

Approved
Special Convention of the Diocese of Milwaukee
June 26, 2021
Virtual

Saturday, June 26th

Opening Ceremony

The Rev. Scott Leannah, Chair of the Convention convened the Special Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee at 10:02 a.m. on June 26, 2021.

Rev. Leannah introduced himself, welcomed and thanked the Convention members for participating in the one item Special Convention.

He then called on the Rev. Jana Troutman-Miller to offer the Opening Prayer which was followed by a musical selection from Ms. Stephanie Seefeldt.

Appointment of President Pro Tempore

The Rev. Scott Leannah explained that: *Under our Constitution and Rules of Order, in the absence of a See or Suffragan Bishop, the President of the Standing Committee is named The Chair 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. I, therefore, appoint the Incoming President of the Standing Committee, The Rev. Jana Troutman-Miller, St. John's on the Lake, Milwaukee, as President Pro Tempore. This appointment requires approval from the Convention.*

He then called on the Parliamentarian, Mr. John Washbush, for an explanation of, and to lead the Convention members through the voting procedure.

Mr. John Washbush explained that because a voice vote, the usual method of voting, was not possible, the vote would be taken by a Zoom poll as was practiced on June 22nd. The poll was sent out.

The appointment, requiring approval from the Convention, was approved by a poll vote:
99% for
1% against

Determination of a Quorum

The Rev. Scott Leannah inquired of Deacon Marge Kiss, Executive Secretary of the Diocese, regarding the presence of a quorum and the certification of members. Deacon Marge reported that a quorum was present, that the lay deputies of all parishes were certified and that the clerical members were canonically resident and certified for this Convention.

The Rev. Scott Leannah declared the Convention organized for business.

Order of Business

The Rev. Scott Leannah called on Mr. John Washbush, the Parliamentarian, to review the Special Convention schedule and procedures.

Afterwards, Rev. Leannah stated:

This Special Convention is a one item convention. It is convened for the sole purpose of considering the following resolution:

RESOLVED that the Diocese of Milwaukee be placed under the provisional charge and authority of The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey D. Lee for a period of two years, pursuant to Title III, Canon 13, of the Canons of The Episcopal Church.

Rev. Leannah continued:

The resolution placing the diocese under the provisional charge of The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey D. Lee for 2-yr. period is now before you. Is there any discussion on the resolution?

Hearing/seeing nothing, Rev. Leannah called on the Parliamentarian, Mr. John Washbush, for an explanation of, and to lead the Convention members through the voting procedure.

Mr. John Washbush re-explained that the vote would be taken by a Zoom poll. The poll was sent out.

The resolution placing the diocese under the provisional charge of The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey D. Lee for 2-yr. period was approved by poll vote:

98% for

2% against

Bishop Lee Addresses the Convention

The Rev. Scott Leannah introduced the newly elected Provisional Bishop The Rt. Rev. Jeffery D. Lee. *The Rt. Rev. Jeff Lee, recently retired 12th Bishop of Chicago, has served God's people with his gift of music, as a parish priest, and as a diocesan bishop. During his time in Chicago, he worked to bring about cultural and structure change. A recognized leader in the national church, an innovator, teacher and a man with the heart of a shepherd, we are blessed to have him walk with us during this time in our common life. Along with the accolades you should know that our Bishop Provisional is also kind of a regular guy. He's a dedicated spouse and Dad. He tries to follow Jesus, has a good sense of humor, and seeks to keep things straightforward, clear and transparent. He cares about God's people, and that is evident in the way he treats them. Please give him your prayerful and moral support, and when you meet him, thank him for his ministry among us during this season of our shared life. It's my pleasure to introduce to you our Bishop Provisional, The Rt. Rev. Jeff Lee.*

Bishop Jeff Lee's Address can be found on the Diocesan website.

Closing the Convention

Father Scott Leannah offered his closing remarks:

In August of 2019, Bishop Miller informed the Standing Committee that he was looking earnestly at retiring. Having served our diocese for 17 years, he was feeling as though it was time to make this transition. We on Standing Committee offered our prayers and support as he continued with that discernment. Shortly thereafter we met with Bishop Todd Ousley from the Office of the Presiding Bishop. His support was instructive and helpful as we moved forward. After considerable dialogue we reached a retirement agreement with Bishop Miller, even in the midst of a global pandemic. Following his retirement, in our role as the ecclesiastical authority in the diocese, we on the Standing Committee sought to lead in a manner characterized by clarity, respect, charity and humility. We thank you for your cooperation, patience and acceptance, even when things were tough which, in 2020, was pretty

much the case on most days! We feel singularly blessed to have in Bishop Lee someone who is capable, competent, and who has a history in our diocese. He loves the diocese of Milwaukee and its people. He is dedicated to helping us live into a new way of doing and being church. I consider our reaching out to him, and his affirmative response, as the work of the Holy Spirit.

On a personal note, this will be the last time I act in the role of President of the Standing Committee. As you may know, Bishop Lee has invited me to serve as Canon for Ministries in the diocese beginning on July 1. This new role will include clergy deployment, ministry to and with priest, deacons and lay leaders, congregational development, and “other duties as assigned”. I am looking forward to this new ministry and I feel both excited and a bit daunted. I ask for your prayers and patience.

Because of this new role, I will need to resign from Standing Committee and so today it’s my honor to share with you that Standing Committee has unanimously chosen The Rev. Jana Troutman-Miller as the next President.

Also, due to her on-going work as a Congregational Consultant and as the Interim Deployment Officer in the diocese, Tammy Prather will also be resigning from Standing Committee.

The two individuals chosen to fill the spots vacated by Tammy and me are The Rev. Mindy Valentine-Davis and Dr. Sheryl Slocum.

I am humbled and honored to have served with such a faithful, talented and wise group of people on the Standing Committee during a time like no other. Thank you all and God bless you. I now call on The Rev. Marge Kiss, a Deacon in the diocese, to lead our closing prayer.

Closing Prayer – The Rev. Marge Kiss

God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, of covenant faithfulness and truth.

Thank you for our time together today, for your presence with us as we elected Bishop Jeff as our Provisional Bishop

We ask for Bishop Jeff the discernment of Deborah, the strength of Samson, the wisdom of Solomon, the fortitude of Esther and the patience of Job.

Grant that he be supported by his faith and trust in you.

We ask for ourselves openness, a wholehearted commitment and faithfulness to our covenant with you and with Bishop Jeff.

Thank you for always walking with us.

May we always hear your voice and strive to live within your love.

For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

Bishop Jeff offered a final prayer and his blessing.

Deacon Marge led the dismissal.

Ms. Stephanie Seefeldt concluded the service with a musical selection

The meeting adjourned at 10:41 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Margaret M. Kiss, Executive Secretary/Recorder of the Minutes