

REPORT OF THE 161ST CONVENTION
OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN MINNESOTA

SEPTEMBER 14-15, 2018
VERIZON CENTER
MANKATO, MINNESOTA

**Engaging God's Mission of the Beloved Community:
Responding to the Spirit's Invitation**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Welcome and "Dinner Church"

Following opening music from Convention musicians Conie Borchardt, Chad Smith, Wendy Smith, Liam Smith, and David Burke, Bishop Prior welcomed all to Convention, and introduced Jennifer McNally and Conie Borchardt of table 229 to set the context for the "dinner church" evening of conversation and Communion. Attendees sat at tables with others from their own mission areas throughout Convention.

The dinner church consisted of a welcome; candle lighting at tables; a Gospel reading; a talk by Josh Xiong, a young person from Holy Apostles, St. Paul; a supper of soup, bread, and salad; modified Gospel-based discipleship conversations at the tables, Communion at the tables; and the sharing of the Peace. The evening's offering of \$2,411.33 was designated for Bishop Whipple Mission in Morton, which had sustained a partial wall collapse earlier in the week.

Address: Nedgine Paul Deroly

Bishop Prior introduced the next speaker, Nedgine Paul Deroly, of Anseye Pou Ayiti ("Teach for All"), an organization of Haitian civic leaders modeling transformational leadership and advocating for excellence in education for all children. She described the work of her organization in Haiti, noting that it is working to equip a new generation of Haitians who are the products of the system that want to dismantle. In asking attendees to indicate whether they had shared their own stories with their communities, she noted that the outward work we do will not work if the inward work has not been done. We must come to the table, she added, knowing who we are and what we have to offer.

The evening concluded with a social time and refreshments in the Resource Fair.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Attendees regathered at tables with others from their own mission areas. The day began with Morning Prayer, led by youth, followed by a "Covenants of Presence" video.

Address: Nedgine Paul Deroly

Nedgine spoke of what the Beloved Community looks like when it actually comes together and what tools it uses, giving examples of the work of Anseye Pou Ayiti in Haiti. She emphasized the need to prioritize community, to listen and work alongside others rather than imposing, to pay attention to history past and ongoing, to be careful of the language we use (e.g.: we vs. I, leverage vs. fix, stand with vs. help, serve vs.

lead), remain human-centered rather than automated; and acknowledge that those closest to the problem are closest to solution, so that we should get out of their way and be allies. She added that the Episcopal Church is uniquely positioned to stand for excellence, equity, and justice.

BUSINESS SESSION: Management Focus

Bishop Prior introduced others at the head table.

- Karen Olson – Secretary
- Doug Franzen – Chancellor
- Mark Kelm – Parliamentarian
- Jennifer Ricardo – New Missioner for the Bishop

Credentials Report: Lizanne Geno

One bishop, 129 out of a possible 222 lay delegates, 99 out of a possible 327 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 161st Convention of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota to order.

Basic Concepts of Parliamentary Procedure: Mark Kelm, Parliamentarian

Adoption of Standing Rules of Order: Moved by Chris Beebe

ADOPTED

Adoption of Convention Agenda: Moved by Jerry Stump

ADOPTED

Privileges for non-delegates: Moved by Dawnlynn Greeney

That Convention provide seat to all visitors; seat and voice for clergy not canonically resident; and seat, voice and vote for ELCA clergy serving ECMN faith communities

MOTION CARRIED

Consent 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)

Mr. Tom Schaefer

Chancellors (Canon 306.1)

Chancellor – Mr. Doug Franzen

Vice Chancellors – Mr. Todd Andrews, Ms. Rebecca Bernhard, Mr. Robert Butterbrodt,

Mr. Christopher Bowman, Ms. Laura McKnight, Mr. Robert Straughn

Disciplinary Board (Canon 405(d))

For a three-year term ending at 2021 Convention

The Rev. Justin Chapman, Ms. Kathy Smith, Ms. Audrey Splinter, The Rev. Bill Van Oss,
The Rev. Chip Whitacre

For a two-year term due to a vacancy, ending at 2020 Convention

The Rev. Mark Kelm

Commission on Ministry (Canon 113.5.a)

Chair – The Rev. Anna Doherty

Provincial Convention (Canon 217.1)

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

CONSENT CALENDAR ADOPTED

Revisions to Standing Rules of Order

Moved by Doug Franzen, on behalf of the Constitution and Canons Committee

APPROVED

Nominations Report and First Ballot

The nominations were read by Karen Olson, Secretary of Convention.

- For Standing Committee in the Lay Order (*electing 2 people for three-year terms*)
Matthew Nelson
Rich Simons
- For Standing Committee in the Clergy Order (*electing 2 people for three-year terms*)
Devon Anderson
Rob Cavanna
Matthew Cobb
Tom Cook
Blair Pogue
James Zotalis
- For Commission on Ministry in the Lay order (*electing 1 person for a three-year term*)
Julia Joyce Domenick
- For Commission on Ministry in the Clergy order (*electing 1 person for a three-year term*)
Cindi Brickson
Julie Luna
- For Trustees (*electing 3 people, clergy or lay, for a three-year term*)
John Bahnemann
Morris Goodwin, Jr.
David Holmberg
Beth Royalty
PJ Voysey

As there were no nominations from the floor, it was moved and seconded to close nominations; **PASSED**
The first ballot was taken.

2019 Financial Statement of Mission

Treasurer Tom Schaefer introduced the 2019 Financial Statement of Mission, noting that it was missional, balanced, stable, and transparent; and gave supporting details. In response to a question from the floor, he explained that the large interest payment from the Trustees in 2018 was a one-time item to help with the move to the new Episcopal Center building. Tom moved adoption of the Financial Statement of Mission.

ADOPTED

Report of the ECMN Trustees: Morris Goodwin

Morris reported on the activities of the Trustees for the past year, including the Episcopal Center move, real estate work, transfer of properties, and repairs. He noted that the Trustees had completed or made solid progress against all but two of its goals. The Pooled Investment Fund (PIF) continued to outperform benchmarks despite a continuing volatile market, and its fee structure has been lowered. The Trustees are currently investigating the need for any restructuring of investments in light of such issues as climate change, gender equity, etc.

Constitutional Amendments

Chancellor Doug Franzen moved adoption of proposed changes to the ECMN Constitution. These were terminology changes to the Preamble and Articles 1-9 (replacing Diocese of Minnesota with Episcopal Church in Minnesota). This was a first reading; the amendments will be presented at the 2019 for a second and final reading. Voting was by orders.

PASSED IN BOTH ORDERS

Canonical Changes

Chancellor Doug Franzen moved adoption of Non-substantive revisions to Canons 203-216, primarily replacing “Diocese of Minnesota” with “Episcopal Church in Minnesota” and rewording some sections for clarity. Voting was by orders.

PASSED IN BOTH ORDERS

Resolution

Chancellor Doug Franzen moved approval of a resolution that amended Canon 217.2a to read: “No person shall serve more than 3 consecutive terms as a deputy or alternate to General Convention. A break must be taken after serving the 3rd term.” The rationale for this resolution was that such a rotation would offer an opportunity for more congregants the experience of serving as a Deputy to General Convention, leading to greater diversity; i.e. small, rural and large urban, differing ethnic populations etc.

Discussion included concern about equity in the deputation; that long-serving deputies might feel entitlement; the need for experienced deputies for effective service at General Convention; the importance of seniority in assignments to commissions and the respect that Minnesota enjoys in the wider church because of its participation in these commissions and on other issues; the facts that the 2018 deputation already included a majority of new deputies, including several persons of color; and that it was important to strive for inclusivity and diversity but by a method other than term limits.

Voting was by orders.

DEFEATED IN BOTH ORDERS

BREAK

Elections

The following election results were announced.

Standing Committee

Lay

Matthew Nelson
Rich Simons

Clergy

Devon Anderson
Blair Pogue

Commission on Ministry

Lay

Julia Joyce Domenick

Clergy

Julie Luna

Trustees

Morris Goodwin, Jr.
David Holmberg
Beth Royalty

The clergy order ratified the lay order's elections for Standing Committee, and the lay order ratified the clergy order's elections for Standing Committee.

Transitions

The names of clergy who have been canonically received, ordained, have had anniversaries or who have died this past year had been incorporated into the intercessions in Morning Prayer, and are inserted here.

- **Faith Communities that have called new leadership this past year**
 - Chris Beebe – St. John's, Mankato
 - Lisa Wiens-Heinsohn – St. John's, Minneapolis
 - Mary Marotte – Trinity, Park Rapids
- **Clergy received into the Episcopal Church in Minnesota by letters dimissory**

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|----------------|--------------|
| Chris Beebe | Brad Hauff |
| Jason Cutshall | Jeffrey Hupf |
- **Ordained as Priests**

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|-----------------|---------------------|
| Jennifer Allred | Peggy Schnack |
| Jason Cutshall | Tom Sinning |
| Tim Kingsley | Jon Spinillo-Grzywa |
| Julie Luna | John Sullivan |
- **Ordained as Transitional Deacons**
 - Amelia Arthur
 - Bill Butcher
 - Frank Whitman
- **Ordained as Vocational Deacons**
 - Patricia Benson
- **Restored to Ordained Ministry as Priest**
 - Larry Bussey
- **Ordained 30 years as priests or vocational deacons in the Episcopal Church (*ordained in 1988*)**
 - Bob Gunkle (deacon)
- **Consecrated as Bishop 25 years ago**
 - Jim Jelinek
- **Faith Communities that have closed**

Trinity, Hinckley
St. Andrew's Cloquet
Holy Trinity, Luverne

- **Deceased Clergy**

Art Becker
Phil Clark
Jay Hanson
Paul Onkka

Paul Shaffer
Claudia Windal
Grant Robinson

Ministry Updates (Management focus)

A video was shown including footage of the move into the new office building, plus short segments from each missionary with explanations of what work that person did in the Episcopal Church in Minnesota. The new part-time Missioner for Evangelism, Marcus Halley (also rector of St. Paul's, Minneapolis), was introduced.

General Convention Report

A video was shown with comments from deputies to the 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, held July 2018 in Austin, Texas. The Rev. Devon Anderson also gave a verbal report, and encouraged attendees to invite a deputy to gatherings in their faith communities. Members of the Minnesota deputation are listed below. Those in attendance at Convention were: David Holmberg, Sue Triebenbach, Minnie Steele, Sally Johnson, and the Revs. Devon Anderson, Michael Pipkin, Rena Turnham, and James Wilson.

Bishop Prior added his appreciation to the work of the Minnesota deputation, and noted that our new deputation would be elected at the 2019 ECMN Convention.

2018 General Convention Deputies

Lay

Minnie Steele
Sally Johnson
Sue Grove
David Holmberg

Clergy

Devon Anderson
Michael Pipkin
Rena Turnham
James Wilson

General Convention Alternates

Lay

Sue Triebenbach

Clergy

Dana Emery
Richard Swenson

Safe Church Update: Sarah Barnett

Work is underway on a new Best Practices policy for Safe Church, including online training for renewal of Safe Church certification.

Youth Commission Update: Sarah Barnett

A video was shown on the various youth camps and retreats. It was noted that 436 youth attended a camp or retreat this past year. 25 members of the Youth Commission were in attendance at Convention. Sarah passed on comments from youth on why they go to events, adding that some new camps are the result for things they had asked for. Youth Commission members brought up a prayer chain representing hundreds of young people who have gone to the camps. Youth Commission members not holding the chain shared thoughts on each one's most moving moment in their own faith journeys; all youth were thanked with a standing ovation.

Sarah noted that the Bishop Prior Scholarship fund for camps came from a gift given to Council, and is an endowed fund. Bishop Prior added his gratitude.

Episcopal Church Formation Opportunities: Bronwyn Skov, Director for Formation, Youth and Young Adult Ministries with the Episcopal Church

Bronwyn related some moving recollections of her own formation. She showed a "peace coin," which acknowledges those who are peacemakers (active) rather than peacekeepers (passive). She had given a peace coin to each of the youth the previous night, hoping that they might see someone being a peacemaker and pass the coin on to that person. She noted that there is power in the tokens we have, and that this was a transformational body. Bronwyn concluded by thanking everyone, and encouraged attendees to turn to someone next to them and thank them as well.

Presentation of Whipple Cross

Bishop Prior noted "what a blessing Bronwyn has been to us and to the Episcopal Church" and then presented her with the Whipple Cross.

LUNCH

Mission Focus

Sheltering Arms video

A video presentation was shown from Sheltering Arms, an affiliate of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota. It included testimonials from people representing various organizations that have received grants from Sheltering Arms. Bishop Prior noted that Sheltering Arms also makes grants to local faith communities.

Address: The Rev. Dr. Curtiss De Young, CEO of the Minnesota Council of Churches

Bishop Prior introduced the Rev. Dr. Curtiss De Young, an ordained minister in the Church of God, a member of the United Methodist Church, and an author and editor of eleven books on reconciliation, interfaith social justice, activism, racism, and cultural diversity.

Curtiss shared some of his own spiritual journey, detailing his transformational experiences in ministry in an African-American church in Harlem. He had arrived there when seeking a church of his own denomination (Church of God) and remained there for a year, serving as an apprentice to the pastor and becoming transformed in the process. He added his belief that Jesus' time in Samaria was also transformative, and concluded by encouraging all to say "Yes" to the call but also to say "Yes" to the long-lived spiritual work to know truth in the Beloved Community.

Afternoon Workshops

Rachel Babbitt introduced the afternoon's workshop opportunities.

- Episcopal Asset Map - Tamara Plummer
- Transaction vs Transformational Partnerships - Nedgine Paul Deroly
- Discerning Gifts - Karen Olson
- City House Listening as Engagement - Meg Mannix, Joyce Finch
- Forum on Race - Leadership Team from Holy Trinity, St. Paul
- Scripture and Beloved Community - Curtiss De Young

Closing of Convention and Sending

Convention attendees regathered following the workshop time. Rachel Babbitt asked them to reflect and list two action steps on how they could take what they had learned and bring it home to their own faith communities, and also to share what they learned from the workshop time. Finally, she asked them to fill out the sheets on the tables listing their faith communities and key contacts there, and to leave those sheets on the tables for pickup by the missionaries.

Bishop Prior thanked the following for their contributions to Convention:

- Nedgine, Curtiss, and Bronwyn for sharing their stories and wisdom
- Musicians Conie Borchardt, Chad Smith, Wendy Smith, Liam Smith, and David Burke
- The Southwest Minnesota Mission Area team and all of the mission area's faith communities
- Volunteers from St. John's, Mankato and Holy Communion, St. Peter and all of the Southwest Minnesota Mission Area
- Susan Barksdale, for recording the written record
- Team of Missioners

The 162nd Convention of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota will be held on September 13-14, 2019 in Bloomington.

The 161st Convention of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota was adjourned by Bishop Prior with prayer and concluded with singing.

Karen Olson, Secretary of Convention
Report prepared by Susan Barksdale