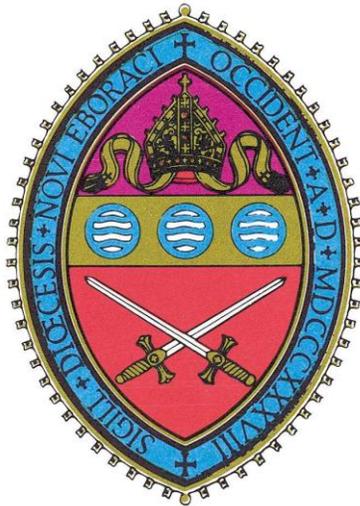


**JOURNAL**  
**OF THE**  
**ONE HUNDRED EIGHTIETH ANNUAL CONVENTION**  
**OF THE**  
**EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WESTERN NEW YORK**  
**OCTOBER 27 AND 28, 2017**



Held at: The Marriott Hotels & Resorts, Amherst, NY

Hosted by the Southern Erie Deanery

## **JOURNAL'S ELECTRONIC FORMAT**

By resolution of the 171<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention (2008), the Journal is published primarily in electronic form and is available on the web site of the Diocese at [www.episcopalwny.org](http://www.episcopalwny.org)

The Journal consists of Part 1: The Proceedings of the Convention and Part 2: The Documents of the Convention.

## **NOTICE OF THE 181<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WESTERN NEW YORK**

To all Clergy and to the Clerk of the Vestry or Clerk of the Advisory Council of vacant cures:

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 3 of Canon 2 of the Canons of this Diocese, that the 181<sup>st</sup> Convention of this Diocese shall be held on Friday and Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018, at the Conference Center in Niagara Falls, New York.

R. William Franklin, Bishop  
October 29, 2017

## **THE MISSION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WESTERN NEW YORK**

### Diocesan Council Statement

The Episcopal Diocese of Western New York accepts Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord, proclaims Him to be the Head of this Diocese, and claims it to be the mission of this Diocese to live and proclaim by word and deed the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

# Journal, Part One: Proceedings of the Convention

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AT MARRIOTT HOTELS & RESORTS,  
AMHERST, NEW YORK

*Friday, October 27 2017*

### **REGISTRATION OF DELEGATES AND OPEN HEARINGS**

Members began to register at 9:00 a.m.

#### **MEETINGS: 9:30 a.m. to 11:50 a.m.**

**Budget Hearing:** Between 9:30 a.m. to 10:10 a.m., Diocesan Council Members, assisted by the Budget Committee, provided information and led discussion of the proposed 2018 Diocesan Budget.

**Constitution and Canons Hearing:** Between 10:20 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., the Constitution and Canons Committee Members provided information and led discussion regarding the resolutions to be brought before this Convention.

**Resolutions Hearing:** Between 11:10 a.m. to 11:50 a.m., The Resolutions Committee provided information and led discussion regarding the resolutions to be brought before this Convention.

Lunch was served between noon and 1 p.m.

### **ORGANIZATION AND FIRST LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

*Friday, October 27, 2017 – 1:15 p.m. Ballroom*

**CALL TO ORDER** – The Rt. Rev. R. William Franklin, Eleventh Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Western New York, called to order the One Hundred Eightieth Annual Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America in the Diocese of Western New York on the day, place, and time appointed.

**OPENING PRAYERS** – The Bishop introduced The Rev. Jackie Ross Brown, senior pastor at New Covenant Church of Christ in Buffalo, who will serve as Chaplain. She provided the opening prayer.

**HEAD TABLE** – The Bishop presided as President of Convention. Seated with the Bishop on the platform were: The Rev. Vicki Zust, Chair of the Committee on Dispatch of Business, also serving as timekeeper; Cheryl Fisher, Esq., Chancellor of the Diocese; Mr. Robert Matson, Treasurer of the Diocese and Mr. Howard Gondree, Secretary of the Diocese.

**WELCOME OF OUR GUESTS FROM THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA** - The Bishop asked the members of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania to stand and be recognized.

**THEME OF THE CONVENTION ANNOUNCED** – The Bishop said that the theme of this Convention is *A New Reformation: Faith, Grace, Proclamation and Transformation*. Sunday October 31st is the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the door of Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. This event was the beginning of what became known as the Protestant Reformation.

Four words are being used to define the major themes of the Reformation:

- Faith- calling the church back to the Gospel, to the basics of the faith;
- Grace- moving the focus of the church from obeying law to receiving grace;
- Proclamation- using the newest communication technology of the day to speak in the language of the people;
- Transformation- transforming the relationship between the church and state and the way people related to each other.

**REPORT ON CREDENTIALS** – All congregations in attendance are in compliance. A report from the credentials committee of congregations not in compliance is not required.

**CERTIFICATION OF A QUORUM** – Mr. Howard F. Gondree, Secretary of the Convention, reported that 55 clergy and 125 lay members of convention representing 48 congregations had registered prior to the call to order of Convention, with registration still continuing for late arrivals, and that there was a quorum. The Bishop then announced that the Convention was organized.

**ELECTION OF A SECRETARY AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES** – The Bishop called upon the Chair of the Committee on the Dispatch of Business for nominations for Secretary of the Diocese and Convention. The Rev. Vicki Züst nominated Mr. Howard F. Gondree. There being no further nominations, he was declared elected. The following were then appointed by the Secretary to serve as Assistant Secretaries of Convention: Mrs. Marjorie Gingell, Assistant for Registration, and The Rev. John Paul Boyer, Assistant Parliamentarian.

**APPOINTMENT OF INSPECTORS AND TELLERS** – The Bishop appointed Ms. Nancy Boncore as Chief Teller. Susan Broad, Ann Burroughs, Kelly Giordano, Hannah Holden, Jana Hunt, Kathy Reiss, and Paula Stockman as assistant tellers. And the Bishop empowered Nancy Boncore to appoint additional assistant tellers as necessary.

**AGENDA DOCUMENT 1** – The Bishop recognized The Rev. Vicki Züst, Chair of the Committee on Dispatch of Business. She moved that the Agenda be adopted, and a second was received. Motion carried. Agenda Adopted.

DOCUMENT 1  
*180<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention Agenda*  
*October 27-28, 2017*  
*A New Reformation: Faith, Grace, Proclamation & Transformation*

Friday October 27

9–12 Registration  
9:30 – 10:10 Budget Hearing  
10:20 – 11:00 Constitution & Canons Hearing  
11:10 –11:50 Resolutions Hearing  
12–1 Lunch  
1:15 Organization and First Session  
Opening Prayer  
Welcome Guests from Northwestern Pennsylvania & outline theme  
Call To Order and Organization  
Report on Credentials  
    Action on delinquent congregations  
Certification of Quorum  
Announcement of Organization  
Election of Secretary and appointment of assistant secretaries  
Appointment of Tellers  
Report on Dispatch of Business  
    Agenda  
Recognition of First Time Delegates  
Courtesy Seats  
Greeting from Host Deanery: Southern Erie  
Introduction of New & Retiring Clergy  
Table Discussion:  

- Describe a time in your life when your faith was really important?
- What are the key pieces of your faith? Why?

  
Break  
Nominations  
    Report of Nominating Committee  
    Nominations from the floor  
    Seconding speeches  
Voting procedures and first ballot  
Appointment of Committees  
    Consent for COM  
Stories of congregations and ministries followed by table discussion  
Report of Elections Committee & Second Ballot  
Bishop’s Address & Remarks from Bishop Rowe  
Table Discussion  
Report of Second Ballot  
Prayers  
5:30 Eucharist at St. Andrew’s, Buffalo –  
7:30 Banquet

Saturday October 28

- 8:00 Registration  
9:30 Call to Order  
Implicit Bias – Dr. Ursuline Bankhead  
Receipt of Regular Annual Reports  
Eaton Camp Report  
12:00 Prayers & Lunch  
1:30 Report of the Resolutions Committee  
Report of the Constitution and Canons Committee  
Youth Report  
Proposed Budget for 2016 (2:30 time certain)  
Receipt by Title of Business not previously submitted  
Discussion of Business not previously submitted  
Follow up on matters from 179<sup>th</sup> Convention  
Other Business  
Closing Resolutions  
Adjournment

**RECOGNITION OF FIRST TIME DELEGATES** - All were asked to stand.

**COURTESY SEATS** – The Committee on Dispatch of Business then moved DOCUMENT 2, which was seconded and adopted.

**DOCUMENT 2**

**Resolved**, that the following persons – members of the Clergy resident or licensed in the Diocese but not meeting the conditions of Article III, Section 2 of the Constitution and Canon of the Diocese of Western New York – be granted the courtesy of seat and voice in the 180<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese of Western New York

Robert Duerr  
Julian Eibin  
Richard Elberfeld  
Carole Grant-White  
Ann Markle  
Max Myers  
John Seib

**Be it resolved**, that the 180<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese of Western New York extend floor privileges and voice to all lay persons not otherwise serving as delegates who are:

Deputies or Alternate Deputies to General Convention  
Trustees of the Diocese  
Members of the Standing Committee  
Members of the Diocesan Council  
Assistant Secretaries of the Diocese  
Assistant Treasurers of the Diocese  
Chairs of the Resolution, Nominating and Constitution and Canons Committees

Members of the Board of the Episcopal Partnership for Mission and Outreach

**Be it resolved**, that the 180<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese of Western New York extend floor privileges and voice to all registered visitors from the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania, clergy or lay.

**GREETING FROM THE HOST DEANERY** – The Very Rev. Ann Tillman, Rector of St. Matthias’ East Aurora has accepted the Bishop’s appointment as Dean of the Southern Erie Deanery upon the retirement of long-time dean Gary Schindler. She brought greetings from the Southern Erie Deanery.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW & RETIRING CLERGY:**

The Bishop announced the following clergy changes:

*Retired since the last convention:* The Rev. Robert Arnold; the Rev. Karen Gough; the Rev. Allison Martin; the Very Rev’d Canon Gloria Payne Carter; the Very Rev’d Gary Schindler

*Ordained since the last convention:* The Rev. Deacon Susan Firestine; the Rev. Deacon Diana Leiker; the Rev. Pilar Padron (who will be ordained to the priesthood in December; he is serving in the Diocese of Virginia); the Rev. Bo Reynolds (who will be ordained to the priesthood in December and is serving in the Diocese of New York)

*Transferred into the diocese since the last convention:* The Rev. Samuel Colley-Toothaker, rector of Grace Lockport; The Rev. Robert Harvey, rector of Calvary Williamsville.

Welcomed was The Rev. Howard “Doc” Whitaker, who served as priest consultant at St. Peter’s, Niagara Falls and who will be serving as priest consultant at Trinity, Hamburg and St. Paul’s, Springville beginning in mid-November. He has not transferred into the diocese.

*Died:* The Convention was asked to stand for a moment of silence to remember the following clergy who died since the last Convention: The Rev. Philip Houghton; the Rev. Lawrence Schuster. The Bishop prayed for them.

**TABLE DISCUSSION:**

The focus of this discussion was Faith. At the tables the delegates were asked to consider the following questions:

- Describe a time in your life when your faith was really important.
- What are the key pieces of your faith? Why are these important?

The discussion was scheduled to last eight minutes.

**BREAK ANNOUNCED;** Convention was to reassemble at 2:00pm.

The Bishop called convention back into session.

**NOMINATIONS:**

The Chair then called upon Dispatch of Business to review the nominating procedure.

The Chair then recognized the Rev. Archdeacon Tom Tripp to give the report of the Nominating Committee.

Nominated by the Nominating Committee were:

For Standing Committee in the clerical order (one cleric for a 4-year term to be elected): The Rev. Lillian Davis-Wilson; the Rev. Luke Fodor; The Rev. Thomas J. Mitchell.

For the Standing Committee in the lay order (one lay person for a 4-year term to be elected): Mr. Eric Boron from St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Grand Island.

To serve as a Trustee of the Diocese (one cleric for a 2-year term): The Rev. Samuel S. Colley-Toothaker.

To serve as a Trustee of the Diocese (two lay persons for a 3-year term): Karen L. Gengo from St. Patrick's, Cheektowaga; Art Henning from St. Paul's, Harris Hill.

For the Diocesan Council (one cleric for a 3-year term one cleric for a 1-year term): The Rev. Lillian Davis-Wilson; The Rev. Bonnie F. Morris.

For the Diocesan Council (two lay persons for a 3-year term; one lay person for a 2-year term): Reid R. Heffner from St. Paul's Cathedral; Sue Stanislawski from St. Patrick's, Cheektowaga.

The Chair then recognized Mr., Jim Isaac, President of the Standing Committee, to report the nominees for the Disciplinary Board:

For the Disciplinary Board (one cleric for a 3-year term): The Rev. Lillian Davis-Wilson; The Rev. Randi Hicks Rowe; The Rev. Thomas Mitchell.

For the Disciplinary Board (one lay person for a 3-year term): Rose Sconiers, St. Philip's, Buffalo.

The Bishop then called for nominations from the floor for each position.

Further Nominations for Standing Committee: none. Nominations were closed.

Further Nominations for Trustee: none. Nominations were closed.

Further Nominations for Diocesan Council: Cheryl Mayum-Krull by Catherine Way. Nominations were closed.

Alternate General Convention in both orders: None. Nominations were closed.

Further Nominations for Disciplinary Board: none. Nominations were closed.

The Chair of the Committee on Dispatch of Business was then recognized to move to dispense seconding speeches for positions which are not contested or need to rank in terms of service. Motion passed.

The Floor was opened for seconding speeches for Standing Committee in the clergy order. John Paul Boyer seconded the nomination Thomas Mitchell. Earl King seconded the nomination Luke Fodor. Rose Sconiers seconded Deacon Lillian Davis-Wilson. Bonnie Morris seconded the nomination of Thomas Mitchell. Tom Broad seconded the nomination of Luke Fodor. Kim Rossi seconded the nomination of Lillian Davis-Wilson.

Seconding speeches for the Diocesan Council: Ann Tillman seconded Bonnie Morris. Michael Bonia from St. Paul's Cathedral seconded Reid Heffner. Elizabeth Bruza-Hughes from St. Paul's Harris Hill seconded Cheryl Maytum-Krull. Alison Martin seconded Susan Stanislawski. Cary Evans from Calvary Williamsville seconded Bonnie Morris. Karen Hardy for Sue Stanislawski

Seconding speeches for the Disciplinary Board in the clergy order Colleen O'Connor seconded Randy Hicks Rowe.

After the seconding speeches had concluded, the Chair of the Committee on Dispatch of Business was then called upon to move that the Secretary cast a single ballot for uncontested positions or where a vote is not necessary to determine length of term, which were for the Standing Committee in the Lay Order and Trustees. Motion carried.

The Bishop then called upon Ms. Nancy Boncore, Chief Teller, to give voting instructions. Voting then commenced.

## **APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES**

The Bishop announced his appointments to the following committees:

### Commission on Ministry (6 clergy, 6 lay)

|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| The Rev. Canon Cathy Dempsey-Sims (2023) | Ms. Catherine Way, Chair (2023) |
| The Rev. Deacon Cathy Smith (2022)       | Ms. Shanna Matson (2022)        |
| The Rev. Terry Bull (2021)               | Ms. Andrea Szymanski (2021)     |
| The Rev. Deacon Leann McConchie (2020)   | Mr. Larry Mazuchowski (2020)    |
| The Rev. Wayne Knockel (2019)            | Mr. Jim Holton (2019)           |
| The Rev. Karen Gough (2018)              | Ms. Beth Boran (2018)           |

### Constitution and Canons

|  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| The Very Rev. Earle King, Chair (2021) | Ms. Cheryl Fisher (2021)     |
| The Rev. Russell A. Newbert (2020)     | Ms. Alexandra Tamutus (2020) |
| The Rev. Thomas Mitchell (2019)        | Mr. E.J. Graywna (2019)      |
| The Rev. Joseph Kozlowski (2018)       | Mr. Arthur Russ, Jr. (2018)  |

Disciplinary Board

The Rev. Judith Lee (2019)  
The Rev. Allison Martin (2019)  
The Rev. Kim Rossi, Chair (2018)  
Mr. Patrick Maloney, Church Attorney

Mr. Thomas Lochner (2019)  
Ms. Elizabeth Killian (2018)  
  
The Rev. Vicki Zust, Intake Officer

Dispatch of Business

The Rev. Vicki Zust, Chair  
Mr. Howard Gondree, Secretary of Convention

Mr. Michael Brown

Anti-Racism & Diversity Commission

The Hon. Rose Sconiers is heading the reorganization of the Commission

Commission on Compensation

Ms. Barabara Northan, Chair  
Mr. Howard Gondree, ex officio  
The Rev. Canon Cathy-Dempesy-Sims

Ms. Judy Elliott  
The Rev. Vicki Zust

Joint Board of Examining Chaplains, WNY Members

The Rev. Deacon Rocky Dworak  
The Rev. Luke Fodor

The Rev. Vicki Zust

Finance Committee

Mr. Robert Matson, Treasurer of the Diocese  
Ms. Judy Elliott  
Mr. Carl Otis  
The Rev. Canon Colleen O'Connor  
Mr. Howard Gondree, Consultant

The Rev. Russell A. Newbert  
Mr. Robert Firestine  
The Rev. Deacon Pete Dempesy-Sims  
  
Ms. Maria Manocchio, Staff

Nominating Committee

The Ven. Thomas Tripp, Chair  
The Rev. Sare Anuszkiewicz  
Ms. Cheri Maytum-Krull

Mrs. Dorothy Pope  
Ms. Josephine Robbins

Resolutions Committee

Ms. Elisabeth Brauza-Hughes, Chair  
The Rev. Harry Grace  
Mr. Jason Miller

The Rev. Bonnie Morris  
Mr. Graham Millar

Worship Commission

The Rev. Canon Cathy Dempesy-Sims, Chair  
Ad hoc groups assembles on an as needed basis

Upon motion and then seconded the convention approved the Bishops appointees to the Commission on Ministry.

## **APPOINTMENT OF DEANS**

The Bishop announced the appointment of the following as deans:

|                        |                                  |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Central Erie Deanery   | The Very Rev. Ellen Brauza       |
| Chautauqua Deanery     | The Very Rev. Thomas Broad       |
| Cattaraugus Deanery    | The Very Rev. Thomas Broad       |
| Eastern Erie Deanery   | The Very Rev. Barbara Price      |
| Genesee Region Deanery | The Very Rev. Colleen O'Connor   |
| Niagara Deanery        | The Very Rev. Earle C. King, Jr. |
| Northern Erie Deanery  | The Very Rev. Earle C. King, Jr. |
| Southern Erie Deanery  | The Very Rev. Ann Tillman        |

## **STORIES FROM CONGREGATIONS AND MINISTRIES**

The Bishop then stated that the Annual Convention provides us an opportunity to hear one another's stories and to be inspired by one another. He then asked members of the convention to get up and move to a table where there are no other members of your congregation so we can use this as an opportunity to get to know each other a little better.

The Bishop then invited Luke Fodor from St. Luke's in Jamestown to tell a story. Rev. Fodor talked about honest conversations being effective in changing the world. Truth telling is a job of the church. The Winged Ox Players at St. Luke's facilitates honest conversations about drug addiction. Least Resistance is a play written locally and performed by the Winged Ox players. Each table was asked to take five minutes to discuss how these thoughts can affect the work you do in your own congregations.

The Bishop then asked Sam Colley-Toothaker from Grace Church Lockport to tell a second story. He cited the history of Grace Lockport. Recently there were 17 people in attendance as opposed to 600 or so in the past. A focus on buildings but a conflict arose and a separation occurred and the cycle continued. Our work is drawing people into a relationship with God. It isn't about care of buildings. Grace is a story of resurrection. We have a God of second, third and fourth chances. Grace Church has chosen to address the needs of their community. The best way to address poverty is through education. The parish has a multi-pronged approach. In Sept 2018 they will launch Grace Episcopal Day School. A virtual platform will allow students from a greater geographic area to attend. A curriculum will allow all of our small churches to have a Christian education program virtually. Nutritional training will create better health. A capital campaign has already raised \$480,000 from parishioners alone. Huge risks are being taken, but they are determined to succeed. The 17 have grown to 60 with an active group of 80-100. If we can step out in hope and grace, then anyone can do it. Each table was asked to take five minutes to discuss how these thoughts can affect the work you do in your own congregations.

The Bishop then asked Archdeacon Tom Tripp, Deacon Diana Leiker, and Deacon Joanne Frake, to tell us about their *Welcoming the Stranger* project. This outreach project is the beneficiary of a \$20,000 grant from the Diocesan Council for a collaboration of two churches with Journey's End. *Welcoming the Stranger* is to involve in three areas of refugee resettlement. Joanne and Diana then summarized progress to date. *Welcome Table* uses ESL classes with a meal to share. Lafayette is an international high school, one of three that are community partnership schools. On Saturday morning the school is open for fun activities. Volunteers serve lunch. Joann Frake reminded everyone that the *Refugees Welcome* book sent to every congregation. *Welcome Home* sets up a home and monitors their needs for six months; this is an ecumenical project. Congregations were asked to become involved.

### **TABLE DISCUSSION:**

Table discussions then occurred.

### **BREAK ANNOUNCED**

### **THE BISHOP'S ADDRESS**

The Bishop made his annual address to the Convention. The full text is found in Part 2 of the Journal of the Convention – Documents.

The Bishop then recognized Jim Isaac, President of the Standing Committee, to talk about some of the details of the proposal for collaboration between this diocese and the Episcopal Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania. We are jointly and severally entering into conversations which will be open. We are asking the questions, but we do not yet have the answers. The Standing Committees of both dioceses have targeted a discernment process between November through May 2018, when a decision will be made. That date was selected because if the decision is “no go”, then the standard process for selecting a bishop needs to be initiated.

### **REMARKS OF BISHOP SEAN ROWE, BISHOP OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA**

Bishop Rowe suggested that the road to a decision on the way forward will be uncomfortable. He talked about the Israelites leaving the fertile Nile and wandering on the way to the Promised Land. It took them a long time, they got side-tracked on the way, but the journey was necessary. He sees this discussion and the resulting decision as a mission, a chance to lead the church in a new way. He suggested that if we do it for institutional purposes, or to save money, it shouldn't be done. It should only be done if it advances the mission of the church.

### **TABLE DISCUSSION:**

The focus of this discussion was the proposal to collaborate with Northwestern Pennsylvania. The Bishop asked the tables to discuss the following questions for five minutes:

- What excites you about the possibility of collaboration with Northwestern Pennsylvania?

- What questions do you have?

After the discussion, the Bishop opened the floor for comments or questions for twenty minutes. Speakers were to be given two minutes and were asked not to rise to speak a second time until there are no others who are waiting to speak for the first time.

Delegates were instructed to take everything, because the room will be reset for dinner. The results of the first ballot will be announced tomorrow morning. Buses will leave for the church as they are full.

RECESS 4:45PM.

### **CONVENTION EUCHARIST at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Buffalo.**

The United Thank Offering of \$13,875.04 was collected.

The Convention Offering of \$1,101.10 was collected and will be used to support the St. Matthias' Pet Food Pantry in East Aurora, NY.

### **THE BISHOP'S SERMON**

The text is found in Part 2 of the Journal of the Convention – Documents.

### **RECEPTION**

Snacks and Beverages were served.

### **BANQUET (Ballroom) 7:30**

Grace was led by the Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe

### **Web of Grace Awards**

The Bishop presented this year's Web of Grace Awards to awardees who persons who connect us into a unity, thus strengthening the Web of Grace. The awards celebrate our connection with one another within the church and the connection of the church with our community. The Web of Grace is a metaphor for the community around us.

Lay persons:

Karen Gengo

Howard Gondree.

James Isaac

Josephine Robbins

Clergy:

Sare Anuszkiewicz

Charles Deacon

Julian Eibin

Helen Sam

In addition, the Bishop presented an icon to Bishop Sean Rowe.

The banquet concluded at 9:00 pm.

AT MARRIOTT HOTELS & RESORTS,  
AMHERST, NEW YORK

*Saturday, October 28, 2017*

**SECOND LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

*Saturday, October 29 – Ballroom*

8:00 Registration took place in the Foyer.

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Second Legislative Session was called to order by the Bishop at 9:30 AM.

**PRAYER**

The Chaplain, Pastor Ross Brown, was asked to lead the Convention in prayer. The Bishop reported that 237 Delegates met at St. Andrews for worship yesterday. There was a request for more time this morning to talk about cooperation with Northwestern Pennsylvania. He has added an hour for that discussion this morning.

**RESULTS OF THE FIRST BALLOT**

The Bishop called upon Nancy Boncore, Chief Teller, to announce the results of the first ballot.

Ms. Boncore reiterated that the following positions were uncontested and therefore elected by one vote of the Secretary:

Eric Boron to a 4-year term on the Standing Committee in the lay order.

Samuel S. Colley-Toothaker to a 2-year term as Trustee in the clerical order.

Karen Gengo and Art Henning to a 3-year term as Trustees in the lay order.

Rose Sconiers to a 3-year term on the Disciplinary Board in the lay order.

Ms Boncore reported that 191 ballots were cast. Nine were invalid and 182 were valid. Therefore a majority needed for an election was 92

*Standing Committee Results in Clerical Order*

Lillian Davis Wilson 56; Luke Fodor 82; Thomas Mitchell 38

Standing Committee in the Clerical Order will require another (preferential) ballot.

*Diocesan Council Results in the Clerical Order*

Lillian Davis Wilson 74; Bonnie Morris 103

Bonnie Morris is elected to a 3-year term; Lillian Davis Wilson receives a 1-year term

*Diocesan Council Results in the Lay Order*

Reid Heffner 91; Sue Stanislawski 108; Sheri Makum-Krull 100

Sue Stanislawski receives a 3-year term; Sheri Makum-Krull receives a 2-year term.

### *Disciplinary Board Results in the Clerical Order*

Randi Hicks Rowe 70; Lillian Davis-Wilson 36; Thomas Mitchell 63

Disciplinary Board will require another (preferential) ballot.

Preferential ballots were then distributed.

### **PRESENTATION: Implicit Bias – Dr. Ursuline Bankhead**

The focus of this presentation related to Transformation. The Bishop noted that one of the ways we transform the world is for us to confront our own biases and how they impact our behavior and our world. He introduced Dr. Ursuline Bankhead, a psychologist with a background in family therapy and multicultural and diversity issues. She is a member of Trinity Church, Buffalo. She presented at the Warden and Vestry Day in February and many people asked if she could do her full presentation on this issue at the Convention.

### **DISCUSSION: COLLABORATION WITH EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NORTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA**

The Bishop responded to requests he had received from delegates for more time for comments on this issue by adding this time to our agenda. The document: *Considering a Shared Future: The Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania and the Diocese of Western New York* had been distributed to delegates.

The Bishop asked Jim Isaac to manage the discussion, which will end at noon. There are not time limits, but the Bishop asked everyone to be respectful of allowing others to speak. The timeline for the “post-conventions phase” is the “discernment phase” running from November to sometime in May. There will be workshops set up for sharing information and concerns. During that same time the Standing Committee will put structure around the process and develop profiles for both dioceses. The data and information gathered will be used by the two Standing Committees to make a “go” or “no-go” decision. If they decide to go ahead, the “implementation phase” will start. We will move toward Convention, which would be when an election would be held. After that Convention there would be planning on the retirement and what the Episcopacy would look like in the future.

Bishop Rowe also was at the head table to respond to questions. Bishop Rowe described his relationship with the Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem. The Presiding Bishop consulted with that Standing Committee and Bishop Rowe was invited by the Presiding Bishop to be Bishop Provisional. His goal in that relationship is to bring about healing, financial transparency, and mission. The goal is to get them on their feet and allow them to call their own bishop. The contemplated relationship with Western New York has a different goal. The two relationships are similar only in that they both involving sharing a bishop.

In answer to a question about availability of the Bishop under the new arrangement. Bishop Rowe said that has not been a problem. A visitor from Northwestern Pennsylvania confirmed that was her experience.

There was a question about staff. Bishop Rowe said all staff would work for the Bishop. The situation of what staff would be needed will require an assessment. There is duplication and it is likely to change. Jim Isaac said there is no structure in place at the moment, so it is too early to speculate on what that structure will look like.

There was a question about voting at the Convention at the electing convention. The election would be by the Convention of the Diocese of Western New York which would be a vote by orders. Bishop Rowe said he was the only person on the ballot in Bethlehem and he didn't get all of the votes.

Bishop Rowe was asked why he felt called to do this. He said he believes that he is a missionary bishop. He has had offers to "better" his role from being Bishop of one of the smallest dioceses in the church; he has thirty years until retirement. He could move, but the people of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania are "his people". He has just moved into Erie, which is a horrible decision. He said "what you see is what you get".

The Rev. Samuel Colley-Toothaker said we all live in change. Parishes thrive because they step out of their comfort zone. Parishes are adaptive, responding to change rather than reacting to change. He wanted someone to talk about adaptive change. Jim Isaac said he has found that stepping out of the model we are in and into something else results in potential ministry. The two dioceses have different strengths and different troubles and by working together we can move forward.

A visitor from NWPA and a member of the joint board of Examining Chaplains, said they are willing to be anxious in order to move forward. The conversations will be magnified. The chaplains by being together have allowed increased capacity and we can learn our way through this. He referred to us as a twentieth century church in a nineteenth century tradition.

John Paul Boyer believes that there are currently anxieties about this idea being imposed from above. Will there be walkabouts and meetings in the different parts of the diocese, giving people the sense of participation? Will there be opportunities structured to allow something like that to occur? People should feel a sense of ownership and participation in the selection. Ample time, ample opportunity. Jim Isaac said he doubted there would be walkabouts, but there will be meetings and opportunities. Bishop Rowe will be meeting with leadership and also meeting people around the diocese.

Mike Lonto asked if Bishop Rowe is a Steelers fan. Bishop Rowe said he has friends that are Bills fans and friends that are Steelers fans and he agreed with his friends.

Karen Hardy asked about the criteria for the "go" no-go decision. Milestones should have visibility. Jim Isaac said the criteria are being developed.

Blair Mazakowski asked what the mission opportunities are. Rowe said we need to learn and pray our way through. We need a variety of conversation partners to dream about mission. We could entirely rethink how we work together. Since there is no book written about this, his hope is that we will write the book about a new way to proclaim the diocese arising from the richness of the two dioceses.

Bonnie Morris said we have a marvelous structure for the Episcopal Church that worked well in 1950 but not so much now. She is excited about the room which this might create for the work of the gospel. Her question is about process. Do we need the extra time between May and October?

Barbara Price is experimenting with a clergy team between Youngstown and Lewiston. It's a new thing and excited about the creative possibilities of the team. The opportunities of this creating out of chaos is exciting. Let's make room for the spirit. We don't know what the future holds, but we know who holds the future.

A visitor from NWPA from Ascension in Bradford, commented that Bishop Rowe is over-functioning when it comes to connectivity. She noticed that we seem to be talking more about structure and process rather than discernment. That is concerning to her. She believes we should be considering this issue primarily as a relationship between us as dioceses, not about Bishop Sean and his gifts. Let us create space for us to talk with one another and about shared ministry.

Colleen O'Connor spoke in favor of the opportunity. Her experience on the Diocesan Council has led her believe that the Council hears ideas but says the resources are lacking. This is an opportunity to free up resources. About a third of the diocesan budget is salaries. If staff resources are optimized, the funding of opportunities for mission could be increased.

## **RESULTS OF THE PREFERENTIAL BALLOT**

Nancy Boncore was recognized for results of the balloting.

In the election of a cleric to a four-year term on the Standing Committee, Ms. Boncore announced that Luke Fodor has been elected. There were 180 votes cast, all valid, making 91 required for election. The results were Luke Fodor 99, Lillian Davis Wilson 49 and Tom Mitchell 32.

In the election of a lay person to a 3-year term on the Disciplinary Committee there were 180 votes cast; one was invalid and 179 were valid. No person reached a majority on the count of first preferences. When the second preference was added Tom Mitchell was elected with 138 votes. Randi Hicks Rowe received 125 votes and Lillian Davis Wilson received 95 votes.

## **PRAYERS BEFORE LUNCH AND RECESS**

Pastor Ross Brown led Convention in prayer before the noon meal. The Bishop announced that there would be a short video on the Eaton Camp presented during the luncheon. Convention was then recessed.

AT MARRIOTT HOTELS & RESORTS,  
AMHERST, NEW YORK

*Saturday, October 28, 2017*

### **THIRD LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

*Saturday, October 29 – Ballroom*

**CALL TO ORDER:** The Third Legislative Session was called to order by the Bishop at 1:11 PM.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Bishop then called on the Chair of Dispatch of Business for announcements.

The Calendar girls from the south are available for calendar pickup or orders.

Friends from Northwestern Pennsylvania invite all to their convention; registration can be done online.

**RECEIPT OF REGULAR ANNUAL REPORTS:** The Secretary was then recognized and requested that the reports of the Canonical Bodies, Commissions and Committees of the Diocese received by the Secretary be received by Convention and reported in the Journal of this Convention. Without objection, it was so ordered. These reports are found in Part 2 of the Journal of the Convention.

#### **RULES OF ORDER FOR DEBATE**

The Chair of Dispatch reviewed the rules for debate.

#### **RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE**

Elizabeth Brauza Hughes, Chair of the Resolutions Committee presented Document 6.

#### **DOCUMENT 6**

The Role of the Church in Addressing Addiction(s)

**Be it resolved,** that the Diocese of Western New York affirms the need for exercising a healing ministry to those whose lives are affected by addiction. The Diocese has a moral and ethical responsibility to:

1. Speak to the cultural norms that promote addiction,
2. Promote spiritual practices as one means of prevention and healing,
3. Collaborate with qualified community resources offering services for prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery, and collaborate with community resources offering these services, and to respond with pastoral care and accountability to those impacted by addiction(s).

**Be it further resolved,** that the Diocese of Western New York work to address most effectively the prevention, intervention/diversion, education, advocacy, treatment, and recovery needs of those associated with the congregations of the Diocese and the communities in which they are located.

**Be it further resolved,** that the congregations of the Diocese work to identify recovery-related needs in their communities and seek to address them. This would include such efforts as hosting 12 Step meetings, offering babysitting at the church during those meetings, offering educational programs to the congregation, having dedicated “Recovery Sunday” each year, etc.

**Be it further resolved,** that the Diocesan Recovery Commission assist congregations with educational resources and programs and in other ways support the implementation of this resolution at the Diocesan and congregational levels.

Document 6 was then moved and seconded, discussion followed.

Deacon Steve Lane, said a church wide committee in Salt Lake City asked each diocese to put these resolutions in effect. These resolutions make it ok not to drink. They are not anti-drinking resolutions.

Document 6 was approved.

Elizabeth Brauza Hughes, Chair of the Resolutions Committee presented Document 7.

## **DOCUMENT 7**

### Alcohol Use Policies of The Diocese Of Western New York

**Be it resolved,** the Diocese of Western New York adopts the proposed Alcohol Use Policy as developed by the Diocesan Recovery Commission.

**Be it further resolved,** that the vestry of each congregation in the Diocese of Western New York be encouraged to adopt and sign a parochial copy of the aforementioned policy, and submit a copy to the Diocese of Western New York by March 1, 2018.

The chair of the Resolutions Committee then moved Document 7 which was thereafter seconded. It was suggested, and without objection, discussion will be to the supplemental document first. The supplemental document was submitted with Document 7 and discussed but not acted upon by the convention.

Rice, Orchard Park asked what is “exclusively normative activity”? Kim Rossi replied that the commission went over the document and put it in order so it could be adopted. Terms can be defined locally. It was not proscriptive in its details. It can match the culture, activities and mission of each congregation. The document is hoped to spur conversation. Normative means recurring. Alcohol is not to become a part of the life of the church which makes it inseparable from life in the church.

Sare Anuszkiewicz said we are hospitality as a church. Part of that is an openness and safety for newcomers and making a place for them in the family. Lines 1-15 is assures that the family has healthy values. The most important thing is not the alcohol.

Matt Lincoln states that the parish had its own wine tasting event as a fundraiser. The event was advertised as coming together for the purpose of drinking alcohol, which is unsafe. If the drinking is a side activity and non-alcoholic beverages are also present, that is ok.

Eddie Lock, Riverside said, parents should be responsible for children’s safety. He recommends approval as it is presented.

Earle King said the Vestry should adopt, and not edit the documents. Barbara Price very much wants the “spirit” of the document, no pun intended. The Episcopal Church is more in the center on use of alcohol. Late teens to late 20s is when the addictive behavior manifests itself. This is an opportunity to model wholeness and health without these substances.

John Paul has been in recovery for many years. He supports the general thrust of the documents. Clergy Jane Mack, Riverside said her husband is vulnerable, she urges delegated to vote yes.

Closing comments by the Recovery Commission. Kim Rossi said, she knows about alcohol becoming a primary element of life. This is an attempt to deal with the issue in a responsible way becoming healthy churches.

Resolution 7 then passed.

The Resolution Committee then presented Document 8

## **DOCUMENT 8**

### ***Contract of Merger Between Church of the Ascension, Buffalo & Church of the Good Shepherd, Buffalo***

Church of the Ascension and Church of the Good Shepherd, both currently worshipping at 96 Jewett Parkway, Buffalo, New York, 14214 wish to merge.

Following the merger the congregation will operate as one congregation under the Canons of the Episcopal Church, the Canons of the Diocese of Western New York and New York State Religious Corporation Law.

There will be one vestry and one set of wardens for the congregation.

All members of Church of the Ascension and Church of the Good Shepherd will be members of the merged congregation.

The merged congregation will operate under the existing by-laws of the Church of the Good Shepherd.

Record books and service registers of the Church of the Ascension will be placed in the care of the merged congregation. Following the merge a single set of records will be maintained.

All assets and liabilities of Church of the Ascension will be assumed by the merged congregation.

The endowment of the Church of the Ascension will be managed for the benefit of the merged congregation.

The agreement that Church of the Ascension has with the Diocese of Western New York regarding the former Church of the Ascension property will be assumed by the merged congregation. The merged congregation will ensure that the terms of the agreement to have

\$100,000 on deposit with the Diocese of Western New York is met no later than 90 days after the approval of this contract by the Convention of the Diocese of Western New York. These funds will be managed by the Trustees of the Diocese of Western New York. Quarterly distributions of the proceeds of the investments will be made to the merged congregation according to the usual practice of the Trustees of the Diocese of Western New York. The Trustees reserve the right to review and approve any future changes in the beneficiary of this endowment.

The merged congregation will receive that payments of \$1000 per month for 10 years following a successful redevelopment of the North Street property in accordance with the agreement between the Church of the Ascension and the Trustees of the Diocese of Western New York.

Arrangements will be made by the merged congregation to provide for a weekly worship service in the style of worship of the Church of the Ascension for as long as there is interest in that service.

The merged congregation will continue to serve the needs of the community with the pet food pantry ministry for as long as that ministry reflects the needs of the community and the mission of the merged congregation.

The merged congregation will be called Church of the Good Shepherd.

The merged congregation will establish the Ascension Ministry Center at Jewett Hall.

A resolution of merger will be brought to the Convention of the Diocese of Western New York and approved by a vote by orders of the Convention.

Upon approval by Convention, the merger will take effect.

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Then Resolution was then moved and seconded. Discussion commenced.

Charlie Ohl, Senior Warden of Good Shepherd then spoke. He provided a history of the relationship of the two churches and the process of bringing the resolution to the convention.

Discussion was concluded and voting was by orders.

The resolution passed in both orders.

## **CONSTITUTION AND CANONS**

The Constitution and Canons Committee was then recognized and presented Document 9.

### **DOCUMENT 9**

Resolution to Amend Diocesan Constitution Article II, Section 1  
Annual Convention

**Be it resolved**, that Article II, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Diocese of Western New York be amended as follows:

§1. Annual Convention.

(1) Time and Place. There shall be a Convention of the clergy and laity, ~~in~~ of the Diocese of Western New York, according to provisions herein after made, which shall convene annually on the last Friday in October; provided, however, that if such Friday be the 31st day of that month, the Convention of that year shall convene the 24th day of October. The Convention shall be held in such place as shall be appointed by the Bishop or by the Ecclesiastical Authority for the time being. Should the designated place be outside the geographical bounds of the Diocese of Western New York the consent of the Diocesan Council shall be obtained. (2) ~~Change of Time and Place. The Bishop, or the Ecclesiastical Authority for the time being, shall have power to change the place of meeting of the Annual Convention after its first appointment; and the Bishop, or the Ecclesiastical authority for the time being, may with the consent of the Diocesan Council, change the time of meeting of any Annual Convention. The Bishop or the Ecclesiastical Authority for the time being, shall have the power to change the place of the meeting of the Annual Convention. Should the designated place be outside the geographical bounds of the Diocese of Western New York the consent of the Diocesan Council shall be obtained.~~

**Explanation**

Our Constitution currently does not give permission for a Diocesan Convention to take place outside the geographical bounds of our Diocese. We are close to the Diocese of Rochester (which once was a part of our Diocese), the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania, and the Diocese of Niagara. There currently are conversations in progress to have two joint Diocesan Conventions with the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania. The changes above would make it possible for us to meet jointly in the near future (potentially with the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania). And into the future, the change will permit other possible combinations, should that forward the mission and ministry of our Diocese.

This is a constitutional change and is a second reading. It would allow the Diocesan Convention to take place outside the geographical area of the diocese. It would facilitate moving to several adjacent dioceses.

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Then Earle King moved document 9, which was seconded.

Will Webb rose, on a point of humor. On a boat in Lake Erie or Lake Ontario?

Robin Kozlowski, Christ Church Lockport, said that the cost to delegates for travel is a concern. Congregations should be mindful of taking care of their delegates.

Vote was then taken by orders and the resolution passed in both orders.

The Constitutions and Canons Committee then presented Document 10.

## DOCUMENT 10

Revise Canon 9.3.(2)

**Be it resolved**, that Canon 9.3.(2) be revised as follows:

(2) Deanery Councils. Every deanery shall have a deanery council composed of each member of the Clergy canonically resident in the deanery, ~~the deanery Lay Member of Diocesan Council~~ and the lay delegates from each parish or mission to Diocesan Convention. Each deanery council shall meet at least twice per year. ~~One meeting shall be prior to the Annual Convention to review the Convention Agenda. In years in which the terms expire of the current Members of Diocesan Council from that deanery, the Deanery Council shall elect new Members to Diocesan Council.~~ The Deanery Council may also consider at such meeting, or at additional meetings during the year, any other matters of common concern to the parishes and missions of that deanery.

### Explanation

The phrase in the first deletion reflects our current canonical practice of not electing members of Diocesan Council by Deanery.

Regarding the second deletion, our diocese no longer prepares for Diocesan Convention via Deanery Pre-Convention Workshops. The deleted sentence simply changes our Canon to be in compliance with our practice.

Regarding the third deletion, previous action of our Diocesan Convention directed that elections of members of Diocesan Council not be done at the Deanery level. See Canon 9.2.(2).(d). The deletion brings the Canons into harmony.

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Then Earle King moved document 10 which was seconded.

This reflects the changes made in how members of the Council are elected. They are elected at large. This withdraws what is now conflicting language from the canons.

Vote was by orders and resolution passed in both orders.

The Constitutions and Canons Committee then presented Document 11.

## DOCUMENT 11

### A Resolution on the Standing Rules of Order of the Convention

**Be it resolved**, that the current text of Section XII. A. of the Standing Rules of Order of the Convention of this Diocese be amended to read as follows:

XII. A. Members of the Standing Committee, Deputies and Provisional Deputies to General Convention, members of Diocesan Council elected by Convention, and all other members of boards, committees, and commissions elected by Convention, both clerical and lay, must, in their election, receive a majority of the whole number of votes cast as such election; provided, that there shall be no election, except of a Secretary, unless there is present at the time of the balloting a majority of the Clerical Members and a majority of the Lay Members, who shall have appeared during the session of Convention and been admitted to seats. Those candidates who receive a majority of the whole votes cast shall be declared elected. If all positions being voted upon have not been filled by the end of the first ballot, those remaining shall be filled by ~~the following procedure, known as the preferential ballot~~ additional ballots, up to five ballots, or until the positions are filled. In the case of Provisional Deputies to General Convention, if they have still not been filled after the fifth ballot, the remaining shall be filled at the next Diocesan Convention.

**Be it further resolved**, that the entire Section XIII. of the current Standing Rules of Order of the Convention of this Diocese be deleted in full as follows:

~~XIII. A. Each Member of the Convention shall complete a preferential ballot by marking the numbers, in order, "1" to whatever number of candidates there shall be, his or her preference for each and every office to be filled by the election from the whole number of candidates; and every ballot on which the preferential numbering from among the whole number of candidates is incomplete shall, by that fact, be invalid. B. Using a tally sheet of appropriate proportions, the Tellers shall list vertically the names of candidates in the order in which they appear on the ballot. Columns to the right of the candidates' names shall be entitled: A, B, C and so on, to that letter of the alphabet equivalent to the number of positions to be filled. C. The preferences on every ballot shall be recorded on the tally sheet by crediting one vote in Column A to each candidate whose name is marked with a number not exceeding the number of positions to be filled, one vote in Column B to every candidate whose name is marked with a number next larger than the number of positions being filled and one vote in every succeeding column as the numbers indicating the voter's preference increases. D. The Tellers shall report the number of valid votes in each Order and the number of each Order cast for every candidate as shown in Column A. Every candidate whose total vote shall be a majority of all the valid votes shall thereupon be declared duly elected. E. If all the positions have not been filled, the Tellers shall then report in similar form the number of votes credited in Column B to each candidate who shall not have been elected and the total of all votes for~~

~~such candidate in Columns A and B. Candidates whose aggregate votes in Column A and B equal a majority of all the valid votes shall thereupon be declared elected, up to the number of positions remaining to be filled in the order of the highest aggregate vote received by each respectively. F. If any vacancies still remain to be filled, the Tellers shall report the votes received in the columns to the right of Column B, continuing the tally as above prescribed until all positions have been filled. Provisional Deputies to General Convention shall be chosen by continuing this procedure to the extent required to fill those positions.~~

**Be it further resolved,** that the current Sections XIV and XV of the current Standing Rules of Order of the Convention of this Diocese be renumbered as: XIII and XIV respectively.

### Explanation

This resolution has two purposes. The major one is to delete the entire Section XIII. A through F of the Standing Rules of Order (SRO) to discard the Preferential Balloting, and to update the SRO to reflect these changes.

“Preferential voting is a system of voting in which voters indicate their first, second, and lower choices of several candidates for a single office. If no candidate receives a majority, the second choices are added to the first choices until one candidate has a majority.” [Google explanation]

“What countries use preferential voting? In Australia, Ireland and Malta voters are requested to rank candidates in order of their preferences. In Switzerland and Luxembourg voters are allowed to cast two votes per candidate. Finally, preference voting systems differ in terms of the nature of intra-party choice, which may be either optional or compulsory.” [Google explanation]

From the above Google explanations, only a few democratic countries in the world use preferential voting in electing their representatives, legislatures, prime ministers or presidents. Papua New Guinea, Australia’s former colony and nearest neighbor, is another country that used preferential voting (PV) in their general elections. But after the 2002 general election, PNG abandoned the PV method for electing their candidates. In 2003, PNG adopted the limited preferential voting (LPV) instead. In a study of the PNG use of LPV, Nicole Haley of Australian National University, concluded with Ruben Kaiulo (PNG electoral commissioner), that “administering LPV elections is more costly and more complicated. With LPV there has been a five-fold increase in the current price of elections from K75 million in 2002 to 365 million in 2012 (Henderson and Boneo 2013:11). In addition, the return of writs was extended twice in both 2007 and 2012. Even with the widened support base LPV guarantees, more than 90% of PNG MPs are still elected by a minority of their constituents. Moreover, three-quarters of results would remain the same if a simple first-past-the-post count was applied, begging the question: Has LPV delivered the returns its proponents hoped for and can PNG afford to retain LPV?” [Austrian National University: *In Brief*, 2015/30a]

Preferential voting was adopted in this diocese when there were many parishes and a large pool of candidates running for elected offices. The diocese is now smaller and the pool of candidates has shrunk. It is absolutely, mathematically and statistically impossible not to fill all the positions contested after five ballots. And, if the Provisional Deputies to General Convention are not elected after the fifth ballot, this amendment makes provision for the remaining positions to be filled at the next Diocesan Convention.

Preferential voting is not used in our local, state and federal legislative processes; as well as at the General Convention where there are more candidates and ballots. We do not elect the Bishops of the Church by preferential voting either.

In conclusion, preferential voting is confusing to the voters. It involves a tedious counting procedure for counting votes, as it is done manually rather than electronically. Preferential voting is not reliable. It is subject to human errors, and in secular politics, it is subject to waste of money, corruption and fraud. Furthermore, many political scientists agree that preferential voting is very costly, more complicated and does not capture the actual intent of the voters.

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Earle King then moved document 11 which was seconded.

The Committee did not offer a recommendation. The proposer will open debate

Isaac Ihiasota spoke in favor of this change.

John Paul Boyer also spoke in favor saying preferential ballots are a bloody nuisance. In this matter Isaac's expertise should be respected.

Ellen Brauza spoke against saying she doesn't care what government does, we have used this system for a long time and it works well. Ballots take time to calculate. How long do you want convention to be? Don't change a system that works.

Tom Broad said if you listened to the vote counts, we elected someone that a majority of this house didn't want. Perhaps make an amendment or rephrase the language. Such as "additional ballots up to five" change to "additional ballots until the positions are filled" in line 17

Jim Isaac simply said "Promise kept".

Isaac Ihasota summed up his argument in favor of the change.

Amendments to the Standing Rules require a vote of two thirds. There were two thirds in favor.

Document 11 was voted on and was passed.

The Constitutions and Canons Committee, then presented Document 12.

## **DOCUMENT 12**

### Northern Region Deanery

**Be it resolved**, that the Northern Erie Deanery and the Niagara Deanery be combined into a single Deanery, to be called the Northern Region Deanery.

## Explanation

For quite a few years, the Northern Erie Deanery has consisted of only three congregations: St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Grand Island; Church of the Advent, Kenmore; and St. Mark's Church, North Tonawanda. The viability of such a small Deanery has rightly been questioned. Two years ago, Bishop Franklin asked that the Niagara Deanery and the Northern Erie Deanery "temporarily" meet as a single Deanery, which he called the Northern Region Deanery. That structure has worked well for both Deaneries. Since it appears that our Diocese will not be engaged in any deanery restructuring in the immediate future, the "temporary" Northern Region Deanery voted at their spring Deanery Council Meeting to be merged into a single Deanery.

The request from the combined Northern Erie and Niagara Deaneries was forwarded to Diocesan Council, as directed in Canon 9.3.(1). Diocesan Council has approved this request, and now we ask Diocesan Convention, as directed in Canon 9.3.(1), to approve the decision of Diocesan Council.

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Earle King then moved document 12, which was seconded, and it passed.

Pat Bradley is from Niagara Deanery said they have found so much commonality that this makes sense.

## DIOCESAN BUDGET

The Chair recognized Bob Matson, Treasurer of the Diocese. The budget document was moved and seconded. The Treasurer then reported on the document, which is set out in Part 2 of the Journal of the Convention.

## DOCUMENT 13

### 2018 Budget Resolution

**Resolved** that the Budget for the Program and Expenses of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Western New York in 2018, as proposed by the Diocesan Council and annexed to this resolution, is hereby adopted by this Convention; *and be it further*

**Resolved** that parish Vestries and mission Councils, in making the pledge required by Article III.3 (3) of the Constitution of the Diocese, shall also provide, in writing, an explanation for the level of the pledge.

Discussion followed:

Ginny Hemmer, St. Peters Eggertsville asked why the diocese spent \$15,000 on telephones as opposed to \$20,000 for 30 and under. There are no youth present.

Giselle Jackman, Trinity Lancaster, asked who the financial consultant was.

Tim Bundal, St. Simon's, Buffalo, made reference to the lack of youth programming.

Colleen O'Connor wanted to see the actual figures involved and wanted transparency as to what are the positions and what is involved?

Larry Mazakowski, Advent, Kenmore asked how the NWPA conversations will be funded. Answer from Jim Isaac, this is a work in progress.

Debate was then closed.

The budget passed by voice vote.

## **REPORT ON FIRST 30 MINISTRY EVENTS**

Wendy Schumacher the First 30 Event Coordinator reported they had several events. In January the Feast of Lights was held at the cathedral. In April Middle School aged youth went on a spiritual journey. In May we had the first Senior High event which was an Escape Room. In July the youth of the diocese went to Oklahoma for the Triennial EYE Event. In August we held Sleep Away Camp and in September we had our Annual Episcopal Day at Darien Lake. It was a great year for rebuilding and we are hoping to continue expanding the programming in the years to come.

## **DISCUSSION OF BUSINESS NOT PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED**

No resolutions were offered that had not previously been submitted.

**FOLLOWUP ON MATTERS FROM THE 179<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION** – The Secretary reported that there were no such items.

**RESOLUTIONS OF APPRECIATION** – The Rev. Vicki Zust, on behalf of the Committee on Dispatch of Business, moved the resolutions of Appreciation, which were adopted.

## **DOCUMENT 14**

### Appreciations

**Be it resolved,** that the 180<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Western New York expresses its appreciation to the staff of the Buffalo Niagara Marriott for their hospitality and assistance during this Convention.

**Be it resolved,** that the 180<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Western New York expresses its appreciation for the congregations, clergy, delegates and people of the Southern Erie Deanery and the Very Rev. Ann Tillman, their dean, for serving as hosts of this Convention.

**Be it resolved,** that the 180<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Western New York expresses its appreciation to the Rev. Jackie Ross Brown for serving as our chaplain and to the congregation of St. Andrew's, Buffalo for hosting our Convention Eucharist and to all responsible for planning the Convention worship.

**Be it resolved,** that the 180<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Western New York expresses its appreciation to Dr. Ursuline Bankhead for helping us explore explicit bias.

**Be it resolved,** that the 180<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Western New York expresses its appreciation to the representatives from Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania and to the Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe for their attendance and participation in this Convention.

**RESOLUTIONS AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE ON CONVENTION MINUTES** – The Rev. Vicki Zust, on behalf of the Committee on Dispatch of Business, moved the resolution establishing the Committee on Convention Minutes, which was adopted.

#### **DOCUMENT 15**

##### Authorizing Committee on Convention Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, that the 180<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Western New York authorize the Committee on Convention Minutes to read and approve the minutes of the 180<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention before they are incorporated into the Journal of the Convention and that the required copies of the Journal be transmitted in accord with the Canons of this diocese.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF CONVENTION EXPENSES** – The Rev. Vicki Zust, on behalf of the Committee on Dispatch of Business, moved the resolution authorizing payment of convention expenses, which was adopted.

#### **DOCUMENT 16**

##### Authorization of Payment of Expenses

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Treasurer of the Diocese of Western New York be directed to pay all expenses incidental to the 180<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Western New York.

**RESOLUTION ON ADJOURNMENT** – The Rev. Vicki Zust, on behalf of the Committee on Dispatch of Business, moved the resolution on adjournment, which was adopted.

#### **DOCUMENT 17**

##### Resolution on Adjournment

**Be it resolved,** that following the closing blessing, this 180<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Western New York be adjourned *sine die*

**PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT** – The Chaplain, Pastor Ross Brown, led the Convention in prayer.

Adjournment.

2:50 pm.

These minutes were prepared and are respectfully submitted by the Secretary of the Convention.

Howard F. Gondree, Esq.

This record of the proceedings was read and approved by the Committee on Convention Minutes:

The Rt. Rev. R. William Franklin

Cheryl Fisher, Esq.

The Very Rev. Earle C. King, Jr.

The Hon. Rose H. Sconiers

The Rev. Vicki Zust