

JOURNAL OF THE 187th CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS

The 187th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis was convened at the CRG Center, Plainfield, Indiana, by the Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Bishop of the Diocese of Indianapolis, and President and Presider of Convention, on Saturday, November 19, 2024.

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 President called the Convention to order at 9:15 AM EST.

The Chair then welcomed those who were attending the Convention for the first time. The Bishop also recognized the Rt. Reverend Doug Sparks, Bishop of Northern Indiana, and members of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Indiana, who were attending as special guests.

The Bishop then introduced and recognized those sharing the dais: the Rev. Canon Guliana Cappelletti Gray (Dispatch of Business), Mr. Todd Relue (Chancellor of the Diocese), Mr. Sean Sullivan (Secretary of the Diocese and Secretary of Convention), and Ms. Connie Betts (incoming Secretary of the Diocese).

The President then recognized and welcomed: new canonically resident clergy who have joined the Diocese since, 2023, those who have accepted a new call, and those who have been licensed to serve here. The Bishop again welcomed those from the Diocese of Northern Indiana who are serving on the Reunification Discernment Team.

A special welcome was extended to the youth delegates of the Convention.

The President then recognized the Chancellor, who then 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.

The *Rules* were adopted without objection.

The President 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 Chair announced that the draft minutes (Journal) of the 186th Convention was available on the website and on tables. **MOTION (Sean Sullivan/Allen Rutherford+): to approve the Journal of the 186th Convention as presented. PASSED.**

Canon Gray announced the next order of business was the appointment of the Chancellor of the Diocese. The Bishop announced the appointment of Mr. Todd Relue, subject to approval by Convention (such action to be taken shortly).

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

The Chair announced that there was a nomination from the floor and recognized the Rev. Dr. Cory Michael Irwin. Dr. Irwin announced the following nominations:

- The Rev. Dr. Barbara Ann Fisher, Waycross Board
- Ms. Lara Dryer, Standing Committee (lay)
- Mr. Matthew Stephenson, Disciplinary Board (lay)

Without objection, the Bishop closed nominations.

Dispatch of Business announced that the next order of business was the election of officers the Diocese and of Convention.

MOTION (the Committee on Nominations): to elect

- **Mr. Sean Sullivan, Secretary of the Diocese and Secretary of Convention**
- **Dr. Laurell Cornell, Treasurer of the Diocese**
- **Mr. Lee Little, Historiographer of the Diocese**

Canon O’Sullivan-Hale was called upon to conduct an electronic vote. **MOTION PASSED.**

Without objection, the Chair declared the 187th Convention organized for business.

Dispatch of Business announced the next order of business was to hear a statement from Bishop Doug Sparks. Bishop Baskerville-Burrows introduced and welcomed Bishop Sparks to the dais.

Bishop Sparks addressed the Convention, following which Bishop Baskerville-Burrows presented him with tokens of appreciation on behalf of the Convention and the Diocese.

Dispatch of Business announced the next order of business was the recognition of outgoing diocesan committee members. The Bishop recognized those who have served on committees whose terms expired with this Convention and led a round of applause to thank them for their service.

Canon Gray reported that the next order of business was the introduction of candidates standing for election to diocesan offices. The Chair once again recognized Dr. Irwin to continue the report of the Committee for Nominations.

Dr. Irwin announced the following candidates:

- *Standing Committee (clergy):*
 - the Rev. Holly Rankin Zaher
- *Standing Committee (lay):*
 - Mr. Michael McGraw
 - Ms. Lara Dreyer
- *Disciplinary Board (lay):*
 - Mr. Matthew Stephenson

- *Commission on Ministry (clergy):*
 - The Rev. Br. Aelred Dean
 - The Rev. Adam Pierce
 - The Rev. Hipolito Fernandez-Reina
- *Commission on Ministry (lay):*
 - Ms. Sara Gunter
 - Ms. Pamela Smith
- *Waycross Board:*
 - Mr. Donald Bryan
 - The Rev. Dr. Barbara Ann Fisher

Dispatch of Business announced that the next order of business was the introduction of new Executive Council (EC) members. The President once again recognized Dr. Irwin.

Dr. Irwin introduced the following EC members-elect, to be confirmed by Convention:

- *Confluence (clergy):* The Rev. Allen Rutherford
- *Crossroads (clergy):* The Rev. Andrea Arsene
- *Waycross (clergy):* The Rev. Karen Sullivan
- *Riverbend (lay):* no lay member was elected (one will be appointed).

Dispatch of Business announced the first ballot. The Chair recognized Canon O'Sullivan-Hale to conduct the election.

RECESS: 10:03 AM

RECONVENE: 10:0:20AM

Dispatch of Business announced the following election results:

- *Standing Committee (clergy):*
 - the Rev. Holly Rankin Zaher
- *Standing Committee (lay):*
 - Ms. Lara Dreyer
- *Disciplinary Board (lay):*
 - Mr. Matthew Stephenson
- *Commission on Ministry (clergy):*
 - NO ELECTION (2nd ballot will take place)
- *Commission on Ministry (lay):*
 - Ms. Sara Gunter
 - Ms. Pamela Smith

- *Waycross Board:*
 - Mr. Donald Bryan
 - The Rev. Dr. Barbara Ann Fisher
- *Confirmation of EC members-elect:*
 - *Confluence (clergy):* The Rev. Allen Rutherford
 - *Crossroads (clergy):* The Rev. Andrea Arsene
 - *Waycross (clergy):* The Rev. Karen Sullivan

Canon Gray reported that the next order of business was the keynote address. The Bishop introduced and welcomed the Convention's keynote speaker, the Rev. James Clark, III.

Rev. Clark the gave the keynote address to the Convention

Dispatch of Business announced that the next order of business was a report from the Diocese's Province V representative. The Chair recognized Ms. Lesley MacKeller for that purpose.

Ms. MacKeller reported on the structure and activities of the province.

Dispatch of business reported that the next order of business was a report related to the Church Buildings for Collaborative Partnerships (CBCP) initiative. The President recognized Program Director Linda Buskirk.

Ms. Buskirk then gave the Convention and update of the work of CBCP.

Canon Gray announced that the next order of business was an update from the Reunification Discernment Team.

The Bishop introduced all the members of the Team (from both dioceses) and led a round of applause to thank them for their work to date.

Members of the Team then presented the Convention with an overview and a history of the reunification discernment effort. Included in this was a draft timeline, culminating in possible special conventions for a reunification vote in October 2025, subject to the approval of the Bishops and Standing Committees of both dioceses.

The Chair then introduced those who served as the co-conveners of the diocesan Neighborhoods for 2024. The Chair then introduced those elected by the Neighborhoods to serve as co-conveners in 2025:

- *Confluence:* The Rev. Holly Rankin-Zaher and Ms. Sheila White
- *Crossroads:* The Rev. Rececca Kirkpartick
- *The Edge:* Mr. Steve Lawson
- *River Bend:* The Rev. Allen Wallace, Ms. Cindy Wood
- *Wabash:* The Rev. Jim Said, Ms. Jessica Short
- *Waycross:* Ms. Yvonne Oliger

The President recognized Dispatch of Business for some housekeeping announcements. Canon Gray also informed Convention that the offering at the Eucharist would be split between St. Adres School (Mithon, Haiti) and scholarships for youth to attend events in the Diocese.

Noonday prayers followed.

RECESS 11:49 AM
RECONVENE 1:05 PM

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

Dispatch of Business announced the next order of business would be a second ballot, specifically for Commission on Ministry (clergy). The President called upon Canon O’Sullivan-Hale to conduct the vote.

It was announced that Br. Dean has withdrawn from the balloting.

Dispatch of Business announced the following election:

- *Commission on Ministry (clergy):*
 - The Rev. Hipolito Fernandez-Reina

The Bishop announced that an election for Bishop of West Missouri has taken place. The Very Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux has been elected. The Bishop asked the Convention to express thanks to the Rev. Dr. Bradley Pace for his discernment and offer to stand for election to that office. The Convention responded with sustained applause for Dr. Pace and his wife Katie.

Dispatch of Business announced that the next matter before the Convention was notification of three canonical amendments from the 81st General Convention (GC), held in July 2024. The Bishop recognized Mr. Sean Sullivan, Secretary of the Diocese.

The Secretary informed Convention that he was part of the Diocese’s delegation to GC, commended the Bishop and Canon O’Sullivan-Hale, the delegation chair, for the leadership that was provided. He also recommended that members of the Diocese consider offering service for the 2027 GC in Phoenix, AZ.

The Secretary of GC was required to inform each Diocesan Convention of these amendments and all such changes. The amendments were:

- A043 – Amend Constitution Article VIII, regarding Clergy in Local Ecumenical Partnerships (first reading)
- A071 – Amend the Constitution and Canons Relating to Mergers of Diocese – Of Admission of a New Diocese (second reading)
- A072 – Amend Article X of the Constitution of The Episcopal Church – Of the *Book of Common Prayer* (second reading)

Mr. Sullivan reported that no action by the Diocesan Convention is required, and that no vote would be taken.

Dispatch of Business announced the next order of Business would be a report from the Christian Parenting Initiative. The Chair recognized the Program Director, Dr. Brian Steensland.

Dr. Steensland gave an update on this initiative.

Canon Gray announced that the next order of business was the Waycross report. The Chair recognized Ms. Sara Gunter, Executive Director of Waycross.

Ms. Gunter presented her report on the status and plans for Waycross Camp & Conference Center.

Canon Gray announced that the next order of business would be a diocesan property report. The Bishop recognized the Rev. Deacon Karen Sullivan, president of Standing Committee, and Canon Brendan O’Sullivan Hale, Canon to the Ordinary for Administration & Evangelism.

Deacon Sullivan outlined the general property-related duties and procedures of the Standing Committee. Canon O’Sullivan-Hale then discussed the specific property issues in the Diocese, including:

- the sale of the property that was formerly the home of St. Stephen’s, Elwood, to the City of Elwood
- the sale of a portion of the property of St. Timothy’s, Indianapolis, to the City of Indianapolis
- the purchase of property for the future home for Good Samaritan, Brownsburg
- the relocation of the Table, Indianapolis, to the property that was the former home of St. Alban’s, Indianapolis
- Peace, Rockport, entered into a rental contract with an option to purchase a building in that community.

Canon O’Sullivan-Hale also covered other property issues, and spoke to the future of diocesan property management and how the Standing Committee and Executive Council will play roles in that discernment.

Dispatch of Business announced that the next matter before the Convention would be the Treasurer’s Report. The Chair recognized Dr. Laurel Cornell, Treasurer of the Diocese.

The Treasurer informed the Convention that a written report was not yet available, but she proceeded to provide a summary.

Dr. Cornell then asked Sarah Gunter to speak about the current financial situation at Waycross. The Executive Director spoke about steps taken to improve the finances of that organization, including greater transparency and accountability.

Canon Gray announced that the next order of business was the presentation of the 2025 diocesan budget.** The Bishop recognized the Rev. C. Davies Reed to present the budget.

Rev. Reed summarized and highlighted various income and expense line items.

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

Dispatch of Business announced that the next order of business was a special recognition.

The Bishop read into the record** special recognition for the work done by Mr. Sean Sullivan, who has served as Secretary of the Diocese and Secretary of Convention since 2016. The Convention responded with a standing ovation.

Canon Gray reported that the next order business would be the election of the next Secretary of the Diocese.

The Bishop introduced Ms. Connie Betts and gave the Convention a brief biography.

MOTION (by the President): to elect Ms. Connie Betts as Secretary of the Diocese. PASSED.

The Chair recognized the Rev. Greg Baker for courtesy resolutions.

Rev. Baker presented a courtesy resolution**. The resolution passed by acclamation

RECESSED: 2:40 PM

RECONVENED: 3:00 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 188th Convention is scheduled to be held November 7 and 8, 2025

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Without objection, the President declared the 187th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis to be closed.

ADJORNED 4:10 PM

Prayerfully submitted,

The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows
Eleventh Bishop of Indianapolis
President of Convention

ATTEST:
Sean Sullivan
Secretary of Convention