewed for annual periods ending March 31, upon agreement by the organization and approval by the Diocesan Council acting upon the recommendation of the Bishop, but only if the organization shall have been in compliance with the agreement and if the Bishop determines that the activities of the organization and the continued use of the title Cooperating Ministry by the organization is consistent with the mission and purpose of the diocese.

Nurya Love Parish spoke to the resolution, along with Linnea Stifler and Jodi Baron, who also commented that it would be helpful to have pre-convention meetings scheduled after all business matters before convention are published. Voting happened with red and green cards, and the resolution passed.

The Bishop invited Secretary Bill Spaid to read the courtesy resolutions which follow:

Resolved that this 145th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan offers its appreciation to the management and staff of The Crowne Plaza for their hospitality; and to Joan Smith and Robbie Schorle who worked faithfully on details too many to mention to facilitate this Convention.

Resolved that this 145th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan send our heartfelt appreciation to Thornapple Covenant Church for their hosting our Convention Eucharist.

Resolved that this 145th 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 145th 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 145th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan send greetings to The Rt. Rev. Cate Waynick, recently retired Bishop Provisional of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan; The Rt. Rev. Wendell N. Gibbs, Jr., Bishop of the Diocese of Michigan with congratulations on his approaching retirement; 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 145th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan send greetings and warm wishes to The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop, with prayers for his ministry as we all grow in The Way of Love.

Resolved that this 145th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan send greetings to The Most Rev'd Dr Justin Welby, and prayers for his ministry and leadership within our Communion.

Resolved that this 145th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan send greetings to the Standing Committee, diocesan staff, and people of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan and our thanks for the opportunity to share this dance.

Resolved that this 145th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan express its thanks to Dr. Lisa Kimball, for her inspiring message as speaker to this Convention and for her hopeful leadership into ways of love and deep formation.

Resolved that this 145th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan express our condolences to the families of Marjorie Bennison wife of the late Rt. Rev. Charles E Bennison, Canon Donalee Williams who was director of Music at the Cathedral of Christ the King for over 25 years, and Pat Kellogg who served as Bishop Lee's Diocesan Administrator for 15 years as we remember their presence and ministries with us.

Resolved that this 145th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan express its thanks to The Rev. Marilou Schlotterbeck for her many years of service as Archdeacon.

Resolved that this 145th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan express its thanks to Gennie Callard for 15 years of service to our diocese, for her fun, faithful approach to ministry with youth and for helping us be a church for all ages.

The courtesy resolutions were affirmed by acclamation.

The Bishop thanked retiring members of the Standing Committee Zachariah Char (Sudanese Grace, Grand Rapids) and Judy Fleener (St. Paul's, Muskegon); retiring members of Diocesan Council Barb Kelly (St. Philip's, Beulah), Cindy Nawrocki (St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids), and Tom Perrin (St. Martin's, Kalamazoo). He also thanked Rosemary Burke, St. Martin's, Kalamazoo, for three years as president of the Joint Disciplinary Board with the Dioceses of Michigan and Eastern Michigan.

Bill Fleener made an announcement about a farewell event for Gennie Callard at Camp Newago on November 16.

The Bishop thanked our camp counselors, the youth mentors for youth delegates, Robbie Shorle chairperson of the convention arrangements, Anne Davidson who organized the exhibition tables, Convention volunteers especially at registration and the tellers, and members of the Commission on Ministry.

Next year's convention will be a joint convention with the Diocese of Eastern Michigan to be held October 30-31, 2020 at the Lansing Convention Center with our guest speaker the Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church.

The Bishop closed convention with a prayer for the Church and the Convention was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William J. Spaid" followed by a small cross symbol.

The Rev. Canon William J. Spaid
Secretary