

JOURNAL OF THE 85th DIOCESAN CONVENTION FINAL DRAFT 10.6.17 AS

The 85th Convention of the Diocese of Rochester was held November 5, 2016 at Hobart & William Smith Colleges in Geneva, NY.

OPENING OF CONVENTION/ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

The Rt. Rev. Prince G. Singh opened the Convention at 8:15 a.m. with a Gathering Liturgy and prayer.

Welcome

The Bishop extended a warm welcome to guests, convention delegates, and clergy to the 85th convention. The Bishop introduced Mr. Mark Gearan, President of Hobart and William Smith Colleges and welcomed special guest, the Most Reverend Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop. He presented each of them with a traditional Indian gift of a shawl.

President Gearan then welcomed delegates and guests to the colleges and expressed gratitude to Bishop Singh for his service to the Colleges and to the Episcopal churches in Geneva which provide a variety of services to the Colleges. He then welcomed back “a son of Hobart” – Presiding Bishop Curry and noted that the Colleges honored the Presiding Bishop with the Alumni Association’s Medal of Honor the previous evening.

The Bishop thanked those from the college and all the volunteers for their hospitality and recognized additional honored guests: Canon Michael Hunn, Presiding Bishop’s office; Ms. Sharon Jones, Executive Coordinator to the Presiding Bishop and Primate; Bishop John Macholz, ELCA; Amy Williams Fowler, Presbytery Leader of Genesee Valley, Father Bill Laird, Dean of the East Deanery, Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester; the Rev. Albert Sam, Diocese of WNY; the Rev. Donald Smith, retired clergy EDOR; Roja, Julie Ross and others. The Bishop also announced the recognition of Savona as a Parish.

Quorum

The Bishop called upon the Secretary who established a quorum was present.

FIRST BUSINESS SESSION

The Bishop called the meeting to order 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.

Introduction of the Secretary and Election of a New Secretary

The Bishop introduced the Secretary, Ms. Susan Woodhouse and presented her with the gift of a cross in thanks for her service. He indicated that she would serve through this meeting. He then explained the process of calling a new secretary in accordance with the Canons and announced that he and the Standing Committee have nominated the Rev. Andrea Stridiron to be Secretary of the Diocese. He asked for a motion from the floor to confirm the nomination. **MSP**

Introduction of the Chancellor and the Assistant Chancellors

The Bishop introduced the Chancellor, Philip Fileri, Esq. who will also serve as the Parliamentarian, and the Assistant Chancellors, Thomas Wright, Esq. and Paul Green, Esq.

Introduction of Treasurer

The Bishop introduced the Treasurer, Mr. Terry Butwid and the Assistant Treasurer, Ms. Bliss Owen.

Appointment of a Chaplain

The Bishop appointed the Rev. Maurice Charles as Chaplain of this convention noting that he will be available for private conversation any time during the Convention. He also invited the Convention to keep Rev. Charles in their prayers due to the recent loss of his father.

Reading of the Minutes of the 84th Diocesan Convention

The Bishop announced that the Committee on the Reading of the Minutes had reviewed the minutes of the 84th 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 84th Diocesan Convention. **MSP**

Appointment of Registrar and Assistant Registrar

The Bishop appointed Ms. Kristy Estey to serve as Registrar and Ms. Carolyn McConnell as Assistant Registrar. He reminded the Convention that during the course of the meeting, alternates who wish to be seated in place of a delegate should report to the registration desk, provide the paperwork for the substitution, signed by the parish Rector or Priest in Charge and the Secretary of Convention and that amendments to resolutions should be presented in writing to the Secretary.

Committee on Elections

The Bishop appointed the Committee on Elections: The Rev. Andrew Van Buren, Chair; Patti Blaine, John Bouwens, Barbara Drake, Nathan Kohlmeier, Michael Laver, staff and declared the polls open.

Committee on Credentials

The Bishop appointed the Committee on Credentials: (1 clergy, 2 lay) The Rev. Jay Burkardt, Chair; Kristy Estey, Registrar; Susan Woodhouse, Secretary to Convention.

Seat and Voice as Reported by the Committee on Credentials

The Bishop called upon the Chair of the Committee on Credentials, the Rev. Jay Burkardt to make the report of the Committee on Credentials:

The Chair of the Committee on Credentials, the Rev. Jay Burkardt, reported the credentials of the delegates were in order. He 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
- All asked to speak on the behalf of Resolutions coming before this convention.

Committee on the Dispatch of Business

The Bishop appointed the Committee on the Dispatch of Business: (1 clerical, 1 lay delegate) The Rev. Ken Pepin and Elizabeth Marlowe from Grace Scottsville/St. Andrew's Caledonia.

Dispatch of Business

The Bishop called upon the Rev. Ken Pepin, Chair of the Committee on Dispatch of Business, to move the agenda for the Convention. **MSP**

Rules of Debate

The Bishop called upon the Rev. Ken Pepin, Chair of the Committee on Dispatch of Business, to move 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. Jimmie Sue Deppe, as Time Keeper.

Correspondence to Be Read at Convention

The Secretary reported that correspondence was received in September 2016 in a DFMS “Mailing to all Dioceses” - from the Rev. Canon Dr. Michael Barlowe, Secretary of the House of Deputies and Secretary of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church - To the Bishops and Secretaries of Diocesan Conventions - concerning Deputy Selection for General Convention 2018 – The entire document has been posted on the website and filed with the Secretary of Convention. The required information regarding election of Deputies to the 79th General Convention will be filed following the elections at this Convention. The additional requests cited in the correspondence need no further action of this Convention at this time.

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 as posted on the website prior to Convention. **MSP**

Standing Committees for the 85th Convention

The Bishop announced the appointments to the Standing Committees for the 85th Convention and expressed thanks for their service.

On Arrangements: The Rev. Maurice Charles, the Rev. Robert Picken, Ms. Marlene Allen, members of the Anti-racism Committee, the Rev. R. Cameron Miller, Ms. Susan Woodhouse, and the Bishop’s staff. (The Rev. Canon Johnnie Ross, Ms. Kristy Estey, Ms. Carolyn McConnell, Mr. Matthew Townsend, the Very Rev’s Debs Duguid-May and Phil Kasey)

On Constitution and Canons: Philip Fileri, Esq., Chair, Dyson Gay, Esq., F. Paul Greene, Esq., Leslie Kernan, Esq., Susan Scanlon, Esq., C. Thomas Wright, Esq., the Rev. Canon Dr. C. Denise Yarbrough, Esq

On Nominations: Ms. Barbara Deming, Chair, Ms. Stacey Taylor, Co-Chair, Ms. Mary Lou Hunt-Quintal, Ms. Nina Johnston, Ms. Carol Topping, Ms. Susan Woodhouse, Deans

On Resolutions: The Rev. Dr. Peter Peters, the Rev. Dr. Billy Daniels, the Rev. Andrew D’Angio White, the Rev. Virginia Tyler Smith

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

Resolution C: Resolution for 2016 Amendments to Constitution and Canons

The Bishop called upon the Rev. Dr. Peter Peters, Chair of the Committee on Resolutions to present a resolution for change in the Constitution and Canons. Peter noted he would ask the Chancellor, Philip Fileri, Chair of Constitution & Canons, to present Resolution C and explained that procedurally, in order for the canonical changes to become immediately effective, and not to require the approval by majority vote of two successive Diocesan Conventions, such changes must be adopted by a two-thirds vote in each Order at this Diocesan Convention.

The Chancellor presented Resolution C as follows:

C

RESOLUTION: 2016 Amendments to Constitution and Canons

RESOLVED, that the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester (“Canons”) be amended as set forth in the attached compared version of the Canons, dated August 19, 2016.

EXPLANATION:

The proposed changes are summarized in the attached Memorandum from the Constitution and Canons Committee, dated August 18, 2016 (the “Memo”).

With the exception of two subsequently approved changes, the changes were approved and recommended by the Committee at its May 16, 2016 meeting.

The Committee was tasked to review the timelines and notice requirements in the Canons with a view toward shortening them in light of the rise of electronic communication and delivery. Input was received from clergy and diocesan staff regarding timing, time requirements to accomplish necessary tasks, and what would be reasonable schedules for parishes and staff to carry on the work of the Diocese. Thus, changes are intended to be procedural and are not intended to affect the rights and responsibilities of parties.

The two subsequently approved matters are adding a provision to require the Diocese to have a Human Resources Committee and permitting the Secretary of the Diocese to delegate certain tasks.

Under the Bishop’s authority to run the Diocese, the Diocese has had an HR Committee for a long time. This now provides canonical authority for it.

The duties of the Secretary of the Diocese are substantial. With Susan Woodhouse ending her tenure as Secretary (and we heartily thank her for that!), thought is being given to restructuring the Secretary position to provide for two individuals, one serving as the Secretary of the Diocese, and another being delegated and performing the responsibilities of secretary to Diocesan Council. The amendment provides the authority for this delegation and makes clear that it is permissible.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Episcopal Diocese of Rochester

FROM: Constitution and Canons Committee

DATE: August 18, 2016

RE: Revision to Episcopal Diocese of Rochester Constitution and Canons - 2016
Proposed Amendments

This memo summarizes the proposed changes to the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester Constitution and Canons, as recommended and approved by the Constitution and Canons Committee at its May 16, 2016 meeting.

1. **Constitution, Art. V, Section 3.** The requirement that the Registrar be a “communicant in good standing” is deleted. Since the Secretary and Treasurer are not required to be “communicant in good standing”, it seems this requirement should not be imposed on the Registrar, which is substantially a recordkeeping position. The Bishop may appoint the Registrar at any time and advise the Convention of the appointment at the next following Convention.
2. **Article VIII, Section 1(a).** This section has been deleted. It required that if a vacancy in the Episcopate occurs within 30 to 90 days before the Diocesan Convention, that the Convention elect a Bishop. It also required that if that does not occur, within 30 days of the vacancy a date for a special Convention for that purpose be announced. Neither of these of the timeframes are workable given the current processes for discerning and electing a Bishop.
3. **Article IX.** The requirement that amendments to the Constitution be submitted to the Committee on Constitution and Canons 90 days in advance of Diocesan Convention has been reduced to 60 days.
4. **Canon 3, Convention Elections.**

A new Section 4(a) is added and the balance of the subsections are re-lettered. The new subsection sets forth a procedure for the Nominating Committee to recommend to Diocesan Council for its approval a timetable for the nominating process. This will permit the “Spring” schedule, which has been tried this year, to be established and for its time submission dates to be binding, provided they are not shorter than the Canonical time limits.

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New Section 4(c), old 4(b), requires nominations to be in at least 45 days before Diocesan Convention. If the Spring nominating process is not used, this reduces the nomination submission requirement from 60 days to 45 days. This shorter process recognizes the shorter amount of time needed to communicate electronically rather than by mail. So under this shorter process, notice of vacancies go out at least 90 days in advance of convention as before, nominations are required at least 45 days in advance of Convention giving parishes added time, and the nominations information must be disseminated at least 30 days in advance of Convention as before and as needed for District meetings. In other words, the 90/60/30 day timeframes are changed to 90/45/30 days. Also, by way of example, with a Convention on November 5, under the existing canonical provision nominations are due September 5. Under the new canonical provision, nominations would be due September 20, which would give parishes time to return from the summer season and essentially have two weeks to focus on the nominations task. The Committee believes this is a significant difference for parishes.

The language in New Section 4(e), old 4(d), is revised slightly to remove a reference to a brochure and instead indicate nominee profiles "will be made available", presumably electronically by an email and on the Diocesan website rather than through a printed paper brochure.

New Section 4(g), old 4(f), is revised to reflect that costs may pertain to mailing and/or distribution by other means, such as electronic communication. The terms "profiles" and "Convention materials" are used in place of "brochure", which implies a paper booklet.

Section 5 is modified to delete references to mailing, since notification may be given electronically. The time periods are still calculated from the date of sending of the notification.

5. Canon 6, Section 2, Diocesan Council

The errant language in the first line of "the Bishop of" is deleted.

In Canon 6.2(b)(1) the time by which to notify the Secretary of District representatives is reduced from 90 days prior to Convention to 30 days.

6. Canon 6, Section 4, secretary for Diocesan Council.

An additional sentence is added to permit an individual other than the Secretary to serve as the "secretary" of Diocesan Council. Susan Woodhouse will be stepping down at the end of her term this year. Because of the magnitude of the duties, consideration is being given to electing a Secretary of the Diocese to perform the

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traditional Canon 2.1 functions and then selecting another individual to serve as the recording Secretary of Council. There is nothing in the current Canons that would prevent this, but this language makes it clear that this approach may be used.

7. Canon 9, Section 1(g), Business Methods.

After the departure of a rector or priest-in-charge, an audit of the parish's accounts is performed. Depending upon the departure date of the rector or priest-in-charge, such as in the fall, a parish will often request that the audit be deferred for month or two and be performed on the calendar fiscal year. The Diocese often will agree to this if there are no concerns regarding the circumstances at the time of the rector's departure. The language is revised to permit this practice. In addition, this audit requirement has been made applicable to the departure of a priest-in-charge, not just a rector, since many parishes now have a priest-in-charge serving for a reasonable period of time.

8. Canon 9 Section 1(j), Business Methods, Human Resources Committee.

A new subsection 9.1(j) is added as authority for the Diocese's Human Resources Committee. The Diocese has an HR committee for a long time. Although the Bishop has the authority to establish positions and committees as necessary to run the Diocese, it is thought that a canonical basis for the HR Committee should be added

9. Canon 17.3(i)(1), The Parish Organization.

The reference to "Title 1, Canon 7, Section 1(b)" is amended to delete "Section 1(b)" since the relevant language is now in Section 3.

10. Canon 17.3(i)(9).

The time for submitting a proposed parish bylaw, bylaw amendment, or amendment of the Certificate of Incorporation to the Chancellor is reduced from 60 days to 30 days, prior to its publication at a meeting. Technical changes are made to this Section's references to bylaws and amendments thereto. Also, amendments to a parish's Certificate of Incorporation are added as documents that must be reviewed by the Chancellor.

11. Canon 20, Section 4, Diocesan Societies and Institutions.

The time for submitting a certificate of Incorporation and new By-Laws to the Chancellor is reduced from 90 to 60 days prior to the Convention in which approval is sought. Throughout sections 3 and 4, and the Canons as a whole, clerical changes are made such that references to Articles of Incorporation are

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changed to Certificate of Incorporation, the correct term in New York State. Also, “By-Laws”, “By-laws”, “Bylaws” and “bylaws” are now consistently styled “By-Laws”.

12. Canon 21, Ecclesiastical Discipline.

By its terms, Section 2(b)(2), the introductory initial staggered term procedure provision is to be deleted from the canons effective December 31, 2014. Accordingly, this Section is now deleted, and former Section 2(a)(3) is renumbered 2(a)(2).

13. Canon 28, Interpretation of Canons

A new section is added to deal with electronic communication. While the New York Not-for-Profit Corporation Law permits such electronic communication, the Committee thought it would be helpful to state in the Canons that meetings may be held, in whole or in part, by telephone conference call, and that notices, consents, signatures, etc. may be given by e-mail.

The Bishop called upon the Chancellor to present an amendment to the Constitution and Canon Committee recommendation. Phil suggested that Canon 6 Section 4 (page 19) be revised to read, “with the approval of the Secretary and Bishop”, and spoke to the resolution.

The Bishop called for a vote on the amendment. **MSP**

The Bishop called for a vote on the resolution by orders reminding delegates that the Canons require that 5 members of the Convention must request a vote by orders. The Bishop then asked for a show of hands to request a vote by orders. Seeing the required number of hands, he called the vote. Resolution C, as amended, was approved by a vote of 2/3 in each order. **MSP**

Close of the First Business Session:

The first business session closed at 8:50 a.m. for a procession to Trinity Church for the celebration of the Eucharist to be followed by lunch at HWS.

SECOND BUSINESS SESSION

The second business session opened at 1:15 p.m. with the UTO Ingathering followed by the UTO Prayer.

Nominating Committee Report - Districts

The Bishop called upon a member of the Nominating Committee, Ms. Carol Topping, to report on the election of clerical representatives from the districts to Diocesan Council:

Monroe District: The Rev. Chris Streeter
Northeast District: The Rev. Stephen Meister
Rochester District: the Rev. Leslie Burkhardt
Southeast District: The Rev. Troy Preston
Southwest District: TBD

The Bishop congratulated those elected.

Nominating Committee Report – Elected Officials

On behalf of the Committee on Nominations, Carol moved the nomination of elective offices by title and guided delegates through the process to be used for electronic voting. 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. The Bishop explained that it will be necessary to vote for all offices on the electronic ballot. A motion to close nominations as follows was approved. **MSP**

Standing Committee, Clerical: **Elect (1) Clergy**
The Rev. Robert Picken, St. Paul's Church, Rochester

Standing Committee, Lay: **Elect (1) Lay**
Mrs. Susan Woodhouse, St. Peter's Church, Henrietta

Trustee: **Elect (3 clerical or lay)**
The Rev. Peter Harter, serving in the Diocese of Central New York
Mr. Leslie W. Kernan, Jr., St. Paul's Church, Rochester
Mr. Douglass C. Lyon, St. Thomas' Church, Rochester
The Rev. Ron Young, Christ Church, Pittsford

Diocesan Council, Elect (3) Lay-at-Large
Ms. Margaret Ashley, St. John's, Canandaigua
Mr. Floyd Bayley, St. Paul's, Rochester
Ms. Nina Johnson, Grace, Scottsville
Ms. Nancy Latour, St. Thomas, Bath
Ms. Julie Syracuse, St. John's, Sodus

Commission on Ministry, Clerical: **Elect (2) Clergy**
The Rev. Jimmie Sue Deppe, Epiphany, Gates
The Very Rev. Dahn Gandell, Ascension, Rochester

Commission on Ministry, Lay: **Elect (1) Lay**
Robin Yergeau, Trinity Church, Greece

Disciplinary Board (Canon 21): **Elect (1) Clergy**
The Rev. Daniel Linnenberg, University of Rochester, Supply Priest
Disciplinary Board (Canon 21): **Elect (1) Lay**
Ms. Kate Cerulli, St. Thomas', Rochester

Deputies to General Convention: **Elect (4) Clerical**
The Rev. Billy Daniel, St. Michael's, Geneseo
The Rev. Paul Frolick, St. George's, Hilton
The Rev. Dahn Gandell, Ascension, Rochester

The Rev. Robert Picken, St. Paul's, Rochester
The Rev. Lance Robbins, Good Shepherd, Webster
The Rev. Virginia Tyler Smith, St. John's Honeoye Falls
The Rev. Chris Streeter, Incarnation, Penfield
The Rev. Canon Dr. Denise Yarbrough, St. Peter's, Bloomfield

Deputies to General Convention: Elect (4) Lay

Mr. Joshua Barrett, St. James, Brockport
Ms. Nancy Grear, St. Paul's, Rochester
Mrs. Sarah Peters, St. George's, Hilton
Ms. Keisha Stokes, Church of the Good Shepherd, Webster
Ms. Paula Valeri, St. Thomas, Rochester

Taking of the First Ballot

The Bishop declared the nominations closed and comprehensive instruction via a PowerPoint presentation was provided to assist delegates with the electronic voting process. Following that instruction, delegates were led through the process of voting for each office assisted by the Tellers and others. After the voting, the Bishop declared the First Ballot closed.

BISHOP'S ADDRESS

The Bishop began by offering prayer for the Presiding Bishop's long visit, restored health and great leadership in this time of challenge. He offered thanks to his staff, those in leadership and his family. His address focused on his role as "See" and many of the major decisions of this past year, the work accomplished around the topic of race and reconciliation, the discernment concerning Savona becoming a parish, Grace Church Lyons and RMM, Montour Falls and the College for Leadership noting that we are doing many things that embody following Jesus beyond our comfort zone. **The text of the Bishop's address is included in a separate section of the Journal and available on the diocesan website.**

The Bishop called upon the Chaplain for prayer followed by the singing of *We Shall Gather at the River*.

Results of the First Ballot

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

Standing Committee: Clergy – The Rev. Robert Picken

Standing Committee: Lay – Mrs. Susan Woodhouse

Trustee: Mr. Leslie Kernan, Esq., Mr. Douglass Lyon, the Rev. Ron Young

Diocesan Council: Lay-at-Large – Ms. Margy Ashley, Mr. Floyd Bayley, Ms. Julie Syracuse

Commission on Ministry – The Rev. Jimmie Sue Deppe, the Very Rev. Dahn Gandell

Disciplinary Board: Clergy – The Rev. Dan Linnenburg

Disciplinary Board: Lay – Ms. Kate Cerulli

Deputies to General Convention: Clerical – Rev. Paul Frolick, the Very Rev. Dahn Gandell, the Rev. Canon Dr. Denise Yarbrough The fourth deputy will require a second ballot.

Deputies to General Convention: Lay – Mr. Josh Barrett, Mrs. Sarah Peters, Ms. Keisha Stokes, Ms. Paula Valeri

Second Ballot

The Bishop called upon the Rev. Andrew Van Buren, Chief Teller, for the taking of the Second Ballot.

Reports to Convention

Youth Activities

The Bishop recognized Ms. Keisha Stokes, Interim Youth Minister, to provide an update on youth activities. Keisha reviewed the four major events held during the year with a brief description of each. Each activity was around the theme of “Seeing the Face of God in Each Other”. She also shared the calendar of events planned for 2017.

The 2015 Diocesan Audit Report

The Bishop recognized Ms. Bliss Owen, Assistant Treasurer of the Diocese, to present and move the audit report. Bliss thanked the audit committee of the Trustees and the audit firm, Mengel, Metzger & Barr LLC, for their oversight of the process. She provided an overview of the report and the resolution to accept the audit was approved as follows. **The entire Audit Report is included in a separate section of the Journal and available on the diocesan website.**

Resolved: That the 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester accepts the 2015 audit, as prepared by Mengel, Metzger & Barr and presented by the Trustees. **MSP**

Resolution B: Dissolution of St. Paul’s Montour Falls as a Mission

The Bishop called upon Gwen Van Laeken, Vice-chair of Diocesan Council, to move **Resolution B: Dissolution of St. Paul’s Montour Falls as a Mission**. The Rev. Michael Hartney and others spoke in support of the resolution and thanked the Diocese for the creative solution. The Bishop called for a vote and the resolution was approved as follows. **MSP**

B

Dissolution of St. Paul’s, Montour Falls as a Mission

Proposer: Diocesan Council (Rule of Order 21 (a))

Resolved, that this 85th convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, meeting in Geneva, New York, on November 5, 2016, upon the receipt of the recommendation of a majority of the members of the Diocesan Council, meeting in regular session on October 18, 2016, and in accordance with the Canons of the Diocese of Rochester, declares that the Mission known as **St. Paul’s, Montour Falls** is dissolved, that its executive committee is dissolved and that its assets be dedicated in accordance with the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church.

Explanation:

In 2004 St. Paul’s request to move from parish to mission status was approved by Convention. In 2007, the church building was sold and the congregation continued to meet in the Parish Hall. The congregation has since declined and for some time now the few remaining members of St. Paul’s worship at St. James, Watkins Glen. Though there is no longer a worshipping congregation at St. Paul’s, the Parish Hall continues to operate as community meeting place and Episcopal presence in the Village of Montour Falls. However, St. Paul’s is still paying assessments & apportionments, maintaining an Executive Committee, with regular meetings and providing annual parochial reports & audits. By dissolving St. Paul’s as a canonical entity (“Mission of the Diocese”) and having the Vestry of St. James, Watkins Glen provide oversight of the day-to-day maintenance of the Parish Hall, the service to the community can continue without undue administrative and operational burdens. The Diocese continues to be legal owners of all the property of St. Paul’s and will work with the Trustees and the Vestry of St. James to provide:

- Annual funding to cover utilities and maintenance of the Parish Hall at Montour Falls
- Adequate property & liability insurance coverage
- Appropriate funding for major capital improvements or repairs

Second Ballot

The Bishop called upon the Chaplain for prayer and then upon the Rev, Andrew Van Buren for the result of the second ballot for the fourth Clerical Deputy to General Convention. Since there was no majority, there was no election. The Chancellor advised the delegates that there would be a third ballot and the person with the most votes would be elected. The Chief Teller led the delegates through the electronic voting process and the Bishop declared the polls closed.

Resolution A: Grace Church Lyons

The Bishop called upon Gwen Van Laeken, Vice-chair of Diocesan Council, to move **Resolution A: Grace Church Lyons**. The Rev. Canon Julie Cicora and Mrs. Barbara Deming spoke about the history and work of RMM (Rural Migrant Ministry) and several persons spoke in support of the resolution. The Bishop called for a vote and the resolution was approved as follows. **MSP**

A

Grace Church - Lyons Diocesan Convention Resolution 11-5-16

Whereas, Grace Episcopal Church is a long-standing incorporated Episcopal parish located at 9 Phelps St, Lyons, NY 14489 (“Grace Church”);

Whereas, Grace Church holds significant assets consisting of a church building, rectory and parish hall, all on the historical register, certain bank and investment accounts, beneficiary status to certain trusts, dedicated parishioners, and a tradition of religious, missional and community service (“Church Resources”).

Whereas, for approximately a five year period Grace Church has made available certain of its Church Resources working with Rural & Migrant Ministry (“RMM”) to support RMM’s activities bringing the word and blessings of God to the rural, migrant, farmworker, and Hispanic communities in the region.

Whereas, in early 2016 the congregation of Grace Church, under the leadership of The Rev. Andrew D'Angio White, determined that the demographics of the region no longer supported the traditional parish model for Grace Church and that Grace church should look to transition its activities by the end of 2016.

Whereas, since that time Grace Church, including its Priest, Wardens and Vestry, have had discussions with the Diocese, including Bishop Singh, Chief Financial Officer Rubiano and Chancellor Fileri, and RMM, including RMM Board Chair the Rev. Julie Cicora and RMM Executive Director the Rev. Richard Witt, about charting a new course. These discussions resulted in a proposal from RMM to Grace Church presented to Grace Church in August, 2016, supported by the Diocese, to transition Grace Church to incorporated mission status, and as a Diocesan mission, to engage in joint activities with RMM, pursuant to a proposal, the current status of which is attached hereto (“Proposal”), using certain of the Grace Church Resources and gifts to continue and grow RMM’s activities in the Lyons region.

Whereas, the Wardens and Vestry of Grace Church have approved the Proposal and the matters in these resolutions set forth below.

NOW, THEREFORE, this Convention hereby adopts the following resolutions:

RESOLVED, that as of the Transition Date (defined below) Grace Church ecclesiastically shall transition from “parish” status to “mission” status in the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester. The Wardens and Vestry of Grace Church shall no longer have their duties and responsibilities for Grace Church effective on the Transition Date. As a mission, the Diocese shall be responsible for the Grace Church Resources and assets as governed by the applicable Constitution & Canons provisions. Grace Church shall be an incorporated mission and continue its religious tax-exempt status. Its assets, while subject to Diocesan ownership, control and direction shall remain assets of the Grace Church incorporated entity, unless determined otherwise by the Diocese.

RESOLVED, that the Convention hereby:

(a) applauds Grace Church for its many, many years of successful parish ministry, outstanding stewardship of its resources and gifts, and vision to continue a legacy of helping those who need help and extending its gifts beyond itself both geographically and in time into the future.

(b) approves and supports the Diocese engaging with RMM for rural and migrant ministry arising out of Grace Church, as may be reasonably modified from time to time with the approval of the Bishop,

(c) thanks all involved for their diligent and inspired work in developing the vision for this important work and melding the Grace Church Resources with an implementation plan for this growing ministry, and

RESOLVED, that the Transition Date be such date as agreed to by the Diocese and Grace Church, but not later than December 31, 2016.

RESOLVED, that the Bishop and the Officers of the Diocese are hereby authorized to take such actions as may be necessary, appropriate and/or advisable to implement the resolutions set forth above, including but not limited to establishing, modifying and/or terminating an arrangement with RMM and taking such steps as may be needed to operate the Grace Church mission, including but not limited to establishing an Executive Committee and delegating responsibilities to an administrative board or otherwise.

Explanation

The background and reasons for the actions are detailed in the “Whereas” clauses above.

Diocesan Council

The Bishop called upon Gwen Van Laeken, Vice-chair of Diocesan Council, who acknowledged the work of the Council over the past year, recognized its working committees (Congregational Development Partnership committee (CDPC), Mission Partnership Grant Committee (MPGC), Budget) and introduced the members – thanking them for their contributions.

Diocesan Council: Congregational Development Partnership Committee

Deb Vanderbilt and the Rev. Chris Streeter, Co-chairs of the committee, gave an overview of the work of the CDPC. Their overview and the history of the work of CDPC led to investigation of a College for Congregational Development as a relevant and necessary component to the work around congregational development. They introduced the Rev. Paul Frolick who provided an overview of the proposed College.

College for Congregational Development

Paul provided some background to the proposed College. Paul, the Rev. Chris Streeter, the Rev. Winifred Collin and Mrs. Sarah Peters each attended a session of the current college offered by Diocese of Olympia Washington. Each of those participants spoke to the quality and relevance of the program noting “the value it has already been helpful to parish”; “the most well run, well organized, content filled and valuable on/to many levels/groups” and “spectacular - offering organizational models to help identify new ways forward - tools that give hope for the future”. Paul reviewed a PowerPoint presentation that provided detail regarding the offering proposed for the Diocese of Rochester beginning in July 2017.

Diocesan Council: Mission Partnership Grant Committee

Margy Ashley, Co-chair of the committee, provided an overview of the work of the committee over the past year. She offered special thanks to Kristy Estey for her support and to Scott Seabridge, the other Co-chair for his contributions.

Diocesan Council: Budget

Gwen introduced Scott Seabridge, Chair of the Budget Committee who provided a short report on the process used by the committee used to create the budget, the work of the committee highlighting the review of the apportionment formula, discernment on Province II and creation of the 2017 budget. He then introduced Todd Rubiano, CFO, to present the budget.

Presentation of the 2017 Diocesan Budget

Todd presented a series of PowerPoint slides to provide a thorough review of the proposed 2017 budget. The Bishop then recognized Gwen Van Laeken to make a motion on behalf of the Diocesan Council for the approval of the 2017 budget. Discussion followed and the Rev. Michael Hartney introduced an amendment to increase the Retiree Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) line item by \$19,200 to \$60,200, raising the HRA funding to \$900 per eligible retiree this year. Michael and several others spoke in support of the amendment. Following extensive conversation, the Bishop called for a voice vote on the amendment which was inconclusive. He then asked for a vote by show of hands. The amendment carried. **MSP**

Conversation continued regarding passing a balanced budget and raised the question of where the \$19K would be taken from. Chancellor, Phil Fileri, responded to a question of whether the Canons require the passing of a balanced budget noting that they do not and that Council would then have the responsibility of making that decision. Gwen Van Laeken proposed an amendment to balance the proposed budget by taking \$19K from the Mission Grant funds account – some from funds which are currently unallocated and the remainder from grants funds. The motion was seconded, spoken to, a vote was called and the motion was defeated. The original budget as amended was restated with the reminder that the budget amendment creates a \$19,200 budget deficit for 2017, which will be addressed by Diocesan Council. The amended 2017 budget was approved as follows. **The Proposed 2017 Budget and the approved 2017 Budget as amended are included in a separate section of the Journal and available on the diocesan website.**

Resolved, that the 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester approves the 2017 Diocesan Budget of \$2,072,851, as amended to increase the Retiree Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) line item by \$19,200 to \$60,200, raising the HRA funding to \$900 per eligible retiree for 2017. The resulting \$19,200 budget deficit for 2017 will be addressed by Diocesan Council." **MSP**

The Bishop called upon the Chaplain for prayer.

Third Ballot

The Bishop called upon the Chief Teller, the Rev. Andrew Van Buren, to provide the result of the third ballot. Andrew announced that the Rev. Chris Streeter was elected as the fourth Clerical Deputy to General Convention.

Acknowledgements

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

Diocesan Council

The Rev. Lucy Alonzo, Ms. Margy Ashley, The Rev. Kelly Ayer
Ms. Carolyn Mok, The Rev. Lynne Sharp, The Rev. Christopher Streeter, Ms. Deborah Vanderbilt

Commission on Ministry

The Very Rev. Dahn Gandell, The Rev. Suzanne Johnston, Ms. Nancy Newton

Standing Committee

The Rev. Lesley Adams, Mr. Marino Fernandez

Trustees

Mr. Leslie Kernan, The Rev. Peter Harter, Mr. Douglass Lyon

Disciplinary Board

The Rev. Daniel Linnenberg, Ms. Nadene Hunter

Appointment of Committees for the 86th Diocesan Convention:

The Bishop appointed committees for the 2017 Convention.

On Constitution and Canons: Philip Fileri, Esq., Chair, Dyson Gay, Esq., F. Paul Greene, Esq., Leslie Kernan, Esq., Susan Scanlon, Esq., Thomas Wright, Esq., the Rev. Canon Dr. C. Denise Yarbrough, Esq.,

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

Closing Prayer

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

Resolutions of Courtesy

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

**Resolutions of Courtesy
The 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester**

Worship at Convention and Music During the Celebration

Resolved, that this 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester thank the Rev. Maurice Charles for serving as Chaplain.

Resolved, that this 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester thank all who helped with arrangements and logistics for this convention.

Resolved, that this 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester thank Presiding Bishop Michael Curry for his presence among us and for his willingness to be our preacher and we ask God's continued blessing on his ministry

Resolved, that this 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester thanks Canon Michael Hunn and Ms. Sharon Jones for their presence among us and we ask for God's continued blessing on their ministry in the Presiding Bishop's office.

Resolved, that this 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester thank Bishop Prince Singh and the Rev. Rob Picken; and all those who participated in the music, the reading, the preparation of slides, the set up and the writing of the Liturgy.

Resolved, that this 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester thank the Rev. Cameron Miller and the saints of Trinity for hosting Convention Worship.

Secretary of Convention

Resolved, that this 85th 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 years of volunteer ministry.

Treasurer Resolved, that this 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester express gratitude and appreciation of Mr. Terry Butwid, Treasurer of the Diocese for his volunteer service.

Assistant Treasurer of the Diocese

Resolved, that this 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester expresses appreciation for Ms. Bliss Owen, Assistant Treasurer, for her years of volunteer service.

Chancellor of the Diocese

Resolved, that this 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester express gratitude and appreciation for the support in terms of time and commitment of Mr. Philip Fileri Esq., Chancellor of the Diocese during the past year.

Assistant Chancellors of the Diocese

Resolved, that this 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester express gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Thomas Wright, Esq. and Mr. Paul Greene, Esq. Assistant Chancellor of the Diocese for their volunteer service.

Chapel Service

Resolved, that this 85th 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.

Senior Most Canonically Resident Clergy (female)

Resolved, that this 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester send greetings to the Rev. Gloria Fish and express appreciation and gratitude for over 37 years of priestly ministry.

Senior Most Canonically Resident Clergy (male)

Resolved, that this 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester send greetings to the Rev. Philip Wheaton and express appreciation and gratitude for over 52 years of priestly ministry.

Senior Most Clergy (female)

Resolved, that this 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester send birthday greetings to the Rev. Diana Purcell Chapman and express appreciation and gratitude for over 22 years of priestly ministry.

Senior Most Clergy (male)

Resolved, that this 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester send birthday greetings on his 95th birthday to The Rev. Richard Henshaw and express appreciation and gratitude for over 60 years of priestly ministry.

Leadership

Resolved, that this 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester thank Mark Gearan, President of Hobart William Smith Colleges for his leadership and hospitality.

Resolved, that this 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester thanks the Rev. Winfred Vergara for his commitment to the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester and his work as missionary of Asia American ministries.

Resolved, that this 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester thank Ms. Barbara Deming, Ms. Stacey Taylor and the nomination committee for their work.

Resolved, that this 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester thank the Rev. Dr. Peter Peters and the resolution committee for their work.

Resolved, that this 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester thank the Rev. Andrew VanBuren and the elections committee for their work.

Resolved, that this 85th 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, the Rev. Chris Streeter and Ms. Deborah Vanderbilt as co-chairs of the Congregational Development Partnership Committee, Ms. Margy Ashley and Scott Seabridge as co-chairs of the Mission Grant Partnership Committee, Scott Seabridge as chair of the Budget Committee and members of the respective sub committees.

Resolved, that this 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester express appreciation and gratitude for the leadership of the Rev. Ken Pepin as Chair of the Commission on Ministry.

Resolved, that this 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester express appreciation and gratitude for the leadership of Susan Scanlon as Vice Chair of the Trustees, Douglass Lyon, chair of the Investment Review Committee, Charlie Zetteck, chair of the Audit Committee and the Rev. John Burr, chair of Building and Property Committee.

Resolved, that this 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester express appreciation and gratitude for the prompt action and guidance of the Anti-Racism Steering committee for developing a plan of study and action for the Diocese of Rochester to raise the level of awareness about issues of racism.

Resolved, that this 85th 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. The Convention is grateful for the leadership of Marlene Allen, Laura Arney, Yvonne Arnold, Tom Bennett, Michael Laver, Richard Reid, the Rev. Ginny Mazzarella, Susan Pickhardt, Liz Porter, the Rev. Lance Robbins, Geneva Robinson, the Rev. Andrea Stridiron, the Rev. Kit Tobin and Kathy Walczak.

Resolved, that this 85th 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 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester express appreciation and gratitude for the leadership of Ms. Gwen Van Laeken on the budget committee and members of the committee.

Resolved, that this 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester express appreciation and gratitude for the Clergy Assessment Service for providing professional assessment of psychological evaluation for those in the Diocese discerning Holy Orders.

Resolved, that this 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester express appreciation and gratitude for the leadership of Christopher Moore as President of Standing Committee.

Resolved, that this 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester express appreciation and gratitude to all the volunteers and parishes that have hosted Diocesan Gatherings.

Supply Priests

Resolved, that this 85th 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 able.

Newly Retired Clergy

Resolved, that this 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester express its appreciation and gratitude for the ministry of the Rev. Michael Hartney at St. James' in Watkins Glen, St. John's in Catherine, and St. Paul's in Montour Falls, (Episcopal Parishes of Schuyler County); and the Rev. Charles Tyo at Christ Church in Corning.

Newly Ordained Priests

Resolved, that this 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester extend appreciation and gratitude for the Rev. Virginia Tyler-Smith; the Rev. Christa Levesque; the Rev. Andrew VanBuren; and the Rev. Troy Preston as they begin their ministry of the church. (Note: names are listed in order of Ordination date.)

Circles of Support

Resolved, that this 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester extend appreciation and gratitude for the members of the four Circles of Support for the Rev. Virginia Tyler-Smith; the Rev. Christa Levesque; the Rev. Andrew VanBuren; and the Rev. Troy Preston as they begin their ministry of the church. (Note: names are listed in order of Ordination date.)

District Deans

Resolved, that this 85th 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. Carol Stewart (SW), the Very Rev. Dahn Gandell (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 his 85th 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 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester express our appreciation and thanks to The Rt. Rev. Prince G. Singh as he continues in his eighth 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 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester send greetings good wishes and prayers to Mrs. Bettina Barrett.

Resolved, that this 85th 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 85th 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 85th 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 Rt. Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori and The Rt. Rev. Frank T. Griswold

Resolved, that this 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester send greetings, prayers, and gratitude to the Rt. Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori and the Rev. Frank T. Griswold for their past leadership of the Episcopal Church and blessings on all their future ministries.

Neighboring Dioceses

Resolved, that this 85th 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.

Our Ecumenical Partners

Resolved, that this 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester send support and prayers to Bishop John Macholz as he continues his term as Bishop of the Upstate New York Synod of the ELCA.

Resolved, that this 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester send our thanks our Ecumenical and Interfaith Leaders for their unity and mutual support in our worship and service to God.

Our Governing Authorities

Resolved, that this 85th 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 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester sends its prayers and good wishes to the Mayor of Rochester, Lovely Warren.

Volunteers And All Who Served Us

Resolved, that this 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester express appreciation and gratitude to Annette Harris for 57 years of dedication and service as organist at Grace Church Lyons.

Resolved, that this 85th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester remember with thanksgiving the life and ministry of Dr. Nadene Hunter, who entered the nearer embrace of God at age 98.

Resolved, that this 85th 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 85th 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 85th 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.

Evening Prayer

The Bishop called on the Rev. Canon Johnnie Ross to lead Evening Prayer.

Convention Adjournment

Convention closed with a benediction and was adjourned at 5:09 p.m. sine die.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Andrea Stridiron,
Secretary of Diocesan Convention