

RECORD OF THE 2022 ANNUAL CONVENTION
Minutes of the 157th Annual Convention (Unapproved)

The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh of the Episcopal Church in the United States
November 18 A.D. 2022

The 157th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh of The Episcopal Church in the United States (the “Diocese”) was hosted by Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and convened online on Friday, November 18th, 2022.

Online registration of Convention Deputies began at 5:30 p.m. in order for the necessary certifications to be completed.

The Convention commenced at 6:30 p.m. The Right Rev. Dr. Ketlen A. Solak called the Convention to order, and after her opening prayer, the Bishop asked the Very Rev. Aidan Smith, Dean of Trinity Cathedral, to offer a general welcome. Following his welcome, the Convention continued with a service of Evening Prayer.

At the conclusion of the liturgy, The Bishop called on the Rev. Bonnie-Marie Yager-Wiggan and Mr. Andrew Muhl to relay the logistical notes and pertinent technological information necessary for the conduct of the online Convention.

At the conclusion of their presentations, The Bishop called on the Rev. Canon James D. Shoucair to certify the roll of clergy entitled to seats as well as the lay deputies authorized to represent parishes entitled to representation at Convention. Canon Shoucair dispensed with a formal roll call and accordingly certified the roll.

The Bishop then called on Ms. Kathy Baird, who on behalf of Diocesan Council, nominated the Rev. Canon James D. Shoucair as Secretary to Convention to serve until the next annual Diocesan Convention. There being no other nominations, Canon Shoucair was elected unanimously as Secretary via Zoom poll. On behalf of Diocesan Council, Ms. Baird then nominated the Rev Brandon Cooper as Assistant to the Secretary. There being no additional nominations, the Rev. Brandon Cooper was elected via Zoom Poll as Assistant to the Secretary.

The Bishop then appointed the following persons:

Mr. Jamie McMahon as Parliamentarian for the Convention; Mr. Jon Delano as Judge of Elections; and the Very Rev. Aidan Smith as Assistant Judge of Elections.

Mr. Andy Roman, Mr. Andy Muhl and Ms. Florence Atwood 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.

Ms. Florence Atwood as Convention manager.

The Bishop then called upon the Secretary to report on quorum.

The Secretary reported that there were eighty-five (85) lay deputies present whose credentials had been received before the Convention. He also reported that there were forty-nine (49) 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 thirty-four (134), which constituted a quorum for the transaction of business. The Bishop called for the approval of the minutes of the 156th Annual Convention of the Diocese as found in the 2022 Preconvention Journal, which was then duly moved, seconded and approved by unanimous vote via Zoom poll.

The Bishop then called on Ms. Kathy Baird, President of Diocesan Council who moved the adoption of the Standard Rules of Order and printed agenda, subject to the modification to the Rules of Order and the resolution published in the Preconvention Journal and to be voted on next. The Resolution, moved and seconded, was passed unanimously by Zoom poll.

Ms. Baird then asked that the Convention ratify and approve Diocesan Council's modification of the standard rules of order as set forth in the Resolution to Permit Hybrid Convention found in the online Preconvention journal. The resolution, moved and seconded, was passed unanimously by Zoom poll.

The Bishop then called on 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 requirements.

The Bishop then recognized Ms. Betti Rottschaefter, the Judge of Audits, who reported that all parishes, were in compliance with the canonical requirement on assessments and parochial reports for the year. She noted that St Michael's Wayne Township had not submitted a parochial report or audit, but had no deputies present at Convention.

The Bishop then called upon Dr. Joan Gundersen, who on behalf of the Constitution and Canons Committee, moved adoption of the changes to Canons XIV and XII, as set forth in section C of the online Preconvention Journal. The resolution passed with one percent of the votes cast opposed.

The Bishop then called upon Mr. Jon Delano, chair of the Diocesan Nominating Committee, who presented the slate of nominees as set forth in the Preconvention Journal, section D, and moved that the nominations be closed. The resolution passed unanimously via Zoom poll.

The Judge of Elections then invoked the standard rules of order B-2, and moved that the Secretary cast a unanimous vote of Convention for the listed nominees in all uncontested open positions as follows: Standing Committee (1 clergy, 1 lay); Constitution and Canons (1 clergy, 1 lay); Commission on Ministry (1 position lay or clergy); Cathedral Chapter (1 clergy, 1 lay). The

resolution passed unanimously via Zoom poll. The Judge of Elections then directed the Secretary to let the minutes reflect the results of the uncontested elections.

The Bishop then called upon the Judge of Elections to instruct the Convention on the manner of casting votes for the contested elections. Mr. Delano indicated that these elections would be accomplished using the VPoll platform.

The first election was for the **Board of Trustees**. The result was as follows: Sheila Stagnitta: 100 votes. Thomas G. Weiss: 24 votes. Sheila Stagnitta was elected to the Board of Trustees.

The next election was for the **Regional Disciplinary Board**. The result was as follows: Joseph Macklin: 73 votes; Ian Everhart: 53 votes. Joseph Macklin was elected to the Regional Disciplinary Board.

The Judge of Elections then proceeded with the election of **Clergy Deputies to General Convention**. He confirmed with the Chancellor that a majority of those present and voting - Sixty-eight (68) votes -were required to elect.

On The First Ballot: (* denotes elected)

*Bonnie-Marie Yager-Wiggan	86
*Eric McIntosh	68
Neil Raman	63
Jeff Murph	58
Brandon Cooper	54
Noah Evans	52
Kris Opat	37
Charles Fisher	34

On The Second Ballot:

Neil Raman	61
Jeff Murph	54
Brandon Cooper	40
Noah Evans	41
Kris Opat	21
Charles Fisher	20

On the Third Ballot:

*Neil Raman	79
Jeff Murph	60
Brandon Cooper	45
Noah Evans	47

On the Fourth Ballot:

*Jeff Murph 74
Noah Evans 56

On the election of the alternate clergy deputies:

*Brandon Cooper 1st Alternate
*Noah Evans 2nd Alternate
*Kris Opat 3rd Alternate
*Charles Fisher 4th Alternate

The Very Rev. Aidan Smith then acted as Judge of Elections for the first ballot of the **Lay Deputies to General Convention.**

On the first ballot:

*Jon Delano 99
Florence Atwood 67
Steve Stagnitta 67
Jamie McMahan 60
Lisa Brown 55
Joan Gundersen 47
Michael Braxton 37

On the Second Ballot:

*Florence Atwood 80
*Steve Stagnitta 70
Jamie McMahan 64
Lisa Brown 50
Joan Gundersen 39
Michael Braxton 32

On the third ballot:

*Jamie McMahan 79
Lisa Brown 49

On the election of Alternate Lay Deputies:

*Lisa Brown 1st Alternate
*Michael Braxton 2nd Alternate
*Joan Gundersen 3rd Alternate

The Judge of Elections, Mr. Jon Delano, announced that Diocesan-wide voting for the offices of the Diocese was now complete.

The Bishop then called on Ms. Elaine Zevkovich, Diocesan Treasurer, to present the proposed budget for 2023. Following Ms. Zevkovich's report and a discussion pertaining to compensation increases, the budget was approved by Convention via Zoom Poll, with three percent of the votes opposed.

The Bishop then called upon Mr. James Neral to present a report from the Diocesan Compensation Committee. Following his report, Mr. Neral recommended the adoption of the revised Compensation Guide and all its Appendices as set forth in the Preconvention Journal. The motion, moved and seconded, was duly approved by Convention via Zoom Poll, with two percent of the vote opposed.

Following the vote, the Bishop called on Mr. Andy Muhl to instruct the Convention on the work to be accomplished at District meetings. Mr. Muhl began by asking Mr. Delano to review the District Meeting elections, at the end of which Mr. Muhl assigned the breakout rooms on Zoom. The Convention then recessed for that purpose.

After the recess, the Bishop called on Ms. Kathy Baird, President of Diocesan Council and Chair of the Resolutions Committee, who presented the following two resolutions: First, the Resolution on Reducing Gun Violence as set forth in Section C of the Preconvention Journal. The resolution, moved and seconded, was duly approved by Convention via Zoom Poll, with six percent of the votes opposed.

Ms. Baird then presented a resolution thanking Trinity Cathedral, as set forth in Section C of the Preconvention Journal. The resolution, moved and seconded, was duly approved by Convention via Zoom Poll with two percent of the vote opposed.

Ms. Baird then presented a resolution thanking Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, as set forth in Section C of the Preconvention Journal. The resolution, moved and seconded, was duly approved by Convention via Zoom Poll with two percent of the vote opposed.

The Bishop then called on the Secretary to give the required notice of proposed changes to the Constitution of the Episcopal Church. Canon Shoucair provided such notice to the Convention, outlining and making known the three amendments scheduled for a second reading at the 2024 General Convention, all as published in their entirety in the Preconvention Journal.

The Bishop then called on Mr. Jon Delano, Judge of Elections, 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: The Rev. Carter Hawley; Vice Chair: Mr. Don Block; Diocesan Council: Mr. Brian Webb

District 3

Chair: Ms. Lisa Brown; Vice Chair: The Rev. Dr. Teresa Hunt; Board of Trustees: Mr. Eric Lynn

District 4

Chair: The Rev. William Carpenter; Vice-Chair: Ms. Susan Lear

The Bishop then called on the Convention Manager, Ms. Florence Atwood, who announced that the 2023 Convention would take place on November 11 and 12 of next year, with more details to follow. She also outlined the activities scheduled for the following day at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

The Bishop then declared the Convention in recess and offered a closing prayer for the evening.

Day Two- November 19, A.D. 2022
Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

In-person registration of Convention deputies began at noon in order for the necessary certifications to be completed.

The Diocesan Ministry Fair opened at noon with exhibits in place until 4:00pm.

At 1:00pm, the Bishop delivered her annual address to Convention, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit A, below.

After the Bishop's address, the Convention continued with various program activities, a hymn-sing and Convention Eucharist.

The Convention concluded with a Diocesan dinner and adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Canon James D. Shoucair

EXHIBIT A

Bishop's Address 157th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh Saturday, November 19, 2022

A transcript of the remarks to Convention delivered by the Right Reverend Ketlen A. Solak, D.Min, IX Bishop of Pittsburgh:

Good afternoon Beloved Ones of God. Beloved Ones of our Lord Jesus Christ and of God's Holy Spirit!

What a joy to be together today, in person and online, for our first Annual Diocesan Convention! To be together for the 157th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh!

What a joy to remember the faithfulness of God to us. The faithfulness of God to this Diocese since 1865 to the present!

What a joy to be together as Pittsburghers for Jesus!

What a joy to remember that, a year ago, as of last Sunday, November 13, together we celebrated the consecration of the Ninth Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh.

The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh is beloved by God!

The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh is celebrated and supported by our wider Church!

The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh is continuing to rejoice in a New Day!

Of course, we must recognize that this Convention would not be able to take place without the diligent efforts of our Convention Planning Team, as well as that of the members of our Diocesan Staff, and of all of you who present here and online.

Our gratitude goes to each and every one for seeing after the details of this Convention.

I also want to say thank Pittsburgh Theological Seminary on our behalf, and especially to the President of the Seminary, the Rev. Dr. Asa J. Lee, and Father Charles Fisher, and all of the leadership of PTS for the opportunity to hold our Convention on the premises of this lovely campus.

When we gather together like this, as one body for the purpose of doing the business of the Church, it is helpful to lift our hearts and minds anew to see afresh the awesomeness and grandeur of God.

The testimony of the Prophet Isaiah reminds us of God's greatness as the prophet describes how he "saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty, and the hem of his robe filled the

Temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; And one called to another and said, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." (*Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3b, NRSV*)

This is the God who calls us to new life!

This is the God about whom Paul spoke to a large crowd of skeptical Athenians in an effort to persuade them of God's existence by saying: For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own prophets have said, 'For we, too, are his offspring.' (*Acts 17:28, NRSV*)

And so, today, as we engage in the business of the Church, as we engage in the business of our Diocese, I urge you to rejoice and remember this:

You and I are a people who have been called by God.

You and I are a people who have willingly entered into a personal and a communal relationship with Jesus Christ.

As such, we are a people who have been reborn; a people being regenerated, filled with God's Holy Spirit, and called to be partners with Jesus Christ.

Called to be Active partners with Jesus Christ for the noble purpose of showing healing-mercy, healing-grace, healing-love, healing-kindness, to everyone, especially to the people in our communities and beyond. Called to strive for justice and to be active seekers of peace.

Therefore, as called partners of Jesus, we are not alone!

Scripture reminds us that Jesus is the head, and we are His body with hands and feet ready for action.

We are constantly in the presence of Jesus, supported by him in our ministry.

In good times and in uncertain times, Jesus is the rock on which we stand!

Of course, it is important to acknowledge that, since 1865, the past has not always been an experience consisting of the proverbial bed of roses.

Our Diocese has known the many ups and downs of life.

What is more, you have experienced collateral damage caused by betrayal of the highest order.

You have experienced broken relationships. You have lamented the loss of parishes that held precious memories. You have suffered many kinds of injury.

Yet... yet, you have withstood the destructive power of division. You have remained steadfast and stayed alive despite the overwhelming power of trauma. You have been gracious, exhibiting the fruits of God's spirit at every turn. You have continued to be faithful to God, and, God has continued to be faithful to you.

In all of this, beloved, we can see the abundance of God's provision.

In all of this, beloved, we can see the resilience that you have shown.

Therefore, beloved of God, we can give thanks, unabashed thanks to God for God's abundant blessings!

Without a doubt, the past has left some scars. Yes. However, we are not here to rehash the past!

What is more, I ask you today, and going forward, to do your best to stop rehashing the past, even when there are and there will be inevitable reminders.

I ask you to stop rehashing the past, especially the past that pertains to the recent unpleasantness, to quote the great Harold Lewis.

Instead, I declare to you today that you are becoming a people who are eagerly pressing ahead... a people leaning forward to embrace the future, chomping at the bit to engage in God's mission and purpose.

God has given you and me a new assignment, and we better get to it!

We are here to rejoice in the present and to move toward the future together with confidence.

Most importantly, today, Jesus is inviting us, Jesus is inviting this Diocese to look ahead... to move forward with a keen sense of renewed mission and purpose.

You may remember how, even before I was chosen as your Bishop, you heard me say that I believed that wisdom is usually in the room.

I still believe that wisdom is most often manifest among those present together with open hearts and minds to deliberate and seek after helpful solutions.

During this past year, one of my primary tasks has been to get to know the diocese through parish visitations, and a host of various meetings. Many of you have attended these meetings.

All of these have brought to my awareness some of the challenges and needs of our Diocese.

In addition, this past spring, members of the Board of Trustees, Council, Standing Committee, and I met for our first, annual, collaborative leadership session.

And we will continue to do so every year.

The objective of this first meeting was to:

- Pray together
- Get to know each other

- To brainstorm together in order to:
 - Uncover the most pressing challenges of our Diocese
 - To reflect on and probe these challenges
 - To discover and discern new possible pathways to explore

We achieved these objectives, and we also recognized that our work was just beginning.

Today, I can share in broad strokes the challenges and needs that emerged.

I can share that the needs that emerged largely pertain to one all-encompassing category which is best described by the word “Connection.”

We uncovered our need to recapture the joy of being church and of engaging in ministry; to discern how to re-connect with one another as a Diocese, especially in the midst of uncertain times and to grow together as a Beloved Community.

We also perceived the need to redefine who we are as a Diocese and to discover engaging ways to communicate and share the Gospel and be inviting to others in our communities.

Our work going forward will be to flesh out and to strategically prioritize specific goals in an effort to meet these identified challenges and needs.

Our work will consist of being open to God’s leading, and to finding appropriate ways to do ministry in each of our varied and specific contexts.

What is sure, is that new vision is beginning to emerge and will unfold as we move forward together.

What is certain, is that God, who has called us to be partners in ministry is now leading us toward building and rebuilding our Diocese.

But, first, we must allow God to build us up as a spiritual house for all to feel welcome in, as the author of First Peter reminds us: *“Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood.”* (1 Peter 2:4)

Today gives us the opportunity to experience the joy of being together and re-connect with each other.

Today is a day to enjoy; a day to rejoice in the New Day that God has bought forth for our Diocese; to trust anew and by faith in the future that God is already preparing ahead for us.

Together, and with God’s help, the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh will grow into a strong outpost of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the glory of God.

Together, and with Jesus at the helm, we will live into our call to show healing-mercy, healing-grace, healing-love, healing-kindness, to everyone, especially to the people in our communities and beyond. And we will continue to strive for justice and to actively seek peace.

So, I declare once more to you today that you are becoming a people who are eagerly pressing ahead, a people leaning forward to embrace the future, chomping at the bit to engage in God's mission and purpose.

God has given us a new assignment, and we better get to it! We are here to rejoice in the present and to move forward to the future together with confidence.

Most importantly, today, Jesus is inviting us, Jesus is inviting our Diocese to look ahead, to move forward with a keen sense of renewed mission and purpose.

Amen.