

DRAFT

174th Annual Convention Minutes of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee October 9, 2021 Virtual

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Saturday, October 9th

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174th Annual Convention Minutes

of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee

October 9, 2021

Virtual

Saturday, October 9th Business Session

The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey Lee, President of the Convention and Presiding Officer, convened the 174th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 9, 2021.

Bishop Lee welcomed the Convention and called on the Rev. Jana Troutman-Miller for the opening prayer.

The Rev. Jana Troutman-Miller opened the session with a simple morning prayer combined with slides. Ms. Stephanie Seefeldt concluded the service with a musical selection of prayer and praise.

Roll Call & Determination of a Quorum

Bishop Lee inquired of the Rev. Marge Kiss, Executive Secretary and recorded of the minutes, regarding the presence of a quorum and the certification of members. Rev. Kiss, reported that, a quorum was present, and that the lay deputies for all the parishes and all clerical members had been certified.

Appointment of President Pro-Tempore

Bishop Lee explained that “under our Constitution and Rules of Order, the Bishop is named President of the Convention. The Constitution and the Rules of Order also provide for the appointment of a President Pro-Tempore with approval of the Convention.” Bishop Lee therefore appointed, as is the custom, the President of the Standing Committee, the Rev. Jana Troutman-Miller, St. John’s on the Lake, Milwaukee, as President Pro Tempore. The appointment, requiring approval from the Convention, was approved by Unanimous Consent.

Bishop Lee declared the Convention organized for business.

Background for Motion and Resolution

Bishop Lee recognized Mr. John Washbush for an explanation and the background of the motion before the convention.

Mr. John Washbush explained that the motion before the Convention -- **Special Rules for Virtual / Distance Conventions** – is identical to previous motions used for the 173rd Diocesan Convention and the June 26, 2021 Special Convention authorizing electronic voting. He further explained that since those motions lapsed, a new motion was needed, dated and specific to the current convention.

Bishop Lee stated that the Resolution **Special Rules for Virtual / Distance Conventions**, had been placed before the Convention and that because a Committee had brought the resolution, it is considered moved and seconded. Bishop Lee asked if there was any discussion on the resolution. Hearing nothing, Bishop Lee declared the resolution, as presented, passed by Unanimous Consent.

Bishop Lee declared the Convention now properly organized.

Introductory Business and Appointments

Bishop Lee made the following appointments requiring Convention approval:

Chancellor

Reappointment

Mr. Mark Ehrmann, Esq.

Historiographer

Reappointments

Mr. Randy Miller, Ph.D., Chair

Mr. Christopher Paulson

Mr. Jason Loch

Mr. John Vogel

Parliamentarian

Reappointment

Mr. John Washbush

Commission on Ministry

New Appointments

Rev. Michael McElwee

Ms. Bonnie Thompson

Commission on Ministry (cont.)

Reappointments

Rev. Pippa Lindwright (COM President)

Rev. Nancy Hills

Rev. Dr. Esther Kramer

Ms. Ashley Humphrey

Ms. Mary Thickers

Ms. Jen Vettrus

St. Francis House Episcopal Student Center

Reappointments

Rev. Scott Stoner

Mr. Randy Miller, Ph.D

Mr. Don Clewett

Ms. Keretha Cash

Mr. Derick Dalhouse

Mr. Mark Koch, Treasurer

Rev. Bill Dunlop

During his announcement of the appointments, Bishop Lee recognized Ms. Liz Orelup, who is retiring, for her longstanding and tireless service to the Diocese as Vice-Chancellor and Chancellor.

A motion to accept the appointments was made and seconded. The motion to accept the nominations was approved by a simple poll; the total was 100%.

Approval of Minutes from the July 16th 2020 Special Convention, the 173rd Diocesan Convention and the June 26th 2021 Special Convention

Bishop Lee asked if there was any objection to waiving the reading of the minutes. Hearing none, he asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the July 16th 2020 Special Convention, the 173rd Diocesan Convention and the June 26th 2021 Special Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee.

Ms. Judith Miller (St. Mark's, Milwaukee) noted that a line had been omitted in the minutes from the 173rd Diocesan Convention. The result of the election to the Standing Committee, Clerical Order was missing. The correction was made. Hearing nothing further, Bishop Lee called for a vote. The minutes were approved, as corrected, by a simple poll; the total was 100%.

Nominations

Bishop Lee recognized Mr. John Washbush, Parliamentarian, to explain the nominations procedure and the rules regarding floor nominations.

Bishop Lee called on the Rev. Matthew Buterbaugh, Chair of the Committee on Nominations, to announce the open positions and the nominees:

Diocesan Treasurer

One person (lay or clergy) to be elected to a one-year term

Mr. Michael Weber (St. Aidan's, Hartford) was nominated for diocesan treasurer. There being no other nominations, Bishop Lee asked for any objection to declaring the election by Unanimous Consent. Hearing none, Bishop Lee declared Mr. Michael Weber elected by Unanimous Consent.

Executive Council

Two clergy persons for three-year terms

Two lay persons for three-year terms

For the Clerical Order:

The Rev. Don Fleishman (St. Luke's, Madison); the Rev. TJ Humphrey (St. Paul's, Beloit); The Rev. Bramwell Richards (Zion, Oconomowoc); the Rev. David Simmons (St. Matthias, Waukesha) and the Rev. Debra Trakel (St. Boniface, Mequon) were nominated for the clerical positions. Hearing no other nominations, Bishop Lee announced that a vote would be taken shortly.

For the Lay Order:

Ms. Judith Miller (St. Mark's, Milwaukee) and Mr. Roger Mukasa (Grace, Madison) were nominated for the lay positions. There being no other nominations, Bishop Lee asked for any objection to declaring the election by Unanimous Consent. Hearing none, Bishop Lee declared Ms. Judith Miller and Mr. Roger Mukasa elected by Unanimous Consent.

Standing Committee

One priest to be elected to a four-year term and one lay person to be elected for a four-year term

For the Clerical Order:

The Rev. Lars Skoglund (St. Michael's, Racine) and the Rev. Melesa Skoglund (St. Andrew's, Madison); Hearing no other nominations, Bishop Lee announced that a vote would be taken shortly.

For the Lay Order:

Ms. Gregory B. Bell (Christ Church, Whitefish Bay); Mr. Adam McKluskey (St. Dunstan's, Madison) and Ms. Janice Watter (St. Bartholomew's, Pewaukee) were nominated. Hearing no other nominations, Bishop Lee announced that a vote would be taken shortly.

Title IV Disciplinary Board

Two clergy persons to be elected to a three-year term

The Rev. Maureen Martin (St. James', West Bend) and the Rev. Joel Prather (St. Bartholomew's, Pewaukee) were nominated. Hearing no other nominations, Bishop Lee asked for any objection to declaring the election by Unanimous Consent. Hearing none, Bishop Lee declared the Rev. Maureen Martin and the Rev. Joel Prather elected by Unanimous Consent.

One lay person to be elected to a three-year term

Ms. Beth Durant (Christ Church, Whitefish Bay) and Mr. John Washbueh (Trinity, Wauwatosa) were nominated. Hearing no other nominations, Bishop Lee announced that a vote would be taken shortly.

Bishop Lee spoke of the importance of this committee and the hope never to call them together.

Members of the Board of Trustees of Funds and Endowments, Inc

Two people (lay or clergy) to be elected to a three-year term

The Rev. Gary Manning (Trinity, Wauwatosa) and Ms. Jennifer Williams (St. Paul's, Milwaukee) were nominated. There being no other nominations, Bishop Lee asked for any objection to declaring the election by Unanimous Consent. Hearing none, Bishop Lee declared the Rev. Gary Manning and Ms. Jennifer Williams elected by Unanimous Consent.

Bishop Lee expressed his appreciation of the work of this Board.

Bishop Lee announced that nominations were closed.

He appointed the Rev. Deacon Sheila Scott, as the Chair of Tellers to work with the support staff.

Bishop Lee recognized Mr. John Washbush, the Parliamentarian, for an explanation of the balloting procedures.

The Conduct of the First Ballot began.

Bishop Lee announced that the balloting/tallying would continue while other matters of business would be addressed.

A Parliamentary Moment

Bishop Lee called on Mr. John Washbush, Parliamentarian, to explain the procedures for how Old Business is taken up and how New Business comes before the Convention.

Call for Additional Resolutions

Bishop Lee asked if there were any requests for additional resolutions.

Mr. John Washbush proposed the following resolution: to **Adopt a Substitute for Canon 9 - Deputies to Province V.**

He explained the need to conform our Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee with the Constitution of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee allowing the deputies elected in the October 3, 2020 Annual Diocesan Convention to serve until October, 2024

Bishop Lee stated that Resolution -- **Adopt a Substitute for Canon 9 - Deputies to Province V**, was before the Convention as an addition to the agenda. He noted that the motion is debatable only as to the addition to the agenda and is not debatable as to the substance of the resolution. Hearing nothing, Bishop Lee called for a vote, noting that the voting margin must be 2/3rds. The vote was taken by a simple poll; the total was 100%.

Because the vote received the 2/3rds margin, Bishop Lee directed the Committee on Resolutions to number the resolution, added to the agenda, for consideration.

Report of the Resolutions Committee

Bishop Lee called on Mr. Bill Robison, to present the report of the resolutions committee.

Mr. Bill Robison reported that the Committee on Resolutions was charged with three tasks:

- Determining if resolutions submitted are fit business for the convention,
- Working with authors and other committees to put the resolutions into appropriate form, and
- Determining the order of presentation of the resolutions.

He further reported that the Committee on Resolutions had five resolutions for consideration:

Resolution I – Amending the Constitution – Article XIII – Of the Standing Committee

Resolution II – Adopt a Substitute for Canon 9 –Deputies to Province V

Resolution III – Establish a Minimum Compensation Standard for Clergy

Resolution IV – Establishing a Commission on Creation Care

Resolution V – Establishing a Task Force to Examine Our History and Rebuild Relationships with the Indigenous Peoples of Wisconsin

Bishop Lee announced that the Resolutions were now before the Convention.

Pastoral Address

Bishop Lee recognized the Rev. Jana Troutman-Miler, President of the Standing Committee, for remarks.

The Rev. Jana Troutman-Miller, President of the Standing Committee, introduced the Right Reverend Jeffrey Lee, Provisional Bishop of the Diocese of Milwaukee. She spoke of his commitment to relationship building, his enthusiasm and openness to collaboration.

In his Pastoral Address Bishop Lee spoke words of encouragement. He reminded us of who we are and that in this VUCA (volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous) world, we are to trust in the power of God. “There is nothing to be afraid of.”

For Bishop Lee’s entire Pastoral Address see: the diocesan website – Diocesan Convention – videos

Result of First Ballot

The Rev. Deacon Sheila Scott reported the results of the First Ballot.

Standing Committee

Clerical Order: The Rev. Melesa Skoglund

Title IV Disciplinary Board

Lay Order: Mr. John Washbush

The Rev. Sheila Scott further noted that there was a run-off election in two areas:

--Executive Council – clergy

The Rev. Don Fleischman

The Rev. David Simmons

The Rev. Debra Trakel

--Standing Committee – Lay

Mr. Gregory Bell

Ms. Jan Watter

Mr. John Washbush directed the second ballot.

Bishop Lee suggested a five-minute break.

Break: 11:15-11:20

Bishop Lee announced that the Right Reverend Matthew (Matt) Gunter, Bishop of Fond du Lac and Provisional Bishop of Eau Claire had sent a brief message to the Convention. He asked Ms. Sara Bitner to cue it up.

For Bishop Gunter’s message see: the diocesan website – Diocesan Convention – videos

Bishop Lee introduced the Rev. Scott Leannah, Canon of Ministries.

The Rev. Scott Leannah presented the following report:

Dear Friends,

It is my blessing and honor to offer you a report today in my role as Canon for Ministries in our diocesan community. At the invitation of Bishop Lee and with the blessing of Executive Council, I began to serve in this capacity on July 1, and am already finding it to be life-giving, challenging, and, I hope, a good use of

my gifts and abilities. Currently I am serving in this ministry on a part-time basis while also serving as Rector of St. Thomas of Canterbury Parish in Greendale. I am grateful for the good people of St. Thomas for their generosity of spirit and blessing of my taking on this new role. They aren't happy I'm leaving (which certainly beats the alternative!) and none of us were planning for my departure 3 ½ years after starting. I will do all I can to support their next Rector. They are currently coming toward the end of a call process. I share this with you so that you can understand that while I want to do my very best to be of service in my role as Canon, my time continues to be shared with parish responsibilities. While I am doing this job "part-time", I am grateful for the work of Tammy Prather as a congregational consultant in our diocese.

Since July, one of the indications of new life and hope in our diocesan community has been the beginning of new or enhanced priestly ministry in the life of the diocese:

- *The Rev. Lane Hensley has begun serving as Interim Rector at St. Paul's, Milwaukee.*
- *The Rev. Mike Tess is serving at St. Mark's, Beaver Dam.*
- *The Rev. Monica Burkert-Brist is serving at St. Paul's, Watertown.*
- *At St. Francis House in Madison, The Rev. Bobbi Kraft will begin as Chaplain and Young Adult Missioner on October 18.*
- *The Rev. Debra Trakel has begun serving as Interim Rector at St. Boniface, Mequon.*
- *The Rev. George Arcenaux has begun serving as Priest Associate at St. Mark's, Milwaukee.*
- *The Rev. Esther Kramer has gone from half-time to three-quarter time at St. Aidan's, Hartford.*

We have several other parishes that are actively involved in discerning next steps. Some are about to make a call, others are engaged in search processes, and still others are laying the ground work to move forward as they seek to follow the call of the Holy Spirit.

- *St. Barnabas, Richland Center*
- *Trinity, Mineral Point*
- *Good Shepherd, Sun Prairie*
- *St. Francis, Menomonee Falls*
- *St. Matthew's, Kenosha*
- *St. John the Divine, Burlington*
- *St. Peter's, West Allis*
- *St. Thomas of Canterbury, Greendale*
- *Grace Church, Madison (calling a Priest Associate)*

*A newly formed **Diocesan Resource Team** is up and running. Our goal is to take a current snap shot of each congregation in the diocese by doing an in-depth analysis. We are grateful for the groundwork being done by the Diocesan Renewal Task Force and we plan to build upon it where possible. We will meet with clergy and parishioners to listen to the stories of mission and ministry. We will examine demographic information as well as gain an appreciation for context. Our hope is to share stories of faithfulness as well as engage, when warranted, in conversations that may call for a time of discernment about the mission and ministry of the parish. This team will also work with me to be careful and faithful stewards of diocesan funds allocated for parishes in re-development or in need of financial assistance. Serving with me on the Diocesan Resource Team are Ms. Margaret Done, The Rev. Esther Kramer, The Rev. Jason Lavann, The Rev. Gary Manning, and Ms. Kelly Noles.*

*A newly formed **Parish Support Team** will have its inaugural meeting in the near future. This team will provide a liaison who will have direct contact with parishes that may be in need of support. Who will we reach out to for starters?*

- congregations receiving financial aid and in re-development
- faith communities who have asked to be in a Canon 8 relationship while they address a particular issue
- parishes in transition or seeking to call a clergy person
- parishes experiencing significant or on-going conflict

These and others would all be good candidates to have a liaison relationship with someone from the Parish Support Team. The liaisons in turn will be in conversation with me. We can suggest referrals for work with a congregational consultant, provide a thoughtful, listening presence, and be an engaged and interested partner. Referrals to this group will often come from the Diocesan Resource Team. Members of the Parish Support Team include The Rev. Miranda Hassett, The Rev. Melesa Skoglund, The Rev. Matthew Buterbaugh, and The Rev. Kevin Carroll. Please note: I am aware that there are no lay people on this team, and I would love to remedy that. Thus far I have not been successful in my recruiting efforts for lay members.

I am in the process of reaching out and meeting with the clergy in our diocese, and I am aware that the word “clergy” connotes deacons as well as priests.

I seek to be a collaborative member of the diocesan staff and to be of assistance in any way that I can as we seek to transform our culture and common life. God’s peace to you, and many blessings. Please reach out if I can be of assistance or support.

Bishop Lee noted: “Talk about hitting the ground running.” He further thanked Fr. Scott Leannah for his report and expressed his appreciation for all that Canon Leannah had accomplished in a short time.

Second Ballot Results

The Rev. Sheila Scott reported the results of the second ballot:
Standing Committee (Lay) – Ms. Jan Watter

The Rev. Sheila Scott further noted that there was a run-off election in one area:

- Executive Council – clergy
- The Rev. David Simmons
- The Rev. Debra Trakel

Mr. John Washbush directed the third ballot.

Consideration of Resolutions

Bishop Lee stated that the five resolutions before the convention would be considered in the order appointed.

Resolution I. Amending the Constitution – Article XIII – Of the Standing Committee

BE IT RESOLVED, that *Article XIII – Of the Standing Committee* of the *Constitution of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee* be amended as follows:

ARTICLE XIII.

Of the Standing Committee.

SECTION 1. The Convention shall elect by ballot a Standing Committee to consist of four **Priests, members of the Clergy (Priest or Deacon)**, members of the Convention, and four Laypeople, adult communicants in good standing of the Church in the Diocese. The **priests clerical** and lay members shall be elected to staggered four year terms. At each Annual Convention one Clerical and one Lay Member shall be elected to hold office until the fourth succeeding Annual Convention. Retiring members of the Standing Committee may not be

elected to the Standing Committee for a period of one year. No person who is a Postulant or Candidate for Holy Orders shall be eligible for membership on the Standing Committee.

- NOTE:**
- 1) This proposed change has been reviewed by the Committee on Constitution and Canons.
 - 2) In accordance with the *Constitution of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee, Article XVII – Of Alterations and Amendments*, this resolution requires passage by a majority vote of each Order at two consecutive Conventions to take effect. This is the first Convention proposing this amendment.

Submitted by the Nominating Committee, The Rev. Matthew L. Buterbaugh, Chair

Bishop Lee stated that Resolution I – **Amending the Constitution – Article XIII – Of the Standing Committee**, had been placed before the Convention and that because a Committee had brought the resolution, it is considered moved and seconded. Bishop Lee asked if there was any discussion on the resolution.

The Rev. Matthew Buterbaugh “rose” to explain the research he had done regarding deacons not being allowed to serve on the Standing Committee. He found it to be an anomaly and a “hold over.” He encouraged the passing of the resolution to allow for another group of talented individuals to be part of the Committee. Hearing nothing further, Bishop Lee called for a vote on the resolution, by order.

The vote by the laity was 100% for the resolution. The vote by the clergy was: 98% for the resolution and 2% opposed to the resolution. The resolution passed as presented.

Note: It will need to pass at the 2023 Convention to be enacted.

Third Ballot Results

The Rev. Sheila Scott reported the results of the third ballot: a need for another run-off election; the nominees were tied.

- Executive Council – clergy
- The Rev. David Simmons
- The Rev. Debra Trakel

Mr. John Washbush directed the fourth ballot.

Resolution II. Adopt a Substitute for Canon 9 - Deputies to Province V

- Whereas:** The *Constitution of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee, Article XV - Of Deputies to the General Convention and to the Provincial Synod*, Section 3, calls for the election by ballot of Deputies to represent the Diocese in the Provincial Synod; and,
- Whereas:** *Canon 9 - Deputies to Province V*, of the *Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee* does not implement this election but instead calls for the appointment of Deputies to the Provincial Synod by the Bishop from among those elected to be Deputies to General Convention; and
- Whereas:** The *Constitution* is the foundational document of the Diocese of Milwaukee, defining, among other things, its relationship to the broader Episcopal Church and its geographic borders. The *Canons* give shape and form to much of the workings of the diocese created in the *Constitution* and, therefore, cannot take precedence over it. Therefore,

Be It Resolved: That the body of the existing *Canon 9 - Deputies to Province V*, is removed and the following is substituted:

CANON 9. Deputies to Province V.

- Section 1: The Convention shall elect by ballot Deputies to represent the Diocese in the Provincial Synod, one (1) Priest or Deacon, and two (2) Lay Persons, for a term of three (3) years).
- Section 2: Priests or Deacons must be canonically resident in the Diocese. Lay Persons must be confirmed, adult, communicants of this Church in good standing, and resident in the Diocese. Deputies to Province V do not need to be Deputies or Supplemental Deputies to General Convention.
- Section 3: The election shall take place at the next annual diocesan convention following the General Convention. In case the Convention shall fail to elect such Deputies, those last previously chosen shall serve until their successors have been elected. In the event that any Deputy shall resign or otherwise not be able to complete such Deputy's term, the Bishop or the Ecclesiastical Authority shall appoint a qualified person to serve for the remainder of the term, subject to the approval of the Executive Council.

Be it Further Resolved: that the Deputies elected to Province V at the Convention of the Diocese of Milwaukee held in October 2020, serve until the Diocesan Convention following the 81st General Convention of the Episcopal Church, October, 2024.

- NOTE:**
- 1) This proposed change has been reviewed by the Committee on Constitution and Canons.
 - 2) This resolution was received after the submission deadline. As such, it is offered as a resolution from the floor. Before being considered, it must be accepted by the Convention to be included in the business conducted this year. A second vote on the adoption of the proposal is required to make necessary changes.
 - 3) In accordance with *Canon 22 – Of Alterations and Amendments of the Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee*, this resolution requires passage by a majority vote of each Order to take effect.

Submitted by the Mr. John Washbush, Co-Chair – General Convention Deputation, Parliamentarian – Diocese of Milwaukee, Parliamentarian – Province V Synod

Bishop Lee stated that Resolution II – **Adopt a Substitute for Canon 9 - Deputies to Province V**, had been placed before the Convention and that because a Committee had brought the resolution, it is considered moved and seconded. Bishop Lee asked if there was any discussion on the resolution. Hearing nothing, Bishop Lee called for a vote on the resolution, by order. The vote by laity was 100% for the resolution. The vote by the clergy was 100% for the resolution. The resolution passed as presented.

Resolution III. Establish Minimum Compensation Standard for Clergy

Be It Resolved: RESOLVED that the clergy compensation levels for 2022 will be increased either by virtue of the clergy being placed in a higher range on the minimum compensation grid OR by the calculated percent of 3.838% whichever is greater. This calculated percent is derived from a blended formula consisting of four economic indicators (see explanation).

YEARS EXPERIENCE	MINIMUM TOTAL CASH COMPENSATION*
0 – 2 YEARS	\$ 58,694.29
3 – 7 YEARS	\$ 63,921.86
8 – 12 YEARS	\$ 72,634.48
13 – 18 YEARS	\$ 81,347.10

* The Total Cash Compensation (TCC) package is defined as the sum of salary (stipend), housing and utilities allowance, and self-employment tax (SECA) offset of 0.765. It is expected that part time clergy should meet these minima on a pro-rated basis. **NOTE: The parish is responsible for 0.765 percent of the total cash compensation.**

We recognize that there may be extenuating circumstances preventing a congregation from meeting these minima. Any exceptions must be approved by the Office of the Bishop.

Bishop Lee stated that Resolution III – **Establish Minimum Compensation Standard for Clergy**, had been placed before the Convention and that because a Committee had brought the resolution, it is considered moved and seconded. Bishop Lee asked if there was any discussion on the resolution.

Mr. Tom Curtis (St. Alban’s, Sussex) asked if there was a typo in the offset amount. He wondered if the number should be .0765, not 0.765.

The Rev. Kevin Huddleston agreed and said it would be corrected.

Ms. Judith Hardt (Christ Church, Delavan) asked about the 2021 HSA contribution amounts.

The Rev. Kevin Huddleston stated that they were: \$7200.00 under 55; \$8200.00 over 55.

Hearing nothing further, Bishop Lee called for a vote on the resolution. The vote was taken by a simple poll: 99% for the resolution; 1% opposed the resolution. The resolution passed as presented.

Fourth Ballot Results

The Rev. Sheila Scott reported that a fifth ballot would be necessary; neither nominee had 51%.

--Executive Council – clergy
The Rev. David Simmons
The Rev. Debra Trakel

A possible fifth ballot was averted by the question raised by Mr. Don Clewett (St. Luke’s, Madison): Isn’t the deciding vote 50% plus one as opposed to 51%.

Mr. John Washbush checked and verified that to be the process.

The Rev. Debra Trakel was declared elected to the Executive Council on the fourth ballot.

Resolution IV. Establishing a Commission on Creation Care

Be It Resolved: that the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee shall create a Commission on Creation Care tasked with bringing to the Diocese and congregations an initial plan to reduce our carbon footprint and ways to care for God’s creation no later than the 2022 Diocesan Convention.

*Submitted by: The Rev. Deacon Gregg Schneider, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Beloit;
Dr. Susan Adams, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Beloit; Jane Stenson, Trinity Episcopal Church, Mineral Point; John and Margie Carol, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Beloit;
Meghan Trimm, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Beloit*

Bishop Lee stated that Resolution IV – **Establishing a Commission on Creation Care**, had been placed before the Convention and that because a Committee had brought the resolution, it is considered moved and seconded. Bishop Lee asked if there was any discussion on the resolution.

The Rev. Deacon Gregg Schneider (St. Paul’s, Beloit) spoke in favor of the resolution noting his experience in writing a curricula on creation care and expressing the need to have a compassionate relationship with all creatures.

Ms. Jane Stenson (Trinity, Mineral Point) spoke in favor of the resolution suggesting that locally, parishes can incorporate *creation care* in their liturgies as an ever present reminder.

Ms. Judith Miller (St. Mark’s Milwaukee) spoke in favor of the resolution stressing its positive use for leadership development in those under 35.

Hearing nothing further, Bishop Lee called for a vote on the resolution. The vote was taken by a simple poll: 89% for the resolution; 11% opposed the resolution. The resolution passed as presented.

Resolution V. Establishing a Task Force to Examine Our History and Build Relationships with the Indigenous Peoples of Wisconsin

Be It Resolved: That the 109th Convention of the Diocese of Milwaukee direct the Bishop to appoint a task force of no fewer than eight (8) persons to examine the historical and contemporary relationships among the Episcopal Church in Wisconsin and the Indigenous Peoples of the State, with specific attention to restorative actions the diocese and member congregations can enact; and be it further

Resolved, that the task force bring to the 110th Convention a full report, written and oral, including specific attention to policies that the Diocese can enact, and be it further,

Resolved, that the first meeting of the task force take place no later than February 1, 2022.

Submitted by: The Rev. Dr. D. Jonathan Grieser and the Grace Church, Madison, Task Force on Native American Relationships

Bishop Lee stated that Resolution V – **Establishing a Task Force to Examine Our History and Build Relationships with the Indigenous Peoples of Wisconsin**, had been placed before the Convention and that because a Committee had brought the resolution, it is considered moved and seconded. Bishop Lee asked if there was any discussion on the resolution.

The Rev. Dr. D. Jonathan Grieser, (Grace, Madison), as author of the resolution, spoke in its favor noting that we need to engage in the positive and negative aspects of our history.

The Rev. Geoffrey Ward (St. Christopher's, River Hills) spoke in favor of the resolution noting the current archival work at the DeKoven center and the rich history the Holy Nativity sisters have with the Oneida nation.

The Rev. Miranda Hassett (St. Dunstan's, Madison) spoke in favor of the resolution and the value of gathering, organizing and recording historical data.

Hearing nothing further, Bishop Lee called for a vote on the resolution. The vote was taken by a simple poll: 92% in favor of the resolution; 8% opposed to the resolution. The resolution passed as presented.

Necrology

Bishop Lee called on Ms. Sara Bitner for the presentation of the Necrology. As was done last year Ms. Bitner used photos and music to remind us of those who died in 2021.

To view the Necrology, see: the diocesan website – Diocesan Convention – videos

At the conclusion, Bishop Lee said: “Even at the grave we make our song.”

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

2022 Diocesan Budget – A Parliamentary Moment/Budget Proposal

Bishop Lee recognized Mr. John Washbush, Parliamentarian, for the purpose of clarifying the conduct of business pertaining to the budget.

Bishop Lee recognized Mr. Michael Weber, Diocesan Treasurer, for the budget and assessment report.

Mr. Weber stated that the 2022 budget was a “zero” budget, incorporating recommendations from the auditors. He also stated that the 2022 assessments would remain the same as 2021. He further presented the overall financial picture and the current picture of the sources of income and the expenses in the diocese. He concluded that support of the Episcopal presence in local communities and constant evaluation of costs would be a main focus.

Bishop Lee asked if there were any questions, again noting that this was the time for questions seeking information or clarification not for debate. Hearing nothing, Bishop Lee opened up debate on the proposed 2022 budget. Having no request for debate, Bishop Lee called for a vote to adopt the 2022 budget by simple poll. The result was 99% approving the budget; 1% opposed the budget. The budget passed as presented.

Bishop Lee thanked Mr. Michael Weber for his presentation and all the intentional work of the Financial Committee.

Report of the Historical Committee

Bishop Lee called on Mr. Randy Miller for his report on the Historical Committee.

Mr. Randy Miller reported on who they are, what they are doing and finally, what to expect from them. He noted their relationship to the archive work being done at the DeKoven center and to the upcoming celebration of the 175th Anniversary of the Diocese. He said that videos were forthcoming and to watch for them.

Bishop Lee thanked Mr. Randy Miller for his report.

Resolutions of Privilege & Courtesy

Bishop Lee called on the The Rev. Kevin Carroll, Dean of the Cathedral of All Saints, to present this year's Resolutions of Privilege & Courtesy.

The 174th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee Resolutions of Courtesy and Privilege

BE IT RESOLVED that this 174th annual Convention sends its blessings and good wishes to the Planning Committee for this Convention and for volunteers and tellers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this gathering express its heartfelt thanks and gratitude in acknowledgment of the diligent work of the Bishop's staff at Nicholson House in all of its work and in the preparation for and the conduct of this event, including the volunteers who assisted in the preparation of all the Convention materials, especially to Barb Klauber and the Rev. Marge Kiss, indefatigable recording secretary of this body, without whose efforts our work today might be unknown to the generations ahead.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that thanks be given to our Chair of Resolutions Committee Chancellor, Mark Ehrmann, Esq.; to the Chair of the Nominations Committee, the Rev. Matthew Buterbaugh; Treasurer, Mike Weber; the Parliamentarian, John Washbush; the Reverend Shelia Scott, the Head Teller, for their assistance and leadership in many ways, visible and invisible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that thanks be given to Liz Orelup for her longstanding service to the Diocese as Vice-Chancellor and Chancellor. We extend our hearty well-wishes to her in her retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Convention extend its greetings and offer the prayers of its members to the clergy and people of the Diocese of Newala, their bishop, the Rt. Rev. Oscar Steven Mnung'a, and his wife Agnes, and to Sister Helena and the sisters of the Community of St Mary of Nazareth and Calvary at their house in Newala, Tanzania.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Convention extend its greetings and offer the prayers of its members to the clergy and people of the Diocese of Haiti, their bishop, the Rt. Rev. Jean Zache Duracin and The Right Reverend Ogé Beauvoir, suffragan

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Convention extends its greetings to our ecumenical partners: in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, to Rev. Paul D. Erickson, Bishop of the Greater Milwaukee Synod, to Rev. Joy Mortesen-Wiebe, Bishop of the South Central Wisconsin Synod, and to Rev. Felix Malpica, Bishop of the Lacrosse Area Synod, and to the people and clergy of their parishes; in the Moravian Church, to Reverend Bruce Nelson, President of the Western District Synod, and to the people and clergy of its parishes; to all the other member Churches of the Wisconsin Council of Churches, Kerri Parker Executive Director and to the people and clergy of all of their parishes; and, to all other Churches, including the Roman Catholic Church, to the Most Reverend Jerome Listeki, Archbishop of the Milwaukee Archdiocese, and to the Most Reverend Donald J. Hying, Bishop of the Madison Diocese; and to the people and clergy of all of these Church's parishes; that we might continue to seek unity among all Christians, and to serve the world together in the name of Christ.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Convention send its greeting and prayers to the people and clergy of the Diocese of Fond du Lac, and to their bishop, the Right Reverend Matthew Alan Gunter and his wife, Leslie.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Convention send its greeting and prayers to the people and clergy of the Diocese of Eau Claire, and to their provisional bishop, the Right Reverend Matthew Alan Gunter and his wife, Leslie.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Convention send its greetings and prayers to Prudence “Pru” White, widow of the Right Reverend Roger J. White, tenth bishop of the Diocese of Milwaukee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Convention send its greetings and prayers to the Right Reverend Steven Andrew Miller, eleventh bishop of the diocese of Milwaukee and to Cindy, his wife, and to their daughters, Lauren and Haley.

AND FINALLY, BE IT LIKEWISE RESOLVED that this 174th Convention of the Diocese of Milwaukee express its gratitude for the leadership, dedication and pastoral guidance of our Provisional bishop, the Right Reverend Jeffrey Dean Lee and let us commit ourselves to pray that the Holy Spirit continues to strengthen and direct his ministry with us and among us.

Bishop Lee stated that the Resolutions of Privilege and Courtesy had been placed before the Convention and that because a Committee had brought the resolutions, they are considered moved and seconded. Bishop Lee asked if there was any discussion on the resolutions. Hearing nothing, Bishop Lee called for a vote. The Resolutions were approved by a simple poll; the total was 100%.

Announcements

Bishop Lee announced that the 175th Convention of the Diocese of Milwaukee will be October 7th and 8th, 2022, tentatively at the Italian Community Center.

Blessing and Dismissal

Bishop Lee offered a final prayer and his blessing.

The Rev. Deacon Marge Kiss gave the dismissal.

The Rev. Deacon Bramwell called for the adjournment, with approval being signaled by the waving hands of the Convention.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Margaret (Marge) M. Kiss
Executive Secretary/Recorder of Minutes