

JOURNAL OF THE 86TH DIOCESAN CONVENTION

The 86th Convention of the Diocese of Rochester was held October 28, 2017 at Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, NY.

8:15 Morning Session First Business Session

OPENING OF CONVENTION/ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

The Rt. Rev. Prince G. Singh opened the Convention at 8:15 a.m. with a Diocesan Convention Morning Prayer led by The Rev. Debs Duguid-May, Rector of Trinity Greece. A slide presentation from Trinity was given.

The Bishop gave thanks to The Rev. Debs Duguid-May and the people of Trinity Greece for providing morning liturgy and music.

Welcome

The Bishop extended a warm welcome to guests, convention delegates, and clergy to the 86th convention. Announcement that the polls are opened.

The Bishop introduces the Secretary, The Rev. Andrea Stridiron and expressed his gratitude for her first year as Secretary to Convention.

Quorum

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

Majority Vote

The Secretary established the numbers needed for a majority vote.

Introduction of the Chancellor and the Assistant Chancellors

Mr. Philip Fileri, Esq., was introduced as the Chancellor. He will also serve as Parliamentarian. The Assistant Chancellors are Mr. Thomas Wright, Esq., and Mr. Paul Greene, Esq.

Introduction of Treasurer

Mr. Terry Butwid was introduced as the Treasurer with Ms. Bliss Owen as the Assistant Treasurer.

Appointment of a Chaplain

The Bishop appointed The Rev. Craig Swanson as Chaplain of this convention noting that he will be available for private conversation any time during the Convention.

Reading of the Minutes of the 85th Diocesan Convention

The Bishop announced that the Committee on the Reading of the Minutes had reviewed the minutes of the 85th 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 85th Diocesan Convention. **MSP**

Appointment of Registrar

The Bishop appointed Ms. Carolyn McConnell to serve as 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/Warden in Charge and the Secretary of Convention. In addition, amendments to resolutions should be presented in writing to the Secretary.

Committee on Credentials

The Bishop called upon the Chair of the Committee on Credentials, The Rev. Keith Patterson, Rector of St. Luke and St. Simon Cyrene, Rochester, to make the report of the Committee on Credentials.

The Chair of the Committee on Credentials, The Rev. Keith Patterson, 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 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
- Anyone asked to speak on the behalf of Resolutions coming before this Convention

Dispatch of Business

The Bishop called upon the Chair of the Committee on Dispatch of Business, The Rev. Canon Johnnie Ross, to move the agenda for the Convention. No discussion. **So ordered**

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 and organization
- That no more that 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 Very Rev. Lynne Sharp, Dean of the SE District, Rector of St. James, Hammondsport, as Time Keeper.

Report from Episcopal Senior Life Community

The Bishop introduced Loren Ranaletta to speak about what's new at ESLC. Mr. Ranaletta announced that The Episcopal Church Home will be celebrating 150 years of service to the Rochester area in 2018. ESLC has responded to what consumers are asking for which includes Independent and Assisted Living, Memory Care, Skilled Nursing and Transitional Care and Rehab. There are now communities in 6 neighborhoods with a possibility of a 7th community in Geneseo. ESLC has worked hard in identifying gaps in services and has been given a 5 Star rating.

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 Committee for the 86th Convention

The Bishop announced the appointments to the Standing Committees for the 86th Convention and expressed thanks for their service.

On Arrangements: The Very Rev. Lynne Sharpe, (SE); the Very Rev. Lance Robbins, (Monroe); The Very Rev. Dahn Gandell, (Rochester); The Very Rev. Eric Thompson (SW); The Very Rev. David Hefling, (NE); The Rev. Andrea Stridiron, The Rev. Billy Daniel and the Bishop's Staff (The Rev. Canon Johnnie Ross, Ms. Kristy Estey, Ms. Carolyn McConnell, and Mr. Steven Richards

On Constitution and Canons: Philip Fileri, Esq., Dyson Gray, Esq., C. Thomas Wright, Esq., Susan Scanlon, Esq., The Rev. Canon Dr. C. Denise Yarbrough, Esq., and Paul Greene, Esq.

On Resolutions Committee: The Rev. Peter Peters, The Rev. Virginia Tyler Smith, The Rev. Billy Daniel, Mr. John Roy, and Ms. Madeline Gamble

Read and Correct Minutes: Ms. Susan Woodhouse, The Rev. Andrea Stridiron, Bishop Prince Singh

On Nominations Committee: The Rev. Andrea Stridiron, Ms. Joanne Wisor, Co-Chair, The Very Rev. David Hefling, Ms. Marlene Allen, The Very Rev. Lance Robbins, Mr. John Roy, The Very Rev. Lynne Sharpe, Mr. Kevin Gall, The Very Rev. Dahn Gandell, Ms. Carol Topping, and The Very Rev. Eric Thompson

On Committee on Elections: The Rev. Andrew Van Buren, (Chief Teller), Mr. Nate Kohlmeier, The Rev. Michael Laver, The Rev. Patti Blaine, Ms. Barbara Drake, Mr. Josh Barrett, and Ms. Keisha Stokes

Resolution A

The Bishop called upon The Rev. Peter Peters, Chair of the Committee on Resolutions to present a resolution in support of the Episcopal Diocese of New York India Network.

Resolution in Support of the Episcopal Diocese of New York India Network Resolution 2017

Submitted by Dr. Roja Singh and The Very Rev. Dahn Gandell

RESOLVED, that the 86th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester is in full support of the Episcopal Diocese of New York India Network Resolution; and be it further

RESOLVED, that, The Episcopal Diocese of Rochester join with Episcopal Diocese of New York in sending a Memorial with respect to caste and descent-based discrimination (as in the Adopted Resolution of the Diocese of New York) to the Deputies and Bishops of the Episcopal Church to be assembled at the 79th General Convention; and be it further

RESOLVED, the 86th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester directs the Secretary of Convention to forward copies of this resolution to both the Secretaries of both the Episcopal Diocese of New York and the General Convention of the Episcopal Church.

EXPLANATION:

We have been blessed by the witness of both Roja and Price Singh and their work for those who are victimized by the caste system of India. We have been further blessed by a year of conversation and reading under the rubric of *Seeing the Face of God in Every Person*.

We welcome the leadership of the Diocese of New York in their resolution: **Against Caste-and Descent-Based Discrimination 2017**.

TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION:

Resolved: that the 241st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York send the following Memorial to the Deputies and Bishops of the Episcopal Church to be assembled at the 79th General Convention:

Resolved: that the 239th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York condemn the human rights violation of discrimination based on caste and descent wherever it occurs and support its elimination particularly as it occurs within the United States both within and outside the Church; and further

Resolved: that the 239th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York call on congregations in the Diocese of New York to acknowledge the fundamental injustice of caste-and descent-based discrimination, a clear human rights violation; and further

Resolved: that the Episcopal Diocese of New York engage in legislative advocacy and education to raise awareness of the pervasive nature of this human rights violation; and further

Resolved: that the Episcopal Diocese of New York charge the India Network with the preparation of an e-mail document outlining caste-and descent-based discrimination and the atrocities associated with it, such document to be distributed to all Diocesan parishes before the next Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York.

Explanation

Many of our sister and brothers in this Diocese have come to us from India. They bring us personal witness to an issue currently prominent in our news media: Many of God's children, especially women and bearers of alternative identity and preference, are

subjected to horrific violence. Among the victimized are people who have for millennia lived under caste-and descent-based discrimination. These people have chosen the name Dalit for themselves. The Dalit population world wide is estimated to number more than 260 million people.

Ours is a concern shared increasingly on an interfaith level especially by those in our churches, mosques, and temples who advocate for oppressed minorities everywhere. Because of our long-term relationship with our Christian partners in India, members of the India Network have represented our Diocese at two events in our Nation's capital in support of the International Commission on Dalit Rights. The first was a march to the White House in the spring of 2014 and the second was an anti-caste and descent-based conference in March 2015.

The Bishop asked for any further discussion. No discussion followed. All those in favor of Resolution A. **So Ordered**

Proposed Resolution B

The Bishop called upon The Rev. Peter Peters, Chair of the Committee on Resolutions to present a proposed resolution in support of the South Wedge Mission Admission into Union with the Diocese.

The Bishop explained that Resolution B came from a committee and needs no second.

The Bishop recognized Chancellor Phil Fileri to discuss the canonical requirements that have been fulfilled.

Information in Support of South Wedge Mission Admission into Union with the Diocese (Diocesan Canon 10.2)

South Wedge Mission Canonical Process

“Process to become a Mission in Union with this Church in this Diocese as represented in Convention.” EDOR Canon 10.2

A. Background

Joint Episcopal and Lutheran Mission

This is a first for EDOR. There have been others in ECUSA

EDOR Canons 11 and 10.2 apply to the process.

In 2016 SWM became an unorganized Episcopal Mission while it also functioned as a Lutheran congregation.

B. Canonical Actions/Steps

Per EDOR 10.2 the following actions have been taken for this Convention:

1. Consent and Recommendation of Bishop Singh, 9/20/17 [approval of joint EDOR and ELCA congregation, as a mission of EDOR and ELCA]

2. SWM Resolutions, 9/24/17 [requesting organized mission status and agreement to abide by the canons, etc.]
3. SWM “Mission Table” (name of governing body) Acting as Executive Committee, 9/30/17 [to meet canonical requirement of minutes regarding elections; actual first elections will be in 1/2018.]
4. SWM Annual Report 2016-2017, 10/1//17
5. Trustee certification of assets, 10/11/17 [no realty, 12-18K funds]
6. Diocesan Council recommendation 10/17/17
7. Resolution B – SWM admission into Union with the Diocese.

C. Next Steps after approval by Convention as an “organized Episcopal Mission”.

1. Incorporation as a NY not-for-profit religious corporation – by ECLA
2. Adoption of a Constitution and Bylaws, respecting and integrating the canonical requirements and polity of each (working from a Michigan example).
3. Election of its governing body in 1/2018 – MN calls it the “Mission Table”
4. Realty – to be leased to the new corporation, and if unsuccessful, property of ECLA
5. Apportionment – continuing at 15%, but split between EDOR and ECLA

The Rev. Norma Malfatti, Director for Evangelical Mission in the Upstate Lutheran Synod and Assistant to Bishop John Macholz was supposed to speak. She has not arrived but will speak later in the afternoon.

Resolution in Support of South Wedge Mission Admission into Union with the Diocese
(Diocesan Canon 10.2)

Presented by The Rev. Matthew Nickoloff with a 2-minute slide presentation.

Resolved, that this 86th convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, meeting in Henrietta, New York, on October 28th 2017, upon the receipt of the recommendation of a majority of the members of the Diocesan Council, meeting in regular session on October 17, 2017, and in accordance with the canons of the Diocese of Rochester, recommends that the Mission known as *South Wedge Mission, Rochester* be admitted into union with the Diocese.

Bishop Singh asked for any further discussion. There was none. **So ordered**

Prayer

The Bishop asked for a prayer from the Chaplain, The Rev. Craig Swanson

The Rev. Craig Swanson led the convention in prayer.

Introduction

The Bishop introduced Mr. Steve Richards, Communications Specialist for the Diocese.

Mission Highlights Video 1 - Leadership

Mr. Richards showed video highlighting 9 churches in the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester. This was a good chance for Mr. Richards to visit and see what ministries these 9 churches are involved. Video 1 focused on Leadership.

BISHOP'S ADDRESS

The Bishop began by addressing the calamities that have occurred across our country and world and asked for prayers for every person impacted. He talked about falling memberships in all denominations but cited that the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester had a 1.3% increase for the first time in decades. The text of the Bishop's Address is included in a separate section of the Journal and is available at <http://www.episcopalrochester.org/content/bishops-address-convention-86>.

Engagement: Exercise from the College for Congregational Development

This exercise was led by The Rev. Paul Frolick, from St. Georges, Hilton, Coordinator of the College for Congregational Development.

Exercise: At the individual tables attendees discussed what has been a moment that was a high point when they felt most spiritually aware and nourished during the last year. Attendees described how they felt and what made that moment possible.

QUICK BREAK

Mission Highlights Video 2 - Relationship

Mr. Richards continued with a second video featuring 9 churches in the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester. This video 1 focused on Relationship.

Introductions

The Bishop recognized Mr. Terry Butwid, Diocesan Treasurer and Ms. Bliss Owen, Assistant Treasurer to present the 2016 Diocesan Audit and Financial report.

Diocesan Audit and Financial Report

Ms. Owen presented 2016 Audit slides. After her presentation Mr. Butwid presented the Financial slides. Ms. Owen then read the Audit Resolution:

RESOLVED: That the 86th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester received the 2016 Audit and Financial Report, as prepared by the firm of Mengel Metzger Barr & Co., LLC and accepted by the Trustees of the Diocese.

Ms. Owen then moved to accept the 2016 Audit and Financial Report. The report will be included in the electronic voting with the Diocesan elective offices.

The Bishop thanked Mr. Butwid and Ms. Owens for their continued service.

Introduction

The Bishop recognized Mr. Todd Rubiano, CFO of the Diocese to present a summary of the 2018 Diocesan budget approved by Diocesan Council.

Diocesan Budget

Mr. Rubiano presented the summary of the 2018 Budget. This proposed budget was presented at the Pre-Conference District meetings. The proposal is for \$2.018M, with \$888,000 going to CDP, Mission Grants, D&FMS, Leadership and HRA’s.

The Bishop thanked Todd for his work with the Budget committee of Diocesan Council.

Introduction

The Bishop recognized Ms. Gwen Van Laeken, Vice Chair of Diocesan Council.

Diocesan Council

Ms. Van Laeken read the 2018 Budget Resolution:

RESOLVED, that the 86th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester approves the 2018 Diocesan Budget of \$2,022,160, including apportionment of \$995,160, 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.

Ms. Van Laeken moved to accept the 2018 Diocesan Budget Resolution and it will be included in the electronic voting with the Diocesan elective offices.

The Bishop asked for further discussion. With no further discussion, The Bishop explained that the acceptance of the 2018 Diocesan Budget will be included in the electronic voting with the Diocesan elective offices.

Nominations and Elections

Introduction

The Bishop called upon Ms. Joanne Wisor from Trinity Geneva, Co-chair of the Nominations committee to report on the election of lay representatives from the district to Diocesan Council.

Diocesan Council

- Monroe District:** Ms. Linda Ketchum-Pompili
- Northeast District:** Mr. Al Carvill
- Rochester District:** Ms. Dawn Wilkins
- Southeast District:** Ms. Linda Raide
- Southwest District:** Ms. Elizabeth Porter

The Bishop congratulated those elected.

Nominating Committee Report – Elected Officials

On behalf of the Committee on Nominations, Ms. Wisor continues with 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. Even though there may no nominations from the floor and no write-ins, delegates were instructed to vote on this electronic ballot. If there are nominations from the floor, the Bishop asked for the correct spelling of the nominees' name for each ballot.

Ms. Wisor then moved the following nominations of the various offices by title. Ms. Wisor began with Ballot A.

BALLOT A

Standing Committee, Clergy: Elect (1) Clergy
Cameron Miller, Trinity Church, Geneva

BALLOT B

Standing Committee, Lay: Elect (1) Lay
Carolyn Mok, St. Thomas', Rochester
Tom Fogg, Christ Church, Rochester

BALLOT C

Trustee Elect (3) clerical or lay
Carl D'Angio
Scott Seabridge
Virginia Tyler Smith
Charles Zettek

BALLOT D

Diocesan Council, Clergy-at-Large Elect (3) Clergy-at-Large
Dan Burner
Billy Daniel
Catherine Tatem

BALLOT E

Commission on Ministry, Clergy Elect (2) Clergy
Krista Cameron
Keith Patterson

BALLOT F

Commission on Ministry, Lay

Elect (3) Lay

Elizabeth Daddis
Rob Ferris
Ellen Ralston
Laura Rosato

BALLOT G

Disciplinary Board, Clergy

Elect (2) Clergy

Debs Duguid-May
Richard Krapf
Dahn Gandell

BALLOT H

Disciplinary Board, Lay

Elect (1) Lay

Beth French
Nina Johnson

BALLOT I

Alternate to General Convention, Clergy **Elect (4) Clergy**

Billy Daniel
Michael Hartney
Robert Picken
Lance Robbins
Virginia Tyler Smith
Johnnie Ross

BALLOT J

Alternate to General Convention, Lay **Elect (4) Lay**

Susan Hartney
Carolyn Mok
Julie Syracuse
Gwen Van Laeken
Laura Norris
Julie Ross
Nancy Grear

Reminder

The Bishop reminded the delegates that they will be voting electronically on Ballot K the 2016 Diocesan Audit.

BALLOT K

2016 Diocesan Audit

Accept

Do not accept

Abstain

Reminder

The Bishop reminded the delegates that they will be voting electronically on Ballot L the 2018 Diocesan Budget.

BALLOT L

2018 Diocesan Budget

Accept

Do not accept

Abstain

The Bishop asked for a motion to close the nominations for the Diocesan Elective Offices. **MSP**

Taking of the First Ballot

The Bishop declared the nominations closed and gave a comprehensive instruction via a PowerPoint

Prayer

The Bishop asked the The Rev. Greg Swanson to lead the convention in prayer on Diocesan leadership.

Introduction

The Bishop recognized The Rev. Andrew VanBuren, Chair of Election Committee.

Electronic Voting Process

The Very Rev. Andrew VanBuren explained how the voting process will proceed with assistance from a PowerPoint. He then instructed the delegates with devices that they may begin voting. He further instructed that any delegate that is a parish representative for UTO should line up to the right of the stage and when instructed will read the name of their church and its location, then place the envelope in the basket provided.

First Ballot Closed

The Bishop announced that the First Ballot is closed.

UTO In-Gathering

The Bishop held the basket as the parish representative announced their church and location. The Rev. Canon Johnnie Ross read the list of those parishes' Baptisms, Confirmations and Received. Ms. Cathy Shoemaker took the UTO gifts to a safe place. Convention said together a UTO prayer and ended with Hymn #396 "*Now Thank We All Our God.*"

Introduction

The Bishop recognized The Very Rev. Ruth Ferguson who led the Midday prayers,

Midday Prayers

The Very Rev. Ruth Ferguson led the Midday prayers, with The Rev. Chris Streeter providing music. Other participants included The Rev. Dahn Gandell, The Rev. Debs Duguid-May and The Rev. David Hefling.

Necrology

The Rev. David Hefling and The Rev. Dahn Gandell read the necrology, alternating names while The Rev. Chris Streeter softly played hymns.

The Bishop thanked The Revs. Ruth Ferguson, Chris Streeter, Dahn Gandell, Debs Duguid-May and David Hefling for leading the worship service.

Lunch

The Bishop recognized Ms. Kristy Estey to provide lunch logistics.

1:00 Afternoon Session

First Ballot Results

The Rev. Andrew VanBuren announces the results of the first ballot. There is no need for a second ballot.

Acknowledgements

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

Diocesan Council

Rev. Dan Burner*
Rev. William Daniel, Jr.*
Rev. Joshua Walters
Ms. Linda Raide*
Mr. Scott Seabridge
Ms. Liz Porter*
Ms. Dawn Wilkins*
Ms. Gwen VanLaeken

Trustees

Mr. Peter Corrigan
Ms. Bex. Smith
Mr. Charlie Zettek*

Standing Committee

Mr. Christopher Moore
Rev. Virginia Mazzarella

Commission on Ministry

Marlene Allen
Rev. Krista Cameron*
Rev. Barbara Fornalik
Dr. Rob Ferris*
Mr. Dave Galleher
Ms. Claire Crump
Ms. Heather Yanda
Rev. Kelly Ayer

Disciplinary Board

Rev. Peter Bryant
Ms. Donna Copson
Rev. Peter Harter

Racial Reconciliation and Healing

The Bishop invited Alan Ziegler and Eileen Graham to speak about Racial Reconciliation and Healing.

Mr. Ziegler and Ms. Graham presented a powerful presentation. There may not be any subject more difficult to talk about publicly in this country than racial reconciliation, but these two people from very different religious and cultural backgrounds have started a dialog on race relations. Mr. Ziegler and Ms. Graham both spoke about how and where they grew up and what struggles they went through to be able to accept each other. They both suggested reading several books dealing with working together as a community. Mr. Ziegler reminded us poverty and racism are intertwined, so if you are working on one, you are working on the other.

Mission Highlight Video 3 – Stewardship

Mr. Steve Richards showed a 3rd video. This video featured stewardship and how 3 Parishes provide for neighbors in their communities.

The first church (St. Thomas, Bath) noticed that their ministries seemed to have a lot to do with food. The church applied for a UTO grant to renovate the kitchen. The kitchen became known as The Red Door Community Kitchen and it was created to serve a need for those who were hungry in spirit, mind and body.

Lego Love was created out of a need to raise money to re-build a school in Cartegena, Costa Rica. This was a joint venture between Epiphany in Greece and Good Shepherd in Webster. You could purchase a Lego for a dollar with the proceeds going to build a school outside the church's community. It appeared that many older people enjoyed playing with the Legos. Enough money was raised so that the walls of the school can come down.

Gleaners Kitchen, St. John's Canandaigua serves food to those in need five days a week. In the summer, there are more kids to serve. Seniors come for the socialization. Volunteers set-up, cook, clean and socialize with the people who come.

The Bishop recognized The Rev. Brad Benson who stood-in for Sharon Arthur, Co-Chair of the Stewardship Committee.

The Rev. Benson spoke on the discipleship of stewardship. The stewardship committee for the diocese exists to share information on stewardship. There are many resources available through the diocese and other organizations. Stewardship can mean many things to many people, but for most, it's a pledge drive, capital campaign, ideals of stewardship or money. The committee brings to the diocese opportunities to share valuable information that is out there. The Rev. Benson will present a panel discussion on November 16, 2017. He will also talk about four different presentations on the different capital campaigns.

“Ministries Among ALL OUR CHILDREN”

The Bishop recognized Ms. Sue Adams, Dr. Roja Singh and Ms. Paula Valeri.

Ms. Adams spoke about the Lake Delaware Boys Camp in the Catskills Mountain, where she and her husband, Jim Adams, are Camp Directors. Since 1909, the camp has been forging leaders, sharing faith, and creating life-long friends.

Ms. Adams also spoke about Neighbors Night and how got started at St. Peters, Geneva. There was a need in the neighborhood to have a better relationship. That relationship started with the restoration of the church sanctuary. A deliberate outward mission was the goal. The new sanctuary would bring the children in from the neighborhood by offering music, games, and shared suppers.

Dr. Singh offered testimony to what the Diocese of Rochester, along with the diocese of New Jersey and New York are doing. With the support of these dioceses, Dr. and Bishop Singh are helping children in India. She brought an awareness of what is happening to the Dalit people. She talked about the caste system which has been going on for 3025. People are divided by hierarchy according to what their occupation is. It is rooted in the fundamentalist expression of Hinduism. It is in cohort with politicians and the wealthy. She particularly is involved in bringing about higher education and better life opportunities for the girls of South India. Dr. Singh has developed “Cooking With Roja”, an evening where she not only shares her talent of cooking authentic Indian foods, but also shares the plight of the Dalit, formerly known as “the untouchables”.

Ms. Valeri has taken on the responsibilities of organizing volunteers at School #9 for Adopt-a-Classroom, a program which started in 1998. It continues to be a successful tutoring program in 17 classrooms from Kindergarten to 2nd grade with two special education classrooms. Ms. Valeri related how volunteering at School #9 has made her more aware of the inequities that separate us as people, but she is compelled to continue.

“Why My Faith Matters”

The Bishop recognized Josh Barrett, Anika Harris, Nicole Hercules and Hanna Sommers.

These four young people related how their faith has guided them through life. They talked about how the church needs to extend beyond the four walls and reach out into the communities. They were inspiration about informing the Convention that young people want to work on missions such as Missionpalooza, outside of the comforts of the church.

Engagement (3) Growing Contextually in our Relationship, Leadership and Stewardship

The Bishop recognized The Rev. Chris Streeter.

Using a slide presentation, The Rev. Chris Streeter explains and leads table conversations.

Questions asked of each table:

What implication/opportunities/growth edges does this model offer you regarding:

1. Relationships (How we interact with other members of the Body)
2. Leadership (How we practice the authority entrusted to us)
3. Stewardship (How we deploy resources to accomplish God’s mission)

Each table discussed Relationships, Leadership and Stewardship for about 10 minutes.

Prayer

The Rev. Chris Streeter led the convention in prayer.

Announcements:**UTO Offering**

A few churches were left out during the UTO Offering. St. James in Hammondsport reported 9 baptized, Christ Church in Cuba reported 1 confirmed, and St. Stephens in Rochester reported 2 baptized.

Elected Officers

Bishop Singh reminded all elected officers to see the Secretary to fill out the necessary form. Penn Yan and Corning also should see the secretary

Standing Committee

The Standing Committee was asked to meet with Sarah Peters before the Eucharist.

Courtesy Resolutions

The Bishop introduced a new way for The Courtesy Resolutions to be presented. It has been printed in the bulletin instead of rolling down on a screen. It acknowledges the work that has been done by the people of God in this diocese over the last year. It also remembers those who are not in our midst who have served in the past. A motion is required to accept these Courtesy Resolutions. **MSP**

Convention Adjournment

Convention closed and was adjourned at 3:45 p.m. sine die. There was a 10-minute break before the Eucharist began.

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