

**Minutes for the Joint Business Meetings of the Fourth Joint Diocesan
Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan and the
Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan
and
Minutes for the Business Meeting of the 149th Convention of the
Episcopal Diocese Western Michigan**

Joint Business Meeting

Friday, October 27, 2023, at 1:30 pm

Welcome and Quorum

Barbara Ilkka opened the Friday Joint Session at 1:34 pm on Friday, October 27, 2023. Erynn Ford of St. Paul's in Flint Michigan, and Ella Todd of St. Mark's, Grand Rapids offered prayer. Erynn and Ella are two of our youth delegates.

Joint Standing Committee Appointment

During the Joint Standing Committee meeting on October 9, 2023, the Joint Standing Committees of Eastern and Western Michigan, acting as ecclesiastical authority, reappointed Bill Fleener, Jr. of St. David's Episcopal Church in Lansing as our Chancellor serving both dioceses.

Canons of Eastern and Western Michigan:

The Canons of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan specifically call for the President of the Standing Committee to chair the convention in absence of a bishop. Barbara Ilkka is serving in that role as the President of the Standing Committee of Eastern Michigan.

The Canons of the Diocese of Western Michigan in absence of a bishop require the election of a clergy person to serve as Chair of convention. The Standing Committee of Western Michigan has nominated the Reverend Anne Schnaare of Grace Episcopal Church in Grand Rapids and Vice President of the Standing Committee to serve as Chair for the convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan.

Quorum

109 Western Michigan eligible lay delegates and 50 clergy delegates are present plus 7 youth delegates. Western Michigan has a quorum present. On behalf of the Standing Committee of Western Michigan, Barbara Ilkka recommended the nomination of the Rev. Anne Schnaare as Co-Chair of the joint sessions. Since being a committee motion, it does not require a second from the delegates. Rev. Anne Schnaare is elected joint chair.

Introductions

The staff of Eastern and Western Michigan are introduced to the convention delegation.

Introduction of two guest Bishop's

The Rt. Rev. Craig Loya is our keynote speaker. The Rt. Rev. Skip Adams is our chaplain for this convention.

Table Discussions:

The delegates introduced themselves and discussed courageous things that their congregations have taken on this year.

Presentations to the Joint Convention

President's Address — 4th Joint Diocesan Convention

Ms. Barbara Ilkka, Eastern Michigan Standing Committee President and The Rev. Anne Schnaare, Western Michigan Standing Committee .

Building Bridges Steering Committee Report

Members of the Steering Committee:

Rev. Jennifer Adams, Rev. Brian Chace, Rev. Jared Cramer, Rev. Don Davidson, Bill Fleener, Canon Katie Forsyth, Jan Gockerman, Gary Grinn, Janet Huff-Worvie, Rev. Becket Leclair, Ellen McVey, Rev. Alicia Miller, Matthew Neddo, Sara Philo, Katie Ong, Rev. Anne Schnaare, and Vicki Schroeder

College for Congregational Development

Rev. B. J. Heyboer

Campus Ministries

Rev. Sonna McNeil campus missionary at Canterbury MSU, (Michigan State University) and Rev. Matthew Lukens Campus Missioner at the UM, (University of Michigan)

Ausable Inclusion Center

Rev. Beckett Leclair

Friday Joint Business Meeting in Recess

The Joint Business meeting was called to recess at 5:03 pm. Western Michigan will conduct the business meeting after dinner. Eastern Michigan will conduct their business meeting tomorrow at 9:00 am.

Western Michigan Business Meeting

Friday, October 27, 2023, at 7:00 pm

The Rev. Anne Schnaare called the 149th business session to order.

Opening Prayer by Lincoln Schaare, Grace, Grand Rapids.

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

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

A motion was made and was seconded that the Rev Joel Turmo, St. Timothy's, Richland serve as Secretary of Convention and was seconded. The Rev. Turmo was elected.

A motion was made and was seconded that the Rev. Dr. Jared Cramer, St. John's, Grand Haven serve as Treasure of the Dioceses and was seconded. The Rev. Cramer was elected.

DJ Jones, Emmanuel Petoskey, the chair of the Nominating Committee presented the slate of candidates for clergy and Lay members.

One clergy was elected to the Standing Committee

The Rev. Valerie Ambrose - St. Mark's, Grand Rapids (86 Votes)

Not Elected

The Rev. Zachariah Char - St. Philip's, Grand Rapids and Sudanese Grace, Grand Rapids (46 Votes)

The Rev. Jim Perra - Grace, Traverse City (37 Votes)

Two laypersons were elected to the Standing Committee

Freya Gilbert, St. Paul's, St. Joseph (100 Votes)

Ellen Schrader, Grace, Traverse City (96 Votes)

Not Elected

Tom Perrin, St. Martin of Tours, Kalamazoo (48 Votes)

J. Rona Howell, St. Peter's-by-the-Lake, Montague (48 Votes)

The Rev. Derek Quinn, St. Paul's, Elk Rapids and Grace, Traverse City was elected as the clergy Deputy to the Provincial Synod by acclamation.

Nancy Foster, St. Andrew's, Cadillac, and Mary Simpson, St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids were elected as lay Deputies to the Provincial Synod by acclamation.

The following people were elected to serve a three-year term on Diocesan Council at the respective regional pre-convention meetings.

For the Northern Collaborative

The Rev. Derek Quinn, St. Paul's, Elk Rapids and Grace, Traverse City

For the Central Collaborative

The Rev. Jared Cramer, St. John's, Grand Haven

For the Southern Collaborative

Rosemary Burke, St. Luke's, Kalamazoo (1 Year Term)

The Rev. Jim Lively, St. John's, Sturgis

Clergy and staff new to the diocese and those who began new calls since we gathered for Convention last year.

The Rev. Deacon Linda Scheerer, St. Gregory's, Muskegon

The Rev. David Blank, Interim Rector, St. Mark's, Grand Rapids

The Rev. Joe Kennedy, Priest in Charge, St. David's, Lansing

The Rev. Gill Azevedo, Priest in Charge at St. Mark's, Paw Paw and St. Luke's, Kalamazoo

The Rev. Rick Stravers, Interim Priest in Charge, St. Thomas, Battle Creek

The Rev. Nixon McMillon, Interim Priest in Charge, Trinity, Grand Ledge

The Rev. Canon Sunil Chandy, Canon for the Central Collaborative and Digital Communities

The Rev. Canon Tracie Little, Canon for the Southern Collaborative and Adult Formation

Nancy Foster, Interim Coach for the Northern Collaborative

The Rev. Bill McClure, Interim Chaplain for the Northern Collaborative

The Rev. Jay Johnson, Interim Coach for Beloved Community and Creation Care

Sara Philo, Chief Financial Officer and Benefits Administrator

The Rev. BJ Heyboer, Coordinator of the College for Congregational Development

The Rev. Brian Coleman, Priest-in-Residence at Holy Trinity, Manistee

The following clergy have retired or announced their retirement since last year's Convention.

The Rev. Rick Schark, St. Mark's, Coldwater

The Rev. Valerie Ambrose, Canon for the Central Region

The Rev. Anne Hallmark, Canon for the Northern Region

The Rev. Cynthia Caruso and the Rev. Jim Enelow announced their retirements, concluding their ministries as Rector and Deacon serving St. Augustine's, Benton Harbor

The Rev. Tom O'Dell announced his retirement and will conclude his ministry as Rector serving Christ Church, Charlevoix at the end of January 2024

The following people have left our diocese since last year's Convention.

Tammy Mazure, Chief Financial Officer and Benefits Administrator on Western Michigan's diocesan staff

The Rev. Canon Alan James, Interim Canon Missioner for the Southern Region, accepted a call to serve as Interim with St. Edmund's Chicago, IL

The Rev. Christian Brocato resigned as rector of St. Mark's, Grand Rapids

Postulants For Priesthood

Abraham Anei, Sudanese Grace, Grand Rapids

John Atem, Sudanese Grace, Grand Rapids

Jonathan Bratt-Carle, St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids

Thon Deng, Sudanese Grace, Grand Rapids

Jessica Hart, St. John's, Mt. Pleasant

Julianne Lark, St. Martins, Kalamazoo

Barrett Lee, St. Luke's, Kalamazoo

Matt Roney, Grace, Traverse City

Cathy Stevens, St. Mark's, Grand Rapids

Kris Veldheer, Grace, Holland

Anne Marie Warner, St. Luke's, Kalamazoo

Theresa Williams, St. Mary's, Cadillac

Postulants for Diaconate

Christi Brooks, St. John's, Mt. Pleasant

Jennifer Frechette, Church of the Mediator, Harbert

Paige Faith Wilson, St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids

The 2024 Operating Budget passed unanimously as presented.

Resolutions

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

WM RESOLUTION 1: CANON CHANGE REGARDING AUDIT REQUIREMENT

Passed with a show of cards.

Section 28.01. AUDITS

As soon as may be after the close of each fiscal year, the accounts of all officers handling funds, whether of the diocese or its auxiliaries, or of congregations and their auxiliaries, or of all cooperating ministries shall be audited in accordance with the Episcopal Church Manual of Business Methods in Church Affairs and The Episcopal

Diocese of Western Michigan Policy "Annual Audit of Congregations." Copies of audit reports shall be submitted to the diocesan treasurer for review by September 1 following the close of the fiscal year. *[Congregations who fail to complete and submit an Annual audit by September 1, will be referred to the Audit Committee for assistance in completing the audit.]*

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

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

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

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

Joint Business Meeting

Saturday, October 28, 2022, at 1:30 pm

Rev. Anne Schnaare of Grace, Grand Rapids calls the joint session of the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan back to order at 1:40 pm.

The session opened with prayer.

Presentations to the Joint Convention

Academy for Vocational Leadership Report

Rev. Canon Tracie Little, Rev. Valerie Fargo and Rev. Liz Kinsey

Dismantling Racism Task Force

Rev. Molly Bosscher

End Gun Violence Michigan

Vicki Schroeder

Province V

Rev. Heather Barta

2023 Awards

Western Michigan

The Rev. William J. Spaid Diocesan Service Award established in 2020:

The Rev. Mike Fedewa

Eastern and Western Award

Making All Things New Award

The Rev. Dr. Randall Warren

Eastern Michigan

The Bishop Bill Gordon Award for Service

William F. "Bill" Thewalt

Courtesy Resolutions

Anne Davidson, St. Mark's , Coldwater & Rev. Nancy Mayhew, St. Alban's, Bay City

Courtesy Resolutions for Joint Diocesan Convention Resolved that this 29th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan and the 149th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan express gratitude to the Joint Standing Committee for service and support as the Ecclesiastical Authority for our dioceses following the resignation of our Bishop Provisional. Resolved that this 29th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan and the 149th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan welcomes the Right Reverend Craig Loya, 10th Bishop of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota as Keynote Speaker and Workshop presenter for Convention, and the Right Reverend Skip Adams as Chaplain.

Resolved that this 29th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan and the 149th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan express gratitude to the Liturgy Design Team: The Venerable Linda Crane, The Venerable Beth Drew, Gregory Gwaltney, David Hawley Lowry, the Rev. Pam Lenartowicz, and The Rev. Dr. Randall Warren for their coordination of worship for this convention, and for those assisting in the Eucharist: The Right Reverend Craig Loya, Presider, and the Rev. Canon Tracie Little, Preacher.

Resolved that this 29th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan and the 149th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan sends greetings to Ira Leidel, wife of the late Rt. Rev. Edwin M. Leidel, Jr., first Bishop of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan; the Rt. Rev. S. Todd Ousley, second Bishop of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan, and his wife, Ann; the Rt. Rev. Prince G. Singh, Bishop Provisional of the Episcopal Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan (resigned); the Rt. Rev. Wayne M. Hougland, Jr, ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Western Michigan (resigned) and Bishop Provisional of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan (resigned); the Rt. Rev. Robert R. Gepert, eighth Bishop of the Diocese of Western Michigan and his wife, Anne; and the Rt. Rev. Edward L. Lee, Jr., seventh Bishop of the Diocese of Western Michigan and his wife, Kathryn.

Resolved that this 29th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan and the 149th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan sends greetings to the Rt. Rev. Bonnie A. Perry, 11th 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 29th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan and the 149th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan sends 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 29th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan and the 149th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan extends greetings to the Most Reverend Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. Resolved that this 29th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan and the 149th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan sends greetings to The Most Rev. Dr. Justin Welby, and prayers for his ministry and leadership with our Communion. On behalf of the Resolutions Committees, we move the adoption of these courtesy resolutions.

Adjournment:

Closing Prayer given by Western Youth Delegate

The Joint Convention of the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan adjourned at 2:00 pm.