

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESES OF
**Western New York &
Northwestern Pennsylvania**

**The 186th Convention of the Diocese of Western New York &
The 113th Convention of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania**

The Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania's 113th Convention and the 186th Convention of the Diocese of Western New York were held jointly at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie, Pennsylvania, on October 20-21, 2023. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Sean Rowe opened Convention at 9:15 AM with a land acknowledgment.

Canon Craig Dressler led us in opening worship. The Rev. Dr. Hillary Raining of the Diocese of Pennsylvania offered the convention's first Theo Talk.

Canon Howard Gondree, the Secretary of Convention for the Diocese Western New York, certified that a quorum was present since more than 20 clergy who are regularly officiating and in charge of some church, chapel, or mission under the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese of Western New York and who are entitled to seat, voice and vote in this convention were registered and present and that lay delegates entitled to seat, voice, and vote from at least 20 congregations were registered and present.

The Rev. Dr. Adam Trambley, the Secretary of Convention for the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania, certified that a quorum was present since more than 1/3 of the canonically resident clergy entitled to seat, voice and vote in this Convention were registered and present and at least 12 congregations of this diocese that are entitled to seat, voice and vote in this Convention were registered and present.

Bishop Rowe declared that the 186th Convention of the Diocese of Western New York and the 113th Convention of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania were organized.

On behalf of the Credentials Committee of the Diocese of Western New York, Gondree moved that the following persons be entitled to seat and voice but not to vote:

1. To all lay persons in the Diocese of Western New York 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, and Chairs of the Resolution, Nominating, and Constitution and Canons Committees
2. All members of the annual convention of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania.
3. Clergy resident or licensed in the dioceses, but who do not meet requirements for membership in these conventions: the Rev. Karen Lawler, the Rev. Kathy Lawler, and the Rev. Carmen Seufert

The motion carried.

Trambley moved that the following persons be entitled to seat and voice but not to vote in the convention of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania:

All members of the annual convention of the Diocese of Western New York.

The motion carried.

The Hon. Rose Sconiers made a report on changes in clergy since the last convention.

- Since the last convention, we ordained two deacons: Robin Kozlowski and Diane Cox.
- We had 1 priest transfer residence to our dioceses: the Rev. Sarah Brock.
- We had three clergy retire from active ministry: the Rev. Canon Martha Ishman, the Rev. Colleen O'Connor, and the Rev. Joann Piatko.
- We lost five beloved clergy to death since the last convention: the Rev. Lorene Potter, the Rev. Alice Turner, the Rev. Charles Bencken, the Rev. Judith Burrows, and the Rev. Canon John Kline. In addition, we also lost a lay canon, Alfred Price.

A moment of silence was held for departed clergy and diocesan leaders.

Cheryl Fisher of Western New York moved the election of Howard Gondree as Secretary of Convention. The motion was seconded. Gondree was elected.

Bishop Rowe made the following appointments: Rose Sconiers as Dispatch of Business for the Diocese of Western New York, Matthew Scott as Dispatch of Business for the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania, Cheryl Fisher as parliamentarian for the Diocese of Western New York, and James Steadman as parliamentarian for the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania.

Trambley reported that Resolutions PA-A and PA-B have been received and referred to the appropriate committees. No additional resolutions were received.

Gondree reported that Resolution NY-A has been received and referred to the appropriate committee. No additional resolutions were received.

The Consent Calendar was placed before both conventions. Bishop Rowe outlined the Consent Calendar and the process for voting on it.

The Consent Calendar was adopted for both dioceses.

Dr. Renee Gordon, the Chief Administration Officer of the Charter School for Excellence and a member of St. Mark's, Erie, made a presentation on our outreach project at these conventions. She discussed the mission of the Charter School for Excellence and its partnership with Erie Episcopal. They are working to provide additional programming to their students, including the kinds of electives that are being cut at other schools. They are developing a five acre property in

downtown Erie into a student health and recreation center. The hats, socks, and gloves being brought to convention will go directly to their students.

Bishop Rowe offered his address to Convention.

Canon Vanessa Butler offered a few announcements, including a youth ministry lunch conversation. The conventions broke until after lunch.

Conventions reconvened at 1:30 PM.

Sara Nesbitt and the Rev. Ann Tillman offered a presentation on the Commission to Dismantle Racism and Discrimination's pilgrimage to Montgomery, AL. The Rev. Matthew Lincoln then presented on other work by the Commission.

The Rev. Isaac Ihiasota spoke about his mission work and the Father Isaac Foundation.

Saxon Cobb Deck and the Rev. Stacey Fussell, the Presidents of the Standing Committees, discussed the process of selecting the consultants for our upcoming evaluation of our Diocesan Partnership work. They introduced former President of the House of Deputies the Rev. Gay Clark Jennings and the Rt. Rev. Ian Douglas to discuss the evaluation work which they will be leading in 2024.

Canon Butler made necessary announcements.

Convention recessed for worship at Luther Memorial Church and the convention banquet, at which Bishop Rowe named the Rev. Stacey Fussell, the Rev. Adam Trambley, and the Rev. Helen Harper as honorary canons.

Convention reconvened on Saturday morning, October 21, 2023, at 9:00 AM.

The Rev. Sarah Brock led us in worship.

The Rev. Matthew Lincoln announced that there were posters from the Commission to Dismantle Racism and Discrimination available.

Bishop Rowe appointed Amy Ivell and Dick Reib as Judges of Election for the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania and Wendy Palmer as Judge of Election in the Diocese of Western New York.

Nominations for offices in both dioceses were presented. Bishop Rowe asked for any nominations from the floor.

Wendy Moore from the Church of Our Saviour, DuBois was nominated by the Rev. Canon Brian Reid as a Lay Representative to Constitution and Canons.

The Rev. Mary Norton nominated herself as an alternate to General Convention.

A motion was made to elect all uncontested nominees from Northwestern Pennsylvania by acclamation. These nominees were elected.

The following persons were elected to the following offices:

- Standing Committee, lay order: Anne Bardol
- Diocesan Council, priest: Bill Ellis
- Diocesan Council, lay order: Anne Bardol
- Constitution and Canons Committee, clergy order: Matthew Scott
- Constitution and Canons Committee, lay order: Wendy Moore

A motion was made to elect all uncontested nominees from Western New York by acclamation. These nominees were elected.

- Standing Committee, clergy order: Dan Pinti
- Standing Committee, lay order: Michael Bonilla
- Diocesan Council, clergy order: Jason Miller

The Rev. Hillary Raining led the convention in a gratitude exercise.

Canon Craig Dressler introduced the Rev. Canon Ramelle McCall of the Diocese of South Carolina who gave our convention's second Theo Talk.

Bishop Rowe reported the election results of the first ballot.

In Northwestern Pennsylvania:

Standing Committee, clergy: Stacey Fussell was elected.

Alternate Deputies to General Convention, clergy. The results were:

First Alternate: Mary Norton

Second Alternate: Patricia Lavery

Third Alternate: Matthew Scott

Alternate Deputies to General Convention, lay. The results were:

First Alternate: Sara Nesbitt

Second Alternate: Laura Rutland

In Western New York:

Diocesan Council, lay order. The results were:

Karen Gengo, 3 year term

Edward Hill, 3 year term
R. Lynette Copeland, 2 year term

No further ballots are needed.

Larry Mazuchowski, Kathy Barton, the Rev. Penny Foster and the Rev. Bonnie Morris made a presentation on Our Little Roses.

Shawn Slother of our partnership staff asked for updated contact information from clergy and governing body members. He also announced that the website program to assist congregations that exists in the Diocese of Western New York will be expanding to Northwestern Pennsylvania, as well.

Jeff Mills, Canon for Finance and Chief Financial Officer, presented the budgets for both dioceses.

On behalf of the Diocesan Council, Mills moved the Northwestern Pennsylvania budget. The budget passed.

On behalf of the Diocesan Council, Mills moved the Western New York budget. The budget passed.

Kathy Paulo discussed the Daughters of the King.

Wendy Schumacher and the Rev. Matthew Scott reported on Partnership Summer Camps for 2024.

Ed Palattella, member of the Diocesan Council of NWPA, reported on Resolution PA-A and moved the resolution on behalf of the Diocesan Council. Motion Carried.

The Rev. Adam Trambley, member of the Constitution and Canons Committee, to make the report on Resolution PA-B and moved the resolution on behalf of the Constitution and Canons Committee. Motion carried.

The Rev. Nick Evancho, chair of the Resolutions Committee of the Diocese of Western New York, moved Resolution NY-A.

Debate ensued.

The Rev. Michael Hadaway moved to end debate. The motion was seconded. The motion to end debate carried.

Resolution NY-A passed.

The Rev. Adam Trambley reported on proposed Amendments to the Constitution of The Episcopal Church. These included Resolutions A031 to Amend Article V.4, A059 to Amend Article X, and A157 to Amend I.7.

Canon Twila Smith, dean of St. Paul's Cathedral in Buffalo, reported on the Cathedral's ministry.

Jeff Mills presented a petition for Mission Status for the Church of the Resurrection, Hermitage. The motion was seconded. Motion carried.

Bishop Rowe nominated the following persons for offices in Northwestern Pennsylvania:

- Secretary: Adam Trambley
- Treasurer: Robert Armstrong
- Chancellor: James Steadman
- Credentials: Martha Ishman, Gretchen Tome
- Dispatch: Sean Rowe, James Steadman, Adam Trambley, Matthew Scott, Anne Bardol
- Nominations: Standing Committee (less the terms with one year remaining)
- Judges of Elections: James Ivell, Amy Ivell, Richard Reib
- Resolutions: Adam Trambley, Matthew Scott, James Steadman, John Downey, Anne Bardol

These nominees were elected.

Bishop Rowe made the following appointments to Northwestern Pennsylvania offices.

- Historiographer: Bob Guerrein
- Ecumenical Officer: John Downey
- Regional Deans: Mary Norton (NW), Adam Trambley (SW), Bill Ellis (SE), Stacey Fussell (NE)

Bishop Rowe made the following appointments to Western New York offices.

- Dispatch of Business: Rose Sconiers, Howard Gondree
- Resolutions Committee: Nick Evancho (chair), Patrick Bradley, Josephine Cross, Michael Hadaway
- Regional Deans: Randi Hicks Rowe (Northern Region), Cathy Dempsey-Sims (Genesee), Luke Fodor (Cattaraugus/Chautauqua), Ann Tillman (Southern Erie), Michael Hadaway (Central Erie), Robert Harvey (Eastern Erie)
- Constitution and Canons: Thomas Mitchell (Term ending 2026)

Bishop Rowe nominated the following persons to offices for both Dioceses:

- Joint Board of Examining Chaplains: Stacey Fussell, Diana Leiker, Carol Carlson, Luke Fodor, Matthew Scott, Randi Hicks Rowe.
- The Joint Commission on Ministry: Beth Boron, Karen Gough, Michael Hadaway, William McLean (Chair), Kaycee Reib, Cathy Smith, Gail Winslow, Tim Kroh, Patricia Lavery.

- The Joint Commission to Dismantle Racism and Discrimination: Commission to Dismantle Racism and Discrimination: Matthew Lincoln (chair), Rose Sconiers, Susan Woods, Kim Rossi, Helen Harper, Diana Leiker, Leann McConchie, Ann Tillman, Thomas Tripp, Michelle Cray, Shawn Clerkin, Denise Merriweather, Hal Payne, Christian Eshelman, Lillian Davis-Wilson, Marc Gutierrez, Deanna Scharf, Joseph Croskey, Matthew Scott, Stacey Fussell, Lisa Layman, Mark Elliston, Sara Nesbitt, Tracy Schliep, and John Ranney.

These nominees were elected by both Conventions.

The Rev. Dr. Richard Elberfeld presented the following courtesy resolutions for the Rev. Canon Dennis Blausen and the Ven. Gail Winslow.

The Convention passed these resolutions with thunderous applause.

Bishop Rowe appointed the Ven. Diana Leiker as Archdeacon for both dioceses in our partnership.

Bishop Rowe announced the next Joint Convention of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania and Western New York will be a one day convention in Erie.

The Hon. Rose Sconiers announced that there was no more business to come before the Convention of the Diocese of the Western New York.

The Rev. Matthew Scott announced that there was no more business to come before the Convention of the Diocese of the Northwestern Pennsylvania.

An email for the partnership evaluation was announced: evaluation@episcopalpartnership.org

Bishop Rowe thanked the Convention Planning committee and Erie Episcopal for help with the Convention Eucharist.

Motions to adjourn and seconds were received from both Dioceses. The motions carried.

With no other business to come before Convention, Bishop Rowe adjourned both Conventions *sine die* with his blessing at 12:07 PM.

**Appendix A
Passed Resolutions**

Resolution PA-A

Originator: Diocesan Council

Subject: 2024 Minimum Stipend and Allowances for Parochial Clergy

Be it resolved, that pursuant to Title IV, Canon 2,c.v each member of the clergy serving in the Diocese in a full time pastoral ministry or other stipendiary ministry as approved by the Bishop, shall receive a minimum annual cash stipend according to the following scale:

Years of Ordained Service as of January 1, 2024:

Less than two (2) years	\$44,846
Two to four (2 to 4) years	\$50,038
Four to Six (4 to 6) years	\$56,132
Six to Eight (6 to 8) years	\$59,800
Eight (8) years or more	\$63,466

The above figures represent an actual **3.2%** increase over the 2023 figures.

Resolved, that each cure shall provide for its clergy, whether full time or part time, a paid vacation of four weeks (including Sundays) each year; and be it further

Resolved, that when a federal holiday falls on the regular day off of a cleric or on a major Feast Day, that the clergyperson be encouraged to take another day that week as the day off. The federal holidays are: New Year's Day; Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; President's Day; Memorial Day; Juneteenth; Independence Day; Labor Day; Columbus Day; Veterans' Day; Thanksgiving Day; and Christmas Day; and be it further

Resolved, that clergy shall also receive an amount equal to at least one-half of their self-employment tax, fully paid premium for the Church Pension Fund, life insurance of \$25,000, and group health insurance coverage for the clergyperson and family; and be it further

Resolved, that each cure shall provide for its resident full-time clergy a reimbursement allowance for ordinary and necessary business and professional expense incurred on behalf of the cure; further that a reimbursement allowance worksheet is used by congregations, in establishing a fair value amount for these expenses. Ordinary and necessary expenses shall include, but not be limited to: the use of personal automobile, overnight travel including lodging and meals, books and subscriptions, vestments, and professional dues. Clergy will be reimbursed monthly for the professional use of their automobiles at the current IRS rate plus tolls and parking based upon monthly written record submitted to the treasurer of the congregation by the clergy. Reimbursement for the other expenses shall be pre-approved by the Vestry/Bishop's Committee and paid upon receipts submitted to the treasurer of the congregation; and be it further

Resolved, that any congregation that is financially unable to meet these minimum stipends and allowances shall, by February 1st of each year, consult with the Bishop. This consultation shall include consideration of total clergy support, thus providing the congregation with some flexibility in structuring the overall clergy support package. This consultation may also include the phasing in over a maximum of three years of the minimum annual stipend; and be it further

Resolved, that each cure shall provide use of a suitable rectory, with utilities, except for personal toll calls; or else an adequate housing allowance. Where a clergyperson lives in a rectory, an adequate Equity Allowance shall be provided in the form of a tax sheltered annuity or other similar investments; and be it further

Resolved, that each cure shall encourage its Rector/Vicar to seek some kind of continuing education each year, and to that end shall provide a continuing education allowance of not less than \$1,500 and two weeks paid continuing education leave. If any portion thereof be unused, this money shall be deposited in a continuing education interest-bearing account for future use and up to six weeks leave may be accrued for use as a continuing education leave. In the event the cleric changes cures, the balance of funds in this account shall be retained for the use of the clergy of the cure and not diverted for any other purpose.

Resolution PA-B

Originator: Constitution & Canons Committee

Subject: To Allow Election of a Bishop for Multiple Dioceses

Resolved, that the 2023 Convention of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania replace Title IV.4 *Of The Election of A Bishop* with the following:

Canon 4. Of The Election Of A Bishop

Section A) On the call by the Bishop Diocesan for the election of a successor, or of a Bishop Co-Adjutor or of a Bishop Suffragan or upon the death, resignation, or permanent disability of the Bishop Diocesan, the Standing Committee will initiate the search and transition process. The Standing Committee will have the option to initiate a search for a Bishop solely for Northwestern Pennsylvania using the Canon IV.4.B or to initiate a search for a Bishop to be ordained for the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania and one or more other Dioceses using Canon IV.4C

Section B) Procedures for The Election of a Bishop solely for Northwestern Pennsylvania

- i. The Standing Committee shall appoint at least six persons to serve as the Search Committee. The persons appointed to this committee may be any Cleric in Good Standing or any Lay Person in Good Standing.
- ii. The Search Committee shall conduct all tasks necessary to select and nominate to the electing Convention one or more persons to be a Bishop in this Diocese.
- iii. The Standing Committee may also appoint a Transition Committee made up of Clerics in Good Standing and Lay Persons in Good Standing or the Standing Committee may delegate the tasks or appointment of a Transition Committee to the Search Committee.

Section C) Procedures for The Election of a Bishop for the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania and one or more other Dioceses

i. The Standing Committee will enter into a formal agreement with one or more other dioceses to conduct a Search process and Electing Convention. This agreement shall comply with the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church, with the Constitution of this Diocese and with these Canons.

ii. The Standing Committee of this Diocese shall appoint at least six persons from this Diocese to serve as part of a Joint Search Committee. The persons appointed to this committee may be any Cleric in Good Standing or any Lay Person in Good Standing. This Joint Search Committee shall be made up of an equal number of representatives from each participating diocese.

iii. The Convention of this Diocese shall vote to affirm the Standing Committee's decision to elect a bishop with one or more other dioceses. If the Convention does not affirm the decision, the Standing Committee shall use Canon IV.4.B to initiate a search for a Bishop solely for the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania. This vote by Convention may take place as part of a special convention held as a virtual meeting specifically for this purpose. This vote by Convention should occur as soon as convenient following the Standing Committee's decision, but must occur before the Search Committee publishes a profile for candidates for the next bishop.

iv. A Joint Electing Convention will be held, with each Diocese running their own separate electing convention. These separate conventions may be held in the same space, or in separate spaces in the same facility. Regardless, all votes will be held concurrently by all electing conventions.

v. When one diocese reaches a sufficient number of votes that would normally trigger the election of a bishop, unless all dioceses involved have also received sufficient votes to elect the same candidate, no election will be declared until either:

a. Three more ballots have been taken and there is still a sufficient number of votes on the last ballot to declare an election in one diocese or of different candidates in different dioceses. In that case, the candidate with sufficient votes is elected bishop of the diocese in which that candidate was elected and the other dioceses will continue with their own process, possibly electing other candidates or no candidate.

b. All dioceses involved in the joint election have voted such that one candidate is elected as bishop in all dioceses.

Section D) In addition to other procedures appropriately designed for the election process, the following Canons shall apply to the electing convention:

i. There will be no nominations permitted from the floor.

ii. Additional persons may be nominated by written petition signed by at least three Clergy in Good Standing and ten adult Lay Persons in Good Standing. Such written petition must be submitted by a deadline established by the Search Committee.

iii. All persons nominated must comply with, and be qualified for office by, the National Constitution and Canons, by the Constitution of this Diocese, and by these Canons.

Resolution NY-A

Originator: Stephen Hart (St. John's-Grace, Buffalo)

Subject: In Support of Increased Oversight of County Jails

Be it resolved, that this 186th convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western New York:

1. Has a special care for incarcerated persons, considering that they are children of God and full members of the human community, whatever criminal actions they may – or may not, in the case of persons incarcerated pre-trial – have committed, and deserve respect for their basic human rights and dignity;
2. Favors transparency in the operations of carceral facilities and other law enforcement agencies, believing that community safety is enhanced when there is trust and cooperation between law enforcement and community members, and that transparency is a precondition for community trust;
3. Supports New York Senate bill S181 and its Assembly “same-as” A6487, which, if enacted, will modify Section 500-j of the New York Correction Law to:
 - a. Allow county legislators and their accompanying staff to visit county jails and
 - b. Allow state legislators to be accompanied by their staff when visiting county jails;
4. Directs the Secretary of Convention to
 - a. write all state legislators (Assembly Members and State Senators) whose districts contain congregations of this diocese, urging them to co-sponsor or at least support this bill, and
 - b. write the Governor of New York, urging her to support and sign it;
5. Endorses and supports the efforts for visits to jail housing and program units in Erie County being made by clergy of various faiths under a grant, “Enhancing Human Rights through Clergy Jail Monitoring,” awarded to the diocese and two of its parishes in July 2023 by the United Thank Offering;
6. Encourages diocesan clergy having charge of congregations within Erie County to consider becoming part of this project by agreeing to join a single 3-4 hour jail visit once every 12 months; and
7. Encourages clergy and laity of this diocese to visit individuals incarcerated in county jails within our diocese, for personal and pastoral support, as appropriate occasions arise.

Consent Calendar

Resolved, that the 186th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Western New York and the 113th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania, understanding the continued effects of the global pandemic on financial and human resources, extend the right to vote to any congregations who have been unable to comply with canonical requirements regarding audits, full share, assessments, or parochial reports.

Be it resolved, that the 186th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Western New York and the 113th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania express thanks to the Very Rev. Melinda Hall, the Rev. Sarah Brock, and the congregations and staff of the Cathedral of St. Paul and St. Mark's, Erie, for their gracious hosting and support of this gathering.

Be it resolved, that the 186th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Western New York and the 113th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania express thanks to those who have maintained a prayer vigil throughout the proceedings of these Conventions, especially the Daughters of the King.

Be it resolved, that the 186th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Western New York and the 113th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania express thanks to all of the volunteers who worked for and supported this gathering.

Be it resolved, that the 186th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Western New York and the 113th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania express thanks to the dedicated staff of the Bayfront Convention Center.

Be it resolved, that the 186th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Western New York and the 113th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania send greetings to the Greater Buffalo Racial Equity Roundtable, and convey its appreciation for their continued work to close racial equity gaps in our region.

Be it resolved, that the 186th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Western New York and the 113th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania send greetings to Bishop Dwane Brock of the Victory Christian Center of Erie, Pennsylvania, and give thanks for his leadership and collaboration in our shared anti-racism and racial reconciliation work.

Be it resolved, that the 186th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Western New York and the 113th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania send greetings to the Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, a son of Buffalo, and extend our continued prayers for his health and support for his leadership of the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement and his worldwide witness to The Way of Love.

Be it resolved, that the 186th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Western New York and the 113th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania send greetings to Julia Ayala Harris, the President of the House of Deputies, and convey its prayers and support for her work and ministry.

Resolved, that the 186th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Western New York and the 113th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania appoints October 12, 2024, at the Bayfront Convention Center, Erie, PA, as the time and place for the 187th and 114th Diocesan Conventions.

Courtesy Resolutions

The Ven. Gail Winslow

WHEREAS our beloved archdeacon Gail Winslow is retiring from that position, having served as a deacon since 2002 at Trinity Memorial, Warren, St. John's, Kane and the Church of the Ascension, Bradford and as Archdeacon under two bishops, and

WHEREAS prior to ordination Gail logged over one million miles as a truck driver, gaining invaluable interpersonal skills and the ability to relate deeply to "all sorts and conditions" of humanity, and

WHEREAS he has started meal programs in Warren and Bradford which still exist, one of which routinely serves 180-200 meals each week and

WHEREAS Gail has brought awareness and solicited support for ministries ranging from preschools in the Dominican Republic to mission churches in Navajoland to medical missions to Nigeria and

WHEREAS he has served on the Commission on Ministry and the Board for Fr. Isaac's Foundation and

WHEREAS Gail's dedication to underserved communities is exemplified by his doing a funeral in a bar for a man he had been ministering to but who was not in church, the bar being the man's community and

WHEREAS Gail is willing to share his personal testimony and love of Jesus and

WHEREAS he is blessed with the great gift of a keen sense of humor and

WHEREAS Gail really GETS IT as to the ministry of a deacon and clearly shows that to us all so that if Gilbert and Sullivan were around today we might be singing "He is the very model of a modern venerable"

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this combined convention of our Partnership rise as one in celebration and recognition of The Venerable Gail Winslow's deep and loving ministry among us, his friendship and his powerful witness of the Risen Lord and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the 113th Convention of the Diocese of Northwest Pennsylvania send a copy of this resolution to Deacon Winslow.

Many years, Gail!

The Rev. Canon Dennis Blausler

WHEREAS the formation and education of young Christians is one of the primary tasks of the church, and

WHEREAS for many years the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania has conducted church camp for our young people, and

WHEREAS church camp remains, even decades after the experience, a much-appreciated activity with fond, sometimes profound and life-changing memories for many, and

WHEREAS The Reverend Canon Dennis Blausner was the beloved Dean of our camp at Camp Nazareth near Mercer for about forty years, and

WHEREAS Denny retired from that position in 2019, and

WHEREAS he was a steadfast, dedicated leader and presence for generations of our youth, and

WHEREAS Denny is remembered for ringing the camp bell and yelling "Good morning, Camp Nazareth!" over the PA, for wearing a fanny pack with his supplies and with campers' snack money, and for reading all of the camp rules in the dining hall on the first day to a bunch of wiley teenagers, and

WHEREAS the diocese bought a low ropes course for Camp Nazareth which was dedicated in his honor in 2015, and

WHEREAS Denny looks much like Bishop Gregory of Nyssa, bishop of the diocese of the Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Church, which owns Camp Nazareth, and

WHEREAS due to Covid we have not been able to honor Denny for this one part of his multi-faceted ministry among us,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this joint convention of our Partnership rise as one ink honor of, and in thanksgiving for, Canon Dennis Blausner's long and deeply-appreciated ministry as Dean of our summer camp, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the 113th Convention send a copy of this resolution to Canon Blausner.