

## **JOURNAL OF THE 87TH DIOCESAN CONVENTION**

The 87th Convention of the Diocese of Rochester was held on October 27, 2018, at The Islamic Center of Rochester, NY.

### **Pre-Convention/Morning Prayer**

Led by the Rev. Virginia Tyler Smith. Interpreters were introduced.

Morning Prayer was led by the Rev. Virginia Tyler Smith. The First Reading was read at each table and discussed. One person from each table was invited to come to mike and share what their group discussed. A parallel lesson was read from the Koran.

### **OPENING OF CONVENTION/ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM**

The Rt. Rev. Prince G. Singh opened the Convention at 8:25 a.m.

#### **Quorum**

Meeting began with the introduction of the Rev. Andrea Stridiron, Deacon. A quorum was established:

161 with 50 clergy and 111 delegates.

### **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 within this diocese shall have seat, voice and vote according to ARTICLE III, Section 2(c) which also includes chancellor, assistant chancellors, secretary, treasurers of the Diocese and Lay Canons, except in the case of a vote by Orders.

#### Majority Vote

The Secretary established the numbers needed for a majority vote.

#### **Introduction of the Chancellor and the Assistant Chancellors**

Motion to re-elect Philip Fileri, Esq. as Chancellor for a term of three years. MSP. Mr. Fileri will also serve as Parliamentarian. Mr. Thomas Wright, Esq. and Mr. Paul Green, Esq. will serve as assistant chancellors.

#### Introduction of Treasurer

The Chair introduced and thanked Mr. Terry Budwid, treasurer and Ms. Bliss Owen, assistant treasurer.

### Appointment of Chaplains

The Bishop appointed Ms. Robin Yergeau from Trinity, Greece and the Rev. Michael Finn, Deacon from St. Mark's and St. John's as chaplains for the day.

### Reading of the Minutes of the 86th Diocesan Convention

The Bishop announced that the Committee on the Reading of Minutes had reviewed the minutes of the 86th Diocesan Convention. There were some minor spelling and technical issues which have been corrected and posted on the diocesan website. Also, printed copies were made available at the pre-convention meetings. Copies are also available at registration. He called for a motion to waive the reading of the minutes. MSP

The minutes also needed to be approved as originally presented, then updated on the website. MSP

### Appointment of Registrar

The Chair recognized Ms. Carolyn McConnell to serve as Registrar of Convention.

### Forms for Alternates and Amendments

During convention alternates who wish to be seated in place of a delegate, need to see The Rev. Andrea Stridiron, Secretary to Convention, and provide the form for the substitution signed by the parish rector, priest in charge or the warden in charge. Also, amendments to resolutions should be presented in writing to the secretary. Both forms may be obtained from the secretary.

### Committee on Credentials

The Bishop recognized the Committee on Credentials; the Rev. Thomas Gramley, Priest-in-Charge, Church of the Redeemer in Addison, Chair;

### Seat and Voice as Reported by the Committee on Credentials

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

The Chair of the Committee on Credentials, the Rev. Thomas Gramley, 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.

This resolution had been moved by the Rev. Thomas Gramley, which comes from the Committee on Credentials, so there is no need for a second. So ordered

#### Committee on the Dispatch of Business

The Bishop recognized the Committee on the Dispatch of Business; the Rev. Canon Johnnie Ross.

#### Dispatch of Business

The Bishop called upon The Rev. Canon Johnnie Ross, 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. Canon Johnnie Ross, 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 or 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 Chair appointed the Rev. Gretchen Ratterree, as timekeeper.

#### Introduction to The Islamic Center of Rochester

The Chair recognized Canon Denise Yarbrough to speak about The Islamic Center of Rochester. Canon Yarbrough is Canon for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations. After giving attendees information about the center, she encouraged the attendees to explore the center where available.

## Introduction of Hosts

The Bishop introduced our hosts, Dr. Rumi, Dr. Shifq, Fatima and Farkhan. Each host introduced themselves with a brief description:

Fatima is a medical student at the U of R. She shared an interfaith story beginning with the tragedy of September 11, 2001, where Muslims living in America were coming under intense scrutiny. She was 8 years old and had just arrived from Pakistan. She remembered that she and other Muslims found themselves wondering if they were welcomed in the Rochester community. That Friday, she and her family had arrived for services and found that the lobby at The Islamic Center was overflowing with cards and flowers from Christians and people of other faiths who expressed their love and acceptance.

Farkhan grew up in Rochester and has been coming to The Islamic Center since he was a young boy. He is studying electrical/mechanical engineering technology at RIT. His childhood dream was to memorize the whole Quran. He proceeded to chant some verses in Arabic, and then explained what the verses meant.

Dr. Shifq shared a story about how the Prophet Mohammed spoke of Jesus or al-Masih (The Christ). One day Jesus was passing through. There were some people there and REFERRED TO JESUS CHRIST BY SAYING that evil was passing. In return, Jesus Christ said good words about them. The disciples were upset and did not know why Jesus said good words about them, while they said evil things about him. Mohammed tells us that Jesus said these words, "Everyone spends of what he or she possess. I don't have evil within myself. What I have is all good to share." Dr. Shifq ended by saying, "It's amazing that we are together here."

Dr. Rumi provided social and historical aspects. He said that people ask, "Are the Muslims Americans?" The answer is simple, "Yes, we are Americans." In 1893 in Chicago, the First World Congress of Religions. Islam was represented by American born Muslim, Mohammed Alexander Russell Webb. He was an ambassador to the Philippines, and on his way back to the United States, he stopped in British India, where he was asked to stay, but he said no because India was an occupied country and Islam could only thrive and survive in a free country.

He ended by thanking the Episcopal Diocese for having their convention at The Islamic Center of Rochester. Dr. Rumi introduced all the volunteers who helped at today's convention. Later, Dr. Rumi introduced Dr. Rauf Bawany. He is the Muslim Chaplain at RIT. GIFTS FROM THE DIOCESE WERE SHARED WITH OUR HOSTS AT THIS TIME.

## Introduction of Loren Ranaletta

The Bishop welcomed Loren Ranaletta from the Senior Life Communities while a technical glitch with the video was attended to. Mr. Ranaletta has led the Episcopal Senior Life Communities for the last 34 years, providing an era of growth and opportunities. The Episcopal Senior Life Communities is celebrating 150 years of service to the community and the Episcopal Church was instrumental in its founding and historical partnership.

## The Episcopal Church Home and Senior Life Communities - Video

The future of the Episcopal Church Home is changing. Since the mid-1960s, the ECH has been a health care provider, a nursing home, and a rehab center. The future objective is to evolve into a neighborhood provider of home-type support services, eventually owning and operating housing for seniors in neighborhoods throughout Monroe County, offering seniors opportunities to gather at a site for socialization, education, and fitness. Seniors will be helped to make better choices for themselves as they age with dignity.

After the video, Mr. Ranaletta explained that the story we just heard began at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in 1861. The Rev. Dr. Bethel Claxton took up a collection on Maundy Thursday in 1861 because the church desired to build an orphanage/asylum in the city of Rochester. When 1868 came around, after the Civil War, the social needs had extended to include the indigent and broken families. A group of Episcopal men came together forming a board of directors and a board of lady managers from four parishes. A home on a one-acre farm on Mt. Hope Avenue was donated to them. ECH has evolved from an elder care organization in the late 1930s to an organization with 6 campuses and the hope to add 2-3 more sites.

### Recognition of Leaders

Recognition of some of the leaders IN OUR GOVERNANCE who have helped the Diocese live into OUR vision and mission.

Mr. Les Kernan - Vice-Chair of Trustees

The Rev. Chris Streeter – Vice-Chair of Diocesan Council

Dr. Rob Ferris and the Rev. Jimmie Sue Deppe, Co-Chairs Commission on Ministry

Mrs. Sarah Peters – President of the Standing Committee

### 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 before Convention. MSP

### Standing Committees for the 87th Convention

The Chair recognized the Standing Committees for the 87th Convention and expressed thanks for their service. List of 2018 Standing Committee on yellow paper in the packet. It lists the number of people and the various capacities they served to make this convention happen.

### Archives

The Bishop introduced the Rev. David Hefling and Joanne Wisor. The Rev. Hefling had a funeral and was unable to be at Convention.

### Report on Archives

Greetings were shared and an offer of help from the archivist, Joanne Wisor who are committed to serving the diocese and its parishes. They are part of the National Episcopal Historians and Archivists and have been collecting, preserving and organizing records from the churches and sharing its history. Ms. Visor showed slides from early Rochester and its Episcopal churches. There are many loose photographs in the archive without names of churches or people. Please identify names and/or places when sending in photographs.

For a while, the archives shared space with an agent of Ancestry.com who was digitalizing the historic record books of baptisms, marriages, and burials from the parishes of Central NY and the diocese of Rochester, for inclusion sometime next year in the massive searches of Ancestry.com. Twenty-some parishes in the Diocese of Rochester have so far sent Ancestry.com books to be copied. Those records will be available online and available next year.

There are currently over 50 file cabinets in the archive area, with mounds of other stuff piled on top. The task at hand is to whittle down unnecessary materials and to reorganize the space so that anyone who wishes to do research, can do so at ease. There will be permanent record areas for things that cannot be given up canonically and combining all records, historical and current, by community and by parish. The archivists are available to answer any inquiries that cannot be answered by your local parish records.

The Bishop thanked Ms. Joanne Wisor and The Rev. David Hefling (in abstention) for taking on the task of organizing the archives.

### Reminder

The chaplains, Ms. Robin Yergeau and The Rev. Michael Finn, Deacon are available.

Resolution A: Amendment to Canon 7, Trustees - Vacancies

The Bishop called upon Chancellor Philip Fileri, Esq. to present a resolution for an amendment to Canon 7, Trustees – Vacancies

The Chancellor presented Resolution A as follows:

Resolution A

Amendment to Canon 7, Trustees - Vacancies.

Currently, the Constitution & Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester are silent on how a vacancy in the Board of Trustees should be filled. However, New York Religious Corporations Law Section 15(2) contains a provision directing how trustee vacancies should be filled. By action taken on June 19, 2018 the Constitution & Canons Committee recommends that the following new section, principally tracking the statutory language, should be inserted into Canon 7, and recommends that the Diocesan Convention take action to adopt this amendment at its 2018 Diocesan Convention, by a vote by orders so it will be immediately effective:

"Section 4. Any vacancy in the Board of Trustees, occurring because of death, resignation, or removal from the Diocese, may be filled by the vote of the remaining Trustees, until the next Diocesan Convention."

Considerations:

In early 2018 there was a vacancy in the Board of Trustees. The trustees took action to fill the vacancy through the 2018 Diocesan Convention, following New York law. However, since the procedure was not outlined in the Canons, it took additional checking to make sure the correct procedures were followed. The Bishop requested that the Canons be amended appropriately so that in the future guidance will be readily available.

The Constitution & Canons Committee reviewed the other provisions in the Canons on filling vacancies to determine whether there should be one general provision to fill vacancies or the individual provisions should be retained. It concluded that because circumstances differ, the approach of having individual provisions is preferable. The other provisions are as follows:

VI. Secretary, Treasurer, Chancellor, and Registrar vacancies are filled for the unexpired term, by the Bishop, in consultation with the Standing Committee.

VII. Section 1. Standing Committee vacancies are filled until the next Convention by a vote of the Standing Committee members and consent of the Bishop.

6.2(e) and (f). Diocesan Council vacancies:

(e) if elected by a District, are filled by the District, or.

(f) if elected by the Convention, are filled by Council until the next Convention.

17.3 (g) and (h). The Vestry has the power to fill vacancies until the next annual meeting of the parish, but if needed for a quorum, then filled by a special meeting of the parish.

21.2(c). Disciplinary Board vacancies are filled until the next Convention by the Bishop, in consultation with the Standing Committee

In early 2018 there was a vacancy in the Board of Trustees. The trustees took action to fill the vacancy through the 2018 Diocesan Convention, following New York law. However, since the procedure was not outlined in the Canon, it took additional checking to make sure the correct procedures were followed. The Bishop requested that the Canons be amended appropriately so that in the future, guidance will be readily available.

Chancellor Fileri moved the resolution on behalf of the Constitution and Canon Committee and asked that convention take a vote by orders in the order that the amendment goes in effect immediately and will not have to go through two consecutive conventions. It must be passed by 2/3rd clergy and 2/3rd lay delegates.

The Bishop called for a vote on the resolution by orders. Resolution A, as amended, was approved by a vote of 2/3rd in each order. MSP.

The Bishop asked the Rev. Virginia Tyler Smith to lead Convention in prayer.

### Introduction of Steve Richards, Communication Specialist

The Bishop welcomed to the podium Mr. Steve Richards, Communications Specialist for our diocese. Mr. Richards just finished his first year. He brought stories from the churches around the diocese. The Bishop thanked Mr. Richards for his gifts.

### Mission Highlights Video – Relationships

One of Mr. Richards' favorite things to do is to tell the stories of our diocese, parishes, and missions. His previous career was in television news where he liked to focus on storytelling. He would often ask a reporter coming in from covering a story to tell him what happened and what's going on. He described how excited, passionate and emotional they were in describing their covering of a story.

When it came to his new job at the diocese, he wondered how he would coach people to show passion and emotion when he interviewed them. But, to his surprise, he did not need to coach anyone; they all had that passion and emotion.

Mr. Richards introduced the first of three videos – Leadership, Stewardship, and Relationships.

The first video was Leadership and it featured:

1. Southwest Ecumenical Mission partnering with St. Stephens (Rochester) to distribute food from Foodlink.
2. St. John's (Canandaigua) Winter Coat and has become more than just giving out coats. They also provide food and other clothing to those who come.
3. St. Luke's, St. Simon's (Rochester) - Jazz Vespers is a service that brings together both the church and local musicians to help worship through the mode of jazz combining that with some prayers and some readings.

### BISHOP'S ADDRESS

The Rev. Virginia Tyler Smith introduces Bishop Singh, celebrating his 10th convention and adjourning his 11th convention. This is an important opportunity for all of us to listen and learn what the Bishop sees, how things are going in the diocese, the National Church and the Anglican Community and to celebrate all the many gifts of those ministries.

The Bishop began by thanking the interpreters. He also offered up a few words of gratitude for our Islamic Center of Rochester hosts and their generous hospitality in helping us practice becoming beloved-community in a dangerously polarizing world. He thanked those who have participated in the leadership of the diocese; those who served on Commission on Ministry, Diocesan Council, Trustees, Standing Committee, and those appointed to serve in any capacity in the diocese; his staff; to all members of this convention planning team; to all persons who have



shared something about their faith this past year; to The Rt. Rev. Mark Lattime, Bishop of Alaska; to DeDe Duncan-Probe; and finally, to his best friend and wife, Roja.

We lift our grateful hearts for all who have been baptized, confirmed or received this past year.

Gratitude and Bishop Singh announced that the Necrology will be done differently this year, hopefully in a personal way. Their names are printed in the worship booklet as well as those who have been baptized, confirmed or received. Later in the afternoon, during the liturgy, people will have an opportunity to say the names of those loved ones out loud, or silently, or by moving a finger over a loved one's name at the time of intercessions. The text of the Bishop's full address is included in a separate section of the Journal and is available on the diocesan website.

### Break

The Rev. Virginia Tyler Smith gave thanks for Bishop Singh's ministry and asks that attendees gather back at 10:25 with the singing of "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"

### News from General Convention

The Bishop recognized the Rev. Billy Daniel to speak about the 79th General Convention held in Austin, Texas this past August.

### Deputies Video

The Rev. Billy Daniel begins with the purpose of General Convention; to gather together the bishops, the representatives of the laity, and clergy from throughout the 17 countries that make up the Episcopal Church. This diverse gathering discerns how to best govern and support the work of God already taking place, through missions, and parishes in the dioceses of our church.

Several people briefly offered their ideas of what General Convention, The House of Deputies and The House of Bishops duties are.

After the video, the Rev. Billy Daniel gave more information about the 79th General Convention; what came out of it and what was the feeling? It was about Beloved-Community and owning our diversity as followers of Christ. Not all Episcopalians are Americans; not all Episcopalians share the same politics or social concerns; not all Episcopalians speak the same language. Not everyone speaks English. We are different, we are diverse, and this General Convention was about learning to inhabit the love of Christ, not despite our differences but because of them. A crucial part of owning our diversity and differences and love means turning around. Metamelethete; not a word mentioned at General Convention, but an important word, nonetheless. It is used by Jesus in Matthew's Gospel when he's talking about the unwillingness of the Pharisees to turn around and listen to what John the Baptist has to say to them. It means to change your mind by changing your heart. Throughout the General Convention, hearts were continually turned toward Christ in every person.

There were three primary areas to note how the Episcopal Church is turning toward Christ:

- Racial Reconciliation

- Creation Care
- Evangelism

As the Rev. Billy Daniel ended his talk, he asked everyone to have "Beloved Conversations" which gave three questions for each table to discuss.

1. What is one thing in specific that your church needs to name and address, with regards to racial reconciliation, and what can you do to begin this process.
2. Brainstorm how we might raise awareness of creation care in the Finger Lakes region of New York. What are the ways the Diocese of Rochester might affect ecological awareness and change in our region of the world?
3. If Jesus walked into our diocese, our communities, our state, our region, what would he do first, what needs would he address, and how would he express the gospel in our context? What does "good news" look like in our diocese?

Beloved Conversations occurred at each table with the hope that these conversations are carried out of this room. The Rev. Billy Daniel mentioned that The Rev. Dahn Gandell is President of Province II, Mr. Phillip Fileri, Esq. is Chancellor and the Right Rev. DeDe Duncan Probe is the Vice President of Province II

The Bishop thanked The Rev. Billy Daniel and asked that all the delegates of the diocese who represented us at General Convention to stand.

#### The 2017 Diocesan Audit Report

The Bishop recognized Mr. Terry Butwid, Treasurer and Ms. Bliss Owen, Assistant Treasurer to present the 2017 Diocesan Audit and Financial Report.

Ms. Bliss announced that the audit was completed by August 2018 by Mengel, Metzger & Barr LLC. There were no deficiencies reported in the audit. Thanks to the financial staff of the diocese. The entire Audit Report is included in a separate section of the Journal and available on the diocesan website.

#### The 2017 Diocesan Financial Report

Mr. Butwid continued with good news about the Financial Report. He reported that over the past 8 years the diocese has come a long way toward reaching financial sustainability. It was suggested that we should have a target withdrawal rate of 4% rather than 5%. Looking forward, we are currently entering an unprecedented 10th year of economic and stock market recovery. The entire Financial Report is included in a separate section of the Journal and available on the diocesan website.

Resolved: That the 87th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester receives the 2017 audit and financial report as presented by the firm of Mengel, Metzger & Barr and accepted by the Diocesan Trustees. The vote was taken electronically later on Ballot K.

The Bishop thanked Mr. Terry Butwid, Ms. Bliss Owen and Trustees.

### Summary of 2019 Diocesan Budget

The Bishop recognized soon to be Canon Todd Rubiano, Chief Financial Officer to present the 2019 Diocesan Budget which has been approved by the Diocesan Council.

### Presentation of the 2019 Diocesan Budget

Mr. Rubiano thanked the teamwork of diocesan staff, people elected as members to council and as members of trustees. They have worked with the treasurer and the chancellor to make change happen. Mr. Rubiano presented a series of PowerPoint slides to provide a thorough review of the proposed 2019 budget.

The Bishop recognized Vice Chair of Council, The Rev. Chris Streeter. Before voting on the resolution to accept the 2019 budget, The Rev. Chris Streeter thanked members of the Diocesan Council. The council was divided into three sub-committees:

Mission Partnership Committee was led by the Rev. Catherine Tatem and Ms. Margy Ashley

Congregational Development Partnership Committee led by Ms. Dawn Wilkins and The Rev. Billy Daniel

Budget Committee was overseen by The Rev. Dan Burner

The approved 2019 Diocesan Budget will be included in a separate section of the Journal and available on the diocesan website.

Resolved, that the 87th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester approves the 2019 Diocesan Budget of \$2,086,866.00, including apportionment of \$1,014,366.00 as recommended by Diocesan Council, with thanks to the committees for their work, and to all the parishes through whom mission and ministry are undertaken. Moved was the acceptance to the 2019 Diocesan Budget resolution. No need for a second. A vote will take place electronically later in the afternoon on Ballot L.

### Leadership

The Rev. Virginia Tyler Smith introduces the next video on Leadership

Ministry Highlights Video – Leadership

This video focused on several leadership programs:

1. REACH was formed three years ago after the result of a homelessness crisis in Rochester. At that time, the city had bulldozed Tent City where numerous homeless people were sleeping. The House of Mercy created an emergency shelter where there was no running water or facilities in an abandoned factory. In collaboration with The House of Mercy, a small group formed, and, so as not to repeat the previous year, looking for a more permanent solution to the problem of

homelessness. REACH has become instrumental in providing permanent homes for the homeless. For more information, please contact the Rev. Peter Peters.

2. Church of the Good Shepherd in Savona, NY, developed a food pantry for those in need nearly 5 years ago. Approximately sixteen percent of Steuben county is below the poverty level between the hours of 4-6, every Thursday, the food pantry is open to the public. About 35 families are receiving benefits from this program. The program serves the Savona and Campbell area and provides more than just food, ie. clothes, and toiletries.

The Rev. Abidhanantha John.

3. Revival and Festivals at St. Michaels, Geneseo and Church of the Ascension, Rochester, NY. The Rev. Dahn Gandell speaks on how Building Beloved Community is what we are all about. Last year's revival was held at Camp Eastman.

#### Nomination Committee Report - Districts

The Bishop called upon the Co-Chairs of the Nominating Committee, Ms. Julie Syracuse and The Very Rev. Andrew VanBuren, to report on the election of clerical representatives from the districts to Diocesan Council:

Ms. Syracuse reported on the election of the following clergy representatives from the districts to Diocesan Council:

Monroe District: The Very Rev. Lance Robbins

Northeast District: The Rev. Gretchen Ratterree

Rochester District: The Rev. Jay Burkhardt

Southeast District: The Very Rev. Troy Preston

Southwest District: The Rev. Virginia Mazarella

The Bishop congratulated those elected.

#### Nominating Committee Report – Elected Officials

On behalf of the Committee on Nominations, Ms. Syracuse 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. If there are any nominees from the floor, they must come up and speak clearly into the microphone. 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. Mary Ann Brody, Clinical Pastoral Education Supervisor, Sisters of Charity Hospital

The Rev. Leslie Burkhardt, St. Thomas', Rochester.

Standing Committee, Lay: Elect (1) Lay

Mr. Karl Bawel, St. Peter's, Dansville

Mr. Joseph DaBoll-Lavoie, St. John's, Canandaigua

Trustee: Elect (3 clerical or lay)

Mr. Scott Seabridge, Church of the Incarnation, Penfield

Ms. Susan Scanlon, St. Thomas', Rochester

Mr. Peter Vogt, St. Peter's, Dansville

The chair recognized The Very Rev. Andrew VanBuren to present the rest of the slate.

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

Mr. Floyd Bayley, St. Paul's Rochester

Ms. Tara Boohar, Christ Church, Hornell

Ms. Elizabeth Jill Daddis, Good Shepherd, Webster

Mr. John Merrick, Epiphany, Gates

Ms. Julie Syracuse, St. John's, Sodus

Commission on Ministry: Elect (1) Clergy

The Rev. Eric Thompson, St. Peter's, Dansville

Commission on Ministry: Elect (2) Lay

Mr. James Garner, St. Michael's, Geneseo

Ms. Kathy O'Leary, Ascension, Rochester

Disciplinary Board: Elect (1) Clergy

The Rev. Denise Yarbrough, St. Peter's Bloomfield

Because someone has withdrawn their nomination, Ms. Syracuse explained that according to Canon 3.4 the Nomination committee will present multiple nominations for each vacancy, nevertheless, it shall make certain that there is at least one nomination for each vacancy. Therefore, the Nomination Committee has fulfilled its obligation on the Disciplinary Board to make certain that there is at least one nomination for this vacancy.

Disciplinary Board: Elect (1) Lay

Mr. Harry Merryman, St. Thomas' Rochester

There is no Ballot I or J. They are reserved for Deputies and Provincial Deputies to General Convention, and since there is no General Convention this year, there is no need for those two ballots.

The Bishop reminded that convention will be voting electronically on Ballot K (2017 Diocesan Audit) and Ballot L (2019 Diocesan Budget). A motion to close nominations for the Diocesan elections. MSP

The Rev. Virginia Tyler Smith is called upon to offer a prayer at the closing of the First Ballot.

### Taking of the First Ballot

The Bishop declared the nominations closed and recognized the Very Rev. Andrew Van Buren who provided comprehensive instructions via a PowerPoint presentation 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. At the conclusion of the voting, the Bishop declared the First Ballot closed. Thank you to the Very Rev. Andrew Van Buren, the Rev. Virginia Tyler Smith, Ms. Kristy Estey, and all the Tellers.

The Bishop asked the convention to pause for prayer. There was a shooting in Pittsburgh, PA at the Tree of Life Synagogue while the service was taking place.

### Noonday Prayer

Noonday prayer was led by The Rev. Andrea Stridiron, Deacon.

The Bishop thanked The Rev. Andrea Stridiron, Deacon and acknowledged Canandaigua National Bank for partnering in sponsoring today's lunch. The Bishop invited Ms. Kristy Estey to provide lunch logistics.

Ms. Estey welcomed the caterer and volunteers who prepared the lunch. Gluten-free and selections for diabetics were offered. Directions were given for ease of getting lunch.

### Lunch

The Rev. Virginia Tyler Smith called convention back to order with the singing of "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot".

### Missionary Work

Bishop introduced Rev. Steve Robb, Deacon from Good Shepherd.

Cartagena, Costa Rica

Two years ago, on a mission trip to Costa Rica, the group visited the village of Cartagena where a school had burned down. The school was 40 years old and was run by Cen-cinai which is a Department of National government of Costa Rica. The bureau pays teachers' salaries and provides a nutritional lunch for children ages 3-16 whose parent or parents cannot afford to pay school taxes. These children are not welcome in the public school system. There are 67 children mostly aged 3-7 that attend the school. They are being taught in half-day shifts in a very small room, with a makeshift kitchen made of bamboo and tin. The Federal Government has condemned the kitchen and is closing everything down within 6 months. The government has decided not to rebuild the school, pretty much saying that the 67 children don't matter. Parents were told to take their children to a school 12 ½ miles away. These parents have no transportation or any way to get to that school. Without a school, these children have no future.

A school was promised to be built.

Several months later, The Presiding Bishop and UTO had dedicated the year to becoming a Beloved Community. The people of Cartagena were a community in desperate need of love. A UTO Companion Grant of \$61,875.00 between the Diocese of Rochester and the Diocese of Costa Rica was awarded. However, to build a school cost over \$118,000. A fundraiser was needed. Thus, it began Lego Love. The Legos cost \$1.00 and \$101,500.00 was raised.

How does this relate to us in Rochester becoming a Beloved Community? Are we really feeling like a beloved community to a far-off country that we've never seen, with people we have never met? Are we touching individual hearts, are we reaching out to all those who want to help from across this diocese? We want every member of this diocese to feel they are a member of a Beloved Community and to share that love of Christ with the Beloved Community of Cartagena. To do so, we need prayer and donations. \$17,000.00 is still needed. Anyone interested in going to help build is welcomed. Call Good Shepherd if interested in donating or building.

Video – Cartagena, Costa Rico School Project

Bishop thanked The Rev. Steve Rob, Deacon.

### Pilgrimages

Gratitude was given to the pilgrimages made this year: For the Rev. Lynne Sharp, The Rev. Dan Burner and others to the Holy Land and for earlier this year a group from CRCDS and Christ Church, Pittsford led by Dr. Melanie Duguid-May and Dr. Mark Brummitt. Heart-felt praise and thanks for all of these international connections that allow us to look at other worlds so that our world might get better.

### Results of the First Ballot

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

Standing Committee: Clergy – The Rev. Leslie Burkardt

Standing Committee: Lay – Mr. Joseph DaBoll-Lavoie

Trustee: Mr. Scott Seabridge, Ms. Susan Scanlon, Mr. Peter Vogt

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

Commission on Ministry: Clergy – The Rev. Eric Thompson

Commission on Ministry: Lay – Mr. James Garner, Ms. Kathy O'Leary

Disciplinary Board: Clergy – The Rev. Denise Yarbrough

Disciplinary Board: Lay – Mr. Harry Merryman

Diocesan Audit: - Accepted

Diocesan Budget: - Accepted

### Acknowledgments

Bishop thanks those who were elected. Bishop also gives thanks to those whose terms have expired or were not elected/re-elected. Nomination Committee was also given thanks. All those elected should see The Rev. Andrea Stridiron Deacon.

### Racial Reconciliation, Healing, and Justice

Bishop invites Melanie Duguid-May Racial Reconciliation, Healing, and Justice.

Ms. Melanie Duguid-May

Following a diocesan-wide pilgrimage of learning, listening and teaching around the theme of Seeing the Face of God in Each Other, the report: Racism, Our Church and our Region; The Complex Past was published last spring. It explores the historical and the contemporary accumulations of structural power that discriminate and that privilege some of us, and some of them. The report makes it clear that publishing it was just the first step. And so, declaring "We have a long way to go", Bishop Singh has convened a group around this theme of racial reconciliation, healing, and justice. It is a diverse group of age, race, gender, and vocation.

The group has met twice. The first meeting was held in September, and the discussion was on the story of how we became aware that race matters and how we came to think of ourselves in racial terms.

At the second meeting, the group focused on three areas...Education, Training and Celebrating Diversity. Several task forces have been implemented. The first is at work on a Food and the Arts Festival, to celebrate diversity. The second is planning experiential learning events for cross-cultural learning and listening. The third is organizing a kind of Diocese Reads and Diocese Watches a Movie, having tentatively chosen Bryan Stevenson's book, Just Mercy and the movie Thirteenth. A fourth task force will address the need for training, inviting participation in what we are calling critical and holy conversations; conversations in which we will exercise the skills of listening deeply to one another. It's an ambitious program, but it is imperative.



A Spiritual Study Guide will be put in place by Melanie to accompany the Racism Report.

All suggestions are welcome, and all are invited to participate.

The Bishop thanked Melanie Duguid-May.

### Mission Highlight Video – Youth

The Chair recognized youth and young adults who responded to the question:

Why is your faith important to you at this time, particularly when it comes to building Beloved-Community?

Featured in the video are:

RISE: participants talked about what the RISE Camp meant to them. RISE was about "community" in 2018, from macro to the universe. Participants worked together to create a community painting and explored American Negro Spirituals and how it is the "Mother" music of all-American music and all this music brings people and communities together. RISE is a diverse group that explores culture, skin color, and issues that can divide us.

Missionpalooza: offers an opportunity for youth to get involved in service projects in the City of Rochester. The youth worked at Dream Bikes, learning how to repair bicycles for people, and sell them back to the community at pretty reasonable prices. Dream Bikes is a local, non-profit organization focused on the youth of the community. They want to allow the youth to learn about bicycles but get some experience in their first paid job.

Owen's House: provided an opportunity for the young people of the diocese to see how Owen's House is serving the Rochester area and how young people can get involved; to give young people another view of another need that we have in the City of Rochester.

Vegetable Garden partnering with FoodLink: a lot of hard work for the participants, but they got to see the need for Vegetable Garden. The garden is for people who cannot afford to get their produce at Tops or Wegmans. One in eight people in this region is considered 'food insecure.' They are never sure when the next meal is coming.

House of Mercy: the participants helped organize clothing. It was the hope that the participants would gain a better understanding of what poverty looks like in the city and to gain some empathy and compassion for the people that struggle with it.

After the video, each participant presented a 2-minute talk about "Why faith is important to them."

Presenters were:

Nicole Hercules – St. Peter's, Henrietta

Akon Awuok – RISE Camper

Taylor Marren – Good Shepherd, Webster

Jeremy Cooney – Christ Church, Pittsford

Alfina Abidhananthar – Good Shepherd, Savona

Katherine Pepin – Grace/Saint Andrews, Scottsville/Caledonia

The Bishop thanked the presenters as Canon Rev. Johnnie Ross passed out gifts to the youth.

### Mission Highlight Video - Stewardship

#### Video – Stewardship

St. Peter's Henrietta - Food Kitchen which serves breakfast every month. St. Peter's is committed to feeding people, and they do it well. They are fed not only for nourishment but for spirituality too; therefore, the people are fed in all ways. We share our gift of hospitality. If any food is left over, we send it back with the people who come. This is what we are supposed to do in the world.

St. Marks' and St. John's Rochester– Monthly Community Food Shelf. It's a good place to build *Community*. People share their talents with the community. A son has carried on his mother's ministry of knitting hats that were handed out as gifts during Christmas. He sent 75 hats. Giving out food is how we share *Relationship* with people and how we share the love of Christ with the world.

St. Peter's Dansville - Helping Other People Eat (HOPE) is a ministry that St. Peter's has been involved in for several years along with other churches in the area. Serving around 80-90 people a month, they don't turn anyone away. People who are homebound come because they have found a community of fellowship.

The Bishop invited and introduced The Rev. Laurence Wainwright-Maks, Missioner to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, NTID/RIT

### The Table Lutheran-Episcopal Campus Ministry

Laurence thanked the Bishop and then presented slides of deaf ministry pioneers. These included The Rev. Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet who brought sign language over to the United States along with Larent Clerc. His first deaf student was Alice Cogswell.

Gallaudet's second son, Edward Miner established Gallaudet College as well as several deaf schools in the area.

Deaf ministry was established by Thomas Gallaudet, another son of Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet, who was a leader in the Episcopal church and other denominations in the US. He is responsible for spreading deaf ministry across from Hartford, CT to this area.

Henry Winter Syle became the first ordained deaf person.

The Rev. Laurence Wainwright-Maks introduced Dr. Mary Beth Kitzel, a historian on campus at Rochester Institute of Technology.

Dr. Mary Beth Kitzel is a historical geographer who researches the origins of deaf communities in the United States and Britain. Currently, she is focused on working with the Rochester Deaf Heritage Project. Her research included: What was the Rochester deaf community like before the School for the Deaf was founded in 1876? The focal point was on St. Luke's, Rochester with The Rev. Keith Patterson lending very valuable support in the research. St. Luke's was pivotal in their role in the deaf community on both the local and national level.

The Rev. Laurence Wainwright-Maks continued with introductions of students who are involved with The Table Lutheran-Episcopal Campus Ministry.

Students and Faculty Comments:

- o Happy that there is a Campus Ministry. He grew up in Vermont where he was involved and was an acolyte. He misses the fellowship back home, but really appreciates the dinners that the Table provides.

- o Thankful that there is a place to come to be grounded. She is from Chicago and is Lutheran by birth. Coming to the Table Lutheran-Episcopal Campus Ministry has been wonderful and a place where she can ground herself in her faith and community.

- o The Table provides a place where he can continue going to church and still proclaim his faith. It makes him feel like he's back home.

- o A faculty member at NTID. She is looking forward to working with Father Laurence.

- o The Table Lutheran-Episcopal Campus Ministry will be involved with the Advent Project with Virginia Theological Seminary. There will be some students involved with that project. As they prepare for Christmas please follow them on Instagram.

The chair recognized The Rev. Catherine Tatem.

#### Donation to the Costa Rican Mission

The Rev. Catherine Tatem announced that there was an envelope passed around Convention in support of building a school in Costa Rica. The total raised was \$1,301.00 for the Costa Rican Mission. APPLAUSE OF THANKSGIVING WAS OFFERED!

#### Courtesy Resolutions

The Bishop announced that the courtesy resolutions included in the bulletin needed to be moved. Move for the courtesy resolutions. MSP

#### Eucharist

Ms. Catherine Shoemaker collected UTO and other monetary gifts.

Convention Adjournment

Convention closed with a Eucharist and was adjourned at 4:40 p.m. sine die.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Andrea Stridiron, Deacon

Secretary of Diocesan Convention