

JOURNAL OF THE 88TH DIOCESAN CONVENTION

The 88th Convention of the Diocese of Rochester was held on October 26, 2019, at Hobart William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY

Welcome by Bishop

Bishop Singh announced that there will be a little business before the liturgy. He gave thanks to Andrea Stridiron, Sarah Peters, Margy Ashley, Hazeldene Hercules, and Susan Woodhouse who helped register participants.

Call to order of the 88th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester

The Bishop welcomed guests:

Dr. Joyce Jacobsen, newly installed president of Hobart William Smith Colleges,
The Rev. Canon Carrie Schofield-Broadbent, Canon for Transitions and Church Development, who has stepped in for The Rt. Rev. DeDe Duncan Probe, Bishop of Central New York, who was unable to attend due to an emergency.

Loren Ranaletta, President and CEO of Episcopal SeniorLife Communities,
Rev. Paul Frolick, Director of the College for Congregational Development,

Dr. David Sperber, Founder of Jewish Voice for Peace, and

Rev. Canon Jamie Callaway, General Secretary of the Colleges and Universities of the Anglican Communion (CUAC)

Introduction of Emcee

Rev. Jimmie Sue Deppe, Church of the Epiphany, was introduced as the convention's emcee. She gave housekeeping directions and instructions for taking phone calls. She also announced that there would not be an American Sign Language for the deaf and hard of hearing interpreters for today's convention because of a previously scheduled conference.

Quorum

Meeting began with the introduction of Rev. Andrea Stridiron, deacon at St. Thomas' Rochester and Secretary to the Convention. A quorum was established:

FIRST BUSINESS SESSION

The Bishop announced that the polls were opened in accordance with the NYS Religious Corporation Law. He 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. The Bishop announced that the Worship Service will take place next.

WORSHIP

Before the Second Business, Holy Eucharist was held. Rev. Billy Daniel gave directions so that the service would go smoothly. The sermon was given by Rev. Canon Carrie Schofield-Broadbent. UTO envelopes were collected during the Offertory.

Several clergy members were installed. They included:

Very Rev. Dan Burner, SE District Dean
Very Rev. Ginny Mazarella, SE District Dean
Very Rev. David Hefling, NE District Dean
Very Rev. Leslie Burkardt and Very Rev. Ruth Ferguson, co-deans Rochester District
Very Rev. Ken Pepin, Monroe District Dean
Rev. Andrea Stridiron, Deacon Coordinator
Very Rev. Debs Duguid-May, Diocesan Dean for Discernment
Very Rev. Johnnie Ross, Diocesan Dean for Small Church and Pastoral Development
Very Rev. Virginia Tyler-Smith, Diocesan Dean for Transitions
Very Rev. Billy Daniel, Diocesan Dean for Liturgy and Formation
and
Rev. Nita Byrd, Chaplain at St. John's at Hobart William Smith Colleges, who was presented with Holy Gifts.

The Order of Service included all the baptisms, confirmations, receptions, and necrologies that occurred during the past year. Courtesy Resolutions were also included.

SECOND BUSINESS SESSION

Majority Vote

The Secretary established the numbers needed for a majority vote.
181 with 58 clergy and 123 delegates.

Introduction of newly elected President of Hobart William Smith Colleges and delegates from St. John's Chapel at HWS.

Dr. Joyce Jacobsen welcomed clergy, delegates, and guests. She introduced the delegates from St. John's Chapel at HWS:

Ms. Grace Bott, Mr. James Henry Holland, and Mr. Joshua Hylkema
Alternate: Ms. Nan Crystal Arens

Introduction of Rev. Canon Jamie G. Callaway from Rev. Nita Byrd

Rev. Canon Jamie G. Callaway D.D. is the General Secretary of Colleges and Universities of the Anglican Communion (CUAC). CUAC goes back to 1962, when its predecessor, The Fund for Episcopal Colleges, was established at the Episcopal Church Center in New York. At that point membership was limited to the Presiding Bishop and the presidents of "independent, four-year accredited colleges or universities, associated by history or tradition with the Protestant Episcopal Church". The purposes of the newly established organization were "to provide a framework for cooperative endeavor, to strengthen the member colleges and their programs, and to foster the intellectual and spiritual values implicit in their founding.

Canon Callaway is also Deputy for Anglican Partnerships at Trinity Wall Street, and is widely known throughout the Anglican Communion, particularly for his work in forging enduring links with the Church of Africa and establishing mutual partnerships as a model for ministry.

Canon Callaway thanked Rev. Nita Byrd and then gave a brief history of Hobart William and Smith Colleges.

Introduction of the Chancellor and the Assistant Chancellors

Introduction of Mr. Phil Fileri, Chancellor. Mr. Fileri also served as parliamentarian. Mr. Thomas Wright, Esq. and Mr. Paul Green, Esq served as assistant chancellors.

Introduction of Treasurer

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

Appointment of Chaplains

The Bishop appointed Rev. Nita Byrd and Rev. Padraic Collins-Bohrer as chaplains for the day.

Reading of the Minutes of the 87th Diocesan Convention

The Bishop announced that the Committee on the Reading of Minutes had reviewed the minutes of the 87th Diocesan Convention. Printed copies were made available at the pre-convention meetings. Copies were also available at registration. The Bishop called for a motion to waive the reading of the minutes.

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 wished to be seated in place of a delegate, were advised to see 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. In addition, amendments to resolutions should be presented in writing to the secretary. Both forms may be obtained from the secretary.

Seat and Voice as Reported by the Committee on Credentials

The Bishop recognized the Chair of the Committee on Credentials, Rev. Rick Hamlin, Priest-in-Charge at St. Paul's in Angelica, NY, and Christ Church in Cuba, NY. He 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 Rev. Rick Hamlin, which comes from the Committee on Credentials. There was no need for a second.

So ordered

Committee on the Dispatch of Business

The Bishop recognized the Committee on the Dispatch of Business, Rev. Gretchen Ratterree, St. Marks, Newark, New York.

Dispatch of Business

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

Rules of Debate

Chair of the Committee on Dispatch of Business moved the Convention Rules of Debate as follows:

- that The Bishop called upon the Rev. Gretchen Ratterree, who announced 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.

The motion comes from a committee so no second is needed. **So ordered**

Appointment of a Timekeeper

The Chair appointed Mr. Gregory Kremer, Pastoral Leader of St. George's in Hilton as timekeeper.

Recognition of Leaders

Recognition of some of the leaders who have helped the diocese live into their vision and mission.

Mr. Les Kernan – Vice-Chair of Trustees

Ms. Julie Syracuse – 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

Recognition of Other Leaders

The Bishop asked leaders of other organizations to stand.

Rev. Cindy Rasmussen, Director of the Program for Anglican Studies at CRCDS

Rev. Dahn Gandell, President of Province II

Rev. Canon Denise Yarbrough, Canon for Interfaith and Ecumenical Ministries

Rev. Laurence Wainwright-Maks, Missioner to Deaf and Hard of Hearing, RIT/NTID

Rev. Deven Hubert, Chaplain at Episcopal SeniorLife Communities

Acceptance of Reports

The Bishop asked for acceptance of the reports of the Commission on Ministry, the Trustees, the

Diocesan Council, the Standing Committee, and other official reports as posted on the website prior to Convention. **MSP**

Standing Committees for the 88th Convention

The Chair recognized the Standing Committees for the 88th Convention and expressed thanks for their service. The list of 2019 Standing Committee was listed on yellow paper in the convention packet. It lists the number of people and the various capacities they served to make this convention happen.

Introduction of Archivists

Rev. David Hefling and Ms. Joanne Wisor are the diocese's archivists. They meet at Diocesan House on Thursday afternoon. There is a lot of history in that tiny room. David and Joanne have done a lot of work organizing, moving, and throwing out unnecessary papers. If you need any research done, please contact them.

Prayer

The Rev. Nita Byrd

BUSINESS II

Bishop's Address:

- Bishop Singh expressed how grateful he was for the outpouring of love for his mother. The family is deeply appreciative of the prayers sent their way. The Bishop gave us a snapshot of how his mother was doing, and how faithful she has been.
- The Bishop also gave a summary of Relationships and Stewardship.
- He had gratitude for faithful ministries of reconciliation and stewardship. He talked about ministries that we have here in our own backyard and ministries far and wide. There are 20 ministries organized by parishes, two which are global...rebuilding the school in Costa Rica.
- The Bishop is planning to go to the Lambeth Conference next year.
- Had sent 5 clergy to other dioceses, reassignments for some clergy, and welcomed newly ordained clergy.
- Shout out to those who support our clergy. Thank you!
- Suggested that vestries interview their clergy once every 2 years
- Bishop's Appeal: A sincere thank you to everyone. The Appeal is totally volunteer.
- Moved 19 congregations to 10% apportionment formula.
- Most parish loans that have been paid with a portion of the loan forgiven.
- Shout outs to SeniorLife Communities, CRCRS, Campus Ministry at U of R, Southwest Mission, ROC the Diocese, Missionpalooza.
- RISE Camp will not continue next year.
- Stephen Richards has received awards for his videos.
- Shout out to Elizabeth Salamone, Johanna Bonds and Paul Greene Esq. on Safe Church and Sexual Harassment Training. Thank you!
- The Reverends Billy Daniel and Cameron Miller each published a book.
- Gave thanks for the Philadelphia 11 in 1976.

- Shout out to the best staff ever, District Dean, Diocesan, and Diaconate Deans.
- Prayer and support for Bishop Singh's spouse, Roja.

Introduction of Loren Ranaletta

The Bishop invites Loren Ranaletta, President and CEO of Episcopal SeniorLife Communities. Mr. Ranaletta is in his 35th year leading ESLC.

Mr. Ranaletta announced that the SeniorLife Communities has had a remarkable year and in the process of creating the next stage.

- Church home has always looked at the needs of the community. Baby Boomers will create a lot of newer services.
- One-way ESLC will help is by stabilizing people so that they can stay in their homes and/or neighborhoods.
- One task is to continue to understand people of different social and economic needs. Another task is to start rural ministries. They have different needs from the city.
- Also, ESLC will try to keep people out of hospitals.
- The workforce is biggest challenge. Higher wages are being offered to fast food restaurants but cannot be offered to the dieticians at the 5 church homes.
- At St. Paul's Episcopal Church, ESLC is bringing in senior citizens for lunch 4 times a year.

The 2018 Diocesan Audit Report

The Bishop recognized Mr. Terry Butwid, Treasurer, and Ms. Bliss Owen, Assistant Treasurer to present the 2018 Diocesan Audit and Financial Report. The audit was completed August 7, 2019, by Mengel, Metzger & Barr LLC. There were no deficiencies reported in the audit. Thanks to the financial staff of the diocese. The diocese is making great progress toward fiscal responsibilities. There is hope that we can reduce draws from an endowment by 2024. Congregational Development Loans Early Payment Discount to all nine churches, where the diocese will write-off \$1.00 for every \$2.00 in early re-payments.

Resolved: That the 88th Convention of the Episcopal Diocesan of Rochester received the 2018 Audit and Financial Report as prepared by the firm of Mengel, Metzger Barr & Co. LLC, and presented by our Diocesan Treasurers and accepted by the Diocesan Trustees. The acceptance of the 2018 Diocesan Audit was included in the electronic voting on Ballot J with the Diocesan elective offices. **The entire Audit Report is included in a separate section of the Journal and available on the diocesan website.**

Presentation of the 2020 Diocesan Budget

The Bishop recognized Canon Todd Rubiano, Chief Financial Officer to present the 2020 Diocesan Budget which has been approved by the Diocesan Council.

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. Canon Rubiano presented a series of PowerPoint slides to provide a thorough review of the proposed 2020 budget.

Administrative costs have been streamlined. In 2018, apportionment contributions were modified. Draw from investment will be \$1.015M or 5% in 2020.

The 2020 proposed operating budget will be \$2.046M.

Diocesan Budget Resolved

Bishop Singh introduced Ms. Julie Syracuse, warden of St. John's Sodus and Vice-Chair of Diocesan Council. Ms. Syracuse read the 2020 Budget Resolution:
Resolved, that the 88th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester approves the 2020 Diocesan Budget of \$2,100,590, including apportionment of \$1,015,590 as recommended by Diocesan Council; with many thanks to the committees for their work and to all the parishes through whom mission and ministry are undertaken. She moved the acceptance of the 2020 Diocesan Budget Resolution. The acceptance of the budget was included in the electronic voting on Ballot K with the Diocesan elective offices.

Nominations and Elections

The Bishop recognized the Co-Chairs of the Nominations Committee, Rev. David Hefling, rector of St. John's in Canandaigua, and Ms. Julie Syracuse. Rev. Hefling announced the following Lay representatives from the Districts to Diocesan Council:

- Monroe District: Mr. Henry Williams, Grace Church Scottsville
- Northeast District: Mr. Al Carvill, St. John's Canandaigua
- Rochester District: Ms. Adwoa Boateng, Christ Church Rochester
- Southeast District: Ms. Marion Ivy, Christ Church Corning
- Southwest District: Mr. Bob Wilcox, St. Michael's Geneseo

Bishop thanked those elected as Lay representatives.

Nominating Committee Report – Elected Officials

On behalf of the Committee on Nominations, Rev. Hefling moved the nomination of elective offices by title and guided delegates through the process to be used for electronic voting. Nominations were received for the entire slate. As the slate for each office was presented, the Bishop called for additional nominations from the floor. If there were 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. A reminder to vote on all ballots including Ballot J, Diocesan Audit, and Ballot K, Diocesan Budget.

Standing Committee, Clerical: **Elect (1) Clergy** **Ballot A**
Rev. Ken Pepin, St. Luke's, Fairport

Standing Committee, Lay: **Elect (1) Lay** **Ballot B**
Mr. Michael Davis, St. Luke and St. Simon Cyrene, Rochester

Trustees: **Elect (3 clerical or lay)** **Ballot C**
Mr. Les Kernan, St. Paul's Rochester
Rev. Ron Young, Christ Church, Pittsford
Stanley Jones, St. Thomas', Rochester

Taking of the First Ballot

The Bishop declared the nominations closed and reminded delegates that there will not be any write-ins since there were no nominations from the floor. Another reminder to vote on all ballots including Ballot J, 2020 Diocesan Audit, and Ballot K, 2020 Diocesan Budget.

Rev. Padraic Collins Bohrer was invited to offer a prayer to those seeking to serve in Diocesan leadership.

The Bishop recognized the Rev. Michael Laver, St. John's, Sodus, who provided comprehensive instructions via a PowerPoint presentation to assist delegates with the electronic voting process. Following instructions, delegates were led through the process of voting for each office assisted by the Tellers and others. At the conclusion of the electronic voting, the Bishop declared the First Ballot closed.

College for Congregational Development (CCD)

Bishop Singh invited Rev. Paul Frolick, Director of College for Congregational Development (CCD) to speak. Rev. Frolick asked past participants of the program to stand. CCD is in its fourth year. The program is for lay and clergy leaders. He recognized that everybody at the convention is a leader and encouraged them to think about registering for CCD. He asked several questions about various problems that might occur in congregations, and if anyone was experiencing those problems, then the CCD could help you and your congregation grow spirituality, numerically, or in missional leadership while living into the Diocesan's Mission. There were two options for completing the program; the first option will be held in July for a week-long intensive program. The second option will be to complete the program on four weekends spread throughout the year starting on Friday at 5:30 p.m. and concluding on Saturday at 6:00 p.m. They are both the same curriculum just in a different format. For further information, contact The Rev. Paul Frolick at pfrolick@gmail.com.

Rural and Migrant Ministries

Bishop Singh introduced Rev. Richard Witt, Director of Rural Migrant Ministries (RMM) at Grace Church in Lyons, New York. An overnight camp was held in the summer of 2019 with about 100 children and a volunteer staff of about 40. Vespers was held around the campfire each evening. People were invited to tell their stories. The first night, a sixteen-year-old girl from Peru talked about her struggle with pancreatic cancer. The next speaker was a young man who was driving in a car with his father. They were rear-ended, so the police were called. When they arrived, they found out that the father was undocumented and immediately started the deportation proceedings. Story after story such as these followed each evening.

Rev. Witt expressed his delight about looking out during lunch to see the mixture of people talking with one another. He saw the smiles and joy going on and felt the presence and peace of God.

The Episcopal Diocese of Rochester has believed in Rural Migrant Ministries thanks to the leadership of Bishop Singh. The diocese was thanked for their support, nurturing, and enabling RMM to create a diocesan center of transformation at Grace Church in Lyons. RMM is trying to find ways to help migrant works find the strength to build community and to take on the issues that are impacting their lives. Several programs have emerged:

- Justice Organization of Youth or JOY; a name the kids came up with,
- Summer Day Program for 50 young children with about 50 interns from HWS,
- Group of women who are working to create their own catering cooperative,
- In partnership with St. Paul's, RMM is beginning to create a Rural University of the People; this will be a process where people can engage in developing their own skills and their own leadership to work for change that gets them to the tables; decision making, policy making, admission and at our altars.

Prayer

Rev. Nita Byrd led us in prayer before lunch.

Lunch

Mr. Steve Richards gave logistics about lunch.

BUSINESS III

Meeting called back to session by Rev. Jimmie Sue Deppe. Everyone had been encouraged to read the General Convention Resolutions prior to the convention. Rev. Deppe provided a question and invited anyone who knew the answer to raise their hand and if they answered correctly, they would receive a prize.

Introduction of Election Officer

Rev. Michael Laver was called upon by the Bishop to announce election findings. All elections save the elections to Diocesan Convention were uncontested.

Standing Committee, Clerical:

Rev. Ken Pepin, St Luke's, Fairport

Standing Committee, Lay:

Mr. Michael Davis, St. Luke and St. Simon Cyrene, Rochester

Trustees:

Mr. Les Kernan, St. Paul's Rochester

Rev. Ron Young, Christ Church, Pittsford

Stanley Jones, St. Thomas', Rochester

Trustee:

Ms. Julie Forney, Christ Church, Pittsford to complete the term until 2020 for member that resigned.

Diocesan Council:

Rev. Elizabeth Harden, St. Luke's, Brockport

Rev. Lynne Sharp, St. James, Hammondsport

Rev. Padraic Collins Bohrer, Chaplain of Heritage Christian Services

Diocesan Council:

Mr. Gilbert Stewart to complete the term until 2020 of resigned Council member according to Canon 3.4(d).

Commission on Ministry:

Rev. Georgia Carney, St. Stephen’s, Rochester
Rev. Jimmie Sue Deppe, Church of the Epiphany, Gates
Rev. Sandra Cordingly, Church of the Incarnation, Penfield

Disciplinary Board:

Rev. Richard Hamlin, St. Paul’s Angelica and Christ Church, Cuba

Disciplinary Board:

Ms. Catherine Cerulli

General Convention for Clergy: A second ballot was needed. Ninety-four is needed to pass the threshold. There were two clergy who passed the threshold.

Rev. Leslie Burkhart	85
Rev. Billy Daniel	98
Rev. Dahn Gandell	66
Rev. Ken Pepin	83
Rev. Rob Picken	71
Rev. Johnnie Ross	92
Rev. Virginia Tyler Smith	96
Rev. Canon Denise Yarbrough	81

The two clergy who passed the threshold were Rev. Billy Daniel and Rev. Virginia Tyler Smith. They were taken out of the voting, and the rest of the candidates were put back into voting. The same rules apply to the second ballot as the first ballot.

General Convention for Lay: A second ballot was needed. Ninety-four is needed to pass the threshold. There were five candidates who passed the threshold, and two candidates who tied, so there will be a run-off between those two candidates.

Ms. Marion Ivy	87
Ms. Carolyn Mok	118
Ms. Sarah Peters	142
Ms. Kathleen Stokes	96
Ms. Julie Syracuse	131
Ms. Paula Valeri	96

Resolutions J and K were passed.

Second Ballot

A second ballot procedure is the same as the first ballot. Another email was sent for people to log in and vote.

First Engagement at Tables

Bishop Singh invited the Racial Reconciliation Healing and Justice Committee (RRHJ) members who are present to come forward. Very Rev. Ruth Ferguson, Christ Church Rochester, was called forth to talk about the commission. She shared the journey the RRHJ Committee undertaken to pitch plans, projects, and programs for the diocese to deal with issues around racism. Instead, it was decided to come up with deeper conversations around race. Conversations at each table will be focused around this issue later. In 2020 the committee will renew its planning, projects, and programs based on the conversations at the tables. Very Rev. Ferguson then introduced several members of the committee to talk about their involvement in RRHJ.

Rev. Andrea Stridiron: was on the original Anti-Racism Committee: Seeing the Face of God in Others. She was one of a team of facilitators and assistants who traveled around the diocese giving full-day workshops. That committee was morphed into the Racial Reconciliation Healing and Justice Committee.

Hannah Summers, Christ Church Rochester: RRHJ is important to her because she sees at her predominantly white school, subtle and insidious racism. She realized from the deepened conversations at RRHJ that she has a lot more to learn.

Rev. Melanie Duguid May, Priest in Charge at St. Thomas Bath: RRHJ was in a programmatic mode until we stumbled literally in one of our meetings upon conversation that turned us within; within ourselves and within ourselves as a group. That had been really humbling but also a great blessing for the committee. RRHJ invited convention-goers to join RRHJ in deeper conversation later in the afternoon to get a taste of what they have been doing. There will be two questions for each table to discuss.

Very Rev. Ruth Ferguson asked that one person write down a prayer that the whole table worked on to be read at the end of convention.

Update on Second Ballot

Bishop Singh recognized Rev. Michael Laver who had an update on the second ballot.

The election to the Lay Delegate to General Convention run off vote between Kathleen Stokes and Paula Valeri:

Kathleen Stokes	89
Paula Valeri	72

Kathleen Stokes is newly elected Lay Delegate to General Convention.

Because a second vote was needed for General Convention for Clergy, there was unfortunately no candidate who rose above the threshold. A third ballot is needed. A third ballot goes to a simple plurality:

Rev. Leslie Burkhart	70
Rev. Dahn Gandell	25
Rev. Ken Pepin	50
Rev. Rob Picken	47
Rev. Johnnie Ross	76
Rev. Canon Denise Yarbrough	56

The chair recognized Rev. Michael Hartney, retired. Rev. Hartney had a question for the chancellor about the number of votes needed for the second and third ballot. Is a majority of 94 required?

Chancellor Fileri: It is required for the second ballot, but not the third. Because there was a run-off in the Lay Delegate for General Convention, a majority was needed, but it was decided to forgo that rule.

Ms. Kristy Estey will open up the third ballot. Same as before.

Committee on Resolutions

The Bishop called on Rev. Rob Picken, Rector of St. Paul's Rochester, Chair of the Committee on Resolutions.

Resolution A

Rev. Picken moves Resolution A and reads:

The Right to Boycott on Behalf of Palestinian Human Rights

Sponsors: Rev. Dr. Melanie Duguid-May, The Very Reverend Ruth Ferguson, Mr. Thomas Foster, Rev. Peter Peters, and Rev. Deborah Duguid-May:

Resolved, the 88th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester urges the President and the Congress of the United States and the legislature and Governor of the State of New York to reconsider legislation that penalizes companies and organizations for their participation in nonviolent boycotts on behalf of Palestinian human rights. The Convention considers such legislation, at both federal and state levels, to be an infringement on our First Amendment rights, based on the Supreme Court's consistent definition of boycotts as protected speech; *and be it further*

Resolved, the Secretary of Convention, in consultation with Diocesan Council, is directed to distribute this resolution to the President, Governor, and state and federal legislators of this diocese, and to provide a letter in support of possible future court challenges to the existing New York State laws of Governor Cuomo's Executive Order.

Bishop Singh explains that Resolution A comes from a committee so no second is needed. He invites Rev. Dr. Melanie Duguid-May, a member of the group which is sponsoring Resolution A to speak further on the resolution.

Rev. Dr. Duguid-May is a member of the Rochester Chapter of Episcopal Peace Fellowship. She invited other members who sponsored Resolution A to stand. She spoke on support of the resolution. This resolution is in response to current anti-boycott legislation at federal and state levels; legislation that condemns the boycott divestment and sanction movement and labels it “anti-Semitic”. This resolution agrees with the Episcopal Church that along with the ACLU, the Center for Constitutional Rights and the Anti-Defamation League of B’nai B’rith has called this legislation; quote, “A blatant infringement on first amendment rights, to use economic pressure on behalf of human rights.” This is a call for justice through non-violent resistance to the injustice of military occupation by the Israelis. It is also a call for the enforcement of international law in respect to the Israeli government’s treatment of Palestinian people. It is inspired by the boycotts and divestments that helped end apartheid in South Africa and it is inspired by a long tradition of boycotts in US history. This movement seeks justice, reconciliation, and a secure future for all peoples living in the Holy Land, both Palestinian and Israeli, Muslims, Christians, Jews, Druze, and Baha’i. Rev. Dr. Duguid-May’s own sponsorship for this resolution was prompted by the voices of Palestinian Christian sisters and brothers who called to us from the pages of Kairos Palestine, “Are you able to help us get our freedom back? For this is the only way you can help the two peoples obtain justice, peace, security, and love.”

Rev. Dr. Duguid-May introduced Dr. David Sperber, psychiatrist, and founder of Jewish Voice for Peace to speak to the resolution.

Dr. Sperber thanked those responsible for the resolution. His goal for being at convention was to free us of the unnecessary anxiety that we may have from supporting the right to boycott, a right which is protected by free speech. He wanted us to have unhindered confidence in doing so, and to know that what we are doing is right and nothing else. He went on further to talk about what anti-Semitism was and what it was not. Anti-Semitism is an attitude toward Jewish people that ranges from denigration to persecution for the sole reason of being Jewish. Anything meeting this definition is “real” anti-Semitism. In contrast, there is the employment of anti-Semitism as a smokescreen, used to distract attention from legitimate criticism and to intimidate into silence any would-be opponents. Dr. Sperber gave real examples of anti-Semitism both in his early life, but also to the recent slaughter of 11 people and injuries to 6 more at The Tree of Life Synagogue just a year ago. Travesties like that have served to motivate frightened and traumatized Jewish people to band together and support Israel blindly. They have also served to motivate good people everywhere to want to avoid any possibility of incurring the heinous label, “anti-Semitic”. Thanks to massive monetary aid from America, Israel has established military hegemony over the Palestinians and their land. Warped by this massive power imbalance, Israel does whatever it wants, whenever it wants. Israel has constructed some 200 cities and moved in some 620,000 of its people to live in them all on Palestinian land since 1967. This is in flagrant violation of the IV Geneva Convention which prohibits an occupying power from building infrastructure and from moving its population onto occupied land. Hopelessly out-gunned, Palestinians have called upon the rest of the world to support them non-violently by boycotting the Israeli economy. Frightened and enraged, the Israeli government is doing everything it can to

intimidate the BDS movement out of existence. They label any and all supporters of BDS as anti-Semitic, disingenuously implying that they themselves have done nothing wrong and are actually the victims of an anti-Semitic plot. They have enlisted APAC, the powerful Israeli lobby, to blanket the US with laws seeking to punish institutions and individuals for supporting BDS. This is the second type of anti-Semitism...a cynical marketing campaign that attempts to disguise and protect naked Israeli aggression by speciously linking opposition to it with real anti-Semitism such as what has been discussed. This misuse of the emotion stirred by the term “anti-Semitism” does a grave injustice to all the victims of the Holocaust, the pogroms, and all the other forms of true anti-Semitism. It dilutes their suffering and obscures the many lessons that should be learned. To oppose Israel’s policies that are illegal and immoral is not anti-Semitic in the least. When you vote to support the sanctity of free speech, you are supporting Tikkun Olam, the humanitarian foundations of Judaism.

Bishop Singh asked if there were any discussion for a motion to accept Resolution A. There was no discussion. **MSP**

The Bishop thanked Rev. Dr. Melanie Duguid-May, The Peace Fellowship, Dr. David Sperber, sponsors, and the Resolutions Committee for their work.

Third Ballot

The chair recognized Rev. Michael Laver.

Rev. Laver announced the third ballot results. Because a third vote was needed for General Convention for Clergy, no threshold was needed. A third ballot goes to a simple plurality:

Rev. Leslie Burkhart	71
Rev. Dahn Gandell	21
Rev. Ken Pepin	47
Rev. Rob Picken	37
Rev. Johnnie Ross	86
Rev. Canon Denise Yarbrough	58

Rev. Leslie Burkardt and Rev. Johnnie Ross have been elected.

Second Engagement at Tables

The Bishop announced that formation and education are crucial to us in our development and our growth as people who strive to follow Jesus. There were several formation and education initiatives fostered out of relationships throughout the Diocese:

The Summer of Opportunity Program in partnership with the city and Kids’ Club through St. Mark’s and St. John’s, Rochester

Neighbor’s Night and Arts for All through St. Peter’s, Geneva

The Interfaith Mentoring Program out of St. Paul’s, Rochester

RKid’s After School Ministry, Geneseo

Dalit Girls Education Initiative through St. Luke’s, Fairport, and India

There are of course many others and we give thanks to them also.

Two missional videos were introduced focusing on formation of children and youth: The SummerLeap Initiative by St. Thomas', Rochester, and the drive to promote and support the education of poor children in Costa Rica actuated by a major mission trip. Each has champions who forged ahead, overcame hurdles, and created/supported sustainable formation opportunities for children, youth, and their families.

Each person at the table had two questions written down to be discussed after the videos. There was a recorder at each table who passed in the paper at the end of the video and discussion.

Formation Highlight Video

SummerLeap Initiative
Costa Rica

Table Conversation

After viewing the video, the Bishop asked two or three people to come to the mic to share what some suggestions were at starting a new initiative in their perspective churches. Mr. Dan Pope retired clergy, Mr. Abraham Steiner from Christ Church, Rochester, and Mr. Josh Barrett, senior at Virginia Theological Seminary, stood up to share what was discussed at their tables. The first two speakers indicated that there was some confusion between the question that was written and what was viewed on the video. The third speaker's table asked particularly what "formation" is. They discussed that formation doesn't necessarily need a program but should start with the patterns and rituals in which we ground our lives; everything we do, the spaces that we inhabit and the people who we form around ourselves. What makes formation distinctively Christian? The pattern that we should have is one that is not patterned to the ways of the world but patterned to Christ. How can we best serve the children and the youth? We should rethink the conversation to start, "How are we forming them and in whose image are they formed and in whose image are they created?"

Because of the average age in the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, the Bishop wanted us to keep pondering the subject of formation and to think about how are we creating disciples for Christ for the next generation, and what are some ways we can engage in that process of connecting with this next generation.

Close of Session

Bishop Singh and his family spent some time in India in the summer of 2019. Prince and Roja are involved in a ministry with children in India, girls from the Dalit community. They are in a boarding type of facility. It was a great visit with a lot of interaction. He showed a video of his son, Eklund, leading the girls in a dance. It was an exuberant visit.

The Bishop gave thanks and gratitude for those saints whose terms end with this convention. Some stand for re-election.

Diocesan Elected Position – Terms Ending 2019
(*Candidate for Re-election)

Diocesan Council

Ms. Linda Ketchum Pompilli
Mr. Al Carvill*
Rev. Dan Burner
Rev. Billy Daniel
Ms. Liz Porter
Ms. Dawn Wilkins
Ms. Marion Ivy*
Rev. Catherine Tatem (Resigned)
Ms. Tara Boohar (Resigned)

Trustees

Mr. Les Kernan*
Mr. Douglass Lyon
Rev. Virginia Tyler Smith (Resigned)
Mr. Ron Young*

Disciplinary Board

Rev. Dan Linnenberg
Ms. Catherine Cerulli*

Commission on Ministry

Rev. Georgia Carney*
Rev. Jimmie Sue Deppe*
Rev. Dahn Gandell
Rev. Phil Kasey

Standing Committee

Ms. Sarah Peters
Rev. Rick Hamlin

Deputies to General Convention

Mr. Josh Barrett
Ms. Sarah Peters*
Rev. Rob Picken*
Ms. Keisha Stokes
Rev. Virginia Tyler Smith*
Rev. Chris Streeter (Resigned)
Ms. Paula Valeri*
Rev. Denise Yarbrough*

Alternates

Rev. Billy Daniel*
Ms. Susan Hartney

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Padraic Collin-Bohrer gave thanks for all who served, and their terms have come to an end. He also gave thanks to those who will begin a new term as of this convention.

The Bishop thanked all the nominees for their willingness to serve and those who were not elected but were willing to serve.

Closing Prayer and Hymn

Some members of the Racial Reconciliation, Healing and Justice Committee read prayers offered up by members of the convention earlier in the day. Closing prayer was offered up by Rev. Nita Byrd followed by the hymn, *Lift Every Voice and Sing*.

Convention Adjournment

Convention was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. sine die.

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Andrea Stridiron, Deacon
Secretary of Diocesan Convention