



THE PRIMARY CONVENTION OF
THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF THE GREAT LAKES

October 18-19, 2024 | Mt. Pleasant, Michigan

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WELCOME

It's finally here: the Primary Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes! With great excitement and gratitude, we gather together to celebrate and together to conduct the necessary business to become a new diocese, discerning and declaring how we will live and minister together, how we believe God is calling us into this moment.

As you prepare for convention, we invite you to pray for our gathering:

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who will take counsel at the Primary Convention of the Episcopal Dioceses of the Great Lakes for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DON'T FORGET!

- **You need access to this Digital Convention Booklet at convention**, either on an electronic device like a laptop or tablet, or by printing it before you travel.
- **Each ministry (parish, organization) is asked to bring about ¼ cup of water from a local fresh water source like a lake, stream, pond, or river** and to designate one water-bearer to process with that water to add to a communal bowl during our Convention Eucharist. With our shared waters, we will renew our baptismal vows.
- **Bring a reusable mug and/or water bottle** to support our care of creation.
- **Take a moment to check your symptoms.** Feeling sick? Stay home! Have the sniffles? Take a COVID test before traveling to Mt. Pleasant.

QUICK RESOURCES

Business Documents

- [Proposed Rules of Order](#)
- [Proposed Constitution](#)
- [Proposed Canons](#)
- [Report of the Joint Finance Committee](#)
- [Courtesy Resolutions](#)

WiFi

WiFi will be available at the Conference Center; however, we recommend downloading and saving this booklet before you come to the Convention.

Network: Ballroom Guest

Password: guestaccess

Support Resources

- Our Primary Convention Chaplain is The Rev. Jay Gantz.
- Gambling Disorder Resources
 - The Michigan Problem Gambling Helpline, 1-800-270-7117, is open for crisis intervention and referral to treatment. Trained and experienced counselors are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week by phone or virtually to provide immediate help to address issues related to gambling disorder, including screening services and referrals to treatment or support groups.
 - Gamblers Anonymous
 - A Gamblers Anonymous meeting will be held offsite at St. John's, Mt. Pleasant ([206 W. Maple St](#)) at 8:15 p.m. on Friday, October 18.
 - [GamblersAnonymous.org](#)
 - Alcoholics Anonymous, Gratiot Isabella County AA
 - 24 Hour Hotline: (800) 821-3014
 - [Meetings Local to Mt Pleasant](#) (including Friday and Saturday meetings)

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

8:00 a.m.	Set up begins for Registration, Exhibits	Conference Center
9:00 a.m.	Registration Desk Open 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 1:30-4 p.m.	Main Entrance
10:00 a.m.	Exhibit and Resource Tables Open <i>Remaining open all day.</i>	Swan Creek
	Walking Together: Finding Common Ground <i>Traveling Exhibit; remaining open all day.</i>	Anishnabeg Room
	Workshop Session I <i>Descriptions and rooms available on p. 10.</i>	Various Rooms
10:45 a.m.	Break	
11:00 a.m.	Workshop Session II <i>Descriptions and rooms available on p. 10.</i>	Various Rooms
11:45 a.m.	Lunch on Your Own <i>On-site & local lunch options are listed on p. 8.</i>	
1:00 p.m.	Opening Plenary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Opening Worship, Welcome, Rules of Order ● Joint Standing Committee Presidents' Address ● Video Reflection from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry ● Episcopal Identity: Reflecting Together ● Presentations from Special Guests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bishop Rayford Ray and Leora Tadgerson, Director of Reparations and Justice <i>Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan</i> ○ Mr. William Johnson, Interim Director & Curator <i>Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture and Lifeways</i> ● Honoring Transitions in our Diocese <i>A break will take place midway during this session</i>	Swan Creek
4:30 p.m.	Break	
5:00 p.m.	Dinner and Keynote Address	Swan Creek
6:30 p.m.	Break	
6:45 p.m.	Evening Plenary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New Branding Reveal ● Reflecting on the Episcopacy ● Voting Device Orientation & Mock Business Session ● Youth-Led Compline 	Swan Creek
8 p.m.	Eucharist Rehearsal <i>For everyone involved in Saturday's liturgy.</i>	Saginaw
	Fellowship <i>Karaoke, games, and snacks for everyone until 11 p.m.</i>	Swan Creek
8:15 p.m.	Gamblers Anonymous <i>Offsite at 206 W. Maple Street</i>	St. John's Church

SATURDAY

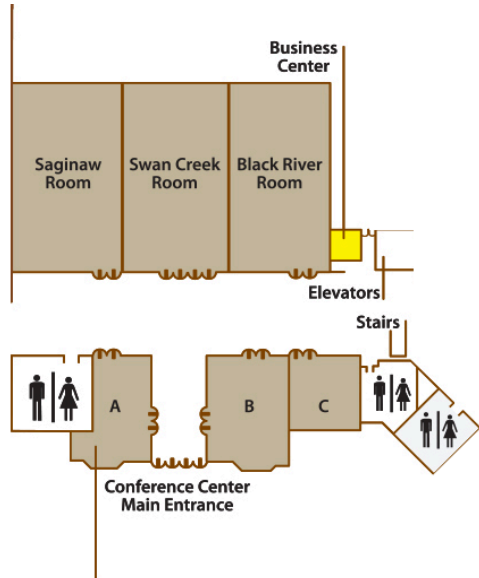
Morning	Breakfast on your own	
8:30 a.m.	Doors Open for Eucharist <i>Water Bearers line up for procession in hallway outside of the worship space.</i>	Saginaw
9:00 a.m.	Convention Eucharist	Saginaw
11:00 a.m.	Break	
	Exhibit and Resource Tables Open <i>Remaining open all day.</i>	Swan Creek
	Walking Together: Finding Common Ground <i>Traveling Exhibit; remaining open all day.</i>	Anishnabeg Room
11:15 a.m.	Business Session	Swan Creek
12:00 p.m.	Lunch <i>Boxed lunches provided.</i>	Swan Creek
1:00 p.m.	Business Session <i>Breaks will be included in this session at appropriate intervals.</i>	Swan Creek
	Report of the Joint Finance Committee	
5:00 p.m.	Closing Prayers and Dismissal <i>The newly constituted standing committee will meet immediately following the business session.</i>	Swan Creek

CONFERENCE CENTER MAP



CONFERENCE CENTER DETAIL

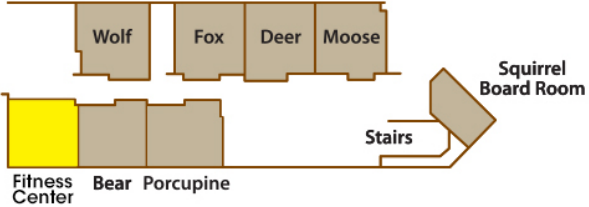
MAIN FLOOR



Meeting Rooms
 A - Anishnabeg
 B - Three Fires
 C - Ojibway

SECOND FLOOR

Second Floor Meeting Rooms



CONVENTION LEADERSHIP

PRIMARY CONVENTION

Co-Chairs	Mrs. Jelecia Geraghty, St. Paul's, Flint
Convention Committee Members	The Rev. Canon Nurya Love Parish, Diocesan Staff Mrs. Angela Krueger, The Rev. Pam Lenartowicz, The Rev. James Lively, Ms. Rachel Ravellette, The Rev. Sr. Diane Stier, Mr. Mark Sullivan, The Rev. Randall Warren
Convention Co-Secretaries	Mrs. Angela Krueger, Diocesan Staff The Rev. Joel Turmo, St. Timothy's, Richland
Chancellor & Parliamentarian	Mr. Bill Fleener, Jr., St. David's, Lansing
Convention Co-Treasurers	The Rev. Dr. Jared Cramer, St. John's, Grand Haven
Convention Assistant Treasurer	The Rev. Brian Chace, Retired
Nominations Chairs	Ms. Mary Simpson, St. Andrews, Grand Rapids
Exhibits Coordinator	Anne Davidson - St. Mark's, Coldwater

DIOCESAN FULL & PART-TIME STAFF AND ADDITIONAL SUPPORTS

- The Rt. Rev. Gladstone (Skip) Adams, III
Assisting Bishop
- Jeff Brown
Youth Missioner, Central Collaborative
- Catherine Cameron-Heldt
Commission on Ministry Assistant
- The Rev. Canon Sunil Chandy
Central Collaborative and Digital Communities
- The Ven. Linda Crane
Archdeacon
- The Ven. Beth Drew
Archdeacon
- Maggie Gonzales
Coordinator, Safe Church
- The Rev. BJ Heyboer
Coordinator, College for Congregational Development
- The Rev. Radha Kaminski
Youth Missioner, Northern Collaborative
- Devin King
Bookkeeper
- McKenzie Knill
Director of Children, Youth and Young Adult Formation and Executive Director, Camp Chickagami
- Angela Krueger
Assistant to the Bishop
- The Rev. Beckett Leclair
Ministry Developer, AuSable Inclusion Center
- The Rev. Canon Tracie Little, D.Min
Southern Collaborative and Adult Formation
- The Very Rev. Bill McClure
Title IV Intake Officer
- The Rev. Canon Nurya Love Parish
Northern Collaborative, Creation Care & Beloved Community
- Sara Philo
Chief Financial Officer & Benefits Coordinator
- The Rev. Diane Pike
Title IV Intake Officer
- Julia Quillian
Bookkeeper
- Rachel Ravellette
Director of Communications
- Michelle Ruiz
Communications Assistant
- Mary Simpson
Office Administrative Assistant
- Mark Sullivan
Diocesan Administrator
- The Rev. Joel Turmo
Youth Missioner, Southern Collaborative

LUNCH OPTIONS

On Friday afternoon, participants will eat lunch on their own. The following options are on-site or nearby. Please note that most of the on-site options do require walking near or past the gaming floor. DoorDash does deliver to Soaring Eagle (6800 Soaring Eagle Blvd); mention the conference center entrance in your delivery instructions.

ONSITE OPTIONS

See conference center map on [page 6](#)

>> **Chicken Guy!**

Soaring Eagle Food District

Experience the one-of-a-kind taste of all-natural chicken tenders paired with a wide selection of delicious sauces.

[Menu](#)

>> **Bubbakoo's Burritos**

Soaring Eagle Food District

Started in Point Pleasant, New Jersey, Bubbakoo's Burritos is the go-to for Mexican-fusion fast-casual food.

[Menu](#)

>> **Ike's Love & Sandwiches**

Soaring Eagle Food District

Choose from over 800 premium meat, vegan, and vegetarian sandwiches at Ike's Love & Sandwiches.

[Menu](#)

>> **Bonanno's New York Pizza Kitchen**

Soaring Eagle Food District

Bonanno features Artisanal, New York style pizza which blends old world secrets, New York technique and modern tech.

[Menu](#)

>> **Siniikaung Bistro**

Near the Soaring Eagle Food District

Full service restaurant with modern interpretations of classic dishes made from scratch.

[Menu](#)

>> **Central Deli & Slice!**

Between the Conf. Center & Gaming Floor

All of your favorite, deli-style comfort foods including prime rib sandwiches, sub & deli sandwiches, NY-style pizza, & more.

[Menu](#)

NEARBY LOCAL OPTIONS

Consider ordering ahead online for pickup.

>> **Kuji Hibachi & Sushi**
[5768 E Pickard St](#), 5 minute drive

Japanese steakhouse offering sushi, ramen, & other traditional dishes.
kujihibachi.com

>> **Los Palominos**
[4585 E. Pickard St](#), 7 minute drive

Classic Mexican fare is offered in a simple, family-friendly setting.
los-palominos.menu-pros.com

>> **Mountain Town Station**
[506 W Broadway St](#), 12 minute drive

Renovated train depot now home to a laid-back steakhouse.
mountaintown.com

>> **The Twisted Fork**
[1418 S Mission St](#), 12 minute drive

New restaurant serving chef-inspired street food.
thetwistedforkmtp.com

NEARBY CHAIN OPTIONS

Taco Bell
[5652 E Pickard St](#), 5 minute drive

Bob Evans
[5652 E Pickard St](#), 5 minute drive

Biggby Coffee
[5935 E Pickard St](#), 5 minute drive

Burger King
[5014 E Pickard St](#), 6 minute drive

Applebee's Grill & Bar
[4929 E Pickard St](#), 7 minute drive

Culver's
[1021 E Pickard St](#), 9 minute drive

Subway
[2021 2nd St](#), 5 minute drive

McDonald's
[5600 E Pickard St](#), 5 minute drive

Starbucks
[5655 E Pickard St](#), 5 minute drive

IHOP
[5245 E Pickard St](#), 6 minute drive

Wendy's
[1006 E Pickard St](#), 9 minute drive

Ponderosa
[1301 E Pickard St](#), 9 minute drive

WORKSHOPS

>> **Effects of Colonization**
Workshop offered in Session I only.

Room: Saginaw (Ground Floor)

Presenter: William Johnson, Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways

William Johnson serves the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways as the Curator/Team Leader for the Cultural Resource Management Department. He is one of two Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Designees for the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan. Johnson has nearly 20 years of experience dealing directly with NAGPRA issues and is currently serving his second four-year term as the chairman of the Michigan Anishinaabek Cultural Preservation & Repatriation Alliance.

Description

With the colonization of the Americas by European powers there came many consequences that still affect American Indian communities today. Changes in diet and lifestyle, the introduction of new diseases, and other extreme changes for American Indian peoples are discussed. Discussion on how American Indians are still dealing with these effects in contemporary society.

>> **American Indian Boarding School Era**
Workshop offered in Session II only.

Room: Saginaw (Ground Floor)

Presenter: William Johnson, Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways

William Johnson serves the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways as the Curator/Team Leader for the Cultural Resource Management Department. He is one of two Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Designees for the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan. Johnson has nearly 20 years of experience dealing directly with NAGPRA issues and is currently serving his second four-year term as the chairman of the Michigan Anishinaabek Cultural Preservation & Repatriation Alliance.

Description

By 1900 most American Indian children were taken from their families. They were transported by train or bus to American Indian Boarding Schools where they were forced to learn new ways of life. Learn about this difficult time of family separation, forced assimilation, and the effects that these policies had on the people living during this era, as well as the impact on future generations.

>> **Reaching Teens and Youth Through Art and Play**

Workshop offered in both Session I and Session II.

Organized by the Department of Children, Youth, and Young Adult Formation

Room: Ojibway (Ground Floor)

Presenter: Brittany Smigielski, StoryMakers

Brittany is the Director of Sales and Missions at StoryMakers where she leads all of the trainings and is the main support for churches, organizations, and families throughout the year as they use the StoryMakers material. Brittany is a born and raised Michigander that has been living in Brooklyn, New York with her two pups since 2019. She received her Bachelor's in Biblical Studies and her Master's in Religious Educational Leadership from Rochester University and has served in ministry and nonprofits for most of her life. Some fun facts about Brittany is she drinks cold brew coffee all year round, her hair is naturally gray, and she puts up her Christmas tree on Halloween.

Description

Learn how StoryMakers puts imagination, play, and creativity at the forefront of kids and youth ministry. StoryMakers NYC is a nonprofit creative studio designing and creating Sunday school curriculum for K-12th grade. We want kids, teens, and grownups to know that God is with them, for them, and actively redeeming them. With trademark whimsy and engaging social-emotional connectors, StoryMakers shares the Gospel with those who encounter our resources through their families and churches. Each adventure & resource is created with the intention of meeting children and teens where they are. Join the StoryMakers team as they walk through what makes their teen curriculum unique and to help reach out to your community by first creating a welcoming space for those that call your church home.

>> **Book Studies for Working Towards LGBTQ+ Inclusion in Faith Communities**

Workshop offered in both Session I and Session II.

Room: Deer/Moose (Second Floor)

Presenter: The Rev. Beckett LeClaire, AuSable Inclusion Center

Deacon Beck LeClaire is a vocational deacon and ministry developer of the AuSable Inclusion Center, a New Episcopal Community serving people marginalized based on their gender, sexuality, and/or socioeconomic status in rural north central lower Michigan. He is an Episcopal Church Foundation fellow and the first openly transgender person to be ordained in The Episcopal Church in the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan.

Description

Book studies are a great way to deeply engage with ideas and experiences beyond your own lived experience and prior knowledge. Join Deacon Beck LeClaire, Ministry Developer for the AuSable Inclusion Center for a sample, abbreviated book study from one of his favorite resources for group book studies along with an overview of a few other excellent options for LGBTQ+ Inclusion focused book study. Participants will leave with a list of other recommended texts.

>> **We can sing that!: Resources and Ideas for Live Music Making in Worship**
Workshop offered in both Session I and Session II.

Room: Wolf (Second Floor)

Presenter: Kevin Simons, St. James Music Press & St. John's, Saginaw

Kevin Simons is the Editor and Owner of St. James Music Press, a church music company helping churches since 1992. He has been the Director of Music and Organist at St. John's in Saginaw since 2003.

Description

Using resources from the Hymnal 1982, approved supplements and St. James Music Press, participants will explore ways to sing hymns, anthems, and psalms, even without a choir. A brief overview of copyright restrictions will also be included.

>> **Watershed Discipleship**
Workshop offered in both Session I and Session II.

Room: Fox (Second Floor)

Presenter: Emily Ulmer, Co-Director, Plainsong Farm

Emily Ulmer (she/her) came to Plainsong Farm in May of 2020 for a seminary internship and quickly made a home here. Any given day can find her fine-tuning Bible study curriculum for Plainsong's Good News Garden program, washing dishes for Sabbath at the Farm, or talking about place and faith with a participant in Plainsong's young adult programming. Emily's work at Plainsong weaves together her experience as a worship planner, her passion for young adult discipleship, her commitment to environmental justice, and her background in grassroots community development. She is an avid baker, canner, podcast listener, and caretaker of indoor plants.

Description

We are living through a watershed moment in history. Watershed Discipleship invites us to ground ourselves in practices of hope and healing and to not be overcome by the magnitude of the climate crisis. Watershed Discipleship invites us to learn and love and care for the places— the watersheds— in which we live and worship. Watershed Discipleship invites us to expand our understanding of who is our neighbor, to include our neighborhood and our ecosystem. In this workshop you will hear stories of Plainsong Farm's attempts to practice watershed discipleship and consider how you might come to know and love your own watershed, for the healing of all creation.

>> **Our Regional Canons: A Fishbowl**
Workshop offered in both Session I and Session II.

Room: Bear (Second Floor)

Presenters: The Rev. Canons Sunil Chandy, Tracie Little, and Nurya Love Parish

Every one of our regional canons has joined our new diocese since March 2020. Each of them brings a different background, gifts, and skill sets. Together they serve the length and breadth of the new Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes.

Using a fishbowl format, every workshop participant is welcome to join a circle of conversation with our three canons as time permits. They will form the inner circle of a fishbowl to discuss their ministries to serve the health of our diocese while an outer circle listens. Empty chairs in the fishbowl will be available for listeners to join and participate in the conversation.

Description

Our three regional canons will form the inner circle of a fishbowl to discuss with one another how they manage their ministries to serve the health of our diocese while an outer circle listens. Empty chairs in the fishbowl will be available for listeners to join and participate in the conversations.

WALKING TOGETHER: FINDING COMMON GROUND

The Walking Together: Finding Common Ground Traveling Exhibit Project was developed by the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan to uncover, acknowledge and document the truth about Indigenous experiences in the MI Native American Boarding Schools.

With thanks to the Diocese of Northern Michigan and in cooperation with the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe, we are honored to host this exhibit during our Primary Convention.

Room: Anishnabeg

Time: Walking Together will be available from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Friday, October 18 and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, October 19.

Learn more about the exhibit in this article from Episcopal News Service:

Diocese of Northern Michigan traveling exhibit shares stories of Indigenous boarding school survivors

By Shireen Korkzan
Episcopal News Service
Posted March 14, 2024

The Diocese of Northern Michigan has launched a racial reconciliation initiative, “Walking Together: Finding Common Ground,” centered around a traveling exhibit that showcases stories of Indigenous boarding school survivors in Michigan.

The diocese spans the state’s Upper Peninsula and is based in Marquette, the ancestral and present-day homeland of the Anishinaabe people. Episcopal churches in the diocese are engaging in reconciliation efforts with Indigenous people locally and across the state, many of whom live with intergenerational trauma that can be traced to the United States’ historical attempts to erase their culture through the boarding school system.

The traveling exhibit documents how Indigenous boarding schools’ legacy continues to impact Native American people today. Known survivors are listed on an exhibit panel. When visiting the exhibit, participants can scan a QR code with their smartphones to listen to boarding school survivors tell their stories. Part of the exhibit features pre-existing information that was featured in a 2021 exhibit at Northern Michigan University in Marquette titled “The Seventh Fire: A Decolonizing Experience.”

Robert Hazen, an elder in the Lac Vieux Desert Band, attended the Holy Childhood of Jesus Catholic Church and Indian School in Harbor Springs. He is one of several survivors who shared their stories for the “Walking Together: Finding Common Ground” traveling exhibit. [Keep reading.](#)

RULES OF ORDER

I. ORGANIZATION

- A. The primary convention will be chaired by Anne Schnaare and Barbara Ilkka, Standing Committee Presidents of the Episcopal Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan.
- B. The secretaries for the primary convention will be Angela Krueger, Secretary of Convention of Eastern Michigan, and Joel Turmo, Secretary of Convention of Western Michigan.
- C. The treasurer for the primary convention will be Jared Cramer, Treasurer of the Convention of Western Michigan, and the assistant treasurer will be Brian Chace, Treasurer of the Convention of Eastern Michigan.
- D. Each session of the convention shall be opened with prayer.
- E. The lay delegates from each congregation shall present their certificates of election, which shall be referred to a Committee on Credentials. However, at the Chair's discretion, election certificates may be required to be sent in before the convention and referred to the Committee on Credentials immediately preceding the convention's opening session, thereby eliminating the reading of the names of the parishes and missions.
- F. The Secretary shall publish the names of the clergy entitled to seats in the convention and enter into the journal the names of those who are present.
- G. The Committee on Credentials shall report.
- H. Quorum and right to vote from time to time shall be determined based on clergy who have registered or answered present and lay delegates seated by the convention after the above reports.
- I. Canonical resident clergy, Youth Delegates, and clergy serving parishes in the Diocese will have voice and vote at convention. All registered visitors and alternates affiliated with a parish in the diocese or a diocesan program are granted the right of voice at the convention.

II. GENERAL

- A. Nominations from the floor will not be accepted.
- B. When nominations are made for any office, the names shall be recorded alphabetically.
 - 1. The Nominations Chair shall cause all names proposed for offices to be filled by ballot to be entered into an electronic voting system or placed on paper ballots

circulated to all eligible voters. Separate ballots shall be taken for each office and shall be the order of the day from the hour the convention shall fix.

2. In all elections, a ballot shall be void unless the number of votes cast on the ballot equals the number of vacancies to be filled.
 3. For any person to be elected to any office, they must receive a vote on a majority of ballots cast.
 4. If all offices on a ballot have not been filled after two ballots, the person who received the fewest votes on the second ballot will not appear on the third ballot. The lowest vote-getter will be removed from each successive ballot if balloting continues.
 5. A person appearing on a ballot may remove their name from the ballot at any time during the balloting process.
- C. If both chairs withdraw from the convention's sessions, they shall appoint a Chair to preside during their absence.
- D. At any time before the final adjournment of the convention, the Chair may, and if requested by any seven (7) members, call for the reading of the minutes of the sessions just completed. After such reading, the minutes shall be corrected, signed by the Chair, and attested by the Secretary.
- E. All substantive resolutions shall be in the hands of the Resolutions Committee sixty (60) days before the convention. Resolutions arising from any addresses to the convention and submitted by the Chairperson of the Resolutions Committee and courtesy resolutions are excluded from this rule. A majority vote shall be required to permit consideration of later resolutions.
- F. No motion shall be considered before the convention until it is seconded and stated by the Chair.
- G. When allowance has been offered for pre-filed amendments to the proposed Constitution and Canons, these amendments will be brought to the floor first in an order determined by the Constitution and Canons Committee. Amendments from the floor will be in order after all pre-filed amendments have been considered.
- H. 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.
- I. A motion to amend by substitution shall be in order.
- J. 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.

- K. 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.
- L. A question being decided shall only be reconsidered at the same convention with a motion made by one of the majority on the prior decision and the consent of two-thirds of the members present or without.
- M. Every member present when a motion is put shall vote unless excused by the convention.
- N. All committees of Convention shall be appointed by the Chair unless otherwise ordered by the Convention. When they deem it advisable, they may appoint a person qualified to be a delegate who is not a member of the convention to a committee to report to the next convention.
- O. When members desire to speak, they shall approach a microphone, 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, the debate will end.
- P. Each member shall speak once on the same subject without leave of the Convention, except that the person making a motion may speak twice on that motion.
- Q. Debate on any principle motion and subsidiary motions addressed to it shall be limited to three minutes per person unless a majority vote of the Convention shall change the limit.
- R. No member shall withdraw from the convention without leave asked and voted.
- S. These rules of order may be suspended on a two-thirds vote of the members present.
- T. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the convention proceedings, except as otherwise provided hereinabove.

WORSHIP

OPENING WORSHIP

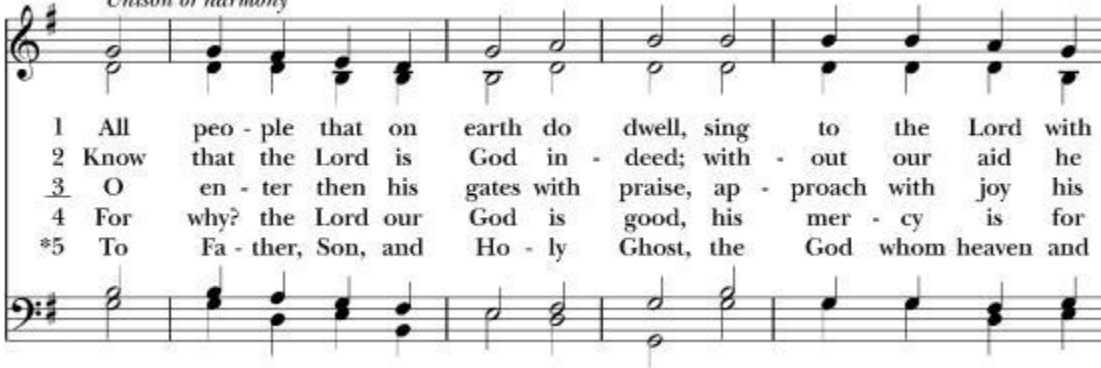
Officiant
People

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Officiant
& People

**Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.
Alleluia.**


Unison or harmony



1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with
2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; with - out our aid he
3 O en - ter then his gates with praise, ap - proach with joy his
4 For why? the Lord our God is good, his mer - cy is for
*5 To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, the God whom heaven and



1 cheer - ful voice: him serve with mirth, his praise forth
2 did us make: we are his folk, he doth us
3 courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his Name al -
4 ev - er sure; his truth at all times firm - ly
5 earth a - dore, from men and from the an - gel



1 tell, come ye be - fore him and re - - jice.
2 feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
3 ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
4 stood, and shall from age to age en - - dure.
5 host be praise and glo - ry ev - er - - more.

People, In Unison

1. **I lift up my eyes to the hills;***
from where is my help to come?
2. **My help comes from the LORD,***
The maker of heaven and earth.
3. **He will not let your foot be moved ***
and he who watches over you will not fall
asleep.
4. **Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel ***
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
5. **The Lord himself watches over you; ***
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
6. **So that the sun shall not strike you by day, ***
nor the moon by night.
7. **The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; ***
it is he who shall keep you safe.

**Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be
for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

Officiant

If anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

2 Cor. 5:17-18

People

Thanks be to God.

Officiant Lord, have mercy.
People **Christ, have mercy.**
Officiant Lord, have mercy.

People **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.**

Officiant Lord, hear our prayer;
People **And let our cry come to you.**

Prayer Leader Let us pray.

Gracious and loving God, as we become the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes, grant us an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. Amen.

People **Amen.**

Prayer Leader O gracious Creator, you open your hand and fill all things living with plenteousness: Bless the lands and waters, and multiply the harvests of the world; let your Spirit go forth, that it may renew the face of the earth; show your loving-kindness, that our land may give its increase; and save us from selfish use of what you give, that men and women everywhere may give you thanks; through Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

Prayer Leader Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Officiant Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.
Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

Participants in the Liturgy

Officiant Jelecia Geraghty

Prayer Leaders Agol Anei
Frances Wood
Lincoln Schnaare

Resources

The Book of Common Prayer 1979, (New York: Church Hymnal Corp. 1977).

Enriching Our Worship 1: Morning & Evening Prayer, The Great Litany, The Holy Eucharist (New York: Church Publishing, 1997).

“All People That on Earth Do Dwell.” Words: William Kethe (d. 1608?); para. of Psalm 100 Music: *Old 100th*, melody from *Pseaumes octante trois de David*, 1551, alt.; harm. After Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?) OneLicense.net # A-723843.

HOLY EUCHARIST

with Renewal of Baptismal Vows

at the

PRIMARY DIOCESAN CONVENTION

of

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF THE GREAT LAKES

Commemorating Henry Martyn, Missionary & Translator

THE RT. REV. GLADSTONE BAILEY “SKIP” ADAMS, III, ASSISTING BISHOP

Preaching and Presiding

October 19, 2024 at 9 a.m.

Soaring Eagle Conference Center, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan

THE CHURCH *for the* WORLD

Welcome to today's liturgy. It is always an exciting time when we gather as a diocese at worship. In any diocesan liturgy there are several interesting elements which you may notice. First a bishop normally presides at a diocesan liturgy. This is because one of the main tasks of a bishop is sacramentally to gather God's people. The staff a bishop carries is called a crozier. It represents a shepherd's crook and is a symbol of the fact that a bishop is a chief pastor whose job is to gather and lead God's people.

A related symbol is the hat a bishop wears, called a mitre. We think its use extends as far back as the eighth century. Because hats are worn on the head, they are most often a sign of enlightenment, awareness, and thoughtfulness. A hat therefore makes sense for a bishop because one of the reasons we ask our bishops to gather us is so that they may guard and teach the Christian tradition and faith. The bishop's teaching helps us be the Church. Indeed, every bishop, together with her or his diocese, is the full local presence of the Church Catholic. Therefore, having Bishop Skip, our Assisting Bishop, presiding today is an important reminder to us that we embody and enact the Church Catholic for our regions of Michigan.

The principal servants of the diocesan liturgy are the deacons. The deacons are an extension of the bishop's ministry. Where the bishop gathers us sacramentally and teaches/inspires us to be the Church, the deacons remind us that we enact being the Church for the world precisely through acts of service. In serving the liturgy, deacons fulfill the directive from their ordination which says, "At all times, your life and teaching are to show Christ's people that in serving the helpless they are serving Christ himself" (BCP, p. 543).

In a diocesan liturgy, the priests-or presbyters-do not have a role which is as prominently visible as either the bishop's or the deacons' role. This is because priests are all about relationships. In traditional language, priests reconcile and nourish (BCP, p. 531). When priests preside at sacraments, they are showing us something about the relationship between the Creator and creation. When priests pastor or reconcile, they are fostering healthy, holy relationships. With the bishop presiding at the diocesan liturgy, the priests sit in prayerful support of the bishop and the people of God, uplifting through prayer our crucial relationships "with God and each other in Christ" (BCP, p. 855).

Finally, the most important actors in a diocesan liturgy are the laity. The job of the clergy is to inspire and teach, nourish, reconcile, and serve the laity. The ministry of the laity is to represent and bear witness to Christ wherever they may be (BCP, p. 855). The service of the clergy in the diocesan liturgy exists to show the laity that they are the Church, call the laity to service, and nourish the laity from the riches of God's grace. This all happens so that we can leave our diocesan convention to go be the Church for the world.

THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude

Opening Hymns & Processions

Please stand.

During the hymn, representatives from various parishes and agencies will bring samples of local waters to be poured together into a bowl.

“Shall we gather at the River”

Hanson Place

1. Shall we gath - er at the riv - er, Where bright an - gel feet have trod; —
2. On the mar - gin of the riv - er, Wash - ing up its sil - ver spray, —
3. Ere we reach the shin - ing riv - er, Lay we ev - 'ry bur - den down; —
4. Soon we'll reach the shin - ing riv - er, Soon our pil - grim - age will cease, —

1. With its crys - tal tide for - ev - er Flow - ing by the throne of God?
2. We will walk and wor - ship ev - er, All the hap - py gold - en day.
3. Grace our spir - its will de - liv - er, And pro - vide a robe and crown.
4. Soon our hap - py hearts will quiv - er With the mel - o - dy of peace.

Yes, we'll gath - er at the riv - er, The beau - ti - ful, the beau - ti - ful riv - er;

Gath - er with the saints at the riv - er That flows by the throne of God.

During the hymn, Ministers of the Liturgy will process to the bowl.

“The Church’s one foundation”

Aurelia

1 The Church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord;
2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der men see her sore op - pressed,
4 Mid toil and tri - bu - la - tion, and tu - mult of her war
5 Yet she on earth hath un - ion with God, the Three in One,

1 she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word:
2 her char - ter of sal - va - tion, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
3 by schi - sms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed;
4 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for ev - er - more;
5 and mys - tic sweet com - mun - ion with those whose rest is won.

1 from heaven he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
2 one ho - ly Name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
3 yet saints their watch are keep - ing, their cry goes up, "How long?"
4 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blessed,
5 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! Lord, give us grace that we

1 with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
2 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - ery grace en - dued.
3 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
4 and the great Church vic - to - rious shall be the Church at rest.
5 like them, the meek and low - ly, on high may dwell with thee.

The Baptismal Acclamations

Bishop Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

Bishop There is one Body and one Spirit;
People **There is one hope in God's call to us;**

Bishop One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
People **One God and Father of all.**

The Collects

Bishop God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Bishop Let us pray.

Bishop Gracious and loving God, as we become the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes, grant us inquiring and discerning hearts, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works.

People **Amen.**

Bishop O God of the nations, who gave to your servant Henry Martyn a longing to share your Gospel with all peoples; Inspire the church in our own day with that same desire, that we may be eager to commit both life and talents to you who gave them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People **Amen.**

The Lessons

Please be seated.

The First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7

Julia Ayala Harris

Reader A reading from *The Book of the Prophet Isaiah*.

Listen to me, O coastlands,
pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The Lord called me before I was born,
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.

He made my mouth like a sharp sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow,
in his quiver he hid me away.
And he said to me, 'You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.'
But I said, 'I have labored in vain,
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the Lord,
and my reward with my God.'

And now the Lord says,
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honored in the sight of the Lord,
and my God has become my strength—
he says,

'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'

Thus says the Lord,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,
the slave of rulers,
'Kings shall see and stand up,
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the Lord, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.'

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People

People

Thanks be to God.

A Portion of the Psalter

Psalm 98

Refrain; intoned by all. Dan Schutte (b. 1947)

Sing a new song un - to the Lord; let your song be sung from
moun - tains high. Sing a new song un - to the Lord, sing-ing
al - le - lu - ia. *Fine*

Cantor Our God's people dance for Joy. O come before the Lord.
And play for him on glad tambourines
and let your trumpet sound. *Refrain*

Rise, O children, from your sleep; your Savior now has come.
He has turned your sorrow to joy,
and filled your soul with a song. *Refrain*

Glad my soul for I have seen the glory of the Lord.
The trumpet sounds; the dead shall be raised.
I know my savior lives. *Refrain*

1. When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my
2. Though sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should
3. My sin— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous
4. And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be

1. way, When sor - rows like sea - bil - lows roll;
2. come, Let this blest as - sur - ance con - trol,
3. thought— My sin— not in part, but the whole—
4. sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,

1. What - ev - er my lot, thou hast taught me to
2. That Christ has re - gard - ed my help - less es -
3. Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no
4. The trump shall re - sound and the Lord shall de -

It is well with my soul,
It is well with my

— It is well, it is well with my soul.
soul,

Archdeacon
People

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Archdeacon

Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.'

People

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily
Bishop Skip Adams

Please be seated

The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Please stand.

Bishop

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, now that we are coming together as a new diocese, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.

The Baptismal Covenant

Bishop

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil
and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

People

I do.

Bishop

Do you believe in God the Father?

People

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Bishop

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People

**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.**

Bishop

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People

**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.**

Bishop

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People

I will, with God's help.

Bishop

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and,
whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People

I will, with God's help.

Bishop

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

People

I will, with God's help.

Bishop

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons,
loving your neighbor as yourself?

People

I will, with God's help.

Bishop Will you strive for justice and peace among all people,
and respect the dignity of every human being?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has
given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed
upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace,
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

People **Amen.**

The Thanksgiving Over Our Waters

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy
Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the
children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of
promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was
anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us,
through his death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into
everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried
with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through
it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to
your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in
faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and
of the Holy Spirit.

Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy
Spirit, that we may remember our baptismal covenant and
continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him,
to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for
ever.

People **Amen.**

The Sprinkling

The Bishop and Canons sprinkle the People in recognition of our Baptismal Covenant.

1. I've got peace like a riv - er, I've got peace like a
2. I've got joy like a foun - tain, I've got joy like a
3. I've got love like an o - cean, I've got love like an

1. riv - er, I've got peace like a riv - er in my
2. foun - tain, I've got joy like a foun - tain in my
3. o - cean, I've got love like an o - cean in my

1. soul; _____ I've got riv - er in my soul. _____
2. soul; _____ I've got foun - tain in my soul. _____
3. soul; _____ I've got o - cean in my soul. _____

The Installation of a Canon

The person to be installed and the Standing Committee Presidents gather before the Bishop, in the sight of the Assembly.

Sponsors Bishop Skip, we have come together today to welcome Nurya Love Parish, who has been chosen to serve as Canon for the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes. We believe that she is well qualified and that she has been prayerfully and lawfully selected.

Bishop Nurya, do you, in the presence of this congregation, commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility?

Canon I do.

Bishop Will you who witness this new beginning support and uphold Nurya in this ministry?

People **We will.**

Bishop Let us pray.

O Holy God, you breathe your life-giving Spirit into us; making us a new diocese, and calling us to join together in mission for the spreading of the Gospel: Bless us as we continue our ministries; bless this Canon to encourage and equip us for continuing the work of God; through Jesus Christ, who calls us to care for each other and our world.

People **Amen.**

The Bishop then installs the Canon, saying

Nurya, in the name of God I install you as a Canon of the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes.

The Prayers of the People

Bishop Having renewed our commitment to Christ, let us pray for the mission and ministry of our diocese.

Archdeacon O God, you bring to unity things divided,
binding them with cords of compassion and bands of love.

Hosea 11:4

People **Blessed are you for ever.**

Archdeacon Preserve all that is noble and unique from our pasts,
and guide into effective service the parishes, ministries,
and communities we now name.

People *All simultaneously call out the name of their parish, agency, or ministering community.*

Archdeacon Shower upon us the blessings of heaven and a share of the earth's abundance.

People **Fill our diocese with every necessity that we in turn may share with those who are needy.**

Archdeacon We pray for Michael our Presiding Bishop and Sean our Presiding Bishop-Elect; for Skip, our Assisting Bishop, Nurya, Sunil, and Tracie, our Canons, Our Standing Committees our diocesan staff, and all our leaders.

A moment of silence is kept.

We pray for the Episcopal Church.
Enable us all to walk in your ways with pure hearts.

People **Help us enact your love in our neighborhoods.**

Archdeacon We pray for our world and its leaders.

People **Grant us angels of peace, faithful guides, and guardians of our common life.**

Archdeacon We pray for the sick and the suffering; those who are addicted, hungry, lonely, lost, or imprisoned, remembering especially

People *All simultaneously call out the names of those for whom they are praying.*

Archdeacon Assist them with your grace.

People **Pour showers of blessing over them.**

Archdeacon We pray for all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed.

People *All simultaneously call out the names of those for whom they are praying.*

Archdeacon Welcome them to your mansions of light.

Bishop Constantly Creating God: the Prophet Elijah prayed and you sent rains to fill the wadis and lakes, a potent sign of forgiveness and grace. The deeps brought forth fish at Jesus' command, and he changed water into wine for continued celebration. We thank you for the waters of our Great Lakes, as well as the lakes, rivers, streams, and creeks throughout our land; and we pray that all water may unceasingly call to us, a people buried, risen, and reborn in Christ, to pour forth your love in care for all creation and its peoples; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

People **Amen.**

The Exchange of Peace

Bishop The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Anthem

St. Paul's Gospel Choir

Eucharistic Prayer 3

Bishop The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Bishop Lift up your hearts.

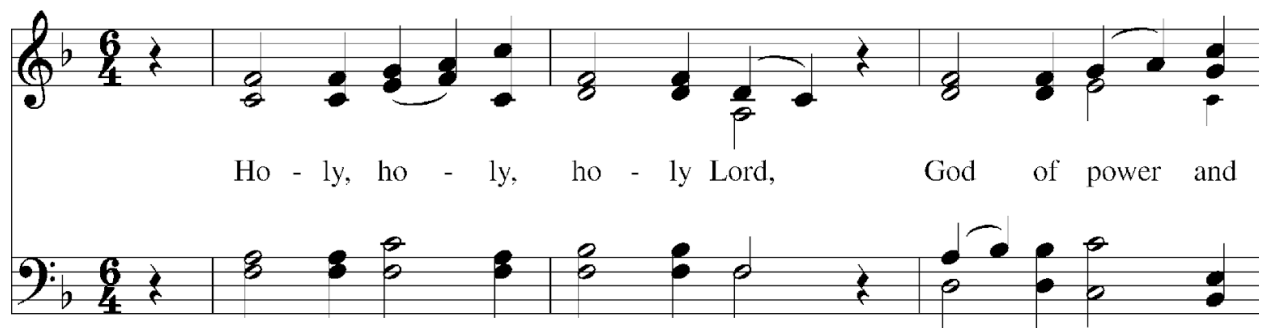
People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Bishop Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

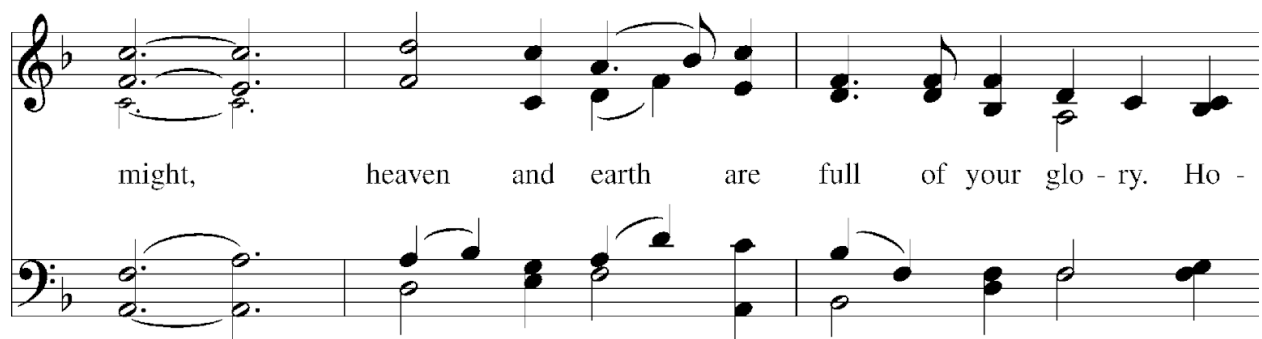
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Bishop All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

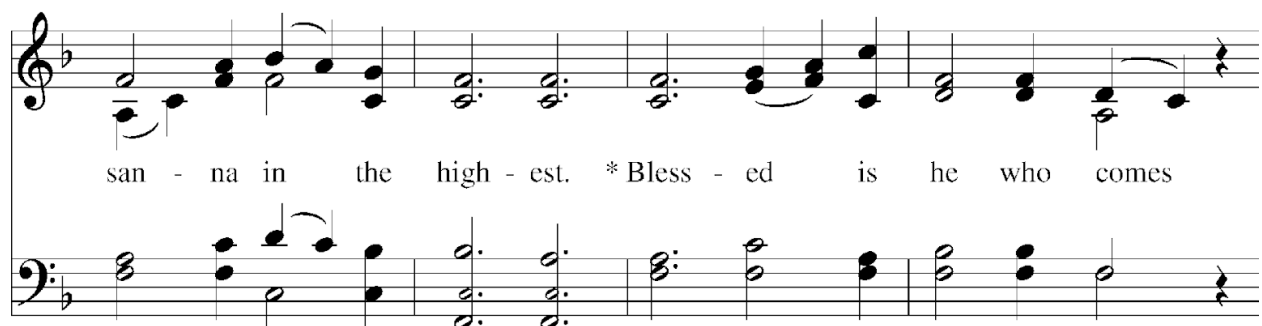
Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:



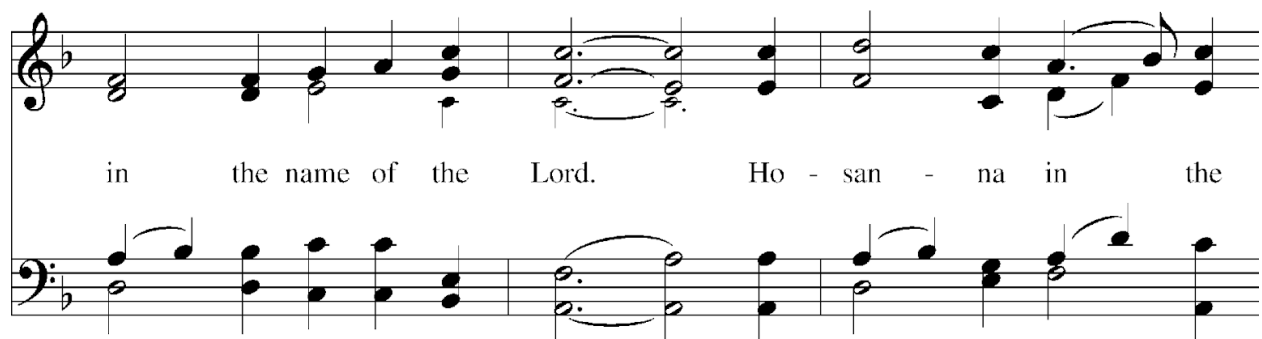
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and



might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. * Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the



high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bishop

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

People

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Bishop

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with blessed Henry Martyn and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

People

Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

Bishop

As Our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

People

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Bishop

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

People

**We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.**

The Call to Holy Communion

Bishop

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

1. Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees (on our
2. Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees (on our

1. knees); Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees (on our
2. knees); Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees (on our

1. knees).
2. knees). When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

1. sun, Oh — Lord, have mer - cy on me (on me).
2. me).

Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees (yes, on our knees); Let us

praise God to - geth - er on our knees (yes, on our knees). When I

fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun, Oh—

Lord, have mer - cy on me (on me).

“One Bread, One Body”

One Bread, One Body

One bread, — one bod - y, —

one Lord of all, — one cup of

bless - ing which we bless. And we, though

man - y, through - out the earth, We are one

Last time ⊕

bod - y in this one Lord.

Last time ⊕

1. Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or
 2. Man - y the gifts, man - y the
 3. Grain for the fields, scat - tered and

1. free, wom - an or man,
 2. works, one in the Lord
 3. grown, gath - ered to one

1. — no more. One
 2. — of all. One
 3. — for all. One

D.S.

⊕ CODA

Lord.

Taste and see. Taste and see the good - ness

of the Lord. O Taste and see. Taste and

see the good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord. **Fine**

1. I will bless the Lord at all times.
2. Glo - ri - fy the Lord with me.
3. Wor - ship the Lord all you peo - ple.

1. His praise shall al - ways be on my
2. To - geth - er let us all praise His
3. You'll want for noth - ing if you

1. lips; _____ my soul _____ shall
 2. name. _____ I called _____ the
 3. ask. _____ Taste _____ and

1. glo - ry _____ in the Lord; _____ for
 2. Lord _____ and He an - swered me; _____ from
 3. see _____ that God is good; _____ in

1. He _____ has been _____ so good to me. _____
 2. all _____ my trou - bles _____ He set me free. _____
 3. Him _____ we need _____ put all our trust. _____

D.C.

The Postcommunion Prayer

Bishop Let us pray.

People

Loving God, we give you thanks
 for restoring us in your image
 and nourishing us with spiritual food
 in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
 Now send us forth
 a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
 that we may proclaim your love to the world
 and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

"Earth and all stars"

Earth and All Stars



1	Earth and all stars,	loud rush - ing	plan - ets,	sing to the
2	Hail, wind, and rain,	loud blow - ing	snow - storms,	sing to the
3	Trum - pet and pipes,	loud clash - ing	cym - bals,	sing to the
4	En - gines and steel,	loud pound - ing	ham - mers,	sing to the
5	Class - rooms and labs,	loud boil - ing	test - tubes,	sing to the
6	Know - ledge and truth,	loud sound - ing	wis - dom,	sing to the



1	Lord _____	a new song!	O vic - to - ry,
2	Lord _____	a new song!	Flow - ers and trees,
3	Lord _____	a new song!	Harp, lute, and lyre,
4	Lord _____	a new song!	Lime - stone and beams,
5	Lord _____	a new song!	Ath - lete and band,
6	Lord _____	a new song!	Daugh - ter and son,



1	loud shout - ing	ar - my,	sing to the	Lord _____	a new song!
2	loud rus - tling	dry leaves,	sing to the	Lord _____	a new song!
3	loud hum - ming	cel - los,	sing to the	Lord _____	a new song!
4	loud build - ing	work - ers,	sing to the	Lord _____	a new song!
5	loud cheer - ing	peo - ple,	sing to the	Lord _____	a new song!
6	loud pray - ing	mem - bers,	sing to the	Lord _____	a new song!



Refrain
 He hath done mar - vel - ous things.



I, too, will praise him with a new song!

The Dismissal

Archdeacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Participants in Today's Liturgy

Preaching & Presiding	The Rt. Rev. Gladstone B. Adams, III <i>Assisting Bishop of Eastern & Western Michigan</i>	
Archdeacons	The Venerable Linda Crane The Venerable Beth Drew	
Deacons	The Rev. Dr. Greg Flentje The Rev. Janet Gockerman The Rev. Trish Holcomb-Harris The Rev. Micheal Hueschen The Rev. Liz Kinsey The Rev. Anna Leigh Kubbe The Rev. Beckett Leclair The Rev. Judy Marinco	The Rev. James Mitchell The Rev. Larry Parks The Rev. Wendy Pearson The Rev. Elma Rosenberg The Rev. Joanne St. Pierre The Rev. Linda Scheerer The Rev. Tom Smith The Rev. Patricia Vinge
Assisting Priests	The Rev. Canon Sunil Chandy The Rev. Canon Tracie Little, D. Min. The Rev. Canon Nurya Love Parish	
Lector	Julia Ayala Harris	
Musician	Greg Gwaltney	
Cantor	Chris Lauckner	
Crucifer	Erynn Ford	
Acolytes	Liv York	Oliver Lehman
Ushers	McKenzie Knill The Rev. Radha Kaminski Lincoln Schnaare Kay Leclair	Grace Gray Jeff Brown Jeanette Ettin Paige Ravellette
Sacristan	David Hawley-Lowry	

Resources

The Book of Common Prayer 1979, (New York: Church Hymnal Corp. 1977).

Enriching Our Worship 1: Morning & Evening Prayer, The Great Litany, The Holy Eucharist (New York: Church Publishing, 1997).

Holy Matrimony: in Romanian and Modern English, Parallel Texts (Detroit: The Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America, 1972). Some of the language for the Prayers of the People was taken from this text.

Scripture readings are taken from the *New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*; © 2021, The National Council of Churches in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Hymns (in order of appearance)

“Shall we gather at the River.” Words: Robert Lowry(1826-1899). Music: *Hanson Place*, Robert Lowry (1826-1899). Words & music © 2018, MorningStar Music; reprinted & podcast under OneLicense.net # A-723843.

“The Church’s one foundation.” Words: Samuel John Stone (1839-1900). Music: *Aurelia*, Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876). Words & music © OCP Publications; reprinted & podcast under OneLicense.net # A-723843.

“Sing a new song unto the Lord.” Words: Dan Schutte (b. 1947), based on Psalm 98. Music: *Sing a New Song*, Dan Schutte (b. 1947). Words & music © 1972, Oregon Catholic Press; reprinted & podcast under OneLicense.net # A-723843.

“It is Well with my Soul.” Words: Horatio Spafford (1828-1888). Music: *Ville Du Havre*, Philip P. Bliss (1838-1876). This hymn is in the public domain.

“I’ve got peace like a river.” Words: Traditional. Music: *Peace like a River*, Negro Spiritual. This hymn is in the public domain.

“Holy, holy, holy Lord.” Setting: *Land of Rest*, American folk melody; arr. Marcia Pruner (b. 1936); harm. Annabel Morris Buchanan (1889-1983). These words are in the public domain; music © 1980, Church Publishing; reprinted & podcast under OneLicense.net # A-723843.

“Let us break bread together.” Words: Traditional. Music: *Let Us Break Bread*, Negro Spiritual; arr. Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from *The Haywood Collection of Negro Spirituals*, © 1992, Carl Haywood Music; reprinted & podcast under OneLicense.net # A-723843.

“One Bread, One Body.” Words: I Corinthians 10:16, 17; 12:4; Galatians 3:28; *The Didache* 9; adapt. John B. Foley, SJ. (b. 1939). Music: *One Bread, One Body*, John B. Foley, SJ. Words & music © 1978, OCP Publications; reprinted & podcast under OneLicense.net # A-723843.

“Taste and See.” Words: Psalm 34; adapt. James E. Moore, Jr. (1951-2022). Music: *I Will Bless the Lord at All Times*, James E. Moore, Jr. (1951-2022). Words & music © 1983, GIA Publications; reprinted & podcast under OneLicense.net # A-723843.

“Earth and all stars.” Words: Herbert F. Brokering (1926-2009). Music: *Earth and All Stars*, David N. Johnson (1922-1987). Words & music © 1968, Augsburg Fortress; reprinted & podcast under OneLicense.net # A-723843.

CLOSING WORSHIP

Officiant O give thanks to the Source, who is good;

People **God's loving-kindness exists forever.**

I Chronicles 16:34

**Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.
Amen. Alleluia.**

Canticle N: A Song of God's Love

I John 4:7-11

People **Beloved, let us love one another, *
for love is of God.**

**Whoever does not love does not know God, *
for God is Love.**

**In this the love of God was revealed among us, *
that God sent his only Son into the world,
so that we might live through Jesus Christ.**

**In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us *
and sent his Son that sins might be forgiven.**

**Beloved, since God loved us so much, *
we ought also to love one another.**

**For if we love one another, God abides in us, *
and God's love will be perfected in us.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Christ our God:
You granted wisdom to fishers of old
by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit;
through them you draw the whole world into your net.
We thank you for calling us to be
The Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes
and numbering us among those who fish for people.
Make us effective at drawing others into
the liberating net of your love,
and grant that we may joyously and resolutely
care for creation and its waters;
all of which we ask
in the Name of the Holy and Undivided Trinity,
One God, alive through all ages.

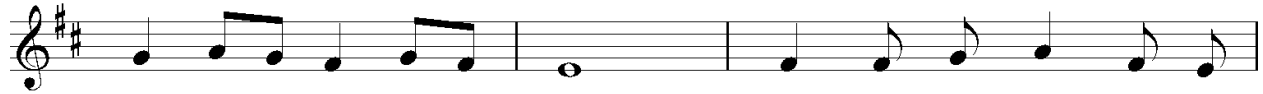
People **Amen.**

“Seek ye first the kingdom of God”

Seek Ye First



Seek ye first the king - dom of God
Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you,

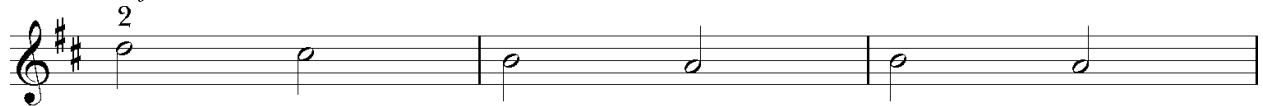


and its right-ous - ness, and all these things shall be
seek, and ye shall find, knock, and the door shall be

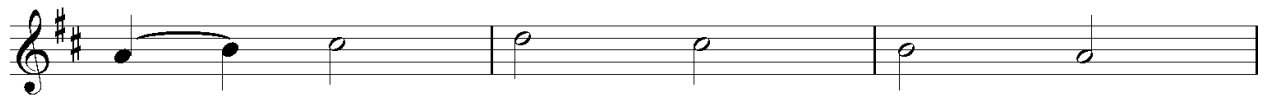


add - ed un - to you; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
o - pened un - to you; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

Refrain



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



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



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

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.

Ephesians 3:20-21

Officiant

The Rev. Randall R. Warren, D.Min.

Resources

The Book of Common Prayer, 1979

Enriching Our Worship 1: Morning & Evening Prayer, The Great Litany, The Holy Eucharist (New York: Church Publishing, 1997).

Hymn: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God." Words: St. 1, Matthew 6:33; adapt. Karen Lafferty (20C), St, 2m Matthew 7:7. Music: *Seek Ye First*, Karen Lafferty (20C). Words and Music © 1972 Capitol CMG Publishing; reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-723842.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: JULIA AYALA HARRIS



JULIA AYALA HARRIS

President, House of Deputies

Julia Ayala Harris was initially elected President of the House of Deputies, the presiding officer who works alongside the Presiding Bishop, at the 80th General Convention in 2022. She was recently re-elected to a second term at the 81st General Convention in 2024.

President Ayala Harris is the first Latina and woman of color to hold the position. She is passionate about a multitude of issues, such as immigration, race and ethnicity, LGBTQ+ inclusion, and truth-telling, as well as justice initiatives.

As a lay leader, President Ayala Harris served the church in multiple roles, including leadership roles on the Executive Council; the Presiding Officers' Working Group on Truth-Telling, Reckoning, and Healing; the Task Force for Reimagining the Episcopal Church (TREC); and the

Task Force for Women, Truth, and Reconciliation, among various other legislative committees and interim bodies.

In The Episcopal Church, President Ayala Harris has continually found healing, blessing, and wholeness in God's unconditional love. Throughout her lay ministry, she has worked to bring about a church that can share that blessing with all of God's people.

IN MEMORIAM

Remembering the faithful departed, October 2023 - September 2024

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

Mary Sue Davis
Stella Flogaus
Dorothy Jane Rowan

Trinity, Alpena

Lewis Kunze
Margaret "Maggie" Lamb

St. Paul's, Bad Axe

Lynn Clippert
Gary Oconnor
Douglas F. Roby, III
Jean Vaughan

St. Thomas, Battle Creek

Jerilyn Davis
Bob Doud

St. Albans, Bay City

Marsha Brinks
Harley Holsinger
Candace "Candy" Martin
Patricia Mason

St. Mark's, Coldwater

The Rev. Paul Brisbane
Janet Burr
Karen Clark
Cheryl Finley
Susan Ghoddousi
Deanna Hobart
Richard Uhl

St. Paul's, Elk Rapids

Joan Elizabeth Nagler
Barbara Ann Williams
Roger Louis Williams

Two Churches, Kentwood

Ann Alessandrini

Trinity, Grand Ledge

Barbara "Ann" McMillan
Rev. Dr. J. Nixon McMillan

Grace, Grand Rapids

Bruce Brintnall
Bryson Hoff
Patricia Hoff
Peggy Porter
Barbara Richardson

St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids

Elanor Barna
Joseph Barna
Donna Barna Simpson Bishop
Mary Abbott Cummings
Carl J. DeJong
Mark Freeloove
Sally Fleming
Linda Lou Giszewski
John L. Hornbach
Marie Johnson-Anderson
George R. Linde
Patsy R. Lindquist
James J. Psyhos
Robert Gordon Simpson

St. Francis', Grayling

Kenneth Boling
Robert Harrington
Douglas Wilson

St. Elizabeth's, Higgins Lake

Martha Ann Kaser

St. David's, Lansing

Jay Westcott Bastien
Edith Anne Cole
The Rev. Dennis Edward Groh
Loretta Kappler
Richard E. Otto

Grace, Lapeer

Barbara Ann Cook

Trinity, Marshall

Mary Ellen Connelly

Charles Carsle

Jane DeGraw

David Nelson

Betty Ann Wilson

St. John's, Midland

Dr. William Barnett

Bonnie Lynn Bash

Dr. William "Stan" Cline

Dianna Ward

The Rev. Curtis Zimmerman

St. John's, Mt. Pleasant

Moonyeen Albrecht

Diana Clapp

George Clapp, Jr.

Alma Dickerson

Betsy Steel Johnson

Mary Lou Nowicki

Elliott Parker

Jerry Pickler

Judy Gail Skelton

St. Gregory's, Muskegon

Ellen Hanichen

Barbara Kolekamp

Penelope Osborne

Barbara Schierlinger

Stuart Smith

Ann Spurlin

Kathy Walker

Florence Sue Wierengo

St. Paul's, Muskegon

Marjorie Cunningham

The Rev. William Fleener

Carol Langfeldt

Richard Latimer

Sandra Pitts

William Tatem Reeves, II

Ann Michelle (Luther) Santos

The Rev. Richard Twist

Christ Church, Owosso

Betty Caverson

Suzanne Degerstrom

St. James, Pentwater

Gregory Paul Blohm

Monica Rose Daniels

St. Barnabas, Portage

Glen William Gansen

Mark Owen Harsha

Bergouih McNutt

St. Timothy's, Richland

Betsy Boswell-Hall

St. Luke's, Rogers City

Russel Breyfogle

Grace, Traverse City

Sally Jane Draeger

Katherine Louise Hedelund

Gloria Mae McClay

Nancy Rowe Mistele

Karen Majel Noble

Albert Thomas Quick

James Beebe Rickard

Anna Margaret Weese

Holy Trinity, Wyoming

Georgia Hall

William Longhurst

ELECTIONS TO DIOCESAN LEADERSHIP

DIOCESAN COUNCIL

One of the core governing groups of a diocese, the Diocesan Council oversees the business of the organization between annual conventions. Their duties include: management of the secular affairs of the diocese, oversight of the diocesan budget, creation of commissions and taskforces for the work of the church, and other duties as prescribed by churchwide and diocesan canons.

The Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes will elect four leaders (two lay, two clergy) to serve three-year terms on their twelve-member Diocesan Council.

Lay Nominees:

Gloria Lara - St. Mark's, Grand Rapids
Christopher Lauckner, St. John's, Midland

Clergy Nominees:

The Rev. Jared Cramer - St. John's, Grand Haven
The Ven. Linda Crane - Grace, Port Huron

STANDING COMMITTEE

One of the core governing groups of a diocese, the Standing Committee is elected by the diocesan convention and is represented in equal order of laity and clergy. Their duties include: serving as council of advice to the bishop, considering consent to bishop elections in other dioceses, making recommendations for those seeking ordination, considering requests related to property in the dioceses, responsibilities around disciplinary processes, and serving as the ecclesiastical authority of a diocese in the absence of a bishop.

The Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes will elect three leaders, both clergy and lay, to serve three-year terms on its Standing Committee.

Lay Nominees:

Jennifer Dantes - St. Martin of Tours, Kalamazoo
Freya Gilbert - St. Paul's, St. Joseph
Thomas Johnstone - St. John's, Grand Haven
Tamara Oertel - St. Paul's, Flint

Clergy Nominees:

The Rev. David Blank - St. Mark's, Grand Rapids
The Rev. Sr. Diane Stier - St. John's, Mt. Pleasant

SECRETARY OF DIOCESAN CONVENTION

The Secretary of Convention shall serve from the adjournment of the current Convention until the close of the next Annual Convention. This person is responsible for (1) ensuring that notices for the Annual Convention are sent in accordance with the canons, (2) filing and preserving all certificates of election for lay delegates before convention, (3) maintaining complete minutes of the convention and (4) publishing the Journal of the Annual Convention. The Secretary may, with the approval of Diocesan Council, appoint an Assistant Secretary.

Nominee:

The Rev. Joel Turmo - St. Timothy's, Richland

TREASURER

The Annual Convention shall elect the Treasurer for one year who is answerable to the Diocesan Convention and Diocesan Council and shall, among other duties, present to the Annual Convention and deliver to Diocesan Council, upon request, a detailed report of the receipts and disbursements of each fund and the balance on hand. The Treasurer may, with the approval of the Diocesan Council, appoint an Assistant Treasurer and shall give bond in the same manner as the Treasurer. The Assistant Treasurer shall provide support to the Treasurer as required and assume the Treasurer's duties in the event of the Treasurer's absence or incapacity.

Nominee

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

NOMINEES



THE REV. JARED CRAMER

St. John's, Grand Haven

Nominee for Treasurer, Diocesan Council

Order of Ministry: Clergy

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

I am in the midst of my fourteenth year of service as Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Grand Haven and am currently in my second term on Diocesan Council. I first served as Secretary to Council, Assistant Treasurer of Western Michigan, and in 2022 and 2023 elected as

Treasurer of our Diocese. In that role, I also served alongside my counterpart in Eastern Michigan, Fr. Brian Chace, on the finance team for the Building Bridges Task Force. I currently lead the joint finance team, alongside Fr. Brian, and would look forward to bringing this work to conclusion as we become the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes.

In addition to my previous experience as Treasurer in Western Michigan, I have served on the board, either as chair or as treasurer, for several nonprofits, especially helping two nonprofits start up and achieve 501c3 status (the Tri-Cities Puentes Initiative and Grand Haven Pride). In addition to my theological and pastoral training (Bachelor of Science in Biblical Studies, with a minor in Biblical Languages, a Master of Divinity, a Master of Sacred Theology, and a Doctor of Ministry), I am currently nearing completion of an Executive Master of Nonprofit Administration (EMNA) from the University of Notre Dame's Mendoza School of Business. In all of these roles, I seek to bring a clear-eyed and honest understanding of resources available to bear on the strategic mission of the organization. My passion, in this season of transition, is ensuring that our resources, policies, and practices as a diocese support and enable the flourishing of ministry at the local level.

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

Rector, St. John's Episcopal Church, Grand Haven

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

DIOCESAN: Currently Diocesan Council Member & Treasurer of the Diocese, Previously Secretary of Diocesan Council and Assistant Treasurer of the Diocese, Alternate Deputy, General Convention 2018, 2022, and 2024 (attended both in 2018 & 2022), Convener of the Deans of the Dioceses (2010–2016), Dean of the Lakeshore Deanery (2010–2016), Chair of the Commission on Ministry (2013–2015), Member of COM in 2012 // CHURCH-WIDE: Representative of Episcopal Church to the Faith & Order Commission of the National Council of Churches, (2010–2014)

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

Currently, Treasurer of Grand Haven Pride Previously, Co-Chair, Tri-Cities Puentes Initiative, Treasurer of Humanity for Prisoners, Leadership Team for the Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance in Northwest Ottawa County



THE VEN. LINDA CRANE

Grace, Port Huron

Nominee for Diocesan Council

Order of Ministry: Clergy

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

As a lifelong Episcopalian, I am deeply committed to working together towards the common goals of our Diocese. I have served on various committees, including the Vestry, as a Eucharistic Minister, and in Outreach. I am currently the Archdeacon of the Diocese and am excited to collaborate with our new diocesan team.

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

I currently serve as Deacon on Sunday's Eucharistic Services, serve on multiple Parish committees and am starting a grief group in October for Grace Church. I have also recently put together a special beach service in August of this year.

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

I have served on standing committee, clergy retreat committee and the worship team for convention.

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

I am a foster grandparent at a Christian elementary school, I serve on the elder abuse committee for St. Clair County, and I am on the crisis intervention team at a local community mental health center.



GLORIA LARA

St. Mark's, Grand Rapids

Nominee for Diocesan Council

Order of Ministry: Laity

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

I have a business background, having had executive positions at major corporations before I transitioned to nonprofit leadership in 2010. I have a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree and my undergraduate degree is in Accounting. Having served on many nonprofit boards, local and national, I am quite familiar with board duties and accountabilities which are very similar to those of the Diocesan Council. Because of my finance background, I have served on many board finance committees and am the Treasurer of St. Mark's, Grand Rapids.

However, I am not all business and finance. My perspective is as a mature Latina woman. I am so pleased with the Episcopal Church's welcome to ALL peoples, regardless of background, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and ability. For the past 14 years, I have led three different non-profit organizations, focused on having underrepresented people seen, heard, and engaged. I have been able to build bridges among peoples through education and discussions. I hope to bring that perspective to the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes.

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

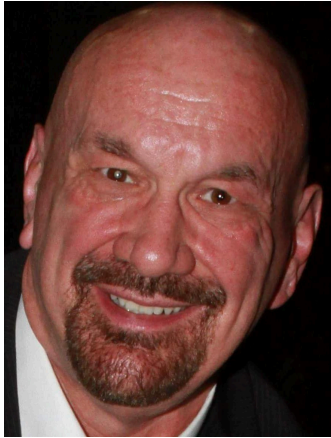
- > Vestry: 2021 to present (2nd three-year term)
- > Treasurer: 2024 to present
- > Finance Ministry: 2016 to present

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

- > 1st Alternate Lay Deputy for the Diocese of Western Michigan at the 81st General Convention
- > Delegate to Diocese of Western Michigan: 2018 to present

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

- > Michigan Civil Rights Commission – Commissioner: 2021 to present; Commission Chair: 2024; Commission Secretary: 2022 to 2023
- > Plainsong Farm – Board of Directors: 2022 to 2024; Treasurer: 2022 to 2023
- > Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance, Holland, MI – Executive Director: 2019 to 2023
- > Corewell Health System West – Board of Directors: 2023; Compliance Committee: 2023 to Present
- > Spectrum Health System – Board of Directors: 2017 – 2022; Compliance Committee: 2017 to 2022; Health Equity Committee: 2021 to 2022.



CHRISTOPHER LAUCKNER

St. John’s, Midland

Nominee for Diocesan Council

Order of Ministry: Laity

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

Former Roman Catholic Priest/Diocese of Saginaw, M.Div.; Finance/Administration, BBA. Executive Director of Great Lakes Bay Pride - LBGTQ+ Organization [aka. Perceptions, Inc.]; Director of Health Education Services, Central MI District Health Department, Mt. Pleasant,; Executive Director of Hospice of Helping Hands, West Branch, MI; Hospital Chaplain, My Mid Michigan Home Care, Midland.

Spiritual Care, Organizational Skills, Directing Community Collaborative Initiatives, Developing Policy/Procedures, Facilitating/Consulting, Strategic Planning experience, Conflict Resolution experience, Presenting in Public Forums, Budget Preparation/Analysis; Church Building [parish analysis, new development and renovation projects].

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

MOST RECENT [Since joining SJEC-8 years]: Parish Administrator, Co-Warden, Vestry Member, Endowment Committee Chair, Building & Grounds Committee Member, Pastoral Care Committee Member, Worship Committee Member, Choir Member, Reader/Announcer.

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

- > SJEC Convention Delegate
- > AuSable Inclusion Center, Discernment Committee Member
- > Diocesan Convention, Cantor, 2023

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

Advisor, Great Lakes Bay Pride, Inc; Member, Cultural Awareness Coalition, Midland, MI; Member, Midland Community Foundation Grant Committee; Board Member, Midland County Food Assistance Network; Choir Member, Harmony Diversity Choir



THE REV. DAVID BLANK

St. Mark's, Grand Rapids

Nominee for Standing Committee

Order of Ministry: Clergy

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

David has over 40 years' leadership experience as an ordained pastor/chaplain in the ELCA and now an Episcopal priest. His strengths include equipping laity for leadership in the church, supervising/educating interns/seminarians for ordained ministry, worship and evangelism. He has completed 13 units from the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE). He is a certified Stephen Leader and established a Stephen Ministry program in two of his prior congregations. David received his certification as an interim pastor/priest in 2021. Over the course of his ministry, he assisted in the establishment of cooperative ministries among Lutheran and Presbyterian congregations in Little Falls, & Clinton, NY and Lutheran congregations in Warren, PA. He is a seasoned Pastor who brings a fresh ecumenical perspective and a gift for seeing the bigger picture.

Please list the nominee's most recent PARISH LEVEL ministries and office

June 2023 - Present Interim Rector, St. Mark's Grand Rapids
2021-2023 - Priest in Charge/ Interim, St. David's, Lansing
2015-2021 - Senior Pastor, St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids
2018-2019 – Assistant to Priest-in-Charge/Interim, St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids
2006-2015 – Senior Pastor, First Lutheran Church, Warren, PA
2000-2006 – Spiritual Director, Lutheran Care Ministries, Clinton, NY
1989 -2000 – Pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Little Falls, NY
1983-1989 – Pastor, Bethany LC, Sheffield & Moriah LC, Ludlow, PA

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

Worship and Music Committee, NWLM Synod
ELCA, Candidacy Committee NWLM Synod.
Secretary of Synod, Conference Dean, PA.

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

Board of Directors, Lutheran Care Ministries, Clinton, NY.
Board of Directors, President, Lutheran Home at Kane, Kane, PA.



JENNIFER DANTES

St. Martin of Tours

Nominee for Standing Committee

Order of Ministry: Laity

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

As a cradle Episcopalian, raised in St. Marks, Coldwater and homed at St. Martin of Tours, Kalamazoo, I have a deep love for the church. Through work on the vestry, altar guild and as a long time Sunday School teacher, I am a witness to the growth of God's kingdom in the eyes of children and working hands of parishioners. Completing the four year course through Education for Ministry, fed my joy of learning and strengthened my belief in our community of faith. I have participated in the greater church as a delegate to convention. I bring a thoughtful heart, a listening ear, a discerning mind and an eagerness to learn and grow. It is through these experiences that I seek to serve the greater church as a member of the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes.

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

Altar Guild Member, Flower Guild Member, Open Doors Dinner Volunteer, Lector, Prayer Shawl Ministry

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

Delegate to Convention

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

Loaves & Fishes volunteer, Loy Norrix Theater seamstress & volunteer



FREYA GILBERT

St. Paul's, St. Joseph

Nominee for Standing Committee

Order of Ministry: Laity

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

I have been so blessed these last two years by opening myself wholeheartedly to God's Hopeful Future for us: By participating in College for Congregational Development, the Academy for Vocational Leadership, by preaching in both legacy dioceses, and by serving on Standing Committee and Diocesan Council. I've had growing edges and I've realized that I don't always have the best ideas, but even when I do have the best ideas, I am growing in my appreciation of the many beautiful ways in which God shows up here and now, in the voices and wisdom and courage of our people.

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

Licensed Lay Preacher, College for Congregational Development Mentor, Worship Committee

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

Member EDWM Standing Committee, EDWM Diocesan Council, 2nd Alternate General Convention, Delegate to ECW Triennial

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

Board Member OutCenter, Volunteer Paws for Humanity, Volunteer Berrien Forward



THOMAS JOHNSTONE

St. John's, Grand Haven

Nominee for Standing Committee

Order of Ministry: Laity

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

I am currently in my senior year of a dual bachelor's degree in social work and legal studies. My graduation date is April 2025, and I will start the Master of Social Work accelerated degree in May 2025. I have been in a leadership role with employment and volunteer positions for the last decade. While in college, I have had the passion to achieve induction into three honor societies in 2024 at Grand Valley State University. It is a monumental time in the diocese to be able to be a part of a juncture. I would bring the skills of communication, critical thinking, and problem-solving.

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

Verger, Eucharistic Minister, Altar Guild, Crucifer, Loving Spoonful volunteer

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

2024 - Parish Delegate to EDWM Convention

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

2015 - Present: Michigan Irish Music Festival Co-Lead

2020 - Present: Michigan HIV AIDS Council (2024 Co-Chair of Council)

2024 - Present: Michigan DHHS Clinical Quality Management Committee

2024 - Present: Grand Valley State University Student Senate

2023 - 2024: Grand Valley State University Vice-President of Student Affairs Student Advisory Board

Current - Volunteer Legal Intern with Muskegon County Public Defender's office



TAMARA OERTEL

St. Paul's, Flint

Nominee for Standing Committee

Order of Ministry: Laity

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

As a retired teacher, I've done a lot of listening, which also requires patience. Both of these things are important when working with others and discerning where God is leading. I'm a cradle Episcopalian and have served on Vestry as Senior Warden in times of transition and

had the honor of chairing a Search Committee. I have an enthusiasm for people and the future of the Diocese of the Great Lakes.

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

Altar Guild, Choir, Senior Warden, Vestry, Liturgy and Worship Committee, Finance Committee, Eucharistic Minister, Eucharistic Visitor, Hand Bell Choir, Common Threads ministry, Education Committee

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

Licensed Worship Leader, Board member National Altar Guild Association, Delegate to Convention 2023, 2024

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

Judge, Battle of the Books at Brandon Township Public Library - annually. Board Member of Abigail's Pride a non-profit created by a former student to make safe spaces for HS LGBTQ+ students.



THE REV. SR. DIANE STIER

St. John's, Mt. Pleasant

Nominee for Standing Committee

Order of Ministry: Clergy

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

I come out of the monastic tradition, having been a vowed religious for the past 40 years. My contemplative formation has been the workshop for developing stances of deep listening and deep questioning. I am committed to inclusion at all levels of life, to assuring that all voices are heard, and to engaging in the work of the church with the values of the Gospel firmly at the center of decision-making.

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

Since December 2020 I have been the rector of St. John's, Mt. Pleasant, previously having served as Assisting Priest there for two years. I served as supply priest for six congregations in the diocese prior to serving St. John's.

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

I served on the Commission on Ministry beginning in 2019, and served as co-chair of COM for three years, from 2020 through 2022. As we form the new Diocese of the Great Lakes, the requirements and formation process for holy orders will be one of the areas requiring serious consideration as we consider the concerns and previous practices of our two dioceses. My experience with COM would be something I could bring to that discernment.

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

As rector of St. John's, I am involved in the local Progressive Ministerial Gathering and take part in ecumenical gatherings in the community. I am a member of the Mt. Pleasant Area Diversity Group and the Campus Religious Leaders Association at CMU. I have collaborative working relationships with the Isabella County Soup Kitchen, Great Lakes Bay Pride, Listening Ear Crisis Center, Isabella County Restoration House, and Community Mental Health for Central Michigan.



THE REV. JOEL TURMO

St. Timothy's, Richland

Nominee for Secretary of Convention

Order of Ministry: Clergy

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

Having served as Secretary of Convention since 2021 and as a member of the Constitution and Canons Committee, I bring experience in diocesan operations and governance to this position.

My service has deepened my understanding of the Church's

Constitution and Canons, enabling me to navigate church polity while maintaining a focus on ministry. This blend of administrative knowledge and pastoral experience as a priest allows me to balance procedural requirements with the spiritual needs of our diocese.

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.

Rector of St. Timothy's, Richland, Regional Youth Missioner, Secretary of Convention, Constitution and Canons Committee, Diocesan Council, Insurance Committee, Province V Executive Board and Developer of websites for churches and ministries.

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

I have been involved as the chaplain for the Boy Scouts, helped establish Kalamazoo Coalition for the Unhoused and worked in a five county area providing Crisis Intervention Stress Management services to schools.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTION

Please note that the page numbers listed in blue at the top of each page of the Proposed Constitution correspond with the page numbers in the Proposed Constitution & Canons as linked on the diocesan convention pages and are provided to avoid confusion during discussion.

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ARTICLE I: ACCESSION TO PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH

As a constituent part of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, The Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes accedes to, recognizes, and adopts the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention and acknowledges their authority.

ARTICLE II: TERRITORY OF THE DIOCESE

The Diocese of the Great Lakes embraces all that part of the Lower Peninsula of the State of Michigan lying within Alcona, Allegan, Alpena, Antrim, Arenac, Barry, Benzie, Bay, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Clare, Crawford, Eaton, Emmett, Genesee, Gladwin, Grand Traverse, Gratiot, Huron, Ionia, Iosco, Isabella, Kalamazoo, Kalkaska, Kent, Lake, Lapeer, Leelanau, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Midland, Missaukee, Montcalm, Montmorency, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oakland (that portion within Holly Township), Oceana, Ogemaw, Osceola, Oscoda, Otsego, Ottawa, Presque Isle, Roscommon, Saginaw, Sanilac, Shiawassee, St. Clair, St. Joseph, Tuscola, Van Buren, Wexford counties and the islands jurisdictionally attached to any thereof.

ARTICLE III: ECCLESIASTICAL AUTHORITY

The Bishop is the Chief Pastor of the Diocese and may preside and officiate in the worship of the Church within any congregation or mission or elsewhere in the Diocese. The Bishop is also the ecclesiastical authority of the Diocese, or in the absence of the Bishop, the Bishop Coadjutor, if there be one, shall be the ecclesiastical authority of the Diocese; or, in the absence of the Bishop Coadjutor, the Bishop Suffragan, if there be one, shall be the ecclesiastical authority, or, if there is no Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor, or Bishop Suffragan, the Standing Committee shall be the ecclesiastical authority of the Diocese. In the case of all references to actions by the Bishop in the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention or the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes, in the absence of any Bishop, the Standing Committee shall act, unless it is a pastoral or sacramental action or an action under the Disciplinary Canons reserved for Bishops. In that case, the Standing Committee shall arrange for a Bishop to serve in these roles.

ARTICLE IV: CONVENTIONS

An Annual Convention shall be held, and special Conventions may be called and held in this Diocese, as Canons shall provide. The requirements for calling a special Convention shall be prescribed in Canons. The composition, officers, voting and quorum requirements, and the requirements for forfeiture of privileges, shall be prescribed in Canons. Canons not in conflict with this Constitution may be adopted by the Convention to implement the provisions of this Constitution and to prescribe the operation of this Diocese. Such proposed Canons or amendments to it may be adopted, which shall require a majority vote of the members present and eligible to vote at such Convention.

ARTICLE V: ELECTION OF A BISHOP

The Canons shall provide the procedure for the election of a Bishop, and the same procedure shall apply to the election of a Bishop Coadjutor or a Bishop Suffragan. At any such election, after the first ballot, a motion to go into committee of the whole shall be of the highest privilege and shall be carried by a one-third vote of each order.

ARTICLE VI: AUTHENTICATION AND PRESERVATION OF CONSTITUTION AND CANONS

The President of the Convention and Secretary of the Convention shall certify the Convention's adoption of any Constitution and Canons, and amendments to it. The Secretary of the Convention shall maintain a document titled "The Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes," in which such provisions and certifications shall be recorded. The provisions in that document shall be presumed to have been duly adopted and correctly recorded.

ARTICLE VII: AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION

This Constitution or any part thereof may be amended in the following manner only: At least sixty (60) days in advance of the annual Convention, the proposal to amend shall be submitted to the Bishop in writing, who shall give notice of the substance of the proposed amendment, not less than thirty days in advance of the Convention, to each member of the clergy entitled to seat and vote, and to each Community of Faith in union with the Diocese. The Bishop shall refer such proposals to an appropriate committee, which shall report to the Convention. After hearing the committee's report, the Convention may consider the amendment and, if approved or approved with change, shall lay over until the next annual Convention. If, at the second annual Convention, a majority of each order adopts the amendment without further modification, the Constitution shall stand amended at the Convention's close.

ARTICLE VIII: AUTHORITY OF THE CANONS

The Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes supersede the bylaws of all Congregations of the Diocese.

PROPOSED CANONS

Please note that the page numbers listed in blue at the top of each page of the Proposed Canons correspond with the page numbers in the Proposed Constitution & Canons as linked on the diocesan convention pages and are provided to avoid confusion during discussion.

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TITLE I: Communities of Faith

A Community of Faith is a group of persons united for the purpose of carrying out the mission of the Church, which the Catechism of the Church says is “to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ”. Communities of Faith pursue the mission of the Church as it “prays and worships, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love.” Communities of Faith in the Canons of this Diocese can be designated as Congregations, Emergent Communities of Faith, Programmatic Organizations, or Seasonal Chapels.

Canon 1: Congregations

Sec. 1. A Congregation is a Community of Faith that has been admitted into Union with the Convention of the Diocese. A Congregation:

- a. Maintains a place of worship, provides the regular engagement of a priest, remains current in payment of its apportionment, and pays all its operating expenses;
- b. Is mission-focused and able to come into alignment with the mission of the Diocese;
- c. Is both inward- and outward-looking, and seeks to impact its surrounding community;
- d. Has active lay leadership with the skills to manage the programs and property of the Congregation with ministry to meet its sense of mission;
- e. Strives to meet the challenges of the community it serves and to provide for the future well-being of congregational life;
- f. Ensures members who by diocesan policy are required to be trained in Safe Church, Safe Communities and Dismantling Racism receive such training, and documentation is provided to the Diocesan Office;
- g. Is financially self-supporting and relies mainly on the freewill offering of its members and its resources for its core financial support; and
- h. Does not endanger its future well-being by regularly drawing down its endowment or capital assets.

Sec. 2. Recognition as a Congregation and admission into Union with the Convention of this Diocese is requested by submitting, to the Secretary of the Convention at least sixty days (60) before any Annual Convention, a written application for recognition and admission and also the following:

- a. The minutes of a meeting of the members applying to become a Congregation showing that a majority of the members present have voted in favor of making such application and has elected at least three (3) members to act as incorporators of the congregation;

- b. A certificate from the Bishop acknowledging the intention of said congregation to incorporate and approve the application of such congregation; and
- c. Proof that the applicable Canons have been followed.

The Annual Convention shall vote on recognizing the Community of Faith as a Congregation and admitting them into Union with the Convention of the Diocese.

Canon 2: The Governance of Congregations

Sec. 1. The Annual Meeting

- a. In every Congregation, the Annual Meeting shall be held in January at a time and place designated by the Vestry.
- b. The purpose of this Annual Meeting shall be to elect members to the Vestry; receive reports from the Vestry, Congregation officers, and organizations; receive a budget for the new year; and transact such other business as may properly come before it.
- c. The Annual Meeting shall be presided over by the Rector or the Priest-in-Charge, or Pastoral Leader, if the office of Rector is vacant, or if the Rector, Priest-in-Charge, or Pastoral Leader is absent, by the Senior Warden. When the Annual Meeting is called to order, the qualifications for voters as defined in the Canons of the General Convention shall be read.
- d. Communicants in good standing shall be eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting and to serve on the Vestry.
- e. A quorum for the transaction of business in the Annual Meeting shall consist of 25% of the persons entitled to vote if they were present or 25 persons entitled to vote, whichever is fewer.
- f. No layperson shall simultaneously vote or hold office in multiple Congregations.
- g. Each Congregation shall have a Vestry consisting of not less than five (5) adult laypersons in good standing elected by the Annual Meeting.
- h. The length of one term of office for members of the Vestry shall be three years, with one-third of the members, or as near as may be, elected each year at the Annual Meeting.
- i. In each Congregation, the Vestry may, by resolution, designate the Nominating Committee. Otherwise, the Rector, Priest-in-Charge, or Pastoral Leader, together with the Senior Warden and the Junior Warden, shall be the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall publish to the Congregation at least two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting a ballot with sufficient qualified nominees to fill the vacancies on the Vestry for the upcoming year.
- j. Additional nominations may be made from the floor of the Annual Meeting or by other means established in the congregation's bylaws to ensure an open election.

Sec. 2. Special Meetings of the Congregation

- a. A Special Meeting may be held at any time on the written order of the Bishop or the Rector, Priest-in-Charge, or Pastoral Leader, or by resolution of the Vestry, or on a petition to the Bishop if such petition be signed by not less than one-third of the number entitled to vote at the last Annual Meeting. All such orders, resolutions, or petitions shall specify the time and place of such meeting and the business to be considered. No business shall be considered other than that specified in the call to such meeting.
- b. Notice of such meeting shall be distributed throughout the congregation at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting and read publicly in church at all services (or otherwise disseminated electronically) on two (2) weekends prior to the meeting. This notice shall specify the time and place of the meeting, the business to be considered, and by whose order the meeting is called.
- c. Such meeting may be presided over by the Bishop. If the Bishop does not preside, the Rector, Priest-in-Charge, or Pastoral Leader, shall preside. If there is no Rector, Priest-in-Charge, or Pastoral Leader, the Bishop may request the Senior Warden to preside.

Sec. 3. Vestries

- a. In accordance with the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church and of this Diocese, the Vestry shall govern the Congregation and shall manage and be responsible for its property and material affairs; and shall, in collaboration with the clergy, further the temporal and spiritual welfare of the Congregation; shall provide a suitable place of worship and see that it is supplied with all things necessary to the worship of Almighty God; shall have the authority to select and call a Rector and provide for the remuneration of the Rector; and shall present to each Annual Meeting a report on its work during the year preceding and a budget for the next year.
- b. Regarding civil matters, the Vestry shall be the corporate Board of Directors. The Rector, Priest-in-Charge, or Pastoral Leader shall be a member of and preside over the Vestry and is the corporation's President. If there is no Rector, Priest-in-Charge, or Pastoral Leader, then the Senior Warden shall be the President of the Corporation.
- c. The Lay Officers of a Congregation shall consist of two Wardens, Clerk, and Treasurer, who shall all be adult communicants in good standing of the Congregation and at least eighteen (18) years of age. No employee, spouse of an employee, or spouse of a clergy person serving the Congregation may serve as a member of the Vestry or an Officer of the Congregation.
 - i. At its first meeting following the Annual Congregational Meeting, the Vestry shall elect two (2) of its members as Wardens. It is the duty of the Wardens to work closely with the Rector, Priest-in-Charge, or Pastoral Leader; to advise them on all matters pertaining to the Congregation upon which the Rector, Priest-in-Charge, or Pastoral Leader, may wish to consult them; and to inform the Rector, Priest-in-Charge, or Pastoral Leader, of all

matters which the Wardens feel they need to know. If there is no Rector, Priest-in-Charge, or Pastoral Leader, it shall be the duty of the Wardens to assume all the temporal responsibilities of the Rector, including, but not limited to, presiding at Vestry meetings, signing documents, filing reports, and maintaining the Congregation Register.

- ii. Congregations may elect a Senior Warden and a Junior Warden, or two Co-Wardens, as provided in their bylaws. Congregations with Co-Wardens shall, in the interests of clear lines of communication and responsibility, identify one Co-Warden to the Diocese as Senior Warden.
 - iii. The Wardens shall see that the financial obligations of the Congregation are met and that the buildings belonging to the Congregation are kept in good repair and are adequately insured. Under the Rector, Priest-in-Charge, or Pastoral Leader, they shall see that all things needed for the orderly worship of God and the proper administration of the sacraments are provided. They shall prevent or repress all disturbance of worship. In the absence of a Rector, Priest-in-Charge, or Pastoral Leader, they shall, with the advice of the Bishop, procure a suitable supply priest for the continuance of the services.
 - iv. The Clerk shall be elected annually at the first Vestry meeting following the Annual Congregational Meeting. The Clerk shall be responsible for seeing that minutes are taken of all meetings of the Vestry, as well as of Annual and Special Meetings. The Clerk shall provide and make available all minutes in some stable, durable format such as but not limited to a bound book or digital folder. The Clerk shall also maintain in similar fashion the annual accounts of the Congregation's temporal condition, and all supporting documents relevant to business transacted by the Vestry. The Clerk shall turn over all files and records belonging to the Congregation, as well as any passwords necessary to access them, upon the completion of their service.
 - v. The Treasurer shall be elected annually at the first Vestry meeting following the Annual Congregational Meeting. Under the authority of the Vestry, the Treasurer is responsible for ensuring the collection, reception, disbursement, and accounting of the Congregation's funds. At every Vestry meeting and to the Annual Meeting, the Treasurer shall report on the Congregation's total assets and liabilities, and its income and expenses of all funds since the previous report and for the year to date. Prior to the Annual Meeting, the Treasurer shall present to the Vestry a full and accurate statement of the Congregation's financial condition. The Treasurer shall furnish a bond, which shall be paid for by the Congregation. Upon completion of their service, the Treasurer shall surrender all records, passwords, and funds related to their duties.
- d. **Vacancies** The Vestry shall fill any midterm vacancies in their number or among the officers of the Congregation by majority vote, so long as the preceding qualifications for membership and office are kept.

- e. **Meetings of the Vestry** Regular meetings of the Vestry shall be held at least six (6) times per year. All Vestry members are expected to be present at Vestry meetings. Electronic and hybrid meetings and votes and actions taken within them are valid and acceptable. If any member of the Vestry is absent from three (3) consecutive meetings without due cause, as determined by the Rector, Priest-in-Charge, or Pastoral Leader, and the Wardens, that seat shall be declared vacant.
 - i. The Vestry shall not transact any business without the awareness of the Rector, Priest-in-Charge, or Pastoral Leader of the Congregation, or if the office of Rector, Priest-in-Charge, or Pastoral Leader, is vacant, without the presence of one of the Wardens. A quorum consisting of a majority of the elected members of the Vestry must be present for the Vestry to transact business. No action affecting the rights of the Rector, Priest-in-Charge, or Pastoral Leader shall be taken at any meeting at which the Rector, Priest-in-Charge, or Pastoral Leader, has not been given the opportunity to attend.
 - ii. Special Meetings of the Vestry may be called at any time at the request of the Rector, Priest-in-Charge, or Pastoral Leader or at least one-third of Vestry members. Notice of such meeting shall be given to the Rector, Priest-in-Charge, or Pastoral Leader, the Wardens, and the members of the Vestry with at least three days' notice. This notice shall specify the time and place of the meeting and the business to be considered.
- f. **Indemnification**
 - i. No member of the Vestry shall be personally liable for monetary damages for any action taken or any failure to take any action unless said person has breached or failed to perform the duties of his office prescribed by these canons. The breach or failure to perform constitutes self-dealing, willful misconduct, or recklessness. The provisions of this section shall not apply to the responsibility or liability of said person pursuant to any criminal statute or for the payment of taxes pursuant to local, state, or federal law.
 - ii. The Congregation shall indemnify any Vestry member. It may also indemnify any other employee or agent who was or is a party to, or is threatened to be made a party to, or who is called as a witness in connection with, any threatened, pending, or completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative, including any action by, or on behalf of, the Congregation by reason of the fact that they are or were a member of Vestry, employee, or agent of the Congregation, against expenses, including attorney's fees, judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by them in connection with such action, suit, or proceeding unless the act or failure to act giving rise to the claim for indemnification is determined by the Court to have constituted willful misconduct or recklessness. With respect to any such action, the Congregation may participate at its own expense, and the Congregation shall be entitled to assume the defense thereof, with Counsel selected by the Congregation to the reasonable satisfaction of the party being indemnified. After notice from the Congregation to such person of its election to assume the defense thereof, the Congregation shall not be liable to such person for any legal or other expenses subsequently incurred by such person in connection with the defense

thereof. Such person shall have the right to employ separate Counsel in such action, but the fees and expenses incurred after a notice from the Congregation of its assumption of the defense thereof shall be at the expense of such person.

Canon 3: Business Methods in Church Affairs

Sec. 1. In every Congregation, Emergent Community of Faith, or Seasonal Chapel connected with the Diocese of the Great Lakes, the Manual of Business Methods in Church Affairs, as issued from time to time by the Church, shall be used as a guide for the conduct of business.

Sec. 2. All property, real and personal, held by or for the benefit of any Congregation or Seasonal Chapel of this Diocese is held in trust for the Diocese and The Episcopal Church. The existence of this trust, however, shall in no way limit the power and authority of the Congregation otherwise existing over such property so long as the Congregation remains a part of, and subject to, this Church and its General and Diocesan Constitution and Canons.

Sec. 3. No mortgage, judgment, voluntary lien, or indebtedness shall be incurred by any Congregation or Seasonal Chapel of this Diocese without the consent and approval of the Bishop and the Standing Committee. If any Congregation learns it is subject to an involuntary lien or judgment, the Rector and/or Senior Warden shall promptly notify the Bishop.

Sec. 4. No real property, nor any portion thereof, titled to any Congregation or other entity of this Diocese shall be sold, given away, deliberately destroyed, or otherwise alienated or encumbered without the consent and approval of the Bishop and the Standing Committee.

Sec. 5. All Congregations and Seasonal Chapels shall be adequately insured with property and liability insurance that shall conform to a minimum standard for insurance established by the Diocesan Council and shall provide annually to the Diocese a certificate of insurance.

Sec. 6. No Congregation or other entity of this Diocese shall purchase real estate without the consent and approval of the Bishop and the Standing Committee.

Sec. 7. Real property held or administered by the Diocese of the Great Lakes, or by entities or Congregations connected with it, shall be offered for sale, sold, or leased only on a non-discriminatory basis consistent with the applicable laws of the State of Michigan, of the United States of America, and of the Canons of the General Convention.

Sec. 8. Every Congregation shall present the Annual Parochial Report to the Bishop by the date specified.

Canon 4: The Election and Call of a Priest for a Congregation

Sec. 1. The Vestry of the Congregation elects a Rector in accordance with the provisions of this canon. After consultation with the Vestry, the Bishop may appoint a Priest to serve as Priest-in-Charge of any congregation in which there is no Rector. A Rector or Priest-in-Charge has all the duties and responsibilities outlined in the Canons of General Convention.

Sec. 2. When the Rector or Priest-in-Charge of a Congregation retires, resigns, becomes incapacitated, or dies, the Wardens shall promptly notify the Bishop and, with the advice of the Bishop, make due provision for services, the cost thereof to be paid by the Congregation. If the authorities of the congregation shall for thirty (30) days have failed to make provision for services, the Bishop shall take such measures as may be deemed suitable for the temporary maintenance of divine services therein.

Sec. 3. In the absence of a Rector or Priest-in-Charge, the Wardens shall ensure that the church building be kept from all secular and other uses not authorized by the Church. They shall make and certify all entries in the Congregation Register required by Canon and shall complete and present the Annual Parochial Report to the Bishop.

Sec. 4. The Vestry shall have the authority to elect a priest to be Rector of the Congregation. The said election shall be subject to the following provisions:

- a. It shall be the prerogative of the Bishop to submit to the Vestry a name or names of priests to be considered by them. The Vestry may also consider people not submitted by the Bishop.
- b. The Vestry in consultation with Diocesan staff shall determine a proper process for the search.
- c. No Congregation may elect a Rector until the names of the proposed nominees have been forwarded to the Bishop and a time, not exceeding fourteen (14) days, given to the Bishop to communicate with the Vestry, nor until any such communication has been considered by the Vestry at a meeting duly called and held for that purpose.
- d. No election shall be held until background checks, according to criteria established by the Bishop, have been satisfactorily completed.
- e. The Vestry shall submit to the Bishop the name of the priest whom they propose to elect and the Bishop shall confirm whether that individual is a duly qualified priest.
- f. The election having been held, written notice of the election, signed by the Wardens of the Congregation, a copy of the call to the Rector-elect, and a copy of the acceptance from the Rector-elect shall be sent to the Bishop.

Sec. 5. Rectors shall have a Letter of Agreement with the Congregation, approved by the Bishop, setting forth mutual responsibilities. It must express distinctly any special conditions, together with the stipulation of salary or support, and provision for residence, which shall conform with any Diocesan policy regarding minimum salary and benefits.

Sec. 6. Any priest appointed by the Bishop to minister to a Congregation as the Priest-in-Charge, but not elected by the Vestry thereof, is sent by the Bishop upon such terms as to financial support, and for such a period of time, as may have been agreed upon by the Bishop, the priest, and the Vestry of the Congregation. This appointment and agreement shall be in writing.

Sec. 7. In the case a Rector cannot be called, a Bishop may license a Pastoral Leader to handle pastoral or administrative duties in a congregation. To qualify, the individual must be a confirmed adult communicant in good standing. The Bishop sets the guidelines for training and selecting Pastoral Leaders. However, a Pastoral Leader will not be licensed if the Bishop determines that the congregation is capable of and has had a reasonable chance to secure a clergy person to lead them.

Canon 5: Pastoral Mediation

Sec. 1. Except as provided in the Canons of the General Convention, a Rector may not resign a Congregation without the consent of the Vestry thereof, nor may a Rector canonically chosen and in charge of a Congregation be removed therefrom by its Vestry against the Rector's will, except as provided by canon.

Sec. 2. If a Rector and the Vestry of the Congregation served are unable to agree on a matter or matters that might lead to a request by either party for dissolution of the pastoral relationship, either or both parties shall promptly deliver to the Bishop a written notice describing their differences and requesting mediation thereof by the Bishop. Upon receiving such a request, the Bishop shall mediate the disagreement and seek a solution. As part of the mediation process, the Bishop may appoint a committee composed of one presbyter and one layperson, neither affiliated with the Congregation in which the disagreement exists, to investigate and make a written report stating the nature of the dispute and each party's position. This report shall be delivered to the Bishop, the Rector, and the Vestry within twenty-one (21) days after the committee's appointment.

Canon 6: Dissolution of a Pastoral Relationship

Sec. 1. If the pastoral mediation called for by Canon has been exhausted without success and a Rector or the Vestry of the Congregation served wishes to have the pastoral relationship dissolved, each party, within sixty (60) days of the conclusion of the pastoral mediation process, may request final disposition of the dispute by giving written notice thereof to the Bishop and the other party concerned.

Sec. 2. Within thirty (30) days after receiving the written notice, the Bishop shall conduct a hearing on the issue. The Bishop shall fix the hearing's date, time, and place, notify the parties affected, and conduct the hearing as ultimate arbiter and judge. In all cases, the Bishop shall consult and seek the advice of the Standing Committee before reaching a decision.

Sec. 3. At the Bishop's request, the Standing Committee shall be present at the hearing provided for in Section 2 and shall be permitted to question persons present for the hearing. The Chancellor shall be available to the Bishop for consultation at the hearing.

Sec. 4. Each party or its representative may present a position statement and the reasons supporting it. No testimony or other evidence shall be given at the hearing unless exercising discretion. The Bishop shall allow it for compelling reasons in the interests of justice. Oral statements and testimony shall be subject to cross-examination.

Sec. 5. The Bishop shall render a decision not later than fifteen (15) days following the close of the hearing, and that decision shall be final and binding.

Sec. 6. If the pastoral relationship is to be dissolved: (a) The Bishop shall set forth the reasons and conditions for the dissolution in writing. A copy shall be provided to each party to the matter at issue, and a copy of the decision shall be available for public inspection. (b) The Bishop shall require just and compassionate compensation or indemnity, if any, and shall undertake to offer such supportive services as may be suitable.

Sec. 7. In the event of the failure or refusal of either party to comply with the terms of the decision, the Bishop may impose such penalties as may be provided by the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese and in default of any provisions for such penalties therein, the Bishop may act as follows: (a) In the case of a Rector, inhibit such Rector from officiating in the Congregation until the decision is complied with. (b) In the case of a Vestry, recommend to the Diocesan Convention that the congregation's union with the Convention cease until the Congregation complies with the decision.

Sec. 8. Statements made during the proceedings under this Canon are not admissible in any proceeding under Title IV of the Canons of the General Convention. However, this rule does not require excluding evidence in proceedings under the above Canons of the General Convention, where evidence is otherwise discoverable and admissible.

Canon 7: Distressed Congregations

Sec. 1. Conditions for Review Status This Canon is intended to address the case of a Congregation that appears to be in jeopardy, such that a degree of episcopal intervention or oversight is needed to restore the health of the Congregation. This Canon is not intended to diminish the right and responsibility of Congregations in the Episcopal Church to govern themselves under applicable law but to recognize situations where the Congregation is no longer operating under the definitional standards of a Congregation provided in these canons. A Congregation may be declared to be a Congregation Under Review when one or more of the following conditions exist, as determined by the Bishop with the consent of the Standing Committee:

- a. The Vestry or Rector of a Congregation requests the Bishop declare it a Congregation Under Review.
- b. The Congregation no longer meets the definition of Congregation provided in these Canons.
- c. The Congregation has violated the Constitution or Canons of this Diocese or the Constitution or Canons of the General Convention, including employing a member of the clergy under ecclesiastical censure or process, permitting a church edifice to be used for purposes incompatible with its consecration, or engaging in any persistent course inconsistent with the doctrine, discipline, or worship of the Church;
- d. The Congregation has refused or neglected to elect a Vestry, or failed to provide representation at any Annual Convention of this Diocese, or refused or neglected to pay its Diocesan Apportionment;
- e. The Congregation has failed to provide the services of a clergyperson without having made reasonable efforts;
- f. The Congregation has failed to comply with the provisions of the Canons of this Diocese or the General Canons of this Church pertaining to Business Methods in Church Affairs or the Church Pension Fund;
- g. The Congregation has repeatedly violated the requirements of the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (UPMIFA) in the State of Michigan, or any successive such legislation, in taking more than what the act would consider a reasonably prudent draw from endowment accounts or evidenced substantial financial instability.

Sec. 2. Conditions for At Risk Status If the conditions set forth above persist for more than one year, or if conditions warrant immediate action, the Bishop, with advice and consent of the Standing Committee, may declare the Congregation to be a Congregation At Risk and establish a Restoration Plan, which may require the application of one or more of the following measures to restore health to the Congregation:

- a. Appointment, by the Bishop, of three (3) to five (5) persons, some or all of whom may be adult communicants of the Congregation, to govern the affairs of the Congregation as the Vestry, replacing the current Vestry, notwithstanding any other provisions for such governance or the election of a Vestry in the Canons of this Diocese;
- b. Designation of the Rector as Priest-in-Charge;
- c. Conveyance of title of all property to the Diocese;
- d. Such other measures which the Bishop, with the concurrence of the Standing Committee, determines to be appropriate.

Sec. 3. Restoration to Congregational Status

- a. At least every six (6) months, the Bishop (together with such other persons or Committees as the Bishop may designate) and the Vestry will evaluate the progress toward correcting the conditions that led to the Congregation being declared At Risk, including, but not limited to, the issues and guidelines listed in the Restoration Plan.
- b. When the conditions that led to the decision to declare a Congregation At Risk have been substantially ameliorated, the Congregation may petition the Bishop to restore the Congregation to regular canonical status.
- c. The Bishop, with the advice of the Standing Committee, shall decide whether or not to approve the petition.
- d. If a Congregation At Risk shall remain in such status for more than four (4) years without extension of its Restoration Plan, then a special meeting of the Congregation At Risk shall be called by either the Bishop or the Wardens of the Congregation, and by majority vote thereof, it shall be determined whether such Congregation At Risk shall petition to be restored to full and regular Congregation status, or take other actions, or shall ask to be merged or closed.
- e. With the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, the Bishop shall decide not less than one (1) month after the vote on such requested action whether to restore the Congregation, take other actions, or merge or close the Congregation.
- f. Any decision to close a Congregation shall be taken in accordance with the Canons of this Diocese.

Canon 8: The Dissolution of a Congregation

Sec. 1. Whenever any Congregation shall choose to dissolve or be determined by the Bishop and Diocesan Council to be no longer viable after steps have been taken to restore congregational health, the Convention may vote to remove it from union with the Diocese by a vote at Convention, but without prejudice to a subsequent application for readmission.

Sec. 2. A service for the celebration of the life and ministry of the Congregation shall be scheduled and announced to the Diocese, and, if appropriate, a rite for secularizing a consecrated building shall be included.

Sec. 3. In such case, the real estate and invested funds shall be held by the Diocese for the benefit of the general missionary work of the Diocese or leased, mortgaged, sold, or otherwise disposed of by the Bishop and the Diocesan Council. All property and funds in the custody of the treasurer of the congregation shall be turned over to the Treasurer of the Diocese to be used under the direction of the Bishop and the Diocesan Council for the general missionary work of the Diocese.

Canon 9: Emergent Community of Faith

Sec. 1. Definition An Emergent Community of Faith is a new community that begins as a ministry of the Diocese or of a Congregation of the Diocese and is in a period of initial formation and incubation.

Sec. 2. To be designated an Emergent Community of Faith:

- a. Members participate in a discernment process overseen by the Diocesan Council.
- b. Following approval by Council, the community works with representatives of the Diocesan Council to reach an Emergent Community of Faith Agreement, which clarifies expectations and accountabilities. It includes such details as financial support, if any, from the diocesan operating budget, the pattern of reporting, leadership relationship to the diocese, staff accountability, the timeframe of the Agreement, and its renewal process.
- c. The Bishop, Diocesan Council, and Standing Committee must approve the Agreement.

Canon 10: Programmatic Organization

Sec. 1. Definition A Programmatic Organization is an established ministry of the diocese that is accountable to and run by diocesan leadership or a specific appointee but is significant enough to function as its own subset of the diocesan budget and staffing structure.

Sec. 2. As a program of the Diocese evolves into a Programmatic Organization, a Programmatic Organization Agreement is developed and approved by the Bishop, Diocesan Council, and the program director (or lead staff person) of the Programmatic Organization, explaining its financial, administrative, accountability, and management detail.

Canon 11: Seasonal Chapel

Sec. 1. Definition A Seasonal Chapel is a community of faith that functions like a Congregation but does not gather year-round.

Sec. 2. The Bishop supervises and directs all missionary activity of any Seasonal Chapel. It is solely the Bishop's prerogative to appoint clergy to all Seasonal Chapels.

Sec. 3. Governance

- a. A Seasonal Chapel has a Bishop's Committee instead of a Vestry and is under the authority of the Bishop.
- b. The responsibilities of the Wardens, the Bishop's Committee, and the officers of a Seasonal Chapel shall, as far as applicable, be those of the Wardens, the Vestry, and the officers of a Congregation but subject to the interpretation of the Bishop in cases of doubt.
- c. The number of members of the Bishop's Committee is determined by the Bishop, who may increase or decrease the number at any time.
- d. Qualifications for the Bishop's Committee members are those prescribed by Canon for members of the Vestry of a Congregation except as the Bishop otherwise directs.
- e. Nominations for the Bishop's Committee, Wardens, and other officers are to be made at the Annual Meeting. The Bishop may accept or reject any or all nominations made by members of the Seasonal Chapel and may appoint others, and may at any time remove from office any member or members of the Bishop's Committee, appoint others, and fill vacancies.
- f. The Treasurer must be bonded in an amount and by a surety approved by the Bishop.

Sec. 4. Bishop's Committee Meetings and Responsibilities

- a. The Priest-in-Charge presides at all Bishop's Committee meetings and has the right to vote in the case of a tie. If the Priest-in-Charge is unable to preside at a meeting of the Committee, then the Senior Warden or, if the Senior Warden is absent, the Junior Warden presides.
- b. No action may be taken at the Bishop's Committee meeting unless the Priest-in-Charge, Senior Warden, or other person appointed to the Bishop's representative is present.
- c. Every Bishop's Committee must adopt an annual budget for the Seasonal Chapel, and the finances of the Seasonal Chapel must be administered consistent with that budget. The annual budget and any subsequent material amendment to it are subject to the written approval of the Bishop and the Diocesan Council.

Sec. 5. Annual Meeting

- a. An Annual Meeting of the Seasonal Chapel shall be held at the time and place described in a notice issued by the Bishop's Committee or at another time or place prescribed by the Bishop.
- b. The Priest-in-Charge chairs the Annual Meeting. If the Priest-in-Charge does not preside, then the Senior Warden presides.
- c. If the Priest-in-Charge and the senior Warden cannot serve, the Bishop designates a Chair.
- d. At the Annual Meeting, persons are nominated to serve on the Bishop's Committee. The qualifications of voters and conduct of the election of nominees to the Bishop's Committee shall conform to the Canons describing the election of members of a Vestry.
- e. Names of nominees and a description of other actions taken at the annual meeting must be posted in a conspicuous place available to the membership and sent to the Bishop within seven (7) days of the annual meeting.
- f. At the Annual Meeting, delegate(s) and alternate(s) to the Convention of the Diocese shall be elected in the same manner as in a Congregation.

Sec. 6. Requirements and Reports

- a. In every Seasonal Chapel, a register conforming to the requirements of Congregational registers must be kept by the Priest-in-Charge, if there is one, or else by a Warden or Secretary.
- b. The Priest-in-Charge of a Seasonal Chapel must submit reports of activities as required by the Bishop or the Diocesan Council.
- c. The requirement of paying Diocesan Apportionment applies to Seasonal Chapels (unless the Bishop has waived this requirement in writing). Diocesan Apportionment must be part of each annual budget, and the Seasonal Chapel is obligated to the Diocese for the regular monthly payments of the apportionment. If in any budget, the Seasonal Chapel does not include the apportionment to the Diocese (unless the requirement of the apportionment is waived in writing by the Bishop), or if it does not make monthly payments on their apportionment, then the Bishop may discontinue services of the Priest-in-Charge if the Council concurs in that action, or the Bishop may take further action, including dissolution of the Seasonal Chapel, at the Bishop's discretion.

Sec. 7. Closure of a Seasonal Chapel The Bishop may close a Seasonal Chapel temporarily or permanently at any time and for any reason with the agreement of the Standing Committee.

Canon 12: Congregations in Covenant Relationship

Sec. 1. Definition. Two or more Congregations, organized under the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese, may enter into a covenant to work together in a regional ministry for a defined period. The participating Congregations may share clergy. The participating Congregations must determine whether to retain individual identities, vestries, and finances. Each Congregation retains its own representation in the Convention of the Diocese.

Sec. 2. Formation of a Covenant Relationship. A Covenant may be formed, and a written memorandum of understanding must be adopted, by a majority vote of the Vestry of each participating Congregation and with the consent of the Bishop and Diocesan Council.

Sec. 3. Covenant Governance and Leadership

- a. **Covenant Council.** There shall be a Covenant Council consisting of at least three (3) adult communicants in good standing from each participating Congregation. The clergy serving participating congregations shall be members of the Covenant Council with seat and voice only. The Covenant Council may elect officers.
- b. **Covenant Bylaws.** The Covenant Council may adopt bylaws that include provision for the election of a president, a secretary, and a treasurer from among those laypersons eligible to serve on the Covenant Council and the establishment of an annual budget. A copy of the bylaws and each amendment thereto adopted by the Covenant Council, certified by the secretary, shall be filed within thirty (30) days thereafter with the Bishop of the Diocese for approval.
- c. **Covenant Annual Meeting.** The Covenant Council may have individual congregational Annual Meetings or a joint Annual Meeting. If a joint Annual Meeting is chosen, it shall comply with all of the requirements for Congregational Annual Meetings in the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention and the Diocese of the Great Lakes. It shall be considered the Annual Meeting for each member congregation.
- d. **Covenant Budget.** The Covenant Council may approve a joint annual budget and present it during the Annual Meeting of each congregation or the combined Annual Meeting.

Sec. 4. Withdrawal from a Covenant Relationship. A participating Congregation may withdraw from a Covenant Relationship at the end of a calendar year, with the consent of the Bishop, upon six months' notice, and an affirmative majority vote of its Vestry or other governing body.

TITLE II: The Diocese

Canon 1: The Association of the Diocese

Sec. 1. Status The Diocese of the Great Lakes is a non-profit, non-stock ecclesiastical trustee corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Michigan. It is the custodian for the collection, holding, investment, and management of:

- a. All property and permanent funds of the Diocese except such as are or may be held by the Bishop as discretionary funds.
- b. All property and funds which may be conveyed to and held by it in trust for specified Communities of Faith, societies, groups, or committees.
- c. All property and funds conveyed to it in trust for the furtherance of any religious, educational or charitable purpose of this Church.

Sec. 2. Title of Property All conveyances shall be made to, and title to all property belonging to the Diocese shall vest in, the Diocese to be held for such purposes as its articles provide or as the Convention may direct by Canon or resolution, or as may be provided in any will, trust instrument, or valid order of a court of competent jurisdiction. A Congregation, Emergent Community of Faith, Seasonal Chapel, or other entity of the Diocese must obtain the approval of both the Bishop and the Standing Committee before acquiring or disposing of real property, whether by purchase, gift, bequest, or otherwise. Title to real property shall be held in trust for the Diocese of the Great Lakes, except as the Bishop and the Standing Committee otherwise direct.

Sec. 3. Securities and Contracts The Diocese shall have full authority to buy and sell investments, securities, notes, and mortgages, and to enter into leases and other contracts upon the approval of the annual Convention or Diocesan Council.

Sec. 4. Diocesan Funds The Diocesan Council shall determine the use of Diocesan funds.

Sec. 5. Extension of Agency Service to Vestries and Others If any Vestry, society, guild, circle, or board of any Community of Faith of this Diocese shall desire to avail itself of the services of the Diocese as an agency for the safekeeping and management of funds or securities, it may do so under such form of agency agreement as may be approved by the Diocesan Council. Application for such service shall be pursuant to resolution of the governing body of the applicant and shall have the written approval of the Rector or Priest-in-Charge, if there be one.

Canon 2: Mission Regions

Sec. 1. Composition The Diocese shall be divided into Mission Regions, which the Bishop will determine in consultation with the Standing Committee or appointed Committee. The clergy and members of the Congregations, Emergent Communities of Faith, Companion Ministries, Programmatic Organizations, and Seasonal Chapels in the Region are members.

Sec. 2. Purpose The Mission Region provides a vehicle for Congregations, Emergent Communities of Faith, Companion Ministries, Programmatic Organizations, and Seasonal Chapels in proximity to each other to offer mutual support, share best practices, and collaborate on program, projects and activities in furtherance of their respective missions and the mission and vision of the Diocese.

Canon 3: The Convention of the Diocese

Sec. 1. The Diocese shall hold an Annual Convention. The Bishop shall determine the date, time, and place.

Sec. 2. The Bishop shall have the power to call special conventions. The Bishop shall also do so when requested in writing by any five (5) members of the Standing Committee and shall give the Secretary of the Convention reasonable notice as to the proposed date, time, place, and purpose of such Special Convention.

Sec. 3. Notice of Convention

- a. The Secretary of the Convention shall give written notice of the date, time, and place of any Convention, annual or special.
- b. Notices may be transmitted electronically.
- c. Notices will be sent to the lay delegates of the Communities of Faith in union with the Convention and to all clergy canonically resident in the Diocese and resident in the State of Michigan.
- d. Notices of Annual Conventions must be transmitted at least sixty (60) days prior to the Convention date. Notices of a Special Convention must be sent at least thirty (30) days prior to the Convention date and shall contain the purpose for which the Convention is being called. Notices of a Special Convention for the election of a Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor, or Bishop Suffragan must be sent at least sixty (60) days prior to the Convention date and contain the purpose for which the Convention is being called.
- e. Notice of an Annual Convention shall be accompanied by a form for reporting the election of lay delegates and alternates, which is to be completed and signed (actually or electronically) by the Rector, Pastoral Leader, Priest-in-Charge, or warden and by the Clerk of the Vestry or the secretary of the annual meeting at which they were elected, and transmitted to the Diocesan Secretary in accordance with the instructions therefore.

Sec. 4. Composition of Convention The Annual Convention shall be comprised of clerical and lay delegates as follows:

- a. The Bishop;
- b. Each member of the clergy canonically resident in the Diocese of the Great Lakes and resident in the State of Michigan and having pastoral charge or engaged in work requiring the exercise of clerical duties;

- c. Each member of the clergy canonically resident but not exercising clerical duties solely by reason of age or incapacity;
- d. Each member of the clergy who is a member of a denomination in full communion with the Episcopal Church and serving a congregation in the Diocese;
- e. Each member of the clergy canonically resident in this Diocese who is currently serving in the Armed Forces of the United States of America;
- f. Each abbot, prior or acting head of a monastic community who is canonically resident and resident in the Diocese;
- g. Professed and ordained members of a monastic community canonically resident and resident in the Diocese, and having pastoral charge of a congregation in the Diocese;
- h. Eight (8) youth delegates appointed by the Bishop with nominations from throughout the diocese;
- i. One (1) lay delegate from each Emergent Community of Faith not otherwise represented by delegates, to be determined by the Emergent Community of Faith; and
- j. Two (2) lay delegates from each Congregation and Seasonal Chapel in union with the Convention, who are adult communicants in good standing chosen as prescribed by the Congregation's or Seasonal Chapel's bylaws.
- k. Each Congregation and Seasonal Chapel with an average Sunday attendance greater than seventy-five (75) as reported on the most recent parochial report shall be entitled to one additional lay delegate.
- l. A third of the clergy entitled to vote and a majority of the lay delegates shall constitute a quorum. In the absence of a quorum, a majority of the voting members present may adjourn the Convention.
- m. Otherwise qualified people may be given seat with voice but without vote, as the convention allows.

Sec. 5. Functions of Convention A Convention, whether Annual or Special, except as limited by the Constitution or Canons, has the power to:

- a. Prescribe its own rules of procedure;
- b. Amend the Constitution;
- c. Enact, amend, or repeal Canons;
- d. Elect a Bishop in case of vacancy;
- e. Elect a Bishop Coadjutor or a Bishop Suffragan as provided by Constitution or Canon;
- f. Elect officers and confirm appointments as provided by Constitution or Canon;

- g. Appoint commissions, committees, task forces, agencies, ecclesiastical or other corporations, and boards, ad hoc or otherwise, as necessary for the business of the Convention and to define their duties;
- h. Admit a Congregation into union with the Convention in the manner prescribed by Canon, and to terminate such union;
- i. Receive, order filed, or reject reports of officers and other instrumentalities;
- j. Approve budgets; and
- k. Approve resolutions.

Canon 4: Diocesan Officers

Sec. 1. Qualifications

- a. To be eligible to serve as an officer of any Convention, member of the Standing Committee or Diocesan Council or as a deputy to the General Convention or Provincial Synod, a member of the clergy must be canonically resident and a layperson must be a communicant in good standing. To be eligible for any elected or appointed position, a person must have completed Dismantling Racism and Safe Church, Safe Communities training, and any other training prescribed by Diocesan policy.
- b. Diocesan officers (except for the Standing Committee and the Diocesan Council) provided for in this Canon may be nominated by the Bishop and, if there be no other nominations, elected by acclamation by the Convention.
- c. All people who want to participate in this Church's life, worship, and governance shall be encouraged to participate regardless of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, or age, except as otherwise specified by Canons. Significant effort shall be made in every election or appointment process to include members of underrepresented groups and to include persons from different parts of the diocese and a range of congregational sizes.

Sec. 2. Presiding Officer The President and Presiding Officer of the Convention shall be the Bishop, or in the Bishop's absence, the Bishop Coadjutor, or in the absence of the Bishop and the Bishop Coadjutor, the Bishop Suffragan, or in the absence of the Bishop, the Bishop Coadjutor and Bishop Suffragan, the President of the Standing Committee. In the absence of all the previous, the senior presbyter (by length of time in canonical residence in this Diocese) present shall call Convention to order, and the Convention shall elect a President pro tempore. The Presiding Officer shall have no vote except in case of a tie.

Sec. 3. Secretary The Annual Convention shall elect the Secretary, who shall serve from the adjournment of the current Convention until the close of the next Annual Convention, and who shall have the duty to:

- a. Attend to the giving of all notices of a Convention and shall perform all duties assigned by the presiding officer by the Convention or by Canon;
- b. File and preserve all certificates of election of lay delegates and all written reports laid before the Convention;
- c. Preserve in permanent form complete minutes of the proceedings of the Convention and all its records;
- d. Deliver to the Bishop such documents of historical value as the Bishop may request; and
- e. Prepare, proofread, and cause promptly to be published the Journal of the Annual Convention, and shall transmit or disseminate a printed or electronic copy thereof throughout the Diocese, at the direction of the Diocesan Council.
- f. The Secretary may, with the approval of the Diocesan Council, appoint an Assistant Secretary. The Assistant Secretary shall provide support to the Secretary as required and assume the Secretary's duties in the event of the Secretary's absence or incapacity.

Sec. 4. Treasurer

- a. The Annual Convention shall elect the Treasurer for one year. Before engaging in official duties the Treasurer shall give bond as required by Canons of the General Convention. Such bond shall be deposited with the Bishop.
- b. The Treasurer shall have the duty to:
 - i. Receive and safely preserve and account for all monies and other things of value which come into the Treasurer's possession or control, and to make disbursement therefrom when, as, and only to the extent duly authorized;
 - ii. Maintain in books belonging to the Diocese an accurate record in detail of all receipts and disbursements of money or other things of value and maintain a separate complete account of each fund;
 - iii. Obtain and keep on file proper receipts and vouchers evidencing all disbursements;
 - iv. Present to the Annual Convention and deliver to the Diocesan Council, upon request, a detailed report of the receipts and disbursements of each fund and the balance on hand;
 - v. Cause an audit satisfactory to the Diocesan Council to accompany the annual report;
 - vi. Exercise diligence in the collection of all funds due and payable to the Diocese; and

- vii. Deliver promptly to a duly elected and qualified successor in office all monies and other things of value which have come into the Treasurer's hands or control and which have not been lawfully disbursed, together with all books, records, files, documents, receipts, vouchers, and correspondence pertaining to the office of the Treasurer.
- viii. The Treasurer may, with the approval of the Diocesan Council, appoint an Assistant Treasurer and shall give bond in the same manner as the Treasurer. The Assistant Treasurer shall provide support to the Treasurer as required and assume the Treasurer's duties in the event of the Treasurer's absence or incapacity.

Sec. 5. Registrar The Bishop shall appoint the Registrar who shall be the custodian of all diocesan documents and records not in the hands of the Bishop or required by Canon to be in the custody of some other officer, and maintain a current list of all canonically resident clergy of the diocese.

Sec. 6. The Chancellor and Vice Chancellors

- a. The Bishop may appoint a suitable person learned in Ecclesiastical and Civil Law, who shall be a communicant of this Church, a resident of this Diocese, and a member of the Michigan State Bar, as Chancellor of the Diocese. The appointed person may retire from office at any time and shall be subject to removal by the Bishop with the consent of the Standing Committee.
- b. The Chancellor shall be the legal advisor to the Bishop, the Convention, the Diocesan Council, and the Standing Committee in all cases and upon all questions in which each requests the Chancellor's advice in its official capacity.
- c. The Chancellor shall serve as the parliamentarian to the meetings of the Convention and other governing bodies of the Diocese upon request and is the Chair of the Committee on Constitution and Canons.
- d. Upon request and approval of the Bishop, the Chancellor may advise and assist the Congregations and other institutions of the Diocese.
- e. In fulfilling the duties enumerated above, the Chancellor, with the approval of the Bishop may call on the services of one or more Vice Chancellors.

Canon 5: Committees of Convention

Sec 1. Planning Committee The Planning Committee shall consist of the Bishop, a representative of the Standing Committee, a representative of the Diocesan Council, a representative of the worship team, a designated staff member, and others appointed by the Bishop and presented to the Diocesan Council, as necessary to properly plan for the Convention.

Sec 2. Credentials Committee The Bishop shall appoint, and present to Diocesan Council, a Credentials Committee which shall consist of two or more persons, lay or ordained, responsible for certifying the lay delegates and clergy.

Sec 3. Resolutions Committee

- a. The Bishop shall appoint a Resolutions Committee, subject to confirmation by the Diocesan Council, which shall consist of at least three (3) persons, including at least one ordained person and one layperson. The Resolutions Committee shall give due consideration to all resolutions submitted to it, working collaboratively if needed with those submitting a resolution to ensure proper content and form, and shall present all such resolutions to the Diocesan Convention. The Resolutions Committee shall develop any resolutions of courtesy to be considered by the Convention.
- b. Resolutions will be submitted to the Convention through the Resolutions Committee in the following manner:
 - i. Resolutions may be submitted by a Community of Faith of this Diocese, the Diocesan Council, the Standing Committee, any Diocesan Committee or Commission, or by at least three (3) delegates to Diocesan Convention in the Diocese.
 - ii. All proposed resolutions must be received by the Resolutions Committee no later than sixty (60) days before the date of the Convention, unless such Resolution arises out of the address of the Presiding Officer of Convention or is received at least thirty (30) days prior to Convention with the approval of the Bishop.
 - iii. All resolutions submitted which would amend the Constitution or Canons of this Diocese are to be considered by the Constitution and Canons Committee for content and form and compliance with the Constitution and Canons of General Convention.
 - iv. The Resolutions Committee shall submit its report to the Secretary of the Convention at least thirty-five (35) days before the Convention. The Secretary of the Convention shall forward this report to the lay delegates and clergy at least thirty (30) days before the Convention.
 - v. The Resolutions Committee shall submit a written report to the Convention of the title of proposed resolutions not received in a timely fashion according to this Section.

Sec 4. Nominating Committee

- a. The Bishop shall appoint a Nominating Committee, which shall consist of at least four persons, including at least two ordained persons and two laypersons subject to confirmation by the Diocesan Council, to assist in nominating persons for appropriate offices, to be elected by the annual Convention, and to assist in the conduct and tally of elections and voting at a Convention.
- b. Significant effort shall be made in every election or appointment process to include members of underrepresented groups and to include persons from different parts of the diocese and a range of congregational sizes.

Canon 6: Elections

Sec. 1. In all elections, other than the election of a Bishop, the first ballot for an election shall contain the names of all persons as nominated by the appropriate Committee. Any person(s) receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected.

Sec. 2. Should fewer than the necessary number of persons to fill the positions receive a majority of the votes cast in the first ballot, a second ballot shall be prepared. The names of the remaining unelected nominees receiving the most votes shall, in order of most votes received, be placed on the second ballot in sufficient numbers to provide only twice the number of positions to be elected. Any person(s) receiving a majority of the votes cast in the second ballot shall be declared elected. Should fewer than the necessary number of persons to fill the positions of an elected office be elected on the second ballot, a third ballot shall be prepared and taken as provided in this Section for the second ballot.

Sec. 3. Should an election by a majority vote be inconclusive after a third ballot, a deadlock shall be declared. Any persons elected on the first, second, and third ballots shall be declared elected, and the remaining unfilled positions shall be filled as provided for in the Canons. Should that vacancy be required to be filled by election at an Annual Convention of the Diocese, that vacancy shall hold over and the next subsequent Annual Convention or Council meeting shall fill that vacancy by election; the person(s) then elected shall serve the unexpired remainder of the original term.

Sec. 4. Nomination and Election Of A Bishop

- a. The nomination of a Bishop, or a Bishop Coadjutor, or a Bishop Suffragan shall be made to the Standing Committee in the following manner by the date specified by the Standing Committee:
 - i. By a Bishop Search Committee appointed by the Standing Committee; and
 - ii. By petition, the form of which shall be determined by the Standing Committee, signed by no less than seven (7) clergy members and by no less than seven (7) lay members in good standing. The person nominated must indicate such person's

willingness to be nominated and consent in writing to the standard background checks no later than the date specified by the Standing Committee.

- b. All nominees whose nominations have been made as set forth above shall be eligible for election, and no nominations may be made from the floor of the Convention.
 - i. In accordance with the canons of the General Convention, the members of the clergy and lay delegates to the Convention shall vote by ballot and by orders. A concurrence of a majority of both orders shall be necessary for an election. If in either order less than sixty (60) percent of all entitled to vote are present, two-thirds of the votes of those present in that order shall be necessary to determine the election. Absent non-stipendiary members of the clergy and absent retired members of the clergy shall not be counted in determining the majority of clergy.
- c. In case of failure to elect upon any ballot as herein provided, the Convention shall continue to ballot until an election occurs or the Convention adjourns.

Canon 7: Vote by Orders

A vote by Orders is required:

- a. For election of a Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor, or Bishop Suffragan;
- b. For amendments to the Constitution;
- c. When requested by seven delegates (at least two Clerical and two Lay);
- d. On any motion to reconsider a vote on a question for which a vote by Orders has been previously ordered;
- e. In other cases required by the Constitution or Canons of General Convention.

Canon 8: Committees of the Diocese

Sec. 1. The Standing Committee

- a. There shall be a Standing Committee to perform the functions and duties prescribed by the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention and this Diocese.
- b. The Standing Committee shall present to the Annual Convention each year a report of its work and activities during the preceding year, except such as pertain to the exercise of its function as The Council of Advice to the Bishop.
- c. **Composition** The Standing Committee shall comprise nine (9) persons with at least four (4) lay and four (4) clergy members. Each year, sufficient clergy and sufficient laypersons shall be elected by the Annual Convention for three-year terms and may serve two consecutive terms. No person employed by the diocese or person in the ordination process may serve on the Standing Committee. In addition, no clergy or layperson connected to a Congregation implementing a plan to restore congregational health or

linked to a congregation undergoing a dissolution shall be eligible for election/appointment to the Standing Committee. Vacancies shall be filled at the next Annual Convention by election for the remainder of the unexpired term.

- d. **Organization** The Standing Committee shall meet within thirty (30) days of the end of the Annual Convention to elect a member to be President, a member to be Vice-President, and a member to be Secretary. The Standing Committee shall determine the specified date, time, and place of its regular meetings. Meetings may be in person or virtual. Such dates, times, and locations shall be posted at the diocesan office and on the Diocesan website. The Secretary of the Standing Committee shall notify all members of the date, time, and place of these regular meetings. A majority shall constitute a quorum. Additional meetings of the Standing Committee may be called at any time by the Bishop, the President of the Standing Committee, or any three members.
- e. **Powers** During the interval between Annual Conventions, the Standing Committee, by and with the approval of the Bishop, shall have the power to fill, by appointment, any vacancy in any elective or appointive office of the Diocese, except as otherwise provided by Canon. Such an appointment will be for the unexpired portion of the term.
- f. **Duties** The Standing Committee shall have the duty to:
 - i. Call a Special Convention when there is no Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor, or Bishop Suffragan.
 - ii. Investigate and make a recommendation to the Bishop regarding any matter of difference arising between a member of the clergy and a Congregation or Vestry, which matter is first referred to the Standing Committee by the Bishop. Such recommendation shall be binding upon the Bishop's approval.
 - iii. Preserve correct minutes of all proceedings of the Committee in some stable, durable format such as (but not limited to) a bound book or digital folder to the Diocese, which shall be signed by the Secretary and countersigned by the President. Such record shall be subject to inspection by the Bishop. A summary thereof shall be presented at the following Annual Convention.
 - iv. Within thirty (30) days following a meeting of the Standing Committee, a copy of the minutes of that meeting (whether yet approved as presented or corrected) shall be provided to each member of the Diocesan staff and each member of the Diocesan Council. These minutes may be provided by electronic means.
- g. **Recusal** Any member of the Standing Committee involved in a matter pending before the Standing Committee shall recuse themselves from discussion and vote on that matter.

Sec. 2. The Diocesan Council

- a. The Diocesan Council shall function as the executive committee of the Diocese acting with the authority of and in the name of the Diocese between meetings of the annual Convention and in accordance with such direction and limits as may be set forth by the Diocese in its articles of incorporation or by such resolutions or canons that may be passed by the Convention.
- b. The Diocesan Council shall function as the governing authority of the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes, a Michigan ecclesiastical corporation.
- c. Composition and Presiding Officers of Diocesan Council
 - i. Diocesan council shall be composed of fourteen (14) members: six (6) laypersons and six (6) clergy elected by Convention, and two (2) members of the Standing Committee appointed by the Standing Committee at the first meeting following the annual Convention. Elected members shall serve three-year terms and may serve two consecutive terms. No person employed by the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes may serve on Diocesan Council.
 - ii. The Bishop shall normally serve as presiding officer. The Council shall annually elect a Vice Chair from its ranks. A Secretary, who need not be a member of the Diocesan Council, may be likewise elected.
- d. Meetings and Reporting of the Diocesan Council
 - i. The Diocesan Council meets at least quarterly during the year on the call of the presiding officer to enable it to carry out its function and duties.
 - ii. Within thirty (30) days following a meeting of the Diocesan Council, a copy of the minutes of that meeting (whether or not yet approved as presented or corrected) shall be provided to each member of Diocesan Council, the Diocesan staff and each member of the Standing Committee. These minutes may be provided by electronic means.
 - iii. All meetings of the Council shall be held in open session, with time, date, and place being announced by appropriate means to the entire Diocese, and members thereof, clerical and lay, shall be invited and urged to attend such meetings. Executive sessions shall be permitted upon a two-thirds vote of all Council members present and voting for the considerations of budget matters related to personnel or staffing. The ultimate resolution of such budgetary personnel matters shall be reported and ratified by vote in an open meeting.
- e. Responsibilities and Powers of The Diocesan Council
 - i. There shall be a Diocesan Council to administer the secular affairs of the Diocese pursuant to the statutes of the State of Michigan and to perform the various

functions and duties prescribed by the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention and the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese.

- ii. The Diocesan Council shall have full powers over all Diocesan property conveyed or transferred to the Diocese, in trust or otherwise, or held or received by it, for or in connection with the work and business of the Church and the Diocese, or elsewhere, and to collect, pay out, and dispose of all income received or held by it for any such purpose aforesaid, subject, however, to the terms of the trust or trusts under which any such property or money may have been received by it.
- iii. The Diocesan Council shall prepare and present the annual budget of the Diocese for adoption by Convention.
- iv. The Diocesan Council shall develop strategy and policy, in conjunction with the Bishop and in collaboration with other leadership bodies and agencies of the Diocese.
- v. The Diocesan Council oversees the discernment and designation processes for Emergent Communities of Faith, Companion Ministries, and Programmatic Organizations of the Diocese.
- vi. The Diocesan Council oversees the discernment and covenanting processes for covenant relationships between Congregations in the Diocese.
- vii. The Diocesan Council may create groups to carry out its work. These entities will be given a clear charge, and remain accountable to and operate under guidelines and time frames established by the Diocesan Council with consent of the Bishop. Any group created by the Diocesan Council can also be terminated by Diocesan Council with the consent of the Bishop.
- viii. The Diocesan Council shall appoint an Endowment Committee to serve as advisors to Diocesan Council. The Endowment Committee composed of five (5) members, plus a liaison from Diocesan Council, the Chief Financial Officer of the Diocese, the Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer of the Diocese if there be one, serving as ex officio members. The term of members is three years with two consecutive terms possible and at least one year following the second term for eligibility to serve again. The Endowment Committee is charged with oversight of endowment distributions and shall make recommendations to Diocesan Council regarding the annual draw based on established guidelines and policy. The Endowment Committee shall meet at least quarterly and report to Diocesan Council at least quarterly.
- ix. The Diocesan Council shall monitor compliance with the requirements of the Canons of the General Convention related to the Church Pension Fund in a timely and effective manner and work to resolve any deficiencies in that compliance.

- x. The Diocesan Council shall present to the Annual Convention a report of its work and activities during the preceding year each year. All rules and bylaws of the Diocesan Council shall be published annually in the Journal of the Convention.
- xi. The Diocesan Council shall maintain and publish a list of all current Diocesan committees, commissions, and other groups and their membership.

Sec. 3. The Commission on Ministry

- a. The purpose of the Commission on Ministry will be to advise and assist the Bishop in implementing Title III of the Canons of the General Convention.
- b. The Commission on Ministry shall consist of at least ten (10) members appointed for three-year terms. Membership shall include at least four laypersons, four priests, and two deacons. No person in the ordination process may serve on the Commission on Ministry. Members shall serve three-year terms, and may serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms.
- c. The Commission on Ministry shall be appointed by the Bishop and confirmed by a vote at the Convention.
- d. The Commission on Ministry may create groups to help carry out its work. These groups report directly to the Commission on Ministry and must have a Commission on Ministry member serving as liaison to the Commission on Ministry.

Sec. 4. The Constitution and Canons Committee

- a. The Bishop, subject to the confirmation by the Council, shall appoint a Constitution and Canons Committee to consist of such persons, clergy or lay, as the Bishop deems necessary. The Chancellor or a Vice-Chancellor shall serve as chairperson of the Committee. Other members shall serve three-year terms, and may serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms.
- b. The Constitution and Canons Committee shall regularly review the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese and propose changes to the Convention of the Diocese. The Committee shall also review proposed revisions to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese referred to it by the Bishop or others. Such review shall be to determine the canonical propriety of said revision and the compatibility of the proposed revision with the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention, the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese and any other documents that may be relevant. The Committee shall report the results of such review to the Bishop and the Annual Convention.

Sec. 5. The Bishop may establish groups whose duties, membership, and duration shall be designated from time to time by the Bishop with notification to Diocesan Council.

Canon 9: Companion Ministries

Sec. 1. Definition A Companion Ministry is an organization that is a separate 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in alignment with the overall vision and mission purposes of the diocese and provides a ministry within the diocese. By its designation as a Companion Ministry of the Diocese, Companion Ministries receive tangible and intangible benefits from the diocese, while the diocese benefits from the mission and ministry possibilities these organizations offer.

Sec. 2. To be designated a Companion Ministry:

- a. Members participate in a discernment process overseen by the Diocesan Council.
- b. Following approval by Council, the community works with representatives of the Diocesan Council to reach a Companion Ministry Agreement, which clarifies expectations and accountabilities. It includes such details as financial support, if any, from the diocesan operating budget, the pattern of reporting, leadership relationship to the diocese, staff accountability, the timeframe of the Agreement, and its renewal process.
- c. The Bishop, Diocesan Council, and Standing Committee must approve the Agreement.

Canon 10: The General Fund

Sec. 1. Purpose The General Fund shall include all unrestricted funds of the Diocese and shall be used for the share of the Diocese in the General Church Program of The Episcopal Church as adopted by the General Convention, support of Communities of Faith and Commissions, the stipend and expenses of the Bishop, and the salaries and expenses of the Diocese.

Sec. 2. Sources, Receipts, and Disbursements The General Fund shall be derived from income from designated and unrestricted endowment and trust funds, and from the apportionments of each congregation. All monies due or accruing to the Fund shall be paid to the Treasurer, who shall pay no monies therefrom which have not been provided for by the Budget adopted at the annual Convention, unless authorized to do so by the Diocesan Council, or by the Bishop in case of expenditures under \$1,000.

Canon 11: The Budget

Sec. 1. Apportionment The Budget of the Diocese, including its obligation to The Episcopal Church and Province V, shall be funded, in part, by an annual apportionment of each Congregation and Seasonal Chapel. The apportionment shall be a percentage, not to exceed 14%, of each Congregation's and Seasonal Chapel's Operating Income. A Congregation's Operating Income shall be the average Operating Income appearing on the last three Parochial Reports. The proposed apportionment set by the Diocesan Council may be a tiered flat rate for each Congregation and Seasonal Chapel or a graduated rate determined by the Operating Income of each Congregation and Seasonal Chapel. The proposed apportionment rate for a given year will be attached to the proposed budget of the Diocese and submitted to Convention

for approval. The apportionment rate of a congregation shall not increase more than 2% from one year to the next.

Sec. 2. Budget The balanced Budget with the proposed apportionment percentage shall be adopted by the Diocesan Council and submitted to the Diocesan Convention for approval not less than thirty (30) days before the Diocesan Convention. Any proposed amendments to the Budget during the Diocesan Convention must include a means by which the Budget remains in balance.

Sec. 3. Notification of Apportionment The Diocesan Office will inform each Congregation and Seasonal Chapel of its apportionment in a timely manner. Each Congregation and Seasonal Chapel will have a maximum of forty-five (45) days to respond in writing. If a Congregation or Seasonal Chapel believes itself unable to meet the apportionment, it must indicate in writing why that is so.

Sec. 4. Apportionment Review Committee The Apportionment Review Committee shall be a subcommittee of the Diocesan Council charged with working with Congregations and Seasonal Chapels that are unable to meet their apportionment.

- a. The committee members shall be appointed by the Bishop and approved by the Diocesan Council.
- b. Upon notice by a Congregation or Seasonal Chapel that they cannot meet their apportionment, the Committee will work with the Rector, Vestry, or Bishop's Committee to determine an appropriate amount of support for the Diocese and a plan to meet the apportionment in a set timeline. The Committee may then recommend waiving a portion of the apportionment for that year to the Diocesan Council.
- c. If a Congregation or Seasonal Chapel will not work in good faith with the Apportionment Review Committee and the supportive groups within the Diocese to meet the apportionment goal, the Bishop and the Standing Committee will have the option of prescribing a course of action for the health of the Congregation or Seasonal Chapel, pursuant to these Diocesan Canons.

Sec. 5. The Bishop, or the Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, may directly appeal to the congregations and members of the Diocese for response to emergency needs in extreme or unusual circumstances.

Canon 12: Indebtedness of Communities of Faith

Sec. 1. Limitations on Debt No indebtedness shall be incurred by any Congregation or Seasonal Chapel without the approval of both the Bishop and the Standing Committee, except:

- a. Indebtedness for permanent improvements, replacement, or additions to real estate or equipment, where the amount of such indebtedness, plus indebtedness of every kind already existing, shall not exceed 150% of the average annual receipts of such congregation during the three years then last preceding;

- b. Indebtedness for current expenses where the amount of such indebtedness, plus all indebtedness heretofore incurred for current expenses and still existing, shall not exceed 20% of the total current receipts of such congregation during the preceding fiscal year; and the payment of all such indebtedness shall be provided for in the budget of the next ensuing fiscal year with a reasonable expectation of its payment out of the receipts of the next two years; or,
- c. Indebtedness incurred to finance existing loans, provided the total amount thereof be not increased. In computing receipts under subsections (a) and (b) hereof, income from endowments, devises, and bequests available for general purposes may be included; but principal and income not available for payment of debts, and receipts earmarked for non-parochial purposes shall be excluded.

Sec. 2. Plan of Payment Required Where approval of proposed indebtedness is required, the application, therefore, shall be accompanied by a plan of payment, and such approval shall not be granted in any event unless such a plan is deemed feasible by the Bishop and the Standing Committee.

Sec. 3. Existing Indebtedness This Canon shall not apply to the refinancing of existing indebtedness, provided the total existing indebtedness is not increased.

Canon 13: Audits and Insurance

Sec. 1. Audits and Reviews The criteria that satisfy this requirement shall be determined as a policy of Diocesan Council and approved by the Chancellor. As soon as possible 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 Emergent Communities of Faith, Seasonal Chapels, and Congregations in Covenant Relationship shall be audited in accordance with the Episcopal Church Manual of Business Methods in Church Affairs and The Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes 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, Emergent Communities of Faith, and Seasonal Chapels who fail to complete and submit an annual audit by September 1 will be referred to the Treasurer and, if needed, Diocesan Council, for assistance in completing the audit. Diocesan Council may appoint an Audit Committee to assist in this work.

Sec. 2. Insurance

- a. All buildings and tangible personal property owned or held in trust by the Diocese shall be insured as prescribed by the Diocesan Council.
- b. Each Congregation, Emergent Community of Faith, and Seasonal Chapel shall follow the Diocesan policy regarding the provision of healthcare for clergy and lay staff.

Canon 14: Minimum Compensation for Clergy

Sec. 1. Establishment of Standards Using the definition of compensation established by the Church Pension Group, the Diocesan Council shall adopt an annual clergy compensation minimum for the ensuing fiscal year for all members of the clergy exercising stipendiary ministry in the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes. For those ordained more than one year, the minimum standard shall be increased by an amount determined by the Diocesan Council for each year of ordained ministry beyond the first year to a limit of ten years.

Sec. 2. Failure to Compensate In any case where the compensation provided is below the minimum standard, the Bishop, or the Bishop's representative, shall assist in negotiating a mutually agreeable solution.

Sec. 3. Other Benefits Consideration for adequate reimbursement shall also be given by vestries in the areas of automobile expenses, continuing education, and other professional expenses.

Canon 15: The Administration of Ecclesiastical Discipline

Sec. 1. The Diocese of the Great Lakes adopts by reference Title IV (Ecclesiastical Discipline) of the Canons of the General Convention, applicable to the Ecclesiastical Discipline of Priests and Deacons, and as it pertains to the practices and procedures set forth. To the extent, if any, that any of the provisions of this Title are in conflict or inconsistent with the provisions of Title IV established by the General Convention, the Canons of the General Convention shall govern.

Sec. 2. Disciplinary Structure

a. Disciplinary Board

- i. The Disciplinary Board shall consist of no fewer than seven (7) persons, the majority of whom shall be priests or deacons but by no more than one.
- ii. The Bishop shall appoint the members of the Board with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee and report to Diocesan Convention. The ordained members of the Board must be canonically and geographically resident in the State of Michigan. The lay members of the Board shall be adult communicants in good standing and geographically resident in this Diocese. Members shall be appointed for a three-year term, beginning on the first day following Convention. Membership on the Board shall meet the limitations set forth in the Canons of the General Convention.
- iii. The Bishop shall fill vacancies on the Board with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, upon notice by the President of the Board of such vacancy. Persons appointed to fill vacancies shall complete the vacated term and shall be of the same order as the Board member replaced. Should a vacancy occur as a result of a challenge, a replacement Board member shall serve only for the proceeding for

which the regular Board member is not serving as a result of the challenge and shall be of the same order.

- iv. Within sixty (60) days following Convention, the Board shall meet and elect a President and one or more Vice Presidents from its members. The Board shall also appoint a Clerk, who shall be custodian of all records and provide administrative services as needed by the Board. The Clerk may be a member of the Board.
- b. **Reference Panel** A Reference Panel shall be composed of an Intake Officer, the Bishop, and the President or a Vice-President of the Disciplinary Board. The Reference Panel shall review the Intake Report to determine how to refer to the Report for further consideration. All deliberations shall be confidential, except as required by the law or as deemed pastorally appropriate by the Bishop.
- c. **Hearing Panel** The Hearing Panel of three (3) members of the Disciplinary Board, selected by the President of the Board shall serve as the body before which a hearing is held, as provided by the Canons of the General Convention.
- d. **Intake Officer** An Intake Officer shall be appointed from time to time by the Bishop after consultation with the Board. The Bishop may appoint additional Intake Officers according to the needs of the Diocese. The Bishop shall publish the names and contact information of the Intake Officer(s) throughout the Diocese, with methods and means of reporting information concerning alleged offenses. All communications shall be confidential, except as required by law or as deemed pastorally appropriate by the Bishop.
- e. **Investigator** The Bishop shall appoint an Investigator, in consultation with the President of the Board. The Investigator need not be a member of The Episcopal Church. The Investigator shall be skilled and able to conduct investigations under this Title.
- f. **Church Attorney** Within sixty (60) days following each Annual Convention, the Bishop and Disciplinary Board shall appoint an attorney to serve as Church Attorney for the following calendar year. The person selected must be a member of The Episcopal Church and a duly licensed attorney but need not reside within the Diocese. The Church Attorney will represent the Episcopal Church in proceedings under this Title. Multiple Church Attorneys may be appointed to meet the needs of the process.
- g. **Pastoral Response Coordinator** The Bishop may appoint a Pastoral Response Coordinator, to serve at the pleasure of the Bishop in coordinating the delivery of appropriate pastoral responses to affected persons and communities provided for in Title IV, Canon 8 (Of Pastoral Response) of the Canons of the General Convention and this Title. The Pastoral Response Coordinator may be an Intake Officer but shall not be a person serving in any other appointed or elected capacity under this Title.
- h. **Advisors** In each proceeding under this Title, the Bishop shall appoint one Advisor each for the complainant and the respondent. A person serving as an Advisor shall hold no

other appointed or elected position provided for under this Title and shall not include persons serving as Chancellors, Vice-Chancellors, or Assistant Chancellors of this Diocese, or any person likely to be called as a witness in the proceeding. An Advisor shall be available for purposes of support, assistance, consultation, and advice regarding the process provided in this Title and the pertinent rights, responsibilities, consequences, and alternatives.

- i. **Conciliator** The Bishop shall appoint a Conciliator to assist in reconciling the parties and issues involved. The Conciliator shall be skilled in dispute resolution and without conflict of interest in the matter.

Sec. 3. Interdiocesan Agreements This Diocese may agree with one or more Dioceses to develop and share resources necessary to implement this Canon, including all boards, panels, personnel, and administrative and financial support for proceedings under this Canon. With the advice and consent of the Bishop, such agreement may be established by the Diocesan Council, subject to such changes to this Canon as may be necessary to implement such an agreement fully.

TITLE III: The Diocese as Member of The Episcopal Church

Canon 1: General Convention and Province V

Sec. 1. Deputies and Alternates to General Convention The annual Convention shall elect by ballot, in the year following any General Convention, eight (8) deputies to the next General Convention, four (4) members of the clergy and four (4) adult lay communicants in good standing, together with an equal number of alternate deputies having similar qualifications. The four members of the clergy and four adult lay communicants in good standing first receiving a simple majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected deputies. The four members of the clergy and laity receiving the next highest number of votes in the final election for deputies shall be declared alternate deputies in the order of votes received.

Sec. 2. Deputies to Provincial Synod

- a. The Convention shall elect by ballot Deputies to represent the Diocese in the Provincial Synod, as provided for in the ordinances of the Province.
- b. If the Convention fails to elect such Deputies, those last previously chosen shall serve until their successors have been elected. Should a Deputy no longer wish to continue in such service, the Bishop may appoint a replacement with the consent of the Standing Committee.

Sec. 3. Executive Board of Province V

The Executive Board of Province V supervises the Province's affairs between Synods. The Bishop, with the Standing Committee's consent, shall appoint one representative to this Board and report the appointment to the Annual Convention.

TITLE IV: General Provisions

Canon 1: Additions and Amendments to the Canons

Sec. 1. All proposed amendments or additions to the Canons shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Convention at least sixty (60) days before the Convention at which they are to be considered.

- a. The Secretary of the Convention shall then file them with the Constitution and Canons Committee.
- b. The Secretary shall submit copies of the proposed amendments or additions, including any such report, to the lay delegates and clergy of the Convention at least thirty (30) days before the date of such Convention and shall report the same to the Convention.
- c. The Convention shall not consider any amendment or addition to the Canons unless so reported to it by the Secretary.

Sec. 2. When any proposed amendment or addition is before the Convention for consideration, changes may be made by a majority vote during the debate and before the final vote. An amendment or addition to the Canons shall be adopted by a majority vote of the members present.

Sec. 3. New canons, deletions of whole canons, and additions to, amendments of, and deletions from existing canons, unless otherwise expressly ordered, shall take effect on the first day following the adjournment of the Convention at which they were adopted.

Canon 2: Construction

Sec. 1. These Canons, and this Diocese and its organizations, are subject to the Constitution and Statutes of the United States of America, the Constitution and Statutes of the State of Michigan, and the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church in the United States, as the same may, from time to time, be amended or changed, and these Canons should be construed as being consistent therewith, anything herein to the contrary notwithstanding.

Sec. 2. The table of contents, index, cross-reference tables, catch line headings, and comments published with these Canons are not part of the text of the Canons and are not to be used in the construction of these Canons.

Sec. 3. Should any court of competent jurisdiction, whether civil or ecclesiastical, determine that any provision of these Canons is contrary to any governing law, such provision shall be null, void, and of no effect from such point forward, but such determination shall have no effect on any remaining Canon. Each Canon is severable from the remainder and shall continue in force until repealed or amended.

Canon 3: Validity of Electronic Meetings

Any meeting of a Diocesan Body, or Body of a Community of Faith, may be held electronically as long as each member has the ability to hear and be heard by all other members. Leadership of Diocesan Committees or the Committees of Communities of Faith may make limited use of email polling for questions that need to be addressed before the next meeting of the committee. Email polling must allow for all members to view the votes and comments of all other members. Decisions made by email polling must be ratified at the next official meeting of the committee.

Canon 4: Parliamentary Authority

Sec. 1. The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary authority at all meetings of the Diocese and any of its Congregations and organizations unless they are inconsistent with the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention and of this Diocese or the rules of order of the Convention.

Sec. 2. An Annual Convention, from time to time, may adopt, alter, or delete permanent rules of order not inconsistent with the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention and of this Diocese for itself and subsequent Annual and Special Conventions.

Sec. 3. At any meeting of the Diocese and any of its Congregations and organizations, a two-thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote, provided that a quorum has been determined to be present, may vote to suspend or modify the Rules of Order for that meeting only; and, provided that the suspension of the Rules of Order shall not interfere with the ability of the meeting to adjourn.

Canon 5: Presumption Against Conflict of Interest

No contract of the Diocese, or of any Congregation or constituent organization of the Diocese, made with any member of the Diocese, or with any Congregation or constituent organization of the Diocese, or made with a partnership or other group or association of which any such member shall be a member, or made with any corporation of which such member may be a member or director, and no contract between this Diocesan corporation and any other corporation having common directors shall be invalid because of such facts alone.

Canon 6: Representation of Position of Diocese

No public statement respecting a position on any issue attributed to the Diocese, any Congregation in the Diocese, or any organization of the Diocese may be made unless in full compliance with the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese, and the prior approval of the Bishop. The Bishop has the authority to issue blanket approvals or to delegate this power by written authorization.

TITLE V: Transitional Canons

Canon 1: Timeframe

These Transitional Canons will have immediate effect upon adoption. A resolution to delete these Transitional Canons will be presented to the 2025 Convention.

Canon 2: Leadership Body Membership

Sec 1. Standing Committee and Diocesan Council The 2024 Convention shall elect one-third of the membership of the Standing Committee and the Diocesan Council, ensuring the proper allocation of clergy and laypersons as new members of the body. The 2024 Convention shall also elect two-thirds of the membership of the Standing Committee and the Diocesan Council from the existing membership of that body for the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan, assigning each to a term of two or one year. Each leadership body shall determine the members nominated for election at the 2024 Convention, assuring the proper allocation of clergy and laypersons and even ensuring division between members from the previous dioceses. Members serving on either body of the previous dioceses who are not nominated for election at the 2024 Convention shall be eligible for nomination for any newly elected offices.

Sec 2. Commission on Ministry The members of the Commission on Ministry for the Dioceses of Western Michigan and Eastern Michigan shall constitute the Commission on Ministry for the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes until the Annual Convention held in 2025 notwithstanding the Canons herein on the Commission on Ministry. Sixty (60) days prior to the 2025 Annual Convention, the Commission on Ministry shall report to the Bishop suggesting the continued membership of the Commission on Ministry.

Canon 3: Apportionment

Diocesan apportionments for 2025 shall be calculated using the original formula of each diocese. The lesser amount of either that calculation or the apportionment amount calculated for 2024 shall be applied.

RESOLUTION

Title: The Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes

Submitted by: The Constitution and Canons Committee

Whereas, The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan and the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan meeting at a duly called Joint Special Convention on March 16, 2024, in accordance with Article V and Canon I.10.1 of The Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, approved a Joint Agreement of Union to form a new diocese, The Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes; and

Whereas, the Joint Agreement of Union was submitted to and ratified by the 81st General Convention of the Episcopal Church (Canon I.10.1), meeting in Louisville Kentucky, on June 28, 2024; and

Whereas, the Working Group on Constitution and Canons, tasked by the Joint Standing Committee as part of the Transition Plan following ratification and appointed to serve as the Constitution and Canons Committee, has completed the charge given to them to “create further opportunities for feedback on the draft Constitution and Canons included in the Agreement of Union” and to “consider input received through these and previously held feedback sessions and finalize the Constitution and Canons to be presented for adoption at this Primary Convention”; and

Whereas, the Constitution and Canons Committee, with gratitude to all who participated in the process of developing these materials, submits the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes for adoption at this Primary Convention;

Be it Resolved, that this Primary Convention adopt the proposed Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes; and be it further

Resolved, that upon adoption, and in accordance with Canon I.10.4 of the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, the Convention Secretary shall “lay before the Executive Council certified copies of the Constitution adopted at its Primary Convention”; and be it further

Resolved, that as a means of assisting and honoring the legacy dioceses’ ministries, communities, and partnerships that will receive special designation by these new Canons, especially but not limited to Camp Chickagami, The Academy, Episcopal Youth Camp, AuSable Inclusion Center, Plainsong Farm, and seasonal chapels, the Constitution and Canons Committee in conversation and consultation with those entities, will make recommendations to the Ecclesiastical Authority, Diocesan Council, and Standing Committee regarding their initial designation; and be it further

Resolved, that the Constitution & Canons Committee through acknowledging the breadth of Congregations of this new diocese, continuing conversation with other Episcopal dioceses, and exploring best practices and the canonical support required by them, revise and submit to its Second Diocesan Convention for adoption, substitution for Canons I.7 through I.8 of the proposed Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes.

PRE-FILED AMENDMENTS

1. Proposed by: David B. Penniman, M.Div., Church of the Nativity, Boyne City

Amend: Title II Canon 4.c Sec. 1.c (on officers).

Proposed Amendment: Addition of "economic status" following the word "disabilities."

Amended Section would read:

c. All people who want to participate in this Church's life, worship, and governance shall be encouraged to participate regardless of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, *economic status*, or age, except as otherwise specified by Canons. Significant effort shall be made in every election or appointment process to include members of underrepresented groups and to include persons from different parts of the diocese and a range of congregational sizes .

2. Proposed by: David B. Penniman, M.Div., Church of the Nativity, Boyne City

Amend: Title II Canon 8 Sec. 3.d (on the Commission on Ministry)

Proposed Amendment:

In paragraph d add the words "*The Commission on Ministry shall establish a group on Licensed Ministries to support the Commission and Bishop in implementing Canon 4 of Title III of the Canons of the General Convention.*" Also add the words "also" and "other".

Amended Section would read:

The Commission on Ministry shall establish a group on Licensed Ministries to support the Commission and Bishop in implementing Canon 4 of Title III of the Canons of the General Convention. The Commission may *also* create *other* groups to help carry out its work. These groups report directly to the Commission on Ministry and must have a Commission on Ministry member serving as liaison to the Commission on Ministry.

3. Proposed by: Jerald Kabell, M.Div., St. John's, Alma

Amend: Title II Canon 3 (Convention of the Diocese)

Proposed Amendment: Insert Sec. 1. All members of the Diocese present at the Convention shall have voice. Renumber succeeding sections sequentially (current Sec. 1 becomes Sec. 2).

Amended Section would read:

Sec. 1. All members of the Diocese present at the Convention shall have voice.

4. Proposed by: Jerald Kabell, St. John's, Alma

Amend: Title II Canon 6 Sec. 4.a.ii

Proposed Amendment: Insert the following as the final sentence: No person having been considered by the Bishop Search Committee and not recommended to the Convention shall be eligible to be nominated by petition.

Amended Section would read:

II.6.4.a.ii By petition, the form of which shall be determined by the Standing Committee, signed by no less than seven (7) clergy members and by no less than seven (7) lay members in good standing. The person nominated must indicate such person's willingness to be nominated and consent in writing to the standard background checks no later than the date specified by the Standing Committee. *No person having been considered by the Bishop Search Committee and not recommended to the Convention shall be eligible to be nominated by petition.*

COURTESY RESOLUTIONS

Resolved that this Primary Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes, welcomes Julia Ayala Harris, Diocese of Oklahoma, and President of the House of Deputies, as Keynote Speaker.

Resolved that this Primary Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes extends greetings to The Most Rev. Dr. Justin Welby, and prayers for his ministry and leadership with our Communion; to the most Reverend Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church and the Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe, Presiding Bishop-Elect, and assures them of our prayers.

Resolved that this Primary Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes sends 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 Primary Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes 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. Catherine Waynick, Bishop Provisional of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan, (retired) and her husband Larry; 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 Primary Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes 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 Primary Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes, expresses gratitude to the Joint Standing Committee for service and support as the Ecclesiastical Authority.

Resolved that this Primary Convention of the Diocese of the Great Lakes expresses 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 Skip Adams, Presider and Preacher, and the Rev. Jay Gantz, Chaplain, and expresses gratitude to the Convention Planning Committee members: Jelecia Geraghty, Angela Krueger, the Rev. Jim Lively, the Rev. Canon Nurya Love Parish, Sara Philo, the Rev. Sr. Diane Stier, Mark Sullivan and the Rev. Randall Warren.

On behalf of the Resolutions Committee, we move the adoption of these courtesy resolutions.

-Anne Davidson & Nancy Mayhew, Resolutions Committee

CLERGY ELIGIBLE TO VOTE

In accordance with proposed Rule of Order F of the Rules of Order for our Primary Convention, which states "The Secretary shall publish the names of the clergy entitled to seats in the convention and enter into the journal the names of those who are present," the following list of names of clergy entitled to seat and vote is hereby published to the Convention:

- Adams, Jennifer Lin, Canonically Resident
- Allard, Bradley Richard, Canonically Resident
- Ambrose, Val Twomey, Canonically Resident
- Anderson, Alissa, Canonically Resident
- Anei, Abraham Muong, Canonically Resident
- Ash, Linda, Canonically Resident
- Barta, Heather, Canonically Resident
- Bartlett, Stephen Ives, Canonically Resident
- Bell, Mike, Canonically Resident
- Bennett, Dale Koch, Canonically Resident
- Berghuis, Michael Robert "The Rev. Br. Francis", Canonically Resident
- Blank, David Mark, Canonically Resident
- Boli, Judith, Canonically Resident
- Bosscher, Molly, Canonically Resident
- Brinkmoeller, Leonard Joseph, Canonically Resident
- Brocato, Christian F, Canonically Resident
- Broeren, Erik, Serving a Church
- Brower, David, Canonically Resident
- Brower, Katherine Moore, Canonically Resident
- Brown, Wendy J, Canonically Resident
- Brunell, Paul, Canonically Resident
- Buchin, Daniel Arthur, Canonically Resident
- Burke, Celine, Canonically Resident
- Carlson, Geraldine Beatrice, Canonically Resident
- Carter, Philander Lothrop, Canonically Resident
- Caruso, Cynthia Woodham, Canonically Resident
- Cavin, Barbara, Canonically Resident
- Chace, Brian, Canonically Resident
- Chace, Elizabeth, Canonically Resident
- Chandy, Sunil Kulangana, Canonically Resident
- Char, Zachariah Jok, Canonically Resident
- Clapp, Schuyler (Pete), Canonically Resident
- Colavincenzo, Sue, Canonically Resident
- Coleman, Brian Ray, Canonically Resident
- Comer, Skip, Canonically Resident
- Cramer, Jared C, Canonically Resident
- Crane, Linda, Canonically Resident
- Crise, Rebecca Ann, Canonically Resident
- Crusoe, Lewis, Canonically Resident
- Curtis, Charles, Canonically Resident
- David, John Spencer, Canonically Resident
- Davidson, Donald, Canonically Resident
- De Azevedo, Guilherme B, Canonically Resident
- Delaney, Mary, Canonically Resident
- Diehl, Jane, Canonically Resident
- Downs, Thomas, Canonically Resident
- Drew, Beth Lynn Tomczak, Canonically Resident

- Dukes, Lynne, Canonically Resident
- Durren, Paula Ellen, Canonically Resident
- Emenheiser, Ed, Canonically Resident
- Enelow, James, Canonically Resident
- Evans, Aaron, Canonically Resident
- Fargo, Valerie, Canonically Resident
- Fedewa, Mike, Canonically Resident
- Finn, Patrick Shawn, Canonically Resident
- Flentje, Gregory Laurence, Canonically Resident
- Frens, Mary Jean, Canonically Resident
- Fulton, Nancy Casey, Canonically Resident
- Gantz, Jay, Canonically Resident
- Gepert, Robert R, Canonically Resident
- Gockerman, Janet Pierce, Canonically Resident
- Grady, Ann, Canonically Resident
- Green, Patricia Anne, Canonically Resident
- Guback, Thomas Henry, Canonically Resident
- Hager, Alicia, Canonically Resident
- Hallmark, Charlotte A, Canonically Resident
- Hamp, Gary, Canonically Resident
- Harris, Ladd Keith, Canonically Resident
- Harris, Patricia Lyn, Canonically Resident
- Haughn, Terry Lee, Canonically Resident
- Hector, Bob, Canonically Resident
- Heyboer, BJ, Canonically Resident
- Homeyer, Charlie, Canonically Resident
- Hoop, Kimberly Ann, Canonically Resident
- Hotra, Nancy, Canonically Resident
- Houck, Kay M, Canonically Resident
- Houghton, Frederick, Canonically Resident
- Hougland, Wayne, Canonically Resident
- Houle, Michael, Canonically Resident
- Hudson, Mary Jo, Canonically Resident
- Hueschen, Micheal Gordon, Canonically Resident
- Idema, Henry, Canonically Resident
- Infante Pinzon, John Edwin, Canonically Resident
- Inman, John Wesley, Canonically Resident
- Jenney, Joe, Canonically Resident
- Johnson, Jay Emerson, Canonically Resident
- Kaminski, Radhajyoti T-D, Canonically Resident
- Kelley, Mark Hazen, Canonically Resident
- Kelly, Karen Joy, Canonically Resident
- Kennedy, Joseph M, Canonically Resident
- Kinsey, Elizabeth A, Canonically Resident
- Klein, Everett H, Canonically Resident
- Kubbe, Anna Leigh, Canonically Resident
- Kuhn, Darlene, Canonically Resident
- Kusky, Donna, Canonically Resident
- Lasley, Jerry, Canonically Resident
- Lawlor, Jay R, Canonically Resident
- Laycock, John, Canonically Resident
- Leclair, Beckett, Canonically Resident
- Lee, Edward Lewis, Canonically Resident
- Lee, J. Barrett, Canonically Resident
- Lenartowicz, Pamela, Canonically Resident
- Lepley, Rebecca, Canonically Resident
- Lewis, Alice, Canonically Resident
- Little, Tracie, Canonically Resident
- Lively, James W, Canonically Resident
- Manney, Thomas, Canonically Resident
- Marinco, Judith, Canonically Resident
- Marinco, Vincent, Canonically Resident
- Marx, Lily Esther, Canonically Resident
- Maxwell, Daniel, Canonically Resident
- Mayhew, Nancy, Canonically Resident
- McClure, William, Canonically Resident
- McDonald, Karen Loretta, Canonically Resident
- McPherson, Thomas Dale, Canonically Resident
- Meengs, John Richard, Canonically Resident
- Merrill, Russell, Canonically Resident
- Meyers, David Craig, Canonically Resident
- Michaud, Bruce, Canonically Resident
- Mikaya, Henry C, Canonically Resident

- Miller, Matthew, Serving a Church
- Mitchell, James L, Canonically Resident
- Murphy, William Mckee, Canonically Resident
- Nattermann, Peggy, Canonically Resident
- Naughton, Sharon, Canonically Resident
- Nawrocki, Cynthia Lynn, Canonically Resident
- Nickerson, Audra M, Canonically Resident
- Novitsky, Nicholas, Canonically Resident
- O'Dell, Thomas Peyton, Canonically Resident
- Otto, Susan, Canonically Resident
- Owour, Shadrack, Canonically Resident
- Owsley, Rebecca, Canonically Resident
- Parish, Nurya, Canonically Resident
- Parks, Larry, Canonically Resident
- Parks, Sarah, Canonically Resident
- Pearson, Wendy L, Canonically Resident
- Perra, James Francis, Canonically Resident
- Perrin, Mary, Canonically Resident
- Pike, David, Canonically Resident
- Pike, Diane, Canonically Resident
- Presentin, Elsa, Canonically Resident
- Quick, Alexander Loren, Canonically Resident
- Quinn, Derek James, Canonically Resident
- Reishus, John W., Canonically Resident
- Renna, Pamela, Canonically Resident
- Rich, Sue, Canonically Resident
- Rosenberg, Elma, Canonically Resident
- Russell, Charles A, Canonically Resident
- Rutenbar, LaRae, Canonically Resident
- Scharf, Frederick J, Canonically Resident
- Scheerer, Linda, Canonically Resident
- Schlotterbeck, Marilou Jean, Canonically Resident
- Schnaare, Anne Elizabeth, Canonically Resident
- Schneider, Edward, Canonically Resident
- Schneider, Harold, Canonically Resident
- Schuetz, Mary Jo, Canonically Resident
- Scott, Thomas, Canonically Resident
- Seitz, Phil, Canonically Resident
- Sherfick, Kenneth L, Canonically Resident
- Shortt, Mary, Canonically Resident
- Shriver, Domingo Frances, Canonically Resident
- Smith, James, Serving a Church
- Smith, Thomas, Canonically Resident
- Smith, William Herbert, Canonically Resident
- Smith-Kurtz, Mary Bonnagean, Canonically Resident
- Snyder, Daniel, Canonically Resident
- Spangenberg, Carol, Canonically Resident
- Spencer, Jane, Canonically Resident
- Spencer, Michael, Canonically Resident
- St. Pierre, Joanne, Canonically Resident
- Steen, S James, Canonically Resident
- Sten, Pamela V, Canonically Resident
- Stier, Diane L, Canonically Resident
- Stifler, Linnea, Canonically Resident
- Stoffan, Eileen Bowman, Canonically Resident
- Stoppel, Gerald Corwin, Canonically Resident
- Stravers, Richard L, Canonically Resident
- Tepe, Donald, Canonically Resident
- Thompson, Karen, Canonically Resident
- Thomson, Malcolm Davis, Canonically Resident
- Tillman, Christine Wylie, Canonically Resident
- Timm, Chrysanne, Serving a Church
- Turmo, Joel, Canonically Resident
- VanValkenburgh, William B., Canonically Resident
- Vickers, David, Canonically Resident
- Vinge, Patricia Gay, Canonically Resident
- Voelker, Sharon, Canonically Resident
- Wagner, Barbara Jean, Canonically Resident
- Wakefield, John, Serving a Church
- Wallace, John, Canonically Resident
- Walton, Robert Harris, Canonically Resident

- Warner, Anne Marie, Canonically Resident
- Warren, Randall R, Canonically Resident
- Wernick, Mike, Canonically Resident
- Whiting, William Richard, Canonically Resident
- Williams, Susan, Canonically Resident
- Wolterstorff, Claire Kingma, Canonically Resident
- Wood, Michael J, Canonically Resident
- York, Susan Spence, Canonically Resident
- Young, Sherry, Canonically Resident

Please contact [Angela Krueger](#) if you believe a correction to this list is needed in the legacy Eastern diocese, or [Mark Sullivan](#) if you believe a correction to this list is needed in the legacy Western diocese.

ANNUAL MINISTRY REPORTS

Academy for Vocational Leadership

The Academy for Vocational Leadership is one of the seminary experiences offered to both priests and deacons in formation. The program requires 10 intensive academic weekends and 1 opening retreat weekend. We gather either in person at the St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt or, for those few weekends a year when we cannot reserve the retreat center, we meet on Zoom. The weekend begins with dinner on Friday evening and concludes on Sunday mid-afternoon. We pray together, eat together and learn together. We operate with a “flipped classroom” model, meaning that the students are expected to complete a good deal of preparation and homework between weekends. They arrive to the weekend having the “head knowledge” already in place and the classes help them dig deeper into the material and discover how that material might be applied in a parish setting. In addition to the academic classes, they delve into spirituality topics and practice of ministry classes. Our worship is planned and led by students on a rotating basis including preaching. Worship services and sermons are all evaluated by both faculty and the student body.

There are many options now for formation for Holy Orders including traditional residential seminary, hybrid seminary, all online seminary, and the Academy which utilizes the curriculum from the Iona Collaborative from the Seminary of the Southwest. The videos provided in the curriculum are taught by seminary professors. Our onsite teaching is facilitated by clergy and lay people with expertise in the areas they are teaching.

In addition to students discerning a call to Holy Orders, we also welcome lay people wanting an intensive experience of formation. For those discerning Holy Orders, we receive postulants who discern that this is the best formation tool for them. For the 2023 – 2024 academic year, we journeyed with 12 students, 11 in second year and 1 in first year. Of these, 9 are discerning a call to priest, 2 to deacon, and 1 person was with us representing the lay order. For the 2024 – 2025 academic year we have 10 students, 9 discerning a call to priest and 1 to deacon. Unfortunately, we do not have any students in the lay order at this time. Of our 10, after successfully completing the program, 7 will graduate this year, 2 next year, and 1 the following year.

Running alongside the formation program, we also offer classes for Lay Preaching each year. In spring of 2024 10 Lay Preachers successfully completed the program and were recommended for licensing, and this year we have a total of 7 students.

At last year's Convention, we announced the creation of our Academy Advisory Board. We began living into this new relationship this year as the Board, together with our four faculty, began dreaming of designing a new required year that we will be calling "Exploring Baptismal Ministry." The intention is for this year to happen before applying to the first year of the Academy. It will be mandatory for all students and open to anyone wanting to explore baptismal ministry. We are using this year to design the program and hope to launch in the fall of 2025. It is our dream that this program might lead to a robust program for lay people to take a variety of classes that will empower and enrich their congregational leadership.

Respectfully submitted by:

The Rev. Canon Tracie Little, D. Min.
Co-Director

The Rev. Val Fargo, PhD.
Academic Dean Emeritus

The Rev. David Vickers
Co-Director

The Rev. Deacon Liz Kinsey
Director of Field Education

AuSable Inclusion Center

The AuSable Inclusion Center is a New Episcopal Community based in Mio, MI, which provides holistic support to folks marginalized based on their gender, sexuality, and/or socioeconomic status in the AuSable River Valley and beyond. We offer this support through four pillars of programming: Social/Emotional Support, Material Support, Spiritual Support, and Education & Advocacy. Our discernment process began early in 2023 following the October 2022 closing and deconsecration of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Mio. After extensive discernment and preparation, work began to transform the building into a new space. With the help of volunteers from all over the state, we repainted, reconfigured, and built anew spaces that would better serve our mission. Over the course of the summer, we have gradually rolled-out on-site programming while planning ahead to full-time programming in the fall. As of writing this report, we are on-track to launch full-time programming in October and look forward to continuing to develop more programs as our capacity grows. Look ahead to opportunities to join AuSable Inclusion Center sponsored workshops and trainings, such as the free Mental Health First Aid for Adults course at the Center on November 1st and upcoming LGBTQ+ 101 workshops among others.

*Respectfully submitted by The Rev. Beckett Leclaire
Ministry Developer, AuSable Inclusion Center*

Bishop Whittemore Foundation *Legacy Western*

The Bishop Whittemore Foundation is an independent nonprofit 501c3 corporation. It is in its 72nd year of service to the Diocese of Western Michigan. During calendar year 2024 to date, Foundation trustees have met quarterly to review loan and grant proposals in support of diocesan and parish objectives. Grant applicants and representatives of parishes attend many of our meetings. Visitors are always welcome. Although we emphasize the value of in person meetings and the communication technology available to us is not as advanced as it could be, some of our trustee and committee meetings were by conference call, Zoom, or hybrid format. We have in-person meetings as much as possible as it provides for more open and effective communication.

The following grant requests were approved after review and interview of the applicant:

January 2024 Meeting:

Grant requests tabled for additional required information

April 2024 Meeting:

- Holy Trinity, Wyoming MI - \$16,400 for water heater and AC repairs
- St. Philips, Grand Rapids, MI - \$10,100 for Community garden related matters
- EDWM - \$10,000 for building digital community funding

July 2024 Meeting:

No grant requests submitted

October 2024 meeting:

Grant requests are pending and the following grants were also approved in October 2023 following our last diocesan report from BWF:

- Church of Nativity in Boyne City – \$16,500 capital request for stairs / ramp
- St. Paul’s Muskegon - \$16,500 capital request for exterior façade repair
- Sudanese Grace in Grand Rapids- \$15,000 for resettlement and outreach purposes
- St. Mark’s Grand Rapids - \$14,352 for Reimagining Breakfast Café related services

Total grants in any calendar year are limited to 5% 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. Current policy adopted by the trustees permit the carryover of amounts available for grant or loan distribution but not distributed, thus potentially increasing the amount available for distribution in the next year.

The trustees of the Bishop Whittemore Foundation are committed to the growth of the endowment fund balance, the prudent investment of the foundation assets, careful and unbiased consideration of every grant application to ensure the best use of available funds. In this regard, we work closely and regularly with our investment advisors, the VLMB Group of Merrill Lynch in Grand Rapids, MI.

In 2022-2024, the trustees of the Foundation continued their analysis of how the Foundation may grow its funds and better achieve the stated objectives and purposes of the Bishop Whitemore Foundation. Individual and parish contributions are greatly appreciated. **Donors to the Bishop Whitemore 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 Whitemore Foundation Event, when all parishes are requested to remind parishioners of the good works of the Foundation and we encourage gifts to the Foundation. Efforts are being made to make the foundation more visible in light of its significance to the diocese and its parishes.

For more and updated information please visit our upgraded website: whitemorefoundation.org.

The Foundation trustees representing multiple parishes deserve recognition and thanks for their long-devoted service and gift of their expertise for the important work of the foundation.

Respectfully submitted by Robert Brower, President

Camp Chickagami

Camp Chickagami had a transformative 2024 season filled with community events from May to October. With the Executive Director on maternity leave, Acting Co-Directors Sierra Gore and Kay LeClaire started the season together followed by Kay LeClaire and Evan Knill in the summer through October.



The season began in May with the Boys Camp Alumni Work Weekend, honoring former director Lee Alden, and a Memorial Day Work Weekend, where over 30 volunteers helped prepare the camp.

In June, staff training at St. Christopher's, Grand Blanc equipped young adults for a safe summer, and Family Camp programs fostered connections in nature. The Good News Garden project in partnership with St. Dunstan's Davison, funded by a grant, launched with education, and new raised garden beds and will offer a Blessing of the Gardens in 2025.

July featured diverse overnight programs and local day camps for 1st to 5th graders. August included a Contemplative Spiritual Practices Retreat and partnerships with local organizations, bringing 40 youth for camping.

September hosted a Young Adult Retreat and a Contemplative Fiber Arts Retreat, promoting community and spiritual growth. The season concluded in October with a Closing Work Weekend.

We are looking forward to 2025 and many, many more years of serving God and one another on the shores of Lake Esau. One certain thing is that we cannot do this work without prayers, volunteers, and financial support. I encourage you to pray about how you or your church might be able to give back to Camp Chickagami in the years to come.

Website: www.campchickagami.org

Facebook (and photo albums): <https://www.facebook.com/CampChickEastMI>

Email: directors@campchickagami.org



*Respectfully submitted by McKenzie Knill,
Executive Director*

Chaplains to Retired Clergy & Spouses *Legacy Eastern*

The Chaplain to the Retired Clergy and Spouses, and Surviving Spouses is a program of the Church Pension Fund. The diocesan bishop appoints the chaplain to the retired clergy.

Most dioceses have one chaplain while some larger dioceses – by area or population or both – have more than one chaplain. Lay spouses of clergy chaplains to the retired often also serve as chaplains, having been appointed with their clergy spouse by the bishop.

The retirement of The Rev. Laura Queen coincided with a reorganization of the chaplain to the retired clergy program. Sean Scheller continues to relate directly to the chaplains. Relationship Managers (RM) now supplement Sean's work.

The dioceses in Michigan are in Province V. Provinces V, VI, and VII chaplains gather via Zoom every other month. In addition, Zoom webinars on subjects of particular importance to retired clergy are held periodically throughout the year. Subjects include scams and the latest news about the Medical Trust. The webinars allow us chaplains to pass on the information we learn to the retired clergy in our dioceses.

Chaplains from Provinces V, VI, and VII gathered in Cleveland October 1-4, 2024 for our annual conference. We learned, worshiped, ate, and played together.

It is always fun to see in person the colleagues I meet on Zoom. Next year, the triennial national meeting of chaplains to the retired clergy will be held in Arlington, VA.

Echo Off the Bay, a bi-monthly newsletter for retired clergy and spouses, and surviving spouses in the Diocese of Eastern Michigan, is published in January, April, June, August, and October. Thank you to Katie Forsyth and Michelle Ruiz for their help with the newsletter. I could not do it without them.

Each year at Christmas and Easter, I send almost 90 cards to all retired clergy and spouses and surviving spouses whose residential and/or canonical diocese is Eastern Michigan.

Many of the retired clergy in the Diocese of Eastern Michigan serve churches in their retirement, and are important to the lives of those congregations. On behalf of the clergy and laypeople of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan I offer heartfelt thanks to the retired clergy and spouses, and surviving spouses as they continue to do the work God has given them to do.

Respectfully submitted by the Rev. Ann Grady

Children, Youth & Young Adults

The Department of Children, Youth, and Young Adult Formation in the Episcopal Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan aims to support congregations involved in the formation of young people.

One of the ways that we hope to be a resource is by offering access to [copyrighted curriculums with diocesan licenses available](#) at no cost to congregations as well as various [free collations of resources and curriculums](#).



Highlighted events of the past year include

- **Charge: an ecumenical youth event for 6th-9th graders at Great Wolf Lodge**
- **Intergenerational Earth Day Retreat Weekend for all ages** was a weekend retreat at Camp Roger, focusing on our relationship with the earth, including a celebration with Plainsong Farm and Eucharist at the farm. [Photo album here](#).



- **Service Trip Camp** Middle and high schoolers volunteered in Louisville, KY, participated in advocacy against gun violence, and attended the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church. [Reflection and album here](#).

- **Episcopal Youth Camp** offered summer camp for 3rd through 12th graders at Stony Lake Camp in New Era
- **Camp Chickagami:** The camp program and facility in Eastern Michigan welcomed about 300 participants for programs throughout the summer season. Camp Chickagami programs are available for individual adults, children, and youth of all ages, and families.
- **Young Adult Retreat at Camp Chickagami**



If you have any questions or we can support you in any way, please reach out.

- McKenzie Knill, Director of Children, Youth, and Young Adult Formation for the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes and Executive Director of Camp Chickagami.
mknill@eastmich.org or mknill@edwm.org
- Jeff Brown, from St. Mark's, Grand Rapids, serves as our Children and Youth Missioner for the Central Collaborative and has a focus on our in-person events.
jbrown@eastmich.org or jbrown@edwm.org
- The Rev. Joel Turmo, from St. Timothy's, Richland, serves as our Children and Youth Missioner for the Southern Collaborative and focuses on confirmation resourcing.
jturmo@eastmich.org or jturmo@edwm.org
- The Rev. Radha Kaminski, from St. Mary's, Cadillac, and St. Andrew's, Big Rapids, serves as our Children and Youth Missioner for the Northern Collaborative and has a focus on camps and young adults.
rkaminski@eastmich.org or rkaminski@edwm.org

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

Clergy Retreat Committee

In 2014, Rt. Rev. Todd Ousley asked Rev. Jay Gantz of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan if he would create a team to change the focus of the Clergy Conference from education to retreat. Jay invited several of the clergy around the diocese to join the team and the Clergy Retreat Committee was born.

The clergy on that first team were from various backgrounds. We decided that the one thing we had in common was our liturgy. Thus we began our first "Clergy Retreat" focused around the four liturgies of the daily office and we concluded our retreats with the Eucharist and a renewal of ordination vows. Since then, we have had several different retreat leaders and have met in several different venues.

With the increasing conversation between the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan, in 2021 we decided to invite the clergy of the Western diocese to join us. This was a great opportunity for our clergy to get to know one another and to begin to understand the various ministries that are being done throughout both dioceses. These retreats have been well attended and we are looking forward to continuing them as we become the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes.

*Respectfully submitted by The Rev. Pamela Lenartowicz,
Clergy Retreat Committee Member*

College for Congregational Development

Lay and ordained leaders gathered in Midland from July 21–26, 2024, for our second annual College for Congregational Development. Our gathering consisted of thirty-five participants from fifteen congregations, covenant groups, and staff across our dioceses and beyond, including:

Episcopal Church of the Mediator, Harbert	St. Alban's, Bay City
St. Paul's, Gladwin	St. Andrew's, Big Rapids
St. Paul's, Harsens Island	St. John's, Midland
St. Paul's, Flint	Eastern/Western MI Diocesan Staff
St. Mark's, Newaygo	Sudanese Grace, Grand Rapids
Grace, Traverse City	St. Augustine's, Benton Harbor
St. John's, Sturgis	St. Paul's, St. Joseph
St. Paul's, Greenville	Episcopal Diocese of Southeast Florida

Also, we celebrated seventeen graduates who completed the requirements of the two-year CCD curriculum.

Our learning this summer (Year A) focused on exploring and practicing group/team dynamics, facilitation skills, data collection/communication, change processes, typology, intercultural conflict styles, family systems, self-differentiated leadership, trust building, conflict engagement processes, and much more.

CCD trainers and practitioners from the Episcopal dioceses of Olympia, El Camino Real, Chicago, and Michigan joined the Rev. Canon Dr. Tracie Little and me in leading and learning together in this transformational and joyful work.

Next summer (July 20–25, 2025) we will be back in Midland for CCD Year B.

Questions about how the CCD curriculum might buoy your community in taking next steps in healthy, effective, and faithful ministry? Please [email me](#) or contact others who have participated in CCD.

*Respectfully submitted by the Rev. BJ Heyboer
Diocesan Coordinator of the College of Congregational Development*

Commission on Ministry *Legacy Eastern*

Title III, Canon 2 of the Canons of the General Convention requires each diocese to have a Commission on Ministry (COM) consisting of Priests, Deacons and Lay persons. Our diocesan canons describe the number of members, terms, etc. COM members are appointed by the bishop for 3-year terms.

In the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan (EDEM) COM has primarily advised and assisted the bishop in the discernment and implementation of the ordination process. This includes developing, interpreting, and updating the Manual for the Ordination Process Manual. This manual can be found [on the EDEM website](#).

In addition to the COM monthly meetings, members also provide support and advice to the people in process, supervising clerics, vestries, and discernment teams. Throughout the ordination process it is also COM's role to discern how each person in the process is called to ministry and consider if ordination is the unique path for that individual that will best serve the Church. It bears noting that our catechism states the ministers of the Church are lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons. All Christians are called to ministry and all orders are needed and valued!

In 2024 COM experienced a significant amount of turnover. The Rev Sue Colavincenzo, long-standing COM chair, The Rev. Pam Lenartowicz, Doris Sutton, and Joyce Thewalt, all rotated off COM after many years of faithful and joyful service. We thank them for their tireless dedication, discernment, and good humor!

Current COM members are:

- Emily Klein, Christ Episcopal, Owosso
- The Rev. Deacon Anna Leigh Kubbe, unassigned
- The Rev. Jerry Lasley, St. Christopher's, Grand Blanc
- The Rev. Tom Manney, St. Paul's, Flint
- The Rev. Nancy Mayhew, St. Alban's, Bay City
- Ellen McVey, St. John's, Midland (Chair)

There are currently two unfilled lay positions. The Rev. Canon Tracie Little serves in an ex officio capacity; Angela Krueger, Bishop's Assistant, provides administrative support. Their guidance and support are greatly appreciated.

2024 has been a particularly busy year as we oriented new members and changed chairpersons. We have also seen an increase in people seeking ordination to both the diaconate and the priesthood. The offering of biannual discernment weekends by the Academy of Vocational Leadership has contributed to this level of participation. As of this writing, COM is working with six individuals discerning ordination: one postulant, one nominee, and four applicants. We are also working with a priest from another denomination who is seeking reception as a priest in the Episcopal Church.

As we look forward, a significant piece of our work will be to collaborate with the COM of the legacy Eastern Diocese of Western Michigan (EDWM) to develop the philosophies and processes for the COM of the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes (EDGL). Until that work is completed and a COM for EDGL is operational, the two diocesan COM's will continue to work independently following the

procedures in place for the legacy diocese. It is our hope that we can begin this joint work before the year ends.

EDEM COM has also had an ongoing desire to provide an enhanced discernment process for people exploring a call to holy orders as well as those called to serve more intentionally in lay ministry. Discussions have included seeking ways to broaden discernment team participation and utilizing trained resources willing to serve in a diocesan wide capacity. We hope to do some experimentation in 2025 to test how this might work in our context.

We'd like to thank all those who support COM and the people in process – the discernment team members, vestry members, supervising clerics, as well as clergy and laypersons who provide prayers, encouragement, and feedback. We couldn't do this important work of the diocese and the wider Church without you! And we are thankful for all those who step out in faith and vulnerability to explore God's unique call on their lives to represent Christ and the Church whether in lay or ordained ministry.

*Respectfully submitted by Ellen McVey,
Chair*

Commission on Ministry *Legacy Western*

With the upcoming merge of the Episcopal Eastern and Western Dioceses of Michigan to become the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes, it is the goal of this Commission on Ministry to work diligently with Eastern Michigan's Commission on Ministry. We have plans to bring in a consultant, look at both of our policies and procedures, the canons, and develop a new and effective Commission on Ministry to serve this new Diocese. This year there was a change in Leadership. Michael Woods, who had served this group with great dedication and wisdom, had his term on the Commission come to an end and therefore he decided to move on as co-chair. Jim Perra came on as his replacement as co-chair. This year, being a year of transition for our leadership and for the organizational aspects of what we do, has challenged this group. The group has met these challenges with great enthusiasm and care.

Western Michigan has a great many people in the process. As I write this we have three aspirants for the diaconate, and three postulants looking to become candidates for ordination. There are two candidates in a position to become ordained this spring. We have one of our diaconal postulants studying with BexleySeabury's Pathways to Deacon Formation. We are looking forward to seeing how this program works for our deacons-in-training. On this side of the Priestly Order, we have the following people in the process. There are five aspirants, and ten Postulants looking toward candidacy for ordination in the near future. Also, there are three on the priesthood track who will be interviewed by the Standing Committee who will hopefully be moving toward ordination to the transitional diaconate. All of that being said, we have some very good prospects for the future of the Diocese of the Great Lakes.

Below is a list of our current commission. They serve on the commission, and they serve as mentors to our list people in the process. Their commitment is to this work and to do it well, thinking about

the diocese, the future of the church, and especially caring for these individuals who we are tasked to support through the process.

Commission on Ministry

- Co-Chair The Rev. Jim Perra
- Co-Chair The Rev. Lily Marx
- Patrick Foster
- Rosemary Hagan
- The Rev. Deacon Trish Harris
- The Rev. Jay Johnson
- The Rev. Deacon Cindy Nawrocki
- Lara Raisanen
- Cathy Searls

*Respectfully submitted by The Rev. Lily Marx,
Co-Chair of the Commission on Ministry*

Coppage-Gordon School for Ministry

The Coppage-Gordon School for Ministry has been responsible for offering classes for lay people to engage in learning. The Rev. Paul Brunell facilitated the training for Lay Worship Leaders. Brunell offered workshops online as well as on site, received and marked completed exams for the Level 1 classes.

This past year, two Basic Level trainings were held. This is the training that is required for initial licensing. There were 21 participants for the online training and eight participants for the on-site training. Of these, ten wrote and passed the exam.

Advanced Level trainings are held for renewal of licenses. This past year, two trainings were offered. There were 16 participants in a Lent and Holy Week training and 15 participants in a Funeral Preparation training.

Looking ahead to 2025, the following trainings are scheduled:

- Basic Level - January 25 online and May 10 on-site (Place to be determined)
- Lent and Holy Week - February 8 online
- Alternative Resources - June 7 online
- Funeral Preparation - September 27 online

In 2025, in collaboration with Church Next, we hope to launch a new video library, ensuring that every congregation will have access to over 400 videos. Watch for details soon!

If you have any questions about licensing or if you would like to share your comments about lay formation, please contact the Rev. Canon Tracie Little at tlittle@eastmich.org or tlittle@edwm.org.

Respectfully Submitted by the Rev. Canon Tracie Little, D.Min

Creation Care

On March 15, 2024, when I began work in the role I now hold, I received responsibility for convening the Creation Care Task Force previously convened by Canon Katie Forsyth.

Since April, the Creation Care Task Force has met monthly by Zoom. Early on, task force members expressed a desire to complete a previously-begun strategic plan. With their work, the group's mission, vision, audience and collaborators have been updated and clarified. We expect to complete goals and strategies before year-end.

My hope is that once the strategic planning process is complete, the team will provide a proposal for ongoing work to the Diocesan Council, who will affirm an ongoing Creation Care Commission in the diocese, led by chairs who are members of the diocese rather than by staff.

Members of both legacy dioceses have contributed to the strategic planning process. My gratitude to Jeannette Ettin, Amy Freeman, John Howarth, Mary Huisman, Steve Mulder, Jan Strait, Gary Street, and Anne-Marie Warner, whose time has made our work possible.

*Respectfully submitted by The Rev. Nurya Love Parish
Canon for the Northern Collaborative
Coach for Beloved Community & Creation Care*

Diocesan Council *Legacy Western*

A few highlights from the last year that we are excited to share:

- Restoration of the Diocesan Resurrection Garden in Kalamazoo (thank you to the Resurrection Garden Committee for your dedication!)
- Re-establishing a permanent Diocesan Finance Committee
- Participating in the Transition Leadership Team and the Transition Working Groups
- Establishing a Bi-Diocesan anti-racism training policy (thank you to the Anti-Racism Taskforce for your work on this policy!)

We give thanks for the recent past Vice-Chairs of Diocesan Council, Ms. Lara Raisanen and the Rev. Cn. Nurya Parish for their service, advice, and counsel this year. I wish to also thank all those who have served on Diocesan Council, or who have directly supported our work, this past year, especially: The Rt. Rev. Skip Adams (Assisting Bishop), The Rev. Dr. Jared Cramer (member and Diocesan Treasurer), Ms. Nancy Foster, Ms. Freya Gilbert, The Rev. Alicia Hager (member and Secretary), The Rev. Radha Kaminksi, The Rev. Darlene Kuhn, The Rev. Jim Lively, Mr. Matt Neddo, Mr. Tom Perrin, Ms. Martha Porter, Ms. Lara Raisanen, Ms. Sharon Reed, The Rev. Eileen Stoffan, The Rev. Pat Vinge, Mr. Bill Fleener (Diocesan Chancellor), the Diocesan Finance Committee, and the Diocesan Staff.

*May Peace be with you all,
Respectfully submitted by The Rev. Dr. Derek J. Quinn
Vice-Chair of Diocesan Council, Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan*

Dismantling Racism

The Dismantling Racism Steering Committee continues to vision in hope, knowing that God's goodness is unfolding in this here and now. This year, we've settled on and executed trainings for a new dismantling racism curriculum for those in the new Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes, *Becoming Beloved Community: Understanding Systemic Racism*, presented by ChurchNext. Thanks to the administrative help of Mark Sullivan and Canon Nurya Love Parish, we've held weekly training sessions via Zoom for more than 70 members of our new diocese.

Before the next Convention, every delegate, priest, and deacon will be required to have completed this training, which we will hold again in person in April 2025 as well as via Zoom in the fall of 2025. We continue to meet monthly and we are encouraged by the passion of so many to break down "the dividing walls of hostility" that divide, as we move toward becoming beloved community. New members welcome!

Respectfully submitted,

*The Rev. Molly Bosscher, chair
Charlotte Booker
Joyce Henry
Sarah Hines*

*The Rev. Canon Nurya Love Parish, staff liaison
Carole Redwine
Milton Roye
The Rev. Linnea Stiffler
The Rev. Sue York*

Dominican Republic Mission

The Diocese of Western Michigan has been a Companionship Diocese with the Dominican Development Group since 2009. Since COVID-19, we have been unable to travel to the Dominican Republic to serve alongside our companions there. However, in February of this year, Katie Forsyth and I traveled to the country to attend the DDG Annual Board Meeting in Santo Domingo as a requirement of our board membership. Katie was the Bishop's representative from Eastern Michigan and I am the representative from Western Michigan.



It has been four years since we have been able to continue our relationship with our brothers and sisters in

the Dominican Republic and we all are looking forward to making new and rekindling friendships made in the past. We will be taking applications for a mission trip to be held in late May or early June of 2025. We hope to break ground in February at the DDG Annual Meeting and the Diocesan Convention for Santo Nombre de Jesús Church, which was established in 2007 by Fr. Hernán Villalba in a small rural

town in Bani, Peravia. The congregation comprises approximately 30 official members. Currently, services there are held in a modest yet dedicated facility by Fr. Carlos Santana. This community may be low in resources but it has no shortage of love and faith, praying fervently to one day see their temple raised up. Please see Deacon Beth Drew for more information.



Respectfully submitted by Archdeacon Beth Drew

Ecumenical & Interreligious Officer

When I returned from the National Workshop on Christian Unity in May 2023, I was so inspired by the ecumenical conversations which took place, that I began to write a column for The Feast called Ecumenical Endeavors. Some of the content is distilled from the church's own Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations, and it intrinsically affirms that other Christian denominations, including those with which the Episcopal church is exploring full-communion agreements, possess their own intrinsic value.

In fact, the NWCU embodied what the Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon has said -- "that the word 'denomination' is a wonderful adjective, but is an idolatrous noun." For us, it means that we are not Episcopalians, but are Episcopal Christians! But learning about ecumenism can be uncomfortable since, in learning about others, we may have to ask why they and we believe what we believe.

And one way we can learn about each other is through The Ecumenical Community of Michigan -- formerly Lutherans, Anglicans, and Roman Catholics -- which will conduct its next retreat from March 10-12, 2025 at the Augustine Center in Conway; with the theme Spirituality and Self-Awareness: Lent as a Pathway to Enlightenment.

Respectfully submitted by the Rev. Mike Wernick

Education for Ministry

All baptized Christians are called to continue the ministry of Jesus in our homes, communities, and lives. The work of ministry does not rest solely with ordained persons. Education for Ministry (EfM) is a program based in the School of Theology at the University of the South at Sewanee and is designed to support Christians as they work to understand and live out their call to a life of ministry. The Sewanee program guide describes EfM as "a unique four-year small-group formation program based on study and practice in theological reflection" which helps "participants [to] discover and nurture their call to Christian service where they live, work, and play." In 2024, although our dioceses paid the annual program fee, no congregation across either of our legacy dioceses participated in EfM. Supporting the ministry of all baptized Episcopalians in our dioceses in a number of ways, including through this robust program, continues to be a funded priority for our shared ministry in 2025. Education for Ministry is traditionally coordinated by a member of the diocese. If you would like to volunteer to coordinate EfM for 2025, please contact Canon Tracie Little.

Respectfully submitted by the Rev. Canon Tracie Little, D.Min.

End Gun Violence

We joined other Episcopal dioceses across Michigan as a founding member of End Gun Violence Michigan in 2021. The Episcopal Church remains committed to addressing gun violence prevention nationally. Here in Michigan and across our diocese, we as followers of Jesus are called to respond to the increase in gun violence deaths:

- 1,406 annual gun deaths in Michigan
- Suicides increasing in rural areas; veterans/kids are most vulnerable
- Black and Brown gun deaths 4 times higher than other groups
- Domestic Violence gun deaths increasing (misdemeanor offenses did not result in guns being removed from offender)
- Guns are #1 cause of death for kids

Michigan passed 4 gun safety packages in 2022 that went into effect Spring 2024.

- Universal Background Checks on all firearm sales
- Safe Storage (locking up firearms when children are present)
- Extreme Risk Protection Orders (temporary removal of firearms if risk to individual/others)
- Domestic Violence Protections (temporary removal of firearms for misdemeanor/felony)

Awareness and implementation:

End Gun Violence Michigan held Silence the Violence events across the state in June for Gun Violence Awareness month. All provided education and resources on the new laws including offering free gun safety locks promoting safe storage to reduce youth gun deaths (FL passed a similar law and reduced youth deaths by over 50%).

- Trinity Episcopal Church-Niles *Dr. Paul Detrisac held a community training session. Dr. Paul Detrisac has presented to area medical staff on the new laws.
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church-St. Joseph *Rev. Karen Kelly/Rev. Darlene Kuhn (Daughters of the King) held their annual gun violence vigil and information on the new laws.
- St. John's Episcopal Church-Grand Haven *Nancy Collins/Gun Violence Prevention Team held a community march including performances.

What can you do?

- Can your church and/or other churches, health centers, community centers offer free gun safety locks?
- Is your school board committed to safety in providing safe storage information to parents?
- Supporting gun sense candidates: <https://gunsensevoter.org/states/mi/>
- Join End Gun Violence Michigan (<https://www.endgunviolencemi.org>) We continue to advocate for gun safety laws, community funding and collaborations to support our diocese.

In the future, we hope to expand our ministry to more communities in our diocese: Silence the Violence, gun buybacks, Fr. Chris Yaw and the chopsaw/art projects, increasing community action/collaboration supporting gun violence reduction.

The University of Michigan Institute of Firearm Safety offer toolkits:

- Safe Storage toolkit: <https://firearminjury.umich.edu/safe-firearm-storage-toolkit-home/>
- ERPO toolkit: <https://firearminjury.umich.edu/erpo-toolkit/>

Contact: Vicki Schroeder, Ministry Leader (vvschroed@gmail.com)

Episcopal Church Women

The Episcopal Church Women is an international organization throughout the Episcopal Church that was founded in 1871 and is still relevant to the faithful, hardworking women of our parishes. Centered in congregations, ECW members work to do Christ's ministry in the world focused on peacemaking and healing. The diocesan ECW board strives to represent the women of the dioceses at the provincial and national levels as well as looking for new ways to foster communication and mentorship throughout the dioceses.

The change in the name of the Diocesan ECW throughout the bylaw documentation will need to be ratified at the 2024 annual meeting to be held on Zoom this fall. Positions on the board that need to be filled are Secretary, Church Periodical Club Representative (CPC), Altar Guild Representative, United Thank Offering Representative (UTO), and a Historian.

Freya Gilbert and Marilee Roth attended the ECW Triennial held in Louisville, Kentucky as delegates to ECW while the General Convention of the Episcopal Church was held.

Judy Fleener received the 2024 Honored/Distinguished Woman award and attended the special luncheon in Louisville, Kentucky along with her son, Bill Jr. and granddaughter, Eryn. Judy was selected for the honor because she has been active at the parish, diocesan, and provincial levels for more than 50 years. At the parish level, she has been active in the choir, the altar guild, as a vestry member, the Fellowship Committee, Sunday School teacher, and as a Eucharistic Minister. At the diocesan level, she has been active on the Standing Committee, the Commission on Ministry, served as the Diocesan Order of the Daughters of the King President, served as a Deputy to General Convention, and as camp counselor and formation leader at the Diocesan Episcopal Youth Camp. At the provincial level, she served as the Order of the Daughters of the King Vice President. She met her husband, Reverend William Fleener, in the church choir and as a clergy wife, she has been a supportive partner. Besides being a wonderful teacher, friend, mother, spouse, and clergy wife, Judy has been active in the Women's Movement as a member of the local chapter of NOW, the civil rights movement, Meals on Wheels, and is an Oblate in the Order of Julian of Norwich. As a lifelong Episcopalian, she is a significant role model of a woman whose words and action reflect her faith. Congratulations Judy!

The ECW depends upon annual contributions from congregations and individuals to continue its ministry throughout the dioceses. Once a contribution is received by the diocesan office, it is

automatically split into two portions: 50% toward operations and 50% toward missions, outreach, and scholarships. The operational portion helps to defray the cost to enable delegates to attend the ECW Triennial meeting and any ECW provincial gatherings to represent and to keep the needs of our dioceses in the forefront. The missions /outreach/ scholarship portion is put toward specific projects supported in the dioceses. Over the years, we have granted scholarships from these funds to priests, postulants, and lay persons for books, tuition, and other needs in the dioceses. All contributions to the ECW should be sent directly to the diocesan treasurer, Sara Philo.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marilee Roth, President
Freya Gilbert, Vice President
Dana Phillips, Treasurer
Ruth Smith, Mission & Outreach*

*Gail Donovan, Member-at-Large
Kay Hanson, Member-at-Large
Jeannine Totzke,
The Order of the Daughters of the King*

Episcopal Youth Camp

For over 60 years, Episcopal Youth Camp (EYC) has provided a transformative summer camp experience, enriching the lives of countless individuals across generations. Since the onset of new leadership in 2019, EYC has flourished, welcoming 80-90 campers and over 25 dedicated staff each year.

In 2023, we proudly established a partnership with Stony Lake Lutheran Camp in New Era, Michigan, where we have found a vibrant home for our activities. Our campers, ranging from 3rd to 12th grade, engage in a diverse array of activities that foster both age-specific and mixed-age interactions.



Financial support from the Diocese, as well as contributions from individuals and organizations, has been vital in ensuring that many of our campers have the opportunity to attend camp. Our staff is composed of passionate volunteers, many of whom are former campers or have embraced our community as their own.

At EYC, campers not only learn and grow physically but also mentally and spiritually,

cultivating lifelong friendships and a strong sense of Christian community. We are committed to creating a space that is welcoming, supportive, and inclusive for all participants. The leadership and staff of EYC are devoted to the continued success of the program, ensuring enriching experiences for current and future generations of campers.

Respectfully submitted by Eryn Fleener

Holy Hikes Great Lakes

Holy Hikes Great Lakes continues in our mission to encounter God and one another through God's creation for the fourth season running. We began our season at Dowagiac Woods Nature Sanctuary on April 20th, Earth Day, where we were blessed with an abundance of wildflowers. On May 18th we celebrated Pentecost a little early with searing sunlight and blasting winds at Secchia Meadows in Millennium Park in Grand Rapids. On June 15th, we celebrated the diversity of God's creation at Farmer's Creek at Oakdale in Lapeer. August 24th we remembered St. Bartholomew as we romped through the woods of the Offield Working Forest Reserve in Harbor Springs. On September 21st we ambled through the woods of Ringwood Forest in St. Charles. We will complete our season on November 2nd with a Feast of All Souls Cemetery Hike at Maple Hills Cemetery in Cadillac. Our participation numbers have remained steady with an average of 18 participants across all events, with continued interest in more events.

Our 2025 season is still to be determined, but as always, we will meet on Saturdays at 1PM in locations throughout the Diocese of the Great Lakes during the warmer seasons of the year. Look forward to more information forthcoming, and in the meantime, Walk on!

*Respectfully Submitted by the Rev. Beckett Leclair
Director, Holy Hikes Great Lakes*

MSU Canterbury House

Canterbury MSU is in our third year in our downtown storefront, half a block from campus. We are certain that the Holy Spirit is at work and that our core purpose is to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ to students who doubt the value or integrity of Christianity. Our most valuable tools to do that are our huge windows and sidewalk space. The signs in our windows proclaim the inclusive and loving Gospel, but we have to prove our faith in our actions. From handing out St. Patrick's Day cookies to students lined up for the bar next door, to offering Typewriter Poetry on the sidewalk, we share unexpected grace and kindness.



A small group of students gatherings weekly. Whether we're studying the book of Romans, talking to the local Imam about what we can learn from each other, celebrating Eucharist, or watching "Barbie", we are equipping young adults for ministry and leadership in the church and the world.



We know that it's our job to sow the seeds of the Gospel and to ask the Holy Spirit to nurture them. Perhaps the next visitor who walks through a church door will be someone who first encountered Jesus at Canterbury MSU.

*Respectfully submitted by The Rev. Dr. Donna L. McNiel
Episcopal Missioner, Canterbury MSU*

Order of Naucrati *Legacy Western*

We commit ourselves to three rules of life: Prayer, Conservation, and Charity. Our work is very hands-on, and the nature of this discipleship creates deep connections between our volunteers and opportunities for sharing the ways that God is present in our lives. These connections equip us to provide for the food pantries, feeding programs, and individuals receiving the God-grown protein Naucrati provides for our neighbors.



You will find our ministry outside the four walls of the church. The order of Naucrati is a community and network of hunters and anglers engaged in the spiritual practice of sharing our harvested abundance with neighbors experiencing hunger. Naucrati embodies the good news; we aim to expand our ministry by more effectively sharing the good news through our relationships with God, each other, and creation.

Our work has a profound impact on our community, feeding many people both physically and spiritually. It offers disciples a unique opportunity to live out their baptisms. We meet people where they are, collecting and processing fish and nourishing people up and down the coast of Western Michigan.

Annual Review

This year, we held four events, including a Hog Hunt and Fishing Retreat, which focused on conservation, prayer, and theological conversations.

Our community outreach was realized through two fishing tournaments, netting 2,831 pounds of salmon! The Order donated this protein to:

- Community Action House - Holland
- Benzie Area Christian Neighbors - Benzonia
- Benzie Friends Drop-In Center - Benzonia
- St. Philip's Baby Pantry - Beulah

Co-founder & Executive Director Rev Christian Baron resigned effective August 30, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted by Joy Foster, Liaison



Plainsong Farm *Legacy Western*

This year brought big changes to Plainsong, our founder and former Executive Director - the Rev. Nurya Love Parish - transitioned into a role for the Diocese. With her transition Katharine Broberg, Emily Ulmer, and Mike Edwardson worked with the Plainsong Board to put in place a collaborative leadership structure. Plainsong's mission and values speak deeply to the themes of connection, belonging, and creativity. The work we do welcomes others into it but is really done best when it requires others to be a part of it. At Plainsong we attempt everyday to live into the value of connection by cultivating a place where people are needed and belong - a place where people use their bodies to tend the land, nourish their neighbors, and ground themselves in hope and life-giving rhythms. In 2024, Plainsong welcomed four Episcopal Service Corps Fellows into those rhythms. Will, Jeramy, Nyami, and Ethan assisted in growing food, caring for the land and planning worship gatherings. This growing season, over 157 volunteers helped get good food onto the tables of neighbors, 150 youth experienced one of Plainsong's Growing with Sprouts programs, and many more participated in Plainsong's Seasons at the Farm worship gatherings. You make this work possible.

*Respectfully submitted by Emily Ulmer,
Co-Director, hello@plainsongfarm.com*

Province V

Province V is a network of 12 (soon to be 11) dioceses of the Episcopal Church. The changing number of dioceses is because of combining of resources, not that anyone left. This year, the Dioceses of Milwaukee, Fond du Lac, and Eau Claire reunited into the Diocese of Wisconsin. At this convention, the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan will complete their process of juncture into the Diocese of the Great Lakes.

The Theme of Province V: CONNECT. NETWORK. SUPPORT.

- Connect people to people and people to resources.
- Network to build communities across diocesan lines.
- Support each other in a variety of ministries.

There are several resources available at the provincial level. Please review this report and share information with others in your worshipping community!

Leadership

The Province V Executive Board is responsible for the operations of the province. There are 17 members of this board, which includes the 11 diocesan representatives, 2 members (one lay and one clergy) who serve on the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church, and 4 elected officers. Each diocesan bishop appoints a representative, and I have been appointed to this task. You can [see the full list of members here](#).

Board members meet monthly via Zoom to share resources from our dioceses and hear about and help develop provincial events and programming. The board gathers in-person once per year to build deeper connections and have in-depth conversation about vision and strategic planning for the province.

The Rev. Heather Barta serves as coordinator of Province V. Her role is to provide support to leaders of existing networks and create new opportunities for people across the province to connect with each other to build networks of support.

Province V Awarded \$470,956 in Grants

This is the biggest news all year!

Province V is excited to have received a number of Spring 2024 grant awards for provincial initiatives and books for fall's Creation Care retreat. Please celebrate with us! If any of these topics are of interest to you, we are looking for volunteer team members to create and launch the initiatives. Contact provinceVcoordinator@gmail.com.

2024 United Thank Offering Grant, \$55,000

This grant will launch Province V's new Engaging Gender Complexity (EGC) initiative. EGC will help individuals and worshipping communities create welcoming space for all people and will equip participants to welcome gender-diverse individuals into their community without causing harm to or undue emotional and psychological labor for them. Episcopalians are called by our baptismal vows

to promote the dignity of every human being, counteracting historical and current traumas perpetuated on gender-diverse communities. Guided by trained facilitators, in-person gatherings will be a laboratory to learn more about gender-diversity and practice radical hospitality towards these individuals and communities. Faith communities informed about gender-diversity have the potential to be places of refuge, modeling this radical welcome to the wider world.

2024 Constable Fund Grant, \$30,000

Funds a two-course digital curriculum to inform, form, and transform individuals and communities concerning gender diversity and catalyze personal and communal efforts in line with General Convention's Resolution D 030 (GC80) "to welcome and support people and communities of diverse genders, including trans gender and non-binary." The first course entitled Embracing Gender Diversity (EGD) will be administered through Bexley Seabury Seminary Federation's Pathways for Baptismal Living program. The second course, Facilitating EGD (FEGD), will prepare facilitators to host in-person, in-depth conversations that grow from questions that are raised in the first course.

2024 Becoming Beloved Community Impact Grant, \$10,200

This grant will help create and disseminate the new Trafficking: Faithful Response and Support initiative, to be available for individuals and communities across the church. Leaders will learn more about human trafficking, including identifying the signs and responding to suspected trafficking. This program will also help communities of faith identify ways to support victims of trafficking as they work toward renewed life. Learn more about our partner, [Total Life Wellness](#). Resources are available at [Province V's Anti-Human Trafficking page](#).

2024 Church Periodical Club (CPC), \$756

This grant will provide books to Province IV and V's Creation Care Event in the fall . Province IV and Province V Creation Care Networks will jointly host this creation care retreat in the Diocese of Kentucky on September 12-15, 2024, with guest retreat leader Margaret Bullitt-Jonas of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts. Margaret is co-author of the book, *Rooted and Rising*, which will be provided to all participants. The Provinces are grateful for the CPC's support as we continue to share ways of caring for all of creation. Visit <https://revivingcreation.org> to explore Margaret's work.

2024 Trinity Church's Leadership Development Grant, \$375,000

Over 3 years, this grant will fund Province V's Campus Ministry Developer position to help communities that 1) serve or wish to serve institutions of higher education without campus ministers; 2) wish to actively support the work of their local embedded campus ministers, and/or 3) want to learn how to engage more authentically with young adults over all. Trinity Church's Leadership Development Grant collaboratively addresses urgent gaps in leadership education with faith-driven mindsets and practical skills for the Church and for people in leadership roles outside the church, empowering them to achieve common goals. Learn more about [Trinity Church's Vision for Leadership Development](#).

Networks

The [networks](#) continue to expand to serve leaders across the province. Networks are open to any person who would like to be connected to others working on similar ministries. If there is a network that you might find helpful, contact the coordinator, [Heather Barta](#).

Leadership Coaching Project

[Trained lay and ordained coaches are available](#) to work with individuals, teams or groups on your goals and challenges. These coaches are available to any person interested in working on ministerial or personal goals. All coaches will provide a complimentary “introductory” meeting so that you can ask questions about coaching with them and get to know each other. Rural Area Ministry Specialists are available at a reduced rate to leaders in rural areas. (“Rural Area” is defined as a town with a population of 20,000 or fewer.)

Connecting to the Province

- Sign up for the [monthly newsletter](#).
- Province V [Facebook](#)
- [Creation Care Facebook](#)
- [Dismantling Racism Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)

Please contact me for more information about anything presented in this report!

Respectfully submitted by D. Elizabeth Jordan Ph.D.
jordan.dorothy64@gmail.com | 810-577-0183

Registrar *Legacy Eastern*

This is a report of the actions taken by the Bishop and/or the Standing Committee from October 27, 2023, through September 30, 2024. All records in the Diocesan office are in good order and preserved in a seemly manner.

Actions taken were:

- Ordinations to the Priesthood 0
- Ordinations to Deacon 0
- Baptisms by Bishop 0
- Confirmations 5
- Receptions 7
- New Clergy Received 1
- Clergy Transferred Out 2
- Clergy Renunciations/Depositions 1
- Clergy Deaths 3
- Deconsecrations of Buildings 1
- Visitations 4
- Celebrations of New Ministries 2
- Retirements 1

Respectfully Submitted by Angela Krueger, Assistant to the Bishop

Registrar *Legacy Western*

This is a report of the actions taken by the Bishop and/or the Standing Committee from October 28, 2023, through September 30, 2024. All records in the Diocesan office are in good order and preserved in a seemly manner.

Actions taken were:

- Ordinations to the Priesthood 1
- Ordinations to Deacon 2
- Baptisms 2
- Confirmations 43
- Receptions 27
- New Clergy Received 1
- Clergy Transferred Out 1
- Clergy Renunciations/Depositions 0
- Clergy Funerals 5
- Deconsecrations of Buildings 0
- Visitations 2
- Celebrations of New Ministries 4
- Retirements 0

Respectfully Submitted by Mark Sullivan, Diocesan Office Administrator

Resolutions from The General Convention

The General Convention of The Episcopal Church gathers every three years to conduct the governance of the international church body. General Convention considers resolutions, conducts elections, passes the churchwide budget, and prays together through it all. Through this nine-day event there are committee meetings and open hearings, and debate on the floor of each of the two houses, the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops as legislation is considered. There are also services of worship, presentations, and conversations around various topics of importance to our Church.

Each diocese sends eight deputies, split between the clergy and lay orders plus additional alternates. In June 2024, the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church gathered in Louisville, Kentucky. Here are some of the highlights from this General Convention:

- elected the Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe to be the 28th presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church;
- reelected Julia Ayala Harris as House of Deputies president;
- elected the Rev. Steve Pankey as deputies' vice president;
- passed a \$143 million budget for the next triennium;
- approved a constitutional change to clearly define the Book of Common Prayer;
- changed the Catechism of the Church to define marriage as being between "two people," inclusive of same-sex couples;

- adopted improvements to its Title IV clergy disciplinary canons while committing to continued review of other areas contained in Title IV;
- joyfully supported the juncture of our two dioceses becoming the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes, the reunification of the three Episcopal dioceses in Wisconsin and granting Navajoland the status of "Missionary Diocese".

Ahead of and following General Convention, the deputations hosted online gatherings to share some of the expected highlights, invite questions and input, offer updates regarding resolutions and actions of interest to these dioceses. We are very grateful for your support.

Clergy Deputies, Legacy Eastern

The Rev. Tracie Little, Chair
 The Rev. Pam Lenartowicz
 The Rev. Tom Manney
 The Rev. Nancy Mayhew
 Clergy Alternate - The Rev. Heather Barta

Lay Deputies, Legacy Eastern

Dr. Elizabeth Jordan
 Ms. Carol Moggo
 Ms. Ellen McVey
 Ms. Sara Philo
 Lay Alternate - Ms. Mary Lou Creamer

Clergy Deputies, Legacy Western

The Rev. Jennifer Adams, Chair
 The Rev. Canon Nurya Love Parish
 The Rev. Derek Quinn
 The Rev. Kay Houck
 Clergy Alternate - The Rev. Anne Schnaare

Lay Deputies, Legacy Western

Mr. William Fleener, Jr.
 Ms. Sheridan Leinbach
 Ms. Laurie Atwater
 Ms. Mary Simpson
 Lay Alternate - Ms. Gloria Lara

Respectfully submitted by the Deputations of Eastern and Western Michigan

Resurrection Garden

There is a beautiful memorial garden in Portage, MI, adjacent to Valley Family Church (formerly Cathedral of Christ the King), which is owned by the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan. The short brick walls surrounding the garden hold plaques honoring the many saints interred there, but they had fallen into disrepair in recent years.

This past summer, the plaques were removed, and repair work was done on the brick walls. The plaques have since been reattached, with some being replaced. A huge thank you goes to Ben Jamieson, who has tended to the garden's plaques for many years, for carefully removing and remounting them.

The Resurrection Garden still has many plots available should you wish to be interred here. For more information, please contact [Mark Sullivan](#).

Respectfully submitted by Mary Simpson

Social Service Grants *Legacy Eastern*

The Diocesan Social Services Mission Grants Team met on December 8, 2023 to discuss 7 applications for grants for the 2024 fiscal year. After prayers and thoughtful discussion, the Team voted to recommend that the Diocesan Council award a total of \$99,800.00. On December 16 2023 the Council voted to award the grants for 2024 as we had suggested.

- G.R.A.C.E. Center, St. Francis', Grayling, received \$17,400 to expand their licensed psychological counseling and prevention education services to the economically disadvantaged.
- Good News Garden, St. Dunstan's, Davison and Camp Chickagami received \$17,400 to establish raised gardening beds and provide fresh produce and sound teaching with Creation Care curriculum.
- Crossover Downtown Outreach Ministry, St. Paul's, Flint, received \$13,050 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.
- River Jordan Foster Care, Holy Family Midland, received \$20,000 for a mentorship program for youth's aged 14 – 18 providing life skills coaching for entering the workforce when they age out of foster care.
- St. Jude's, Fenton, received \$13,050 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.
- Family Promise, St. Paul's Flint, received \$17,400 to provide shelter and end homelessness for families. They also provide education for family success.

Respectfully submitted by The Rev. Paul Brunell

St. Stephens Plainwell Ministry Hub

September 2024 marks our second year of operation at St. Stephen's Ministry Center. After the closure of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, the dream of an Episcopal ministry center to serve rural southwest Allegan County was born.

St. Stephen's main ministry has been the St. Stephen Diapers Project. This 100% volunteer run project provides diapers and supplies to southwest Allegan County. Volunteers come from the Episcopal parishes of St. Luke's Kalamazoo, St. Timothy's Richland, St. Martin's Kalamazoo along with First Baptist Church of Otsego. It's truly a regional and ecumenical endeavor.





St. Stephen's shares ministry space with Clean Water for the World which ships free water filters worldwide. In 2024 St. Stephen's partnered with Community Action of Allegan County which received a state grant to help supply organizations such as ours with diapers for children and adults. Because of that partnership St. Stephen's is able to serve 120 individuals a month and has distributed over 72,000 diapers this year. Additionally, we've gotten to know these neighbors we serve, sometimes helping them connect with other community resources. They share with us their joys and struggles and ask us to pray for them.

St. Stephen's Ministry Center would like to express its gratitude to the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan and the future Diocese of the Great Lakes for its past, current, and future support of this important work in our communities. On behalf of us and all those we serve, thank you so much.

Respectfully submitted by the Rev. Micheal G. Hueschen

Transition Leadership Team

After the March 16, 2024 Special Convention to vote on the resolution for the Agreement of Union, the Standing Committee decided to form a Transition Leadership Team (TLT) to figure out the many details in transitioning from two dioceses to the new Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes. In April, they appointed the two Presidents to the Standing Committee, Barbara Ilkka and the Rev. Anne Schnaare, to lead the effort, and they invited the Vice Chairs of the two Diocesan Councils, as well as the two chairs of Building Bridges and the Chancellor, to form this new group and develop a transition plan that would take us to the primary convention and beyond. They also retained the services of Katie Ong, the consultant who had worked with the Building Bridges team as it discerned a recommendation to make to the two dioceses on juncture.

The current membership of the TLT is as follows:

- The Rev. Jen Adams - Former Co-Chair, Building Bridges; Grace, Holland (W)
- The Rev. Don Davidson - Chair, EM DC & VP, EM SC; retired (E)
- Janet Huff-Worvie - Former Co-Chair, Building Bridges; St. John's, Otter Lake (E)
- Barbara Ilkka, President, EM SC; St. John's, Saginaw (E)
- The Rev. Derek Quinn - Chair, WM DC; St. Paul's, Elk Rapids & Grace, Traverse City (W)
- The Rev. Anne Schnaare - President, WM SC; Grace, Grand Rapids (W)
- Chancellor Bill Fleener Jr.
- Katie Ong, Consultant to TLT

The first order of business for the group was to develop a transition process, identifying the areas that would need particular attention and offering a timeline for the work. They started with this purpose statement:

The Transition Process is overseen by the Joint Standing Committee acting as Ecclesiastical Authority. A Leadership Team will be convened by the Presidents of the Joint Standing Committee to ensure that the various aspects of the Convention mandate to become one diocese are well coordinated as we live into becoming The Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes. The Team will help facilitate collaboration among Working Groups by clarifying their descriptions and time frames for each, encouraging collaboration when there is overlap or intersection in their work, and providing means by which information is channeled to the appropriate diocesan leadership bodies for decision making. Members of the Joint Standing Committee, Diocesan Councils, staff and other leaders and members (clergy and lay) from the dioceses will participate in Working Groups described below.

They then determined the following phases for this transition work:

Phase I - Begin and complete before primary convention

Phase II - Begin before primary convention. Complete after primary convention.

Phase III - Begin after primary convention. (This is longer-term work)

After identifying the issues that needed to be addressed, the Transition Leadership Team established the following working groups, defining the scope of work for each one and recruiting co-chairs. To populate these groups, the TLT collected names of people from diocesan leadership, clergy and lay congregational leaders. With the assistance of the Canon for Evangelism and Networking, they also invited everyone in the Dioceses to share their expertise by volunteering. Using all of the names collected, the Co-chairs then recruited members to their working groups in June 2024. Finally, TLT members signed up to act as liaisons with at least one working group.

Although a few groups had been active before this official transition process started, these new teams generally began to meet in July 2024. The Working Group Co-Chairs met monthly with the TLT to provide updates on their work and determine when the groups needed to collaborate. The WORKING GROUPS are listed below in order of the Phase they started, and the details about them include their work assignments, what they have accomplished thus far, and their membership.

PHASE I

BRANDING for EDGL

[TLT liaison: Barbara Ilkka]

Reports to: Standing Committee

Activity Description: Create the diocesan shield, diocesan logo, begin executing brand.

Activity completed: Working with the graphic designer, the working group has created the new diocesan shield and logo, to be revealed at the Primary Convention, and they have developed the

branding standards to be used moving forward. Those standards will be released following the Convention in October 2024.

Co-Chairs: Joe Kennedy (St. David's, Lansing), Amy Simons (St. John's, Saginaw)

Members: Erynn Ford (St. Paul's, Flint), Jason Franklin (graphic designer consultant), Heather Rauwenhurst (Emmanuel, Petoskey), Michelle Ruiz (staff)

CONSTITUTION AND CANONS

[TLT liaison: The Rev. Jen Adams]

Reports to: Diocesan Convention

Activity Description: Create further opportunities for feedback on the draft Constitution and Canons. Consider input received through these and previously held feedback sessions. Finalize the Constitution and Canons to be presented for adoption at the October Convention. Develop the process by which the Canons will be considered for adoption on the floor of Convention.

Activity completed: The working group reviewed all of the feedback of the Constitution & Canons since their earliest iteration in 2023, including feedback received on the version included in the Agreement of Union. They released a Summer 2024 version of the Constitution & Canons in advance of the two feedback sessions held August 26 and 27, 2027. The group took the comments from those sessions and revised the documents further into the final proposed Constitution & Canons. That material was included in the Second Call to Convention on September 18, 2024.

They are requesting that people who want to propose any changes to the Constitution & Canons pre-file the amendments, using an online submission form, and submit them by October 8, 2024. The working group will then organize the amendments in an order that makes sense as delegates consider the Constitution & Canons resolution. If an amendment is out of order, the working group will inform the submitter before the Convention.

Co-Chairs: Don Davidson (retired E-SC), Jen Adams (Grace, Holland)

Members: Bill Fleener, Jr. (Joint Chancellor; St David's, Lansing), Dr. Eric Carlson (St. John's, Midland), Meghan Chenoweth (Grace, Traverse City), The Rev. Ann Grady (Unaffiliated, lives in Bay City), Linda Rathburn (St. Christopher's, Grand Blanc), The Rev. Joel Turmo (St. Timothy's, Richmond)

PRIMARY CONVENTION PLANNING

[TLT Liaison: Barbara Ilkka]

Reports to: Joint Standing Committee and Diocesan Council

Activity Description: Plan for the Primary (first) Convention of the Diocese of the Great Lakes, October 18-19, 2024 including theme, speaker(s), workshops, liturgies, agenda, registration.

Activity completed: The group first established the theme of the Primary Convention: By These Waters: Buried. Risen. Reborn, and they are using the baptism theme throughout the event. They issued the First Call to Convention on July 19th the Second Call on September 18th, providing the many details about registration and the information delegates need to participate fully. Throughout the summer, the working group collaborated with Soaring Eagle Resort to ensure a positive experience for delegates, clergy, guests and visitors.

The working group spent much of the summer putting together the schedule for Convention to send to the Standing Committee for approval. Coordinating with people across the two legacy dioceses, they developed a series of workshops for Friday, October 18th, and arranged for tours of the nearby Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways. With so many important topics to cover at the Primary Convention, the working group has spent many hours creating an experience that will allow for deep discussion, learning, and fellowship. They also coordinated with the Constitution & Canons working group, the Joint Finance Committee, and the Chancellor to get ready for the Saturday business meeting at Convention.

The working group is currently focused on finalizing the many details up to and throughout the Primary Convention. Afterwards, they will offer suggestions for planning the second Diocesan Convention in 2025.

Co-Chairs: Jelecia Geraghty (SC; St. Paul's, Flint), The Rev. Canon Nurya Love Parish (Canon for the Northern Collaborative and Coach for Beloved Community and Creation Care)

Members: The Rev. Pam Lenartowicz (DC/Liturgy Team; St. Mark's, Atlanta and St. Andrew's, Gaylord), Sara Philo (CFO), The Rev. Jim Lively (St. John's, Sturgis), The Rev. Sr. Diane Stier (St. John's, Mt. Pleasant), The Rev. Randall Warren (Liturgy Team; St. Luke's, Kalamazoo), Angela Krueger (Admin/Assistant to the Bishop), Mark Sullivan (Admin)

JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE

[TLT Liaison: The Rev. Derek Quinn]

Reports to: Joint Diocesan Council

Activity Description: Further develop the 2025 Budget for the October Convention. Recommend members for the Endowment Board to Diocesan Council to be appointed by Council. Develop or convene potential members of the Endowment Board to propose endowment guidelines and policies (template is available from ECF.) Develop The Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes "Annual Audit of Congregations" Policy in accordance with the Episcopal Church Manual of Business Methods in Church Affairs.

Activity completed: After the finance office pulled together the budget request numbers, the group reviewed every line item in the budget, noting where they needed new contract quotes or further information. Over six meetings, they finalized as many of the figures that they could, and then came up with a list of recommendations and other issues for the joint Diocesan Council to consider before finalizing the proposed budget. As part of the budgeting process, they revised the clergy compensation rates, offered recommendations for developing an audit policy for the new Diocese,

and recommended people to be appointed to an endowment committee, as defined in the proposed Canons. They presented all of these materials to the Diocesan Council in advance of their September meeting, so that they could make final decisions on the 2025 Transition Budget, which will then go to Diocesan Convention for approval.

Co-Chairs: Treasurers: The Rev. Jared Cramer (St. John's, Grand Haven), The Rev. Brian Chace (Retired, Frederic)

Members: CFO Sara Philo, Robert Burgess (St. Augustine's, Benton Harbor), Gary Grinn (St. Paul's, Gladwin), Lori Martin, Carol Moggo (St. Francis, Grayling), Will Noyes (EDWM Finance Committee; Grace, Grand Rapids), The Rev. Larry Parks (Grace, Lapeer), Dana Phillips (St. Paul's, Greenville), Derek Quinn (EDWM Finance Committee; St. Paul's, Elk Rapids & Grace, Traverse City)

REGIONAL DESIGN

[TLT Liaison: The Rev. Anne Schnaare]

Reports to: Joint Standing Committee

Activity Description: To propose a mapping of the Mission Regions for the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes. The proposed canons call for "at least four Mission Regions" to be determined by the Bishop in consultation with the SC or other Committee. Mission Regions are to "provide a vehicle for Congregations, Emergent Communities, Companion Ministries, Programmatic Organizations, and Seasonal Chapels in proximity to each other to offer mutual support, share best practices, and collaborate on program, projects and activities in furtherance of their respective missions and the mission and vision of the Diocese." There can also be smaller groupings within each Region.

Drafts developed by Building Bridges can be a starting point

Explore other dioceses and how they offer diocesan connection/support/staffing/resourcing to regional bodies (Wisconsin, CO, MN...)

Activity completed: The group looked at the regional configurations of other dioceses across the Episcopal Church, as well as those of other institutions in Michigan. They interviewed the three Canon Missioners to understand their experiences working within the current collaborative structure set in 2023. Finally, they proposed the purpose behind organizing congregations by region—to foster collaboration and ministry support, and made a final recommendation to the Standing Committee of a regional structure that honors some historic collaborations. In light of their work, the group noted that these configurations may evolve—or be altered—as we live into being one diocese, especially whenever a new bishop joins us.

Co-Chairs: The Rev. Brian Coleman (Holy Trinity, Manistee), Ryan Talaski (St. Alban's, Bay City)

Members: The Rev. Brian Chace (Retired, Frederic), The Rev. Canon Sunil Chandy (Canon for the Central Collaborative and Coach for Digital Communities), Freya Gilbert (St. Paul's, St. Joseph), The Rev. Canon Tracie Little (Canon for the Southern Collaborative and Adult Formation), The Rev. Canon Nurya Love Parish (Canon for the Northern Collaborative and Coach for Beloved Community and

Creation Care), The Rev. Alex Quick (St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids), The Rev. David Vickers (St. Paul's, Greenville), The Rev. John Wakefield (Epiphany, South Haven)

PHASE II

MINISTRY OF THE EPISCOPATE

[TLT: Barbara Ilkka/The Rev. Anne Schnaare]

Reports to: Joint Standing Committee

Activity Description: As we transition into the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes, create opportunities for learning, conversation, healing, and shared hopes around the ministry of bishops. Consult with other dioceses and bishops in The Episcopal Church. Finalize a Mission and Vision Statement for the new diocese. Identify the needs of the new diocese as they relate to the episcopate. This work would then support the Search and Election process which will be initiated by the Standing Committee of the new diocese.

Education/Conversation: Implement a participatory learning and unifying process that will serve the search and election process. Invite current Bishops to speak to us. Take time to listen to those currently exercising the ministry of the Episcopate and give us time to learn from their current conversations as we begin to vision what is needed in The Diocese of the Great Lakes. Tend to healing needed from and also identify strengths revealed through our handling of painful situations with previous bishops. Who else might guide/facilitate/teach with us in this learning process?

Diocesan Mission and Vision: to finalize the draft mission and vision statement, being informed by the education/conversation process

Activity completed: After several discussions on the group members' experiences of the episcopacy, the group developed histories of each legacy diocese focused around the Episcopacy, created an annotated bibliography of books about the episcopacy that they encourage parishes to choose from for a book study, and launched a diocesan-wide online book study of John Zizioulas' Eucharist, Bishop, Church: The Unity of the Church in the Divine Eucharist and the Bishop During the First Three Centuries. They also created a survey to distribute at the Primary Convention and online to collect more experiences and ideas about what we want in a bishop for this new diocese.

Their work will continue after the Primary Convention, and they will offer recommendations to a Bishop's Search Committee, whenever the new Diocese is ready to move forward with that process.

Co-Chairs: The Rev. Dcn. Anna Leigh Kubbe (Holy Family, Blue Water), The Rev. Dr. Randall R. Warren (Co-Chair; St. Luke's, Kalamazoo)

Members: Ms. Nancy Foster Ms. Ginny McNabb, Mr. Tim Grant (St. Paul's, Flint), The Rev. Shadrack Owuor (Grace, Port Huron), The Rev. Dr. Jared C. Cramer (St. John's, Grand Haven), The Rev. Mary Joe Hudson (St. Matthew's, Saginaw), Ms. Carolyn Purcell (Grace, Traverse City), The Rev. Louis D. Crusoe (St. James, Cheboygan) The Rev. Dr. Jay E. Johnson (All Saints', Saugatuck)

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

[TLT Liaison:Janet Huff-Worvie]

Reports to: Joint Standing Committee & Joint Diocesan Council

Activity Description: Evaluate current job descriptions and staffing structure. Design staffing structure in support of the mission and ministry of the new diocese. Create a new Policy and Procedure Manual for EDGL. The group divided into two sub groups to tackle the work.

Activity completed: This Committee was originally formed in mid 2023. In early 2024, the full committee decided to divide into two groups to address the two major assignments: developing personnel policy and procedures and recommending a staffing structure that would best support the mission of the EDGL.

The Policy & Procedures group examined the current personnel handbooks for both legacy dioceses, considered best practices, then chose the policy from one diocese or the other, or came up with a fair compromise to produce a final Personnel Handbook. Afterwards, they went through the same process to develop a new Policy & Procedures Manual. They shared both documents with the joint Diocesan Council for review and feedback and are making final revisions now.

Due to a retirement and a resignation of two key staff members in the spring of 2024, the Staffing & Structure subgroup spent significant time, at the direction of the Joint Standing Committee, developing new job descriptions for the Diocesan Office Administrator and the Director of Communications positions. An interim staffing plan for communications work, assigning some tasks to existing staff and our consultant, Katie Ong, was proposed to the JSC, and approved on a temporary basis, until a Director of Communications could be hired. At the direction of the JSC, job descriptions were approved, and JSC authorized posting the jobs, reviewing resumes, performing screening interviews, and interviewing final candidates (including members of the JSC on final interviews). Mark Sullivan, Diocesan Office Administrator (Western Michigan), and Rachel Ravellette, Director of Communications (bi-diocesan) joined the staff at the end of this process.

The Staffing & Structure subgroup also developed and submitted a proposed list of staffing positions for 2025 to the JSC for approval. The draft staffing plan, which included new positions, was approved by JSC, but the draft in its entirety was not approved by Joint Diocesan Councils, since they did not believe that the budget could support new positions at this time. There are only minor changes to staffing in 2025 (two part time positions will be combined into one and a small increase in hours will occur with a couple of existing positions).

In addition, this sub group interviewed all full time staff and the two part time staff in Western Michigan whose hours are being combined into one position for 2025. The subgroup will continue to interview staff in 2025 as the work on structure continues. They will also proceed to address staffing and structure, once they receive guidance from the new Standing Committee of the EDGL.

Co-Chairs: Ellen Schrader (Grace, Traverse City), The Rev. Tom Manney (St. Paul's, Flint)

Policy & Procedures Members: The Very Rev. Dr. Jay Gantz (St. Andrew's, Flint), David Hawley-Lowry (Grace, Holland), Elizabeth Jordan (St. Paul's, Flint), the Rev. Tom Manney (Co-chair and subgroup chair; St. Paul's, Flint), Sara Philo (CFO & Benefits Administrator),

Staffing & Structure Members: The Rev. Val Ambrose (Ret., Grand Rapids), Janet Huff-Worvie (St. John's, Otter Lake), Ellen McVey (St. John's, Midland), Sara Philo (CFO), Martha Porter (Grace, Grand Rapids), Ellen Schrader (Co-Chair and subgroup chair, Grace, Traverse City).

LEGAL PROCESS of Becoming EDGL

[TLT Liaison: William Fleener, Jr.]

Reports to: Joint Diocesan Council

Timeline: Phase II (with legal entity in place January 1, 2025)

Activity Description: Ensure a thorough and timely legal transition into the newly created Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes including (but not limited) to: Church Insurance issues, retitling endowments and follow-up with Dio Michigan where necessary, follow-up with foundations (Whittemore,...), establish a process for reviewing church property deeds/titles and updating all deeds/titles to reflect ownership by the EDGL with property held in trust by each parish.....

Activity completed: The Chancellor worked with the attorney to identify the necessary paperwork we must file to create the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes. Due to a desire to make the transition less complicated, the team decided, upon consultation with the CFO, to wait until January 1, 2025 to form the new legal entity, so that the two legacy dioceses could close their financial books at the end of the calendar year. The legal documents are almost ready and will be filed on time to meet that deadline.

Chair: Bill Fleener Jr., Joint Chancellor

Member: Steve Waterbury (*pro bono* attorney)

PHASE III - As The Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes

DISCERNING FAITH COMMUNITIES

Reports to: Diocesan Council

Activity Description: Develop the canonical discernment and designation processes for Emergent Communities of Faith, Companion Ministries, and Programmatic Organizations of the diocese and the discernment and covenanting processes for Clusters and Cooperatives in the new diocese including the templates for Agreements and Covenants.

Co-Chairs: TBD

Members: TBD

SEARCH AND ELECTION OF A BISHOP

Reports to: Standing Committee

Activity Description: SC establishes the search and election process, timeframes, and details having explored various models used by other Episcopal Dioceses. Create a diocesan profile. Engage a search and election process for the first Diocesan Bishop.

Co-Chairs: TBD

Members: TBD

CAMP MINISTRY

Reports to: Diocesan Council

Activity Description: Consider the two models of camp which Eastern and Western bring to the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes. How do these models carry forward and integrate into a new structure? What needs to be adapted or changed? What is the vision for camp ministries in the new diocese and how does the new diocese best resource and support such ministry?

Include resources from previous work including summary report from the facilitated conversation and retreat on Camp ministries which took place among leaders in 2023.

Co-Chairs: TBD

Members: TBD

Finally, the Transition Leadership Team has also been in communication with the Commission on Ministry from both legacy dioceses, as they work to develop their own transition plan. That group will report separately about their progress.

After the Primary Convention, the current Transition Leadership Team members, along with the Co-Chairs of the working groups, will invite the new elected leadership to a meeting on November 5, 2024 to share the work that they have done and remind everyone of what work remains in Phases II and III, so that the transition work can continue seamlessly. Since, the Presidents of the Joint Standing Committee, Barb Ilkka and the Rev. Anne Schnaare, are at the end of their 3-year terms on Standing Committee, and since both Vice-Chairs of the Joint Diocesan Council, the Rev. Don Davidson and the Rev. Derek Quinn, did not seek re-election to remain on Diocesan Council, these out-going members of the TLT will be present for this meeting to assist in a smooth transition.

MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 2024 SPECIAL CONVENTION

SPECIAL CONVENTION OF THE DIOCESES OF EASTERN & WESTERN MICHIGAN MARCH 16, 2024 | ST. CHRISTOPHER'S, GRAND BLANC, MI

The Rt. Rev. Gladstone B. Adams

Assisting Bishop

Ms. Barbara Ilkka

Eastern Michigan Standing Committee President

Rev. Anne Schnnare

Western Michigan Standing Committee President

The Worship Service opened the Special Convention at 11:00 a.m.

Rt. Rev. Gladstone B. Adams, Preaching and Presiding

Bishop Skip Adams's Sermon:

I Corinthians 13:1-13; Mark 9:14-29

I'll bet that most of you have come here today to vote on whether or not our two dioceses will juncture. Hold that thought. I'd like to propose that the main event today is what we're doing right now, that is, joining in the Great Prayer of the Church we know as the Holy Eucharist. This time of celebration intimately joins us to the one central sacrament, who is Jesus, as the outward and visible sign of who God is. If what we are about today is not first about who we are as God's people in Christ, how we will live out our communion in Christ, and how above all things, even in our voting, we give honor, glory, and worship to him, we have lost our way.

Perhaps one way to get at this is by looking once again to that oh so familiar reading from Paul's first letter to the Church in Corinth. It is read at many weddings. We understand why. But let's look closer. What is the love of which St. Paul speaks, and to which he calls you and me in Christian community? Try this. Every time in that passage, when the word "love" appears, substitute these words: "The love of Jesus as shown forth in his cross and resurrection." There's not much room for mere sentimentality here. Paul's meaning is death and new life in the living Christ. Trying on a few sentences, now we get: "If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have the love of Jesus as shown forth in the cross and resurrection, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have the love of Jesus as shown forth in his cross and resurrection, I am nothing." Jumping ahead in I Corinthians: "The love of Jesus as shown forth in his cross and resurrection does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful...it never ends...And now faith, hope, and the love of Jesus as shown forth in his cross and resurrection abide, these three; and the greatest of these is the love of Jesus manifest in his cross and resurrection."

Given that, I offer you this thought as we approach, after worship, the prospect of voting. How will your vote, to juncture or not, show forth the love of Jesus in his cross and resurrection, and bring about, as best we know, the greatest possibility of being a community that tethers us to Jesus? In today's Gospel, Jesus, Peter, James, and John, have just come down from the mount of Transfiguration. They arrive to see a crowd surrounding the other disciples and an argument has ensued. What is the crowd's response as Jesus arrives on the scene? Awe. Wonder. I'm looking for awe and wonder in this crowd, this gathering of God's people, as the Christ shows up among us. Then back to the Gospel account, incredibly, a father breaks out from the crowd, looking for healing for his son. Sometimes, a moment of clarity as to what is necessary, comes as an epiphany. The boy's father has that awakening and he approaches Jesus, hanging on to perhaps the one last hope he has for his boy. As the encounter unfolds, most of them thought the boy was dead. Ah, not

when Jesus is around. Life erupts and so it does here today, no matter how we vote. We do have Jesus' closing remark, however, which is, "This kind can come out only through prayer."

What of our prayer now and all those leading up to today's vote? I have made an assumption that we are here first to glorify God and do what we can to awaken our spirit to God's Spirit already residing in us. Or to put it another way, we are here to open our hearts to the conversation of love and mercy that is always going on within the community of the persons of the Trinitarian God. So it is, we are here to discern, to open our hearts to the movement of God among us and within us. A reminder—"to discern" literally means, "to sift."

Whenever I think of sifting I think of my father. He loved to garden. Across the street from our house was a lush woods with deep, moist, dark topsoil as its bed. I used to love to watch him push his hands into the soil, lift it up, and let it fall between his fingers. It was almost an act of praise, a thanksgiving, a eucharist if you will. The soil had a sweet, aromatic fragrance that infused the air around us and drew me into the dust from which I was formed. Dad taught me that the nutrients of that rich black earth were being prepared for this moment over millennia.

For the gardens of azaleas, boxwoods, figs, and roses, however, it needed further sifting. So he built a sifter, welding a large open grid steel cage, three feet by four feet, mounted on legs, into which one could shovel the earth taken by wheelbarrow from the woods. A crank on one end would turn the entire contraption, and when there were chunks of earth inside that needed further breaking down, there was a second crank handle on the opposite end that rotated an interior forked blade that I would turn in order to break up the clumps. As all of this spun on an axis, an exceptionally fine mound of soil would build up under the sifter that could be taken to the garden into which the various plant life would be placed and rooted.

Where are you rooted? I invite you to carry this image into your ongoing discernment and eventual voting. We have received many words, written, and spoken, over many years. We load it all into our sifters. Each of us is one in whom God delights. We honor our humanity, take all that has been offered us and place it into the sifter of our heart, mind, and soul. Maybe even now we will even have to break up a clump or two along the way, mostly within ourselves, anything that would indicate our own heart-resistance to the Spirit's movement.

What we do now, like the father seeking his boy's healing, is gaze upon the face of God as God gazes upon ours. We seek to be open to a quality of awareness where we know ourselves drawn by grace, know who we are as God's beloved, and trust in the One who has called us forth, from the crowd, from the days we were born.

Now, be the sifter. Receive the richness of what Jesus has placed in you and before you. Listen. Breathe. Keep silent. Hope. Love.

Bishop Skip

Business Meeting:

Business Meeting was called to order by Standing Committee President of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan, Barbara Ilkka at 1:32 PM.

Prayer

Rt. Rev. Skip Adams opened the meeting with prayer.

Introductions

Barbara Ilkka, Standing Committee President and Chair of the Special Joint Convention introduced the members of the Standing Committees from both the Diocese of Eastern Michigan and the Diocese of Western Michigan, Bishop, and the Youth-at-Large delegates from both dioceses.

Adoption of Robert's Rules of Order

Chancellor William Fleener, Jr. introduced new rules based on the Roberts Rules of Order for the Convention.

- **Time Limit for Comments**

Speakers are required to limit their comments to 3 minutes each to ensure focused and efficient discussions.

- **Alternation of Speakers**

Speakers will alternate between those who support the resolution and those who oppose it, ensuring balanced discussion and allowing viewpoints from both sides to be heard.

Additionally, speakers will alternate between members of Eastern Michigan and Western Michigan, ensuring geographical representation and equal participation.

Motion to accept the rules of order as presented affirmed by both dioceses. **Motion carried.**

Extending Seat and Vote

Fleener explained the motion to extend Voice and Vote in the Diocese of Eastern Michigan, in accordance with Eastern Michigan Canons, to include:

- Canonical Clergy
- Non-Canonical Clergy serving in the Diocese
- Lutheran Pastors serving in Eastern Michigan
- Lay Standing Committee Members
- Lay Diocesan Council Members
- Elected Delegates
- Youth Delegates

The motion was moved by the Rev. Elizabeth Chace, seconded by the Rev. Lewis Crusoe.

Motion carried.

For the Diocese of Western Michigan, Fleener explained a similar motion to extend Voice and Vote in accordance with Western Michigan Canons to:

- Canonical Clergy
- Canonical Clergy not residing in the state
- Non-Canonical Clergy serving in the Diocese
- Lay Standing Committee Members
- Lutheran Pastors serving in the Diocese
- Lay Diocesan Council Members
- Elected Delegates
- Youth Delegates

The motion was moved by the Rev. Randall Warren, seconded by the Rev. Alicia Hager. ***Motion carried.***

Quorum

- **Eastern Michigan:** A majority of parishes and clergy is required to establish a quorum. Eastern Michigan had 36 out of 40 congregations present, along with 3 youth delegates. Additionally, 40 out of 53 eligible clergy were present. **Eastern Michigan had a quorum.**
- **Western Michigan:** A majority of lay delegates and clergy is required for a quorum. Western Michigan had 110 out of 124 lay delegates present, along with 3 youth delegates, and 56 out of 91 clergy. **Western Michigan had a quorum.**

Motion to Allow Voice for Lay Standing Committee Members

The Rev. James Perra offered a motion to suspend the necessary Canons to allow lay members of the Standing Committee to have a voice at the convention. Beverly McCamman seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**

Motion to Allow Voting by Orders for the Diocese of Western Michigan

Perra from Grace, Traverse City requested that the Diocese of Western Michigan vote by orders on Resolution 1. Perra was joined in his request by:

- Kathy Larkin, Delegate, St. Paul's, Elk Rapids
- McCamman, Delegate, St. Paul's, Elk Rapids
- Helen Hankins, Delegate, Grace, Traverse City
- Sonia Jacobson, Delegate, Grace, Traverse City
- The Rev. Diane Stier, Clergy
- The Rev. Derek Quinn, Clergy

Voting by orders in the Diocese of Western Michigan was adopted.

Election of Chair for the Diocese of Western MI

Ilkka nominated the Rev. Anne Schnaare to serve as the Chair of the Diocese of Western Michigan for the purpose of co-chairing the special joint convention. As this was a committee motion, it did not require a second. **Motion carried by the delegates for Western Michigan.**

Thank You

- A special thank you to the parish of St. Christopher's and the Rev. Jerry Lasley, Rector of St. Christopher's, for hosting the Joint Special Convention.
- Thank you to all staff members for their hard work in organizing the Special Joint Convention.

Resolution 1

Canon 1.10.6 (the Episcopal Church's canon describing juncture) requires that the Ecclesiastical Authorities and the Standing Committees (and our Standing Committees currently serve in both those capacities) submit to their conventions a resolution commending the Agreement of Union. The vote on this resolution functions as the vote on juncture to become a new diocese.

Eastern Michigan - Resolution 1

Title: Forming The Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes

Submitted by: The Standing Committee of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan

Whereas, the Standing Committees and Ecclesiastical Authorities of the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan charged the Building Bridges Steering Committee with coordinating a discernment process across both dioceses, advising the Standing Committees regarding “opportunities for collaboration and proposed canonical changes to the structure, governance, and episcopal oversight of the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan,” and reporting on “matters to be submitted to the 2024 General Convention (e.g. regarding Junction under Canon I.10.6),”

Whereas, the Building Bridges Steering Committee completed that process and has recommended that a juncture occur between the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan,

Whereas, the Standing Committees of the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan have voted to recommend that such juncture occur,

Whereas, in accordance with Canon I.10.6, the Agreement of Union and accompanying documents have been prepared by the Building Bridges Steering Committee and presented to the Standing Committees and convention delegates of both dioceses,

Whereas, the Standing Committees and Ecclesiastical Authorities of the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan now submit the Agreement of Union to this Special Convention, be it

Resolved, The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan, meeting at a duly called Special Convention on March 16, 2024, approves the Agreement of Union, and agrees to juncture with The Diocese of Western Michigan to form a new diocese, The Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes; and be it further

Resolved, The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan requests that the Ecclesiastical Authority and Standing Committee of the Diocese submit the Agreement of Union to the 81st General Convention meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, June 22nd - June 28th, 2024, for ratification; and be it further

Resolved, if the Agreement of Union is ratified by General Convention, The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan requests the Ecclesiastical Authority and Standing Committee of the Diocese to call the first Convention of The Episcopal Diocese of The Great Lakes on or about October 18-19, 2024.

Western Michigan - Resolution 1

Title: Forming The Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes

Submitted by: The Standing Committee of the Diocese of Western Michigan

Whereas, the Standing Committees and Ecclesiastical Authorities of the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan charged the Building Bridges Steering Committee with coordinating a discernment process across both dioceses, advising the Standing Committees regarding “opportunities for collaboration and proposed canonical changes to the structure, governance, and episcopal oversight of the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan,” and reporting on “matters to be submitted to the 2024 General Convention (e.g. regarding Junction under Canon I.10.6),”

Whereas, the Building Bridges Steering Committee completed that process and has recommended that a juncture occur between the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan.

Whereas, the Standing Committees of the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan have voted to recommend that such juncture occur.

Whereas, in accordance with Canon I.10.6, the Agreement of Union and accompanying documents have been prepared by the Building Bridges Steering Committee and presented to the Standing Committees and convention delegates of both dioceses;

Whereas, the Standing Committees and Ecclesiastical Authorities of the Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan now submit the Agreement of Union to this Special Convention;

Resolved, The Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan, meeting at a duly called special convention on March 16, 2024, approves the Agreement of Union, and agrees to juncture with The Diocese of Eastern Michigan to form a new diocese, The Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes; and be it further

Resolved, The Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan requests that the Ecclesiastical Authority and Standing Committee of the Diocese submit the Agreement of Union to the 81st General Convention meeting in Louisville, Kentucky, June 22nd - June 28th, 2024, for ratification; and be it further

Resolved, if the Agreement of Union is ratified by General Convention, The Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan requests the Ecclesiastical Authority and Standing Committee of the Diocese to call the first Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of The Great Lakes on or about October 18-19, 2024.

Discussion of Resolution 1:

Debate Procedure:

The debate of Resolution 1 followed a structured format. Either a lay or clergy person from each side could speak for 3 minutes, with 7 speakers for the resolution and 7 against, alternating between Eastern Michigan and Western Michigan representatives.

The following individuals addressed the convention:

- Western Michigan: Lincoln Schnaare, Youth Delegate, spoke for the merger.
- Eastern Michigan: Kay Leclair, St. John's, Dryden, spoke for the merger.
- Western Michigan: Perra, Grace, Traverse City, spoke against the merger.
- Western Michigan: Carole Redwine, St. Philip's, Grand Rapids, spoke for the merger.
- Eastern Michigan: Crusoe, St. James, Cheboygan, spoke for the merger.
- Eastern Michigan: McClure, Supply, spoke for the merger.

Debate ended for Eastern after 3 had spoken in favor of the merger.

- Western Michigan - Freya Gilbert, St. Paul's, St. Joseph spoke for the merger.
- Western Michigan - Meghan Chenoweth, Grace, Traverse City spoke against the merger.
- Western Michigan - Ellen Schreder. Grace, Traverse City spoke against the merger.

Debate ended for Western Michigan since 3 had spoken both for and against the merger. No further comments were brought forward to the body.

Motion to Table to a Time Certain:

Larkin, Elk Rapids, Western Michigan moved to table the decision on union until the joint convention on October 18-19, 2024. After discussion, ***the motion failed.***

Prayer Before the Vote

Bishop led a prayer prior to the vote on Resolution 1. Voting was conducted using voting devices led by the Voting Secretary Jessica Manccini.

Voting Result

- **Eastern Michigan:**
 - All Orders: 85% in favor (126 for, 22 against, 2 cast no ballot)
- **Western Michigan:**
 - Lay: 83% in favor (93 for, 19 against, 1 cast no ballot)
 - Clergy: 79% in favor (44 for, 12 against)

Decision on Resolution 1

Co-Chair Ilkka proclaims that Resolution 1 *was adopted* in both Dioceses.

Adjournment

Co-Chair Schnaare adjourned the Special Joint Convention meeting and invited the Liturgy Team to lead us in Prayer at the Conclusion of a Day of Discernment.

Respectfully submitted by:



Mrs. Angela Krueger

Secretary of Convention
Assistant to the Bishop
The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan



The Rev. Joel Turmo

Secretary of Convention
St. Timothy's, Richland
The Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan