

159th Convention of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota

September 16-17, 2016

Shattuck-St. Mary's School, Faribault

Engaging God's Mission of Racial Reconciliation

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Opening worship was preceded by the singing of a Vedic poem in Sanskrit, performed by students of Shattuck-St. Mary's.

Bishop Prior's address began with the sharing of his story, an account of his childhood and youth in Prosser, Washington. He continued with his growing awareness of racism, especially as he left home and moved into other environments. This caused him to wonder what it was like for those he had known in his hometown to grow up as African American, Latino, Native American, etc. He also spoke of the blessings and challenges of being bishop, and presented a brief overview of what would happen during the evening, including business and reports from groups and organizations. He concluded by encouraging attendees to "be the people who are on the front lines of racial reconciliation."

Bishop Prior then introduced Valerie Tutson, who would serve as a Story Weaver throughout Convention. Valerie Tutson invited people from eight of the tables to read each of the "Covenants of Presence" that were included in the Convention Business Booklet, and for all to respond "I agree" to each. She then introduced the Spiritual Show and Tell, a brief table exercise in which attendees described the object, symbol, poem or picture they had been asked to bring that illustrated a significant moment in their faith journey or that grounded them in the sacred.

This exercise concluded with prayer from Bishop Prior.

BUSINESS SESSION

Credentials Report: Lizanne Geno

- One bishop, 141 out of a possible 244 lay delegates, 120 out of a possible 344 clergy delegates, and one out of one ELCA pastors serving Episcopal congregations were in attendance – a sufficient number to begin Convention.
- Bishop Prior called the 159th Convention of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota to order.

Adoption of Standing Rules of Order: Moved by Colin Maltbie

- Seconded, *ADOPTED*

Adoption of Convention Agenda: Moved by Colin Maltbie

- Seconded, *ADOPTED*

Privileges for non-delegates: Moved by Paul Double

- Motion that Convention provide seat to all visitors; seat and voice for clergy not canonically resident; and seat, voice, and vote for ELCA clergy serving in leadership positions in our faith communities.
- Seconded, *PASSED*

Basic Concepts of Parliamentary Procedure: The Rev. Mark Kelm, Parliamentarian

Nominations Report: Karen Olson, Secretary of Convention

- There was one nomination from the floor: Sue Triebenbach for Lay Deputy to General Convention. It was then moved and seconded to close nominations; *PASSED*

First Ballot

- It was noted that for the Standing Committee election in the clergy order, the top two vote getters would be elected for three-year terms, the second vote getter would be elected for a two-year term, and the third vote getter for a one-year term.

Consent Agenda/Calendar

Canonical Elections, Appointments, and Confirmations

Secretary of Convention (Canon 209.1)

Ms. Karen Olson

Historiographer (Canon 307.2)

Mr. Arthur Finnell

Treasurer (Canon 309.1)

The Rev. John Dwyer

Chancellors (Canon 306.1)

Bishop's Chancellor – Mr. Doug Franzen

Vice Chancellors – Mr. Todd Andrews, Ms. Sarah Armstrong, Ms. Rebecca Bernhard ,
Mr. Robert Butterbrodt, Mr. Christopher Bowman, Mr. Walt Graff, Ms. Laura McKnight,
Mr. Robert Straughn

Disciplinary Board (Canon 405(d))

For a three-year term ending at 2019 Convention

Ms. Erika Friesen, Ms. Katrina Gadwa, The Rev. Larry Green, The Rev. Christopher Haack,
The Rev. Richard Swenson

Council (Canon 219.2.a)

Vice Chair – Mr. Brian Ostenso

Commission on Ministry (Canon 113.5.a)

Chair – The Rev. Ramona Scarpace

Provincial Convention (Canon 217.1)

Clergy Delegate, per Province VI – The Rev. Michael Pipkin

St. Mark's Cathedral Chapter (Constitution of the Cathedral, Article XIII, Amended & Restated 12/19/13)

No Elections or Appointments required in 2016

Consent Agenda/Calendar moved, seconded, PASSED

Valerie Tutson led the group in a song as a transitional element.

Management Presentation:

Michael Pipkin, Missioner for Missional Management

Michael Pipkin introduced the strategic initiative for Management: **Every faith community has sustainable resources.**

The Strategic Initiative will guide and frame the work of a group of individuals throughout the year.

Resolutions:

Doug Franzen, Chancellor

No seconds were needed as these resolutions came from committee.

Resolution 1: Dissolution of the Central Mission Area

WHEREAS, each Mission Area of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota is responsible for planning, development, administration and evaluation of the Church's work in the Mission Area; and,

WHEREAS, because of shifting demographics, and the closure of faith communities in the Central Mission Area, the members of the Central Mission Area Board, in consultation with the Bishop and Council of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota, recommend the dissolution of the Central Mission Area; therefore be it

RESOLVED, the Council of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota hereby consents to the dissolution of the Central Mission Area, and requests that the Missioner for Mission work with each faith community of the former Central Mission Area to identify which of the neighboring mission areas they will identify with; and be it further

RESOLVED, in accordance with Canon 223.1 requests ratification of this dissolution by the Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota.

PASSED

Resolution 2: Circle of the Beloved

WHEREAS, the Episcopal Church in Minnesota is deeply concerned about the pervasive extent of systemic racism and continued polarization in our country, particularly with regard to the race-based opportunity and achievement gaps in Minnesota, which are among the worst in the country; and

WHEREAS, Christians are called by God to be ministers of reconciliation at every level, including racial reconciliation, according to the Holy Scriptures, and according to the concerns to which our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and our Bishop Brian Prior have drawn attention in the past year; and

WHEREAS, we believe that the Matthew 25 Jesus of the Twin Cities lives, among other places, on the Northside in Minneapolis; and

WHEREAS, the Circle of the Beloved, a new Minnesota chapter of the national Episcopal Service Corps, has recently opened on the Northside of Minneapolis with the express mission of addressing racial reconciliation,

not through charity or benefactor paradigms, but through humility, solidarity, and kinship across lines of difference; and

WHEREAS, this mission is in profound compatibility with the mission of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota and with the vows in our baptismal covenant; and

WHEREAS, Circle of the Beloved has applied for and has received the recommendation of the Bishop and Standing Committee to become an institution of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Convention of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota does hereby recognize Circle of the Beloved as an institution of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota in accordance with Canon 108, and hereby offers our prayers and continued support for its mission.

PASSED

Proposed Changes to the ECMN Canons: Doug Franzen

In light of the resolution just approved that eliminated the Central Mission Area, on behalf of the Constitution and Canons Committee, Doug Franzen moved that Canon 207 be amended as proposed to reflect that change.

CANON 207

CONVENTION OF THE DIOCESE: ELECTION AND SEATING OF LAY REPRESENTATIVES

Canon 207.1: Election. The Lay and alternate delegates of a Congregation are elected for a three-year term from and by its qualified voters, at its annual meeting immediately preceding the Annual Convention, or by its Vestry or Bishop's Committee thereafter. Lay and alternate delegates shall be elected according to the following schedule:

Episcopal Ecclesiastical Year A: Northwest, Southwest, and East Metro Mission Areas

Episcopal Ecclesiastical Year B: Northeast, ~~Central~~ and Central Metro Mission Areas

Episcopal Ecclesiastical Year C: Southeast and West Metro Mission Areas

- a. The Lay and alternate delegates must be elected at least ninety days before the meeting of Convention for which they are elected, or else they may not take seats at Convention without the consent of a majority of Convention, both orders voting together.
- b. The youth delegate of each Mission Area selected under Canon 205.2 is elected for a one-year, and not a three-year, term, by the Mission Area Boards. Mission Area Youth Delegates must be elected not later than the Mission Area Meeting before Annual Convention as stipulated in Canon 224.8.

PASSED

Proposed Constitutional Amendments for the Episcopal Church: Karen Olson

Karen Olson read the following proposed amendments. No further action was required of Convention. Karen Olson, as Secretary of Convention, will certify this reading to the Secretary of General Convention.

BO11: Amend Article II.7

Resolved, That the Constitution of the General Convention (2012) Article II.7 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 7 The House of Bishops may elect a Bishop Suffragan who, under the direction of the Presiding Bishop, shall be in charge of the work of persons of this Church who serve as chaplains in the Armed Forces of the United States and such other agencies as may be specified by the Presiding Bishop. The Bishop Suffragan so elected shall be ordained and consecrated and hold office under such conditions and limitations other than those provided in this Article as may be provided by Canons of the General Convention.

D003: Amend Article V

Resolved, That Article V, Section 1 is amended to read as follows:

A new Diocese may be formed, with the consent of the General Convention under such conditions as the General Convention shall prescribe by General Canon or Canons, (1) by the division of an existing Diocese; (2) by the junction of two or more Dioceses or of parts of two or more Dioceses; or (3) by the erection into a Diocese of an unorganized area evangelized as provided in Article VI. The proceedings shall originate in a Convocation of the Clergy and Laity of the unorganized area called by the Ecclesiastical Authority for that purpose; or, with the approval of the Ecclesiastical Authority, in the Convention of the Diocese to be divided; or (when it is proposed to form a new Diocese by the junction of two or more existing Dioceses) by mutual agreement of the Conventions of the Dioceses concerned, with the approval of the Ecclesiastical Authority of each Diocese. After consent of the General Convention, when a certified copy of the duly adopted Constitution of the new Diocese, including an unqualified accession to the Constitution and Canons of the Church, shall have been filed with the Secretary of the General Convention and approved by the Executive Council of this Church, such new Diocese shall thereupon be in union with the General Convention.

D008: Amend Article I.1

Resolved, That Article I, Section 1 of the Constitution is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1 There shall be a General Convention of this Church consisting of the House of Bishops and the House of Deputies, which Houses will sit, debate, and vote separately, unless otherwise provided for by this Constitution of the Canons. The Houses by majority vote of each House may call for the Houses to sit, debate, and vote, or any combination thereof, together. The General Convention may by Canon establish procedures for such sessions. In all deliberations freedom of debate shall be allowed. Either House may originate and propose legislation, and all acts of the Convention shall be adopted and be authenticated by both Houses.

Trustees:

David Olson

The mission of the Trustees is to enable faith communities to accomplish their missional goals by sustainably managing the assets of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota.

David Olson gave an update of the activities of the Trustees, including the sale of 1730 Clifton Place and the beginning of a search for a new location for the Bishop's office. He also reported on the Pooled Investment Fund (PIF), noting that it continues to out-perform the benchmark in a volatile market, and that more than 60% of the ECMN faith communities now belong to it.

Financial Statement of Mission:

John Dwyer, Treasurer

This is the second year of a three-year rolling budget. John Dwyer summarized aspects of the Financial Statement of Mission, as found in the narrative included in the Convention Business Booklet, and moved adoption.

PASSED

Election Results

Each order ratified the elections of the opposite order.

Standing Committee

Lay

Laura Bathke
Scott Smith

Clergy

Justin Chapman (*3-year term*)
Siri Hauge Hustad (*3-year term*)
Eileen Harvala (*2-year term*)
Thomas Cook (*1-year term*)

Commission on Ministry

Lay

Kate Maxwell

Clergy

Jim Young

Trustees

Tom Schaefer
Barbara Swan
Bill Van Oss

General Convention Deputies

Lay

Minnie Steele
Sally Johnson
Sue Grove
Matthew Corrough Brown

Clergy

Devon Anderson
Michael Pipkin
Rena Turnham
Justin Chapman

General Convention Alternates

Lay

Dean Hatleveg
David Holmberg
Sue Triebenbach

Clergy

James Wilson
John Dwyer
Dana Emery
Richard Swenson

The evening session concluded with a closing prayer and song from Valerie Tutson.

Convention Eucharist

- Officiant: The Rt. Rev. Brian N. Prior
- Preacher: The Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows
- Instrumentalists from Shattuck-St. Mary's
- The Convention Eucharist offering of \$4,265.88 will be distributed among the Standing Rock Citizens League, Internships for Students of Color at the Minnesota Capitol, and the Coalition to Increase Teachers of Color in Minnesota.

Following the Eucharist, all women clergy present gathered for a group photo in commemoration of 40th anniversary of the approval of the ordination of women.

BUSINESS SESSION

Ministry

Karen Olson, Missioner for Ministry

Karen Olson introduced the Strategic Initiative for Ministry, which is that **every faith community is fully living into the ministry of all the baptized, manifested in relationship with all four orders of ministry.**

Karen Olson gave a brief update of their ongoing work in identifying and grouping needs and then connecting these to the four orders of ministry.

Updates - How is God working through us?

School for Formation: Susan Daughtry (via recording)

A video on the School for Formation was shown. Attendees were invited to think about and discuss the following questions at their tables:

- What are you hungry for?
- How does that intersect with God's dream for the world?

ECMN camping: Sarah Barnett, Acting Missioner for Children, Youth and Camp; Fiona Ehling from Calvary, Rochester

Fiona Ehling spoke of her experience at Quest Camp, at which the campers had to stay extra time after floods washed out their access bridge. She spoke particularly about the ways that camp expanded her vision of God and helped strengthen her relationships with others. Attendees were invited to share and discuss the following at tables:

- How will you invite others to be curious or hungry?

Valerie Tutson led a singing prayer.

Transitions, clergy changes, milestones:

Karen Olson (chanted as a litany)

- **Faith Communities who have called new leadership this past year: Rector or Priest in Charge:**
Christ Church, Woodbury – Anna Doherty
Christ Church, Red Wing – Tristan English
- **Clergy received into the Episcopal Church in Minnesota by letters dimissory**
Tristan English
Anna Doherty
Christine Seaton
- **Ordained as Priests**

Cindi Brickson	Karen Polyard
Sherry Drysdale-Schruth	Mary Rowan
Cher Lor	Joyce Rush
Barbara Mathias	Peter Thor
Anna Ostenso Moore	Thomas Thao
Bao Moua	Beth Wanamaker
Jennifer McNally	Lisa Wiens Heinsohn
- **Ordained as Deacons**
Diane Elliott
Georgianna Smith
- **Ordained as Transitional Deacon**
Stephen Gheen
- **Ordained 30 years in the Episcopal Church: (ordained in 1986)**
Joe Hopwood
- **Deceased Clergy**

Jean McKinney	David Sams
Jeff Nelson	Irma Wyman

Bishop Prior concluded with a prayer for the departed.

Whipple Cross

Bishop Prior presented the Whipple Cross to the Rev. Susan Moss, noting her long-standing work on racial reconciliation.

Mission

Rachel Babbitt, Missioner for Community Engagement

Rachel Babbitt introduced the Strategic Initiative as it relates to Mission, that **every faith community has discerned their particular gifts and passions and have engaged with their neighbors to determine needs and potential partnerships.**

Amanda Ziebell Mawanda, Missioner for Mission and Steve Mullaney, Missioner for Young Adult and Campus Ministry gave brief updates on Young Adults and Campus Ministries, Mission Opportunity, and Missional Innovative Partnerships.

Amanda Ziebell Mawanda spoke of the Missional Assessment Process and missional partnership grants. She also spoke about the 2016 Mission Opportunity on Creation, and acknowledged members of the Earthkeepers and their work.

Steve noted that instead of asking “Where are the young adults in the church?” people should be asking, “Where is the church in the lives of young adults in your communities?” He spoke of a new initiative focused on learning where young people are going to college, so that churches near those colleges can connect with them.

The presentation concluded with a video on Episcopal Service Corps and the Circle of the Beloved.

Engaging God’s Mission of Racial Reconciliation

Valerie Tutson told a story in which she imagined an account of the baptism of Jesus from the perspective of a woman at the scene, who had no previous knowledge of John the Baptist or Jesus. She then invited people to discuss several questions at their tables:

- What frightens you about this invitation of engaging in racial reconciliation?
- Why does this work of reconciliation matter to us as Christians?

The morning session concluded with noonday worship.

LUNCH

The afternoon session began with a video from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry.

Listening and Telling Our Stories

Following an opening song, Valerie Tutson asked for words that came up in the morning discussions, and then asked participants to discuss the following questions:

1. Who is someone that for you, has modeled standing up and speaking or acting because of their Christian faith? What did they do?
2. When have you been called to stand up and speak or act because of your Christian faith? Did you act or didn't you?
3. Where are the spaces you feel we should be seeking invitation? Where are we being pulled or called?

Following each of these questions, she led the group in a reflection in which individuals called out a response to the following question.

Question 1:

- What kinds of people did you talk about?
- What was it like to be invited to remember?
- What was it like to tell your story?
- How did it feel for you to listen to the stories of others?
- Whose story is missing, and how can we make room?

Question 2:

- What happened as a result of your action, and how does that resonate in your being now?

Question 3:

- What are we being called to do?
- Where do you feel a pull and call, and where do you see your faith community pulled or called?

Following these discussions, the missionaries distributed “tool kit” materials to each table, noting that this was just the beginning of a year’s worth of resources and materials.

Bishop Prior thanked the following:

- Valerie Tutson for inviting us into telling our stories and Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows for preaching
- Our musicians from Shattuck St. Mary’s
- Our liturgical planners: Devon Anderson, Justin Chapman, Bao Moua, Colin Maltbie, Susan Daughtry, Coke Smith
- Susan Barksdale for recording the written record
- Team of Missioners and excellent volunteers

The 160th Convention of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota will be held on September 15-16, 2017, in Duluth.

Convention was adjourned following final worship.