

JOURNAL OF THE 83rd DIOCESAN CONVENTION

The 83rd Convention of the Diocese of Rochester was held November 8th, at Trinity Episcopal Church in Greece, NY.

OPENING OF CONVENTION/ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

The Right Rev. Prince G. Singh welcomed guests, delegates and clergy to the 83rd Convention at Trinity Episcopal Church in Greece, NY. The Secretary established a quorum was present and the Bishop called the convention to order at 8:48 a.m. on November 8, 2014.

FIRST BUSINESS SESSION

Welcome

The Bishop opened with prayer, welcomed delegates and noted that all ordained Episcopal clergy functioning in charge of congregations by canonical residence or license with this Diocese shall have seat, voice and vote. According to ARTICLE III (c), the Chancellor, Secretary and Treasurer of the Diocese and Lay Canons also have seat, voice and vote except in the case of a vote by Orders.

Majority Vote

The Secretary established the numbers needed for a majority vote.

Appointment of a Chaplain

The Bishop appointed the Rev. David Hefling and Ms. Libby Campbell from St. John's Canandaigua as Chaplains to Convention.

Introduction of Treasurer

The Bishop introduced the Diocesan Treasurer, Mr. Robert Van Niel.

Reading of the Minutes of the 82nd Diocesan Convention

The Bishop announced that the Committee on the Reading of the Minutes had reviewed the minutes of the 82nd Diocesan Convention as posted on the website and made available in print at all Pre-Convention District Meetings. He called for a motion to waive the reading of those minutes and to accept the minutes of the 82nd Diocesan Convention. **MSP**

Introduction of the Chancellor and the Assistant Chancellor

The Bishop introduced the Chancellor, Mr. Philip Fileri, Esq. and the Assistant Chancellor, Mr. Thomas Wright, Esq.

Appointment of Registrar and Assistant Registrar

The Bishop appointed Ms. Hazeldene Hercules to serve as Registrar and Ms. Carolyn McConnell as Assistant Registrar.

Committee on Elections

The Bishop appointed the Committee on Elections: The Rev. Craig Uffman, Chief Teller; Ms. Hazeldene Hercules, Mr. Arnold Lewis, Mr. Larry Savino, Ms. Virginia Tyler, Mr. Andrew VanBuren, Mr. Padraic Collins-Bohrer, Mr. John Bouwen, and Ms. Diane Rehse, Ms. Kristin Woodward

Committee on the Dispatch of Business

The Bishop appointed the Committee on the Dispatch of Business: The Rev. Rob Picken and delegate Mr. Chris Moore from St. Paul's Rochester.

Committee on Credentials

The Bishop appointed the Committee on Credentials: The Rev. Lynne Sharp and delegates, Charles Skinner from St. James, Hammondsport and Sue Caward from Good Shepherd, Savona.

Seat and Voice as Reported by the Committee on Credentials

The Chair of the Committee on Credentials, the Rev. Lynne Sharp, reported the credentials of the delegates were in order. She cited Article III, Section 2(c) of the Constitution and moved that the courtesy of seat and voice be granted to the guests of convention. Included were:

All members of elected or appointed bodies and committees of this Diocese

All committees and organizations funded through programs of this Diocese

Officers of the Diocese

All Diocesan staff

Young people of the Diocese present at this Convention

All spouses, partners and guests present at this Convention, including SPICE

Ms. Courtney Spitz and Auditors representing the Diocesan Audit Firm of Bonadio and CO., LLP

All asked to speak on the behalf of Resolutions coming before this convention.

Dispatch of Business

The Rev. Rob Picken, Chair of the Committee on Dispatch of Business, moved the agenda for the Convention. **MSP**

Rules of Debate

The Rev. Rob Picken, Chair of the Committee on Dispatch of Business, moved the Convention Rules of Debate as follows:

- that all speakers must identify themselves by name, congregation and organization
- that no more than 15 minutes be devoted to each question, including amendments and substitutions
- that the sponsor and first opponent limit themselves to three minutes and all speakers thereafter are limited to two minutes

The rules of debate may be amended or extended during debate by a simple majority vote, if desired. Delegates were reminded that motions, amendments and substitutions should be presented to the Secretary in writing with the name and congregation of the mover, using the form found in the packets. **MSP**

Appointment of a Time Keeper

The Bishop appointed the Rev. Rob Picken as Time Keeper.

Correspondence to Be Read at Convention

The Secretary reported that there was no correspondence.

Acceptance of Reports

The Bishop asked for acceptance of the reports of the Commission on Ministry, the Trustees, the Diocesan Council, the Standing Committee and other official reports included in the delegates' packets. The Rev. David Hefling moved the acceptance. **MSP**

Standing Committees for the 83rd Convention

The Bishop announced the appointments to the Standing Committees for the 83rd Convention and expressed thanks for their service.

On Arrangements: The Very Rev. Debs Duguid-May, Ms. Hazeldene Hercules, The Rev. Paul Frolick, Ms. Patti Cummings, Ms. Susan Woodhouse, and the Bishop's staff. (Ms. Carolyn McConnell, Ms. Kristy Estey, Ms. Eileen O'Connor Casey, the Rev. Canon Julie Cicora, Mr. Matthew Townsend)

On Constitution and Canons: Philip Fileri, Esq., Chair, Dyson Gay, Esq., C. Thomas Wright, Esq., Susan Scanlon, Esq., the Rev. Canon Dr. C. Denise Yarbrough, Esq., the Rev. Christopher Luedde, the Rev. Michael Hopkins, the Rev. Michael Hartney, F. Paul Greene, Esq.

On Nominations: Ms. Barbara Deming, Chair; Marlene Allen, Deborah Cole Wonderlich, Dick Van Belzen, John Bouwens, the Very Rev. Debs Duguid-May, the Very Rev. Cynthia Rasmussen, the Very Rev. David Hefling and the Very Rev. Phil Kasey

On Resolutions: The Rev. Michael Hopkins, the Rev. Peter Peters, the Rev. Andrew D'Angio White

To Read and Correct the Minutes: The Bishop and the Secretary

Close of the First Business Session:

The first business session closed at 8:59 a.m. for the celebration of the Eucharist.

SECOND BUSINESS SESSION

The second business session opened at 10:51 a.m. The Bishop welcomed the Rev. Frank Hanrahan from the Lutheran Synod.

Nominating Committee Report - Districts

The Bishop called upon the Chair of the Nominating Committee, the Ms. Barbara Deming, to report on the election of clerical representatives from the districts to Diocesan Council:

Monroe District: Rev. Chris Streeter
Northeast District: To be elected
Rochester District: Rev. Lucy Alonzo
Southeast District: Rev. Lynne Sharp
Southwest District: Rev. Carol Stewart

The Bishop congratulated those elected.

Nominating Committee Report – Elected Officials

The Chair of the Committee on Nominations moved the nomination of elective offices by title. As the slate for each office was presented, the Bishop called for additional nominations from the floor. Nominations were closed at the end of each slate. For those slates where there was no contest, the Bishop asked for a motion to elect the candidates on the slate by acclamation. **MSP**

Commission on Ministry, Clerical: (Elect 2 Clergy)

The Rev. Krista Cameron, St. Luke's, Brockport
The Rev. Barbara H. Fornalik, Good Shepherd, Webster

Commission on Ministry, Lay: (Elect 2 Lay)

Ms. Marlene Allen, Good Shepherd, Webster
Ms. Claire Crump, Christ Church, Pittsford
Mr. David Galleher, St. Peter's, Geneva

Diocesan Council, Lay-at-Large: (Elect 3 Lay-at Large)

Ms. Margy Ashley, St. John's, Canandaigua
Mr. Donald E. Halstead, St. Michael's, Geneseo
Mr. Scott Seabridge, Incarnation, Penfield
Ms. Carolyn Mok, St. Thomas, Rochester
Dr. Deborah VanderBilt, Christ Church, Rochester

Standing Committee, Clerical: (Elect 1)

The Rev. Michael Hartney – EPSC
The Rev. Josh Walters, Christ Church, Pittsford

Standing Committee, Lay (Elect 1)

Mr. Doug Elsbree, St. Peter's, Henrietta
Ms. Lois J. Giess, St. Thomas, Rochester
Mr. Robert E. Green, Christ Church, Pittsford

Mr. John Hunter, St. Mark's, Penn Yan

Trustee (Elect 3 Clergy or Lay)

Mr. Peter L. Corrigan, St. Michael's, Geneseo
Ms. Beverly Smith, St. John's, Honeoye Falls
Mr. Charles Zettek, Jr., St. Stephen's, Rochester

Disciplinary Board (Canon 21) – Clergy (Elect 2 Clergy)

The Rev. Peter Bryant, ACEM
The Rev. Peter M. Harter, (Grace Church, Geneva (DCNY))

Disciplinary Board (Canon 21) – Lay (Elect 1 Lay)

Ms. Donna Copson, St. Mark's, Penn Yan
Mr. Richard Frey, St. Luke's, Brockport (withdrew)

Alternate Deputies to the 78th General Convention 2015 - Clergy (Elect 4)

The Rev. Paul Frolick, St. George's, Hilton
The Rev. Dahn Gandell, St. Luke's, Fairport
The Rev. Michael Hartney, EPSC
The Rev. Chris Streeter, Incarnation, Penfield
The Rev. Kit Tobin, Christ Church, Corning

Alternate Deputies to the 78th General Convention 2015 - Lay (Elect 4)

Ms. Marlene Allen, Good Shepherd, Webster
Ms. Jan Farnsworth, Christ Church, Corning (nominated from floor)
Dr. Carl Johengen, St. Thomas, Bath
Ms. Joan Mistretta, St. Mark's, Penn Yan
Ms. Sarah Peters, St. George's, Hilton

Additional Nominations to Fill Vacancies

Diocesan Council – Clerical (Elect 1 for 1 Year Term)

Rev. Lance Robbins – Good Shepherd, Webster

Standing Committee – Clerical (Elect 1 for 2 Year Term)

Rev. Lesley Adams - HWS

Closing of Nominations

The Bishop asked for a motion to close the nominations.

MSP

Taking of the First Ballot

The Bishop declared the nominations closed. Since there was no contest for Commission on Ministry - Clerical, Trustees, Disciplinary Board - Clerical, Disciplinary Board – Lay, special elections to fill vacancies Diocesan Council – Clerical and Standing Committee - Clerical and no further nominations from the floor, the Bishop asked for a vote on these offices by acclamation.

The slates were elected by acclamation.

The Bishop then asked the Chief Teller, the Rev. Craig Uffman, to instruct the voters regarding the voting procedures, the location of the ballot boxes and the number of votes to be cast.

BISHOP'S ADDRESS

The Bishop began with a broad welcome and thanks to the signers, the Trinity parish, the planning committee, his family and others. **The text of the Bishop's address is included in a separate section of the Journal and available on the diocesan website.**

The 2013 Diocesan Audit Report

The Bishop recognized Mr. Robert VanNiel, Treasurer of the Diocese, to present and move the audit report. Bob thanked the audit committee of the Trustees and the audit firm, Bonadio & Co. LLC, for

their oversight of the process. Total Assets increased \$3.7 M to \$31.8 M. Total expenditures for 2013 were \$91,000 below approved budget, allowing for a lower draw from investments.

Following discussion, delegates approved the following resolution:

Resolved: That the 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester accepts the 2013 audit as prepared by Bonadio & Co., LLC and presented by the Trustees. **MSP**

The full Audit Report is included in a separate section of this Journal.

Youth Activities

The Bishop called on Canon Julie Cicora to report on diocesan youth activities. Julie introduced Mrs. Sarah Cegelski, Incarnation Penfield, who provided some background on the youth work at that parish and introduced youth from that parish (Jake Povio, Talia Bennett, Leah Mc Carthy) who offered a skit and video. The Bishop thanked the youth.

Noonday Prayers

The Bishop called upon the chaplain to lead delegates in noonday prayers.

Recess

The Bishop declared the Convention in recess for lunch at 12:45 p.m...

THIRD BUSINESS SESSION:

The Bishop called the Third Business Session to order at 1:47 p.m. with the UTO Ingathering followed by the UTO Prayer.

Results of the First Ballot

The Bishop called upon the Rev. Craig Uffman, Chief Teller, to report the results of the first ballot. They were announced as follows:

Commission on Ministry – The Rev. Krista Cameron, the Rev. Barbara H. Fornalik

Diocesan Council: Lay – Ms. Margy Ashley, Dr. Carolyn Mok, Dr. Deborah VanderBilt

Standing Committee: Clergy – The Rev. Michael Hartney

Standing Committee: Lay – no election

General Convention Delegates: Clergy - The Rev. Chris Streeter, the Rev. Paul Frolick, the Rev. Kit Tobin, the Rev. Michael Hartney

Lay - Mr. Carl Johengen, Ms. Marlene Allen, Ms. Sarah Peters, Ms. Joan Mistretta

Instructions were given for the second ballot for Steering Committee – Lay and Trustee

Report from Diocesan Council

The Bishop called on Ms. Gwen Van Laeken, Ms. Judy Carpenter, Ms. Mary Lou Quintal and Dr. Carolyn Mok to make reports on Diocesan Council.

Gwen, as the 2014 Vice-Chair of Council, provided an overview of Council's work during 2014 noting that Council works to actively support and strengthen our parish congregations and missions. That work is carried out by several committees including: the Congregational Development Partnership Committee (CDPC), the Mission Partnership Committee (MPC), a newly organized Budget Committee and a Health Benefits Task Force chaired by a member of Council. Judy, as chair of the CDPC, and Mary Lou, as chair of the MPC, provided updates on the work of those committees during 2014. Carolyn, as chair of the Health Benefits Task Force, provided that update. Each thanked the committee members for their contributions during the year.

Presentation of the 2014 Diocesan Budget

The Bishop recognized Ms. Gwen Van Laeken, Vice-Chair of Council, to introduce Mr. Scott Seabridge, Council Budget Committee, and Mr. Todd Rubiano, CMO, to present the 2015 Budget. Scott provided a description of the budget process and Todd introduced the budget. Using PowerPoint slides, he reviewed the sources of income (parish apportionments and draw on investments), five-year

budget projections, and the budget by category. Following discussion, delegates approved the following resolution:

Resolved, that the 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester approves the 2015 Diocesan Budget of \$2,205,203 as recommended by Council, with thanks to the Committees for their work and to all the Parishes through whom mission and ministry are undertaken. **MSP**

Resolution A: Dissolution of St. Phillips, Belmont, as a Church

The Bishop recognized Ms. Gwen Van Laeken, Vice Chair of Diocesan Council, for the purpose of moving Resolution A. A short video presentation was followed by the Bishop calling upon the Rev. Peter Bryant, St. Phillips, Belmont to speak to the history of St. Phillips and the future planned for its facilities. Following discussion, the following resolution was adopted.

**Resolution A: Dissolution of St. Phillips, Belmont, as a Church - Amended
Submitted by: Diocesan Council (Rule of Order 21 (a))**

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester meeting in Greece, New York, on November 8, 2014, upon the receipt of the recommendation of a majority of the members of the Diocesan Council, meeting in regular session on September 16, 2014, and in accordance with the Canons of the Diocese of Rochester, declares that the Parish known as **St. Philip's, Belmont, NY** is dissolved, that its vestry is dissolved and that its assets be dedicated first to the furtherance of Episcopal ministry in Allegany County and then to the furtherance of Episcopal ministry as deemed appropriate by the Office of the Bishop of Rochester and in accordance to the canons of the Diocese of Rochester and the Domestic & Foreign Missionary Society.

Explanation:

The Vestry of St. Philip's Belmont, NY met on November 16, 2013 and voted to suspend regular Sunday worship services at St. Philip's. The congregation has diminished in size through the years and there are not enough members to maintain the church. The Vestry met again via phone on April 30, 2014 and voted to close the church. The vestry recommended that the Episcopal Diocese consider a long term lease with Rural Health Network (RHN) for the Murray House, the offices and the church building on the St. Philips campus. Since there was not a vestry quorum at the meeting on April 30, 2014, the absent members were polled via email and agreed with the decision to close the church (email dated June 4, 2014) and further the relationship with RHN. The Episcopal Diocese of Rochester is working with Rural Health Network to use the St. Philip's property to further their vision of wellness in the Allegany County area. The remaining members of the congregation are attending worship in other churches. **MSP**

The Bishop called upon the Rev. Peter Bryant for prayer.

Resolution B: Concerning our Commitment to the Education and Wellbeing of Children & Youth throughout the Diocese of Rochester

The Bishop recognized Ms. Gwen Van Laeken, Vice Chair of Diocesan Council for the purpose of moving Resolution B.

**Resolution B: Concerning our Commitment to the Education and Wellbeing of Children & Youth throughout the Diocese of Rochester
Submitted by: Diocesan Council**

The Bishop called upon the Rev. Cindy Rasmussen to speak to Resolution B.

Following discussion, delegates adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, That this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester affirms that all our children, their education, and general wellbeing is a priority for our churches.

Resolved, That each congregation make a commitment in 2015 to support at least one parish-based initiative in their community or an existing program within the Diocese (i.e. Public School Tutoring

Programs, The Right on School, Nazareth Elementary, Kids' Club, Freedom Kids' Camp, Creation Camp, Community Arts Academy, etc...) through prayer, volunteers and financial resources.

Resolved, Each congregation will commit to working together as a Diocese by designating a Sunday, preferably the third Sunday in October as "Children's Weekend" in collaboration with "Children's Interfaith Weekend", to raise awareness of the inequality and economic disparities that leave some children more vulnerable in our respective communities.

Explanation:

"... Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.' (Matthew 19:14)

How are the Children of the Eight Counties of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester?'¹

A review of the indicators of wellbeing included in the attached chart shows differing outcomes for children and youth across the 8 counties of the Episcopal Diocese, with some bright spots and other areas of great concern.

For example:

- All counties but Livingston have a portion of youth (under age 18) without health insurance that is higher than the child/youth uninsured rate in New York State as a whole. Yates, Steuben and Schuyler counties have a particularly high rate. NOTE: These data do not reflect implementation of the Affordable Care Act.
- All counties but Monroe and Livingston have higher rates of involvement in child abuse and maltreatment cases than New York State as a whole, with particularly alarming rates in Schuyler and Yates counties.
- Lead poisoning and overweight/obesity rates are troubling, both in the state as a whole and in the 8 counties of the diocese.

It's important to note that while the 8 counties' child poverty rates range from 10% to 26%, all of them are too high. The U.S. has a child poverty rate of 21%, putting it in a disgraceful position compared to other nations. The Academic Pediatric Association's Task Force on Childhood Poverty reported in August 2013 that the average childhood poverty rate of OECD nations is 12%, with many European nations having childhood poverty rates well under 10%.

Research shows that poverty is linked to every indicator in the attached chart. Lifting families out of poverty and reversing the effects of poverty on children has a far-reaching impact on the child, family and community in terms of improved school performance, better adult health outcomes, lower demands for public services, decreased special education and criminal justices costs, and more.

Rochester and Monroe County

Data about children in Monroe County and Rochester are readily available, and because Monroe County has a population that far exceeds the other 7 counties combined, the status of its young residents substantially impacts the overall numbers for the diocese.

A December 2013 report on poverty published by the Rochester Area Community Foundation looked closely at poverty in the city of Rochester as well as a 9-county area that has 5 overlapping counties with the diocese. It found:

- Rochester has the 5th highest rate in the U.S. among the 75 largest metro areas;
NOTE: More recent Census data place Rochester as the 2nd poorest city in the nation.
- The Rochester City School District (RCSD) is the poorest school district in upstate NY and the poorest large urban school district in New York State
- Rochester has a very high concentration of poverty (#3 among the top 100 metropolitan areas in U.S.)

¹ "How are the Children of the Eight Counties of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester?" October 2014; Information compiled by The Children's Agenda, 1 S. Washington St., Suite 400, Rochester, NY 14614 (585) 256-2620 <http://thechildrensagenda.org>

- Most (60%) of the region's poor are white and exurban; 41,000 people live in poverty in Monroe County suburbs.
- The subpopulation most likely to be poor is children.
- RCSD students' academic performance is the poorest of any large urban district in New York State.
- Reports of child abuse/neglect increased by 22% from 2006 – 2013 in Monroe County.
- Monroe County's infant mortality rate is worse than that of most industrialized nations, NY State and the U.S. national rate.
- Child care availability: The Center for Governmental Research and The Children's Agenda estimate that 78% of the low-income working families who are eligible for child care subsidies receive them. Childcare assistance is persistently underfunded, and Monroe County has lost 7,200 subsidy slots since 2000. **MSP**

Anti Racism/Healing Task Force Report

The Bishop called upon Ms. Marlene Allen and the Rev. Kit Tobin to report on the work of the Anti-Racism and Healing Task Force. Marlene and Kit updated the delegates on the work that has followed the passage of Resolution D: A Resolution Concerning Anti-Racism Training in the Diocese at the 2008 Diocesan Convention. Most clergy have participated in the Anti-Racism training and the 84th Diocesan Convention will include a Repentance, Healing and Reconciliation service.

FunRaising Report

The Bishop called on the Very Rev. Phil Kasey, Ms. Jan Farnsworth, and Mr. Ed Bohrer to make a report on the Diocesan FunRaising Committee. Jan outlined the activities that have been held during 2014 and those being planned for the future.

Resolution Committee Report

The Bishop recognized the Rev. Peter Peters to report on the Resolution Committee.

Resolution C: Concerning Health Care in New York State

On behalf of the Resolution Committee, Peter moved Resolution C: Concerning Health Care in New York State. The Bishop recognized Dr. Carolyn Mok and Mr. Bruce Colburn who spoke to the resolution. Both spoke in support of the resolution. Following discussion, delegates adopted the following resolution.

Resolution C: Concerning Health Care in New York State Proposer: Public Policy Committee

Resolved, That this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester proclaim that the Gospel message of caring for others includes a ministry to heal the body as well as the soul; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention decry the continuing inequitable health care delivery system of the United States even with the enactment of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention urge the passage of legislation establishing a single-payer health care program in New York State that would provide universal health care for all its residents until such time that a federal program of universal coverage be established; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention instruct the Secretary of Convention to provide copies of this resolution to the Governor of New York and State Senators and Assembly Members representing districts located within this diocese.

Explanation

According to the journal *Health Affairs*, an estimated 30 million people living in the United States will still be unable to purchase health insurance, even with the provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). This number includes undocumented immigrants who do not have the required proof of citizenship to sign up on the new exchanges or qualify for Medicaid or subsidies. Millions of other people also fall through the cracks because they earn too much for Medicaid but not enough for the

subsidies provided on the exchanges. Health care remains a market commodity with the insurance companies offering different levels of coverage based on price. You can have all the health care you can afford to buy. Even some people with insurance may choose not to get needed health care treatment because the co-pays and deductibles are unaffordable for them. As a result, the United States will likely remain 37th in health care outcomes when compared with other industrialized nations, which guarantee health access for all their citizens. They do so at much lower cost because they do not have to pay for the administration of various plans of multiple insurance companies.

There are bills in Congress that would provide a publicly financed, privately delivered single-payer system, otherwise spoken of as Medicare for All. However, currently the prospect for their passage seems far off. Yet similar legislation could be enacted at the state level. The ACA has a provision that permits states to craft their own system of health care and apply for a waiver of exemption from ACA requirements beginning in 2017. In order to receive a waiver, a state would need to demonstrate that its alternative proposal would meet the performance benchmark of the ACA. Vermont already has passed such legislation and is optimistically awaiting a waiver to put its single-payer plan in place. In the New York State legislature, A.5389 (Gottfried), S.2078 (Perkins) would set up a comprehensive single-payer system for access to health insurance coverage and a health care cost control system for the benefit of all New York residents. The bill calls for the integration of federally administered health benefits like Medicare and Medicaid with its plan. A modest payroll tax would cover most of the remaining cost. A Board of Trustees of the state government would assume the role of coordinating the collection of funds from various sources and undertake the dispersal of payments to providers. Over half of the Assembly Members and over a dozen State Senators support this legislation, entitled “New York Health.” A state-funded study conducted four years ago found that a single-payer system would reduce overall health care expenditures in New York by \$20 billion annually by replacing insurance company and health care provider administration costs. Also, businesses would be helped by not having to pay the high cost of insurance for their employees and thus improve their ability to compete globally with businesses in other countries. But the most significant benefit would be that many more people in New York State would have comprehensive, affordable health care than presently do. New York has the opportunity to be a leader in providing universal health care to its people.

When Jesus commissioned the twelve apostles, he directed them to *proclaim the good news, ‘the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment: give without payment* (Matthew 10: 7-8). Since 1991, the General Convention of the Episcopal Church is on record in support of universal access to health care for all people in the United States. A Rochester Diocesan Convention Resolution in 2005 supported “a government policy of working towards establishing universal health care coverage for this nation’s people.” In 2009, General Convention passed Resolution DO48, which urges “passage of federal legislation establishing a ‘single payer’ universal health care program which would provide health care coverage for all people of the United States.” Now, we are asking this Rochester Diocesan Convention to urge the State of New York to adopt single-payer health care reform. **MSP**

Resolution D: Concerning Gun-Free Areas

The Bishop recognized Dorothy Romanet, Chair of the Public Policy Committee, and the Rev. Peter Peters on behalf of the Resolution Committee. Peter proposed an amendment to the first resolve of Resolution D: Concerning Gun Free Areas. **MSP**

Dorothy Romanet and Barbara Demming, members of the Public Policy Committee, spoke on behalf of the resolution. Following discussion and defeat of additional proposed amendments to the first and second resolves, the delegates approved the following amended resolution.

Resolution D: Concerning Gun-Free Areas Proposed by the Public Policy Committee of the Diocese and Local Members of the Episcopal Peace Fellowship

Resolved, That this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester encourage congregations to declare their places of worship to be gun-free areas; *except for peace officers in uniform who are attending worship in this space*; and be it further

Resolved, That congregations also be encouraged to engage in conversations with local law enforcement leadership around their concerns about gun violence in their jurisdictions; and be it further **Resolved**, That this Convention instruct the Secretary of Convention to send copies of this resolution to all congregations within this diocese.

Explanation

- General Convention in 2012 passed a Gun Free Zones Resolution (D003) that calls for “every parish and every diocesan place of work to declare their establishments as Gun Free Zones.”
- Places of worship are thought to represent havens of peace in our society.
- Both open carry and concealed carry of guns create significant risk to public safety.
- Chipotle and other U.S. businesses are declaring their premises gun-free areas.
- Our Episcopal congregations in this diocese are encouraged to enhance community safety by defining church properties as gun free zones.
- Conversations with law enforcement officers will increase our awareness of the level of gun violence and challenges our “first responders” face in fostering a less violent society. It may lead to a more constructive partnership between the church and civic society.

Following discussion, Resolution D was approved as amended.

MSP

Resolution E: On Marriage Equality

The Bishop recognized the Rev. Denise Yarbrough, from the General Convention Deputation, to move Resolution E. Denise introduced Mr. Neil Houghton who spoke to the resolution.

Resolution E: On Marriage Equality Submitted by the General Convention Deputation

Resolved, that the 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester directs that the following resolution be filed with the Secretary of the General Convention for consideration by the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church:

Resolved, the Diocese of Rochester urges the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church to take any and all steps necessary to make the Rite of Holy Matrimony available to same-sex couples throughout The Episcopal Church immediately.

Explanation

In 1976, the General Convention of the Episcopal Church declared that “homosexual persons are children of God who have a full and equal claim with all other persons upon the love, acceptance, and pastoral concern and care of the Church” (1976-A069). Since then, the church has been on a decades-long journey toward making that resolution a reality.

Resolution A049 – adopted by the 77th General Convention in 2012 – made Liturgical Resources for Blessing Same-Gender Relationships available for provisional use and authorized bishops to both exercise “generous pastoral response to meet the needs of members of this Church” and to “adapt these materials to meet the needs of members of this Church.” The 77th General Convention also overwhelmingly adopted Resolution D018 urging Congress to end discrimination against same-sex civil marriage and to repeal DOMA (Defense of Marriage Act.)

In the years since 2012, the cultural landscape has shifted so dramatically that civil marriage equality has become a reality in a near majority (47.9%) of dioceses in the United States. In some dioceses clergy are blessing civil marriages between same-sex couples and in others the A049 resources have been adapted for clergy to bless them on behalf of the Episcopal Church and to solemnize them as agents of their state.

It is time for the Episcopal Church to act consistently with its words and witness in support of marriage equality. Just as we continue to call the state to equally protect all marriages in the civic arena, it is

time to call the church to recognize the equal claim of same-sex couples on the sacrament of Holy Matrimony.

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg famously said during the March 2013 oral arguments on DOMA: “There are two kinds of marriages; full marriage and the skim milk marriage.” The time has come for The Episcopal Church to move beyond the skim milk of generous pastoral response and adapted materials for same-sex marriages and to acknowledge the equal sanctity of all marriages by making the Rite of Holy Matrimony equally available to same and opposite sex couples. **MSP**

Acknowledgement of Persons Whose Terms Expire

The Bishop thanked persons whose terms ended with this Convention noting that some stood for re-election.

Diocesan Council

Ms. Judy Carpenter
Mr. Scott Seabridge
Ms. Carolyn Mok
The Rev. Susan Kohlmeier
The Rev. Charlie Tyo
The Rev. Tom McCart
The Rev. Mary Ann Brody
The Rev. Kelly Ayer

Commission on Ministry

The Rev. Peter Bryant
Ms. Claire Crump
Mr. David Galleher
Ms. Heather Yanda

Standing Committee

The Rev. Carmen Seufert
Mr. Jerry Deluccio

Trustees

Mr. Gil Ferris
Ms. Lyn Omphroy
Mr. Tom Bennett

Disciplinary Board

The Rev. Jim Adams
The Rev. Ruth Ferguson
Ms. Sue Scanlon

Appointment of Committees for the 84th Diocesan Convention:

The Bishop appointed committees for the 2015 Convention.

On Arrangements: The Bishop’s Staff

On Constitution and Canons: Philip Fileri, Esq., Chair, Dyson Gay, Esq., Thomas Wright, Esq., A. Paul Greene, Esq., Susan Scanlon, Esq., the Rev. Canon Dr. C. Denise Yarbrough, Esq., Les Kernan, Esq., the Rev. Christopher Luedde, The Rev. Michael Hartney

To Read and Correct the Minutes: The Bishop and the Secretary

Closing Prayer

The Bishop called upon the Chaplain, for a closing prayer.

Resolutions of Courtesy

The Bishop recognized Rev. Peter Peters to present the Resolutions of Courtesy.

Resolutions of Courtesy The 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester

Worship at Convention and Music during the Celebration

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester thank the Very Rev. David Hefling and Ms. Libby Campbell for serving as Chaplains.

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester thank all who helped with arrangements and logistics for this convention.

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester thank the Very Rev. Debs Duguid-May and the volunteers from Trinity Church for hosting the Convention.

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester thank The Rev. Winnie Varghese for her presence among us and for her willingness to be our preacher and we ask God's continued blessing on her ministry

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester thank Bishop Prince Singh and all those who participated in the music, the reading, the preparation of slides, the set up and the writing of the Liturgy.

Secretary of Convention

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester express gratitude and appreciation for the commitment and skill of Ms. Susan Woodhouse, Secretary to Convention, for her volunteer ministry.

Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer of the Diocese

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester express gratitude and appreciation for the commitment and skill of Mr. Robert Van Niel, Treasurer of the Diocese and to Ms. Bliss Owen, Assistant Treasurer, for their volunteer service.

Chancellors of the Diocese

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester express gratitude and appreciation for the commitment and skill of Mr. Philip Fileri Esq., Chancellor of the Diocese, Mr. Thomas Wright, Esq. and Mr. Paul Greene, Esq. Assistant Chancellors of the Diocese for their volunteer service.

Chapel Service

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester express gratitude and appreciation for the Ministry of the Rev. Dick Eckart for leading weekly chapel services at the Diocesan House Chapel.

Volunteers

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester express gratitude and appreciation for the Ministry of the volunteers who assist the staff at Diocesan House, Ms. Patti Cummings, Ms. Tobie Smith, Ms. Marlene Allen, and Ms. Marti St. George.

Senior Most Clergy (female)

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester send birthday greetings to the Rev. Barbara Meyers Humphrey on her 85th birthday and express appreciation and gratitude for over 31 years of priestly ministry in the church.

Senior Most Clergy (male)

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester send birthday greetings on his 93rd birthday to The Rev. Richard Henshaw and express appreciation and gratitude for over 60 years of priestly ministry in the church.

Leadership

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester thank Ms. Barbara Deming and the Nomination Committee for their work.

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester thank the Resolution Committee for their work.

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester express appreciation and gratitude for the leadership of Ms. Gwen Van Laeken as Vice Chair of Diocesan Council, Ms. Judy Carpenter as chair of the Congregational Development Partnership Committee, Ms. Mary Lou Quintal-Hunt as chair of the Mission Grant Partnership Committee and members of the respective sub committees.

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester express appreciation and gratitude for the leadership of Ms. Libby Bakken as Chair of the Human Resource Committee and members of the committee.

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester express appreciation and gratitude for the leadership of Dr. Carolyn Mok as Chair of the Health Insurance Policy Task Force and members of the committee.

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester express appreciation and gratitude for the leadership of Mr. Scott Seabridge on the budget committee and members of the committee.

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester express appreciation and gratitude for the leadership of Ms. Marlene Allen, the Rev. Kit Tobin and members of their committee for their work and continued commitment to repentance, healing and reconciliation.

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester express appreciation and gratitude for the leadership of Mr. Ed Bohrer as Chair of the Diocesan FUNraisers and members of the committee.

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester express appreciation and gratitude for Dr. Harry Merryman for providing professional assessment of psychological evaluation for those in the Diocese discerning Holy Orders since January 2002.

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester express appreciation and gratitude to all the volunteers and parishes that have hosted Diocesan Gatherings.

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester express appreciation and gratitude for the many years of service that Dr. Nadine Hunter has given to the Diocese.

Supply Priests

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester express its appreciation and gratitude for the ministry of all priests who preach and celebrate as they are asked.

District Deans

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester extend appreciation and gratitude for the leadership of our former District Deans, the Very Rev. Jim Adams (NE), the Very Rev. Brad Benson (SE), the Very Rev. Eric Thompson (SW), the Very Rev. Michael Hopkins (RÖC) and the Very Rev. Lance Robbins (Mon.)

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester extend appreciation and gratitude for the leadership of our District Deans, the Very Rev. David Hefling (NE), the Very Rev. Phil Kasey (SE), the Very Rev. Richard Hamlin (SW), the Very Rev. Cindy Rasmussen (ROC), and the Very Rev. Debs Duguid-May (Mon). May God bless you and be with you as you lead our districts into the future ministry of the church.

Diocesan Staff and Bishop

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester extend appreciation and thanks for the dedication and work of the staff at the Diocesan House.

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester send special thanks to Ms. Marie Fessler for her 14 years of service on staff.

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester express appreciation and thanks for the ministry of the Good Book Store. We acknowledge the ministry of the Book Store Managers through the years including Ms. Agnes Hamilton (1953-1968), Ms. Helen Rockwell (1968-1975), the Rev. Marilyle Sweet-Page (1975-1985), Ms. Diana Berry Manchester as Assistant Manager (1978-1985) and Manager (1985-1997), Ms. Jane Reynolds 1997-2013) and our interim Book Store Manager, Ms. Lisa Bodenstedt. Our thanks and appreciation to those who participated in the discernment process with our Interim Book Store Manager.

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester express our appreciation and thanks to the Rt. Rev. Prince G. Singh as he continues in his seventh year as Bishop of this Diocese and sends greetings and love to his family, Dr. Roja Singh, Ned Singh and Eklan Singh.

Greetings

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester send greetings good wishes and prayers to Mrs. Bettina Barrett.

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester send greetings good wishes and prayers to Mrs. Charlotte Spears.

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester send greetings, good wishes and prayers to the Rt. Rev. William Burrill and Mrs. Marilyn Usher Burrill.

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester send greetings, good wishes and prayers to the Rt. Rev. Jack M. McKelvey and Mrs. Linda B. McKelvey.

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester send greetings, prayers and good wishes to the clergy and their families from our diocese who have been ordained and consecrated as bishops in The Episcopal Church: the Rt. Rev. Gayle Harris, the Rt. Rev. Stephen Lane, and the Rt. Rev. Mark Lattime.

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester send greetings, prayers, and gratitude to the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori as she continues to lead the Episcopal Church.

Neighboring Dioceses

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester extend greetings to the dioceses on our borders: Central New York, Northwestern Pennsylvania, and Western New York. We pray for these dioceses and resolve to seek greater collaboration in mission and ministry with these neighbors on our borders.

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, extend its support and best wishes to Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe Diocesan Bishop of Northwestern PA as he begins his additional responsibilities as the Provisional Bishop of the Diocese of Bethlehem for a term of three years.

Our Ecumenical Partners

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester send greetings and warm wishes to the Rev. Marie Jerge on the completion of her term as Bishop of the Upstate New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA).

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester send congratulations, support, and prayers of healing to Bishop John Macholz as he begins his term as Bishop of the Upstate New York Synod of the ELCA.

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester send greetings, prayers and support to Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA as she continues to offer her Leadership.

Our Governing Authorities

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester send prayers and good wishes to all governing authorities in the counties, towns and villages of our Diocese.

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester send its prayers and good wishes to the Mayor of Rochester, Lovely Warren, who took office in January 2014.

Volunteers and All Who Served Us

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester express appreciation to all veterans and their families for their selfless service and especially to those who have paid the ultimate price in the line of duty.

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester send prayers and gratitude to all First Responders and their families for their selfless service and especially to those who have paid the ultimate price in the line of duty.

Resolved, that this 83rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester thank all volunteers and employees of the companies who provided the Diocese with service of food, arrangements, communications, and care.

Convention approved the Resolutions of Courtesy. **MSP**

Announcements

The Bishop thanked those who ran for office and those who helped with hospitality. He announced the date of November 14th for the 84th Diocesan Convention.

Convention Adjournment

Convention closed with a hymn.

Convention was declared closed at 3:39 p.m. sine die.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Woodhouse,
Secretary of Diocesan Convention