

Minutes of the Second Joint Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Eastern and Western Michigan

October 29-30, 2021

Lansing Center, Lansing, MI

Friday, October 29, 2022, at 1:30 pm

Joint Meeting

The canons of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan call for the President of the Standing Committee to chair the convention in the absence of the bishop. The canons of the Diocese of Western Michigan require the election of a clergy person to serve as the president pro tempore and chair the convention.

Janet Huff-Worvie, President of the Standing Committee of Eastern Michigan, calls the 27th Convention of Eastern Michigan and the 147th Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan to order. Lois Weed, a member of Trinity Three Rivers, led us in prayer.

Bill Fleener, Chancellor of the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan, was appointed parliamentarian.

Jessica Mancini was appointed as election secretary with seat and voice.

Bill Fleener noted that the Diocesan Council voted in September 2021 to grant congregations who have not yet submitted their audit seat, voice, and vote with the expectation that these audit reports will be submitted by the end of 2021. He reported that 97 of the 133 eligible lay delegates and 42 of the 77 eligible clergy delegates were present. The chair ruled that a quorum exists in both orders for the Diocese of Western Michigan.

The Standing Committee of the Diocese of Western Michigan recognized the need for a president pro tempore for Convention. They unanimously nominated the Reverend Dr. Randall Warren, Rector of St. Luke's, Kalamazoo, and President of the Standing Committee for the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan to serve in this position and co-chair of this joint convention.

The Rev. Dr. Warren was elected by a vote of the Diocese of Western Michigan delegates as president pro tempore and co-chair for the convention.

This year's convention theme, "Gathered in the Field", arose from our desire and practice of coming together to minister in creative and collaborative ways. All the delegates and in-person visitors were assigned to random tables before the convention. Fifteen minutes were taken to

have participants introduce themselves and describe their favorite part of Sunday morning church.

The Rev. Canon Allen James, Interim Canon Missioner for the Southern Region of the Diocese of Western Michigan introduced 25 minutes of table discussion related to our learning during the pandemic and how these experiences shaped how we move into the future.

Tanna LeClaire, member of Grace, Port Huron, and Facilitator of Holy Hikes Great Lakes shared about the Holy Hikes ministry.

The Rev. Canon Michael Spenser, Canon to the Ordinary, Diocese of Eastern Michigan shared about the Academy for Vocational Leadership and the Coppage-Gorden School for ministry.

The Rev. Nurya Love-Parish, Rector of Holy Spirit, Belmont and Executive Director of Plainsong Farm, and Ana West, Episcopal Service Corp member, shared about the work of Plainsong Farm, a Cooperating Ministry of the Diocese of Western Michigan.

McKenzie Knill, Director of Christian, Youth, and Young Adult Formation for both dioceses, and the Executive Director of Camp Chickagami offered a review of various camp offerings.

The Rev. Christian Baron, Co-Rector of St Philip's, Beulah, and Holy Trinity, Manistee shared about the Order of Naucratius. The Order of Naucratius is seeking final approval of the convention to be a Cooperating Ministry in the Diocese of Western Michigan.

Break

The Rev. Jodi Baron, Co-Rector of St. Philip's, Beulah and Holy Trinity, Manistee, Ellen McVey, St. John's Midland, and the Rev. Dr. Don Davidson, Interim Rector, St. Paul's Flint discussed the work on the Joint Building Bridges Committee. Time was given to complete feedback sheets that will assist the Committee in their work.

The Rev. Canon Val Ambrose, Canon Missioner for the Central Region of the Diocese of Western Michigan, and the Rev. Molly Bosscher, Rector, St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids discussed the work of the Joint Commission for the Dismantling of Racism. Time was given to discuss at each table.

Meeting went into recess for a dinner break.

Presidents' address and Compline.

Saturday, October 30, 2021, at 10:30 am

Western Michigan Business Meeting

Opening Prayer by The Rev. Dr. Warren.

Fleener stated that we continue to have a quorum. The Joint Rules of Order were adopted.

The Rev. Dr. Warren motioned and was seconded that for the benefit of the Convention and the ministry of the diocese, Lay members of Diocesan Council, Lay members of Standing Committee, Members of Diocesan Staff, Non-canonically clergy licensed and actively serving on a parish staff, Lutheran pastors serving in Episcopal congregations in the Diocese, Postulants, and Candidates for Holy Orders be granted seat and voice. The motion passed.

The Rev. Dr. Warren moved that the Rev Joel Turmo, St. Timothy's, Richland, serve as Secretary of Convention and was seconded. The Rev. Turmo was elected.

The Rev. Dr. Warren moved that David Croal, St. Mark's, Coldwater, serve as Treasure of the Dioceses and was seconded. Croal was elected.

The Rev. Dr. Warren moved that the Rev. Dr. Jared Cramer, St. John's, Grand Haven, serve as Assistant treasurer and was seconded. The Rev. Dr. Cramer was elected.

Marilee Roth, President of the Diocesan Episcopal Church Women, presented Dottie Hawthorne, and Emmanuel Petosky, with the Honored and Distinguished Women award.

The Rev. BJ Heyboer, St. Mark's Church, Newaygo, the chair of the Nominating Committee presented the slate of candidates for clergy and Lay members.

Two clergy were elected to Standing Committee:

The Rev. Eileen Stoffan, St. Paul's, Muskegon (97 Votes)

The Rev. Anne Schanaare, Trinity, Marshall (96 Votes)

Not Elected:

The Rev. Brian Coleman, St. Thomas, Battle Creek (94 Votes)

One lay person was elected to the Standing Committee:

Fred Skidmore, St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids (102 Votes)

Not Elected:

Roger York, St. Mark's, Grand Rapids (45 Votes)

The Rev. Dr. Warren reported that, per the canons, the following people were elected to serve three-year terms on Diocesan Council at their respective regional pre-convention meetings. The elections were confirmed by Convention.

For the Northern Region

Matthew Neddo - Emmanuel, Petoskey

The Rev. Radhajyoti Kaminski - St. Mary's, Cadillac and St. Andrew's, Big Rapids

For the Central Region

The Rev. Nurya Love Parish - Holy Spirit, Belmont

For the Southern Region

Judy Buchanan - Good Shepherd, Allegan

The Rev. Pat Vinge - St. Martin's, Kalamazoo

Resolutions

Anne Davidson, St. Marks Coldwater, chair of the Resolution Committee presented resolutions:

Resolution W-1, the closing of St. Stephen's, Plainwell passed with a show of cards.

Whereas the congregation of St. Stephen's, Plainwell was admitted into union with the Diocese of Western Michigan in 1958, and the same congregation by a majority vote of the congregation on July 11, 2021, now seeks to cease its ministry as of November 7, 2021 (All Saints' Sunday):

Be it resolved that this 147th Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan expresses its deep gratitude to the people of St. Stephen's for their faithful ministry to the local community and in the larger diocese;

Be it further resolved that effective November 7, 2021, St. Stephen's, Plainwell, be removed from the list of congregations in union with the Diocese of Western Michigan, without prejudice to subsequent reapplication; and

Be it further resolved that this Convention offers our heartfelt prayers and assistance to the members of St. Stephen's as they move through this time of transition, grief, and search for new spiritual homes in which they might worship God in prayer and action;

Finally, be it further resolved that we join with the neighboring congregations in wondering and discerning how the diocese might continue to offer an Episcopal presence in Plainwell and the surrounding communities following St. Stephen's closing.

Resolution W-2, the closing of St. Paul's Dowagiac passed with a show of cards.

Whereas the congregation of St. Paul's, Dowagiac was admitted into union with the Diocese of Western Michigan on June 8, 1915, and the same congregation by a majority vote of the congregation on September 12, 2021, now seeks to cease its ministry as of January 6, 2022 (Epiphany):

Be it resolved that this 147th Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan expresses its deep gratitude to the people of St. Paul's for their faithful ministry to the local community and in the larger diocese; and

Be it further resolved that effective January 6, 2022, St. Paul's, Dowagiac, be removed from the list of congregations in union with the Diocese of Western Michigan, without prejudice to subsequent reapplication; and

Be it further resolved that this Convention offers our heartfelt prayers and assistance to the members of St. Paul's as they move through this time of transition, grief, and search for new spiritual homes in which they might worship God in prayer and action;

Finally, be it further resolved that we join with the neighboring congregations in wondering and discerning how the diocese might continue to offer an Episcopal presence in Dowagiac and the surrounding communities following St. Paul's closing.

Resolution W-3, Affirming the Order of Naucratus as a Cooperating Ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan, as presented by the Diocesan Council, passed 97 yes and 3 no votes.

Whereas, the Order of Naucratus has duly applied for designation as a cooperating ministry and has completed the canonical requirements for such an agreement, and

Whereas, the Order of Naucratus has received approval for this designation by action of the Diocesan Council of Western Michigan at their meeting on July 17, 2021,

Be it resolved that this 147th Convention of The Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan, pursuant with Canon 15, Section 15.01, ratifies that agreement and recognizes the Order of Naucratus as a cooperating ministry of the Diocese of Western Michigan.

Canon Amendment W-A, Amending Canon 31.04, as presented by Fleener, passed 97 yes and 3 no votes.

Resolved, the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan amends Title I, Canon 31 Section 04, to read,

(k) Failure to implement diocesan policy regarding Safe Churches.

The existing canons 31.04 (k) - (m) are renumbered to (l) - (n), respectively.

Canon Amendment W-B, Amending Canon 7.01, as presented by Fleener, passed 99 yes and 1 no votes.

The Diocesan Council shall be composed of the bishop, a designated youth representative, four persons selected by each Mission Region and three persons nominated by the bishop and approved by the council. The bishop shall have the authority to appoint the designated youth representative on an annual basis or as vacancies arise. The representatives from each Mission Region must include at least one lay person and at least one member of the clergy. Representatives of Mission Regions may serve up to two consecutive three-year terms. If a Mission Region certifies to the bishop that it is unable to fill their allotted positions, the bishop shall fill the position with the approval of Standing Committee. If a Mission Representative is elected to serve an unexpired term that person may then serve two consecutive full terms following the completion of the unexpired term. Any appointed members serve a one year term and may be reappointed for up to three terms. The Chancellor, the Canon Missioners, *[all diocesan program staff,]* the chair of the Finance Committee, the clerk of council (unless a member of council), the ~~Bishop's Assistant for Finance~~ *[Chief Financial Officer and Benefits Administrator,]* and the treasurer and the assistant treasurer shall be ex-officio members of the Diocesan Council without vote.

The Rev. Dr. Warren introduced clergy new to the diocese.

The Rev. Cynthia Caruso, Rector, St. Augustine's, Benton Harbor
The Rev. Jim Enelow, Deacon, St. Augustine's, Benton Harbor
The Rev. Canon Alan James, Interim Canon Missioner for the Southern Region
The Rev. Sr. Diane L. Stier, Ph.D., Rector, St. John's, Mt. Pleasant
The Rev. Eileen Bowman Stoffan, Priest-in-Charge, St. Paul's, Muskegon
The Rev. Dr. Chrysanne Timm, Rector, St. Christopher's, Northport
The Rev. David Vickers, Priest-in-Charge, St. Paul's, Greenville
The Rev. Michael Wernick, Priest-in-Charge, Holy Trinity, Wyoming

The Rev. Dr. Warren shared the names of the clergy who retired or announced their retirement.

The Rev. John Autio, Pastor/Priest-in-Charge at St. Paul's, Greenville
The Rev. Rebecca Crise, Rector, St. Mark's, Paw Paw
The Rev. David Pike, Rector, St. David's, Lansing

The Rev. Diane Pike, Rector, Southwest Michigan Episcopal Covenant, leaving Dec. 31, 2021

The Rev. Canon Bill Spaid, Canon Missioner for the Southern Region

The Rev. Dr. Warren shared those individuals in the formation process.

Candidates for the Priesthood

Joanna Unangst St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids

Kurt Unangst St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids

Derek Quinn St. Barnabas, Portage

Postulants For Priesthood

Alex Quick, Grace, Grand Rapids

Alicia Hager St. John's, Grand Haven

Catherine Ray St. Mark's, PawPaw

Postulants for Diaconate

Trish Harris, St. Thomas, Battle Creek

Mark Kelley St. John's Grand Haven

Jim Mitchell St. Mark's Newaygo

Linda Scheerer St. Gregory's, Muskegon

Croal, Treasure, presented the 2022 Diocesan Operating Budget and it was approved with a show of cards.

Davidson, Chair of the Resolution Committee moved the adoption of a courtesy resolution. and was it approved with applause.

Whereas The Reverend Canon John Edward Crean, Junior, Oblate of Saint Boniface, Ph.D has been a priest of the Church for nearly five decades and faithfully served the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan and his congregation as Rector of St. Paul's, Grand Rapids; and

Whereas, he was honored as Dean Emeritus of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan for his commitment to developing ministries within congregations; and

Whereas, he mentored and instructed students at Yale University, the University of Hawaii, the University of Wisconsin and Grand Valley State University in learning German and appreciating the nuances and influences of languages in shaping cultures; and

Whereas, as an Oblate of Saint Boniface Benedictine Abbey in Munich, Germany, he has published numerous articles and books on integrating the spiritual principles of forgiveness, gratitude, discipline and love as a path toward one's recovery and enhancing one's wellbeing; and

Whereas, John Crean III has immense admiration, respect and love for his father; and

Whereas, he has enjoyed considerable success in his entrepreneurial undertakings; and

Whereas, John Edward Crean III wishes to honor his father's creativity, wisdom and devotion to strengthening the witness and service of congregations within the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan; now therefore be it

Resolved, that the 147th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan acknowledges the very generous contribution of John Edward Crean III in honor of the faith and ministry of his father, The Rev. Canon John Edward Crean, Junior, Oblate Saint Boniface, Ph. D.; and be it further

Resolved, this 147th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan does hereby establish the John Crean Congregational Development Fund to augment current and proposed ministry programs of parishes within the diocese; and be it further

Resolved, that this 147th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan enthusiastically and with immense gratitude expresses our appreciation to John Edward Crean III and John Edward Crean, Junior for ensuring the health and vitality of current and future congregations of this diocese as their members strive to live out their baptismal covenant to seek and serve Christ in all persons, respect the dignity of every human being, and strive for justice and peace among all people.

The Rev. Canon Alan James made announcements.

The Rev. Warren declared the Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan was in recess until 2:30 pm when we met in a joint session with the Dioceses of Eastern Michigan.

Saturday, October 30, 2021, at 2:30 pm

Joint Business Meeting

The Rev. Dr. Warren calls the joint session of the Diocese of Eastern and Western Michigan Convention back to order.

The Venerable Linda Crane, Archdeacon of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan offered an opening prayer.

Resolutions

Resolution J-1, A Joint Resolution on Ballot Access, as presented by the Rev. Nancy Mayhew, Dioceses of Eastern Michigan passed in the Diocese of Western Michigan with 95 yes and 5 no votes and passed in the Diocese of Eastern Michigan with 59 yes and 2 no votes.

Be it resolved that this joint convention of the Episcopal Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan affirms the sacred right of all eligible voters to have free and unrestricted access to the ballot.

Resolution J-2, For the Election of a Bishop Provisional, as submitted by Standing Committees of Eastern and Western Michigan and presented by Davidson, passed in the Diocese of Western Michigan with 133 yes and 0 no votes and passed in the Diocese of Eastern Michigan with 117 yes and 3 no votes.

Resolved, The Diocese of Eastern Michigan, acting at its 27th Annual Convention, and the Diocese of Western Michigan, acting at its 147th Annual Convention, elect Bishop Prince G. Singh to serve as Bishop Provisional, contingent upon both dioceses having elected Bishop Singh to serve as Bishop Provisional.

The Rt. Rev. Prince G. Singh addressed the convention.

The Rev Mayhew and Davidson presented the courtesy resolutions and they are received with applause.

Huff-Worvie announced that the third joint convention, the 28th Convention of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan, and the 148th Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan will be held at the Lansing Center, in Lansing, Michigan on Oct 28-29, 2022.

Huff-Worvie moved to adjourn this 27th Convention of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan and 147th Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan it was seconded and passed by a voice vote.

The convention was closed with the singing of the Doxology.