

Minutes of the Convention of the
Diocese of Western Michigan
held jointly with the Diocese of Eastern Michigan
Saturday October 31, 2020; beginning at 9:00 a.m.
in an on-line format

All of convention is available on Facebook at
<https://www.facebook.com/DioEastMich/videos/1058982521250227/>

Janet Huff-Worvie, President of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan, and co-chair of the convention welcomed delegates and visitors to the 146th Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan and the 26th Convention of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan. She expressed gratitude to all who gathered and planned for the first joint convention and the first on-line convention. On behalf of the dioceses, she expressed thanks to St. David's in Lansing for hosting the head table allowing us to gather and maintain appropriate COVID 19 precautions. She extended out appreciation to the Daughters of the King for their prayer ministry during convention. And finally, she expressed our deep gratitude to the Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, our Presiding Bishop, for joining us virtually as preacher and Keynote speaker. She also acknowledged his staff who have worked cooperatively with our planning committee.

Canon Katie Forsyth, Canon for Evangelism and Networking, explained some of the technical aspects of convention including the use of Election Runner, our voting software, and the poll function in ZOOM.

Convention worship was led by the Rev. Traci Little, rector of St. Jude's in Fenton. Music was provided by the Dr. Stephen White and the choir of St. Thomas in Battle Creek, and by musicians from Sudanese Grace Church in Grand Rapids. The dynamic preaching of Bishop Curry engaged our diocesan Community.

Following the morning worship, President Janet Huff-Worvie welcome people back to session and called on Bill Fleener, Jr., chancellor and parliamentarian, to report on a quorum. He reported that although we believe there is a quorum present not enough people participated in the election process to determine the quorum. Actions taken by convention will be authorized when the quorum is determined.

Chancellor Fleener also presented changes to the Rules of Order, which were presented in electronic format and discussed at pre-convention meetings. The Rev. Diane Pike, moved the adoption of the Rules of order, there was a second, and Rules were adopted via a ZOOM poll.

President Huff-Worvie called to order the first joint convention of the Episcopal Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan: the 26th annual Convention of the Diocese Eastern Michigan and the 146th annual convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan. Janet explained that The Canons of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan specifically call for the President of the Standing Committee to Chair Convention in the absence of a Bishop. She was serving in that role.

The Canons of the Diocese of Western Michigan, in the absence of a bishop, require the election of a clergy person to be Chair of convention. The joint Standing Committees, recognizing the need for a person to prepare for chairing the meeting, nominated the Reverend Jennifer Adams of Grace Episcopal Church in Holland, to serve as Chair for the Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan.

Jen has been attending the convention planning meetings and is present with the head table today to take on the duties of Chair for Western Michigan.

On behalf of the Joint Standing Committees, Chair Huff-Worvie nominated the Reverend Jennifer Adams, of Grace Church, Holland, to be the Chair of Convention for the Diocese of Western Michigan. There was a second to the motion and Canon Forsyth was asked to conduct a poll which elected the Rev. Jennifer Adams as Chair of the Convention for Western Michigan.

Canon Forsyth then answered questions about the voting process.

Chair Adams greeted the convention saying it was both a blessing and an adventure in this new electronic format, and that she was honored to serve and work with her co-chair Janet.

Chair Huff-Worvie nominated the convention secretaries, Angela Krueger and the Rev. Canon William Spaid. The nominations were supported and Canon Forsyth conducted polls which elected both Angela and Bill.

Chair Adams recognized Chancellor Fleener to speak to the process of joint resolutions. She then recognized Anne Davidson, Chair of the Resolutions Committee of Western Michigan and member of St. Mark's Coldwater, to present the first joint resolution calling for the Creation of an Assisting Bishop Position in the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan. (The text of the resolution is also found on page 47 of the Convention Booklet)

Resolved, that this Joint Convention of the Episcopal Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan create the position of a part-time Assisting Bishop, in accordance with Title III, Canon 12.9 (m) of the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, who will serve both dioceses with primary roles of teaching, preaching, pastoral care particularly to the clergy, providing sacramental rites, and advising the Standing Committees; and be it further

Resolved, that our Joint Convention urge the Standing Committees, under their authority as the Ecclesiastical Authority of each Diocese, to appoint an Assisting Bishop; and be it further

Resolved, that the Joint Standing Committees, as allowed by Canon, determine the work to be done by the Assisting Bishop and the ecclesiastical authority to be delegated to him or her, if any; and be it further

Resolved, that the Assisting Bishop's tenure shall continue until our dioceses have made a godly decision with regard to our future relationship with our current Bishop, with the possibility of the Assisting Bishop either being a shepherd to us in reconciliation with our Bishop or as a guide in a faithful separation from him and discernment of new beginnings for the Episcopal Church in the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan.

On Behalf of the Resolutions Committee, Anne moved its adoption.

Chair Adams opened the floor to discussion. The Rev. Jared Cramer, St. John's, Grand Haven, spoke in support and Laurie Atwater, St. Martin's, Kalamazoo called the question. A poll was conducted to end debate, which passed. The poll was administered which passed and adopted the resolution.

Convention went into recess until 11:00 when we reconvened to hear from our Presiding Bishop, the Most Reverend Michael B. Curry.

Chair Huff-Worvie welcomed people back and introduced Bishop Curry with these remarks:

We are honored and privileged to welcome the Most Reverend Michael Bruce Curry, our Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church. Bishop Curry was elected and subsequently installed by the 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, which took place

in Salt Lake City in 2015. Bishop Curry's ministry, whether as lay person, priest, Bishop of North Carolina, or Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, has been oriented around issues of social justice, including anti-violence, racial reconciliation, immigration, and marriage equality. He is lauded around the world for his ministry of preaching and teaching, having authored several books and articles and being a sought-after speaker for conferences, national media outlets, and, of course, royal weddings. Please join me in offering our welcome and humble thanks to our Presiding Bishop for his presence with us today.

Bishop Curry's remarks and the Question and Answer time are available on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/DioEastMich/videos/1058982521250227/>

Following the Keynote address Chair Huff-Worvie thanked the Presiding Bishop and Canon Forsyth for a life-giving conversation and announced that convention was going into recess with Eastern Michigan reconvening at 12:15 and Western Michigan at 1:15 for an afternoon business session related to their individual dioceses.

Chair Adams opened the afternoon session with a prayer and called the session to order.

The first item of business was to accept the minutes of the 2019 Diocesan Convention. The Rev. Jared Cramer moved their acceptance and supported by the Rev. Jodi Barron. A poll was conducted and they we unanimously accepted.

Chair Adams announced the Standing Committee's appointment of William Fleener, Jr. as Diocesan Chancellor.

Chair Adams nominated Dave Croal, St. Mark's Coldwater, to serve as Diocesan Treasurer. There was support from the Rev. Anne Schnaare and Isobel Kempton, St. Andrew's Big Rapids. A poll confirmed Dave as treasurer.

The next item of business was the election of Standing Committee members and a delegate to the Provincial Synod. Canon Forsyth was asked to administer a vote via Election Runner with the results to be reported in the late afternoon session.

The following people were elected to Diocesan Council at their respective regional pre-convention meetings, and were confirmed by Convention: the Rev. Jim Perra, Grace, Traverse City for the Northern Region; the Rev. Jared Cramer, St. John's, Grand Haven for the Central Region; and the Rev. Joel Turmo, St. Timothy's, Richland for the Southern Region.

Chair Adams recognized the Rev. Brian Coleman, St. Thomas, Battle Creek and board member of Plainsong Farm to introduce a motion recognizing Plainsong Farm as a cooperating ministry of the diocese. The text of the motion being:

Pursuant to Canon 15, Section 15.01, Plainsong Farm and Ministry having duly applied for designation as a cooperating ministry, and completed the canonical requirements for such an agreement, and having received approval for this designation by action of the Diocesan Council, I, on behalf of Plainsong Farm and Ministry's Board of Directors, therefore, move that this 146th Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan ratify that agreement making Plainsong Farm and Ministry a cooperating ministry of the Diocese of Western Michigan.

The motion was supported by the Rev. Molly Bossher, St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids and Jeff Brown, St. Mark's, Grand Rapids. There was brief discussion with questions and then Canon Forsyth was asked to administer a poll in which the motion was adopted.

Chair Adams recognized the Rev. Nurya Parish, Holy Spirit, Belmont and Executive Director of Plainsong Farm who thanked the convention for its support and announced that Plainsong Farm would be a learning site for the Episcopal Service Corp, a program for young adults 21-32 to volunteer for a year of service and to consider their vocation.

The Chair recognized Dave Croal, Diocesan Treasurer, to introduce the 2021 Diocesan Budget. Tammy Mazure, Chief Financial Officer of the diocese, was also given voice. Together they presented highlights of the budget and the budget process. Following discussion, Dave Croal moved the adoption of the budget did not need support because it was moved on behalf of a committee. Canon Forsyth was asked to administer a poll and the 2021 Diocesan Budget was adopted.

Chair Adams announced the appointment of the Rev. Alan James as Interim Canon Missioner for the Southern Region. She also recognized the Rev. Canons Val Ambrose and Anne Hallmark who sang their farewell to colleague Bill Spaid on the occasion of his retirement. A video tribute from Bill's colleagues and friends throughout the church followed. Canons Ambrose and Hallmark then introduced a courtesy resolution recognizing Bill's 34 years of ministry in the diocese and establishing the William J. Spaid Diocesan Service Award to be given by the Ecclesiastical Authority. Canon Forsyth was asked to conduct a poll and the resolution was unanimously adopted. Bill was then presented with a framed copy of the resolution and an icon from the Standing Committee written by committee member Anne Davidson, St. Mark's, Coldwater. Bill expressed his thanks and gratitude.

Chair Adams declared the convention in recess until 2:30 p.m.

Chair Janet Huff-Worvie called the joint session of convention to order at 2:30 and recognized Genevieve Field, co-chair of the Eastern Michigan Resolutions Committee and a member at St. Paul's, Flint, to present a joint resolution #2 about racial healing and equity. The text of the resolution is: The Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan resolve and affirm that black lives matter. (The secretary notes that important supplementary material related to the resolution appears in the convention booklet on page 50.) Because it was a committee motion no second was necessary. Discussion followed and Canon Forsyth was asked to administer a poll. The resolution was adopted.

Chair Huff-Worvie invited Canon Forsyth to show a presentation from the Revs. Jodi Barron, Western Michigan, and Lydia Speller, Eastern Michigan to report on the activities of the Joint Standing Committees of the dioceses. (The secretary notes that summaries of the Standing Committees' actions are available on the diocesan website.)

The results of the election held earlier in the day were announced:

Standing Committee lay members elected are Martha Bartlett, St. James, Pentwater and Dave Croal, St. Mark's, Coldwater

Standing Committee clergy member elected is the Rev. Randall Warren, St. Luke's, Kalamazoo

The lay delegates to Provincial Synod are Susan Mancarelli, Holy Trinity, Manistee and Bill Fleener, Jr., St. David's, Lansing

Chair Adams recognized members of the joint resolutions committee, the Rev. Nancy Mayhew, St. Alban's, Bay City and Anne Davidson, St. Mark's, Coldwater to present the following courtesy resolutions, all of which were adopted.

Resolved that this 26th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan and the 146th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan express our gratitude to the Convention Planning Committee members, Angela Krueger, Canon Bill Spaid, Catherine Cameron-Heldt, Joan Smith, Canon Katie Forsyth, McKenzie Knill, The Rev. Canon Michael Spencer, Missy Harrison, Robbie Schorle, Sara Philo, Tammy Mazure, The Rev. Dr. Valerie Fargo, Chancellor William Fleener, Janet Huff-Worvie, and The Rev. Jennifer Adams for extraordinary efforts in planning a first-ever joint virtual gathering of our dioceses.

Resolved that this 26th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan and the 146th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan express gratitude to Canon Katie Forsyth and the Zoom tech support volunteers for their assistance in addressing technological needs of individuals during convention.

Resolved that this 26th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan and the 146th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan express gratitude to The Rev. Dr. Valerie Fargo for her coordination of worship for this convention, and for those assisting: Officiant: The Rev. Tracie Little; Readers: The Rev. Michael Spencer, Youth of the Dioceses, and The Venerable Beth Drew; Musicians: Dr. Stephen White, members of the Choir of St. Thomas, Battle Creek, and Drummers from Sudanese Grace.

Resolved that this 26th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan and the 146th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan express gratitude to members of our Standing Committees for their faithful dedication and collaborative leadership in service to the people, mission, and ministry of our dioceses in their role as the Ecclesiastical Authority in the absence of a bishop.

Resolved that this 26th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan and the 146th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan express gratitude to all diocesan staff for going above and beyond the call of duty with abundant skill, diligence, and grace in the absence of a bishop.

Resolved that this 26th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan and the 146th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan send greetings to the Rt. Rev. Edwin M. Leidel, Jr., first Bishop of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan, and his wife, Ira Voigt Leidel; the Rt. Rev. S. Todd Ousley, second Bishop of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan, and his wife, Ann Schumann-Ousley; the Rt. Rev. Robert R. Gepert, eighth Bishop of the Diocese of Western Michigan and his wife, Anne Labat-Gepert; and the Rt. Rev. Edward L. Lee, Jr., seventh Bishop of the Diocese of Western Michigan and his wife, Kathryn.

Resolved that this 26th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan and the 146th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan send greetings to the Rt. Rev. Bonnie A. Perry, 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 26th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan and the 146th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan send greetings to the Rt. Rev. Wendell N. Gibbs, Jr. and his wife Karla upon his retirement as 10th Bishop of the Diocese of Michigan.

Resolved that this 26th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan and the 146th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan send greetings to the Rev. Craig Alan Satterlee, Bishop of the Northwest Lower Michigan Synod of the ELCA; The Rev. Dr. Donald P. Kreiss, Bishop of the Southeast Michigan Synod of the ELCA, and The Rev. Katherine A. Finegan, Bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the ELCA.

Resolved that this 26th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan and the 146th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan extend greetings to The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. We thank you for your spirit-filled words to our dioceses and for encouraging us to learn to live together peacefully and also to find ways to be “Bridge People.”

Resolved that this 26th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan and the 146th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan send greetings to The Most Rev. Dr. Justin Welby, and prayers for his ministry and leadership with our Communion.

Resolved that this 26th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan and the 146th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan send greetings to Whayne Hougland Jr. and Dana Hougland and express that we continue to hold them in our prayers.

Resolved that this 26th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan and the 146th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan extend greetings to Molly Girard upon her retirement as Diocesan Administrator of the Eastern Diocese, with appreciation for her 20 years of service. Molly had a tremendous gift for balancing fiscal prudence with God’s mission for the Church. Her wealth of knowledge, her engaging personality, and her heart for the work of the local church will be missed by all who know her well and who wish her a well-deserved and satisfying retirement.

Resolved that this 26th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan and the 146th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan send warm greetings and great appreciation to Dr. Ken Reid, who began the diocesan counseling program in 1970 to strengthen family life

and prevent individual and family breakdown through counseling, and to support clergy, congregations, and the ministries of the Diocese of Western Michigan, fostering healing growth and wholeness. We wish him the very best in his retirement.

Chair Adams announced that the 2021 joint convention will be held in person (we hope!) at the Lansing Center and Radisson Hotel at the Capitol on October 29-30, 2021.

The chairs each offered a prayer for the church.

The convention was adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Canon William J. Spaid