

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

**Special Convention of the Dioceses of WNY & NWPA
May 3, 2025
St. Luke's, Jamestown, NY**

The Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania and the Diocese of Western New York called a special convention to vote on the following resolutions regarding a bishop diocesan:

Resolution WNY

Resolved by this Special Convention of the Diocese of Western New York, that the Diocese of Western New York begins the process of electing a bishop diocesan in partnership with the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania and instructs our Standing Committee to begin such a process in accordance with our Constitution and Canons.

Resolution NWPA

Resolved by this Special Convention of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania, that the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania begins the process of electing a bishop diocesan in partnership with the Diocese of Western New York and instructs our Standing Committee to begin such a process in accordance with our Constitution and Canons.

Eucharist was held beginning at 10:00am, with the Rev. Tony Pompa presiding and preaching.

This Special Convention was called to order at 11:19am by the Rev Canon Brian Reid, senior NWPA presbyter present.

Rev. Nick Evancho called the Special Convention of Western New York to order at 11:20am

The Rev. Dr. Canon Adam T. Trambley, Convention Secretary, certified that a quorum was present for the Special Convention of Northwestern Pennsylvania.

The Rev. Nick Evancho, Convention Secretary, certified that a quorum was present for the Special Convention of Western New York.

Rev. Luke Fodor, President of the WNY Standing Committee, gave opening remarks.

Rev. Canon Stacey Fussel, President of NWPA Standing Committee, gave opening remarks.

Nominations were opened for the Presiding Officer of the Special Convention of Western New York. Rev. Nick Evancho was nominated and seconded. Nominations were closed and a unanimous ballot was cast for Rev. Nick Evancho.

Nominations were opened for President Pro-Tempore of the Special Convention of Northwestern Pennsylvania. Rev. Canon Brian Reid was nominated and seconded. A motion was made and seconded to cast a unanimous ballot for Rev Canon Brian Reid.

The Credentials Committee of the Diocese of Western New York moved that the following persons be entitled to seat and voice but not to vote in the Special Convention of Western New York:

1. All members of the special convention of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania.

The motion carried.

The Secretary of Northwestern Pennsylvania moved that the following persons be entitled to seat and voice but not to vote:

1. All members of the special convention of the Diocese of Western New York.
2. Clergy resident or licensed in the diocese, but who do not meet requirements for membership in these conventions: The Rev. R. Richard Marchand

The Motion carried.

The Chair in Western New York named Cheryl Fisher as Dispatch of Business and Parliamentarian for the Diocese of Western New York and called on her for the election of a secretary for the Diocese of Western New York.

Fisher moved that Rev. Nick Evancho be elected as Secretary of Convention of Western New York. The motion was seconded. Motion carried.

The Chair in Northwestern Pennsylvania named Adam Trambley as Dispatch of Business and Tom Tupitza as Parliamentarian for the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania.

The Chairs reminded the Convention that Wendy Palmer is the Judge of Election for Western New York and that James Ivell, Amy Ivell, and Dick Reib are the Judges of Election for the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania.

The Secretary of Northwestern Pennsylvania reported that the Convention received NWPA-X001 and NWPA-X002.

The Chair of Western New York reported that the Convention received WNY-X001 and WNY-X002.

Rev. Luke Fodor moved Resolution WNY-X001 for Western New York. Motion carried.

Rev. Canon Stacey Fussell moved Resolution NWPA-X001 for Northwestern Pennsylvania. Motion carried.

Resolution NWPA-X001 and WNY-X001: Order of Business and Rules for Debate

Immediately following the passage of this resolution, the Presidents of the Standing Committees of the Dioceses of Western New York and of Northwestern Pennsylvania will move on behalf of their respective Standing Committees in their respective dioceses the following resolutions:

Resolution WNY-X002

Resolved by this Special Convention of the Diocese of Western New York, that the Diocese of Western New York begins the process of electing a bishop in partnership with the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania and instructs our Standing Committee to begin such a process in accordance with our Constitution and Canons.

Resolution NWPA-X002

Resolved by this Special Convention of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania, that the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania begins the process of electing a bishop in partnership with the Diocese of Western New York and instructs our Standing Committee to begin such a process in accordance with our Constitution and Canons.

These resolutions need no seconds as they are being moved by the Standing Committees.

Debate on these resolutions shall immediately proceed until 1:00pm. The following rules will cover this debate.

- All speakers will have a maximum of two minutes to speak. No speaker may speak more than once, unless no other speakers wish to speak.*
- The chairs will recognize one deputy from Western New York speaking in favor of the resolution, followed by one deputy from Western New York speaking in opposition to the resolution, followed by one deputy from Northwestern Pennsylvania speaking in favor of the resolution, followed by one deputy from Northwestern Pennsylvania speaking in opposition to the resolution. The order will then begin again with a deputy from Western New York speaking in favor.*
- All speakers must indicate their intention of speaking in favor or in opposition prior to speaking according to a system to be explained by the chairs.*
- When no further speakers from one diocese wish to speak in favor of the resolution, or when no further speakers from one diocese wish to speak in opposition to the resolution, the chairs will call no further speakers from that diocese on that side of the debate.*
- When no further speakers from either diocese wish to speak in favor of the resolution, or when no further speakers from either diocese wish to speak in opposition to the resolution, the chairs will allow no more than three additional speakers to speak before proceeding immediately to a vote on the resolutions.*

The only motions allowed during debate are motions by the Secretaries to extend debate until a time certain. Those motions are not debatable and require a two-thirds majority of all deputies in both dioceses to pass.

The chairs may call for a brief recess during the debate if it is deemed necessary. Debate will not be extended because a recess was taken.

When debate has ended because the time certain has been reached or because there are no further speakers on one side of the debate, both conventions will move immediately to a vote on the resolutions. No procedural resolutions will be in order between the time debate has ended and the vote being taken.

The votes on resolutions WNY-X002 and NWPA-X002 will be taken by written secret ballot and will be votes by orders. No results from either vote will be announced until votes on both resolutions have been taken. When results of the voting are announced, they will be announced as close to contemporaneously as possible.

Prayers may be offered at the instruction of the chairs before and/or after voting, or at other times the feel appropriate.

After the votes on resolutions WNY-X002 and NWPA-X002 have been announced, the Presidents of the Standing Committees may address the convention if they wish.

Following the addresses of the Presidents of the Standing Committees, a motion to adjourn will be in order in both Conventions. No other business will be in order except a closing prayer and/or blessing.

Rev. Stacey Fussel moved Resolution NWPA-X002 and Rev. Luke Fodor moved Resolution WNY-X002.

Resolution WNY-X002

Resolved by this Special Convention of the Diocese of Western New York, that the Diocese of Western New York begins the process of electing a bishop in partnership with the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania and instructs our Standing Committee to begin such a process in accordance with our Constitution and Canons.

Resolution NWPA-X002

Resolved by this Special Convention of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania, that the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania begins the process of electing a bishop in partnership with the Diocese of Western New York and instructs our Standing Committee to begin such a process in accordance with our Constitution and Canons.

The Secretary of Northwestern Pennsylvania explained the rules for debate.

The following delegates spoke during debate:

Rev. Matt Lincoln (WNY) spoke in favor.

Rev. Zach Irwin (NWPA) spoke in favor.

Rev. Jason Miller (WNY) spoke in opposition.

Rev. Steve Lane (WNY) spoke in opposition.

Ed Walker (WNY) spoke in favor.

Rev. Canon Barbara Price (WNY) spoke in opposition.

Amy Alduino (WNY) spoke in favor.
Rev. Jessica Frederick (WNY) spoke in opposition.
Rev. Canon Earl King (WNY) spoke in opposition.

With no one else waiting to speak, debate ended at 11:57am.

Jim Ivell, the Judge of Election of Northwestern Pennsylvania, and Wendy Palmer, Judge of Election of Western New York provided voting instructions and facilitated voting.

The Convention stood in recess during the counting of the votes.
The Convention reconvened at 12:35pm

The results on the vote for Resolutions NWPA-X002 and WNY-X002 were announced

The vote totals for Northwestern Pennsylvania were:

	<i>Clergy</i>	<i>Lay</i>
<i>Yea</i>	3	11
<i>No</i>	25	43

The vote totals for Western New York were:

	<i>Clergy</i>	<i>Lay</i>
<i>Yea</i>	14	45
<i>No</i>	36	68

The resolution fails in both orders of both dioceses.

Rev. Canon Stacey Fussell, President of the NWPA Standing Committee, offered closing remarks. She announced that there will a joint Standing Committee and a closing event for the Partnership on Thursday, June 19, 2025.

Rev. Luke Fodor, President of the WNY Standing Committee, offered closing remarks.

The Chair of Northwestern Pennsylvania offered closing remarks and instructions.

The Dispatch of Business of Western New York stated that there is no more business to come before the Special Convention, and moved to adjourn *sine die*. The Special Convention adjourned.

The Dispatch of Business of Northwestern Pennsylvania stated that there is no more business to come before the Special Convention and moved to adjourn *sine die*. The Special Convention adjourned.

The Rev. Canon Tony Pompa offered thanks and a closing blessing.

The Ven. Deacon Diana Leiker dismissed the congregations.

The Convention closed with music including *The Peace of the Earth*.