

JOURNAL OF THE 186th CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS

The 186th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis was convened at St Paul's, Indianapolis, by the Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Bishop of the Diocese of Indianapolis, and President and Presider of Convention, on Saturday, November 11, 2023.

The Secretary of Convention, Mr. Sean Sullivan, notified Convention that, in accordance with Section 6 of the Constitution, a quorum was present. Without objection, the Bishop called the Convention to order at 9:20 AM EST and declared it organized for business.

The Bishop then welcomed and recognized new clergy who have joined the Diocese and priests who have accepted a new call since 2022. She also recognized members of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Indiana, who were attending as special guests.

The Bishop then introduced and recognized youth delegates from each of the neighborhoods and those who were Bishop appointments.

The Bishop then recognized the Vice Chancellor of the Diocese, Mr. Todd Relue, who was filling in for Chancellor George Plews who was ill. Mr. Relue introduced the suggested *Rules for Decorum and Debate***.

Canon Brendan O'Sullivan-Hale was recognized and gave the Convention detailed instructions on how to use the electronic voting system (ElectionBuddy). Test votes were previously conducted and results announced. Another test vote was conducted.

An electronic vote on adopting the *Rules* was then conducted.

MOTION (Todd Relue/Brendan O'Sullivan-Hale): to adopt the *Rules for Decorum and Debate*. MOTION PASSED.

The Bishop noted that the proposed agenda and Order of Business was available for delegates at their tables and on the diocesan website. Without objection, these were adopted.

The Bishop announced that there was a nomination from the floor and recognized the Rev. Sam Vaught. Rev. Vaught announced that the Rev. Allen Rutherford was nominated for Disciplinary Board member.

Without objection, the Bishop closed nominations.

** - where indicated, applicable text (including approved amendments) is incorporated herein by reference.

Canon O’Sullivan-Hale was then recognized for Dispatch of Business. He announced the next item of business was a vote for Officers of the Diocese and of Convention

MOTION (the Committee on Nominations): to elect the following:

- **Mr. Sean Sullivan for the Office of Secretary of the Diocese, and for Secretary of this Convention**
- **Dr. Laurel Cornell for the Office of Treasurer**
- **Mr. Brett Roberts for the Office of Registrar and Historiographer.**

MOTION PASSED.

Mr. Todd Relue, as chair of Committee on Constitutions and Canons, introduced and spoke to a canonical amendment.

MOTION (the Committee on Constitutions and Canons): to revise Canon 8, Section 1.**

Also speaking to the amendment was the Rev. C. Davies Reed.

Vote by orders: Clergy: PASSED. Lay: PASSED. AMENDMENT APPROVED.

Canon O’Sullivan-Hale announced that the next order of business was the introduction of candidates for diocesan office. The Bishop recognized Father Vaught to continue the report of the Nominations Committee

Standing Committee – Clergy

The Rev. Paul Jacobsen

Standing Committee – Lay

Mr. George Eastman (for full term)

Ms. Sue Murray (for 2-year term)

Disciplinary Board – Clergy

The Rev. Allen Rutherford

Disciplinary Board – Lay

Mr. David Sloan

Commission on Ministry – Clergy

The Rev. Gregory Baker

The Rev. Mary Slenski

Commission on Ministry – Lay

(no nominations from the Committee)

Waycross Board

(Two persons, clergy or lay, for a three-year term)

The Rev. Mary Bargiel

The Rev. Jim Said

The Rev. Sam Vaught clarified that the neighborhood elections for their respective Executive Council vacancies had already occurred, and it would be part of the Convention ballot process to affirm and consent to these elections. Those so elected include:

Crossroads (lay):

Ms. Sally Hargrove

The Edge (clergy):

The Rev. T. J. Tetzlaff

Riverbend (clergy):

The Rev. Dr. Jason Haddox

Wabash (clergy):

The Rev. Jennifer Oldstone-Moore

The Bishop recognized Dispatch of Business to conduct the first vote. Canon O’Sullivan-Hale also made announcements about submitting resolutions in writing and the offering at the convention Eucharist, designated for the Diocese of Jerusalem.

The following election result was announced:

Commission on Ministry – Clergy

The Rev. Gregory Baker

(all other elections were uncontested)

The Bishop called for a “standing break” and instructed delegates to introduce themselves to a neighbor and talk about favorite Thanksgiving side dishes.

Dispatch of Business called on Mr. Relue to introduce and speak to a proposed canonical revision (to correct typographical errors).**

MOTION (Committee on Constitutions and Canons): to amend Canon 20, Sections 4 and 17(1), and to amend Canon 23, Section 6(c).

Vote by orders: Clergy: PASSED. Lay: PASSED. REVISIONS APPROVED.

The Bishop then introduced the Convention’s keynote speaker, Ms. Cole Arthur Riley.

Cole Arthur Riley’s keynote presentation followed.

** - where indicated, applicable text (including approved amendments) is incorporated herein by reference.

RECESSED 10:40 AM
RECONVINED 10:50 AM

Dispatch of Business announced the next order of business was a report from Racial Justice and Education Team. The Bishop recognized the Rev. Chana Tetzlaff to give that report.

It was announced that the next order of business would be an update from the Reunification Discernment Team. The Bishop recognized Ms. Katherine Tyler Scott and the Rev. Canon Ted Neidlinger, along with other team members from the Dioceses of Indianapolis and Northern Indiana, to give that report.

The Bishop recognized the neighborhood co-conveners who served in that role in the current year, and then introduced those who will serve as co-conveners in 2024.

Dispatch of Business was recognized for housekeeping announcements.

RECESSED: 11:50 AM, following Noonday Prayers.
RECONVENED: 1:00 PM

The next announced order of business was the Diocesan Youth Ministry report. Diocesan Youth Minister Heather Kennison was recognized to make that report.

Canon O’Sullivan-Hale announced a procedural vote to allow consideration of Resolution 1** by the convention, since the resolution was received after the filing deadline.

MOTION FROM THE CHAIR: to allow consideration of Resolution 1 by this convention. PASSED.

The President recognized the Rev. Cara Spaccarelli to speak to the resolution.

VOTE: to approve Resolution 1 and receive The Table, Indianapolis, as a mission congregation. RESOLUTION PASSED.

The Bishop announced that the Revs. Spencer Ruark, Ben Sternke, and Matt Tebbe, will have their orders received on December 16th at Christ Church Cathedral.

Dispatch of Business announced that the next order of business was consideration of an amendment to Canon 12**. Mr. Todd Relue was recognized to speak to the resolution.

Also speaking to the amendment was the Rev. Julia Whitworth, who submitted an amendment to the amendment. The additional amendment was seconded and was ruled in order.

** - where indicated, applicable text (including approved amendments) is incorporated herein by reference.

VOTE: to approve the amendment to the amendment of Canon 12. AMENDMENT PASSED.

VOTE: to approve the revised amendment to Canon 12. : Clergy: PASSED. Lay: PASSED. AMENDMENT APPROVED.

Dispatch of Business announced that the next order of business was consideration of an amendment to Canon 4, Section 6**. Mr. Relue was recognized to speak to the resolution.

The Rev. Mary Slenski also spoke to the amendment. Rev. Slenski submitted an amendment to the amendment**. The amendment was seconded and ruled in order.

Also speaking to the secondary amendment was the Rev. Beth Scriven.

VOTE: to approve the amendment to the amendment of Canon 4. AMENDMENT PASSED.

VOTE: to approve the revised amendment to Canon 4: Clergy: PASSED. Lay: PASSED. AMENDMENT APPROVED.

Dispatch of Business announced that the next order of business was consideration of an amendment to Canon 12**. Mr. Relue was recognized to speak to the resolution.

Also speaking to the amendment was the Rev. Julia Whitworth, who submitted an amendment to the amendment. The additional amendment was seconded and was ruled in order.

VOTE: to approve the amendment to the amendment of Canon 12. AMENDMENT PASSED.

VOTE: to approve the revised amendment to Canon 12 : Clergy: PASSED. Lay: PASSED. AMENDMENT APPROVED.

The following canonical revisions were each considered by convention and voted upon in separate actions without significant discussion or further amendments. For reporting purposes only, these are listed below:

- Canon 2 (e)
- Canon 9, Section 8
- Canon 10, Section 1
- Canon 10, Section 10

VOTES: to approve the amendment to canon as listed above.

For each amendment: Clergy: PASSED. Lay: PASSED. AMENDMENT APPROVED.

The following were announced by Dispatch of Business, and were received by the convention:

- Report from the Mission Strategy Committee, by Ms. Valeria Phillips
- Report from Global Missions, by the Rev. Allen Wallace
- Report from Waycross, by Interim Director Ms. Melinda Trotti
- Report from Province V, by Ms. Leslie MacKeller

RECESS 2:15 PM

RECONVENE 2:30 PM

Canon O’Sullivan-Hale announced the next order of business was the Treasurer’s Report. The Chair Recognized Dr. Laurel Cornell, Treasurer of the Diocese, to give the report**.

The convention then started approval of the 2025 diocesan budget. The Bishop recognized the Rev. C. Davies Reed to present the budget summary and highlights.

MOTION (Executive Council): to approve the 2025 diocesan budget as presented. PASSED.

Dispatch of Business announced the consideration of the office of Diocesan Chancellor.

The Bishop read a citation to honor the retiring Chancellor, Mr. George Plews.**

The Chair appointed Mr. Todd Relue at Chancellor of the Diocese, subject to confirmation by the convention.

MOTION BY THE CHAIR: To confirm the appointment of Mr. Todd Relue as Chancellor of the Diocese. PASSED.

The President recognized the Rev. Ben Wyatt for courtesy resolutions, all of which were approved by acclamation. Additionally, the Bishop expressed her appreciation to her staff for all the hard work of organizing and running the convention.

RECESSED: 3:00 PM

RECONVENED: 3:30 PM

The Convention then participated in a closing Eucharist. The Bishop’s Address to Convention was offered as the homily.

The Bishop announced that the 187th Convention is scheduled to be held November 8 and 9, 2024, at the CRG Convention Center in The Shoppes at Perry Crossing in Plainfield, IN.

Without objection, the Bishop declared the 186th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis to be closed.

ADJOURNED 4:40 PM

Prayerfully submitted,

The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows

Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis, and President of Convention

ATTEST:
Mr. Sean Sullivan
Secretary of Convention