

JOURNAL OF THE 90TH CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

The 90th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester was held on Saturday, October 30, 2021. It was hosted by the Church of the Good Shepherd in Webster, NY. Delegates were present virtually, as panelists on a Zoom meeting.

Delegates registered and checked in as present by joining the Zoom meeting at any point between 6am and 8am.

FIRST BUSINESS SESSION

Bishop Singh opened Convention at 8:30am with a welcome to those present online and the small group present at Good Shepherd.

The Reverend Andrea Stridiron resigned as secretary prior to Convention 90. Bishop Singh, with the consent of the Standing Committee appointed the Rev. Keisha Stokes, Rector of Zion, Palmyra, as secretary of this convention. Bishop Singh offered his thanks to Deacon Andrea for her 5 years of service as Secretary to Convention.

Quorum

Rev. Keisha established quorum as follows (as of 8:27am):

Number of clergy present: 59

Number of lay delegate present: 93+3 officers (Chancellor, Treasurer, Canon) for a total of 96 lay delegates

Number of churches present: 43

Total number of electors: 153+3 officers for a total of 156 electors

Quorum was established and Bishop Singh called the meeting to order: *All ordained Episcopal clergy functioning in charge of congregations by canonical residence or licensed within this diocese shall have seat, voice, and vote according to ARTICLE III, Section 2(c). The Chancellor, Assistant Chancellor(s), Secretary and Treasurer of the diocese and lay canons also have seat, voice and vote except in the case of a vote by orders.*

Zoom Instructions from Diocesan Communications Director

Bishop Singh called on Steve Richards, Director of Communications to explain the logistics of this online convention and how to communicate via Zoom. Steve informed those present that the Convention 90 Zoom meeting included closed captioning and instructed the group on how to access the “live transcript.” Steve then explained the Zoom voting, raise hand feature, muting, chat.

Bishop Singh explained that the raised hand feature will be used to vote for motions.

Nomination of Secretary

Bishop Singh explained that the Secretary of Convention shall be nominated by the Bishop and Standing Committee and confirmed by the Convention for a 5-year term. The Standing Committee and Bishop Singh have nominated Rev. Keisha Stokes to be Secretary of Convention. Bishop Singh called for a motion to confirm the nomination. The nomination was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. Bishop Singh called for a vote. Rev. Keisha was elected Secretary of Convention.

Introduction of the Chancellor and the Assistant Chancellors

Bishop Singh introduced Mr. Philip Fileri, Esq. as our Diocesan Chancellor. Mr. Fileri will also serve as Parliamentarian of this Convention. Bishop Singh introduced Mr. Francis Paul Greene, Esq. and Mr. Thomas Wright, Esq. as the assistant chancellors of the Diocese and thanked all three for their service.

Bishop Singh thanked Mr. Fileri for 19 years of service as Diocesan Chancellor. Mr. Fileri is retiring after this convention.

After consulting with the Standing Committee, Bishop Singh nominated Francis Paul Greene as Chancellor of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester for a 3-year term following this Convention.

Bishop Singh called for a motion to elect Mr. Green as chancellor. The question was moved and seconded. There was no discussion. Mr. Green was elected Chancellor.

Bishop Singh called on Mr. Fileri to Present Resolution A.

Mr. Fileri explained that this resolution is in regards to a change in the Rules of Order. This is an amendment of Rule #1 in regards to the rule that Holy Communion be celebrated at Diocesan Convention. The amendment reads as follows.

RESOLVED, that Rule of Order 1 be amended to delete the words “a celebration of the Holy Communion” and substitute “some form of liturgical offering, as approved by the Bishop,” to read as follows: “1. The Convention shall include some form of liturgical offering, as approved by the Bishop, and an address by the Bishop, either of which shall be in order at any time.”

This resolution has been moved by the Chancellor and does not need a second. Bishop Singh asked for any questions regarding this resolution. There was no discussion. Bishop Singh called for a vote. The motion carried. Bishop Singh offered thanks to Mr. Fileri and the Constitution and Canons Committee for their work on this resolution.

Chaplain for Convention and Worship Thank You

Bishop Singh appointed the Rev. Don Schranz, Rector of St. John's, Clifton Springs, as Chaplain of Convention 90.

Bishop Singh offered thanks for those who helped with this Convention's Morning Prayer: Rev. Lance Robbins, Rev. Nita Byrd, Rev. Billy Daniel, Karyn Robbins, and the Good Shepherd choir. Bishop Singh shared that Morning Prayer would be live-streamed on Facebook and YouTube.

Bishop Singh thanked the Diocesan Staff, Bruce Dunn, Steve Richards, and Kristy Estey for their work in making Convention 90 possible.

Bishop Singh moved the Convention into Morning Prayer.

CONVENTION WORSHIP: Morning Prayer

SECOND BUSINESS SESSION

Business session II began at 9:30.

Appointment of Archivists

Bishop Singh appointed Rev. David Hefling, Rector of St. John's Canandaigua, and Ms. Joanne Wisor from Trinity, Geneva, as Diocesan Archivists and offered thanks for their ministry.

Appointment of Registrar

Bishop Singh appointed Rev. David Hefling as Registrar.

Appointment of Timekeeper

Bishop appointed Rev. Josh Stibb from St. Peter's, Henrietta as Timekeeper.

Rev. Josh explained the time-keeping procedures.

Consent Agenda

Bishop Singh explained that the Consent Agenda for Convention 90 has been posted on the Diocesan website. In an effort to simplify and expedite voting, motions that are believed to receive unanimous support have been placed on the Consent Agenda. The following procedural motions from committees were part of the Consent Agenda:

- Waive the out loud reading of the Convention 89 minutes
- Acceptance of the 89 minutes as presented on the website

- Courtesy of seat, voice, and vote resolution
- Convention Agenda
- Rules of Debate
- Official Reports

Bishop Singh called for a motion to accept the Consent Agenda in its entirety. So moved and there was no discussion. Bishop Singh called for a vote.

149 delegates voted to approve the Consent Agenda.

Bishop Singh continued by thanking the members of the standing committees for Convention 90: Committee on Arrangements, Constitution and Canons, Resolutions Committee, Read and Correct Minutes, Committee on Credentials, Committee on Dispatch of Business, Nominations Committee, and the Committee on Elections.

Bishop Singh called on Rev. Don for a stewardship prayer.

Finance Presentations

2020 Diocesan Audit & Financial Report

Chair recognized Lyn Omphroy, Diocesan Treasurer to present 2020 Diocesan Audit and Financial Report. Lyn shared:

- The 2020 audit completed in Aug. 2021
- Pandemic impacts
- Looking back
- As a result of faith, patience, and good stewardship, we are close to pre-financial crisis (2008) levels for draws on investment
- 4% goal for draw on investment

Lyn moved to accept 2020 Audit and Financial Report on behalf of the trustees. No second was needed.

Resolved: That the 90th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester accepts the 2020 Audit and Financial Report, as prepared by the firm Mengel Metzger Barr & Co., LLC, presented by our Diocesan Treasurers and accepted by the Diocesan Trustees.

Seeing no hands raised for discussion, Bishop Singh announced that we will vote on the budget later in the meeting. Thank you Lyn.

2022 Diocesan Budget and Apportionment

Chair recognized Canon Todd Rubiano, CFO of the Diocese, to present the 2022 Diocesan Budget and Apportionment. Todd shared slides and noted:

- Provided a history of expenditures
- Significant cost reductions between 2010 and 2021
 - Estimate in 2010= 2.6 million
 - Estimate in 2021=2.06 million
 - Admin costs have been addressed over this time
- Apportionment
 - Half of revenue for operating budget
 - Formula moving toward 10% tithe
 - 2022 Apportionment= \$990,112
 - Down 2% due to COVID
- Draw from investments ~1 million
- Draw from assets ~1,043,000
- General Convention Expenses are a part of the 2022 budget
- 2.098 million to fund 2022 expenditures
- 2022 Operating budget= \$2.043 million
 - Program= \$1,032,000
 - Administrative= \$1,011,000
 - 2% higher than last year

The chair thanked Todd for his thoughtful work with our Diocesan committee charged with preparing this budget.

The chair recognized Rev. Elizabeth Harden, Vice Chair of Diocesan Council to share the 2022 Budget Resolution.

Resolved, that the 90th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester accepts the 2022 Diocesan Operating Budget of \$2,043,112; including approving apportionment of \$990,112, as recommended by Diocesan Council; with thanks to the Committees for their work and to all our churches through whom mission and ministry are undertaken.

The resolution was moved by committee and does not need a second. Chair called for discussion, and seeing none reminded delegates that we will vote on the budget later in the meeting.

Elections

The chair recognized Rev. Gretchen Ratterree, Co-Chair of the Nominations Committee, to report on the results of district elections.

- Lay Representatives to Diocesan Council
 - Monroe District: Lynn Ringholz- Trinity, Greece
 - Northeast District: Ira Skinner- St. Mark's, Newark
 - Rochester District: Peter Barker- St. Thomas', Rochester
 - Southeast District: Roxanne Gaylord- St. Thomas', Bath
 - Southwest District: Bob Wilcox- St. Michael's, Geneseo

Rev. Gretchen explained the process for election to Diocesan Committees. Gretchen reported that all Diocesan Offices are uncontested.

Chair called for nominations from the floor. Seeing none, Chair thanked Gretchen and moved to close nomination for Diocesan Elective Offices.

Rev. Gretchen moved the nominations of the various offices as presented. Seeing no discussion, Chair called for a vote on the slate as presented with a collective “Alleluia.” The slate carried.

Chair called for any further discussion and a vote on the 2020 Audit and Finance Report as presented. Using the raised hand feature, the report was approved.

Chair called for any further discussion and a vote on the 2022 Diocesan Budget and Apportionment as presented. Using the raised hand feature, the report was approved.

Chair called for a 15-minute break, resuming at 10:15.

BISHOP’S ADDRESS

The Bishop’s address was preceded by a video about Bishop’s Appeal.

Bishop Singh delivered his Bishop’s Address. Some highlights:

- Gave thanks for the agency Bishop as witnessed over the last 14 years
- Lay and clergy leaders of Diocesan Committees and Task Forces, and Diocesan Staff
- Highlight stewardship of resources to steady our ship
- Focus on missional, congregational, leadership development

Rev. Don Schranz offered a prayer for Bishop Singh.

THIRD BUSINESS SESSION

The third business session began at 11:15.

Resolution C: Proposed Amendment to Diocese of Rochester Canon 9, Section 1(i)

Chair recognized Rev. Ron Young to present Resolution C, a change to Canon 9:

- Liability Insurance coverage
- Modify canons to clarify who is responsible to determine “adequate insurance”
- Trustees are most suitable and in best position to make this determination

RESOLVED, that Diocesan Canon 9 be amended as set forth below (in bold italics). Section 1 (i), The Parish or Mission, including all buildings, and their contents, shall be kept adequately insured, as reasonably determined by the Trustees of the Diocese.

This resolution is moved from the Trustees and does not need a second.

Chair called for any discussion and there was debate.

Rev. Phil Kasey called the question.

Chair called for a motion to close debate and called for a vote in favor of closing debate. Motion carried and the time for debate ended.

Chair called for a vote on Resolution C-Change to Canon 9. The motion carried and the resolution was approved.

Resolution D - Dissolution of St. Peter's, Bloomfield, as a Church

Chair recognized Rev. Elizabeth Harden, vice chair of Council, to present Resolution D-Dissolution of St. Peter's, Bloomfield.

Resolved, that this 90th convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, meeting via electronic conferencing, on October 30, 2021, upon the receipt of the recommendation of a majority of the members of the Diocesan Council, meeting in regular session on October 19, 2021, and in accordance with the Canons of the Diocese of Rochester, declares that the Parish known as St. Peter's, Bloomfield, New York is dissolved, that its vestry be dissolved and that its assets be dedicated in accordance with the Canons of the Episcopal Church.

Resolution D has been moved by Diocesan Council and no second is needed.

Chair called for any discussion and there was debate.

Chair called for a vote on Resolution D. The motion carried.

Chaplain Rev. Don Schranz offered a prayer for St. Peter's.

Resolution E - Support the proposal in the United States Congress, bill H.R. 301, to designate "Lift Every Voice and Sing" as our National Hymn

Chair recognized Susan Woodhouse as Chair of the Resolutions Committee.

Ms. Woodhouse moved that Convention vote to add Resolution E to agenda.

Chair called for a vote to accept this motion of adding Resolution E to the agenda. The motion carried.

Chair recognized Linda Ketchum-Pompili, from Trinity, Greece, to present Resolution E.

Resolved, that this 90th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester supports H.R. 301 and invites all delegates, clergy, and parishioners in the Diocese to show support by informing others and asking their representatives in Congress to support the bill.

Ms. Ketchum-Pompili presented an explanation of this Resolution and added that more details can be found the Diocesan Website.

Chair called for a vote on Resolution E. It was moved and seconded. Seeing no further discussion, chair asked for those in favor. Motion carried.

Chair thanked Linda and Susan.

Resolution B - Bishop Provisional Election

Chair recognized Rev. Cam Miller, President of Standing Committee, to present Resolution B to elect the Rt. Rev. Stephen Lane as our Bishop Provisional.

Rev. Cam explained the process of Episcopal Transition. He noted that the national church, through the Presiding Bishop's office, advises the election of a Bishop Provisional. The Bishop Provisional serves in the interim period between Bishop Diocesans.

Rt. Rev. Steve Lane has been presented as Bishop Provisional who is regarded with high esteem in this diocese. Standing Committee enthusiastically endorses Resolution B and the election of Bishop Lane as Bishop Provisional for the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester.

RESOLVED, that at this 90th Diocesan Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester held on October 30, 2021, the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester hereby elects The Right Reverend Stephen Lane to serve as Bishop Provisional, to exercise all the duties and offices of the Bishop of the Diocese, effective as of February 3, 2022, until the end of the period of discernment, search, election, and consecration of a new Bishop Diocesan or until this act of the Convention is revoked; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Standing Committee on terms and conditions acceptable to it, in consultation with the Diocesan Council, Trustees and Chancellor, negotiate a mutually agreeable Letter of Agreement with Bishop Lane for the period of his service with the Diocese, such Letter of Agreement to be executed on behalf of the Diocese by the President of the Standing Committee; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the appropriate officers of the Diocese, including but not limited to the President of the Standing Committee, are hereby authorized to take any and all actions necessary and/or appropriate in order to effectuate the foregoing resolutions.

Resolution B has been moved by committee and does not need a second. There will need to be a vote by orders. Chair called for any discussion prior to the vote.

Seeing no further questions, the vote by orders was held.

Bishop Steve Lane was elected as Bishop Provisional for the Diocese of Rochester. Bishop Singh offered a prayer.

Courtesy Resolutions and Gratitude

The Chair informed Convention that Courtesy Resolutions may be found on the Diocesan website. He offered thanks to those saints whose terms ended with this Convention. He acknowledged clergy with new cures with thanks to those leaders and those who helped with search processes.

Chaplain Don Schranz offered a prayer for leaders.

Rev. Lance Robbins had a point of order regarding thanks to Bishop Singh: On behalf of delegates, volunteers, staff, and Diocese we thank you for your service to the Diocese.

Bishop Singh offered thanks to the nominees. He informed the delegates elected that they would receive an acceptance form for office via email.

Bishop Singh offered a final blessing.

Convention 90 adjourned at 11:54 pm. Karyn Robbins played a postlude.