

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

**The 187th Convention of the Diocese of Western New York &  
The 114th Convention of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania**

The Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania's 114th Convention and the 187th Convention of the Diocese of Western New York were held jointly at the Bayfront Convention Center in Erie, Pennsylvania, on October 12, 2024.

The Rev. Canon Brian Reid, as senior presbyter in the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania, pursuant to Article III.C.1.b of the Constitution and Canons, called the convention to order at 11:18am.

Rev. Nick Evancho, Secretary of the Convention of the Diocese of Western New York, pursuant to Canon 2.6.1 of the Constitution and Canons, called the Convention of the Diocese of Western New York to Order at 11:19am.

Rev. Nick Evancho read the land acknowledgement on behalf of both dioceses.

The Rev. Dr. Matthew Scott was introduced as Liaison for Dispatch of Business for the Joint Convention. The rest of the head table was introduced.

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 are registered and present and at least 12 congregations of this diocese that are entitled to seat, voice and vote in this Convention are registered and present.

Brian Reid declared that the 187th Convention of the Diocese of Western New York and the 114<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania is organized.

Nick Evancho, 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 this Diocese and who are entitled to seat, voice and vote in this Convention are registered and present and that lay delegates entitled to seat, voice, and vote from at least 20 congregations are registered and present. He declared that the 186th Convention of the Diocese of Western New York is organized

Stacey Fussell and Saxon Deck, Presidents of the Standing Committees of the dioceses, introduced the Standing Committees and offered remarks.

The Rev. Nick Evancho moved that the Convention elect a President Pro-Tempore and opened nominations. The Rev. Tom Broad was nominated as Presiding Officer for the Diocese of Western New York by Saxon Deck. No other nominations were received. Saxon Deck moved that nominations be closed and that the convention cast a unanimous ballot for Tom Broad. Motion was seconded. Motion carried.

Canon Brian Reid opened nominations on for a President Pro-Tempore. Stacey Fussell nominated Canon Brian Reid. No other nominations were received. Fussell moved that nominations be closed and that the convention cast a unanimous ballot for the Rev. Canon Brian Reid. Motion carried.

Nick Evancho moved that seat and voice be given in the Convention of the Diocese of Western New York to:

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. Kathy Lawler

4. The Partnership Evaluators

The Rev. Gay Jennings & The Rt. Rev. Ian Douglas

Motion Carried.

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

1. All members of the annual convention of the Diocese of Western New York.
2. Clergy resident or licensed in the dioceses, but who do not meet requirements for membership in these conventions:

The Rev. R. Richard Marchand

3. The Partnership Evaluators

The Rev. Gay Jennings & The Rt. Rev. Ian Douglas

Motion carried.

The Rev. Canon Cathy Dempsey-Sims reported on changes in clergy.

- Since the last convention, we ordained three deacons (Jeffrey Tooke, Philip Cunningham, and Richard Inserra) and one priest (Jessica Frederick)
- We had 4 priests transfer residence to the Diocese of Western New York (Karen Lawler, Carmen Seufert, Rebecca Barnes, and Elizabeth Grohowski) and 1 priest transfer residence to the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania (Anthony Pompa).
- We had 4 clergy transfer residence from our dioceses: Jason Shank, Randi Hicks Rowe, Nelson “Rocky” Dworak, and Kathleen Moore.
- We lost three beloved clergy to death since the last convention: Glen Fuller, Edson Outwin, and Susan Firestine.

Tom Broad named Cheryl Fisher as Dispatch of Business and Parliamentarian for the Diocese of Western New York.

Cheryl Fisher moved the election of Nick Evancho as Secretary of Convention for the Diocese of Western New York. No others were nominated. Evancho was elected.

Canon Reid instructed the diocese on the Canons. Then he named Matthew Scott as Dispatch of Business and Tom Tupitza as parliamentarian for the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania.

Adam Trambley, Chair of the Committee on Resolutions reported on Resolutions PA-A and PA-B.

Adam Trambley, Chair of the Committee on Constitution and Canons submitted Resolution PA-C. The Convention voted to receive this resolution at this convention.

Nick Evancho noted that he had received Resolution NY-A. No other resolutions were filed.

Tom Broad named Wendy Palmer Judge of Election in the Diocese of Western New York.

Wendy Palmer went through all offices for election in the Diocese of Western New York. No other nominations were received.

Broad moved that the Diocese of Western New York elect all uncontested nominees in the Diocese of Western New York by acclamation. The following were elected:

*Cheri Maytum-Krull and Robert Petersen to Diocesan Council in the lay order.*

*Patricia Lalonde and Ed Walker to the Trustees in the lay order.*

The Diocese of Western New York took its first ballot.

Brian Reid named James Ivell, Amy Ivell, and Dick Reib as Judges of Election for the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania.

James Ivell went through all offices for election for the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania. Ittsey Tologo was nominated as a lay person for Standing Committee. Timothy Kroh withdrew his nomination as a priest for Diocesan Council. Melinda Hall was nominated as a priest for Diocesan Council. Linda Schell was nominated as a lay representative to the Committee on Constitution and Canons. No other nominations were received.

A motion was made from the floor to elect all uncontested nominees in the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania by acclamation. The motion was seconded. The motion carried.

The following were elected:

*Bill Ellis as Priest for the Standing Committee*

*Chery Wild as Lay for Diocesan Council*

*David Betz as Deacon for Diocesan Council*

*Adam Trambley as Clergy for the Constitution and Canons Committee*

*Linda Schell as Lay for Constitution and Canons Committee.*

The Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania took its first ballot

Matthew Scott moved that the Convention of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania give seat and voice to the Parliamentarian, Tom Tupitza. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Missioner for Operations, Shawn Slother, gave instructions on lunch.

The Conventions stood in recess at 12:05pm for lunch.

The Conventions reconvened at 1:02pm.

The consent calendar came before both Conventions. Brian Reid explained the Consent Calendar and how it worked to both conventions.

The consent calendar was adopted by both dioceses.

### **2024 Consent Calendar**

**Be it resolved**, that the 187th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Western New York and the 114th 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 187th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Western New York and the 114th 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 187th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Western New York and the 114th 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 187th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Western New York and the 114th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania express thanks to the dedicated staff of the Bayfront Convention Center.

**Be it resolved**, that the 187th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Western New York and the 114th 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 187th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Western New York and the 114th 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, gratitude for his 9 years of leadership of the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement and his worldwide witness to The Way of Love, and blessings to him upon his retirement.

**Be it resolved**, that the 187th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Western New York and the 114th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania send greetings to the soon-to-be Most Rev. Sean W. Rowe, express our gratitude for his faithful leadership of our dioceses and Diocesan Partnership, and commit our continued prayers as he takes up his ministry as the next Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church.

**Be it resolved**, that the 187th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Western New York and the 114th 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 187th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Western New York and the 114th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania appoints October 10-11, 2025, at the Niagara Falls Convention Center, Niagara Falls, NY, as the time and place for the 188th and 115th Diocesan Conventions.

The results of the First Ballot from the Diocese of Western New York were reported.

Clergy for Standing Committee

*Diana Leiker* 82

*John Marshall* 20

*Claudia Scheda* 47

Diana Leiker was elected

Lay Order for Standing Committee

*Elisabeth Brauza-Hughes* 62

*James Isaac* 95

James Isaac was elected

Clergy for Diocesan Council

*Diana Cox* 63

*Jessica Frederick* 85

Jessica Frederick was elected

The Results of the First Ballot from the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania were reported.

Lay Person for Standing Committee:

	Clergy Votes	Lay Votes
<i>Robin Murray</i>	4	8
<i>Ed Palattella</i>	18	37
<i>Itsey Tologo</i>	1	4

*Ed Palattella* was elected

Priest for Diocesan Council

*Tim Kroh* 1

*John Wise* 6

*Melinda Hall* 16

Melinda Hall has been elected

Helen Harper presented a report from the Commission to Dismantle Racism and Discrimination. She reported on grants made by the Commission over the past year and invited congregations to be creative and apply for grants this year. The Commission also sponsored a pilgrimage to Montgomery, Alabama. The Commission also participated in the Mercer County Underground Railroad Tour. The Commission sponsored a number of other events, most recently the *I Am Pauli Murray* dinner and movie.

Claudia Scheda spoke as the Global Mission Advocate for our Partnership. She shared preliminary results from the mission survey she recently conducted. She asked for more people to fill out the surveys.

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

The Conventions received video greetings from the Rev. Canon Tony Pompa, Partnership Minister for Administration, Coordination, and Ministry Support.

The Ecclesiastical Authority nominated the following :

- Secretary: Adam Trambley
- Treasurer: Tom Ryglinski
- Chancellor: Tom Tupitza
- Credentials [1 cl., 1 l.]: Martha Ishman, Deb Dietrich
- Dispatch [1 or more]: Stacey Fussell, Adam Trambley, Matthew Scott, Anne Bardol
- Nominations [3 cl., 3 l.]: Standing Committee (less the terms with one year remaining)
- Judges of Elections [3]: James Ivell, Amy Ivell, Richard Reib
- Resolutions [2 cl., 2 l.]: Adam Trambley, John Downey, Anne Bardol, Ed Palattella
- Historiographer: Bob Guerrein

The nominees were elected.

The Ecclesiastical Authority appoints the following:

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

The Bishop of the Diocese of New York made the following appointments:

- Dispatch of Business: Cheryl Smith Fisher
- Resolutions Committee: Nick Evancho (chair), Patrick Bradley, Josephine Cross, Michael Hadaway
- Regional Deans: Nick Evancho (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: Eric Boron (Term ending 2028) and Thomas Mitchell (Term ending 2028)

The Bishop nominated the following to be elected by both Conventions:

- Joint Board of Examining Chaplains: Stacey Fussell, Diana Leiker, Carol Carlson, Luke Fodor, Matthew Scott, Ann Tillman
- The bishop nominates the following to serve on the Joint Commission on Ministry: Beth Boron, Rebecca Barnes, Michael Hadaway, William McLean (Chair), Kaycee Reib, Cathy Smith, Diana Leiker, Tim Kroh, Patricia Lavery
- The bishop nominates the following to serve on the Joint Commission to Dismantle Racism and Discrimination: Helen Harper (chair), Rose Sconiers, Susan Woods, Kim Rossi, Matthew Lincoln, 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.

The nominees are elected.

Stacey Fussell moved that the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania move into a committee of the whole to hear the report on the status of the evaluation of the Partnership. A second was received. Motion carried.

Saxon Deck moved that the Diocese of Western New York move into a committee of the whole to hear the report on the status of the evaluation of the Partnership. A second was received. Motion carried.

The Rt. Rev. Ian Douglas and the Rev. Gay Jennings presented a report on the Evaluation of the Partnership. Fussell and Deck thanked the consultants for their work. Fussell and Deck announced a modified timeline for the evaluation process. The evaluation will be concluded by mid-February, a final report will be given to the Standing Committee by mid-March, this report will be distributed widely by the end of March. The Standing Committees have independently and jointly called for a Special Convention on Saturday, May 3, 2025 (location to be determined). The only business of which will be to take up the question of the partnership and our next steps. Deputies to this Convention will be elected from congregations at the beginning of the 2025 year. Questions from the Conventions were answered by the consultants and Standing Committee Presidents on a variety of topics.

Conventions recessed at 2:47 pm.

Convention reconvened in regular session at 2:57pm.

Canon Jeff Mills made a report on the Budget for the Diocese of Western New York. Nancy Cribbens asked questions which Mills answered. Mills moved the Budget on behalf of Diocesan Council. Motion Carried.

Canon Jeff Mills made a report on the Budget for the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania. Mills moved the Budget on behalf of Diocesan Council. Motion Carried.

Nick Evancho reported on Resolution NY-A. Steve Lane spoke to the resolution.

#### **Resolution NY-A**

**Originators:** Rev. Stephen Lane, St. Philip's Buffalo,  
Rev. Helen Harper, Chair of the Commission to Dismantle Racism and Discrimination, and Matt Lincoln, Trinity Church Delaware Ave.

**Subject:** To support the East Side Parkways Coalition

**Whereas**, the East Side Parkway Coalition (ESPC) has been tirelessly advocating for the highway removal and full restoration and reconnection of the historic Humboldt Parkway, which once beautifully connected Delaware Park and Martin Luther King Jr. Park;

**Whereas**, the current state of the Kensington Expressway has led to significant health and environmental issues for the residents of the East Side, including increased air pollution and related health problems and related chronic health problems;

**Whereas**, the expressway is a structural remnant of historic redlining practices that have perpetuated economic and social disparities in the East Side community;

**Whereas**, the removal of the expressway and the restoration of the parkway will help dismantle these structural barriers, allowing for the creation of wealth and economic opportunities for the residents throughout the East Side;

**Whereas**, the ESPC's proposed plan, "One Parkway Now!", aims to address these issues by restoring the parkway, improving community health outcomes, and revitalizing the local economy;

**Whereas**, the ESPC's efforts align with the goals of the Committee to Dismantle Racism and Discrimination of the Episcopal Diocese and other local stakeholders to create a more connected, healthy, and economically vibrant community;

**Therefore, be it resolved**, that we, the undersigned, fully support the East Side Parkway Coalition in their mission to restore the Humboldt Parkway and reconnect our historic parks;

**Be it further resolved**, that we call upon local, state, and federal authorities to allocate the necessary resources and funding to support this vital project;

**Be it further resolved**, that we encourage all community members and organizations to join us in supporting the ESPC's efforts to create a healthier, more connected, and prosperous East Side;

**Be it further resolved**, that the Diocese of Western New York commit to supporting the East Side Parkway Coalition with a donation of \$5,000 to aid in their efforts.

Evancho moved Resolution NY-A. The motion carried with abstentions.

Ed Palattella, Vice-President of Diocesan Council reported on NWPA-A.

#### **Resolution PA-A**

**Originator:** Diocesan Council

**Subject:** 2025 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, 2025:
- Less than two (2) years \$46,057
- Two to four (2 to 4) years \$51,389
- Four to Six (4 to 6) years \$57,648
- Six to Eight (6 to 8) years \$61,415
- Eight (8) years or more \$65,180

The above figures represent a **2.7%** increase over the 2024 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.

Palatella move the resolution on behalf of Diocesan Council. Motion carried.

Adam Trambley, Chair of the Constitution and Canons Committee reported on Resolution PA-B.

**Resolution PA-B**

**Originator:** The NWPA Committee on Constitution and Canons

**Subject:** Resolution to Change Calculation of Clergy Quorum at Diocesan Convention

**Be it resolved**, Resolved, that Diocesan Convention replace Title III.1.A.ii and Title III.1.A.iii of the Diocesan Canons to read:

*Title III.1.A.ii All Priests currently in active ministry and in Good Standing in the Diocese, along with all retired Priests in Good Standing in the Diocese who are in attendance at the Diocesan Convention, shall have seat, voice, and vote in the Clergy order at that Diocesan Convention.*

*Title III.1.A.iii All Deacons currently in active ministry and in Good Standing in the Diocese, along with all retired Deacons in Good Standing in the Diocese who are in attendance at the Diocesan Convention, shall have seat, voice, and vote in the Clergy order at that Diocesan Convention.*

Previous Canon:

~~Title III.1.A.ii All Priests in Good Standing in the Diocese shall have seat, voice, and vote in the Clergy order at any Diocesan Convention.~~

~~Title III.1.A.iii All Deacons in Good Standing in the Diocese shall have seat, voice, and vote in the Clergy order at any Diocesan Convention.~~

Trambley moved Resolution PA-B. Motion carried.

Adam Trambley, Chair of the Constitution and Canons Committee reported on Resolution PA-C.

### **Resolution PA-C**

**Originator:** The NWPA Committee on Constitution and Canons

#### **Resolution to Amend the Constitution**

To Allow the Calculation of Quorum at Diocesan Convention to be Determined by the Canons

**Be it resolved**, that Diocesan Convention approve the first reading to amend Article III.D.1 of the Diocesan Constitution to read:

1. **Quorum:** a quorum for the transaction of business shall be prescribed by the canon.

Previous Text:

~~1. **Quorum:** A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of one third of the clergy entitled to vote and at least one lay delegate from each of one third of the congregations in union with convention. In the absence of a quorum a majority of those present may adjourn the convention from time to time.~~

Trambley moved Resolution PA-C. Motion carried.

Nick Evancho, Adam Trambley, and Stacey Fussell presented and moved Courtesy Resolutions.

### **Howard F. Gondree Courtesy Resolution**

**Be it resolved**, that the 187<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Western New York recognizes and thanks Mr. Howard F. Gondree, Esq., for his decades of service to this Convention. For twenty-nine years, from 1994 to 2023, Howard faithfully served as the Secretary of this Convention; bringing coherence out of the chaos of debate, offering clear and concise reporting of the somewhat messy and challenging actions of church polity, and steadfastly resisting being overwhelmed, and

**Be it further resolved**, that the 187<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Western New York thank Howard F. Gondree, Esq., for his work as Comptroller and Financial Consultant to three Bishops and countless Diocesan Councils and Board of Trustees from 1999-2023. Howard's faithfulness, wisdom, and generosity will long be remembered and appreciated. To Howard Gondree, we offer thanksgiving, honor and praise...as well as prudent spending, and

**Therefore be it resolved**, that this joint convention of our Partnership rise as one in honor of, and in thanksgiving for, Howard Gondree's ministry, and

*Be it further resolved*, that the Secretary of the 187th Convention send a copy of this resolution to Mr. Gondree.

#### **James R. Steadman Courtesy Resolution**

**Whereas**, James R. Steadman has served for many years as Chancellor of both the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania and the Cathedral of Saint Paul. A graduate of Grove City College and Dickinson Law School, he has served the community in many capacities: President of the Erie County Bar Association, Girard Borough Council, and the boards of the Erie Philharmonic and Erie County Historical Society, among others. He has also served faithfully in the councils of the Church, including as a Deputy to General Convention. And he has shared in glorifying God and leading worship through participation in many choirs and choral groups.

**And Whereas**, through his law office, Jim has assisted countless people through the ordinary and extraordinary passages of life, with a special concern for elders and their families. And this guidance and counsel is what he has also provided for our diocese and its congregations, through ordinary and extraordinary circumstances, circumstances which, at times, have been most challenging. To all these, he has brought compassionate attention, calm wisdom, and decisive advice, all rooted in a deep and abiding Christian faith and love of the Church.

**And Whereas**, Bishop Rowe named Jim as Canon Chancellor of the diocese in 2015, he stated, “As a bishop, I dare not even pray for a better counselor, chancellor, mentor, and friend.” He spoke not just for himself, but for many others within our diocesan community and beyond.

**And Whereas**, Jim lays aside this responsibility to enjoy many happy years in Erie and Chautauqua with family and friends, and many travels throughout the world with Alison.

**Be it resolved**, that the 114<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania recognizes and offer our deepest gratitude and prayerful appreciation to Mr. James R. Steadman for his exceptional service to this Diocese.

**Be it further resolved**, that the Secretary of the 114th Convention send a copy of this resolution to Mr. James Steadman.

#### **Robert Armstrong Courtesy Resolution**

**Whereas**, the Robert Armstrong was baptized and confirmed at Trinity Church, New Castle which has been his home base these last 89 years;

**Whereas**, he received his MBA from Cornell at a time when only thirteen such programs existed in the United States and later earned his PhD from the University of Michigan

**Whereas**, he served as a distinguished professor of Business at Geneva College and was widely known as one who cared deeply for the poor of the world;

**Whereas**, he answered the call of his nation to serve in the United States Agency for International Development in east Africa;

**Whereas**, he assisted with agricultural education and development across that region;

**Whereas**, he helped to found Africa University in Zimbabwe which has educated thousands of young people since its inception;

**Whereas**, upon returning stateside he took up leadership in his local parish and met with the bishop to discuss finance for the sake of the Gospel;

**Whereas**, at that meeting with the bishop the two formed a partnership in ministry in which both agreed that he would serve as diocesan treasurer for two years;

**Whereas**, he served as treasurer instead for 16 years;

**Whereas**, under his leadership the endowment of the diocese doubled in size while investing record amounts in congregations;

**Whereas**, he always balanced financial stewardship with the generosity of God;

**Whereas**, he faithfully reported the finances of the diocese in a transparent way at the diocesan conventions after which he would talk about the cost of food for the poorest of world;

**Whereas**, he was named a lay canon of this diocese in 2010;

**Whereas**, he is the only treasurer of this diocese to ever be given a sincere standing ovation, after what is usually the dreaded and lengthy treasurer's report, because the deep and abiding faith of his work was palpable in that room; and

**Whereas**, he is known to many, especially his bishop, as a spiritual advisor and mentor; now, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that 114<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania rise and give thanks for the ministry of its Diocesan Treasurer and that a copy of this resolution be delivered to him by the Secretary of Convention.

### **Courtesy Resolution for Convention Offering**

**Whereas**, we have been most seriously grieved by the devastation visited upon our siblings in Christ in the Diocese of Western North Carolina by Hurricane Helene;

**And whereas**, we wish to express our love, prayers and support to the people and clergy of that diocese and their bishop, the Rt. Rev. Jose McLoughlin;

**And whereas**, the people of our two dioceses feel an especial kinship with them as we also make our home along and amid the Appalachian Mountains;

**Be it resolved**, that the 187<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Western New York and the 114<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania send greetings to the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina and commit our ongoing prayers and support, in token of which we have designated the offering collected at this joint convention of these dioceses, totaling \$5,000, to be sent to the Rt. Rev. Jose McLoughlin for the relief works in his diocese.

The Courtesy resolutions were passed by both dioceses.

Brian Reid announced that the next annual conventions for both Dioceses will be held on October 10-11, 2025, at the Niagara Falls Convention Center in Niagara Falls, NY.

Shawn Slother offered announcements.

Cheryl Fisher announced that there was no more business to come before the Convention of the Diocese of the Western New York and moved that we adjourn *sine die*.

Matthew Scott announced that there was no more business to come before the Convention of the Diocese of the Northwestern Pennsylvania and moved that we adjourn *sine die*.

Closing comments and appreciation were made by the chairs. Convention adjourned with a blessing by Stacey Fussell at 3:34p.