

**The Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
Convention 92**

Saturday, October 28, 2023

Live-streamed from Good Shepherd, Webster with delegates present on Zoom

MINUTES

Bishop Lane called the Convention to order at 8:31

Quorum established

Number of clergy present: 52

Number of lay delegates: 93

Number of churches present: 33

Total number of delegates: 142

Communications Director Steve Richards and Bishop Lane offered Zoom instructions and Roberts Rule of Order reminders

Morning Prayer began with a prelude at 8:40.

Business II resumed at 9:24.

Rev. Greg Kremer offered the process for timekeeping

The consent agenda has been posted in the website:

Waive out loud reading of the Convention 91 minutes

Acceptance of the 91 minutes as presented on the website

Courtesy of seat, voice, and vote resolution

Convention Agenda

Rules of Debate

Official Reports

Zoom poll to approve the Consent Agenda → adopted

Bishop Steve called on Rev. Troy Preston to share the results of the **District Elections for Lay Representative to Diocesan Council**

Monroe: Lynn Ringholz

NE: Sherry Gibbons

Rochester: Peter Barker

SE: Sue Baldwin

SW: Elaine Von Son

Troy reviewed procedures for the election of Diocesan offices

There were no nominations from the floor for Ballots A-I

Motion to close nominations → zoom poll to close nominations→ approved

Bishop called on Chief Teller, Rev. Patti Blaine, who reviewed electronic voting procedure

Ballot 1 open

Break at 10:05

Called to order 10:16

Bishop's Address

Results of Ballot 1

71 votes needed to elect for all offices

All elected

Tie in provisional deputy to General Convention- Clergy

Rev. Leslie Burkardt: 117

Rev. Troy Preston and Rev. Ken Pepin: 108

Rev. Gretchen Ratterree: 87

Ballot 2 as a run-off between Rev. Troy and Rev. Ken

Rank order of Lay Provisional Deputies to General Convention

Julie Syracuse

Rob Ferris

Sue Boland

Jan Farnsworth

**Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
Convention 92 Election Results
October 28, 2023**

| Office | Nominee | Elected (Y/N) |
|--|---|----------------------|
| Standing Committee (1 lay) | Roxanne Gaylord | Yes |
| Standing Committee (1 clergy) | Columba Salamony | Yes |
| Trustees (3 clergy or lay) | Carl D'Angio | Yes |
| | Charles Zettek | Yes |
| | Julie Forney | Yes |
| Diocesan Council (3 clergy) | Shanna Hawks | Yes |
| | Virginia Mazzarella | Yes |
| | Keisha Stokes | Yes |
| Commission on Ministry (2 lay) | Karen Martin | Yes |
| | Kathy Stokes | Yes |
| Disciplinary Board (2 clergy and 1 lay) | Leslie Burkardt | Yes (clergy) |
| | Mary Lou Hunt-Quintal | Yes (lay) |
| | Troy Preston | Yes (clergy) |
| Clerical Provisional Deputy to General Convention (4) | <i>Listed in rank order</i> Leslie Burkardt Troy Preston Ken Pepin Gretchen Ratterree | Yes |
| Lay Provisional Deputy to General Convention (4) | <i>Listed in rank order</i> Julie Syracuse Rob Ferris Sue Boland Jan Farnsworth | Yes |

Bishop called on Treasurer, Lyn Omphroy to present the **2022 Diocesan Audit and Financial Report**

Lyn provided an overview of the results of the 2022 Diocesan Audit and Financial Report

Lyn moved resolution

Resolved, That the 92nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester accepts the 2022 Audit and Financial Report, as prepared by the firm of Mengel Metzger Barr & Co., LLC, presented by our Diocesan Treasurers and accepted by the Diocesan Trustees.

Zoom poll to accept the Audit and Financial Report → accepted

Bishop called on CFO Todd Rubiano to report on **2024 Diocesan Apportionment and Budget**

2024 apportionment: %974, 943

Draw on investments: \$1.23 million approved by Trustees

\$2.225 M for 2024 operating and non-operating expenditures

Looking ahead to 2024:

8% more income

Expenses:

Congregational Devel.: up 3%

Leadership Development: up 15% → regional minister

Governance: up 89% → Bishop transition and GC

Expenses up 8% over 2023

Program: \$923,000

Administration: \$1,254,000

Total: \$2,176, 543

Bishop thanked Todd and opened the floor for questions about the budget.

Bishop called Rev. Eric Thompson to move the resolution:

Resolved, That the 92nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester accepts the 2024 Diocesan Operating Budget of \$2,176,543; including approving apportionment of \$974,943, 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.

No further discussion.

Zoom poll to accept the Budget and Apportionment → accepted

Bishop called on Chaplain to offer a prayer for stewardship.

Bishop called on the Chair of the Standing Committee, Rev. Ken Pepin and members of the Discernment and Nomination Committee, Rev. Lance Robbin and Rev. Keisha Stokes, to share updates regarding the Bishops Transition process.

Bishop called on Rev. Ken to present Resolutions A and B concerning the Electing Convention

Resolved, that the IX Bishop of Rochester will be elected at an “Electing Convention” (Article 5 VIII, Section 1b) to be held on February 24, 2024, a date designated by the Bishop and Standing Committee, with March 2, 2024, as a backup date in the case of inclement weather; and that the Electing Convention will be held in accordance with the Rules of Order for the Diocese of Rochester, and be it further

Resolved, that delegates to the Electing Convention may be either the delegates chosen for the Annual Convention of the Diocese of Rochester or delegates chosen specifically for the Electing 12 Convention, and be it further

Resolved, that the agenda for the Electing Convention will consist of worship, the presentation of the slate of Nominees, and the casting of ballots until a single nominee has received a concurrent simple majority in both the lay and clerical orders.

Zoom poll to adopt Resolution A → adopted

Rev. Ken moved Resolution B:

Resolved, that for the purposes of the Convention to Elect the IX Bishop of Rochester, nominations from the floor (Article VIII, Section 2) shall be accomplished through a petition process prior to the Electing Convention in order to permit adequate background checks for persons so nominated (Article VIII, Section 1a), and be it further

Resolved, that nominations by petition will require a minimum of eight signatories (four Clergy and four lay) from four parishes and two districts in order to meet a standard equivalent to those selected by the Discernment and Nominating Committee, and be it further

Resolved, that nominations by petition will be received by the Standing Committee according to a schedule set by the Standing Committee that will permit all nominated persons to be presented to the Diocese of Rochester at the same time and in the same manner.

Zoom poll to adopt Resolution B → adopted

Bishop called on Rev. Don Schranz, chair of the Transitions Committee to move Resolution C:

Resolved that the 92nd Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese, meeting electronically on October 28, 2023, adopt the following Rules of Order for the Special Convention to Elect the IX Bishop of Rochester:

Rules of Order

The Electing Convention for the IX Bishop of Rochester

- 1. The Convention shall begin with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist according to a form approved by the Bishop, the Standing Committee and the Transition Committee.*
- 2. When a quorum of Clerical and Lay Delegates is present, the Bishop shall declare the Convention open for business. Only Clerical and Lay Delegates and essential staff shall be on the floor.*
- 3. There shall be one item of business, which shall be the casting of ballots for the election of the Bishop of Rochester.*
- 4. The Standing Committee shall formally nominate the slate of candidates. Nominations from the floor shall be declared out of order in accordance with the Rules of Order adopted at the 92nd Annual Convention of the Diocese of Rochester.*
- 5. Balloting shall commence immediately, the Clerical and Lay Delegates voting separately. Each ballot shall be certified by an independent auditor. Each ballot will then be announced.*
- 6. Between ballots, the Transition Committee shall confer with the candidates. Hymns and prayers may be offered. The Delegates may stand at ease, but must be ready to be called to order for the next ballot.*

7. Voting shall continue until a single candidate has received a concurrent simple majority in both the Clergy and Lay Orders. Upon the ballot being certified, the Bishop shall declare an election.

8. The Bishop Elect may greet the Electing Convention.

9. The Clergy and Lay Delegates shall sign the certificate of election before departing the Convention.

10. The Convention will conclude with the singing of the Doxology and the Bishop's blessing.

Zoom poll to adopt Resolution C → adopted

Bishop addressed the process we will use for the **resolutions regarding change in parish status**
A sad occasion but a time of thanksgiving.

Bishop invited Rev. Eric Thompson to present Resolution D:

Resolved, that this 92nd convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, meeting via electronic conferencing, on October 28, 2023, upon the receipt of the recommendation of a majority of the members of the Diocesan Council, meeting in regular session on June 20, 2023, and in accordance with the Canons of the Diocese of Rochester, declares that the Parish known as St. Stephen's, Rochester, New York is dissolved, that its vestry be dissolved and that its assets be dedicated in accordance with the Canons of the Episcopal Church.

A video about the life of St. Stephen's was presented

Rev. Michael Hartney moved to amend the motion:

Add to line 12: assets and endowment be used for the furtherance of the mission in the former parish's district

Zoom poll Vote on amendment → adopted

No further discussion of the resolution as amended.

Chaplain offered a prayer for St. Stephen's

Zoom poll for Resolution D as amended → adopted

RESOLVED: Resolved, that this 92nd 5 convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, meeting via electronic conferencing, on October 28, 2023, upon the receipt of the recommendation of a majority of the members of the Diocesan Council, meeting in regular session on June 20, 2023, and in accordance with the Canons of the Diocese of Rochester, declares that the Parish known as St. Stephen's, Rochester, New York is dissolved, that its vestry be dissolved and that its assets be dedicated in accordance with the Canons of the Episcopal Church and in furtherance of the mission of The Episcopal 13 Church in the former parish's district.

Bishop explained **Resolution E regarding change in status for St. John's, Sodus**

Two steps: dissolve the parish and then admit St. John's as a mission

Resolution E1 moved by Lynn Ringholz

Resolved, that this 92nd convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, meeting via electronic conferencing, on October 28, 2023, upon the receipt of the recommendation of a majority of the members of the Diocesan Council, meeting in regular session on September 19, 2023, and in accordance with the Canons of the Diocese of Rochester, declares that the Parish known as St John's Episcopal Church, Sodus, New York is dissolved, that its vestry be dissolved and that its assets be dedicated in accordance with the Canons of the Episcopal Church.

The Bishop invited members of St. John's to speak to the resolution.
Bishop thanked the members of St. John's.

Seeing no questions, Chaplain offered a prayer for St. John's.

Bishop called for Zoom poll for Resolution E1 → adopted

Bishop called on Lynn Ringholz to call move Resolution E2

Resolved, that this 92nd convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, meeting via electronic conferencing, on October 28, 2023, upon the receipt of a petition from St John's, Sodus, New York, to be admitted into union with the Diocese as a Mission, and upon receipt of the recommendation of a majority of the members of the Diocesan Council, meeting in regular session on September 19, 2023, and with the consent of the Bishop Provisional, in accordance with the Canons of the Diocese of Rochester, declares that the Parish known as St John's Episcopal Church, Sodus, New York be admitted into union with the Diocese as a Mission in accordance with the Canons of the Episcopal Church.

Seeing no questions, the Bishop called the question for **Resolution E2 via Zoom poll → adopted**

Bishop called on Eric Thompson to speak on Resolution F, regarding Trinity, Canaseraga:

Resolved, that this 92nd convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, meeting via electronic conferencing, on October 28, 2023, upon the receipt of the recommendation of a majority of the members of the Diocesan Council, meeting in regular session on September 19, 2023, and in accordance with the Canons of the Diocese of Rochester, declares that the Parish known as Trinity Episcopal 8 Church, Canaseraga, New York is dissolved, that its vestry be dissolved and that 9 its assets be dedicated in accordance with the Canons of the Episcopal Church.

Video from Trinity, Canaseraga was shared

Rev. Michael Hartney moved to amend Resolution F

Adding to Line 9: an in furtherance of the mission The Episcopal Church in the former parish's district

Seeing no further discussion regarding the amendment, Bishop called for a **Zoom poll on the Amendment → adopted**

Seeing no further discussion on the resolution as amended, the Bishop asked the Chaplain to offer a prayer.

Vote on Resolution F as amended as a zoom poll → adopted

Resolved, that this 92nd convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, 4 meeting via electronic conferencing, on October 28, 2023, upon the receipt of the recommendation of a majority of the members of the Diocesan Council, meeting in regular session on September 19, 2023, and in accordance with the Canons of the Diocese of Rochester, declares that the Parish known as Trinity Episcopal Church, Canaseraga, New York is dissolved, that its vestry be dissolved and that its assets be dedicated in accordance with the Canons of the Episcopal Church and in furtherance of the mission of The Episcopal Church in the former parish's district.

Bishop called on Rev. Melanie Duguid- May to move Resolution G: Responsible Travel to the Holy Land:

Resolved, that the 92nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester submits the following resolution to the 81st General Convention of the Episcopal Church:

Resolved, that the House of _____ concurring, the 81st General Convention recommends that pilgrimage travelers to the Holy Land explore and engage the realities of the circumstances and conditions impacting the lives of today's Palestinians and Israelis, paying particular attention to the Israeli military Occupation of Palestinian territories, to the violations of human rights, and to Palestinian national aspirations. It further recommends that visits to the sites of biblical stories be accompanied by "Living Stones," i.e., Palestinian Christians who are descendants of the first Christians and who feel a special responsibility for maintaining Christian worship in the Holy Land; and be it further

Resolved, that Jesus' ministry of love and justice can be witnessed in today's Palestine and Israel in locations of suffering and hardship such as refugee camps and military checkpoints, as well as in churches and historical sites; and be it further

Resolved, that the 81st General Convention encourage travelers to arrange trips, either whole or in part, with agencies or companies that are Palestinian-owned and/or offer itineraries that include encounters with Palestinians who are experiencing the conditions of Occupation.

Resolution moved and seconded.

Rev. Melanie invited to speak on the Resolution G

Julie Ross moved to postpone Resolution G indefinitely; seconded by Nita Byrd

- a simple majority needed to postpone indefinitely
- Discussion ensued

Zoom poll to postpone indefinitely: 42% yes; 51% no

Debate may continue

Proposal to extend debate by 5 minutes

Zoom poll to extend debate by 5 minutes → approved by 53%

Debate continued

Rev. Nita Byrd moved an amendment; seconded

Resolved that we seek to hear voices of both Palestinians and Israelis and that we encourage visitors to learn of the history of the Jewish Holocaust from Israelis on their visit

Discussion on the amendment

Vote on amendment → amendment is lost- 68% not in favor

Question on main motion- Resolution G → Zoom poll → Adopted: 51% in favor

Results of Ballot 2

Rank order of provisional clergy deputies to General Convention:

Rev. Leslie Burkardt

Rev. Troy Preston

Rev. Ken Pepin

Rev. Gretchen Ratterree

Bishop invited **Lisa Marcello, President and CEO of Episcopal Senior Life Communities (ESLC)** to share updates from Episcopal Senior Life Communities.

Bishop thanked Lisa for her work and the work of ESLC.

Invited Rev. **Richard Witt, Director of Rural and Migrant Ministries (RMM)**, to speak about RMM.

Bishop thanked Richard for his work and the work of RMM

Chaplain offered a prayer for relationships.

Bishop noted the documents on the Required Reading webpage.

Vote on courtesy resolutions → zoom poll → adopted.

Reminder to those elected to return their acceptance form to Secretary of Convention.

Bishop offered thanks to the many involved in making Convention possible.

Chaplain offered a closing prayer

Bishop Lane adjourned Convention 92 at 12:50 with a postlude from Dr. Karyn Robbins.

