

RECORD OF THE 2021 ANNUAL CONVENTION

Minutes of the 156th Annual Convention (Unapproved)

The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh of the Episcopal Church in the United States
A.D. October 16, 2021

The 156th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh of The Episcopal Church in the United States (the “Diocese”) convened online on Saturday, October 16, 2021, at Trinity Cathedral, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Online registration of Convention Deputies began at 7:30 a.m. in order for the necessary certifications to be completed.

The Convention commenced at 8:30 a.m. The Reverend Canon James Shoucair, Secretary to the last Convention of the Diocese, called the Convention to order and following his opening prayer, he asked the Very Rev. Aidan Smith, Dean of Trinity Cathedral, to lead a service of Morning Prayer. Bishop-elect Dr. Ketlen A. Solak delivered the homily. At the conclusion of the service, Canon Shoucair introduced The Rev. Bonnie-Marie Yager-Wiggan as Convention manager and asked her to outline the pertinent technological and logistical information necessary for the conduct of the online Convention.

Canon Shoucair then called on Mr. Andrew Muhl who provided a tutorial on voting procedures and practices to be used at the Convention.

Canon Shoucair then reported that there were seventy-four (74) lay deputies present whose credentials had been received before the Convention. He also reported that there were forty (40) clergy present who duly affirmed that they were of regular standing and canonically and physically present in the diocese for the past three months. This brought the total deputies present to one hundred (114), which constituted a quorum for the transaction of business. He also indicated that the Convention would dispense with a formal roll call and accordingly certified the roll of clergy entitled to seats as well as the lay deputies authorized to represent parishes entitled to representation at Convention.

Canon Shoucair then indicated that in the absence of a bishop, the Convention needed to elect a President Pro Tempore. He asked for nominations, whereupon Mr. Steve Stagnitta, on behalf of the Standing Committee, nominated the Rev. Noah Evans, with Ms. Lisa Brown seconding. There being no other nominations, Canon Shoucair asked for a vote to approve the Rev. Noah Evans, after which he declared him as President Pro Tempore.

The President then called upon The Rev. Dr. Moni McIntyre, who on behalf of Diocesan Council nominated the Rev. Canon James D. Shoucair as Secretary of Convention. There being no other nominations, the President called for a vote to approve the nominee. Canon Shoucair was duly elected via Zoom Poll. The Rev. McIntyre then nominated the Rev. Brandon Cooper as Assistant to the Secretary. There being no other nominations, The President called for a vote, whereupon Brandon Cooper was elected.

The President then moved the approval of the minutes of the 155th Annual Convention of the Diocese, as well as the minutes of the Special Convention for the election of a bishop, both found in the 2021 online preconvention journal which, motioned and seconded, was then duly approved and adopted by unanimous vote via Zoom poll.

The President then appointed Mr. Jamie McMahon as Parliamentarian for the Convention and Mr. Jon Delano as Judge of Elections.

The President then appointed Mr. Andy Roman, Mr. Andrew Muhl and Mr. Bruce Quayle to serve on the Committee of Claims of Lay Deputies to Seats; and The Rev. Canon James D. Shoucair, Mr. Andy Roman and Mr. Rich Creehan to serve on the Committee on Admission of Parishes into union with Convention. He also appointed the Rev. Bonnie-Marie Yager-Wiggan as Convention Manager.

On behalf of Diocesan Council, Mr. Delano then moved adoption of the Agenda as well as the standard Rules of Order and the Special Rule of Order to implement the Amendment to Article III Section 2, all as published online in the 2021 preconvention journal. The motion was passed unanimously by Zoom poll.

The President then called upon the Rev. William Geiger, President of the Constitution and Canons Committee, who, with the support of the Diocesan Chancellor, offered a second reading of a proposed amendment to Article III section 2 of the Diocesan Constitution -Members of Convention -published in the Preconvention journal. Following procedural issues raised by Dr. Joan Gundersen, The Rev. William Geiger moved a procedural motion to waive the two-week publication requirement, which motion was duly passed by voice vote of the Convention. The President then moved the main motion on the Amendment, which required a vote by orders.

While votes were being tabulated, The President recognized Ms. Martha Shelby, the Judge of Assessments, and asked her to give her report. Ms. Shelby reported that all parishes were in compliance with Diocesan canonical requirements.

The President then recognized Ms. Sheila Stagnitta, the Judge of Audits, who indicated that all parishes, except for one were in compliance with the canonical requirement on assessments and parochial reports for the year. She reported that St Michael's Wayne Township had not submitted a Parochial Report or audit, but had no deputies present at Convention.

Mr. Jon Delano then reported that the motion to amend the Constitution had passed: in the clergy order, 34 to 6 with 1 abstention; and in the lay order by 61 to 1 with 4 abstentions.

The President then invited motions pursuant to the newly amended Constitutional provision to allow Lutheran pastors to have seat, voice and vote at Conventions occurring during the period of their service to their congregations. Ms. Lisa Brown made such a motion for the Rev. Torrey Johnson, Church of the Holy Cross, which, duly seconded, was passed by Convention, 88 to 6 with no abstentions. Ms. Frances Dannenberg, Church of the Redeemer, made the same motion on behalf of the Rev. Natalie Hall, again effective during the period of her service to the Church of the Redeemer, Squirrel Hill. After a question from the Rev. Bill Geiger regarding the Rev.

Hall's eligibility, which was addressed and answered by Diocesan Chancellor Mr. Andy Roman, the motion passed by vote of 99 to 9, with 10 abstentions.

The President then called on Mr. Jon Delano for his report on behalf of the Transition Committee. Mr. Delano thanked all the members of the Committee for all of their hard work. He announced that on November 13, 2022, our bishop-elect would be consecrated at Calvary Church in Shadyside. He then outlined the mechanics and safety protocols required of those wishing to attend. He also noted that on the next day, November 14, our new bishop would be seated at Trinity Cathedral and that all were invited.

The President then called upon Ms. Joyce Donadee for her report on behalf of the Nominating Committee. Ms. Donadee addressed the Convention saying "We present the slate of nominations that have been published in the Preconvention Journal, Section D. Please note that Catherine Davidson has withdrawn her nomination for the Committee on Constitution and Canons, and the electronic ballot that will soon be distributed reflects this change. No other nominations have been made through the process allowed for by our standard Rules of Order B.3, so I move that nominations be closed."

The Rev. Shawn Malarkey then notified the Convention that he was withdrawing as a nominee for the Commission on Ministry. After further discussion pertaining to the importance of having wide diocesan representation in the offices of the Diocese, the President called for vote on the motion, which passed 107 to 2 with 4 abstentions.

The President then called upon Ms. Joyce Donadee, who moved that pursuant to the Rules of Order B.2, the Secretary cast a unanimous vote of Convention for uncontested elections, namely Cathedral Chapter, Growth Fund, clergy position on Standing Committee and clergy position on Constitution and Canons.

The motion passed by vote of 109 to 3 with 6 abstentions.

The President then invited Mr. Jon Delano to instruct the Convention on voting in the contested elections. Voting then proceeded.

While awaiting results of the vote, The President called on Ms. Kathi Workman, Diocesan Treasurer, to present the proposed budget for 2022. Following Ms. Workman's report and a motion for approval and discussion, the budget was approved by Convention via Zoom Poll.

The President then called upon Mr. James Neral to present a report from the Diocesan Compensation Committee, which this year included safe church practices. Following his report, Mr. Neral moved the adoption of the revised Compensation Guide, as set forth in the preconvention journal. The motion was approved by Convention via Zoom Poll, 108 to 0 with 6 abstentions.

The President then asked Mr. Delano to report on the results of the contested elections, which he did, as follows:

For the Board of Trustees (two to be elected):

Ms. Jane C. Burger
Mr. Gerald W. Dalton

For the Commission on Ministry (one clergy to be elected):

The Rev. Daniel Isadore

For the Committee on Constitution and Canons (one lay to be elected):

Dr. Joan Gundersen

For the Standing Committee (one lay to be elected):

Ms. Florence Atwood

The President then asked the Rev. Kim Karashin to instruct the Convention on the specifics of separating into Zoom breakout rooms for District meetings and elections.

After District meetings, The President called on the Rev. Dr. Moni McIntyre, Vice-President of Diocesan Council, who moved the following resolutions, all as published in the 2021 Preconvention Journal. The Convention passed each resolution by way of a Zoom Poll.

Resolution 1:

Resolution to include the name Barbara Clementine Harris in the Lesser Feasts and Fasts Calendar. During the discussion of this resolution, Dr. Joan Gundersen, while celebrating the future addition of Bishop Barbara Harris to Lesser Feasts and Fasts, expressed her concern with respect to the speed with which her addition was being sought. Deacon Linda Wilson indicated that precedent had already been set in another case. Passed 83 to 24, with 7 abstentions.

Resolution 2:

to direct the removal of the name the Rev. William Porcher Dubose from the Lesser Feasts and Fasts Calendar. Passed 66 to 20, with 27 abstentions.

Resolution 3:

Resolution to address the Issue of Voter Suppression. Passed 85 to 15 with 8 abstentions.

Resolution 4:

Climate Action Resolution. Passed 89 to 11, with 13 abstentions.

The President then called on Mr. Jon Delano to report on the results of District Elections, which he did as follows:

District 1:

Chair: Ms. Maximillion Elliott; Vice-Chair: Mr. Bruce Quayle

District 2:

Chair: Dr. Wesley Rohrer, Vice Chair: Mr. Don Block; Board of Trustees: Mr. Jim Cassaro

District 3:

Chair: Ms. Lisa Brown; Vice Chair: The Rev. Dr. Teresa Hunt; Diocesan Council: Ms. Constance Davis

District 4:

Chair: Dr. Lionel Deimel; Vice-Chair: The Rev. William Carpenter

The President then announced that the 157th Diocesan Convention would be held on November 12-13, 2022, at a place to be determined. He then offered a closing prayer and declared the Convention adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Canon James D. Shoucair, Secretary to Convention