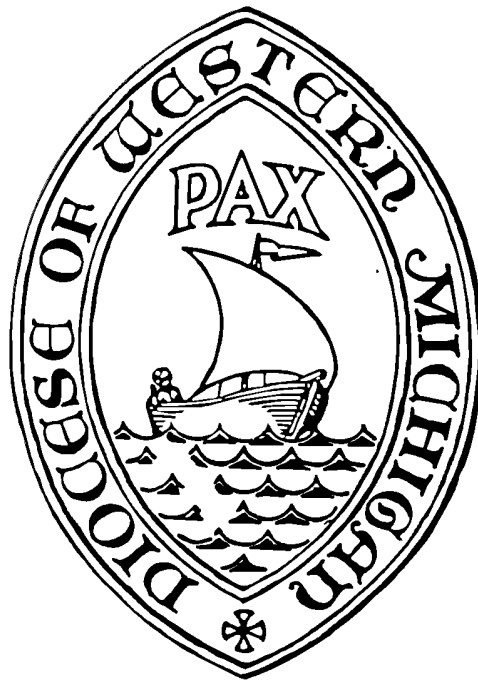


**JOURNAL 2020**

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



**EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN**

**2020**  
**JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS**  
**of the**  
**146th Annual Convention**  
**of the Diocese of Western Michigan of the Episcopal Church**  
**which met online**  
**Saturday**  
**October 31, 2020**

**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.

Official Acts  
The Rt. Rev. Wayne Hougland  
2020

Visitations: 6

Funerals: 1

Compline (Facebook Live): 1

Facebook Live Sunday Prayer: 12

Name	Member Status	EDWM CR Date	Status
Adams, The Rev. Jennifer L. (Jen)	Priest	06/11/1994	CR
Allard, The Rev. Bradley R. (Brad)	Deacon	11/19/2005	CR
Ambrose, The Rev. Canon Valerie T. (Val)	Priest	09/03/2003	CR
Anei, The Rev. Abraham	Deacon	12/09/2006	CR
Baron, The Rev. Christian J.	Priest	12/20/2014	CR
Baron, The Rev. Jodi L.	Priest		CR
Baron, The Rev. Jodi	Priest	12/20/2014	CR
Bartlett, The Rev. Stephen I. (Steve)	Priest	10/01/1999	CR
Bell, The Rev. John Michael (Mike)	Priest	06/03/2010	CR
Bennett, The Rev. Dale	Deacon	11/18/2008	CR
Berghuis O.P., The Rev. Michael Robert	Deacon	06/30/2018	CR
Boscher, The Rev. Molly	Priest	11/14/2019	CR
Breakey, The Rev. Pamela J. (Pam)	Priest	03/02/2000	CR
Brinkmoeller, The Rev. Leonard J.	Priest	01/12/1994	CR
Brocato, The Rev. Dr. Christian	Priest		CR
Brower, The Rev. David	Priest	09/30/2006	CR
Brower, The Rev. Katherine M. (Kathy)	Deacon	05/07/1994	CR
Burke, The Rev. Celine A.	Priest	10/15/2001	CR
Carter III, The Rev. Lander L.	Priest	08/29/1989	CR
Char, The Rev. Zachariah	Priest	12/09/2006	CR
Clark, The Rev. Richard N.	Priest	04/10/1986	CR
Coleman, The Rev. Brian R.	Priest	03/04/2009	CR
Comer, The Rev. Harold L. (Skip)	Priest	03/05/1998	CR
Cramer, The Rev. Dr. Jared	Priest	02/03/2010	CR
Crise, The Rev. Rebecca	Priest	03/01/2008	CR
Dancer, The Rev. Sr. Kathleen Ruth	Priest	02/19/1993	CR
David, The Rev. John S.	Priest	01/01/1995	CR
Davidson, The Rev. Donald F.	Priest		CR
Dorrien, The Rev. Gary J.	Priest	08/03/1987	CR
Draeger, Jr., The Rev. Walter R.	Priest	09/11/1990	CR
Drew, The Rev. Beth	Deacon	06/21/2008	CR
Dukes, The Rev. Lynne	Priest	02/09/2001	CR
Durren, The Rev. Paula E.	Priest	05/26/2002	CR
Ebmbeiser, The Rev. D. Edward (Ed)	Priest	06/01/1976	CR
English, The Rev. John L.	Priest	01/15/1963	CR
Evans, The Rev. Aaron	Priest	10/23/2009	CR
Fedewa, The Rev. Michael C. (Mike)	Priest	09/23/1992	CR
Finn, The Rev. Patrick Shawn (Pat)	Priest	02/02/2015	CR
Fleener Sr, The Rev. William J. (Bill)	Priest	07/01/1971	CR
Flentje, The Rev. Dr. Gregory Laurence	Deacon	01/14/2015	CR
Fout, The Rev. Jason A.	Priest	01/03/2002	CR
Frens, The Rev. Mary J.	Priest	06/17/2000	CR
Fulton, The Rev. Nancy C.	Deacon	09/27/1997	CR
Gockerman, The Rev. Jan	Deacon	06/30/2018	CR
Green, The Rev. Patricia A.	Priest	05/29/2001	CR
Guback, The Rev. Dr. Thomas H.	Priest	05/27/2000	CR
Hallmark, The Rev. Canon Anne	Priest	01/10/2019	CR

Name	Member Status	EDWM CR Date	Status
Hamp, The Rev. Dr. Gary D.	Priest	03/05/2014	CR
Harris, The Rev. Ladd K.	Priest	02/15/1995	CR
Haughn, The Rev. Terry L.	Priest	10/01/1992	CR
Hector, Jr., The Rev. J. Robert	Priest	09/01/1987	CR
Heyboer, The Rev. B J	Priest	06/11/2016	CR
Hills, The Rev. John B.	Priest	08/15/1965	CR
Holmgren, The Rev. Stephen	Priest	11/24/2007	CR
Homeyer, The Rev. Charles F.	Priest	04/01/1980	CR
Homeyer, The Rev. Peter C. (Pete)	Priest		CR
Hoop, The Rev. Kimberly A. (Kim)	Deacon	11/16/1996	CR
Hotra, The Rev. Nancy L.	Priest	06/21/1997	CR
Houck, The Rev. Kay	Priest	08/18/2020	CR
Hueschen, The Rev. Micheal	Deacon		CR
Hunt, The Rev. Canon Meredith	Priest	01/26/2005	CR
Idema III, The Rev. Dr. Henry	Priest	09/01/1987	CR
Inman, Jr., The Rev. John W.	Priest	02/23/1992	CR
Johnson, The Rev. Dr. Jay Emerson	Priest	09/01/2020	CR
Kelley, The Rev. Carlton F.	Priest	10/01/2012	CR
Kelly, The Rev. Karen J.	Priest	04/05/2017	CR
Kirkman, The Rev. John R.	Priest	01/04/1983	CR
Klein, The Rev. Everett H.	Priest	12/01/2001	CR
Kountze, The Rev. Louise	Priest	01/01/1990	CR
Kuhn, The Rev. Darlene M.S.	Priest	06/16/2012	CR
Lawlor, The Rev. Jay	Priest	08/30/2009	CR
Marx, The Rev. Lily	Priest	06/10/2006	CR
McCabe III, The Rev. Charles P.	Priest	01/30/1990	CR
McDonald, The Rev. Karon L.	Deacon	04/04/2001	CR
McPherson, The Rev. Thomas (Thom)	Deacon	06/21/2018	CR
Meengs, The Rev. John R.	Deacon	06/15/2002	CR
Meyers, The Rev. David C.	Priest	05/03/1986	CR
Mikaya, The Very Rev. Henry C.	Priest	06/27/1996	CR
Murphy, The Rev. William M.	Priest	09/30/1989	CR
Nattermann, The Rev. Margaret (Peggy)	Priest	12/21/1990	CR
Nawrocki, The Rev. Cindy	Deacon	09/20/2003	CR
Nicholson, The Rev. Wayne	Priest	09/26/2006	CR
Nickerson, The Rev. Audra M.	Deacon	05/03/1986	CR
Novitsky, The Rev. Nicholas (Nick)	Deacon	06/21/2008	CR
O'Dell, The Rev. Thomas Peyton (Tom)	Priest	10/14/2014	CR
Parish, The Rev. Nurya Love	Priest	12/03/2011	CR
Pearson, The Rev. Wendy	Deacon	08/03/2020	CR
Perra, The Rev. James	Priest	09/24/2020	CR
Perrin, The Rev. Mary E.	Priest	04/22/2001	CR
Phares, The Rev. Nicholas Isaac (Nick)	Priest		CR
Pike, The Rev. David R.	Priest	06/05/1982	CR
Pike, The Rev. Diane M.	Priest	10/18/2018	CR
Potts, The Rev. Matthew	Priest	12/21/2008	CR
Reishus, The Rev. John W.	Priest	01/11/1976	CR

Name	Member Status	EDWM CR Date	Status
Rutenbar, The Rev. LaRae J.	Priest	09/09/1994	CR
Schark, The Rev. Frederick (Rick)	Priest	10/28/2013	CR
Schiesler, The Rev. Canon Dr. Robert A.	Priest	05/17/2007	CR
Schlotterbeck, The Venerable Marilou J.	Deacon	08/06/1994	CR
Schnaare, The Rev. Anne Elizabeth	Priest	04/03/2012	CR
Scott, The Rev. Thomas C. H.	Priest	05/12/2009	CR
Sherfick, The Rev. Kenneth L.	Priest	08/23/1984	CR
Shriver, The Rev. Domingo F. (Mick)	Priest	04/16/2014	CR
Smith, The Rev. Mary Bonnie (Bonnie)	Deacon	04/05/1992	CR
Smith, The Rev. William H.	Priest	04/05/1997	CR
Spaid, The Rev. Canon William J. (Bill)	Priest	10/19/1987	CR
Spangenberg, The Rev. Carol A.	Priest	01/23/1997	CR
Steen, The Rev. S. James (Jim)	Priest		CR
Sten, The Rev. Pam	Priest	01/03/2008	CR
Stier E.C., The Rev. Sr. Diane (Diane)	Priest	05/27/2017	CR
Stiffler, The Rev. Linnea Ruth Peterson	Priest	12/22/2012	CR
Stoffan, The Rev. Eileen	Transitional Dea		CR
Stoppel, The Rev. Dr. G. Corwin (Cory)	Priest	01/29/1990	CR
Stravers, The Rev. Richard L.	Priest	12/06/1986	CR
Tillman, The Rev. Christine W.	Deacon	05/03/1986	CR
Turmo, The Rev. Joel L.	Priest	08/08/2012	CR
VanderBrug, Ms. Abby Leigh	Transitional Dea		CR
VanValkenburgh, The Rev. William B.	Priest	03/01/1981	CR
Vinge, The Rev. Patricia (Pat)	Deacon	06/30/2018	CR
Wagner, The Rev. Barbara J.	Deacon	12/13/2000	CR
Walton, The Rev. Robert H.	Priest	03/01/1976	CR
Warren, The Rev. Dr. Randall R.	Priest	02/08/2012	CR
Wernick, The Rev. Michael Alan (Mike)	Priest	10/05/2011	CR
White, The Rev. Warner C.	Priest	01/15/1977	CR
Whiting, The Rev. William R.	Priest	05/17/2005	CR
Williams, The Rev. Glen P.	Priest	09/01/1963	CR
Wolterstorff, The Rev. Claire K.	Priest	11/16/1986	CR
Wood, The Rev. Michael (Mike)	Priest		CR
York, The Rev. Susan (Sue)	Priest	06/22/1996	CR

**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 146<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan and the 26<sup>th</sup> 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 Bosscher, 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 Love 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 Wayne 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

The 26th & 146th Conventions of Eastern and Western Michigan



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THE FIRST JOINT CONVENTION OF  
**THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESES OF  
EASTERN & WESTERN MICHIGAN**

October 31, 2020 - Online

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# WELCOME

**Dear friends and colleagues,**

This year has brought and will continue to bring us new experiences, including the first joint convention of our beloved dioceses and the first online convention experience for us all.

We are grateful that, in the midst of a pandemic, we have the tools, technology, and expertise to connect all of our nearly 100 parishes and nearly 400 delegates and clergy for our convention on October 31, 2020.

We are also grateful to all of our parishes and their leadership for navigating all of the changes to the “way we’ve always done it” and following the careful instructions to make this convention run smoothly and appropriately for the requirements set by our diocesan and church-wide canons. This year’s convention will continue to demand of us all continued patience and love of neighbor (and their technological devices).

Leaders across our church have reminded us - while this year has us gathering in ways that our forebears could never have imagined, a half-century from now, the technological tools used to forward the mission of the church are unimaginable to us. But the commandment to love our neighbor will always be true and never beyond imagination.

Thank you for joining us. Thank you for your willingness to try something new.

**Peace be with you,**

**The Convention Planning Team**

# ONLINE CONVENTION AT A GLANCE

**ABOUT VOTING** - Delegates and clergy will receive a separate email from “ElectionRunner” when polls are open for our elections and any resolutions not voted on by acclamation. This platform enables us to conduct official and secure votes. Please vote within the communicated time window in order for your vote to be registered.

## TERMS TO REMEMBER

*Delegate* - Delegates are elected by their congregations to serve in this role and have the ability to vote during the convention.

*ElectionRunner* - Our voting software. You will receive an invitation to the email address provided with your registration when the voting window opens. You may receive multiple emails from the platform, including at least one ballot for elections.

*Panelist* - This is what Zoom Webinar calls the people on-screen at any given time. During the business meetings, this will include the Convention Chairs, the Chancellor, and the Secretaries. If you raise your hand to speak to a resolution and have been recognized by the chair, you will be transitioned over to a “panelist” to speak to the convention. You will be removed as a panelist after you are finished speaking, or after the allotted time has run out.

*Raise Hand* - Use the Zoom “Raise Hand” feature to indicate you’d like to speak during debate. The system registers the order in which delegates have raised their hands to be recognized by the chair accordingly. You can find this under the “Participants” tab of the Zoom webinar.

*Visitor* - Visitors are able to register for the convention. They have voice, but no vote. Visitors without a role in the convention are encouraged to watch the livestream on our Facebook pages instead.

*Poll* - To record easy votes, like votes of acclamation, we will either use the “Raise Hand” feature or run a quick poll within the Zoom platform.

# QUICK RESOURCES

Convention Information on our Diocesan Websites:

- [www.eastmich.org/convention](http://www.eastmich.org/convention)
- [www.edwm.org/convention](http://www.edwm.org/convention)

Tech Support:

- **Tech Support Line:** 616-425-9072
- **Tech Support Email:** [hkurzawa@eastmich.org](mailto:hkurzawa@eastmich.org)  
Please email with questions specific to voting with ElectionRunner.
- **Zoom Drop-In Tech Support Room:**  
Meeting ID: 840 8714 1852  
Password: EMWM2020  
Direct Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84087141852>

Continuing the conversation on social media? Use #emwm2020.

# LOG OF UPDATES

- 10/1 - Booklet published to diocesan websites
- 10/16 - Added items: In Memoriam, Ministry Reports, Meeting links for Zoom; Updated Items: WM Nominations, Schedule, Worship Bulletin, Rules of Order
- 10/19 - Minor updates to In Memoriam, worship bulletin, reports; general formatting
- 10/21 - Corrections to the In Memoriam
- 10/28 - Added section - Appointments & Transitions; Updated Items: Tech Support, Schedule

# SCHEDULE

9:00 AM	<b>Opening Worship - Morning Prayer with the Presiding Bishop</b>  <i>Zoom Webinar for All Morning Sessions</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Meeting ID: 850 8168 2909</li> <li>● Passcode: EMWM2020</li> <li>● Direct Link: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85081682909">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85081682909</a></li> </ul>
9:45 AM	<b>Welcome, Opening Joint Business Meeting</b>
10:45 AM	<b>Break</b>
11:00 AM	<b>Keynote Address with the Presiding Bishop and Q&amp;A</b> <i>Submit questions live or ahead of time to <a href="mailto:kforsyth@eastmich.org">kforsyth@eastmich.org</a>.</i>
12:00 PM	<b>Break</b>
12:15 PM	<b>Eastern Michigan Business Meeting (WM is on Break)</b>  <i>Zoom Webinar - EM Afternoon Session</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Meeting ID: 844 7336 8697</li> <li>● Passcode: EMWM2020</li> <li>● Direct Link: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84473368697">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84473368697</a></li> </ul> <i>Supplemental materials may be found at <a href="http://eastmich.org/convention">eastmich.org/convention</a></i>
1:00 PM	<b>Break</b>
1:15 PM	<b>Western Michigan Business Meeting (EM is on Break)</b>  <i>Zoom Webinar - WM Afternoon Session</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Meeting ID: 874 1103 9736</li> <li>● Passcode: EMWM2020</li> <li>● Direct Link: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87411039736">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87411039736</a></li> </ul> <i>Supplemental materials may be found at <a href="http://edwm.org/convention">edwm.org/convention</a></i>
2:00 PM	<b>Break</b>
2:15 PM	<b>Joint Business Meeting</b>  <i>Zoom Webinar - Afternoon Joint Session</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Meeting ID: 819 2694 8611</li> <li>● Passcode: EMWM2020</li> <li>● Direct Link: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81926948611">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81926948611</a></li> </ul>
5:00 PM	<b>Adjournment</b>

\* Zoom links should only be used by those who have registered for the Convention.

# CONVENTION LEADERSHIP

## CONVENTION

Chair, *Eastern Michigan*  
Chair, *Western Michigan*  
Secretary, *Eastern Michigan*  
Secretary, *Western Michigan*  
Chancellor & Parliamentarian  
Treasurer, *Eastern Michigan*  
Assistant Treasurer, *Western Michigan*  
Nominations Chair, *Eastern Michigan*  
Resolutions Co-Chairs, *Eastern Michigan*  
  
Resolutions Chair, *Western Michigan*  
Additional members of the Planning Committee

Janet Huff-Worvie; St. John's, Otter Lake\*  
The Rev. Jen Adams; Grace, Holland\*  
Angela Krueger; EM Diocesan Staff\*  
The Rev. Canon Bill Spaid; WM Diocesan Staff\*  
Bill Fleener, Jr.; St. David's, Lansing\*  
Michael Turnbull; Holy Family, Blue Water  
Dave Croal; St. Mark's, Coldwater  
The Rev. Canon Michael Spencer; EM Dio Staff\*  
The Rev. Nancy Mayhew; St. Alban's, Bay City  
Genevieve Field; St. Paul's, Flint  
Anne Davidson; St. Mark's, Coldwater  
Joan Smith, Grace, Holland\*  
Roberta Schorle, Grace, Holland\*

## DIOCESAN STAFF

### Shared Staff Members

Canon for Evangelism & Networking  
Director of Children, Youth, & YA Formation  
Communications Assistant

Canon Katie Forsyth\*  
McKenzie Knill\*  
Hunter Kurzawa

### Eastern Michigan

Canon to the Ordinary  
Director of the Coppage-Gordon School for Min.  
Financial Manager  
Assistant to the Bishop

The Rev. Canon Michael Spencer\*  
The Rev. Dr. Valerie Fargo\*  
Sara Philo\*  
Angela Krueger\*

### Western Michigan

Canon Missioner for the Northern Region  
Canon Missioner for the Central Region  
Canon Missioner for the Southern Region  
Chief Financial Officer & Benefits Administrator  
Diocesan Office Administrator

The Rev. Canon Anne C. Hallmark  
The Rev. Canon Valerie Ambrose  
The Rev. Canon William Spaid\*  
Tammy Mazure\*  
Catherine Cameron-Heldt\*

\*Denotes members of the Convention Planning Committee.

# IN MEMORIAM

Remembering the faithful departed, October 2019-September 2020

*O God, the King of saints, we praise and magnify thy holy Name for all thy servants who have finished their course in thy faith and fear; for the blessed Virgin Mary; for the holy patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs; and for all thy righteous servants, known to us and unknown; and we beseech thee that, encouraged by their examples, aided by their prayers, and strengthened by their fellowship, we may also be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; through the merits of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

---

**St. James, Albion**

Wanda Hedgcock  
Willette "Willie" M Culp  
Dolores J Sandusky

**Good Shepherd, Allegan**

Gretchen Wedge  
Amber Diaz

**Trinity, Alpena**

Elbert Heath  
Carl Pilarski  
Avis Hinks  
David Goodburne  
Thomas Ritter

**St. Mark's, Atlanta**

Patricia Hopkins

**St. Thomas, Battle Creek**

Shirley Hibbard  
Karen Jean Suggs  
Ernest David Varga  
Randall Kopf  
Franklin E. Shaw  
Gladys Holstrom  
Jerry Peterson  
Katie Robertson

**Trinity, Bay City**

Peggy Finn  
Jean Ford  
Bob Hartley  
Bob Kemmer  
George Middleton  
Milly Owen  
Mike Royer

Jim Swanson

Bob Traxler

**Holy Spirit, Belmont**

Helen Little  
Helen Venting Baker

**St. Philip's, Beulah**

Herb Baker

**St. Andrew's, Big Rapids**

Vivian Tanner  
Doreen Estes  
Alene Moore  
St. John's, Fremont  
James Pinnell

**Nativity, Boyne City**

Diane Grigg  
Genevieve Varnum

**St. Mary's, Cadillac**

Libby Maxwell

**Christ Church, Charlevoix**

Monsie Cameron  
Gary Schafer

**St. Paul's, Corunna**

Marilyn Jones  
Richard Lewis

**St. Paul's, Dowagiac**

Mrs. Peggy Mulvaney  
Gale Proshwitz

**St. Paul's, Elk Rapids**

Mary Elizabeth Bailey  
David James Larkin  
Coral Sington

**St. Paul's, Flint**

Gerrit Cates  
Jackie Elliott  
Mary Paula Grimes  
Michelle Kotzian  
Jane Quin  
Bryan Ryder  
John Sargis  
Jim Schaefer  
Mary Smith  
Jack Wiltz

**Trinity, Flushing**

Anne James  
Tom McNally

**St. John's, Fremont**

James Pinnell

**St. Christopher's, Grand Blanc**

Mary Stewart

**St. John's, Grand Haven**

Dana M Gezon  
David R Greer  
Dennis W Marzec  
Jamie C Mitchell  
Edward W Switzer

**Trinity, Grand Ledge**

Linda E Raymond

**Grace, Grand Rapids**

Alice J. Porter Landis

**St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids**

Dorsey Devou Bingham  
Carole Ann Cothran  
Eugene William Debevic  
Michele Kathleen Debevic  
Ronald Earl Gould  
Patricia Ann Hall  
William Mahlon Riley  
Alice Georgina Velte  
Theodore John Wietke

**St. Mark's, Grand Rapids**

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Ms. Sharon Buursma  
Mr. Burr McGrath  
Mrs. Patricia Hoxie  
Mr. Leigh Strodtman  
Mrs. Joyce Krushinsky  
Mrs. Mandy Heidenreich  
Mr. Andrew Heidenreich  
Mrs. Doris Olsen

**St. Francis, Grayling**

Tina Foster

**Mediator, Harbert**

Glyn Durston  
The Rev. Charles F. Frandsen  
Jack Earl Norris  
Carolyn Kruse

**Emmanuel, Hastings**

Drucilla Sue Babcock  
Phyllis Buxton Coon  
Kathryn Rhea Finnie  
Patricia L. LecKrone  
Virginia Aiken Lewis  
Gerald LeRoy Pattok  
Sandra Lee Pattok

**St. Elizabeth's, Higgins Lake**

Gloria Patterson

**Grace, Holland**

Sarah Parker  
Vada Rosenberger

Sally Corneliussen

**Transfiguration, Indian River**

The Rev. Audrey Bauer  
William Stanley Train

**St. Luke's, Kalamazoo**

Gloria Jean Carlson  
Mary Hickey Goss  
Edward Hager  
Arthur Helweg  
Carol Adair Houser  
Marilyn Jacobs  
Kathleen Tosco  
Maria Alberta Van Sweden

**St. Martin's, Kalamazoo**

Phil Mange  
Lynne McGuire  
Charlie Stanski

**Two Churches, Kentwood**

Laura M. Fyffe  
Sara Hobart Homeyer  
Annette Rabb

**St. David's, Lansing**

Nancy E. Howard  
Michael Kim Benoit  
Richard A. Homer  
Neysa A. Vine Smith  
Wilma (Wink) Ewing  
Randy L. Chase  
Gloria Bastian  
Jessica Leigh

**Grace, Ludington**

Robert Raymond  
Marge Dahlberg

**Trinity, Niles**

Rollyn Kenneth Gentry  
Marcia Mason  
Mamie Jean Okeke  
Jerry Carl Rossow  
Shelly Gentry Teeter

**St. Christopher's, Northport**

John Kutilek

**Holy Trinity, Manistee**

George William Paine

**Trinity, Marshall**

Suzy Cowgill  
Judy Huff  
Pat Hill

**St. John's, Midland**

Emmy Bork  
Jeanne Broddle  
Odette Foster-Yanka  
Marilyn Holder  
Marjorie King  
Miye Komachi  
Roy Komachi  
Toni Lyon  
Roger Markell  
Betty Morden  
Gloria Olson  
Jack Savage  
Helen Schaper  
Karen Tafel  
Catherine Teal  
Jeanne Watt

**St. Bartholomew's, Mio**

Sylvia Guilds

**St. John's, Mt Pleasant**

Albert Neal  
Robert Ohler  
Allen Salmonsens  
Richard Wood

**St. Gregory's, Muskegon**

Robert Sanders Cleveland  
Carl "Bill" William Hanichen  
Scott W. Manak  
Mary L. Closz

**St. Paul's, Muskegon**

The Rev. John H. Brown

**St. Mark's, Paw Paw**

The Rev. Richard Adams  
Lee Allen

**St. James, Pentwater**

Richard Peter Beneicke, Jr.  
 Donald Gaylord Griffis  
 John Joseph Webber  
 Robert Pettibone Gilbert, Jr.

**Emmanuel, Petoskey**

Thomas Lee Hammill  
 Mary Margaret Landi  
 Kathleen McGeath  
 Charlene Ann Merritt  
 Elizabeth Ann Need  
 Janet Lee Smith

**Grace, Port Huron**

Mary Walker  
 Marilyn E Campbell  
 Leslie L Buckley  
 Nancy Mowat Warner  
 Elizabeth Turner  
 Lawrence C Smith  
 Larry S Babin  
 Marilyn Telfer  
 Mark A Sokoloff

Neil E Gilmore  
 JoAnn M Eldredge  
 Michael W Gruver, Sr.

**St. Timothy's, Richland**

Mrs. Mary Jane "Jari"  
 Pulford  
 Mr. Preston S. Parish  
 Mrs. Alice B. Fish  
 Mr. Valdis 'Val' A. Ozolins

**St. John's, Saginaw**

Keith Birdsall  
 Diane Grigg  
 Mark Mahlberg  
 Christopher Renna  
 Victoria Srinivasan  
 Sallie Swanson

**All Saints, Saugatuck**

Marilyn Bamborough  
 Dorothy Batema  
 Mary Ann Curtis  
 Bob Gaunt

Frank Knoop  
 Vada Rosenberger

**Epiphany, South Haven**

Mrs. Ronnee Jean Harrell  
 Mrs. Betty Cook

**St. Paul's, St. Joseph**

Dolores Sykora  
 Dr. Anthony Palmer

**St. John's, Sturgis**

Jane Hughes  
 The Rev. Deacon Floyd  
 Kunce  
 Larry Kelsey

**Grace, Traverse City**

Lucie Clay Heller  
 Randall L. Kopf  
 Kathleen Ellen Matzkows  
 Michael D. McManus  
 Joan Moore  
 Florence Neuman

## CONVENTION WORSHIP

### MORNING PRAYER - RITE II

*You are no longer strangers and sojourners, but citizens together with the saints and members of the household of God. Ephesians 2:19*

## **Prelude**

### **The Invitatory and Psalter**

Lord, open our lips.

**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia.**

Our God is glorious in all the saints;

**O come, let us worship.**

### **Venite      Psalm 95:1-7**

Come, let us sing to the Lord; \*

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving \*

and raise to the Lord a shout with psalms.

For you are a great God; \*

you are great above all gods.

In your hand are the caverns of the earth, \*

and the heights of the hills are yours also.

The sea is yours, for you made it, \*

and your hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down and bend the knee, \*

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For you are our God,

and we are the people of your pasture and the sheep of your hand. \*

Oh, that today we would hearken to your voice!

Our God is glorious in all the saints;

**O come, let us worship.**

### **Psalm 34:1-10, 22**

I will bless the Lord at all times;

his praise shall ever be in my mouth.

I will glory in the Lord;

let the humble hear and rejoice.

Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord;

let us exalt his Name together.

I sought the Lord, and he answered me

and delivered me out of all my terror.

Look upon him and be radiant,  
and let not your faces be ashamed.  
I called in my affliction and the Lord heard me  
and saved me from all my troubles.  
The angel of the Lord encompasses those who fear him,  
and he will deliver them.  
Taste and see that the Lord is good;  
happy are they who trust in him!  
Fear the Lord, you that are his saints,  
for those who fear him lack nothing.  
The young lions lack and suffer hunger,  
but those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good.  
The Lord ransoms the life of his servants;  
and none will be punished who trust in him.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## **The Lessons**

### **The First Lesson**

A Reading from Revelation (Revelation 7:9-17)

After this I, John, looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom  
and thanksgiving and honor  
and power and might  
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

"For this reason they are before the throne of God,  
and worship him day and night within his temple,

and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.  
They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;  
the sun will not strike them,  
nor any scorching heat;  
for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,  
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,  
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Canticle 16 – The Song of Zechariah    Benedictus Dominus Deus**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;  
he has come to his people and set them free.  
He has raised up for us a mighty savior,  
born of the house of his servant David.  
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,  
that he would save us from our enemies,  
from the hands of all who hate us.  
He promised to show mercy to our fathers  
and to remember his holy covenant.  
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham,  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,  
Free to worship him without fear,  
holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.  
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High,  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,  
To give his people knowledge of salvation  
by the forgiveness of their sins.  
In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,  
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

### **The Second Lesson**

A Reading from First John (I John 3:1-3)

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Canticle 21 – You Are God Te Deum Laudamus**

You are God: we praise you;  
You are the Lord: we acclaim you;  
You are the eternal Father: All creation worships you.  
To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,  
Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:  
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
The glorious company of apostles praise you.  
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.  
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you  
Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you;  
Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son,  
worthy of all worship, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.  
You, Christ, are the king of glory, the eternal Son of the Father.  
When you became man to set us free you did not shun the Virgin's womb.  
You overcame the sting of death and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.  
You are seated at God's right hand in glory.  
We believe that you will come and be our judge.  
Come then, Lord, and help your people, bought with the price of your own blood,  
and bring us with your saints to glory everlasting.

### **The Third Lesson**

A Reading from Matthew. (Matthew 5:1-12)

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.  
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.  
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you." Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**The Homily**

**The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry**

**The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **The Prayers**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**Hallowed be thy Name,**

**Thy kingdom come,**

**Thy will be done,**

**On earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses,**

**As we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,**

**But deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**And the power, and the glory,**

**Forever and ever. Amen.**

## **Suffrages A**

Show us your mercy, O Lord;

**And grant us your salvation.**

Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

**Let your people sing with joy.**

Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

**For only in you can we live in safety.**

Lord, keep this nation under your care;

**And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

Let your way be known upon earth;

**Your saving health among all nations.**

Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten

**Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

Create in us clean hearts, O God;

**And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

## **The Collects**

### **The Collect of the Day**

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

### **A Prayer for Mission**

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **A Prayer for the Nation**

Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **A Prayer for Vocation in Daily Work**

Almighty God our heavenly Father, you declare your glory and show forth your handiwork in the heavens and in the earth: Deliver us in our various occupations from the service of self alone, that we may do the work you give us to do in truth and beauty and for the common good; for the sake of him who came among us as one who serves, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Let us pause in a moment of silence to remember those from our congregations who have died in the past year and are memorialized in our convention booklet.

*Silence*

Father of all, we pray to you for those memorialized by this convention, and for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant to them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

I invite your prayers and thanksgivings either silently, aloud, or offered in the Zoom chat or by Facebook comment.

*Silence*

### **The General Thanksgiving**

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks  
for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up ourselves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

**Hymn**

**For All the Saints, The Hymnal 1982, 287 (Verses 1-4)**

*We invite you to join in singing from your separate places, or joining in internal song if participating in a group.*



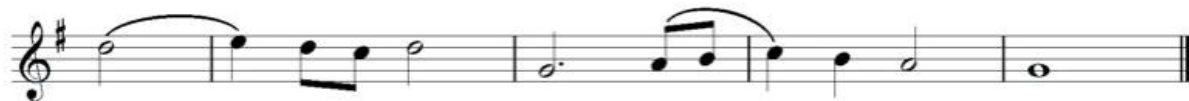
1 For all the saints, who from their la - bors rest, who  
 2 Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might:—  
 3 O may thy sol - diers, faith - ful, true, and bold,—  
 4 O blest com - mun - ion, fel - low - ship di - vine!—



thee— by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, thy  
 thou, Lord, their Cap - tain in the well - fought fight;—  
 fight as the saints who no - bly fought of old, and  
 We feeble - ly strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; yet



Name, O— Je - sus, be for ev - er blessed.  
 thou, in the dark - ness drear, the one true Light.  
 win, with— them, the vic - tor's crown of gold.  
 all are— one in thee, for all are thine.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*The Presiding Bishop offers a blessing.*

**Music:** *Drummers from Sudanese Grace Episcopal Church, Grand Rapids*

**We extend our gratitude for those offering their gifts in worship for our convention -**

Officiant	The Rev. Tracie Little, St. Jude's, Fenton
Preacher	The Most Rev. Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop
Readers	The Rev. Michael Spencer, Eastern Michigan Chloe Kerrish, St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids Erynn Ford, St. Paul's, Flint The Ven. Beth Drew, Archdeacon of Western Michigan
Prayer Leaders	Jeanette Ettin, Grace Port Huron Matthew Roney, Grace, Traverse City
Musicians	Dr. Stephen White, Director, and members of the Choir of St. Thomas, Battle Creek Cantor, Alexis Stark Drummers from Sudanese Grace Episcopal Church, Grand Rapids
Planning	The Rev. Dr. Valerie Fargo, Eastern Michigan

# JOINT RULES OF ORDER

## I. Preamble

- A. **Supersede Regular Rules.** These Supplemental Special Rules of Order for Virtual Attendance at Annual Convention (hereinafter, "these Rules") shall supersede the regular Rules of Order, and to the extent they are in conflict with the regular Rules of Order, these Rules shall prevail.
- B. **Purpose.** The purpose of these Rules is to facilitate the calling and meeting of the Diocesan Convention of the Episcopal Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan in a situation where it is impractical to hold a face-to-face physical meeting of the Convention due to governmental restraints or as otherwise directed by the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese.
- C. **Interpretation of Certain Constitutional and Canonical Terms.** For purposes of Conventions governed by these Rules, these terms shall have the following interpretation:
  - 1. "Convention": The meeting of clergy and laity of the Dioceses of Eastern Michigan and Western Michigan conducted wholly or in part via remote electronic participation by its members
  - 2. "seat": The ability to participate in the Convention via an electronic connection
  - 3. "voice": The right to make oral statements during the Convention
  - 4. "vote": The right to cast an electronic poll vote or file an electronic ballot during the Convention

## II. SPECIAL RULES FOR THIS CONVENTION

- A. The 26th Convention of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan and the 146th Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan will meet jointly as one body with the exception that provision may be made for separate business meetings by each Diocese.
- B. The joint session and individual business sessions will be via an electronic format.
- C. All actions taken during the Convention using the electronic format will be official actions.
- D. Actions taken at any joint session will be the action of each Diocese individually and jointly.

### III. ORGANIZATION

- A. The Joint session shall be chaired alternately by the designated Chair for each Diocese. Any actions taken by the joint Convention regardless of who is the Chair is at the time will be the actions of each Diocese.
- B. Each session of the Convention shall be opened with suitable devotions.
- C. The entire delegation lay and clergy of any parish that has not properly turned in their parochial report for the preceding year, prior to the beginning of a diocesan or special convention, shall not have the right to vote at that Convention. Such a parish shall retain its right to seat and voice.
- D. The Secretary of the preceding Convention (or, in his/her absence, the Secretary pro tempore to be elected via vote) shall send out the names of the Parishes and Missions in union with the Convention; and the lay delegates from each shall present their certificates of election, which shall be referred to a committee on Credentials, appointed by the Chair, consisting of one presbyter or deacon and one layperson. However, at the discretion of the Chair, certificates of election may be required to be sent in prior to the Convention and be referred to the Committee on Credentials immediately preceding the opening session of the Convention, thereby eliminating the reading of the names of the Parishes and Missions.
- E. The Secretary shall publish the names of the clergy entitled to seats in the Convention and shall enter into the Journal the names of those who are present.
- F. The Committee on Credentials shall report.
- G. Quorum and right to vote from time to time shall be determined on the basis of clergy who have registered or answered present and lay delegates who have theretofore been seated by the Convention after the above reports.

### IV. GENERAL

- A. Nominations from the floor will not be accepted.
- B. When nominations are made for any office, the names shall be recorded in the order in which they are presented.
- C. Elections
  - 1. The Elections Committee Chair shall cause all names proposed for offices that are to be filled by balloting to be entered into an electronic voting system. Separate ballots shall be taken for each office and shall be the order of the day from such hour as the Convention shall fix.
  - 2. In all elections, a ballot shall be void unless the number of votes cast on the ballot is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled.

3. For any person to be elected to any office, he/she must receive a vote on a majority of ballots cast.
  4. If all offices on a ballot have not been filled after two ballots, then the person who received the fewest number of votes on the second ballot will not appear on the third ballot. If balloting continues, the lowest vote-getter will be removed from each successive ballot.
  5. A person appearing on a ballot may remove his/her name from the ballot at any time during the balloting process.
- D. In case the Chair withdraws from the sittings of the Convention, they shall appoint a Chair to preside during their absence.
  - E. At any time before the final adjournment of the Convention, the Chair may, and if requested by any seven (7) members shall call for the reading of the minutes of the sessions just completed; and after such reading the minutes shall be corrected, signed by the Chair and attested by the Secretary.
  - F. All substantive resolutions shall be in the hands of the Resolutions Committee by at least forty-five(45) days for Western Michigan and sixty (60) days for Eastern Michigan prior to the Convention. Resolutions arising out of any addresses to Convention, submitted by the Chairperson of the Resolutions Committee, are excluded from this rule. A majority vote shall be required to permit consideration of later resolutions.
  - G. A joint resolution (a resolution considered by both Dioceses sitting together) is in order. It must be co-signed by four clergy members and four lay members from each Diocese. A joint resolution must be received in either Diocesan Office at least sixty (60) days before the Convention. If the resolution is submitted on time and in the proper form it will be considered by the joint Convention in the joint business session of the Convention. Any resolution passed will be a resolution of both Dioceses separately and jointly.
  - H. No motion shall be considered as before the Convention until it is seconded and stated by the Chair.
  - I. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received, unless it is to lay on the table, to move the previous question, to postpone to a set time, to commit, to amend, to substitute, to postpone indefinitely, or to divide it, and motions of any of these purposes shall have precedence in the order therein named.
  - J. A motion to amend by substitution shall be in order.
  - K. A motion to amend, to substitute, or amend by substitution must be in written form and presented to the Chair when the motion is made.

- L. A motion to adjourn and a motion to lay on the table shall always be in order and shall be decided without debate. A motion to lay on the table shall require a two-thirds vote of the members present.
- M. A question being decided, it shall not be reconsidered at the same Convention without the consent of two-thirds of the members present nor without a motion being made by one of the majority on the prior decision.
- N. Every member present, when a motion is put, shall vote thereon unless excused by the Convention.
- O. The Convention shall vote by the electronic means approved by the Secretary.
- P. All committees shall be appointed by the Chair unless otherwise ordered by the Convention, and when he/she may deem it advisable, he/she may appoint on a committee, to report to the next Convention, a person qualified to be a delegate who is not a member of the Convention.
- Q. When a member desires to speak, he or she shall electronically raise their hand, be recognized, and address the Chair in an audible voice if capable. Each speaker will introduce themselves and their parish and have up to 3 minutes to speak. When three speakers in a row have spoken on the same side of the matter up for debate, the Chair shall determine if there are members who wish to speak on the other side of the matter. If no member requests to speak, debate will end.
- R. No member shall speak more than once on the same subject without leave of the Convention, except that the person making a motion may speak twice on that motion.
- S. Debate on any principle motion and subsidiary motions addressed to it shall be limited to a total of two minutes per person, unless a majority vote of the Convention shall change the limit.
- T. No member shall withdraw from the Convention without leave asked and voted.
- U. These rules of order may be suspended on a two-thirds vote of the members present.
- V. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings of the Convention, except as otherwise provided hereinabove.

## V. **Conduct of Meeting**

- A. Technical requirements and malfunctions. Each member is responsible for their audio and Internet connections; no action shall be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of, or poor quality of, a member's individual connection prevented participation in the meeting.

- B. Forced disconnections. The Chair of Convention may cause or direct the disconnection or muting of a member's connection if it is causing undue interference with the meeting.
- C. Assignment of the floor. To seek recognition by the Chair, a member shall use the Zoom "raise hand" request and await recognition. Once the pending action is completed, the Convention Manager shall clear the online queue.
- D. Interrupting a member. A member who intends to make a motion or request that under the rules may interrupt a speaker shall use the Zoom Chat feature for so indicating, and shall thereafter wait a reasonable time for the Chair's instructions before attempting to interrupt the speaker by voice.
- E. Motions submitted in writing. A member intending to make a main motion, to offer an amendment, or to propose instructions to a committee, shall, before or after being recognized, post the motion in writing to the online area designated by the Secretary for this purpose, preceded by the member's name, parish affiliation and a number corresponding to how many written motions the member has so far posted during the meeting (e.g., "John Smith, Rector of St. Swithen's, Stafford, 3:."; "Richard Roe, Holy Name, Millstone, 1"). Use of the online area designated by the Secretary for this purpose shall be restricted to posting the text of intended motions.
- F. Seconding of motions and related posts. Members responding "so moved" to a request from the Chair for a motion, or seconding any motion that requires a second, must do so using the Zoom Chat feature without needing to be recognized by the Chair.
- G. Display of motions. The Secretary shall designate an online area exclusively for the display of the immediately pending question and other relevant pending questions (such as the main motion, or the pertinent part of the main motion, when an amendment to it is immediately pending); and, to the extent feasible, the Secretary, or any assistants appointed by him or her for this purpose, shall cause such questions, or any other documents that are currently before the meeting for action or information, to be displayed therein until disposed of.
- H. Video display. The Chair, the Secretary, or their assistants shall cause a video of the Chair to be displayed throughout the meeting, and shall also cause display of the video of the member currently recognized to speak or report (if such display is permitted by them).

## ELECTIONS TO DIOCESAN LEADERSHIP

### EASTERN MICHIGAN

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#### **Diocesan Council (1 Lay, 1 Clergy)**

The council serves as the governing authority of the diocese and administers the secular affairs including the budget, managing resources, creation of task forces, and more. There are six members serving three year terms.

##### **Lay Nominees:**

*There have been no nominations in this order.*

##### **Clergy Nominees:**

The Rev. Ann Grady - St. Chris., Grand Blanc

#### **Standing Committee (1 Lay, 1 Clergy)**

The Standing Committee serves as the council of advice to the bishop and assumes the ecclesiastical authority of the diocese when there is a bishop vacancy in addition to other duties. The six members also serve on Diocesan Council and serve three year terms.

##### **Lay Nominees:**

Barb Ilkka - St. John's, Saginaw

**Clergy Nominees:**

**Trustee (4 persons, any order)**

The Trustees have oversight and make investment decisions concerning funds belonging to the diocese and some individual congregations. The eight members serve four years.

The following positions are up for election:

Two terms to end in 2024; One unfinished term to end in 2023; One unfinished term to end in 2022

**Nominees:**

The Rev. Brain Chace - Retired Clergy

**Synod Deputies (1 Lay, 1 Clergy)**

The Provincial Synod is the governing body of Province V of the Episcopal Church. It meets once every three years in the Spring preceding the General Convention. Elected deputies for the next General Convention are eligible to run. The 2021 Synod Meeting is planned to be an online gathering.

**Lay Nominees:**

Carol Moggo - St. Francis, Grayling

**Clergy Nominees:**

*There have been no nominations in this order.*

## ELECTIONS

### EASTERN MICHIGAN - DIOCESAN COUNCIL NOMINEES



**The Rev. Ann Grady**

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in  
Grand Blanc

**Order of Ministry:** Clergy

**What experience, gifts, and perspective can the nominee offer in the service of our Lord in this office?**

Because I serve on several boards, I know and respect how they function. My work before I was ordained involved reading and analyzing state and federal laws and rules. I also drafted amendments that were intended to revise those laws/rules. I have had occasion to use those skills on many occasions since being

ordained.

One of my roles as chaplain to the retired clergy is to answer questions clergy and spouses may have with regard to benefits they receive and are entitled to through the Church Pension Fund.

**Please list the nominee's most recent PARISH LEVEL ministries and offices.**

Priest in Charge, St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, Grand Blanc, Apr. 2020 - Present

**Please list the nominee's most recent DIOCESAN, CHURCH-WIDE ministries and offices.**

Diocesan Chaplain to the Retired Clergy and Spouses, and Surviving Spouses  
Diocesan Committee on Constitution and Canons

**Please list the nominee's most recent COMMUNITY involvement and/or service.**

Board of Directors, United Way of Bay County  
Commissioner, Bay City Housing Commission  
Member, Noon Rotary Club of Bay City

**Please list the nominee's participation in anti-racism training(s), including the year in which it was taken.**

Participated in anti-racism training at St. John's Episcopal, Midland – November 2017

## ELECTIONS

### EASTERN MICHIGAN - STANDING COMMITTEE NOMINEES

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#### **Barb Illka**

St. John's Episcopal Church in Saginaw

**Order of Ministry:** Laity

**What experience, gifts, and perspective can the nominee offer in the service of our Lord in this office?**

I recently retired having been a nurse for 35 years and the last 18 as a Nurse Practitioner at the Saginaw VA Medical Center. My health care experience taught me critical thinking and listening skills that are essential for this office. My ability to research and gather data before making decisions is also important for this office. Since the VA has electronic medical records, I have been able to become

computer literate as well.

I bring the perspective of 30+ years as an Episcopalian with varied roles in the church during that time. I have worked at keeping myself informed regarding diocesan decisions and offerings through the Diocesan newsletter and by attending either the annual convention or pre-convention meetings.

The gifts I bring are my strong faith, caring and nurturing personality, desire to serve this diocese to the best of my ability, and willingness to work hard.

**Please list the nominee's most recent PARISH LEVEL ministries and offices.**

Vestry 3 terms, most recent 2012-2018, 2 years as Senior Warden during Rector resignation and search for new Rector (2016-2017)

Stewardship Committee, current

Lay Eucharist Minister, current

Lector, current

Altar guild, current

Renewal Works Chair 2019

**Please list the nominee's most recent DIOCESAN, CHURCH-WIDE ministries and offices.**

Participated and committed to Diocesan Church Development Institute (DCDI) until cancelled by pandemic.

Attendance at the Province V Big Provincial Gathering 2019

Discernment committee 2013-2015

**Please list the nominee's most recent COMMUNITY involvement and/or service.**

During my career as a nurse and as a Nurse Practitioner at the Saginaw VA, I lived out my baptismal covenant as a ministry with my veteran patients by seeking to serve Christ in all persons and respecting the dignity of every human being.

I have held multiple leadership positions during my career and in Professional Nursing Organizations over the last 20 years.

During my retirement I am looking forward to more community involvement.

**Please list the nominee's participation in anti-racism training(s), including the year in which it was taken.**

While I haven't taken official anti-racism training, since the death of George Floyd I have done my own research and reading on the subject of systemic racism and white privilege. I have work to do individually and believe society does as well.

I would be willing to take an official training course as well.

## ELECTIONS

### EASTERN MICHIGAN - STANDING COMMITTEE NOMINEES

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#### **The Rev. Lydia Speller**

Grace Episcopal Church in Port Huron

**Order of Ministry:** Clergy

**What experience, gifts, and perspective can the nominee offer in the service of our Lord in this office?**

I have a broad and deep knowledge of the history and polity of the Episcopal Church. I am a trained interim and bring an awareness of transition issues to bear as a settled pastor and in diocesan work -- now more than ever it is important to be aware of the dynamics of change. I usually can see the big picture and help groups keep a sense of proportion. I have a sense of humor, believe that conflict is a sign of life and try not to be sensitive or defensive. I delight in the ways that our historically white dominated aging church is embracing the leadership and insights of non older non white leaders.

**Please list the nominee's most recent PARISH LEVEL ministries and offices.**

I am the rector of Grace, having served the parish since 2013. During this time, we have welcomed as members the congregation of St Paul's, Port Huron, streamlined our staff, renewed our leadership and rationalized our budget -- including reducing our dependence on our Endowment. We have just finished a building project to make all levels of our church and parish hall physically accessible. Grace and I have participated in the DCDI.

**Please list the nominee's most recent DIOCESAN, CHURCH-WIDE ministries and offices.**

I am filling an unexpired term on the Standing Committee, which has turned out to be a bigger adventure than any of us would have imagined with the bishop's suspension and the Pandemic. I would welcome the opportunity to continue on the SC as it navigates our diocese towards a new era both in our diocese and in our world. I served on SC before, from 2015 -2017, another transitional period. I am scheduled to be a General Convention Deputy for 2021 and have served as deputy from Missouri several times. In Missouri I was also on SC and Commission on Ministry. Like everyone, these days I have also learned all kinds of online and streaming ways to communicate and I believe that these are changing the way many of us "do church" for the long term.

**Please list the nominee's most recent COMMUNITY involvement and/or service.**

Through Grace I participate in local MLK celebrations, ecumenical worship services, Blue Water Area Churches. Grace is part of the Good News Garden Network and collaboration with #C4 yourself church, which shares space with us, we engage in ministries with the hungry, especially working with children referred to us through the schools.

**Please list the nominee's participation in anti-racism training(s), including the year in which it was taken.**

Not sure of the year but since 2013 I have been to two trainings (one through the diocese of MI) and Grace hosts and occasional "Sacred Conversations on Race" series. We are exploring how to host Sacred Circles, a program designed to encourage white people to educate themselves about race and privilege.

## ELECTIONS

### EASTERN MICHIGAN - BOARD OF TRUSTEES NOMINEES

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**The Rev. Brian Chace**  
Retired, Unaffiliated

**Order of Ministry:** Clergy

**What experience, gifts, and perspective can the nominee offer in the service of our Lord in this office?**

I've served our Lord in the Episcopal Church as a lay person (Church treasurer, finance committee member, worship leader, vergers, vestry member, Sunday school teacher, lector, Eucharistic minister, acolyte director) for 42 years and as a priest and Priest in Charge for almost 8 years.

**Please list the nominee's most recent PARISH LEVEL ministries and offices.**

Priest in Charge of Trinity Episcopal Church, West Branch, Michigan (now retired).

**Please list the nominee's most recent DIOCESAN, CHURCH-WIDE ministries and offices.**

Alternate General Convention Deputy (2015); General Convention Deputy (2018); Diocesan Standing Committee Member (2019 - current); Joint Disciplinary Board member; Diocesan Discernment Committee member; Diocesan Recovery Ministry Committee Chair; Diocesan Trustee (2010 - 2017)

**Please list the nominee's most recent COMMUNITY involvement and/or service.**

Board member and treasurer of River House, Inc. women's shelter; board member and secretary of Grayling Lions Club.

**Please list the nominee's participation in anti-racism training(s), including the year in which it was taken.**

Participated in anti-racism training at St. Francis' Episcopal Church, June 2017.

## ELECTIONS

### EASTERN MICHIGAN - PROVINCIAL SYNOD NOMINEES

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#### **Carol Moggo**

St. Francis Episcopal Church in Grayling

**Order of Ministry:** Laity

**What experience, gifts, and perspective can the nominee offer in the service of our Lord in this office?**

I believe that my experience as a Deputy at 4 conventions (2006/2009/2012/2015) is relevant and important for this position. I am aware of all aspects of convention life, I am aware of the issues that will be discussed and voted upon, and that I continue to stay involved through deputy and Province V newsletters, deputation reports and discussions on pertinent issues. I was appointed to and served on Small Church Committee the last 3 conventions and also on the Credentials Committee my first convention. The Province V gathering prior to the next General Convention will prepare me to be a fully engaged participant. I have also served as a delegate to Diocesan convention for many years. I have experience in my employment as Administrative Director at the G.R.A.C.E. Center and have served on various Boards in my community. I believe that I have been called to this service because of my organizational, insightful and analytical skills.

**Please list the nominee's most recent PARISH LEVEL ministries and offices.**

Elected to Vestry in January 2020.

Elected Delegate to Diocesan Convention January 2020.

Lay Reader

Administrative Director of G.R.A.C.E. Center since 1995.

**Please list the nominee's most recent DIOCESAN, CHURCH-WIDE ministries and offices.**

Elected Deputy to General Convention 2021

Volunteered to be Diocesan-wide Parish auditor 2020 (cancelled due to COVID-19)

Appointed to Standing Committee in February 2018.

**Please list the nominee's most recent COMMUNITY involvement and/or service.**

Serve as Ex-Officio on the Board of Directors for G.R.A.C.E. Center

Served as Board Chairperson of AuSable Valley Youth Services 2002-2016

**Please list the nominee's participation in anti-racism training(s), including the year in which it was taken.**

Trained by the ARM Team in 2004

I have also attended several workshops connected to my employment at G.R.A.C.E. Center in the past 25 years.

# ELECTIONS TO DIOCESAN LEADERSHIP

## WESTERN MICHIGAN

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The following positions will be elected by the diocesan convention. Nominees and bios follow in the subsequent pages.

### **Diocesan Council**

The following positions have been elected by the regional pre-convention meetings, which took place prior to the convention.

- Northern, *Elected 9/15*: The Rev. Jim Perra - Grace, Traverse City
- Central, *Elected 9/17*: The Rev. Dr. Jared Cramer - St. John's, Grand Haven
- Southern, *Elected 10/16*: The Rev. Joel Turmo - St. Timothy's, Richland

### **Standing Committee (2 Lay, 1 Clergy)**

The Standing Committee serves as the council of advice to the bishop and assumes the ecclesiastical authority of the diocese when there is a bishop vacancy in addition to other duties.

Lay Nominees:

- Martha Bartlett - St. James, Pentwater
- Dave Croal - St. Mark's, Coldwater

Clergy Nominees:

- The Rev. Brian Coleman - St. Thomas, Battle Creek
- The Rev. Dr. Randall Warren - St. Luke's, Kalamazoo

### **Provincial Synod Delegates (1 Clergy, 2 Lay, plus alternates)**

The Provincial Synod is the governing body of Province V of the Episcopal Church. It meets once every three years in the Spring preceding the General Convention. Of those elected, at least one person must be a deputy to the next General Convention.

Nominees:

- Susan Mencarelli - Holy Trinity, Manistee
- Bill Fleener, Jr. - St. David's, Lansing

## ELECTIONS

### WESTERN MICHIGAN - STANDING COMMITTEE NOMINEES



#### **Martha Bartlett**

St. James, Pentwater

**Order of Ministry:** Laity

**What experience, gifts, and perspective can the nominee offer in the service of our Lord in this office?**

I am a life-long Episcopalian and have been a worshipping member in parishes in New York and Michigan. I have participated in choirs, camps, Bible studies, and Vestries. I am a good listener and speak up as needed. Especially in the past few months, as a member of the Standing Committee, I hope these skills have been useful. We all are in a period of new and increased responsibilities for the Standing Committee, during the year of Bishop Hougland's suspension. I think that a continuity of membership be helpful and I am willing to serve

a second term on the Standing Committee.

**Please list the nominee's most recent PARISH LEVEL ministries and offices.**

At St. James, Pentwater, I serve as a Vestry member and as Clerk of the Vestry. I am the link between our parish and LOVE in the Name of Christ, an outreach ministry in Shelby, MI.

**Please list the nominee's most recent DIOCESAN, CHURCH-WIDE ministries and offices.**

Standing Committee Member - 2017-2020

Diocesan Jubilee Officer - 2017-2020

Bishop Search Committee - 2012-2013

**Please list the nominee's most recent COMMUNITY involvement and/or service.**

Until COVID-19 restrictions were in place, I was a volunteer at New Era Elementary School in a 4th grade classroom and I was an intake volunteer at LOVE INC, speaking with those who were seeking information and assistance in our community. It was an opportunity to learn, especially from farm workers in our area.

I am retired from social work in ecumenical settings. In Detroit, I was a staff member and Director of Crossroads of MI, an outreach ministry begun at the Cathedral. Later, in Coldwater, I was the Director of Family Promise of Branch Co, which provided services to those who are homeless. Both positions brought me in contact with a cross section of people; I was in a position to learn from all and to realize everyone has gifts to offer, and everyone has hopes and needs that can be addressed by the Church.

**Please list the nominee's participation in anti-racism training(s), including the year in which it was taken.**

Healing Racism Workshop - February 2018 [Trinity Institute download, held at St. Mark's, Grand Rapids]

"White Fragility" by Robin Diangleo - book group study - September 2020

## WESTERN MICHIGAN - STANDING COMMITTEE NOMINEES

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### **David Croal**

St. Mark's, Coldwater



**Order of Ministry:** Laity

**What experience, gifts, and perspective can the nominee offer in the service of our Lord in this office?**

I was raised Lutheran and began attending the Episcopal Church when I was in college. Audrey and I have been married 43 years this October, live on a lake, enjoy entertaining friends and family and traveling. We've been members of St. Mark's for over 18 years ago. During our time here I have served the Parish in several positions including Co-Chair of the Worship Committee, Co-Chair of the Parish life Committee, member of the Endowment Board, member of the Audit Committee, and Budget committee. I served on the Vestry

for 12 years: 3 as member, 2 as Jr Warden and 7 as Sr. Warden including a year of transition in 2013. I am active in worship serving as a Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Intercessor, Crucifer and Thurifer. For 9 years I was the mentor to our Acolytes and still train youth and adults as necessary. I am also committed to my community having been a board member of our local United Way for 51/2 years, gone through the chairs over 4 years and served a year as President of the Board.

**Please list the nominee's most recent PARISH LEVEL ministries and offices.**

Co-Chair Worship and Parish Life Committees  
Member Outreach Committee  
Eucharistic Minister  
Acolyte  
Acolyte Mentor/Trainer  
Lector  
Intercessor  
Crucifer  
Thurifer  
Senior Warden  
Junior Warden

**Please list the nominee's most recent DIOCESAN, CHURCH-WIDE ministries and offices.**

I was a member of the Diocesan Council for 8 years, the last two as Vice President, I am a member of the Finance, Insurance, Budget, Audit and Apportionment Review Committees and I am Assistant Treasurer of the Diocese. I was deeply involved as part of the Diocesan Restructure Committee. I am currently one of 8 members of the Standing Committee. As a member I have been able to bring perspectives from my

service at the Parish and Council level as well as from my 20+ years in management of an international company. I would like to continue to do so. I have excellent relationships with our staff and with the members of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan.

Member of Standing Committee  
Vice President of Diocesan Council  
Member of the Diocesan Restructure Task Force  
Member Insurance Committee  
Co-Chair Finance Committee  
Member of Budget and Audit Committees  
Chair of Apportionment Review Committee  
Assistant Treasurer of the Diocese

**Please list the nominee's most recent COMMUNITY involvement and/or service.**

I was a board member of our local United Way for 51/2 years, went through the chairs over 4 years and served a year as President of the Board. I am board member of our neighborhood association.

**Please list the nominee's participation in anti-racism training(s), including the year in which it was taken.**

Trinity Series in 2018

## ELECTIONS

### WESTERN MICHIGAN - STANDING COMMITTEE NOMINEES

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**The Rev. Brian Coleman**  
St. Thomas, Battle Creek

**Order of Ministry:** Clergy

**What experience, gifts, and perspective can the nominee offer in the service of our Lord in this office?**

I have administrative, pastoral and communication gifts to offer in this office. I have a wide range of experience serving in diocesan ministries. I pray fervently and daily for the health and well-being of our diocese and hope to be able to support our work toward healing and reconciliation in the face of the bishop's suspension.

**Please list the nominee's most recent PARISH LEVEL ministries and offices.**

Rector

**Please list the nominee's most recent DIOCESAN, CHURCH-WIDE ministries and offices.**

Current: Deputy to General Convention, Plainsong Farm Board of Directors

Recent: Standing Committee, Diocesan Restructuring Taskforce

**Please list the nominee's most recent COMMUNITY involvement and/or service.**

I serve as a Trustee for the Battle Creek Community Foundation, on the City of Battle Creek's Human Relations Board, and am active in local LGBTQI advocacy and support.

**Please list the nominee's participation in anti-racism training(s), including the year in which it was taken.**

After the murder of George Floyd, I like many other conscientious white Americans took it upon myself to learn about how I have contributed to the abysmal state of race relations in our country. Two book were especially impactful: White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo and How to be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi.

Reimagining Policing, Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing (June 2020)

Diocesan Racial Healing Workshops (2010, 2015, 2018)

2012 Elimination of Racism Training Program through the W.K. Kellogg Foundation

2010 E/RACE Training

## ELECTIONS

### WESTERN MICHIGAN - STANDING COMMITTEE NOMINEES

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## **The Rev. Dr. Randall Warren**

**St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Kalamazoo**

**Order of Ministry:** Clergy

**What experience, gifts, and perspective can the nominee offer in the service of our Lord in this office?**

I have served on our Standing Committee for three years. During that time I have functioned as the Standing Committee liaison to the Commission on Ministry and have striven to streamline the interactions between the COM and the Standing Committee. I have a great deal of experience in group process, organizational complexity, and dealing with difficulties. My chaplain's clinical residency was in a level 1 regional trauma center on the south side of Chicago, and I

have served as an independent consultant for a variety of parishes. I am trained and experienced in group process and dynamics, and was a peer consultation leader for the Chicago Center for the Study of Groups and Organizations. I believe I have many gifts and experiences which are pertinent to our present day and situation.

**Please list the nominee's most recent PARISH LEVEL ministries and offices.**

I am currently the Rector of St. Luke's Church, Kalamazoo.

**Please list the nominee's most recent DIOCESAN, CHURCH-WIDE ministries and offices.**

I was a member of the TEC Title IV Education Committee, a diocesan deployment officer, a diocesan misconduct case manager, and a deacons' school instructor in pastoral care. I have been an independent consultant for several parishes and have been published in the areas of liturgy, congregational dynamics, and spirituality. I was a contributor to Enriching Our Worship 2. I currently serve on our Diocesan Finance Committee.

**Please list the nominee's most recent COMMUNITY involvement and/or service.**

I and my parish are members of Interfaith Strategies for Advocacy and Action (I.S.A.A.C), a community organizing group to which I contribute regularly with both money and time. I served on the leadership team of Kalamazoo United, an ecumenical venture which brought almost 4,000 Kalamazoo Christians together to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and commit to greater ecumenical cooperation. I have been part of numerous interfaith dialogues through the Kalamazoo Community College. I was the originator and am the liturgist for the Bronson Park Churches' annual joint Palm Sunday celebration.

**Please list the nominee's participation in anti-racism training(s), including the year in which it was taken.**

I participated in a CrossRoads 2.5 day anti-racism in Chicago around the year 2000. I also participated in a 2016 Eliminating Racism and Claiming/Celebrating Equality (E.R.A.C.C.E.) 2.5 day training, “Understanding & Analyzing Systemic Racism,” in Kalamazoo. I also participated in the 30 week training program offered by Just Faith in 2014/15. I was a guest speaker at an I.S.A.A.C. sponsored worship service focused on overcoming racism and last month had a personal appointment with an assistant Kalamazoo Police Chief to discuss the dynamics of race and our community’s policing.

## ELECTIONS

### WESTERN MICHIGAN - PROVINCIAL SYNOD NOMINEES

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## **Susan Mencarelli, MA**

**Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Manistee**

**Order of Ministry:** Laity

**What experience, gifts, and perspective can the nominee offer in the service of our Lord in this office?**

### *Church Experience*

I was baptized as an infant, confirmed as a youth, and married as a young woman in St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Kalamazoo, Michigan. My church attendance after my marriage depended on the inclinations of my husband and my children. I was a member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church for eight years while we lived in Kalamazoo. After moving to Manistee in 1997, I was a member of the United Church of Christ for three years, a Unitarian Universalist Church for three years, and an Evangelical Covenant Church for ten years. I've been a member of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church for four years.

When I was at the Evangelical Covenant Church I served a secretary to the Leadership Team for one year, a coordinator of the nursery for two years, a youth leader for two years and a deacon for two years. During this time, I completed a three year program through Grace Springs Center for Christian Spirituality sponsored by Grace Episcopal Church and I am certified as a Spiritual Director.

While I've been a member at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church I've served on the Altar Guild for two years, as the Chairperson for the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) for two years. I've been the clerk to the Vestry for the past two years. I am also our church's representative on the Safe Harbor Steering Committee through Everyday Christians Helping others (E.C.H.O.) which provides overnight lodging to individuals who are homeless during the winter months.

### *Work Experience*

From the age of 16 until the age of 30 I worked in food service, child care and education. I earned an MA degree in Psychology when I was 30 years old. For the past 30 years I've worked as a mental health clinician and a domestic violence counselor.

### *Family Experience*

My husband John and I were married in June 1982 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Kalamazoo, Michigan. We moved in Manistee, Michigan in June 1997 where we now live and attend Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. We are extremely mindful how fragile human lives are and treasure the time we have to spend with those we love. We do our best to stay connect with family and friends.

### *Community Experience*

For the past 23 years, I've been a part of several community organizations including the Manistee County Family Advocates, the Human Services Collaborative Body, the Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Response Team, Parents & Friends of Gays & Lesbians and the Manistee Lions.

*Gifts:*

I believe I listen well to others and to God. I try my best to abide in God's Love so I can follow my Baptismal and Marriage Vows. I try to learn as much as I can every day. I am appreciative of the skills, gifts, talents and perspectives of others. I admit when I make mistakes and usually ask for help when I need it.

**Please list the nominee's most recent PARISH LEVEL ministries and offices.**

I am currently the Clerk to the Vestry at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Manistee. I am also our church's representative on the Safe Harbor Steering Committee through Everyday Christians Helping Others (E.C.H.O.) which provides overnight lodging & to individuals & families who are homeless during the winter months (I was one of the two people in Manistee County to get this Ministry started over 10 years ago).

**Please list the nominee's most recent DIOCESAN, CHURCH-WIDE ministries and offices.**

From September 2013 through June 2017 I was an active participant in the four-year Education For Ministry (EfM) Program offered through Sewanee Theological Seminary at the University of the South.

From March 2017 to November 2018 I was an active participant in the two-year Diocesan Church Development Institute (DCDI).

I have served as a Delegate to the Convention in 2018, 2019 and now in 2020.

**Please list the nominee's most recent COMMUNITY involvement and/or service.**

I attend the Manistee County Human Services Collaborative Body, the Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Response Team, Parents & Friends of Gays and Lesbians and the Manistee Lions once a month.

**Please list the nominee's participation in anti-racism training(s), including the year in which it was taken.**

In the fall of 2017, I attended an anti-racism training at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

During Lent of 2018, I attended a five-week training (2/21, 2/28, 3/7, 3/14, 3/21) called "Holding Up Your Corner" which was a guided conversation about race by F. Willis Johnson held at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Manistee, Michigan.

This fall 2020, I attended a virtual book discussion (7/30, 8/13, 8/27) of "White Rage" by Carol Anderson.

## ELECTIONS

### WESTERN MICHIGAN - PROVINCIAL SYNOD NOMINEES

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**Bill Fleener, Jr.**

St. David's Episcopal Church in Lansing

**Order of Ministry:** Laity

**What experience, gifts, and perspective can the nominee offer in the service of our Lord in this office?**

I have served at several General Conventions and have vast experience in church governance and think my skills would be useful in Synod

**Please list the nominee's most recent PARISH LEVEL ministries and offices.**

I have served on the vestry of every parish I have attended as an adult and been a delegate to Convention several times.

**Please list the nominee's most recent DIOCESAN, CHURCH-WIDE ministries and offices.**

I am the Chancellor for the Diocese and have served at General Convention several times. I have also served on several church-wide bodies.

**Please list the nominee's most recent COMMUNITY involvement and/or service.**

I serve on the board of 2 non-profit organizations and volunteer with a few local entities.

**Please list the nominee's participation in anti-racism training(s), including the year in which it was taken.**

I have taken anti-racism training with wider church bodies, the diocese, and at my place of employment. The last of these was in 2019.

## RESOLUTIONS TO THE CONVENTION

### JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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## RESOLUTION 1 -

### **A Joint Resolution Calling for the Creation of an Assisting Bishop Position in the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan**

*Whereas*, we highly value the deepening relationship between our dioceses and hope to continue finding ways to creatively share resources and ministry so that the Good News of Jesus Christ may be effectively proclaimed in congregations that are healthy, mission-focused, and led by faithful lay and clergy leaders; and

*Whereas*, both our dioceses are seeking faithfulness in times marked by economic uncertainty, political unrest, racial injustice, a global pandemic, and a cultural context which calls for a bold and unified message of God's love; and

*Whereas*, we also affirm, as dioceses of The Episcopal Church, the teaching of our prayer book (BCP 855) that Christian ministry is most fully exercised by clergy and laity joined with the sacramental and apostolic leadership of a bishop; and

*Whereas*, we uphold and respect the decision of the Standing Committees to retain the ecclesiastical authority during the suspension of our Bishop; and

*Whereas*, at a Joint Standing Committee meeting on August 31, 2020 the Standing Committees of the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan voted to appoint a part-time Visiting Bishop; and the Standing Committees of Eastern and Western MI, acting jointly, ask the joint convention of our dioceses to create the position of a part-time Assisting Bishop for the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan; therefore be it

*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 the current Visiting Bishop to the position of 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.

## **Rationale:**

- We believe that, an Assisting Bishop could provide wise counsel and leadership in this tumultuous time and serve as a helpful advisor to our Standing Committees, augmenting, and supporting their leadership. This is in no way a denigration of the leadership of any other order of ministry, nor a claim for the superiority of the episcopate. Rather, it is an affirmation of St. Paul's words in Romans 12, "We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us." We believe the distinctive gifts of a bishop are needed at this time in our shared life.
  - We acknowledge our strong laity, deacons, and priests who provide leadership in exemplary ways as The Episcopal Church in Eastern and Western Michigan. Still, our governance and ecclesiology envision the focused care, oversight, and direction for ministry by a Bishop.
  - Canon III.12.9(m) indicates that, in the absence of a Bishop Diocesan, the Standing Committee can make this invitation: "(m) Assisting Bishops are those bishops whose primary roles are teaching, preaching or providing sacramental rites at the invitation of the Ecclesiastical Authority of the diocese where the Assisting Bishop has been invited to participate for particular times and places."
  - We believe the Holy Spirit is active in our diocesan leadership, guiding our clergy and lay leaders. We have seen that activity, particularly in the increased shared ministries between the two Dioceses. We believe an Assisting Bishop can enable us to walk through the path ahead of us with grace, faithfulness, and a strong commitment to being the Body of Christ in our time.
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## **Resolution Signatories**

### *The Standing Committee of Eastern Michigan*

Janet Huff-Worvie (President; St. John's, Otter Lake), the Rev. Brian Chace (Vice-President; Trinity, West Branch), the Rev. Dan Scheid (St. Paul's, Flint), the Rev. Lydia Speller (Grace, Port Huron), Gary Grinn (Secretary; St. Paul's, Gladwin), Bill Thewalt (St. Christopher's, Grand Blanc).

### *The Standing Committee of Western Michigan*

Dave Croal (President; St. Mark's, Coldwater), Anne Davidson (St. Mark's, Coldwater), Carole Redwine (St. Philip's, Grand Rapids), the Rev. BJ Heyboer (Secretary; St. Mark's, Newaygo), the Rev. Jodi Baron (St. Philip's, Beulah; Holy Trinity, Manistee), the Rev. Diane Pike (Southwest Michigan Episcopal Covenant - Dowagiac, Niles, St. Joseph), Martha Bartlett (St. James, Pentwater), the Rev. Dr. Randall Warren (Vice-President; St. Luke's, Kalamazoo).

### *Eastern Michigan Clergy*

The Rev. Heather Barta, The Very Rev. Judi Boli (St. Paul's, Saginaw), The Rev. Ann Grady (St. Christopher's, Grand Blanc), The Rev. Mary Jo Hudson (St. Matthew's, Saginaw), The Rev. Thomas Manney (St. Paul's, Bad Axe and St. John's, Dryden), The Rev. Curt Norman (St. John's, Saginaw), The Rev. Pam Renna (St. John's, Saginaw).

*Eastern Michigan Laity*

Mary Baukus (St. John's, Saginaw), Kathryn Coman (St. John's, Saginaw), Angela Campbell (St. Christopher's, Grand Blanc), Marcia Hoffman (St. John's, Saginaw), Melanie Hollman (St. John's, Saginaw).

*Western Michigan Clergy*

The Rev. Molly Bosscher (St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids), The Rev. Brian Coleman (St. Thomas, Battle Creek), The Rev. Dr. Jared Cramer (St. John's, Grand Haven), The Ven. Beth Drew (Trinity, Three Rivers), The Rev. Paula Durren (Retired), The Rev. Michael Fedewa (St. Paul's, Muskegon), The Rev. John Hills (Retired), The Rev. Dr. David Meyers (St. Peter's-by-the-Lake, Montague), The Rev. Nurya Love Parish (Plainsong Farm, Rockford, Holy Spirit, Belmont), The Rev. LaRae Rutenbar (Retired), The Rev. Anne Schnaare (Trinity, Marshall), The Rev. Thomas Scott (Retired);, The Rev. Joel Turmo (St. Timothy's, Richland)

*Western Michigan Laity*

Alicia Hager (St. John's, Grand Haven), Trish Harris (St. Thomas, Battle Creek), Karen Nisja (St. John's, Grand Haven), Karen Keese (St. Thomas, Battle Creek), Kathryn Dingwall (St. Thomas, Battle Creek)

## RESOLUTION 2 -

### **A Joint Resolution Calling for Racial Healing and Equity**

The Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan resolve and affirm that Black Lives Matter.

#### **Rationale:**

Genesis 1:26-27 states that God created all of humanity in the divine image and bestows dignity upon all. God promises to redeem, reconcile, and restore the whole creation through Christ. When Black lives are treated as though they don't matter, Christians everywhere should be able to stand up and assert without hesitation that Black lives certainly do matter, have dignity, worth, and value. God created Black people in God's image. God redeems Black lives in Christ. Black lives matter to God.

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#### **Resolution Signatories**

##### *Eastern Michigan Clergy*

The Rev. Brian Chace, ret. Trinity, West Branch; the Rev. Dan Scheid, St. Paul's, Flint; the Rev. Lydia Speller, Grace, Port Huron; the Rev. Ken Hitch, St. John's Midland; the Rev. Canon Michael Spencer, St. Christopher's, Grand Blanc; the Very Rev. Judy Boli, St. Paul's, Saginaw;

##### *Eastern Michigan Laity*

Genevieve Field, St. Paul's, Flint; Joseph Kennedy, St. Paul's, Flint; Sheryl Kennedy, St. Paul's, Flint; Jelecia Ford, St. Paul's, Flint; Audrey Stevens, St. Paul's, Flint; Holly Richardson, St. Paul's, Flint; Rafael McDaniel, St. Paul's, Flint; Rose Duncan, St. Alban's, Bay City; Joan Miska, St. Paul's, Flint; Walt Peake, St. Paul's, Flint; Lisa Hrit, St. Paul's, Flint; Frank Burger, St. Christopher's Grand Blanc; Elizabeth Flusher, St. Paul's, Flint; Meghan Cherry, St. Paul's, Flint; Debbie Bommarito, St. Paul's, Flint; Alexandra Wesley, St. Paul's, Flint; Janet Huff-Worvie, St. John's, Otter Lake; Janet Baker, St. Paul's, Flint; Gary Grinn, St. Paul's, Gladwin;

##### *Western Michigan Clergy*

The Rev. Brian Coleman, St. Thomas, Battle Creek; the Rev. Joel Turmo, St. Timothy's, Richland; the Rev. Dr. Jared Cramer, St. John's, Grand Haven; the Rev. Jodi Baron, Holy Trinity, Manistee and St. Philip's, Beulah; the Rev. Christian Baron, Holy Trinity, Manistee and St. Philip's, Beulah; the Rev. William Fleener, Sr., St. Paul's, Muskegon; the Rev. Diane Pike, Southwest Michigan Covenant; the Rev. Nurya Love Parish, Holy Spirit, Belmont; the Rev. BJ Heyboer, St. Mark's, Newaygo; the Rev. Canon Valerie Ambrose, Diocesan Staff; the Rev. Dr. Randall Warren, St. Luke's, Kalamazoo; the Rev. Deacon Cynthia Nawrocki, St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids; the Rev. Susan York, St. Mark's, Grand Rapids; the Rev. Canon William Spaid, Diocesan Staff;

##### *Western Michigan Laity*

Dave Croal, St. Mark's, Coldwater; Yvonne Fleener, St. David's, Lansing; William Fleener, Jr., St. David's, Lansing; Matthew Roney, Grace, Traverse City; Evan Knill, Holy Spirit, Belmont; Judy Fleener,

St. Paul's Muskegon; Anne Davidson, St. Mark's, Coldwater; Carole Redwine, St. Philip's, Grand Rapids; Joyce Henry, St. Philip's, Grand Rapids; Martha Bartlett, St. James, Pentwater;

# ANNUAL MINISTRY REPORTS

## COLLABORATIVE MINISTRIES

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### THE ACADEMY FOR VOCATIONAL LEADERSHIP & THE COPPAGE-GORDON SCHOOL FOR MINISTRY

*Respectfully Submitted by the Rev. Dr. Valerie Fargo, Director*

#### **Academy for Vocational Leadership**

The Academy successfully began virtual classes in March and is continuing them this fall. In June we celebrated four new graduates at our first virtual graduation ceremony. The Academy provides the educational component of preparation for local ordination to holy orders. This three-year joint program with the Dioceses of Eastern Michigan, Western Michigan, and Michigan has just begun its seventh year. 23 people have now completed this program, including eight from the Diocese of Eastern Michigan and seven from Western Michigan.

#### **Licensed Lay Preaching**

We continue to offer Licensed Lay Preacher training at the Academy, with seven students enrolled this year. This training includes the Academy classes in Holy Scripture and Homiletics. Participation in the Academy Bible class or a comparable program is an expectation for those seeking to become licensed preachers.

#### **Formation Videos for Congregational Use from the Iona Center**

This video collection from the Iona Center at the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, TX is a teaching tool that can be used for Christian Formation initiatives in congregational settings. The videos, featuring teaching from faculty members of the seminary, are designed for use and discussion in small groups and range from 7-20 minutes in length. Through our membership through the Academy for Vocational Leadership, all congregations in Eastern and Western Michigan have free access to this resource.

Explore the video collection here: [iona.ssw.edu/about-video-collection](http://iona.ssw.edu/about-video-collection)

Video use is password protected. Please contact the Rev. Dr. Valerie Fargo to request your password at [vfargo@eastmich.org](mailto:vfargo@eastmich.org).

### CHILDREN, YOUTH, & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

*Respectfully Submitted by McKenzie Knill, Director of Children, Youth, and Young Adult Formation*

The year 2020 was not what any of us expected, I'm sure. It's interesting to look back on the year's calendar and see the things that were planned for and happened and the things that were planned for that ended up shifting or being cancelled altogether. The trend throughout the year 2020 for diocesan programming in both Eastern and Western Michigan is that everything we did, we did together.

Our Young Adult Network met monthly for a Dinner and Compline community gatherings until March. Young Adults from all over the state of Michigan would drive to our dinners in Howell, Grand Rapids, and Saginaw to share a themed potluck meal together, fellowship, and compline. Beginning in March, we began to gather on zoom for semi-regular zoom gatherings and anticipate beginning those again soon. This community of young adults had been gathering for Dinner and Compline (and sometimes retreats) together for almost 3 years.

In February, six high school students and two adults joined about 300 of our ELCA Lutheran neighbors in Kalamazoo for a weekend event called "The Gathering." Episcopal young people from all three of our lower Michigan Episcopal dioceses have collaborated with our Lutheran neighbors for two yearly events the last 4 years. We were looking forward to taking a group of 12 middle schoolers and three adults to the sister event called "Charge" in March at the Great Wolf Lodge. This middle school event was cancelled due to COVID-19 and we are looking forward to when it is safe to gather in person again.

At the end of February, a delegation of six youth and two adults travelled to a Province V Youth Event at Bellwether Farm in the Diocese of Ohio. This event was planned by high school youth from around the province and brought together about fifty people for the weekend retreat.

Applications for the Episcopal Youth Event that was to take place in Washington DC this past July for our joint delegation between our two dioceses drew 22 applicants from 12 of our congregations. The Episcopal Youth Event is typically held every three years with hundreds of Episcopal Youth representing most of the Dioceses in the Episcopal Church. This event was (hopefully) postponed.

Beginning in March, youth workers from Eastern and Western Michigan began gathering on Zoom almost weekly for connection and collaboration. Often these conversations would include frustrations with the pandemic and the ability to come together and share ideas with one another was a welcomed experience. From these youth worker conversations came the idea for a summer program called "Camp at Home" which drew nearly 200 individual registrations for an at home camp program. Registrations for this event came from almost 30 of our congregations and folks within and outside of the state of Michigan.

Almost every week since March, middle and high schoolers have been gathering for a bi-diocesan youth group. We have prayed together, learned and played all while using the great tool of Zoom to meet and gather. This summer, we dove into some conversations around dismantling racism as part of our program and hope to continue these important conversations as well as dive into the Peer Ministries program together to better learn how to serve our peers and communities.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MISSION

*Respectfully Submitted by the Ven. Beth Drew, Western Michigan's Deacon for International Mission and Trip Coordinator*

Due to COVID-19 the planned mission trip had to be cancelled this year. We were hoping to complete the water mission and finish up odds and ends that needed to be done as of yet. They did pave the road from Montellano to Mosovi this year, and, for those of you that have made that bumpy traverse, it is welcome news! We have two projects on the horizon if COVID is curtailed for next year. Firstly, complete Mosovi, and the second would be to install a roof and solar panels on San Simon de Apostol in San Marcos, which is the church we assisted in building for 5 years there. As developments with the virus proceed, I will be in contact



via the diocesan newsletter as to whether we can travel and what dates that would be. Thanks to each and everyone of you that support this vital program to our brothers and sisters in the Dominican Republic.

## ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH MINISTRY

*Respectfully Submitted by the Rev. Mike Wernick, Ecumenical Officer*

Fr. Richard Rohr, OFM is an internationally-known author who teaches Incarnational Mysticism, non-dual consciousness and contemplation, and who bears witness to the universal awakening within Christian mysticism and the Perennial Tradition.

This tradition encompasses the recurring themes in all of the world's religions and philosophies, which say that there is a Divine Reality underneath and inherent in the world of things; and that there is in the human soul a natural capacity for, similarity to, and longing for this Divine Reality; and that the final goal of existence is unity with this Divine Reality.

It almost sounds like something that happened a long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away. But we find archetypal patterns and themes in the various cultures and traditions of our lives. Of estrangement and reconciliation. Of seeing differences and seeing similarities. Of leaving home and returning home. Of expansion and contraction.

Cosmologists used to believe that the expanding universe — which began with the Big Bang — would eventually slow down. That the collective gravitational force of the billions of galaxies would not only bring the expansion to a stop, but reverse it, drawing creation back to, well, we don't know what.

But that theory has lost traction because of the Hubble Telescope. Based on the spectrometric research revealed by this telescope, it's now believed that the billions of galaxies in our universe (which are billions of light years away), and which are retreating at speeds close to the speed of light (186,000 miles / second) will continue to retreat. And the farther away they get, the faster they go! In other words, they (and we) are moving towards an unimaginable, incomprehensible infinity.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said that the moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends towards justice. And many Episcopalians lament that ecumenical and interreligious relations are fractured, divisive, and unjust. But as we move along that arc, we are like medieval stonemasons who know they won't live to see the cathedral on which they're working finished, but persist nevertheless. And we persist in working to embody the words of Jesus (in John 17:22) so that we may be one, as Jesus and God are One.

Because of COVID-19, our annual LARC Conference was moved from a two-day in-person retreat to an afternoon webinar on October 13. Our moderator was The Rev. Dr. Thomas Ferguson who led us in discussing "Ecumenism in a Time of Crisis." And the UM General Conference, which had been scheduled for May 2020, was cancelled for the same reason. A vote on the full communion proposal with the Episcopal Church was to be taken then, and General Convention 2021 was to vote on the proposal too. But the joint dialogue committee which met on July 30 now recommends that both bodies wait for their legislative meetings after 2021, to take up the full-communion proposal. And so we wait in hope — headed for infinity and beyond.

## PROVINCE V EXECUTIVE BOARD

*Respectfully Submitted by Canon Katie Forsyth, Eastern Michigan Representative and the Rev. Joel Turmo, Western Michigan Representative*

Province V of the Episcopal Church is composed of 14 dioceses geographically situated around the Midwest. Those dioceses include Eastern and Western Michigan, Northern Michigan, Michigan, Eau Claire, Fond du Lac, Milwaukee, Chicago, Missouri, Springfield, Northern Indiana, Indianapolis, Ohio, and Southern Ohio. The mission of the Province is to “connect people to people, and people to resources.”

The Province seeks to build collaboration and networking across diocesan lines for continued conversation and resource sharing. The following networks are currently in place and invite wider participation:

- Prison/Jail Ministry
- Leadership in parishes without permanent clergy
- Recovery and Addictions Ministry
- Suicide Prevention Ministry
- Refugee Ministry
- Public Theology Matters Network
- Creation Care Network
- Ministry in Resort Communities

- Dismantling Racism & Beloved Community
- Episcopal Church Women
- Youth Ministry
- Young Adult & Campus Ministry

Additionally, the Province offers two funding opportunities for the people of the dioceses: scholarships up to \$500 to attend events and trainings outside of one's own diocese and grants for network programming, bringing together participants from multiple dioceses to collaborate on the work of the Church. Scholarships and grants are available on a rolling basis and are distributed throughout the year, until all funds have been dispersed.

The Executive Board meets monthly via Zoom plus an annual face-to-face board meeting to conduct the business of the Province between Synods. In 2020, our annual in-person meeting took place in early February, before the pandemic lock-down began. Currently, the Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth (Bishop, Ohio) serves as President, and Canon Jane Cislucyis (Northern Michigan) serves as Vice-President.

Every triennium, each province hosts a Synod meeting to conduct the business of the province. Province V will host our 2021 Synod via Zoom with the Rev. Gay Clark Jennings, President of the House of Deputies, as keynote speaker. Visitors are welcome.

To learn more about the Province, get involved in a network, and sign up for the newsletter, please visit [www.provincev.org](http://www.provincev.org).

## TASKFORCE FOR EVANGELISM

*Respectfully Submitted by Katie Forsyth, Taskforce Convenor and Canon for Evangelism & Networking*

**“Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?”**

**“We will, with God’s help!”**

The Taskforce for Evangelism has had a banner year, despite shifting plans due to COVID-19.

Last fall, at both of our diocesan conventions, the Taskforce invited our wider body to participate in the #MIFaithStory project

# #MIFaithStory

- a storytelling initiative in which folks were asked to film themselves answering one of three questions - Why are you an Episcopalian? Why have you chosen to follow Jesus? What do you wish people knew about your faith community?

This project was very well received and we had nearly 20 submissions that were distributed via our diocesan Facebook pages ([facebook.com/dioeastmich](https://facebook.com/dioeastmich) and [facebook.com/wmichepiscopal](https://facebook.com/wmichepiscopal)) on a weekly basis from October through early Spring, when the pandemic hit and effectively put this project on a short

hiatus. We still welcome video submissions as our dioceses continue to tell our story of why we choose to follow Jesus and why we choose to follow Jesus in community. Learn more at [eastmich.org/mifaithstory](http://eastmich.org/mifaithstory) and [edwm.org/mifaithstory](http://edwm.org/mifaithstory).

At the beginning of 2020, our Taskforce hosted the *Evangelism 101* workshop at the two Leadership Days events that were able to happen before the pandemic shut all in-person programming down. This workshop included an overview of Episcopal Evangelism, catalysts for spiritual growth, developing your own story, and inviting others to more. If a congregation, or group of congregations, would like this workshop offered locally, please contact me directly at [kforsyth@eastmich.org](mailto:kforsyth@eastmich.org) or [kforsyth@edwm.org](mailto:kforsyth@edwm.org).

The next two initiatives are recent developments, though long in the making.

First, one of the activities this group had planned for 2020 was to offer evangelism microgrants to our congregations to fund creative and innovative experiments in reaching out to new people, sharing our stories, hearing their stories, and inviting them to more. Again, due to the pandemic, these microgrants were put on hold.

As these were on hold, congregations were leaping into uncharted territory - mission and ministry while physically separated. As parish leaders were taking a crash course in Zoom and Facebook Live, there was a growing sense that this was not only an opportunity to teach the Church some cool new techy tricks, but an opportunity for evangelism via our online platforms. With considerable help and insight from Val Ambrose, Anne Hallmark, Bill Spaid, and Mike Spencer, the Taskforce developed and implemented Digital Ministry Grants, funding initiatives up to \$700 for local congregations, a total of \$20,000 available, funded half by the Congregational Development and Redevelopment fund of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan and half by the Bishop Whittemore Foundation, connected with the Diocese of Western Michigan. Between when the grants were announced in August and when the Taskforce met for review in early October, we had received 51 applications, requesting almost \$32,000 in grant funds. The award letters and announcement are expected to go out in mid-October.

Relatedly, while the Taskforce was originally created by convention resolution by the Diocese of Western Michigan, it had always been our intention to shift this group into a collaboration between the two dioceses. The urgency of the Digital Ministry Granting program helped prompt this into reality, as we invited new members from the Mitten's Eastern coast to join our team. I am grateful for this great group of evangelists, and their willingness to say YES!

While we're unsure what the next year will allow, we do anticipate offering an opportunity for the dioceses to join us on this journey of invitation by participating in a six-part online series, *Embracing Evangelism*, a program developed by the Office of Evangelism for the Episcopal Church and adapted to our context. We plan to kick off this series, which is open to all people, in February 2021. Stay tuned for an official announcement.

Finally, I want to thank the Taskforce members who have served in this capacity during 2019 and 2020. We all are strengthened by their gifts and willingness to share them.

The Ven. Beth Drew - Trinity, Three Rivers (WM)  
Tanna Leclaire - Grace, Lapeer (EM), *Appointed in August*

The Rev. Nurya Love Parish - Holy Spirit, Belmont (WM), *Resigned in July*  
Matt Roney - Grace, Traverse City (WM)  
The Rev. Harold Schneider - St. John the Baptist, Otter Lake (EM), *Appointed in August*  
Sue Wander - St. Andrew's by the Lake, Harrisville (EM), *Appointed in August*  
The Rev. Mike Wernick - Two Churches, Kentwood (WM)

## ANNUAL MINISTRY REPORTS

### EASTERN MICHIGAN

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#### CAMP CHICKAGAMI

*Respectfully Submitted by McKenzie Knill, Executive Director*

For the Camp Chickagami community, the year 2020 began full of hope and glad anticipation for what it would hold. In early December 2019, the Board of Advisors of Camp Chickagami had held a 90th year celebration and silent auction to celebrate our 90 years of ministry and the continuation of that ministry into the next 90 years.

Summer 2020 youth and family camp programming was anticipated to be a summer of growth and changes for what our typical youth camp season looked like. We were to be adding new sessions, trying out new schedules and ways of doing things, and we were looking forward to our first out of state Trip Camp.

After careful consideration and discernment, many conversations with Episcopal camp directors from around the country and our camping colleagues with American Camp Association, our Executive Director, Bishop and Camp Chickagami Board decided that it was not in the best interest of the health, safety and well-being of our camp community to move forward with programming for the 2020 summer in the midst of COVID-19. This was an incredibly difficult and emotional decision to make, but was the right one.

In place of in-person summer programming at Camp Chickagami, we collaborated with youth ministers in the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan to put together a Camp at Home program. This was funded as part of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan's youth ministry programming and almost 200 individuals and about 115 family units registered. Each camper received a Camp at Home box to their home as well as the online programming and opportunities for Zoom connection online for five weeks this summer.

This summer was a quieter one on the shores of Lake Esau. Our camp had a sabbath year and time to refresh and sit for longer than it has in over 20 years. We welcomed small individual rentals to our facility beginning in August and put our camp to bed for another winter the second week of October.

Financially, this was a strange summer for Camp Chickagami as well. For the last few years we have been receiving financial contributions monthly from the Barth Missionary Trust at St. Pauls, Flint that greatly contributed to savings, program and facility investments in upwards of \$30-35,000 a year for a promise of five years. Due to COVID-19 and re-structuring in the congregation, we received our last contribution from that trust in July of this year. Aside from the rental income of about \$5,000, some donations and the January-July contributions from the Barth Trust, we did not receive much other income for 2020. Capital expenditures still exist for our facility, and we anticipate ending the budget year with a deficit of about \$5,000.

We are listening to professionals and hoping with prayerful hearts that summer 2021 will be a summer of programming, community and formation on Lake Esau's shores once again. We will always keep the safety and well-being of our beloved community at the forefront of our thoughts as we make any decisions to move forward with in-person gathering.

## CHAPLAIN TO THE RETIRED CLERGY, SPOUSES, AND RETIRED SPOUSES

*Respectfully Submitted by the Rev. Ann Grady, Chaplain*

The Chaplain to the Retired Clergy and Spouses, and Surviving Spouses is a program of the Episcopal Church that is supported through the Church Pension Group. Chaplains are appointed by the diocesan bishop, and serve at their pleasure. Some dioceses have a single chaplain; others have more than one. In many dioceses a retired clergy member and spouse serve together.

Chaplains meet in provincial gatherings every other year. The provincial gathering scheduled for October 6-9, 2020 in Kansas City, MO, has been cancelled due to the coronavirus.

In addition to provincial gatherings, Chaplains to the Retired from throughout the Church meet triennially in various places throughout the country. The next triennial gathering is scheduled for 2022.

During this time of the coronavirus, The Rev. Laura Queen and Sean Scheller, staff from the national church, have been facilitating remote gatherings of clergy at both the provincial and national levels. These remote gatherings give us chaplains an opportunity to check-in with each other.

Laura and Sean also plan speakers for some of these gatherings. In September, Phillip Marshall spoke with us about elder justice. He became a passionate advocate as a result of his fight to become the guardian of his late grandmother, philanthropist Brooke Astor, after he discovered she was a victim of elder abuse.

My primary task is to engage in bereavement care when a retired clergy, spouse or surviving spouse dies. I communicate with the designated next of kin by hand written notes that are sent on a regular schedule for thirteen months following the death.

I send Christmas and Easter cards to every retired clergy and spouse, and surviving spouse whose canonical or residential diocese is Eastern Michigan, and for whom I have an address.

Thanks to the retired clergy and spouses, and surviving spouses who have helped make this diocese what it is.

## THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

*Respectfully Submitted by the Rev. Sue Colavincenzo, Chair*

The following is the Mission Statement of the Commission of Ministry:

*To assist all individuals, along side the Office of the Bishop, in fulfilling their call to ministry.*

Scripture to support our Mission Statement:

*The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the Body of Christ.  
Ephesians 4:11-12*



The means to accomplish our Mission:

1. *Provide resources to assist all God's people as they discern their gifts for ministry.*
2. *Support the ministry of all God's people.*
3. *Oversee the discernment of those seeking ordination.*
4. *Support the Bishop in articulating the ministry of Christ.*

Over the past several years, the COM has worked diligently to update the ordination process as it is written in the Ordination Manual and Checklist so we are in compliance with all church-wide and diocesan canons. Final submission has been pending the approval of a bishop.

Currently, no person will be entering the ordination process or have a change of status in their ordination process until a bishop is serving.

Since Oct. 2019, The Ecclesiastical Authority has taken the following actions after consulting with COM. The Rev. Michael Spencer, The Rev. Wendy Brown, The Rev. Thomas Manney, The Rev. Paul Brunell, and The Rev. Harold Schneider were ordained priests.

The COM currently has eight members who have been appointed by a bishop, four lay persons and four clergy.

Members of the COM as of Oct. 29, 2020: The Rev. Sue Colavincenzo, Ms. Emily Klein, The Rev. Deacon Anna Leigh Kubbe, The Rev. Pam Lenartowicz, Ms. Ellen McVey, The Rev. Curt Norman, Ms. Doris Sutton, and Ms. Joyce Thewalt. We would like to thank The Rev. Tyler Richards for his service in this ministry. His was a valuable voice of discernment and his humor will be missed. We would also like to thank Ms. Angela Krueger for her patience and excellence in working with the COM. She has been a rock star!

The members of our COM have served with integrity, diligence, patience, humor, and generosity of spirit. I thank them.

*(Photo: Members of the Eastern Michigan COM with the Rev. Harold Schneider at the ordination to his diaconate.)*

## RECOVERY MINISTRY

*Respectfully Submitted by the Rev. Brian Chace, Coordinator*

We had planned to hold two events in 2020: a healing service modeled on the one that's been held at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in Evert for the past several years on the first Sunday in Advent, and the annual 11th Step Retreat hosted by the committee in conjunction with the G.R.A.C.E. Center and held at the usual location at the CYO Girls' Camp in Port Sanilac in June. Both of these events were cancelled, however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. My hope is to regroup the committee when it is feasible to do so to replan these events and perhaps others.

## REGISTRAR'S REPORT

*Respectfully Submitted by Angela Krueger, Assistant to the Bishop*

This is a report of the actions taken by the Bishop and/or the Standing Committee from October 18, 2019 through October 31, 2020. All records in the Diocesan office are in good order and preserved in a seemly manner.

Actions taken were:

Ordinations to the Priesthood	7
Ordinations to the Diaconate	0
Baptisms	0
Confirmations	0
Receptions	0
New Clergy Received	0
Clergy Transferred Out	3
Clergy Renunciations/Depositions	0
Clergy Funerals	1
Deconsecrations of Buildings	0
Visitations	4
Celebrations of New Ministries	0

## SOCIAL SERVICE & MINISTRY NETWORKING GRANTS

*Respectfully Submitted by the Rev. Elizabeth Chace and the Rev. Paul Brunell*

The Diocesan Social Services Mission Grants Team met on November 7<sup>th</sup> of last year to discuss 9 applications for grants for the 2020 fiscal year. After prayers and thoughtful discussion, the Team voted to recommend that the Diocesan Council award a total of \$102, 580. On November 8, 2019 the Council voted to award the grants for 2020 as we had suggested.

**Crossover Downtown Outreach Ministry, St. Paul's, Flint**, received \$14,250 to help folks with emergency needs and expand their youth programs.

**Helping Hands, St. Mark's, Atlanta**, received \$1,500 to help neighbors in need of food, clothing, heating assistance, and Christmas gifts for children.

**#Movingmarket4life, Grace, Port Huron,** received \$6,080 for the mission of empowering people to be able to have healthy eating by increasing access to locally produced healthy food and education.

**G.R.A.C.E. Center, St. Francis', Grayling,** received \$19,000 to expand their licensed psychological counseling and prevention education services to the economically disadvantaged.

**St. Andrew's Soup Kitchen, Flint,** received \$19,000 to serve neighbors in need with food and clean clothing as well as attending to their spiritual and emotional welfare.

**Family Promise, St. Paul's, Flint,** received \$14,250 to further expand their mission in ending homelessness one family at a time through shelter, education, and counseling.

**St. Jude's, Fenton,** received \$14,250 for the Community Assistance Program which seeks to deepen relationships with their neighbors in meeting their urgent food needs and by education to help them grow towards self-sufficiency.

**St. Bartholomew's, Mio,** received \$4,750 for their Food Bank serving the food insecure neighbors with urgent needs and attending to their spiritual and emotional welfare.

**St. Christopher's, Grand Blanc,** received \$9,500 to partner with multiple others in providing a central location for community ministries and social services in the area, including food, clothing, and utility aid. Plans are in the works to expand services to include senior services as well as career, financial, nutritional, education and counseling.

# ANNUAL MINISTRY REPORTS

## WESTERN MICHIGAN

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### THE BISHOP WHITTEMORE FOUNDATION

*Respectfully Submitted by Robert Brower, President*

The Bishop Whittemore Foundation is an independent nonprofit 501(C) (3) corporation. It is in its 68<sup>th</sup> year of service to the Diocese of Western Michigan. During calendar year 2020 to date, the Foundation trustees have met quarterly to review loan and grant proposals in support of diocesan and parish objectives. Many of our meetings were attended by third-party grant applicants or representatives of parishes. Visitors are welcome. Due to COVID-19 complications, some of our meetings were by conference call.

The following grants were approved:

#### **January 2020 Meeting:**

- Sudanese Grace Episcopal Church, Grand Rapids – Building Repair - \$12,500
- St. David's, Lansing - \$9,000 – Acolyte National Cathedral Conference – this event was cancelled and grant not paid.

#### **April 2020 Meeting:**

- St. Mark's Grand Rapids - \$8,000 - Safety Policies and Procedures Study and Manual to be shared within the diocese
- St. John's Grand Haven - \$5,000 - Uganda Unity School Project

#### **July 2020 Meeting:**

- Diocesan fund for Digital Ministry Grants to address Covid 19 issues - \$10,000

Additionally the Foundation has an outstanding commitment to consider an annual request from the diocese to fund the reorganized geographic areas and canon missionaries. 2020 is the third and last year of this commitment.

At our January 2020 Annual Meeting, the Trustees adopted a resolution permitting the carryover of amounts available for distribution but not distributed from one calendar year to the next, thus increasing the amount available for distribution in any particular year. Total grants in any calendar year are limited to 4% of the Foundation's assets, computed annually on a rolling average of the ten previous quarters. Individual grants are generally limited by Foundation policy to 10% of annual available grant funds. Loans to any one parish are limited to \$100,000 and typically have a maturity not longer than 5 years with a 20 year amortization, bearing a competitive interest rate.

The trustees of the Bishop Whittemore Foundation remain committed to the growth of the endowment fund balance, the prudent investment of the Foundation assets, careful and balanced consideration of every grant application to ensure the best use of available funds. In this regard we work carefully with our investment advisors, Merrill Lynch of Grand Rapids, MI.

In 2019-2020, the trustees of the Foundation continued its analysis of how the Foundation may grow its endowment funds and better achieve the stated objectives of the Foundation. Individual contributions are greatly appreciated. Anyone making a contribution to the Bishop Whittemore Foundation can be assured that the contribution will be vigilantly guarded, carefully invested and wisely dispensed to fund worthy projects.

Annually in May the diocese has an official Bishop Whittemore Foundation Sunday, when all parishes are requested to remind parishioners of the good works of the Foundation and encourage gifts to the Foundation.

For more and updated information please log into our new website at [whittemorefoundation.com](http://whittemorefoundation.com) which has been created by our Promotion and Fundraising Committee.

The Foundation trustees deserve recognition and thanks for their long devoted service and gift of their expertise for the important work of the Foundation.

## THE CANONS MISSIONER

*Respectfully Submitted by the Rev. Canon Valerie Ambrose, the Rev. Canon Anne Hallmark, and the Rev. Canon William Spaid*

The 143rd Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan approved a proposed restructuring plan which included dividing the diocese into three regions; each region was to be served by a Canon Missioner, who would provide support, counsel and encouragement to the parishes in their respective regions. The three Canons were appointed by the Bishop and began serving in the summer of 2018.

In the past two years the scope of the roles and ministries of the Canons Missioner have included the following:

- Supply 2-3 Sundays per month in various parishes within their region
- Guide 5+ parishes in each region through the transition and search processes when clergy vacancies occurred
- Conduct the convention mandated Vitality and Viability assessment with half of the parish vestries in the diocese, and assisting them with discerning future ministry opportunities and establishing parish priorities and goals. (The pandemic has precluded more assessments being conducted.)
- Meet with clergy, vestries and entire congregations to strengthen ties with the diocese and, as requested, assist with strategic planning and ministry program development

- Provide parishes links to diocesan staff, volunteer resources, and potential community and regional partners for program collaboration
- Conduct Mutual Ministry reviews with clergy and their vestries
- Meet at least quarterly with the Canons of Eastern Michigan to discern additional collaborative opportunities
- Convene regional clericus meetings and serve as facilitator when the Bishop is absent
- Plan and co-host the annual clergy retreat for priests and deacons from Eastern and Western Michigan
- Offer workshops at the annual Bishop's teaching days
- Convene the task forces on Creation Care, Liturgy and Worship, and Dismantling Racism
- Serve ex officio on Diocesan Council

During the pandemic we have officiated at streamed diocesan worship services. We have also maintained contact with parishes via numerous Zoom meetings. In recent months we have attended Standing Committee meetings to provide information and updates regarding the diocese and individual parishes, and have assumed general oversight of diocesan office operations.

Each of us is grateful and honored to serve the parishes in our regions and the diocese-at-large.

## CHAPLAINS TO THE RETIRED CLERGY

*Respectfully Submitted by the Rev. Ed and Ann Emenheiser, Chaplains to the Retired Clergy*

Our year as chaplains to the retired clergy of the Diocese of Western Michigan began with enthusiastically welcoming additional chaplains to help care for and inform our approximately 200 retired clergy, spouses/partners, and widows.

Serving as chaplains to the retired clergy in the southern region are the Reverend Paula Durren and Mike Durren, serving in the central region "east" as well as many out-of-state canonically resident clergy are the Reverend Carol Spangenberg and Dave Spangenberg, and serving in the central region "west" is Charlie Homeyer (and Sara Homeyer before her death.) We are serving as chaplains to the northern region as well as overall coordinators for the diocesan chaplains.

Our goals are to inform our retired of any benefit changes, keep them in touch with diocesan news and activities, as well as to gather for fellowship.

We began 2020 with a meeting/orientation in Grand Rapids for the new chaplains and discussed many ideas and plans for the year. We left the meeting with enthusiasm and with each of us ready to tackle some new projects. To kick things off our first gathering was held at our home in Traverse City for the northern region folks to say goodbye to David Lilvis and Meredith Hunt as they headed to New York and their family.

And then COVID. That changed all of our plans, of course, and kept us at home making calls and emailing as we could. It has been a physically and emotionally challenging year for our group of chaplains as well so that has slowed us down somewhat.

We continue to receive training from the Episcopal Church via Zoom which keeps us informed and hopeful. We look for ways to serve our retired EDWM family, and we would love any suggestions.

Our goal of a EDWM retired clergy newsletter delivered primarily via email (or USPS as needed) is close. We also want to begin a network joining everyone so that good news and challenging news can be shared and prayers said or rejoicing shared. We are especially eager to be able to be together again. Fellowship is foremost in our ministry. We find our connections are many and wonderful.

## THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

*Respectfully Submitted by the Rev. Diane Stier and the Rev. Deacon Janet Gockerman, Co-Chairs*

In the Diocese of Western Michigan, the Commission on Ministry oversees the discernment of people to Holy Orders and establishes guidelines and programs for formation for every order (lay, deacon, and priest) of the church. It also guides people through the ordination process.

The Commission on Ministry (COM) is established by Title III, Canon 2 of the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church. According to that canon, every diocese must have a committee or commission consisting of priests, deacons, and lay persons whose function is to assist the Bishop in three distinct areas:

- 1) In the implementation of Title III canons related to ministry.
- 2) In the determination of present and future opportunities and needs for the ministry of all baptized persons.
- 3) In the design and oversight of the ongoing process for recruitment, discernment, formation for ministry, and assessment for readiness thereof.

The Diocese of Western Michigan continues to be blessed with a large number of individuals, currently 20, who are in discernment or various stages in the ordination process. That challenges the Commission's ability to do the good, patient and slow work of listening to and watching for God's presence and action in the lives of those with whom we are discerning.

In 2020 we, prayerfully and deliberately, met this challenge as we continued to use the interview day model for discerning with people who are seeking postulancy to Holy Orders. Due to COVID restrictions this year interviews were delayed and took place via ZOOM. At the Spring Interview Day the COM interviewed and recommended to the Standing Committee six candidates for ordination. In July, three of them were ordained to the diaconate and three of them were ordained to the transitional diaconate. At our August interview day we interviewed and recommended for Postulancy four nominees

for Postulancy, two for the priesthood and two for the diaconate. We cancelled the Fall candidacy interview day because there were no applicants.

To clarify the process for discernment for ministry we revised the Guidelines for Local Discernment. We also continued our efforts this year to strengthen our collaborative efforts between the Commission on Ministry and the Standing Committee, particularly with the President of the Standing Committee, Mr. Dave Croal and the Standing Committee's Liaison to the Commission on Ministry, the Rev. Dr. Randall Warren.

Lastly, We wish to acknowledge the commitment and contributions of all of the COM members listed below.

Ms. Virginia LeDare Cox - St. John's, Mount Pleasant  
The Rev. Michael Fedewa - St. Paul's, Muskegon  
The Rev. Janet Gockerman - St. Mark's, Grand Rapids, *Co-Chair*  
The Rev. Darlene M.S. Kuhn - St. James, Albion  
Ms. Joanne Lemieux - St. John's, Grand Haven  
The Rev. David Meyers - St. Peters by the Lake, Montague  
The Rev. Sr. Diane Stier - St. John's, Mount Pleasant & Emmaus Community, *Co-Chair*  
Ms. Karen Varanauskas - St. John's, Mount Pleasant  
The Rev. Michael Wood - St. Barnabas, Portage

## DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

*Respectfully Submitted by Lois Weed, President*

Due to COVID-19 affecting all our churches and chapters, there have not been in-person assemblies this year. Chapters are working through Zoom and other electronic methods to have study groups for new

members. Chapters are finding novel ways of meeting and continuing contact with members, such as cards, emails, and phone calls.

In January, Celeste Hillyard, Province V vice-president, and I went to Eastern Michigan to meet with several DOK members who are interested in re-assembling. The discussion continues with Province V officers. With our two Dioceses sharing administration, it is a great time to move toward re-assembling Eastern Michigan DOK.

National also continues to address the Strategic Plan, to be explained, discussed and administered through the year 2024.

The Province V spring assembly was postponed from April to September, and conducted through Zoom. Many of us are honing our technology skills on the computer, being stretched and molded by the Spirit! Through many Zoom meetings and experiments we were able to provide a spirit-filled gathering for our members.

### General Comments:

As of September 2020, we currently have 12 chapters in the Diocesan Assembly of Western Michigan, with one chapter in danger of being disbanded for falling below the required membership of three members. There are 89 members in chapters and 9 Daughters at Large for a total of 98 members in our diocese. There is interest in starting Junior chapters in some of the parishes. As churches begin to gather indoors again, following safety guidelines, we are hopeful we will be able to once again meet in person. Our prayers continue for each other, our churches and the world.



### Diocesan Assembly of Western Michigan of the Daughters of the King

At large	9
St. Claire of Assisi (Grace, Traverse City)	16
Julian of Norwich (Grace, Ludington)	3
Lambs of God (Mediator, Harbert)	9
Ruth (St. Andrews, Grand Rapids)	13
R Bruce Wheeler (St. Augustine, Benton Harbor)	2
Julian of Norwich (St. John, Mt. Pleasant)	11
Light of Christ (St. John, Sturgis)	3

St. Lydia (St. Mark, Fremont)	3
Garden of Saints (St. Paul, St. Joseph)	9
Eva (Trinity, Three Rivers)	9
Keepers of the Kaleidoscope (St. Paul, Dowagiac)	6
Trinity (Trinity, Marshall)	5
Total	98

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

*Respectfully Submitted by Marilee Roth, Vice-President*

The Episcopal Church Women is an international organization throughout the Episcopal Church that was founded in 1871 and is still relevant to the faithful women of our parishes. Centered in congregations, ECW members work to do Christ's ministry in the world focused on peacemaking and healing. Even if your parish does not have an organized and/or active ECW group, all women are automatically considered part of ECW.

In 2019, the ECW Diocesan Board sent a memorial to Rock of Recovery and a donation to the Washington National Cathedral. We held the 2019 ECW Annual Meeting at St. John's Church in Sturgis on April 27, 2019. Pam Chapman, Gail Donovan, and Kay Hanson volunteered at the St. Thomas Church Saturday Breakfast on November 9, 2019. Unfortunately, due to weather, we had to cancel our November 23<sup>rd</sup> board meeting at Holy Spirit Church in Belmont. And because of the COVID-19 epidemic, we had to cancel the April 2020 board meeting and the May ECW Annual Meeting that were to be held at St. David's in Lansing. We are still hopeful that we will be able to hold the 2021 annual meeting next spring to gather again with a representative from each congregation to do some visioning of what we would like to be and do in our diocese.



Annual contributions from congregations and individuals provide ongoing support to the ECW Diocesan Board so that it can work to continue this ministry throughout the diocese. Even the smallest contributions add up to make a world of difference. Once the contribution is received, it is automatically split into half:

50% goes toward operations and 50% goes toward missions, outreach, and scholarships. The operational portion helps to defray the cost to enable delegates to attend the ECW Triennial Meeting, ECW Provincial Gatherings, and any other meetings or gatherings to represent and to keep the needs of our Diocese in the forefront. The missions/outreach/scholarship portion is put toward specific projects supported in the diocese; such as, new prayer books (BCP) in Spanish for the Dominican Republic, new prayer books (BCP) in Dinka for Grace Sudanese Church in Grand Rapids, and scholarships for women to purchase needed books for Education For Ministry (EFM). We have granted scholarships to priests, postulants, and lay persons for books, tuition, and other needs in the diocese.

All contributions should be sent directly to the diocesan Chief Financial Officer, Tammy Mazure. Please use the downloadable form ‘ECW Contribution Form’ from the diocesan website found at [edwm.org/episcopal-diocese-item/episcopal-church-women](http://edwm.org/episcopal-diocese-item/episcopal-church-women) to indicate who the gift is from and to make additional contributions to Missions & Outreach, Scholarship Fund, Church Periodical Club (CPC), an honorarium, or a memorial designation.

Pam Chapman, President  
Marilee Roth, Vice-President  
Kay Hanson, Secretary  
Tammy Mazure, Treasurer  
Gail Donovan and Sarah Swart, UTO Co-Coordiators  
Ruth Smith, Mission & Outreach  
Lois Weed, Daughters of the King

## JUBILEE MINISTRIES

*Respectfully Submitted by Martha Bartlett, Jubilee Officer*

### **The status of Jubilee Ministry in Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan**

In 1982, Jubilee Ministry was authorized by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church to “attack the systemic causes of domestic poverty and injustice through works of charity and justice.”

That was nearly 40 years ago. During those years, Jubilee has celebrated and recognized parish ministries that respond directly to alleviate human need, advocate with and for those whom parishioners have met and share ideas and plans with other congregations.

Those ministries have done marvelous works. In 1982, outreach ministries were, if not rare, at least not at the forefront of parish life. In these nearly 40 years, parish life and witness has changed. In a survey conducted two years ago, every EDWM parish identified many, many forms of outreach currently underway. If you access the Asset Map on our EDWM website, you can learn about them. (And, you can update your parish site as well.) This being the case, every parish is essentially a Jubilee site and that is cause for celebration! The initial project of urging such ministry has run its course. The goals have been met.

With the approval of the Standing Committee of EDWM on August 3, 2020, we have brought Jubilee Ministry to a close here in our diocese.

- We will put the Jubilee records in the archives at the Diocesan House in Wyoming, MI.
- We thank and encourage the parishes that currently have Jubilee Centers including St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids; Grace, Traverse City; St. Philip's, Beulah; St. Luke's, Kalamazoo; and St. Mark's, Newaygo.
- We thank and encourage all the parishes who engage in ministries of charity and justice with those who are poor, homeless, discriminated against and marginalized.
- We thank the Rev. Cindy Nawrocki who served as our Jubilee Officer for many years.

I fervently believe in the Church's ministry with the poor and disadvantaged and believe that now, as we face and address the twin pandemics of systemic racism and COVID-19, the need is more apparent than ever. Currently, The Episcopal Church funds programs of Evangelism, Racial Reconciliation, and Creation Care. We can each find ways to exercise our witness and demonstrate our care in our communities.

I am grateful to those I have met while serving as Jubilee Officer. The love that is offered in their ministries is compelling. Since the 1970's, in my ministries in Detroit and in Coldwater, I have seen how people of all backgrounds can be brought together - offering assistance and working for justice. These face-to-face encounters are life-changing. These are the things to celebrate and not a particular ministry name. We can move on from the incentive provided by "Jubilee" to a new visions and actions.

## THE ORDER OF NAUCRATIUS

*Respectfully Submitted by the Rev. Christian Baron, Co-founder*

The Order of Naucratus is a way of being for Hunters and Anglers. We are a network of outdoor enthusiasts who have committed to sharing from the abundance of the harvests we enjoy with neighbors who are experiencing food insecurity. This (mostly) happens by making collections at big lake fishing tournaments and processing donated deer into ground venison.

In 2020, due to Covid, some of our tournaments were cancelled. But we were able to safely collect fish at our annual Naucratus Big Lake Charity Tournament in Holland, The Dreamweaver Tournament in Muskegon, the Benzie Frenzy in Frankfort, and by collecting fish from individual anglers from up and down the Western Coast of Michigan. We also processed eight deer that were harvested by a farmer in Mid-Michigan. The Cursillo community in Western Michigan also gifted the Order a trailer which we were able to sell to provide much needed revenue that would have been otherwise lost due to the upheaval of 2020. These funds helped purchase the equipment we distribute to keep protein safe between the time of donation and delivery (protein bags, stickers for labeling, and coolers). We had also planned to have our first ever "Camp Naucratus" at Camp Chickagami, but due to the pandemic, we were unable to hold

this long weekend of fishing with families from across the state. Stay tuned as we plan to reschedule for 2021.

If you would like to get involved, please speak to your rector/priest-in-charge and your Outreach Team about this ministry. Then, get in touch with us on Facebook, [facebook.com/onwm.edwm](https://facebook.com/onwm.edwm), or reach out to us through the website ([onwm.org](https://onwm.org)). We could also use financial donations to help pay for processing and other needs for the Order. You can make checks payable to St. Philip's Episcopal Church with ONWM in the memo, give online at [stphilipsbeulah.org/online-giving/](https://stphilipsbeulah.org/online-giving/) and select "Order of Naucrati-EDWM" as the designated fund.

The Order of Naucrati is ever expanding. We are a group of religious (and not), Episcopalians (and other), Michiganders (and those outside of the state). We'd love for you to join us.

## PASTORAL CARE & COUNSELING

*Respectfully Submitted by Kenneth E. Reid, ACSW, Ph. D.*

This time of the year I routinely report to the Convention on activities of the Pastoral Care and Counseling Program (PCCP).

For 2020, the report is different for many reasons including the economic and health crisis faced by the United States, the consequential November election and, closer to home, the leadership crisis within the diocese.

From a more personal standpoint, in February of this year, after 45 years I stepped down from the role of part-time pastoral counselor because of family health reasons. The Program is presently "on hold" and no longer taking clients.

Recognizing the Program has reached a turning point, I would like to use the opportunity to provide a brief retrospective, reflecting on my experience of having worked for 5 bishops.

THE PAST: The PCCP, referred to jokingly as the "best kept secret of the diocese", was instituted by Bishop Bennison in the 1960s. The mission was that of fostering growth, wholeness, and healing in a Christian setting. Conceived as a means of strengthening and preserving family life, the practical goal was that of supporting clergy, congregations, and the various ministries of the diocese. A recurrent theme has been that of encouraging individuals develop to the fullest of their God-given potential.

When the Cathedral was consecrated in 1969, office space was designated for Pastoral Care and Counseling. After the Cathedral was sold, the Program relocated to St. Luke's Church, Kalamazoo.

From its beginning, counselors associated with the PCCP have been part-time.

These include the Rev. Bruce Irwin, former rector of St. David's Church, Lansing, and the Rev. Eric Geib, former rector of St. Barnabas Church, Portage.

In 1975, while teaching in Western Michigan University's, School of Social Work, Bishop Bennison invited me to counsel part-time.

THE PRESENT: Although the primary format has been one-to-one counseling, the helping process varied, depending on client-need, i.e., pre-marital, small group, conjoint family therapy, and crisis intervention. Counseling, with exceptions, has intentionally been short term and time limited.

A unique aspect of the Program has been its commitment to the health and wellbeing of clergy and their families. Phone consultation has been available, as well as counseling via Skype.

Over the years, deaneries have invited counselors to lead monthly clergy support groups for their members. In addition, the Commission on Ministry has involved the PCCP in evaluating candidates for the ministry.

Finances have always been a challenge. In the early years, money was budgeted by the diocese for the PCCP. As priorities changed, however, the Program was forced to become self-sustaining with limited financial support from the diocese.

The Program has been committed to making counseling affordable. Fees for services have been comparable to that of other family service-type agencies in the community.

THE FUTURE: The year 2020 is a turning point for the Diocese of Western Michigan and all its component parts--including the Pastoral Care and Counseling Program. It is also an opportune time to consider where the Program is going and how we want to get there. The following are questions to consider.

- Is there is still a need for the Pastoral Care and Counseling Program and if so, what should/could it look like?
- Has it outlived its original purpose and be allowed to die?
- Does it duplicate other counseling programs in the community?
- What makes the Program unique?

Finally, I will be glad to discuss these questions and others in more detail.

## PLAINSONG FARM

*Respectfully Submitted by the Rev. Nurya Love Parish, Executive Director*

There is hope for the future. That includes the future of the church.

This is the top line of Plainsong Farm's report because this has been our greatest discovery in the past year. It feels strange to write that sentence in 2020. This year is more chaotic than any of us have ever

experienced. And yet, in this chaos, so much good has happened with this ministry that it is evident that God is still at work in the world.

As 2019 ended, the farm recognized our primary work is farm-based education and Christian formation. We planned a 2020 program year of in-person experiences: bringing people together for learning, farming, and community life. Then coronavirus happened. All of our plans turned to dust as Michigan shut down. But as food supply chains broke and racially linked health inequities became ever more evident, we also knew our work was needed.

As the Episcopal Church developed the churchwide Good News Gardens program, we developed our Good News Gardens program as a local expression of this ministry. Seventeen Episcopal congregations, two non-profits, twenty-eight households, a Lutheran church, a Christian Reformed Church, and a Reformed Church in America participated. The household cohort was funded by Heart of West Michigan United Way and recruited in partnership with Grand Rapids African American Health Institute. The program provided seedling starts, online garden education, and optional online Christian formation. Over 1000 pounds of food were grown and given through this program in its pilot year. We're excited to plan for year two.

As we canceled our Sabbath at the Farm program, we created a Pattern Days program to provide socially distanced household worship walks integrating Scripture, nature and contemplation. Imagined in early July as a once-monthly experience, it was full beyond capacity by the last program in September. The diocese was also invited and supported to create local Pattern Days programs on church properties. These are ongoing.

Of course, we continued to grow fresh produce for neighbors, including donations to food pantries. This year we added a new pantry partner: Grand Rapids Community College. We soon learned that the produce we were providing was not sufficient to meet their needs. Wanting to ensure a longer season of fresh produce delivery, we raised funds to purchase two hoopouses which will be installed in late October 2020. These hoopouses will enable us to extend our growing season and provide more food to GRCC students.

On the national level, we were invited by the Episcopal Church Task Force on Care of Creation and Environmental Racism to submit a proposal to implement General Convention Resolution [D053-2018](#), which called for a land inventory of the Episcopal Church and the development of policies and practices to help churches tend land to heal Creation. Our proposal was approved, and the dioceses of Spokane, Arkansas and Indianapolis are piloting church land mapping for mission with us. Our Executive Director was the keynote speaker for the Diocese of Arkansas's Diocesan Convention in February 2020.

Our ChurchLands program pilot cohort, funded by the Roanridge Trust, helped fifteen Episcopal ministries in twelve states begin to reimagine their church land use. The first gathering at the farm included everyone from the Harvard Episcopal Chaplaincy, to the founder of Benison Farm in Florida, to an Episcopal Church farm in Indiana partnering with local Black farmers' cooperative. At the retreat we were grounded in Scripture teaching from the Rev. Darriel Harris, and considered how land use can meet the aims of racial justice and reconciliation, creation care, and evangelism. Monthly Zoom calls have kept us connected as participants work on action learning goals. This cohort includes churches that have

started farms as well as congregations seeking to add pollinator gardens for biodiversity stewardship, working toward beginning affordable housing projects on their land, and integrating children's Christian formation and gardening.

This year we learned what it means to be a church mission agency: it means to make God's hope visible. Thanks to the Diocesan Council for proposing Plainsong Farm to become a cooperating ministry of the Diocese of Western Michigan at this convention, to the Finance Committee for sending us our first diocesan budget request form, and even more for the funding proposed in the current diocesan budget. Our work has grown faster than we could have imagined. Wildfires in California showing the consequences of climate change, food insecurity as a result of the pandemic, and the need for churches to provide outdoor Christian formation means we are planning for growth next year. This feels both scary and essential. But doesn't the work of God always feel that way?

With hope that we might be approved as a cooperating ministry of the diocese, thank you for seeing us as yours. Your support makes a measurable difference to heal Creation, feed neighbors, and teach God's ways outdoors - all at the same time.

## TASKFORCE ON DISMANTLING RACISM

*Respectfully Submitted by the Coordinating Team:*

- *The Rev. Canon Valerie Ambrose*
- *Joyce Henry*
- *The Rev. Deacon Cynthia Nawrocki*
- *Carole Redwine*
- *The Rev. Susan S. York*

At convention in November of 2019, 30 plus people volunteered to be part of a task force. The task force was divided into four sub-committees: education, training and facilitation, evaluation and assessment, parish strategy and mentoring, and marketing and public relations. The entire taskforce met in February of 2020 at St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Grand Rapids to organize and strategize.

Sub-groups met individually, and a decision was made to preview Sacred Ground, a film based dialogue series on race and faith developed by the Episcopal Church.

The COVID-19 pandemic interrupted many aspects of our lives, but we determined that this program could go forward with ten sessions on Zoom. All three regions have had groups who have completed the program successfully, and have evaluated it as excellent in both content and in opportunity for sharing in a virtual format. Sixteen parishes in EDWM have committed to participate in offering Sacred Ground in this coming year.

In May of 2020, the task force issued a statement to the diocese in response to the murder of George Floyd. Again on June 7, 2020, 110 active and retired clergy of the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan signed a statement regarding antiracism. On September 30, 2020, an invitation to the work of

dismantling racism was sent to all clergy and senior wardens in both dioceses, calling this new phase, Invitational. It consists of book studies, film viewing and conversations meant to continue the work of dismantling racism.

The remaining phases are Phase II, interactive dialogue and a commitment to change, Phase III, implementation of an action plan to further this work within the parish and community.

With the dedicated work and commitment of the members of this task force, and all people in our parishes who want to understand and heal, we will effect change in our churches, in our communities and the world.

May we all seek the truth and work for justice. Jesus said, “Love one another as I have loved you. “

## UNITED THANK OFFERING

*Respectfully Submitted by Gail Donovan*

Thank you to all who are contributing to the United Thank Offering (UTO) financially and/or through prayers of thanksgiving. Our 2019 United Thank Offering Ingathering totaled \$8,497.44.

Many of us are finding it challenging to feel and express gratitude amidst all the turmoil surrounding us. Recognizing the overwhelming emotional, social, and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the UTO Board voted and received permission from Executive Council earlier this year to postpone the approved 2021 Creation Care grant focus until 2022. The new grant focus for 2021 provides funding for congregational and diocesan efforts to combat the impact of COVID-19 in their communities. The UTO Board is also hosting several webinars, providing children’s activities, and other activities for individuals and groups to participate in.

This is not the first time UTO funds have been granted in response to an epidemic. During and shortly after the Spanish Flu epidemic, thank offerings were used to help fund an increase the number of women missionaries serving around the world. Other grants built or supported hospitals and churches with schools or helped keep essential ministries open, particularly those started by UTO. Now we are supporting our churches in their response to COVID-related needs by answering this new call to share God’s love in their communities and help essential ministries (food banks, job training, after school programs, etc.) continue to serve when they need it most. One hundred percent of UTO offerings received in 2020 will directly support this response. All of our thank offerings – given for grocery pick-up, doctors, nurses, store employees, teachers, and friends and neighbors checking in with us — can help support our communities and bless those who have blessed us.

In light of this urgent need, UTO is doing two rounds of grants. Thank offerings received this year prior to August (\$447,431.04) funded 26 of 48 eligible grant applications before running out of money. These are all impact or sustaining grants of \$25,000 or less and are to be used for immediate needs. All additional Thank Offerings received prior to mid-December will fund the second round of grants. A brief

descriptive listing of the grants already funded and information to apply for the next round can be found at [unitedthankoffering.com](http://unitedthankoffering.com).

I serve on the national UTO Board. Board member duties include reading and scoring all grants. (We use a fairly complex scoring system to rate each grant and help take out bias.) If your church/organization is considering applying for a grant, please contact me ([gaonov@aol.com](mailto:gaonov@aol.com)) for questions and to review it before submitting it to the diocesan grant committee for review and selection. The deadline for processing is Feb. 12, 2021.

Lastly, Thank You Sarah Swart, for agreeing to be Co-Diocesan Coordinator! We hope you will engage in this simple practice of daily thanksgiving. It's a good way to care for your own spirit and have a big impact on the ministry of The Episcopal Church.

# APPOINTMENTS & TRANSITIONS

## EASTERN MICHIGAN

### NEW APPOINTMENTS

Commission on Ministry: the Rev. Curt Norman

### IN THE ORDINATION PROCESS

*Postulants for the Priesthood*

Joe Kennedy, Sewanee

*Nominees for the Priesthood*

Tanna Leclaire, Graduate of the Academy

Maddie Madden, Graduate of the Academy

### ORDINATIONS

The Rev. Wendy Brown to the priesthood in July.

The Rev. Paul Brunell to the priesthood in July.

The Rev. Thomas Manney to the priesthood in July.

The Rev. Harold Schneider to the priesthood in July.

The Rev. Canon Michael Spencer to the priesthood in November.

### TRANSITIONS

The Rev. Paul Brunell is Curate at Christ Church, Owosso.

The Rev. Brian Chace retired as Priest-in-Charge of Trinity, West Branch in August.

The Rev. Elizabeth Chace retired as Rector of St. Francis, Grayling in December.

The Rev. Don Davidson departed St. Christopher's in Grand Blanc and is now Interim Priest at Holy Trinity, Wyoming.

Molly Girard retired as Diocesan Administrator of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan in August.

The Rev. Ann Grady serves as Interim Priest-in-Charge with St. Christopher's, Grand Blanc.

The Rev. Kay Houck departed Trinity, Lexington, and is now Rector of Emmanuel, Petoskey,

McKenzie Knill is the Director of Children, Youth, and Young Adult Formation on the diocesan staffs of Eastern and Western Michigan, and continues as Executive Director of Camp Chickagami.

The Rev. Thomas Manney is Curate at St. Paul's, Bad Axe and St. John's, Dryden.

The Rev. Tyler Richards departed Transfiguration, Indian River and is now Rector of St. Anne's, DePere in the Diocese of Fond du Lac.

The Rev. Harold Schneider joined the Ministry of the Baptized Support Team at St. John the Baptist, Otter Lake.

The Rev. Nancy Steele retired as Priest-in-Charge of St. John's, Dryden in June.

## WESTERN MICHIGAN

### IN THE ORDINATION PROCESS

#### *Postulants for the Priesthood*

Kurt Unangst, Virginia Theological

Joanna Unangst, Virginia Theological

Derek Quinn, Sewanee

Alicia Hagar, Graduate of the Academy

Alex Quick

#### *Postulants for the Diaconate*

Trish Harris, Academy

Jim Mitchell

Mark Kelley, Academy

Linda Scheerer, Academy

Elizabeth Brubaker, Academy

#### *Transitional Deacons*

The Rev. Radhajoiti Kaminski, St. Mary's, Cadillac & St. Andrew's, Big Rapids

The Rev. Eileen Stoffan, St. Paul's, Muskegon

The Rev. Philip Zoutendam, Curate in the Diocese of North Carolina

### ORDINATIONS

The Rev. Abby VanderBrug to the priesthood in June (in Connecticut).

The Rev. Michael Hueschen to the diaconate in July.

The Rev. Radhajoiti Kaminski to the diaconate in July.

The Rev. Elizabeth Kinsey to the diaconate in July.

The Rev. Eileen Stoffan to the diaconate in July.

The Rev. Wendy Pearson to the diaconate in July.

The Rev. Philip Zoutendam to the diaconate in June (in North Carolina).

## TRANSITIONS

The Revs. Christian and Jodi Baron are Co-Rectors of Holy Trinity, Manistee and continue as Co-Rectors of St. Philip's, Beulah.

The Rev. Wendy Brown is Priest-in-Charge of St. John's, Charlotte.

Catherine Cameron-Heldt is Diocesan Office Administrator on the diocesan staff in Western Michigan.

The Rev. Don Davidson departed St. Christopher's in Grand Blanc and is now Interim Priest at Holy Trinity, Wyoming.

The Rev. Kay Houck departed Trinity, Lexington, and is now Rector of Emmanuel, Petoskey,

The Rev. Deacon Micheal Hueschen serves with St. Luke's, Kalamazoo.

The Rev. Alan James departed Emmanuel, Petoskey and now serves as Interim Rector of Grace, Grand Rapids.

The Rev. Dr. Jay Johnson is Rector of All Saints, Saugatuck.

The Rev. Deacon Radhajyoti Kaminski is Deacon-in-Charge of the Central Michigan Episcopal Covenant - St. Andrew's, Big Rapids and St. Mary's, Cadillac.

The Rev. Deacon Elizabeth Kinsey serves with St. John's, Sturgis.

McKenzie Knill is the Director of Children, Youth, and Young Adult Formation on the diocesan staffs of Eastern and Western Michigan, and continues as Executive Director of Camp Chickagami.

The Rev. Darlene Kuhn is Rector of Mediator, Harbert, having previously concluded her ministry with St. James, Albion.

The Rev. Lily Marx is Rector of St. Gregory's, Muskegon, after having served as Priest-in-Charge.

Tammy Mazure is the Chief Financial Officer and Benefits Administrator on the diocesan staff in Western Michigan.

The Rev. Deacon Thom McPherson retired from his ministry with Trinity, Marshall in September.

The Rev. Becky Michelfelder concluded her interim ministry with All Saints, Saugatuck.

The Rev. Deacon Wendy Pearson serves with Trinity, Marshall.

The Rev. James Perra is Rector of Grace, Traverse City.

The Rev. Michael Ryan departed Epiphany, South Haven and is now Rector of St. John's, Kirkland in the Diocese of Olympia.

The Rev. Dr. Chrysanne Timm is Rector of St. Christopher's, Northport.

The Rev. Abby Vanderbrug, formerly of St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids, is Director of Children and Family Ministries for Christ Church, Greenwich, CT.

Willa Williams resigned as Office Assistant on the diocesan staff in Western Michigan.

The Rev. Deacon Philip Zoutendam, formerly of St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids, is Curate serving three congregations in the Diocese of North Carolina.