

## **RECORD OF THE SPECIAL ELECTING CONVENTION**

### **The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh of the Episcopal Church in the United States A.D. June 26, 2021**

The Special Electing Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh of The Episcopal Church in the United States (the “Diocese”) convened online, via Zoom and VPoll, on Saturday, June 26, 2021 from Trinity Cathedral, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Registration of Convention Deputies began at 8:00 am. in order for the necessary certifications to be completed.

At 9:30 am, The Right Rev. Dorsey W. M. McConnell (the “Bishop”) called the Convention to order, extended a welcome to all deputies, and offered an opening prayer. He reminded deputies to remain logged in to both Zoom and VPoll throughout the entirety of the Convention. He then invited the Dean of Trinity Cathedral, the Very Rev. Aidan Smith, to offer a welcome.

Following the Dean’s welcome, the Bishop recognized the following office holders:

Secretary to Convention: The Rev. Canon James D. Shoucair  
Parliamentarian: Mr. Jamie McMahon  
Judge of Elections: Mr. Jon Delano  
Chaplain: The Rev. Don Youse  
Convention Manager: The Rev. Bonnie-Marie Yager-Wiggan

The Bishop then called upon the Convention Manager to outline certain logistical and technological procedures to be followed by the deputies.

Following her presentation, the Bishop called upon Mr. Andrew Muhl to introduce an instructional video outlining the use of the VPoll voting software and Zoom Poll features.

At the conclusion of the video, the Bishop called upon the Secretary to Convention to report on quorum and to call the roll of deputies and parishes.

The Secretary reported that there were eighty-six (86) lay deputies present whose credentials had been received before the Convention. He also reported that there were fifty-five (55) clergy of regular standing present who duly affirmed that they had been canonically and physically resident in the Diocese for the past six months. This brought the total deputies present to one hundred and forty-one (141), which constituted a quorum for the transaction of business at the Convention. He also noted that this initial declared quorum was necessary for the proper organization of the Convention but that a fresh quorum would also be established in connection with each ballot based on the number of deputies present and voting at the time of such ballot and that the Judge of Elections

would provide further details as part of his instructions. He also announced that the Convention would dispense with a formal roll call and, accordingly, he certified the roll of deputies and parishes. He indicated that based on the initial quorum, the necessary two-thirds of qualified clergy and lay deputies from active parishes were present in order to need only a simple majority of those voting in each order to elect a bishop on the same ballot.

The Bishop then recognized the Chair of Diocesan Council, Ms. Kathy Baird, who, on behalf of Diocesan Council, moved the adoption of the Standard Rules of Order of the Diocese and the Convention Agenda, both of which had been provided to deputies prior to Convention. The motion was passed by Convention via Zoom Poll.

Ms. Baird then moved an amendment to the Rules of Order, as follows:

WHEREAS, on April 13, 2021, Diocesan Council modified the Rules of Order to permit this electing convention to substitute a service of Morning Prayer for a celebration of the Eucharist; and

WHEREAS, on June 8, 2021, Diocesan Council approved a motion to modify the Rules of Order for the Presentation of the Slate in order to enable the bishop to call upon the Standing Committee to present to the Special Convention, in order chosen by lot, the names of all candidates, including those nominated by petition.

RESOLVED, therefore, that this Convention does hereby ratify and approve such modifications to the Rules of Order at this online Special Convention.

The resolution passed by vote of Convention via Zoom Poll.

Ms. Baird then moved the following on behalf of Diocesan Council:

WHEREAS, at its meeting on June 8, 2021, Diocesan Council recognized the need for an Assistant to the Secretary of Convention for the purposes of the Special Convention to Elect the 9<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Pittsburgh, who, in the event the Secretary of Convention is required to be temporarily absent, will faithfully assist the Secretary in the performance by the Secretary of the duties of the office:

RESOLVED, therefore, that on behalf of Diocesan Council I nominate the Reverend Brandon Cooper to be elected as such Assistant to the Secretary of Convention.

The resolution was passed by vote of Convention taken via Zoom Poll.

The Bishop then recognized by name and thanked the members of the Nominating Committee and Transition Committee for their hard work. The members of such Committees are listed on Exhibit A. The Bishop then called upon the President of the Standing Committee, the Rev. Noah Evans, to present the slate of nominees for Bishop,

who did so in the order determined by way of a random draw conducted by the Standing Committee, as follows:

The Rev. Dr. Ketlen A. Solak  
The Very Rev. Kim L. Coleman  
The Rev. Canon Scott A. Gunn  
The Rev. Jeffrey D. Murph  
The Rev. Diana Wilcox

Finally, the Bishop announced that after the election had occurred, a Testimonial of Election had to be signed by deputies in order to begin the confirmation process in the Episcopal Church. He requested that the Convention come to order when asked to do so in order to complete that important step.

After a short break, the Convention resumed with a service of Morning Prayer at which the Bishop delivered the sermon attached hereto as Exhibit B.

At the conclusion of Morning Prayer, the Bishop called upon The Judge of Elections to instruct the Convention on the manner of voting. In addition to logistical matters, Mr. Delano indicated that after the vote was taken, there would be a period of prayer and music until the results were announced. If the first ballot did not result in an election, then there would be a short break for reflection before the next ballot. Mr. Delano explained that this pattern would continue until a valid election occurred, namely by the presence of the requisite percentage of both lay and clergy deputy votes for the same nominee on the same ballot. The Convention then proceeded to the first ballot.

After the tabulation of the first ballot was complete, Mr. Delano announced the results as follows:

**Results By: Clergy**

Number present and voting: 54  
Number of votes to be elected: 28

<u>Elected</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Number of Votes</u>	<u>Percent of Votes</u>
	The Rev. Dr. Ketlen A. Solak	15	27.78%
	The Rev. Jeffrey D. Murph	14	25.93%
	The Rev. Canon Scott A. Gunn	13	24.07%
	The Rev. Diana L. Wilcox	7	12.96%
	The Very Rev. Kim L. Coleman	5	9.26%

**Results By: Lay**

Number present and voting: 87  
Number of votes to be elected: 44

<u>Elected</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Number of Votes</u>	<u>Percent of Votes</u>
	The Rev. Canon Scott A. Gunn	25	28.74%

The Rev. Dr. Ketlen A. Solak	23	26.44%
The Rev. Diana L. Wilcox	21	24.14%
The Very Rev. Kim L. Coleman	9	10.34%
The Rev. Jeffrey D. Murph	9	10.34%

There being no election, there followed a two-minute break, after which the Rev. Don Youse led the Convention in a prayer. Following the prayer, the Convention proceeded to the second ballot. After the tabulation of these ballots was complete, Mr. Delano announced the results as follows:

**Results By: Clergy**

Number present and voting: 55

Number of votes to be elected: 28

<u>Elected</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Number of Votes</u>	<u>Percent of Votes</u>
	The Rev. Dr. Ketlen A. Solak	23	41.82%
	The Rev. Canon Scott A. Gunn	16	29.09%
	The Rev. Jeffrey D. Murph	12	21.82%
	The Rev. Diana L. Wilcox	3	5.45%
	The Very Rev. Kim L. Coleman	1	1.82%

**Results By: Lay**

Number present and voting: 85

Number of votes to be elected: 43

<u>Elected</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Number of Votes</u>	<u>Percent of Votes</u>
	The Rev. Dr. Ketlen A. Solak	34	40.00%
	The Rev. Canon Scott A. Gunn	27	31.76%
	The Rev. Diana L. Wilcox	16	18.82%
	The Rev. Jeffrey D. Murph	7	8.24%
	The Very Rev. Kim L. Coleman	1	1.18%

Mr. Delano also announced that following the second ballot, the Rev. Jeffrey D. Murph and the Very Rev. Kim Coleman had withdrawn their names from further consideration as nominees for bishop.

There being no election following the second ballot, there followed a two-minute break, after which the Rev. Don Youse led the Convention in a prayer. Following the prayer, the Convention proceeded to the third ballot.

After the tabulation of these ballots was complete, the Bishop announced that on the third ballot, the Convention had elected the Rev. Dr. Ketlen A. Solak as the ninth bishop of Pittsburgh, that he had spoken to the bishop-elect and that she had accepted.

Mr. Delano then reported the results of the third and final ballot as follows:

**Results By: Clergy**

Number present and voting: 54

Number of votes to be elected: 28

<u>Elected</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Number of Votes</u>	<u>Percent of Votes</u>
Yes	The Rev. Dr. Ketlen A. Solak	30	55.56%
	The Rev. Canon Scott A. Gunn	21	38.89%
	The Rev. Diana L. Wilcox	3	5.56%

**Results By: Lay**

Number present and voting: 87

Number of votes to be elected: 44

<u>Elected</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Number of Votes</u>	<u>Percent of Votes</u>
Yes	The Rev. Dr. Ketlen A. Solak	46	52.87%
	The Rev. Canon Scott A. Gunn	32	36.78%
	The Rev. Diana L. Wilcox	9	10.34%

After Mr. Delano's announcement, the Bishop then instructed the deputies to check their emails and Zoom chat box to find, complete and return the testimonial of election. He indicated that the election process would not be complete until at least a majority of deputies had completed and returned the testimonial.

A majority of testimonials being received, the Bishop called on the Rev. Don Youse to lead the Convention in prayer, after which the Convention enjoyed a prerecorded video of the Cathedral bells and sang a concluding hymn.

The Bishop then introduced the bishop-elect who shared brief remarks and thanks with the Convention via Zoom, which are attached as Exhibit C.

Following a blessing, the electing convention was duly adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Canon James D. Shoucair  
Secretary to Convention

## **EXHIBIT A**

### **THE BISHOP NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Mr. Michael Braxton, Chair  
Ms. Shahnaz Alam-Denlinger  
The Rev. Nancy Chalfant-Walker  
The Rev. Laura Di Panfilo  
Ms. Elizabeth Gassler  
The Rev. William Geiger  
Mr. Kevin Hipolit  
Mr. Joseph M. Macklin II  
Mr. Richard Peden  
The Rev. Canon James Shoucair  
The Very Rev. Aidan Smith  
Ms. Gloria Trevino-Frye  
Ms. Daryl Walker  
The Rev. Linda Tardy Wilson  
The Rev. Don Youse, M.D., Chaplain

### **THE TRANSITION COMMITTEE**

Mr. Jon Delano, Chair  
Ms. Florence Atwood, Vice-Chair  
The Rev. Canon Dr. Cathy Brall  
Mr. Gerald (Gerry) Dalton  
Ms. D. Maximillion Elliott-Quinerly  
Ms. Kathy Farrington  
Mr. Thomas Moore  
Mr. Eric O'Brien  
Ms. Mary Ann Slater  
The Rev. Dr. Julie Smith  
The Rev. Luke Zerra  
Dr. George Zitnay  
The Rev. Don Youse, M.D., Chaplain

## **EXHIBIT B**

### **Bishop's Sermon Special Electing Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh June 26, 2021**

*A transcript of the sermon delivered during Morning Prayer by the Right Reverend Dorsey W.M. McConnell, VIII Bishop of Pittsburgh:*

Text: 1 Corinthians 12: 4-27

*Now you are the body of Christ and individually members thereof.*

There is something about the way Paul writes to the Corinthians that makes me think that they, among all his warring children, are his favorites. The Philippians, he obviously loves, but they're almost too easy. The Church in Galatia nearly causes him despair, while the Christians in Thessalonica hold the place of the "first-born" in his heart. But nobody draws out all that Paul has in his heart and soul like the Church in Corinth. They're not an easy bunch, these Corinthians: they are cantankerous, proud, and gossipy. They are quick to accuse one another of terrible things, and slow to repent of their own failings. Some of them believe they are spiritually far superior to others who "just don't get it." And there is no sign that any of the letters Paul writes to them ever makes a difference in their behavior. But that doesn't stop him from trying, for the simple reason that he loves them. And he tries everything. He pleads, he harangues, he cajoles. One moment he is reading them the riot act, and the next he is singing them a love song. To bring them back into the right way, Paul tries image after image, metaphor upon metaphor, and none more startling or beautiful than this one we have just heard, about who they are – who we are – as the Body of Christ.

Paul knows that a lot of these folks have come to a point in their disagreements that they almost despise one another. So when he begins his argument by saying that no matter what they think of each other, they can no more do without each other, than the eye can do without the ear, or the hand without the foot – well, as my father's people in Arkansas would say, *them's fighting words*. But the apostle doesn't care. He digs deeper, and he goes lower. He says, in fact, they may think that some other Christians are so beneath contempt that they must be likened to the body's "unpresentable parts." Most of us learn by eighth grade that the English language is rich in vocabulary for "unpresentable parts," but I promise you nothing surpasses Greek if you're looking for earthy insults. Paul knows what they are saying about each other, and he knows they are treating each other accordingly. And his conclusion is shocking. The ones you consider "unpresentable," he declares, whom you judge to be wrong, contemptible, beyond the pale, these are the very ones you must love the more, because it is they, quite possibly, who hold the key to your salvation. You cannot get rid of them, and you cannot get away from them, because Jesus holds them and you together in his one heart.

This message is as uncomfortable for us today as it was for the Church in Corinth. We love being right and we generally think we are. So to hear that, in regard to our own righteousness, we are almost always wrong, is tough to accept, as is the notion that we utterly depend on each other to get us all to come together before the throne of grace. I don't fall on my knees willingly; I often need someone else to tell me it is time to pray, time to confess, time to repent, high time to love the other as Christ has loved me, and the person most likely to tell me all that may not be the one I would choose to invite to dinner, but they are the one with whom I must share the table of the Lord, if I am ever truly to know Christ who feeds us all with his own Body and Blood.

The election of a bishop always stirs strong passions, and certainly that has always been true here in Pittsburgh. It is only natural that such deep convictions can fray the bonds of love that bind us together. There is nothing new here, my beloved: it was ever thus, the same today in western Pennsylvania as in Corinth so many years ago. Paul's letter could just as well be written to us. When he prays that *there be no discord in the body*, he is not under any illusion. He knows there will always be divisions among the members of the Body of Christ. The question is what fills the space between? Is the space between us filled with fear, mistrust, and ill will? Or is it filled with the love of Christ, who gave himself for us, that we might be one with him and with each other? That is the question always before the Church, but especially when we gather in worship, and to conduct solemn business as we gather today. So, as we carry out the election of your new bishop, please hold in your hearts a few words from your old one.

First, let us soak this day in prayer, constantly inviting the Holy Spirit to guide us in what we do.

Second, as the ballots unfold, continue to be guided by the Spirit, even if it means changing your mind.

Third, let us hear the word that God is speaking to us through each of the candidates, and through all of them together. Each of them is making a sacrificial offering of their lives and witness for us, for you. None of them is standing for themselves. They are standing for you, for Christ. They have spoken a great deal to us. Let us listen to them, and honor them accordingly.

Finally, when you have a new bishop, love them. Help them succeed. In order to do that, first and foremost, love one another, as Christ loves you. As impossible as it seems, the Lord Jesus will give you the grace you need to do so, and as you do so, rejoice with your bishop and work together for all that will become possible, through the gifts and the fruit of the Spirit. For *you are the body of Christ, and individually members thereof*. And nothing, not even the gates of Hell, can prevail against the mystery of this love, which the world needs now more than ever. Confident that God will give us all that we ask of him, we ask it boldly, in the name of our Lord Jesus, crucified and risen and coming again. Amen.



## **EXHIBIT C**

### **Bishop-elect's Remarks Special Electing Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh June 26, 2021**

*A transcript of the remarks made to by the Reverend Dr. Ketlen A. Solak moments after voting deputies signed testimonials certifying her election as the IX Bishop of Pittsburgh.*

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

I am deeply moved. God has done this. With God's help you have discerned and elected a new bishop, and I am humbled by the honor of the one being chosen. I am excited and I look forward to working side-by-side with you very soon. Thank you for opportunity to walk with you on this great journey of faith.

The desire of my heart is for us to embrace more fully together the call to mission given to us by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The future of your diocese, which is soon to become *our* diocese, is bright. The potential for expanded mission and growth is enormous.

It's been a privilege to participate in the search process with so many faithful and gifted servants of God, especially Diana, Kim, Scott and Jeff. Thank you to Michael Braxton and all the members of the Nominating Committee. Thank you Jon Delano, Florence Atwood and all the members of the Transition Committee. Thank you to Shahnaz and Pat who respectively served as my shepherds during the search and Meet and Greet Week. Thank you, Father Don Youse, for keeping us grounded. Thank you, all, for your gracious hospitality.

My heart is also grateful to my family, especially to my partner and spouse, Scott, and to all my friends, my BCM parishioners, and my colleagues for their support, prayers and love.

What a glorious day in the life of the Diocese of Pittsburgh. This is a time to rejoice and give thanks to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is time to rejoice and give glory to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I am looking forward to becoming a Pittsburgher for Jesus!

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. And may God continue to richly bless each one of you now and always. Thank you.