



# The Episcopal Diocese Of Western New York

## **Journal of the Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western New York**

Niagara Falls Convention Center: Niagara Falls, NY  
October 10-11, 2025

## Table of Contents

188 <sup>th</sup> Convention Minutes	pg. 3
Resolutions	pg. 10
Courtesy Resolutions	pg. 18
Financial Documents	pg. 19
Diocesan Clergy	pg. 23
Convention Lay Delegates	pg. 27
Reports	pg. 29
Diocesan Office & Staff	pg. 39
Diocesan Committees	pg. 41
Deaneries	pg. 44

**The 188<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese of Western New York  
Niagara Falls Convention Center, Niagara Falls, NY  
October 10-11, 2025**

**Friday October 10<sup>th</sup> 2025**

1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

- a. The convention is called to order by the Secretary of the diocese, The Rev. Nicholas Evancho pursuant to Canon 2.6.1.
- b. Fr. Evancho reads a land acknowledgement and leads the convention in the Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address.

2. Credentials Report

- a. The Secretary confirms the report from the credentials committee that 50 clergy and 124 lay delegates representing 44 congregations were present and eligible to vote.

3. Election of Presiding Officer

- a. The Secretary opens nominations for a Presiding Officer pursuant to Article IV.1 of the constitution.
- b. The Rev. Jason Miller nominates The Rev. Luke Fodor.
- c. Nominations are closed and The Rev. Luke Fodor is elected.

4. Granting of Seat and Voice

- a. The credentials committee recommends seat and voice but not vote be granted to the following.
  - i. 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, Constitution and Canons Committees, and Members of the Search and Transition Committees.
  - ii. Clergy resident or licensed in the diocese, but who do not meet requirements for membership in these conventions:
    - The Rev. Robert Duerr
    - The Rev. Richard Elberfeld
    - The Rev. Kathy Lawler
    - The Rev. Johnnie Ross
  - iii. Guests from the Diocese of Rochester
    - The Rev. Columba Salamony
    - The Rev. Elizabeth Harden
- b. Seat and voice is granted unanimously.

5. Report on Changes in Clergy

- a. Since the last convention in October 2024, we had 1 priest transfer residence to the Diocese of Western New York:
  - The Rev. Laurence Wainwright-Maks
- b. We had 6 clergy transfer residence from our diocese:
  - The Rev. Virginia Carr
  - The Rev. Philip Cunningham
  - The Rev. Christopher O'Connor
  - The Rev. Andrew Schule
  - The Rev. Claudia Scheda
  - The Rev. Twila Smith
- c. We had one cleric renounce her orders:
  - Sare Anuszkiewicz

#### 6. Election of Secretary and Dispatch of Business

- a. Cheryl Fisher is named as Dispatch of Business and Parliamentarian.
- b. Cheryl moves for the election of The Rev. Nick Evancho as Secretary.
- c. Fr. Evancho is elected unanimously.

#### 7. Report on Resolutions

- a. We have received Resolutions NY-A, B, C, D, E, & F and they have been referred to the appropriate committee. An additional Resolution, NY-G, was not timely submitted and in accordance with Rule II of the Standing Rules of Order of the Convention, a two-thirds vote of all members of Convention present is required for consideration.
- b. The chair moves that NY-G be considered.
- c. The motion passes unanimously.

#### 8. Reception of Reports

- a. The chair has received reports from the Arch Deacon, Archivist, Chancellor, Co-Chairs of the Commission on Ministry, Secretary, chair of the Trustees, and two reports from the President of the Standing Committee; and they have been filed by title.

#### 9. Election of Bishop Provisional

- a. Pursuant to Article IV.3 of the Constitution, the chair moves for nominations to be opened for Bishop Provisional of the Diocese of Western New York. Nominations are opened unanimously.
- b. The Rev. Luke Fodor nominates the Rt. Rev. Stephen Lane.
- c. Nominations are closed and a secret ballot by orders is cast for the Rt. Rev. Stephen Lane.
- d. The Rt. Rev. Stephen Lane is elected by a vote of 45-1 in the clergy order and 108-0 in the lay order.

## 10. Bishop Video Presentation

- a. Videos are shown depicting bishops speaking about the role of the episcopate in the church today.
- b. Bishop Lane calls for discussion to be had at tables about the content of the videos.

## 11. Resolution G

- a. The Chair of Resolutions moves Resolution G on behalf of the committee.
- b. The Rev. Cathy Dempsey-Sims speaks to the faithfulness of the congregations whose closure is being acknowledged.
- c. The resolution passes unanimously.
- d. The members of the former congregations present at the convention are invited to stand and be recognized.

## 12. Noonday Prayer

- a. Marc Gutierrez leads a service of noonday prayer.

## 13. Search Committee Conversations

- a. The Very Rev. Rebecca Barnes and The Rev. Karen Lawler introduce the Bishop Search Committee listening process and conversations at convention.
- b. People are moved to other tables to mix up people with those from other parishes.
- c. Conversation is facilitated at tables by Search Committee members and designees and notes are taken to help inform the search process.
- d. Thanks is then given by The Rev. Karen Lawler to all who participated.

## 14. Resolution A

- a. The Chair of Resolutions moves Resolution A on behalf of the committee.
- b. No discussion.
- c. The Resolution passes unanimously.

## 15. Resolution B

- a. The Chair of Resolutions moves Resolution B on behalf of the committee.
- b. The Rev. Steve Lane speaks to the importance of this resolution.
- c. An amendment is proposed by The Rev. Isaac Ihasota to change the minimum number of candidates to 3 in order to assure a faster election.
- d. The Rev. Nicholas Evancho spoke in opposition to the amendment.
- e. The amendment failed.
- f. There was no further discussion.
- g. The resolution passed unanimously.

## 16. Resolution C

- a. The Chair of Resolutions moves Resolution C on behalf of the committee.
- b. No discussion.

c. The Resolution passes unanimously.

#### 17. Bishop's Address

a. The Bishop gave an address on the purpose of the episcopate and the current state of the diocese.

#### 18. Delegation from the Diocese of Rochester

- a. Greetings were given by The Rev. Columba Salamony and The Rev. Elizabeth Harden.
- b. An historical crozier was given to the diocese as a gift of friendship.

#### 19. Eucharist and UTO Offering

- a. The UTO offering was gathered.
- b. Eucharist was celebrated in memory of Vida Dutton Scudder.
- c. The offering was given to Justice for Migrant Families.

#### 20. Dinner and Presentations

- a. Awards were given to those being recognized for lengthy service.  
The Rev. Canon Earle King, Chaplain to the Retired  
The Rev. Sarah Rieth, Intake Officer  
Ed Hill, Diocesan Council
- b. Presentations were made about the Kensington Highway project by The Rev. Steve Lane & on behalf of the Commission to Dismantle Racism and Discrimination by The Rev. Canon Helen Harper
- c. A video was shown of the Diocesan Youth & Summer Camp

### **Saturday, October 11th**

21. The convention is called to order by Bishop Lane.

#### 22. Morning Devotions

- a. The Rev. Dn. Jeffrey Tooke leads morning devotions.

#### 23. Elections

- a. Wendy Palmer is named judge of elections.
- b. Bishop Lane runs through each office and asks for additional nominations and none are made.
- c. The secretary casts one ballot for uncontested elections.  
The Rev. Ann Tillman, Standing Committee  
The Rev. Elizabeth Grohowski, Diocesan Council  
The Rev. Matthew Lincoln, Trustees  
The Rev. Rosaleen Nogle, Trustees
- d. The Rev. Elizabeth Grohowski withdrew from consideration for deputation to General Convention.
- e. Contested Elections
  - i. Standing Committee
    - 1. Elisabeth Brauza-Hughes is elected to a 4 year term

2. Bruce Davidson is elected to a 2 year term.
- ii. Diocesan Council
  1. Timothy Lane is elected to a 3 year term.
  2. Sharon Drennen is elected to a 3 year term.
  3. Latanya Jacob is elected to a 1 year term.
- iii. General Convention Deputies
  1. The Rev. Cathy Dempsey-Sims, Deputy.
  2. The Rev. Luke Fodor, Deputy.
  3. The Rev. Nicholas Evancho, Deputy.
  4. The Rev. Ann Tillman, Deputy.
  5. The Very Rev. Rebecca Barnes, Alternate.
  6. Wendy Schumacher, Deputy (Chair)
  7. Timothy Lane, Deputy
  8. Cheri Maytum-Krull, Deputy
  9. Faith Laudenslager, Deputy
  10. Elisabeth Brauze-Hughes, Alternate.

#### 24. Budget Presentation

- a. The Rev. Jason Miller presents the proposed budget for 2026.
- b. One question is asked regarding the amount designated for youth ministry. It is clarified that the proposed budget increases this amount over past allocations.
- c. The budget is passed unanimously.

#### 25. Resolution D

- a. The Chair of Resolutions moves Resolution D on behalf of the committee.
- b. The Rev. Canon Helen Harper is recognized to introduce the resolution.
- c. Susan woods speaks in favor of the resolution.
- d. The Resolution passes unanimously.

#### 26. Resolution E

- a. The Chair of Resolutions moves Resolution E on behalf of the committee.
- b. Elisabeth Brauz-Hughes is recognized to introduce the resolution.
- c. The Resolution passes unanimously.
- d. Questions of implementation are to be referred to the Diocesan Council.

#### 27. Resolution F

- a. The Chair of Resolutions moves Resolution F on behalf of the committee.
- b. The Rev. Mike Hadaway is recognized to introduce the resolution.
- c. The Rev. Luke Fodor speaks in opposition to the resolution.
- d. The Rev. Issac Ihiasota proposes an amendment to strike the second resolved clause from the resolution.
- e. The Rev. William Webb proposes an amendment to instead change the wording of the second resolved clause to include the option to “otherwise publicly embrace the Scriptural mandate embracing immigrants and migrants sojourning in our land.

- f. Both amendments are rejected.
- g. The Resolution passes in its original form.

## 28. Appointments

### a. Constitution and Canons

- i. Joseph Kozlowski (Chair), Arthur Russ, Elizabeth Hadaway, William Nitterauer, Thomas Mitchell, Eric Boron, Thomas Broad, Paul Johnson, & Cheryl Fisher, Chancellor (ex-officio)

### b. Dispatch of Business

- i. Cheryl Fisher (Chair), Joseph Kozlowski, Laurence Wainwright-Maks, Elisabeth Brauza-Hughes, Nick Evancho (Secretary)

### c. Regional Deans

- i. Nick Evancho (Northern Region), Barbara Price (Genesee), Luke Fodor (Cattaraugus/Chautauqua), Ann Tillman (Southern Erie), Michael Hadaway (Central Erie), Jason Miller (Eastern Erie)

### d. Resolutions Committee

- i. Nick Evancho (Chair), Patrick Bradley, Josephine Cross, Jeffrey Tooke

### e. Regional Disciplinary Board

- i. Sarah Rieth

## 29. Nominations

### a. Commission on Ministry

- i. Rebecca Barnes (Co-Chair), Michael Hadaway (Co-Chair), Diana Leiker, Kim Rossi, Cathy Smith, Beth Boron, Larry Mazuchowski, Kathy Roth, Sue Sims

### b. Joint Board of Examining Chaplains

- i. Luke Fodor (Co-Chair), Karen Lawler, Diana Leiker, Bonnie Morris, Ann Tillman

### c. Joint Commission to Dismantle Racism and Discrimination

- i. Helen Harper (Chair), Rebecca Barnes, Denise Clarke-Merriweather, Michelle Cray, Lillian Davis Wilson, Marc Gutierrez, Latonya Jacobs, Diana Leiker, Matthew Lincoln, Kim Rossi, Deanna Scharf, Rose Sconiers, Ann Tillman, Susan Woods

### d. All nominees are elected.

## 30. Courtesy Resolutions

- a. Courtesy resolutions are read and adopted.

31. Recognition and Commissioning of Those Elected to Diocesan Offices and General Convention
  - a. The Bishop leads a prayer over the people elected to offices, the General Convention deputies and the Search and Transition committees.
  
32. Blessing and Adjournment
  - a. The Bishop blesses the assembly.
  - b. The convention is adjourned *sine die*.

# Episcopal Diocese of Western New York

## Resolutions submitted to the 188<sup>th</sup> Convention

### Resolution NY-A

**Originator:** Constitution and Canons Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of WNY

**Subject:** Canon 19: Election of a Bishop, Amendment A

§1. Notice of Convention to Elect. Whenever it becomes appropriate for this Diocese to elect a Bishop Diocesan, Bishop Coadjutor or Bishop Suffragan, the necessary consents having been obtained, due notice of the Convention to Elect shall be given by the Ecclesiastical Authority.

§2. Committees.

(1) ~~(4)~~ Election and Qualifications. The Standing Committee shall prepare, in consultation with the Bishop Diocesan, if there be one, both a process for the selection ~~election~~ of persons to the Search Committee and the Transition Committee and the qualifications sought for each committee. If the Diocesan Convention is scheduled to convene within thirty days, the Standing Committee shall seek the concurrence of the Diocesan Convention regarding the selection ~~election~~ process and qualifications sought. At all other times, the Standing Committee shall seek the concurrence of the Diocesan Council regarding the ~~election~~ selection process and qualifications sought. The Standing Committee shall communicate the ~~election~~ selection process and the qualifications sought throughout the diocese. The Standing Committee will invite nominations for the Search Committee and Transition Committee using a diocesan-wide process and will select the members of the committees.

(2) Search Committee. The Search Committee shall be composed of the following:

(a) One Clerical Member and one Lay Member from each Deanery. The Clerical Member ~~elected~~ shall be canonically resident in the diocese and serving in the ~~electing~~ deanery. The Lay Member ~~Member elected~~ selected shall be an ~~an~~ adult communicant in good standing of a parish or mission in the ~~electing~~ deanery.

(b) The Standing Committee may appoint up to five additional persons to the committee.

(3) Transition Committee. The Transition Committee shall be composed of the following:

(a) One Clerical Member and one Lay Member from each Deanery. The Clerical Member elected shall be canonically resident in the diocese and serving in the ~~electing~~ deanery. The Lay Member elected shall be an adult ~~confirmed~~ communicant in good standing of a parish or mission in the ~~electing~~ deanery.

(b) The Chancellor of the Diocese.

(c) The Standing Committee may appoint up to three additional persons to the committee.

(4) Organization

(a) The Standing Committee shall appoint the Chair of the Search Committee and the Chair of the Transition Committee

(b) The Standing Committee shall convene a joint session of both committees to commission and charge them in their ministries.

(c) Members of the Search Committee shall continue as members until the close of the Convention to Elect at which the Bishop Diocesan, Bishop Coadjutor or Bishop Suffragan is elected, or until the Search Committee has been discharged by vote of the Convention to Elect. Members of the Transition Committee shall continue as members at least six months following the ordination of the bishop-elect or until the Transition Committee is discharged by vote of the Standing Committee.

(d) A Member of the Search Committee or a member of the Transition Committee whose

name is proposed for election under this canon must either withdraw from consideration or resign from the committee.

(e) The Standing Committee may at any time fill any vacancy in the membership of these committees caused for any reason.

(f) The Search Committee and the Transition Committee may adopt rules and procedures not inconsistent with the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church and of this Diocese.

### **Rationale:**

In reviewing Canon 19 this past summer to prepare to launch the Process for the Search of a New Bishop, the Standing Committee discovered that the expectations of this canon to elect one member of the clergy and one lay person from each deanery did not match the current reality. It hails from a time before technology sped up communication and eased some of the strain of geographic isolation. Additionally, for nearly a decade, many deaneries have not:

- Held the requisite official or regular meetings
- Maintained active rosters or leadership structures
- Developed the organizational capacity needed to hold representative elections

In light of this, the Standing Committee, in consultation with the Chancellor, the Diocesan Council, and the Constitution and Canons Committee, decided it was necessary to deviate from the canonical election process, while still honoring the intent of the canons, namely broad deanery representation, transparency, and faithful discernment. To consult with the entirety of the Diocese, a Zoom listening session was held on July 16th with no objection to this new process.

This resolution is needed to incorporate this adapted process into the canons. This change does not alter the intent of the canon but only shifts the manner in which it is effectuated.

While we were amending the canon, we took the opportunity to normalize and standardize the language across the two committees by removing the "~~confirmed~~-communicant in good standing" from the Transition Committee.

## **Resolution NY-B**

**Originator:** Constitution and Canons Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of WNY

**Subject:** Canon 19: Election of a Bishop, Amendment B

### §3. Nominees.

(1) The Search Committee shall communicate to the Standing Committee not fewer than ~~four~~ two nominees whom it considers qualified for the Episcopal Office to be filled at least twelve weeks before the Convention to Elect. The Standing Committee shall communicate the names of the nominees throughout the diocese.

(2) Following the announcement of the names submitted by the Search Committee, other persons may be placed in nomination by Petition. To be nominated by Petition, persons must have the signatures of not fewer than five members of the Clergy of the Diocese entitled to vote, and not fewer than ten adult communicants in good standing of the Diocese. The petitioners must represent no fewer than five congregations of the Diocese located in at least two Deaneries. Petitions must be submitted to the Standing Committee within two weeks of the announcement of the names submitted by the Search Committee.

(3) All nominees shall satisfactorily complete a background investigation, the procedure for which shall be determined by the Search Committee, subject to the Canons and policies of The Episcopal Church and of this Diocese.

(4) Biographical sketches of persons placed in nomination, whether by the Search Committee or by petition, shall be distributed by the Secretary of the Diocesan Convention to each member of the Clergy of the Diocese, to every person who is in charge of a congregation but may otherwise not be entitled to vote, and to each lay member of the Convention to Elect prior to the presentation of the nominees to the diocese.

(5) All nominees will be presented to the Diocese within two weeks of the Convention to Elect.

§4. Nominating Process at Convention to Elect. When the Convention to Elect has been called to order and all business incident to its organization has been completed, the Standing Committee shall formally move the nomination of each person nominated who is then qualified for the Episcopal Office to be filled.

§5. The Election.

(1) Recognizing the solemnity of such an occasion, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall insure that the election is placed within an appropriate context of worship and prayer. Each member shall vote religiously and in fear of God, the whole solemnity being an act of religion and part of public worship.

(2) An election shall be declared when one candidate receives a concurrent majority of votes in both lay and clerical orders, each order voting separately.

(3) If the Convention to Elect determines that it is unable to elect a person for the Episcopal Office to be filled, it may direct the Standing Committee to publish rules of order to prepare for another Convention to Elect using the process set forth in this Canon.

§6. The Context of the election of a Bishop. This Canon is an act of solemn prayer, trusting in the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We know the heritage of the Episcopate is the faith of the patriarchs, apostles, and martyrs, and those of every generation who have looked to God in hope; and that a bishop is called to be one with the apostles in proclaiming Christ's resurrection and interpreting the Gospel, and to testify to Christ's sovereignty as Lord of lords and King of kings. We call upon God to be with us in this election that we may choose a bishop and chief pastor.

**Rationale:**

Witnessing that the pool of candidates for Bishop is not as fulsome as it was in past generations in the Church, this revision seeks to allow the Search Committee and Standing Committee more flexibility as they seek to provide the best slate to Diocesan Convention. The revision down from at least 4 candidates for Bishop to at least 2 candidates is an accommodation to the current state of the Episcopal Church. In recent years, Dioceses much larger than ours (Dallas, California, Ohio, etc.) have all had slates of three candidates. The Revision does not preclude a slate for 4 or more, it simply allows for less.

## Resolution NY-C

**Originator:** Constitution and Canons Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of WNY

**Subject:** Canon 15

Canon 15 Section 2 concerning the Commission on Ministry from 2020 shall be deleted and replaced with the Section 2 concerning the Commission on Ministry from 2017.

**Rationale:**

These changes would restore us to our Canon on the Commission on Ministry before the Partnership and reduce the membership from 12 members to 8 members. (see below).

This will be a place holder until the Commission on Ministry and the Bishop Diocesan set a new vision for the Commission.

15§2. Commission on Ministry.

(1) Membership. There shall be a Diocesan Commission on Ministry consisting of ~~six~~ four members of the Clergy canonically resident within the Diocese and ~~six~~ four lay persons, each of whom is an adult confirmed person who is a regular attendant, communicant in good standing and contributor for at least twelve months to the support of a parish or mission in this Diocese.

(2) How Named. Members of the Clergy and lay persons shall be nominated by the Bishop at the Annual Convention of the Diocese, nominations being confirmed by vote of the Convention.

(3) Term. The term of office of each member of the Commission on Ministry, except for any member who is filling a vacancy, shall be six years, which term shall commence on the first day of November of the year of confirmation and end on the 31st day of October of the sixth year thereafter.

(4) Vacancies. Should a vacancy occur in the Commission on Ministry when the Convention is not in session, the Bishop shall nominate a person to fill such vacancy. Upon confirmation by the Standing Committee, that person shall serve as a member until the 31st day of October next following. At the Annual Convention of that year, the Bishop shall nominate a person to fill the remainder, if any, of the term. Upon confirmation by the vote of the Convention, the person so nominated shall serve as a member for the remainder of that term.

(5) Successive Terms. No person who has served two consecutive terms as a member of the Commission on Ministry, including one nominated and confirmed to complete the term of another, may be re-nominated by the Bishop to the Commission on Ministry until the expiration of one Convention year.

(6) Privileges and Duties. The privileges and duties of the Commission on Ministry shall be those prescribed by the Canons of the General Convention.

(7) Report. The Commission shall make an annual report concerning its work to the Convention of the Diocese.

(8) Service on Standing Committee. No one elected to the Standing Committee of this Diocese shall, during the term of his or her election thereto, serve as a member of the Commission on Ministry of this Diocese.

## Resolution NY-D

**Originator:** The Joint Commission to Dismantle Racism and Discrimination, WNY and NWPA  
**Subject:** Need for Diverse Staffing on All Levels

- Resolved: That the newly reconstituted Dioceses of WNY\* live into the Gospel call of Becoming Beloved Community by intentionally identifying and transitioning from practices in governance, operations, worship and community ministry that result in complicity with racism, discrimination or exclusion toward healing through loving, liberating, life-giving relationship with all God's children.
- Resolved: That decision-makers, including the laity, parish clergy and Diocesan staff, be mindful of and take steps to mitigate inequitable outcomes for people of color and those from indigenous, immigrant, LGBTQ+, women, differently abled, economically vulnerable and other marginalized communities who have been historically discouraged from full participation in the Church.
- Resolved: That every effort be made to increase representation of people of color and those who have been historically discouraged from full participation in the Dioceses of WNY through hiring, staffing and appointment at all levels of Diocesan church organizations, including clergy leadership and parish staffing as well as appointment to committees, commissions and specialized taskforces, both paid and volunteer. Where selection is by election, steps should be taken to encourage a slate of diverse candidates.
- Resolved: That those involved in recruitment, screening and/or selection processes for hiring, appointing and staffing at both Diocesan and parish levels be informed of The Episcopal Church's Model Practices for Racial Reconciliation and Healing, receive specialized training as called for in Resolution 2024-A035<sup>1</sup> and establish Model Policies for Anti/Racism/Racial Reconciliation Work. This training shall be conducted for members of the Bishop Search Committee, Diocesan leadership, and parish clergy, *as currently required by The Episcopal Church*.
- Resolved: That members of The Joint Commission to Dismantle Racism and Discrimination of WNY and NWPA be trained in The Episcopal Church's Model Practices for Racial Reconciliation and Healing and create a summary document for distribution across WNY parishes.
- Resolved: That The Joint Commission to Dismantle Racism and Discrimination of WNY and NWPA, as well as The Union of Black Episcopalians (national) and The UBE Bishop James Theodore Holly Chapter (local) be utilized as resources for outreach and recruitment by the Bishop Search Committee and other recruitment processes as appropriate.

### **Rationale:**

What is understood today as the ministry of Becoming Beloved Community and Racial Reconciliation has not always been endorsed by The Episcopal Church. The history of our Church reveals periods of participation in and of complicity with racism and discrimination in the Church's understanding of the Gospel and of the role of the Church in society. The struggle for inclusion and full participation for all of God's children within the Church has been long and slow and remains incomplete today, as documented in the most recent Racial Justice Audit<sup>2</sup>.

All of us, regardless of our race, gender, cultural ethnicity, immigration status, economic standing, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, ability, urban or rural background, etc., understand the world through the lens of our own unique experience and background. We have much diversity amongst us. But as a predominately white Diocese, the legacy of our past continues to limit our ca-

capacity to understand how to move away from racism and discrimination. Becoming Beloved Community calls for healing through authentic relationship-building across differences, mutual learning, inclusive welcome and love.

Greater racial and cultural diversity within Diocesan and parish leadership is a resource. Inclusion strengthens our capacity for Becoming Beloved Community beyond the limitations of decision-making from a white-only perspective. Fairness and openness to learning from difference grows capacity to live in loving relationship with all God's children.

<https://www.vbinder.net/resolutions/481?house=HD&lang=en>  
<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/racial-reconciliation/racial-justice-audit/>

## Resolution NY-E

**Originator:** Elisabeth Brauza-Hughes

**Subject:** Require Anti-Racism Training for Church Leaders

**Be it resolved**, that the Episcopal Diocese of Western New York require that all active clergy (to be defined as those in active ministry within the geographic bounds of this diocese), lay diocesan and church employees, diocesan elected leaders, including Standing Committee members, Diocesan Council members, Trustees, and Deputies and Alternate Deputies to General Convention, congregational lay leaders, including Wardens, Treasurers, Convention Delegates, and Vestry members, and all individuals licensed for lay ministries, complete an approved Anti-Racism/Dismantling Racism course through this or another Episcopal diocese, every three years.

### **Rationale:**

In 2022, General Convention resolution C009 mandated that all General Convention deputies and alternate deputies have received this training within the last 3 years before each General Convention they serve. Our diocesan deputation was not in compliance with this requirement at General Convention in 2024.

Additionally, in 2024, General Convention passed resolution A035, which calls for Model Policies for Racial Reconciliation and Healing be developed no later than September 30, 2025, and that such policies include education every 3 years for all clergy, lay employees, and lay leaders. While these policies were not yet released at the time this resolution was prepared, it is possible that they will have been released at the time of our Convention, and if not, they are expected within a short time after.

This resolution seeks to bring us into compliance with 2022-C009, and anticipates what the policies called for by 2024-A035 will likely ask of us.

Moreover, it calls us to live into our baptismal covenant, to seek and serve Christ in all persons, and respect the dignity of every human being.

While we do not currently offer this training in our diocese, training is available online from the following dioceses, that do accept registrants from outside their dioceses:

- Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio
- \*Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey
- \*Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania (Stevenson School for Ministry)

- \*Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta (Absalom Jones Episcopal Center for Racial Healing)

\* denotes a fee for registrants from other dioceses

This is not meant as an exhaustive list, but a starting place until such time as this diocese is again able to offer training here.

## Resolution NY-F

**Originator:** Vestry of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd Buffalo, The Very Reverend Rebecca Barnes, The Reverend Shannon Collis, The Reverend Elizabeth Hadaway, The Reverend Michael Hadaway, The Reverend Joseph Kozlowski, The Reverend Robin Kozlowski, The Reverend Steve Lane, The Reverend Rosaleen Nogle, The Reverend Claudia Scheda, The Reverend Frieda Webb

**Subject:** Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

**Resolved:** The Diocese of Western New York shares the concerns of other Episcopalians, our siblings in other Christian communities, and many other people in regard to the current actions of the federal government around immigration. We deplore the current model of operations of “ICE” that seem more at home in a totalitarian state than a democracy. The dehumanization, especially by those who self-identify as Christian, of people from different lands is repugnant to the clear sense of Scripture.

**Resolved:** our congregations are encouraged to have the full text of Leviticus 19:33-34 (or some other Biblical quote supporting alien) placed at their entrances, on their website, and in their bulletins. *“When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the native-born among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.”* [Leviticus 19:33-34].

**Resolved:** we will continue to minister to whoever comes, make no record of citizenship and work to love our neighbors as ourselves. Both inside our congregations and in our communities.

### Rationale:

It is important for Diocese, which contains multiple border crossings, to join with the many voices in the Episcopal church resisting the current treatment of immigrants within the United States.

While the Biblical witness clearly supports welcome to the stranger we often use other language to make out points. As claiming Christian faith supporting or even participating in ICE raids and other suppressions of liberty it important to respond with what the scripture says. This quote from Leviticus is clear and powerful. It also ends the same way the Ten Commandments begin, with the name and authority of the Lord our God. Remember Jesus Christ was a political refugee in Egypt fleeing for his life and his distant ancestor Ruth was an economic refugee in Israel.

The Most Reverend Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop, wrote to the church on June 11, 2025:

*What we are witnessing is the kind of distortion that arises when institutions like the military and the State Department are turned on the people they were meant to protect. These mainstays of the federal government, designed to safeguard civil society and promote peace and stability, are now being weaponized for political advantage.”*

In a joint letter the Episcopal bishops in California wrote :

*... people are concerned and fearful about the denial of due process for those detained and the potential for ICE raids targeting beloved community institutions and people working to support their families. People feel angry and threatened that the haven they sought in our communities is no longer safe. U.S. citizens and legal residents feel deep grief at losing beloved friends and family members. Children whose parents are deported face uncertain futures. In our churches, we strive to protect our members who are at risk.*

*Our Baptismal Covenant asks us, "Will you strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being (BCP p. 417)?" This question is a direct and ongoing call to us as persons who follow Christ to live out our calling opposed to injustice, to violence of any kind, and to stand up where human beings are not treated as we would treat a child of God.*

## **Resolution NY-G**

**Originator:** Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of WNY

**Subject:** Acknowledgement of the secularized church buildings

**Resolved**, that this 188<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese of New York, meeting in annual session at Niagara Falls on October 11, 2025, acknowledge the secularization of the church buildings of Grace Episcopal Church, Lockport, St Mary's Episcopal Church, Salamanca, and St Barnabas' Episcopal Mission, Franklinville, and the conclusion of community life for their members, and be it further

**Resolved**, that this Convention declare that the union between Grace Church, Lockport, St Mary's Church, Salamanca, and St Barnabas' Mission, Franklinville, and the Episcopal Diocese of Western New York is dissolved and the corporations are extinguished, and be it further

**Resolved**, that this Convention give thanks to Almighty God for the innumerable acts of love and praise that have proceeded from these communities and commend that the members be accepted and cared for by the worshiping communities of the Diocese.

## Courtesy Resolutions

**Be it resolved**, that the 188<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Western New York express appreciation to the staff of the Niagara Falls Convention Center for their hospitality and assistance during this Convention.

**Be it resolved**, that the 188<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Western New express appreciation to the speakers, presenters, and musician who gave of their time and talents at this Convention.

**Be it resolved**, that the 188<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Western New York express appreciation to Saxon and Jim Deck whose volunteer efforts during the preparation of items needed for this convention helped the office staff immensely.

**Be it resolved**, that the 188<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Western New York express appreciation to the members of the Standing Committee for their yeoman efforts as the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese of Western New York for these past 11 months, with special mention of the President of the Standing Committee, The Very Rev. Luke Fodor, and to the people of St. Luke's Jamestown for their patience as the diocese monopolized much of their rector's time and energy.

**Be it resolved**, that the 188<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Western New York express its heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania for our six-year Partnership and offers prayers for continued blessings upon their diocese.

**Be it resolved**, that the 188<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Western New York sends warm greetings to our previous Bishops and their spouses: The Rt. Rev. J. Michael Garrison and Carol; The Rt. Rev. R. William Franklin and Carmela; the Most Rev. Sean W. Rowe and Carly.

### **Time and Place of the Next Convention:**

**Be it resolved**, that the 189<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Western New York shall be held on October 23 and 24, 2026, at the Chautauqua Harbor Hotel in Celeron, New York.

## CONSOLIDATED CONVENTION BUDGET

### OPERATING REVENUE:

Other Revenue:	\$95,377.00
Trustee Designated:	\$271,141.00
Congregational Support:	<u>\$734,696.00</u>

**TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE:** **\$1,101,214.00**

### OPERATING EXPENSES:

Ministry of the Bishop:	\$21,500.00
Diocesan Office/Bldg. Expenses:	\$108,000.00
Diocesan Administrative & Operational Expenses:	\$144,000.00
Mission Support & Leadership Development:	\$100,000.00
Retiree Benefits & Support:	\$26,200.00
Church Wide Relations:	\$105,000.00
Community Relations:	\$7,500.00
Personnel Expenses:	\$497,300.00
Pension :	\$51,714.00
Benefits: Health; Dental; Life: LT & ST disability:	<u>\$40,000.00</u>

**TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES:** **\$1,101,214.00**

## FULL CONVENTION BUDGET

### Operating Revenue:

#### Other revenue:

Sanders Fund	\$	25,000.00
Schultz Fund	\$	11,500.00
Unrestricted Investments	\$	58,877.00
	\$	<u>95,377.00</u>

#### Trustee Designated Revenue:

Episcopate	\$	192,186.00
Retirees Health Ins.	\$	3,538.00
Disciples & Apostles	\$	40,943.00
DMC Operations Support	\$	34,474.00
	\$	<u>271,141.00</u>

#### Congregation Support (Fullshare):

\$ 734,696.00

### TOTAL OPERATING INCOME:

\$ 1,101,214.00

### OPERATING EXPENSES:

#### Ministry of the Bishop:

Archdeacon's Expense	\$	1,000.00
Archdeacon Cont. Ed.	\$	1,000.00
Bishops local travel	\$	8,000.00
Bishop's non-travel exp	\$	8,000.00
Bishop Cont. Ed.	\$	1,000.00
Bishop's Other/Misc.	\$	2,500.00
	\$	<u>21,500.00</u>

#### Diocesan Office/Bldg. Expenses:

Building Maintenance & Supplies	\$	21,000.00
Grounds & Parking Lot Maintenance	\$	20,000.00
Contracted Services	\$	15,000.00
Utilities	\$	15,000.00
398 Fries Utilities & Maintenance	\$	13,000.00
Bldg. Event Expenses	\$	5,000.00
Hospitality Expenses	\$	5,000.00
Property & Liability Insurance	\$	14,000.00
	\$	<u>108,000.00</u>

**Diocesan Administrative Expenses:**

Technology Exp./contract	\$	7,000.00
Network Support	\$	15,000.00
Copier Lease/Supplies	\$	6,000.00
Office Supplies	\$	3,500.00
Postage	\$	1,500.00
New Equipment	\$	2,500.00
Phone/internet/security lines	\$	10,000.00
Other/Misc.	\$	2,500.00
	\$	<u>48,000.00</u>

**Diocesan Operational Expenses:**

Auto expenses & Insurance	\$	8,000.00
Payroll Service	\$	2,000.00
Diocesan Convention	\$	35,000.00
Legal Expenses	\$	10,000.00
HR Consultant	\$	2,500.00
Audit Expenses	\$	17,000.00
Staff travel	\$	12,500.00
Staff Cont. Ed.	\$	1,500.00
Workers Comp. Ins.	\$	5,000.00
Other/Misc.	\$	2,500.00
	\$	<u>96,000.00</u>

**Mission Support & Leadership Development:**

Anti-Racism & Racial Reconciliation	\$	15,000.00
Conferences, Camps & Retreats	\$	20,000.00
Canterbury Institute Lifetime Learning	\$	3,000.00
Leadership Development	\$	10,000.00
Youth & Young Adult Ministry (first third)	\$	10,000.00
Commission on Ministry Exp.	\$	5,000.00
COM - Clergy Scholarships	\$	10,000.00
COM - Seminarian Scholarships	\$	15,000.00
Retired Clergy Support Program	\$	1,000.00
Memberships for Congregational Support	\$	3,500.00
GRI Support	\$	5,000.00
Other/Misc.	\$	2,500.00
	\$	<u>100,000.00</u>

**Retiree Benefits & Support:**

Lay Health Insurance	\$	19,200.00
Clergy Health Insurance	\$	7,000.00
	\$	<u>26,200.00</u>

<b>Church Wide Relations:</b>	
Province II expenses	\$ 2,500.00
General Convention	\$ -
Lambeth Conference	\$ -
National Assessment	\$ 100,000.00
Travel expenses	\$ 2,500.00
	<u>\$ 105,000.00</u>
<b>Community Relations:</b>	
Recovery Ministries/Hope Center	\$ 5,000.00
Network of Religious Communities	\$ 1,750.00
NYS Council of Churches	\$ 750.00
	<u>\$ 7,500.00</u>
<b>Personnel Expenses (salaries):</b>	
Bishop	\$ 70,000.00
Bishop Assist.	\$ 50,000.00
Canon for Operations, Pastoral Care & Congregational Support	\$ 92,635.00
Missioner for Administration	\$ 56,650.00
Director of Finance	\$ 83,258.00
Missioner for Youth & Children	\$ 10,000.00
Transition Officer	\$ 45,000.00
Communication Officer	\$ 25,000.00
Sexton/cleaning Personnel	\$ 15,000.00
Housing	\$ 24,716.00
SECA	\$ 12,441.00
FICA	\$ 10,100.00
Other/Misc.	\$ 2,500.00
	<u>\$ 497,300.00</u>
<b>Pension:</b>	
Bishop	\$ -
Bishop Assist.	\$ 4,500.00
Canon for Operations, Pastoral Care & Congregational Support	\$ 21,123.00
Missioner for Administration	\$ 5,098.00
Director of Finance	\$ 7,493.00
Missioner for Youth & Children	\$ -
Transition Officers	\$ 5,400.00
Communication Officer	\$ 8,100.00
	<u>\$ 51,714.00</u>
<b>Health:</b> Health/Dental/Life/LT/ST disability	\$ 40,000.00
	<u>\$ 40,000.00</u>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES:</b>	<u>\$ 1,101,214.00</u>

# Clergy of the Diocese of WNY

## (in Order of Canonical Residence)

### Bishops

The Rt. Rev. J. Michael Garrison	April 24, 1999 - Retired
The Rt. Rev. Dr. R. William Franklin	April 30, 2011 - Retired

### Presbyters

The Rev. Russell Amend	June 8, 1960 - Retired
The Rev. Michael Thomas	June 21, 1969 - Retired
The Rev. John Russell	Oct. 1, 1970 - Retired
The Rev. Canon Abuid Sam	Jan. 6, 1972 - Retired
The Rev. Charles Whitmore	June 16, 1973 - Retired
The Rev. Russell (Andy) Newbert	Nov. 1, 1975 - Retired
The Rev. William Crittenden	March 8, 1977- Retired
The Rev. Joseph Dedde	Sept 6, 1977 - Retired
The Rev. Canon Jerre Feagin	July 9, 1978 - Retired
The Rev. Jack Wolter	August 1, 1978 -Retired
The Rev. Canon John Paul Boyer	May 25, 1983 - Retired
The Rev. William Webb	Sept 4, 1984 - Retired
The Rev. Ellen Montgomery	June 22, 1985 - Retired
The Rev. Canon Earle King	Jan 27, 1986 - Retired
The Rev. Susan Keppy	Sept 1, 1986 - Retired
The Rev. Steven Metcalfe	July 1, 1987 - Retired
The Rev. Karen Gough	June 10, 1989 - Retired
The Rev. H. Jeffrey Haines	October , 1989 - Retired
The Rev. Barbara Baxter	June 8, 1991 - Retired
The Rev. Gary Schindler	Dec 4, 1991 - Retired
The Rev. Robert Arnold	June 6, 1992 - Retired
The Rev. Roland Cooper	Dec. 5, 1992 - Retired
The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Kim	June 5, 1993 - Retired
The Rev. Alison Martin	June 11, 1994 - Retired
The Rev. Allen Farabee, Jr.	Sept 1, 1995 - Retired
The Rev. Judith Hefner	June 8, 1996 - Retired
The Rev. Canon Barbara Price	June 7, 1997
The Rev. Dr. Leona Irsch	Oct. 21, 1997 - Retired

The Rev. W. David Noves	Nov. 21, 1997 - Retired
The Rev. Stephen Smith	June 17, 1998 - Retired
The Rev. Dr. Ross Mackenzie	Sept. 19, 1998 - Retired
The Rev. Walter Pond	May 30, 1999 - Retired
The Rev. Sarah Buxton-Smith	June 14, 1999 - Retired
The Rev. John Marshall	August 25, 1999
The Rev. Ellen Brauza	Jan. 20, 2001 - Retired
The Rev. Neil Johnson	June 1, 2001 - Retired
The Rev. Terry Bull	July 19, 2001 - Retired
The Rev. Gerald Hilfiker	Sept. 14, 2001 - Retired
The Rev. Philip Dougharty	April 15, 2002 - Retired
The Rev. Linda Malia	June 22, 2002
The Rev. Robert Samuels	October 16, 2002
The Rev. Judith Breny	June 4, 2003 - Retired
The Rev. Sandra Dower	December 20, 2003
The Rev. Frieda Van Baalen Webb	Dec 20, 2003 - Retired
The Rev. Nancy Guenther	April 9, 2005 - Retired
The Rev. Canon Gloria Payne-Carter	April 27, 2005 - Retired
The Rev. Karen Hardy	May 28, 2005 - Retired
The Rev. Canon Colleen O'Connor	Nov. 1, 2005 - Retired
The Rev. N. DeLiza Spangler	Jan. 17, 2006 - Retired
The Rev. Kim Rossi	July 22, 2006
The Rev. Canon Dr. Isaac Ihiasota	September 18, 2006
The Rev. Andrea Polvino	April 29, 2007
The Rev. Thomas Broad	Sept. 2, 2007 - Retired
The Rev. Jorge Budez	September 13, 2007
The Rev. Canon Catherine Dempsey-Sims	Dec.1, 2007
The Rev. Mark Cutolo	December 22, 2007
The Rev. Stephen Lane	June 29, 2008
The Rev. Dr. Daniel Pinti	November 22, 2008
The Rev. Bonnie Morris	December 20, 2008
The Rev. Yvonne Fancher	April 14, 2009 - Retired
The Rev. Helen Sam	April 14, 2009 - Retired
The Rev. Thomas Mitchell	June 2, 2009
The Rev. Joseph Kozlowski	March 12, 2011-Retired
The Rev. Thomas Gramley	Licensed, June 1, 2012

The Rev. Ann Tillman	July 13, 2012
The Rev. Blane van Pletzen	July 13, 2012 - Retired
The Rev. Luke Fodor	September 8, 2014
The Rev. Matthew Lincoln	September 15, 2015
The Rev. Dr. Richard Elberfeld	Licensed, Sept 1, 2016
The Rev. Wayne Knockel	September 14, 2016
The Rev. Dr. Robert Harvey	September 1, 2017
The Rev. Canon Helen Harper	June 5, 2018
The Rev. Michael Hadaway	June 6, 2018
The Rev. James Clement	July 31, 2018
The Rev. Jason Miller	August 4, 2018
The Rev. Elizabeth Hadaway	September 1, 2018
The Rev. Shannon Collis	September 11, 2018
The Rev. Rosaleen Nogle	July 13, 2019
The Rev. Dr. Sarah Rieth	Feb. 5, 2020 - Retired
The Rev. Nicholas Evancho	December 2, 2020
The Rev. Ann Markle	Nov. 19, 2021 -Retired
The Rev. Jessica Frederick	December 5, 2021
The Rev. Karen Lawler	December 5, 2023
The Rev. Canon Meredith Hunt	Licensed, March 5, 2019
The Rev. David Lillvis	Licensed, March 5, 2020
The Rev. Donna Maree	Licensed, Sept. 13, 2022
The Rev. Kathy Lawler	Licensed, Aug. 25, 2023
The Rev. Robert Duerr	Licensed, Feb. 21, 2024
The Very Rev. Rebecca Barnes	August 1, 2024
The Rev. Elizabeth Grohowski	August 15, 2024
The Rev. Johnnie Ross	Licensed, May 23, 2025
The Rev. Laurence Wainwright-Maks	September 1, 2025

### **Deacons**

The Rev. Bruce Gillies	June 9, 1984 - Retired
The Rev. Paulette Diehl	June 13, 1987- Retired
The Rev. Susan Boyd-Ellis	June 13, 1987- Retired
The Rev. Pauline Bowen	June 11, 1988- Retired
The Rev. Katherine Lwebuga-Mukasa	Jan. 22, 1993 - Retired
The Rev. Patricia Guinn	Sept.12, 1998 - Retired

The Rev. Leland Rose	Sept.12, 1998 - Retired
The Rev. Caroline Hass	Aug. 7, 1999 - Retired
The Rev. Patrick Bradley	May 6, 2000
The Rev. Leann McConchie	May 6, 2000
The Rev. Bonnie Witt	Sept. 14, 2001 - Retired
The Rev. Cathleen Smith	June 19, 2005
The Rev. Vickie Suitor	June 25, 2006 - Retired
The Rev. Thomas Tripp	Nov. 17, 2007 - Retired
The Rev. Daniel K. Thibodeau	September 14, 2008
The Rev. Penelope Foster	Oct. 18, 2008 - Retired
The Rev. Milania Lullo	December 26, 2009
The Rev. Kim Greene	February 13, 2011
The Rev. Cathy Ritz	June 16, 2012-Retired
The Rev. Joanne Frake	Feb. 2, 2013 - Retired
The Rev. Martha Farone	June 20, 2015
The Rev. Lillian Davis-Wilson	August 29, 2015
The Ven. Diana Leiker	December 10, 2016
The Rev. Robin Kozlowski	January 8, 2023
The Rev. Diane Cox	January 8, 2023
The Rev. Richard Inserra, Jr.	May 18, 2024
The Rev. Jeffrey Tooke	May 18, 2024

### **Clergy Surviving Spouses**

Mrs. Joan Arvedson (Peter)	Mrs. Susan Lord (Philip)
The Rev. Cathi Bencken (Charles)	Mrs. Kathleen Massie (James)
Mrs. Belmore Bridgford (Peter)	Mrs. Kay Outwin (Edson)
The Rev. Canon Cathy Dempsey-Sims (Pete)	Mrs. Linda Seitz (Kenneth)
Mrs. Deborah Deacon (Charles)	Mrs. Geraldine Simpson (George)
Mrs. Marcia Fenn (Richard)	Mrs. Laurie Smith (David)
Mr. Robert Firestine (Susan)	Mrs. Linda Szymanski (Michael)
Mrs. Babette Fuller (Glen)	Mrs. Gayle Wheeler (Charles)
Mrs. Marisa Guy (Ronald)	
Mrs. Ann Houghton (Philip)	
Mrs. Maxine Hovencamp (Otis)	
Mrs. Marie Jenks (Robert)	
Mrs. Anne Katner (Kirk)	
Mrs. Rita Lawson (William)	

## 2025 Lay Delegates

### **ALBION**

Paula Reimann  
John Grein  
Nicole Spohr

### **ALDEN**

Margaret Rose  
Robert Harris

### **ANGOLA**

Thomas Farley  
Tammy Stanley  
Shari Strom  
Janice Hansen-Alternate  
Dennis Carpenter-Alternate

### **BATAVIA**

Jo-Ann Bestine  
Diane Skelton  
Kevin Skelton

### **BUFFALO (GOOD SHEPHERD)**

Kathleen Toth  
Susan Woods  
Pat LaLonde

### **BUFFALO (ST. ANDREW'S)**

Elisabeth Brauza-Hughes  
Virginia Collier  
Sheldon Collymore

### **BUFFALO (ST. JOHN'S-GRACE)**

Kathy Stelter  
Robert Petersen  
Janet Dolce

### **BUFFALO (ST. MARK'S & ALL SAINTS)**

Jayne Mack  
Zee Edwards  
Evelyn Vossler  
Marie Malinowski-Alternate  
Rodger Jueckstock-Alternate

### **BUFFALO (ST MICHAEL'S & ALL ANGELS)**

Robert Weekley  
Carol Weekley

### **BUFFALO (ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL)**

Estelle Siener  
Evelyn Smigesky  
Kathy Reiss

### **BUFFALO (ST. PHILIP'S)**

Herman Wilson  
Josephine Cross  
Paul Nevergold  
Roan Moncrieffe-Alternate

### **BUFFALO (ST. SIMON'S)**

Mary Beth Weeks  
Carol McCourt  
Mark Henger-Alternate  
Tim Mazurek-Alternate

### **BUFFALO (TRINITY)**

Christina Kenney  
Barbara Griesmann  
Mark DelleBovi-Alternate  
Catherine Lincoln-Alternate

### **BURT**

Janelle Dengate  
Sarah Hornquist  
Cindy Harrington-Alternate

### **CHEEKTOWAGA**

Jill Rappold  
Katelyn Nicoloff  
Drew Metzloff  
Karen Gengo-Alternate

### **EAST AURORA**

William Bermingham  
Jason Tillman  
Saxon Deck

### **EGGERTSVILLE**

Elizabeth Ann Schascheck  
Susan Gunn  
Lois Tripp

### **GOWANDA**

Susan Ashby  
Lynn Jackson  
Dyan Noves-Alternate

### **GRAND ISLAND**

Melodie McEvoy  
Irene Ehde  
Joe Childs  
Rich Craig-Alternate

### **HAMBURG**

Julie Allen-Otis  
Roselyn DeLang  
Rob Campbell

### **HARRIS HILL**

Ken Wohlberg  
Tony Pandolfino  
Grace Zaccagnino-Alternate

### **HOLLEY**

Glenn Clark

### **IRVING**

Paul Cesana

**JAMESTOWN**

Sharon Drennen  
 Karl Costello  
 Matt Smith  
 Cheri Maytum-Krull-Alternate

**KENMORE**

Kathy Barton  
 Marc Gutierrez  
 Nathalie Head  
 Cathy Peszko-Alternate

**LANCASTER**

Maryrose Kotlowski  
 Pat Harder

**LEROY**

Lucinda Avery  
 Terry Ernst

**LEWISTON**

Edward Walker  
 Patricia Walker

**LOCKPORT**

Cynthia Theurer  
 Robert Theurer  
 Robin Schulmeister-Alternate

**MAYVILLE**

Tom Lescynski  
 Julie Lescynski

**MEDINA**

Georgette Stockman  
 Cynthia Kiebala

**NIAGARA FALLS (ST. PETER'S)**

Barry Johnson  
 Kathleen Preuss

**NIAGARA FALLS (ST. STEPHEN'S)**

William Duthé  
 Sandra Coyle  
 Richard Strong  
 Lydia Strong-Alternate

**NORTH TONAWANDA**

Peggy Thrasher  
 Suzanne Holcomb  
 Ji Hyun Woo

**OLEAN**

Suzanne Soltysik  
 Teresa Piccirillo  
 Mary Plonka

**ORCHARD PARK**

Scott Isaksen  
 Stacey Miner  
 John Bos

**PERRY**

Anne Katner  
 Barbara Heim

**RANDOLPH**

Sarah Barton  
 Kalan Brown  
 Trevor Barton

**SPRINGVILLE**

Susan Heinzmann  
 Dan Johnson-Alternate

**STAFFORD**

Lindsay Yoder  
 Amy Swanson

**WARSAW**

Linda Morris  
 Andy Stephany

**WESTFIELD**

Kathleen Best  
 Marybelle Beigh  
 Bob Karrfalt

**WEST SENECA**

Ellen Carl  
 Patti Hartz  
 Heather Leigh Cieslik  
 Faith Laudenslager-Alternate

**WILLIAMSVILLE**

George Faeth  
 Janet Newall  
 Bruce Davidson

**WILSON**

Priscilla Moot  
 Janet Hoffman  
 Lois Bateman-Alternate

**YOUNGSTOWN**

Karran Swayze  
 Mary Ellen Aureli  
 Barbara Hoffman

## **ARCHDEACON REPORT FOR 2025**

### **The Diocese of Western New York**

There have been many changes in the life of the Diocese over the past and specifically the deaconate in Western New York. This report is an overall, catch us up to speed report.

Deacon Tom Trip had been the Archdeacon for seven years, serving under Bishop Franklin and then during the Partnership, with Bishop Rowe. In the Spring of 2019, Bishop Sean Rowe appointed Deacon Diana Leiker to the position. When asked what an arch deacon does, Bishop Sean said “we’ll figure it out as we go along”. While he was being candid at that moment, he was also being a visionary of what can be, and listened to what was being said by the deacons. To be sure, the deaconate is changing and evolving to meet both the needs of the church and the region, but also the varied callings of the deacons. They are no longer the old model of one deacon in one parish assisting a priest in the liturgy and working with youth, but they are a robust group of leaders called to bridge the gap between the four walls of the building and the community needs, with a firm commitment to their Baptismal vows and the call of a Deacon to serve all people, especially the poor, weak, sick and lonely.

Bishop Sean met with the deacons for lunch to listen as they share their experiences and their dreams. This is briefly what they said “We dream of a time when priests understand that we are not servants to the priest, but are a separate and equal order, ordained and accountable to our Bishop, called to serve alongside priests and walk with the laity into the world’s pain. We act with a servant’s heart and the symbolism of our call is apparent in the parts of the liturgy we lead for the congregation to see. We proclaim the gospel, we preach a sermon that challenges and calls people to get out of their pews and work for justice, peace, and the dignity of all people. We bid the prayers, set the banquet table and help serve, and then send the people into the world to be the hands and feet of Christ. A Deacon’s job is to seek out the needs in the community, bring them to the laity, and encourage people to come with them on a journey where they will walk alongside those in need.”

Deacons help implement new ministries, and then they train the next group of leaders to take over and continue in their absence. They lift up the laity and help discern the gifts of the people in and out of the Church, empowering them to become who they are created to be.

Beyond the parish walls, Deaconal ministries include feeding ministries of all kinds, transporting patients to doctor appointments, visiting with veterans, leading prayer services and Alzheimer’s social groups. They take part in ecumenical events, make pastoral care calls, celebrate at funerals, work with the incarcerated, work with refugees and immigrants, and work with the poor and homeless. They serve within clothing ministries, leading book studies and seasonal studies, organizing weekday summer services, hospital and nursing home services and visitations, leading bereavement groups, working with people in transition, facilitate Healing Circles and create and sell craft items to benefit outreach programs, and are faith community nurses.

A few deacons serve multiple parishes; in regions without enough supply priests, in nursing homes and the Genesee Regional Initiative (GRI). They also are represented on the Commission on Ministry, the Standing Committee, the Commission to Dismantle Racism and Discrimination, Provincial and national councils, and are active in promoting Creation Care. There are currently 5 Deacons on the Search and Transition Teams as we look for a Bishop Diocesan.

On July 1, 2020, during the lockdown from COVID, Deacons from NWPA, WNY, and the Diocese of Niagara, Ontario, began meeting weekly on zoom. They have continued to meet on line every Monday morning for five years, discussing everything imaginable and supporting each other in their ministry work and their spiritual lives. The group has been able to meet in person four times and hopes to re-unite again when the border is easier to cross.

In 2015, two deacons were ordained by Bishop Bill Franklin: Lillian Davis-Wilson and Martha Farone. The next year (2016) Susan Firestine and Diana Leiker were ordained. In 2021 Andrew Schule and Jessica Frederick were ordained as transitional deacons. In 2023, two more deacons were ordained by Bishop Rowe: Robin Kozlowski and Diane Cox. In 2024, three transitional deacons were ordained: Philip Cunningham, Jeffrey Tooke, and Richard Inserra. As of 2025, there are 3 Deacons that are living out of state, 15 active deacons, a handful of them are part-time due to health challenges but they continue to serve when they can with joy and gratitude, and 10 retired Deacons.

Since 2015, we have had 2 deacons transfer out of the diocese and we mourn the loss of our dear servants in Christ: Shirley Trail 2018, Gay Walser 2020, Margaret Foster 2021, Cecily Whitford 2022, Alice Turner 2023, Michael Szymanski 2023, Susan Firestine 2024, David Smith 2025, and Mona Gaddis 2025.

As the Arch Deacon I attended a triennial conference of Deacons in San Antonio in June. I had the privilege of listening to and discussing issues about formation, stipends, tuition, and how to attract younger deacons, but mostly I observed the absolute joy and passion Deacons share and the enthusiasm they exhibit when they talk about serving God, their Bishop and priests, and their communities. It is clear that Deacons are actively serving in the world, using a prophetic voice when necessary, and standing in the gaps to make Christ's redemptive love known. Deacons are a necessary and hope-filled order in the Church.

*Faithfully submitted by Arch Deacon Diana L Leiker*

---

## **Archives Annual Report 2025**

Specific inquiries and requests are as follows

- Sacramental Records - 7
- Diocesan History - 3
- Parish Information - 3
- Western New York Heritage - 1
- New York State Historical Assoc. - 2

Additional projects have included records curated from closed parishes

- Grace Lockport
- St. Matthew's S. Buffalo
- St. Barnabas Franklinville
- St. Mary's Salamanca
- Updating index/contents of Active Parish files
- Inclusion of articles and photos to Active Parish files
- Accession of biographical information to files of former Diocesan clergy
- Research on the Rt. Rev. Wm. Walker and his ministry to Seneca Nation

The activities of the National Episcopal Historians and Archivists are slowly returning to "normal" and I anticipate renewal of lines of communications with colleagues on a national level. I have some articles on local history prepared for publication in "The Historiographer".

Respectfully submitted  
Susan T. Witt

## **Report from the Chancellor to Convention,**

During the past year, I have advised the Standing Committee, diocesan staff and the Committee on Constitution and Canons on the following topics:

Real Property transfers, sales, gifts and leases regarding five parishes or former parishes,  
Real property zoning issues,  
Transfer of Non-profit corporation and associated real property,  
Employment agreements with clergy,  
Use of endowment funds by churches.  
Litigation regarding sale of diocesan property.  
Amendment of Diocesan Canons,  
Interpretation of The Episcopal Church Constitution and Canons.

I have advised churches in the diocese on matters involving:

Clergy contracts  
Agreements with non-profit organizations using church property,  
Disputes with third parties using church properties,  
Issues with lay employees,  
Contracts and disputes with vendors.  
Relationships with parishioners and community members.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cheryl Smith Fisher  
Chancellor, Episcopal Diocese of Western New York

---

### **The Commission on Ministry**

For the past several years, The Diocese of Western New York and the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania had a Joint Commission on Ministry. Following the vote to dissolve the Diocesan Partnership at the Special Convention in May 2025, the four members of the Joint Commission from Western New York have continued to meet. The Very Reverend Rebecca Barnes and The Very Reverend Michael Hadaway stepped forward to co-chair the Commission.

Work has been undertaken to review files for the people in the process from Western New York, and to move forward with a re-envisioned process that will best serve all orders of ministry and align with the canons governing ordination.

On September 20, 2025 the COM held a retreat day for those in who are actively in discernment in this diocese.

8 people are currently in the diocesan process of discerning a call to ordained ministry:

#### **Aspirant/Nominees**

Tiffany Matthews - St. Paul's, Harris Hill

#### **Postulants**

Jeffery Tooke - Trinity, Delaware Ave., Buffalo (Transitional Deacon)

Richard Inserra - Good Shepherd, Irving (Transitional Deacon)

Jesse Pyle – Good Shepherd, Buffalo; priesthood

Rachael Pinti – St. Paul's Cathedral; priesthood

Marc Gutierrez – Advent, Kenmore; vocational deacon

**Vocational Deacons discerning priesthood - on hold till Bishop is elected and seated (per vote of Standing Committee):**

Robin Kozlowski  
Leann McConchie

**Additional information:**

Prior to the dissolution of the Joint Commission, an Explorer's Meeting was held on Saturday, April 26, 2025 on Zoom. This provided an opportunity for persons interested in exploring a potential call to ordination. Three people from the diocese attended.

Formal discernment in their parishes:

Gavin Card - St. Luke's, Jamestown  
Beth Weeks - St. Simon's, South Buffalo

Transferred/Released:

Phillip Cunningham (Transitional Deacon) to Diocese of South Carolina  
Andrew Schule (Transitional Deacon) released

We wish to thank the leadership of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania and our Commission on Ministry partners for their service and collaboration in our Joint Commission work.

We are grateful to The Rev. Luke Fodor and the members of the Diocese of Western New York Standing Committee for their support and guidance and to The Rt. Rev. Steven Lane for his wisdom and pastoral advice. We thank Shawn Slother for his trustworthy assistance in handling confidential records, last minute requests, and retreat planning.

We wish to thank the sponsoring priests and priests who have been supervising internships this year: Jason Miller, Matt Lincoln, Roland Cooper, Michael Hadaway, Rebecca Barnes, Bonnie Morris, Cathy Dempsey-Sims, Robert W. Harvey, and Ann Tillman.

Finally, we wish to thank the COM members for your patience, faithfulness and prayerfulness in listening to the Holy Spirit as we walk with others in discerning God's call: Beth Boron, Deacon Cathy Smith, and the Venerable Diana Leiker (ex officio).

Respectfully submitted,  
The Very Rev. Rebecca A. Barnes, co-chair  
The Very Rev. Michael Hadaway, co-chair

---

## **2025 Secretary's Report**

Since the last convention in October 2024, we had 1 priest transfer residence to the Diocese of Western New York:

The Rev. Laurence Wainwright-Maks

We had five clergy transfer residence from our diocese:

The Rev. Virginia Carr  
The Rev. Twila Smith  
The Rev. Andrew Schule

The Rev. Philip Cunningham  
The Rev. Claudia Scheda

We had one cleric renounce her orders:  
Sare Anuszkiewicz

We lost four beloved clergy to death since the last convention:  
The Rev. Carmen Seufert  
The Rev. Mona Gaddis  
The Rev. David Smith  
The Rev. Otis Hovencamp

A special convention was also held on May 3, 2025 where a vote decided that we will seek a bishop independently and no longer seek to share episcopal oversight with the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania.

*The Rev. Nicholas Evancho*

---

## Standing Committee Report to Convention

### **Exercising Ecclesiastical Authority in a Season of Transition**

This year, the Standing Committee's role was greatly expanded as it exercised ecclesiastical authority on behalf of the Diocese. In the absence of a bishop, the Committee stepped into a position of spiritual and organizational leadership, providing steady guidance in a season of discernment and transition.

A central focus of this work was leading the Diocese through a careful and prayerful process to discern the future of our Partnership with the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania. The Committee worked with Partnership Evaluation Consultants to develop and disseminate the Partnership Evaluation released in February 2025. It organized opportunities for conversation, ensured transparent communication, and helped frame the questions before us with clarity and pastoral sensitivity. In addition, the Standing Committee guided the preparations for and administered the Special Convention held on May 3, 2025 in Jamestown, NY. This convention represented a pivotal moment in the common life of our Diocese, and the Standing Committee worked diligently to ensure that the process was faithful, orderly, and responsive to the voice of the Holy Spirit as discerned through the gathered body. Following a decisive "no" vote, the Standing Committee has worked to rebuild the infrastructure of the Diocese of Western New York.

The Committee arranged for Episcopal Oversight in a temporary basis, by hiring Stephen T. Lane (Maine, resigned) to serve as Advising Bishop. The Standing Committee now presents Bishop Lane as a Candidate for election as Bishop with Provisional Charge. The Standing Committee also launched the formal process for the Search of a new Bishop Diocesan—appointing the Search and Transition Chairs (see separate report).

In addition to the general narrative above, the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Western New York, the Guided by the Constitution and Canons of both The Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Western New York, performed several other duties. This is a summary of our work from November 1, 2024, through October 12, 2025.

## **Received the Resignation of Bishop with Provisional Charge**

At their November meeting, the Standing Committee received the resignation of the Rt. Rev. Sean W. Rowe as Bishop with Provisional Charge.

## **Consent for Persons for Candidacy for Ordination**

During the past year, the Standing Committee approved the following persons for Candidacy:

Rachel Pinti (April 2025)

Marc Gutierrez (April 2025)

## **Release of Persons from Ordained Ministry**

During the past year, the Standing Committee approved the following persons for the release of ordained ministry:

Sarah E. Anuszkiewicz (March 2025)

## **Letters Dimissory and Release from the Diocese of Western New York.**

During the past year, the Standing Committee approved of Letters Dimissory for the following persons and released them from canonical residency in Western New York:

Virginia Carr (November 2024)

Philip Cunningham (July 2025)

Chris O'Connor (August 2025)

Claudia Sceda (August 2025)

Andrew Schule (July 2025)

## **Consent for Persons Elected to the Episcopate**

During the past year, the Standing Committee gave consent for the episcopal elections of the following persons:

Amy Dafler Meaux, Bishop Diocesan for Diocese of West Missouri (November 2024)

Angela Maria Cortiñas, Bishop Suffragan for Diocese of West Texas (November 2024)

Ángel Roberto Rivera Rodríguez, Bishop Diocesan for Diocese of Cuba (April 2025)

Robert P. Price, Bishop Diocesan for Diocese of Dallas (May 2025)

## **Authorization of Secularization**

During the past year, the Standing Committee approved the Secularization of St. Mary's, Salamanca.

## **Sale of Property**

The Standing Committee consented to:

The sale of St. Stephen's (Niagara Falls) of an apartment building (600 Cayuga Drive, Niagara Falls, New York)

The sale of the property of St. Barnabas Church (16 Green St, Franklinville, NY 14737)

The transfer of property of St. Mary's Church (99 Wildwood Ave, Salamanca, NY 14779) to the Seneca Nation

The Reaffirmation of the previous resolution (made on August 2023) to all allow the transfer of a vacant lot, the property of St. Matthew’s Church (17 Seneca St Buffalo, NY14210) to the Grassroots Gardens

The Standing Committee consented to:

The listing for sale of the property that once comprised Grace Church, Lockport (100, 110, 118 Genessee St Lockport, NY 14094).

**Members of the Standing Committee: 2024-2025**

**Clerical**

2028: Diana Leiker

2027: Daniel Pinti (Vice President)

2026: Luke Fodor, (President)

2025: Nicholas Evancho

**Lay**

James Isaac

Michael Bonilla (resigned) 8/25;  
Elizabeth Brauza-Hughes appointed 8/25

Denise Clarke-Merriweather

Lawrence Mazuchowski (Secretary)

---

**Standing Committee Forms Bishop Search and Transition Committees**

Exercising its canonical charge, the Standing Committee lead the process of forming the Bishop Search and Transition Committees. Abiding by the spirit of our diocesan canons, we sought to create committees that were geographically comprehensive and balanced, with one clergy and one lay representative from each deanery. We strove to ensure that there was diverse experience from congregations—both small and large and urban and rural as well as guaranteeing that there was broad inclusion of people with diverse background and identities.

This commitment to representation required careful discernment. We received 26 applications for the Search Committee and 15 for the Transition Committee. However, interest was not evenly distributed across the diocese. For instance, in the Search Committee, some areas had multiple candidates for just two positions—such as six applicants from Central Erie and five from Eastern Erie—while other deaneries, like Chautauqua, had only a single applicant. The Standing Committee chose to preserve those openings.

Through prayerful consideration, we worked to ensure that every region of our diocese has a voice in this important work, while also honoring the gifts and experiences of those who offered themselves for service. Over 50% of the congregations of Western New York are represented (26 of the 51 freestanding congregations). These committees will play a vital role in discerning our next Bishop Diocesan and guiding the diocese through this time of transition.

Search Committee	Transition Committee
<p><b>Chair:</b> Ms. Lisa Yaggie (St. Luke's, Jamestown)  <b>Administrator:</b> The Rev. Nick Evancho (St. Martin-in-the Fields, Grand Island)</p> <p>The Rev. Rebecca Barnes (St. Paul's Cathedral, Buffalo)  The Rev. Diane Cox (Genesee Regional Initiative)  Ms. Diane Gaddis (Grace, Randolph)  Mr. Marc Gutierrez (Advent, Kenmore)  The Rev. Mike Hadaway (Good Shepherd, Buffalo)  Mr. Mark Henger (St. Simon's, Buffalo)  The Rev. Karen Lawler (Trinity, Lancaster)  The Rev. Milania Lullo (non-parochial)  Ms. Abrielle Monaghan (St. Luke's, Jamestown)  Ms. Katelyn Nicoloff (St. Patrick, Cheektowaga)  Mr. Benjamin Phillips (Advent, Kenmore)  Ms. Amy Swanson (St. Paul's, Stafford)  Ms. Deborah Seals (St. Phillips, Buffalo)  Ms. Sue Sims (St. Phillips, Buffalo)  The Rev. Tom Tripp (St. Peter's Eggertsville)  Ms. Susan Woods (Good Shepherd, Buffalo)</p>	<p><b>Chair:</b> The Rev. Robin Kozlowski (GRI)  <b>Administrator:</b> Ms. Sharon Drennen (St. Luke's, Jamestown)</p> <p>The Rev. Frieda van Baalen Webb (non-parochial)  Mr. Wayne Blassingame (St. Phillips, Buffalo)  Ms. Saxon Cobb Deck (St. Matthias East Aurora)  Ms. Leslie DeLooze (St. Mark's, LeRoy)  Mr. William Duthé (St. Stephen's, Niagara Falls)  Ms. Cheryl Smith Fisher, Esq (Chancellor)  Ms. Karen Gengo (St. Patrick, Cheektowaga)  The Rev. Elizabeth Grohowski (St. Andrew's, Burt/ St. Paul's, Lewiston)  Ms. Su Hadden (St. Paul's Cathedral, Buffalo)  Ms. Joan Jennings Scalfani (Calvary, Williamsville)  The Rev. Steve Lane (St. Phillips, Buffalo)  Ms. Gloria Longo (Good Shepherd, Buffalo)  The Rev. Thomas Mitchell (Christ, Lockport)  Ms. Elizabeth Schascheck (St. Peter's, Eggertsville)  The Rev. Cathy Smith (St. Luke's, Jamestown)  The Rev. Kim Rossi (St. Stephen's, Olean)  Ms. Mary Elizabeth Weeks (St. Simon's, Buffalo)</p>

## Report of the Trustees

### To Diocesan Convention 2025

The Trustees provide this report of their ongoing activities on behalf of the Diocese since the last Annual Convention.

Being in a state of flux with Bishop Rowe moving onto being the Presiding Bishop, the activity involved with the transition of the Partnership, and now being in search for a new bishop there has been minimal Trustee program activity in 2025.

**Funding Program of the Church:** The Trustees appropriate annually a prudent portion of the earnings of diocesan investments for program use; the support from investment income supplements the support received from the congregations. Generally, the Trustees allocate 5% of the average value during a 5-year base period. For 2025, the Trustees allocation approval for the 2026 diocesan budget resulted in income available for the Operating Fund of \$330,018 in unrestricted (undesignated) income. In addition, several funds with designations are expended through the diocesan operating budget. Some non-endowed funds are not appropriated using an annual method, but are drawn at time of need or opportunity, used in accord with applicable restrictions.

### Stewardship and Fundraising:

**Endowment Development:** The Trustees have a program in place and are willing to provide assistance to congregations seeking to establish an endowment fund or who wish to begin or strengthen legacy giving.

**Donor-Advised Funds:** The Trustees are ready to receive gifts and act as custodian from individuals and foundations to benefit the church and which are invested in the Western New York Diocese.

san Investment Trust (WNYDIT). The only fees associated with this program are the underlying cost of the funds in which the investments are held.

**Investment Management:** The Trustees regularly review the performance and allocation of investment portfolios and receive quarterly written reports from the custodian and investment advisor of the WNYDIT.

The Trustees continued to engage Investment Analytics on an ongoing basis to analyze performance, risk and policy of the Trustees with respect to the funds under their oversight.

**Assisting Congregations with Legal Compliance:** Compliance with New York State law involving the management, investment and allocation (spending) of institutional funds is not optional. The Trustees urge congregations to review their endowment/investment management procedures and investment policies to be consistent with the NY Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act adopted in 2010. The diocese maintains funds in a manner consistent with the applicable legal standards.

### **Investment Portfolios**

*The Western New York Diocesan Investment Trust (WNYDIT)* is a family of portfolios sponsored by the Trustees for investments of funds held by the diocese, its congregations, and agencies related to the church. Use of the WNYDIT for investments by congregations and agencies related to the church is encouraged. Segregated accounts within the fund can be used for each separate trust or account. Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF) presently serves as Custodian and Investment Manager of the 2 quite low.

Four investment options are currently available through WNYDIT:

- Fund A is an actively managed growth & income fund (consisting of stocks, bonds and money market investments) invested by ECF;
- Fund B is a fixed income fund managed by ECF;
- Fund D is a growth fund managed by ECF; and
- Fund E is a social responsibility fund managed by ECF.

On June 30, 2025, the WNYDIT had total assets of \$18,324,706

*Other portfolios:* Several other portfolios, some administered by other trustees, investment advisors and custodians, benefit the diocese:

- The *Episcopate Fund*, an endowment, is overseen by the Trustees and invested in funds managed by The Vanguard Group; income is used for expenses associated with the office of the Bishop.
- The *Belize Fund* was raised in the Venture in Mission Campaign, 1980. The Trustees oversee the fund and make distributions from income to the Anglican Diocese of Belize. The Belize Fund is invested with the Vanguard Group of Funds.
- The *John A Murphy Trust* is overseen by a third-party trustee; the income is received by the Trustees and used for education of seminarians.
- The *Olive Widmer Schultz and Ilette B. Sanders Trusts*, are also overseen by third-party trustees; the income becomes part of the budget of the Diocesan Council and is used to support the general

work of the diocese.

- The *Culbertson Fund*, held by Kaleida Group, is used to pay for hospital services at Buffalo General Hospital upon the Bishop's instruction.

On June 30, 2025, the Vanguard Group of Funds had total assets of \$10,339,728

### **Diocesan Real Estate Oversight.**

The Trustees are charged with responsibility for management of real property owned by the diocese.

- *The Diocesan Center*: Operation of the diocesan offices is the responsibility of the Bishop with accountability to the Diocesan Council through the budget process. Provisions of the New York State Real Property Tax Law affect the use of The Diocesan Center by outside groups.
- *The Hope Center*: This diocesan-owned property on Maple Road in Amherst, formerly known as All Saints Episcopal Church, is now known as The Hope Center. The Hope Center is a ministry of the Diocesan Council and provides a safe place for recovery. The Hope Center is principally used by various 12-step programs.
- *St. Matthews South Buffalo*: A vacant lot is in the process of being transferred to Grassroots Garden. The church building is beyond repair and bids are being taken for its demolition.
- *Grace Lockport*: This site is being evaluated for potential sale. The evaluation is taking into consideration the entire Grace complex.

## Diocesan Office and Staff

### Office

1064 Brighton Road, Tonawanda, NY 14150  
Phone: 716.881.0660  
Staff Hours: 9am-4pm, Monday-Friday

### Website

[www.episcopalwny.org](http://www.episcopalwny.org)

### Facebook

Episcopal Diocese of WNY

### Instagram

[episcopal.wny](https://www.instagram.com/episcopalwny)

### Youtube

[@episcopalwny](https://www.youtube.com/@episcopalwny)

### Bishop Stephen T. Lane

*Bishop Provisional*  
716-881-0660  
[blane@episcopalwny.org](mailto:blane@episcopalwny.org)

### Cathy Dempsey-Sims

*Canon for Operations, Pastoral Care  
& Congregational Support*  
716.881.0660 ext. 114  
[cdsims@episcopalwny.org](mailto:cdsims@episcopalwny.org)

### Maria Manocchio

*Director for Finance*  
716.881.0660 ext. 118  
[maria@episcopalwny.org](mailto:maria@episcopalwny.org)

### Shawn Slother

*Missioner for Administration*  
716.881.0660 ext. 111  
[sslother@episcopalwny.org](mailto:sslother@episcopalwny.org)

### Wendy Schumacher

*Missioner for Youth and Children*  
716.881.0660 ext. 111  
[wschumacher@episcopalwny.org](mailto:wschumacher@episcopalwny.org)

### Bonnie Morris

*Missioner for Transition*  
716.881.0660 ext. 111  
[bmorris@episcopalwny.org](mailto:bmorris@episcopalwny.org)

**James Clement**  
*Title IV Intake Officer*  
716.881.0660 ext. 112  
intake@episcopalwny.org

**Susan Witt**  
*Archivist, WNY*  
716.881.0660 ext.111  
archives@episcopalwny.org

**Diana Leiker**  
*Archdeacon*  
716.880.5103  
dllart@aol.com

**Cheryl Fisher**  
*Diocesan Chancellor*  
716.861.2209  
cherylsmithfisher@gmail.com

**Wendy Palmer**  
*Diocesan Treasurer*  
716.708.9626  
momnar123@yahoo.com

## **Chaplains to the Retired**

**Terry & Candi Bull**  
716.587.1101 (Terry)  
716-260-9129 (Candi)  
twbull@me.com (Terry)  
candibull@icloud.com (Candi)  
(Greater Buffalo Area)

**Pat Guinn**  
716.224.1210  
pjguinn@gmail.com  
(Southern and Western Areas of the Diocese)

**Earle King**  
716.479.3534  
padreking@aol.com  
(Communication Ministry)

## Diocesan Committees

### Standing Committee

The Rev. Luke Fodor, President (2026)  
The Rev. Dr. Daniel Pinti, Vice-President (2027)  
Denise Clarke-Merriweather (2026)  
Bruce Davidson (2027)  
The Ven. Diana Leiker (2028)  
James Isaac (2028)  
The Rev. Ann Tillman (2029)  
Elisabeth Brauza-Hughes (2029)

### Diocesan Council

The Rev. Jason Miller (Vice-Chair)(2026)  
Karen Gengo (Secretary) (2026)  
Latanya Jacob (2026)  
The Rev. Jessica Frederick (2027)  
Cheri Maytum-Krull (2027)  
Robert Petersen (2027)  
The Rev. Elizabeth Grohowski (2028)  
Sharon Drennen (2028)  
Timothy Lane (2028)  
Wendy Palmer (Treasurer)

### Trustees

Robert Matson (2026) (Vice-Chair)  
Chris Casto (2026)  
Patricia Lalonde (2027)  
Ed Walker (2027)  
The Rev. Matthew Lincoln (2028)  
The Rev. Rosaleen Nogle (2028)]

### Constitution & Canons

The Rev. Joseph Kozlowski (Chair) (2026)  
Arthur Russ (2026)  
The Rev. Elizabeth Hadaway (2027)  
William Nitterauer (2027)  
The Rev. Thomas Mitchell (2028)  
Eric Boron (2028)  
The Rev. Thomas Broad (2029)  
Paul R. Johnson (2029)  
Cheryl Fisher, Chancellor (ex-officio)

### Commission on Ministry

The Very Rev. Rebecca Barnes, Co-Chair  
The Rev. Michael Hadaway, Co-Chair  
The Rev. Cathy Smith  
The Rev. Kim Rossi  
Beth Boron  
Larry Mazuchowski  
Kathy Toth  
Sue Sims  
The Ven. Diana Leiker, ex-officio

### Grant Committee

2025 Annual Convention Journal

Cheri Maytum-Krull (Chair)  
The Rev. James Clement  
Maria Manocchio (Director for Finance)  
Wendy Palmer (Treasurer)

### **Joint Board of Examining Chaplains**

#### **WNY**

The Rev. Luke Fodor, (Co-Chair)  
The Rev. Karen Lawler  
The Ven. Diana Leiker  
The Rev. Bonnie Morris  
The Rev. Ann Tillman

#### **NWPA**

The Rev. Shawn Clerkin  
The Rev. Carol Carlson  
The Rev. John Wise

### **Joint Commission to Dismantle Racism & Discrimination**

#### **WNY**

The Rev. Canon Helen Harper (Chair)  
Susan Woods (Vice-Chair)  
The Rev. Kim Rossi (Recording Secretary )  
Denise Clarke-Merriweather (Leadership Team)  
The Rev. Matt Lincoln (Leadership Team)  
The Hon. Rose Sconiers (Leadership Team)  
The Very Rev. Rebecca Barnes  
Michelle Cray  
The Rev. Lillian Davis Wilson  
Marc Gutierrez  
Latanya Jacob  
The Ven. Diana Leiker  
Deanna Scharf  
The Rev. Ann Tillman

#### **NWPA**

The Rev. Canon Stacey Fussell (Vice-Chair)  
The Rev. Mark Elliston (Treasurer)  
The Rev. Shawn Clerkin  
Joseph Croskey  
John Ranney  
Caleb Raught  
Tracey Shliep

### **Joint Committee on Recovery Ministry**

The Rev. Steve Lane (Chair)  
The Rev. Mark Elliston

### **Regional Disciplinary Board**

The Hon. Rose Sconiers (2026)  
The Rev. Sarah Rieth (2028)

### **Credentials Committee**

Wendy Palmer

**Dispatch of Business Committee**

Cheryl Fisher (Chair)  
The Rev. Nick Evancho (Secretary)  
The Rev. Joseph Kozlowski  
The Rev. Laurence Wainwright-Maks  
Elisabeth Brauza-Hughes

**Resolutions Committee**

The Rev. Nick Evancho, Chair  
The Rev. Patrick Bradley  
Josephine Cross  
The Rev. Jeffery Tooke

**Finance Committee**

The Rev. Jason Miller (Chair)  
The Rev. Jessica Frederick  
Wendy Palmer, Treasurer  
Maria Manocchio, Director of Finance

**Nominating Committee**

The Rev. Luke Fodor (2026)  
Denise Clarke-Merriweather (2026)  
The Rev. Dr. Daniel Pinti (2027)  
Michael Bonilla (2027)  
The Ven. Diana Leiker (2028)  
James Isaac (2028)

**Education for Ministry Coordinator**

Linda Makson

**2027 General Convention**

The Rev. Canon Cathy Dempsey Sims  
The Rev. Nicholas Evancho  
The Rev. Luke Fodor  
The Rev. Ann Tillman  
The Very Rev. Rebecca Barnes (Alternate)  
Timothy Lane  
Faith Laudenslager  
Cheri Maytum-Krull  
Wendy Schumacher (Chair)  
Elisabeth Brauza-Hughes (Alternate)

## Deaneries

### Cattaraugus & Chautauqua Deaneries

#### Dean: The Rev. Luke Fodor

- ◆ Allegany State Park, St. John's-in-the-Woods
- ◆ Chautauqua, Chapel of the Good Shepherd
- ◆ Dunkirk, St. John the Baptist Church
- ◆ Ellicottville, St. John's Church
- ◆ Fredonia, Trinity Church
- ◆ Gowanda, St. Mary's Church
- ◆ Irving, Good Shepherd Church
- ◆ Jamestown, St. Luke's Church
- ◆ Mayville, St. Paul's Church
- ◆ Olean, St. Stephen's Church
- ◆ Randolph, Grace Church
- ◆ Silver Creek, St. Alban's Church
- ◆ Westfield, St. Peter's Church

### Central Erie Deanery

#### Dean: The Rev. Michael Hadaway

- ◆ Buffalo, Church of the Good Shepherd
- ◆ Buffalo, St. Andrew's Church
- ◆ Buffalo, St. John's-Grace Church
- ◆ Buffalo, St. Mark's & All Saints' Church
- ◆ Buffalo, St. Paul's Cathedral
- ◆ Buffalo, St. Philip's Church
- ◆ Buffalo, Trinity Church

### Eastern Erie Deanery

#### Dean: The Rev. Jason Miller

- ◆ Alden, St. Aidan's Church
- ◆ Buffalo, St. Michael & All Angels Church
- ◆ Cheektowaga, St. Patrick's Church
- ◆ Eggertsville, St. Peter's Church
- ◆ Harris Hill, St. Paul's Church
- ◆ Lancaster, Trinity Church
- ◆ Williamsville, Calvary Church

### Genesee Region Deanery

#### Dean: The Rev. Canon Barbara Price

- ◆ Albion, Christ Church
- ◆ Attica, St. Luke's Church
- ◆ Batavia, St. James' Church
- ◆ Holley, St. Paul's Church
- ◆ LeRoy, St. Mark's Church
- ◆ Medina, St. John's Church
- ◆ Perry, Holy Apostles Church
- ◆ Stafford, St. Paul's Church
- ◆ Warsaw, Trinity Church

### Northern Region Deanery

#### Dean: The Rev. Nick Evancho

- ◆ Burt, St. Andrew's Church
- ◆ Grand Island, St. Martin-in-the Fields
- ◆ Kenmore, Church of the Advent
- ◆ Lewiston, St. Paul's Church
- ◆ Lockport, Christ Church
- ◆ Niagara Falls, St. Peter's Church
- ◆ Niagara Falls, St. Stephen's Church
- ◆ North Tonawanda, St. Mark's Church
- ◆ Wilson, St. John's Church
- ◆ Youngstown, St. John's Church

### Southern Erie Deanery

#### Dean: The Rev. Ann Tillman

- ◆ Angola, St. Paul's Church
- ◆ Buffalo, St. Simon's Church
- ◆ East Aurora, St. Matthias' Church
- ◆ Hamburg, Trinity Church
- ◆ Orchard Park, St. Mark's Church
- ◆ Springville, St. Paul's Church
- ◆ West Seneca, St. David's Church

### Regional Collaborations

- ◆ Genesee Regional Initiative (GRI)  
**Website:** [geneseeepiscopal.org](http://geneseeepiscopal.org)