

Minutes of the 126th Annual Convention
Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan
First Presbyterian Church, Marquette
October 22, 2022

Saturday, October 22

Call to Order

The Convention opened with Charles Murphy leading us in song. Following the opening song, the meeting was called to order at 10:20 a.m. by Bishop Rayford Ray and the Land Acknowledgement: *As we gather today, let us remember that we in the Diocese of Northern Michigan acknowledge the sacred land where we work, live, teach, learn, and build community. This land is the territory of the Anishnaabe people. We recognize the repeated violations of sovereignty, territory, and water, perpetrated by European and other settlers that have impacted the original inhabitants of this land. We extend our respect to citizens of these First Nations People who live here and their ancestors who have lived here for over five hundred generations, and to all Indigenous people. We also know that this acknowledgement is insufficient. It does not undo the harm that has been done and continues to be perpetrated now against Indigenous people, their land, air, and water.*

Appointment of Parliamentarian

Bishop Ray appointed Judd Spray as Parliamentarian for the Convention.

Chaplain Reflections

Brother Thomas offered reflections on St. Francis's life and will lead us in reflections throughout the day.

Recommendation of adoption of Order of Business and Rules of Order

J Spray recommended the adoption of the Order of Business and the Rules of Order for the Convention. Motion to adopt was made and seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Appointment of Secretary

Bishop Ray appointed Kathy Binoniemi as Convention Secretary.

Report of Registration Committee certifying the presence of a quorum

The Registration Committee certified the presence of a quorum with 18 congregations being represented.

Approval of the Minutes from the 125th Annual Convention (held virtually Oct. 23, 2021)

Motion to approve the minutes of the 2021 convention was made by Sue Ray, seconded by Rick Stanitis. Motion carried unanimously.

Introduction of guests and newcomers to Convention

Newcomers to convention were welcomed and Lydia Bucklin introduced visitors to convention who were joining us in combination with Visitors' Weekend this year: Rupertsland, Winnepeg, Canada; Alaska; and students from VTS and visitors from Eastern and Western MI.

Announcement of Committees and Commission on Ministry membership

Bishop Ray listed the people on various committees within the diocese.

Communications Received

K Binoniemi reported no communications had been received.

Presentation by Title of Resolutions, Petitions, and Memorials

K Binoniemi directed the delegates to the folder they received at the registration table that contained three resolutions with changes to the Constitution that were proposed by the 80th General Convention. The delegates were reminded to read through the Resolutions and watch for additional 50 resolutions that will be referred to the dioceses for consideration and another 43 that will be referred over the coming months for action.

Bishop's Address

Bishop Ray addressed the Convention discussing the many ways our diocese is impacting those within and outside of our area and reflected on how much we have accomplished stemming from the "Our Life Together" across the UP road trip with L Bucklin and Brother Thomas traveling across the diocese gathering stories and listening to our hopes, dreams, and concerns.

Announce and Receive Nominations

Wyndeth Davis announced the nominations for various leadership positions. She explained the procedure for accepting nominations from the floor.

Nominations received for **Diocesan Treasurer**: 1 nomination to fill the one-year term – Dick Graybill.

Nominations for **Standing Committee**: 3 members for 3-year term, 1 ordained, 1 non ordained, and one may be either. Nominees Cheri Lakosky, Kathy Binoniemi and Charles Mineau.

Nominations for **Diocesan Council**: 3 3-year terms are open. Nominees: Sarah Diener-Schlitt, Gin Mannisto, Mary Sullivan.

Trust Association: Motion to affirm the appointments of Peggy Frazier and Kim Moote to the Trust Association by Bishop Ray was made and seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Nomination of **Deputies to 81st General Convention**, Louisville, Kentucky, 2024: Up to 8 ordained – Lydia Kelsey, David Carlisle, Sarah Diener-Schlitt, Dick Graybill, Brad Pickens, Sue Ray. Up to 8 non-ordained – Kathy Binoniemi, Jane Cisluycis, Cheri Lakosky, Rick Stanitis, Thomas Steffensen. The four people in each group receiving the highest number of votes will be the deputies. Those receiving lesser votes will be alternate deputies.

Motion by R Stanitis that the nominations be closed, and a unanimous ballot be cast. Mike Cutiair seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Appointment of Tellers

Bishop Ray appointed Casey Jones and Kathy Vanden Boogaard as tellers.

Reports: Soul Shop, Feeding America, Peace Camp

Soul Shop – Marna Franson spoke on bringing SoulShop – Suicide Prevention for Faith Communities to the UP. A workshop was held recently that brought lots of resources in the one-day training event. She is also a trained trainer and can deliver the SoulShop training in whatever form to our Ministry Support Teams, Vestry, one on one – whatever is needed. Statistically, 50% of people in a congregation have been affected by suicide either with thoughts of self-harm, knowing someone that has died by suicide, or knows someone who has been impacted by suicide. Contact her for more information on the program.

Feeding America West MI – Steve Peltó spoke about the FAWM program that the diocese has been a part of, providing both financial support and volunteers. The program has expanded from being just in Marquette to

KI Sawyer, and Munising and organizing in Iron Mountain. The distributions bring protein, vegetables, fruit, and milk to each community. Since the start of 2022, 273,000 pounds of food have been distributed to 13,000 individuals and 3,600 children. Contact him if you are interested in volunteering in any of the communities.

Peace Camp – Kathy Vanden Boogaard spoke about the upcoming Great Lakes Peace Camp that is being planned for July 7-9th. In 2019 they wrote a grant and developed a curriculum but then the COVID pandemic hit. The curriculum is based on the 7 grandfather teachings from the Anishinaabe. All involved are really excited for this event.

James Arthur Kelsey Peace and Justice Award for Mary Sullivan and Gay Jennings

Bishop Ray presented the award to Mary Sullivan for her help in coordinating Feeding America West Michigan. She helped to raise \$100,000 for this project. Through the Davenport Foundation she is also helping to fund the Truth Telling Traveling Exhibit.

Bishop Ray presented the award to Gay Jennings who was the House of Deputies president from 2012 – 2022. She has been instrumental in healing and reconciliation in the church in the US and beyond. She has worked with Bishop Michael Curry to move the church forward and helped tremendously in healing.

Reflections/Comments by Gay Jennings

G Jennings reflected on all that our diocese has done and is doing that is being watched and emulated by the larger church. What we do here is having an impact on those outside of our diocese and we should be aware and proud of the work we are doing. We are leading in the movement to bring truth and reconciliation to the forefront.

Treasurer's Report and Adoption of the 2023 Diocesan Budget

Dick Graybill noted that there was a special meeting via Zoom offered a week ago, open to all to review the budget and ask any questions. It was decided during that meeting that the Trust Association and the Diocesan Council should have a joint meeting regarding the budget and to have a financial discussion. A comment from the convention gathering was that the meeting was a very, very good idea. There were no other questions, and a motion was made and seconded to approve the budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Welcome of special visitor

Bishop Ray introduced Martin Reinhardt and thanked him for being a part of the gathering. Bishop Ray noted that they first met in the early 2000's when they first were working on interracial relations and that that meeting changed him. M Rhinehart thanked our gathering for the work that we are doing.

Chaplain Reflections

Brother Thomas continued to share more on the life of St. Francis.

Lunch Break

Reconvene – 1:30 pm

C Murphy reconvened the gathering with music.

Chaplain Reflections

Brother Thomas reflections.

Election Results General Convention 2024

Ordained deputies– Lydia Kelsey, Gin Mannisto, David Carlisle, Sue Ray
Ordained alternate deputies – Brad Pickens, Sarah Diener-Schlitt, Dick Graybill

Non-ordained deputies – Rick Stanitis, Jane Cislucycis, Thomas Steffensen, Kathy Binoniemi
Non-ordained alternated deputy – Cheri Lakosky

James Arthur Kelsey Justice and Peace Awards for Linda Cobe and Tom Biron

Bishop Ray presented the JAK Award to Tom Biron noting the Creation work he has done with St. Paul's, drumming. He is also a survivor of the boarding schools. Tom spoke on what an honor it was to receive the award and said that it's been a difficult road that he's had teaching.

Bishop Ray presented the JAK Award to Linda Cobe, an author of a book on her experiences in a boarding school and noted it's important for us to hear these stories. Linda then spoke saying that she didn't know about her own heritage. She was 5 when she was brought to the Harbor Springs, MI boarding school. Bishop Ray said if anyone would like a copy of her book, please contact the Diocesan office.

Report on Healing Work

Leora Tadgeerson, the diocesan Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – “bridge builder; healer”, spoke on the importance of this healing work being done. There are only 4 first speakers left – the language was one of the things erased by boarding schools. She noted a grant was applied for and received from the UTO for Earth Care and Creation Care and they are almost finished with the interviews that are a part of the Traveling Exhibit. Small groups broke out for discussion, then a question-and-answer period.

Courtesy Resolutions

A Gordanier read the resolutions as follow:

May it be resolved that the 126th convention of the Diocese of Northern Michigan meeting October 22nd, 2022, at the First Presbyterian Church, Marquette MI. Offer our thanks to the Presbyterian Church for the use of their space for our business meeting, and also to St Paul's for hosting the reception and for being the Sacred Space for the convention eucharist. We thank the planning team for the wonderful hospitality of this gathering, the vibrant liturgy, fellowship, and business sessions.

Be it resolved --We thank all who serve on committees, commissions, diocesan council, trust association, and the GC 80 deputies and alternates. The offering of your time, energy, humor, and wisdom. We appreciate your patience and the effort of meeting on screens and email and the telephone. You accepted the challenge and with your faithful focus the work of the diocese moved forward.

To those who are taking a break thank you for your willingness to serve and we offer our gratitude for your commitment and leadership to:

Katie Chipman-Bergsma, and Kim Moote from Diocesan Council

Norm Satterly from Standing Committee

Hillary Galley from the Commission on Ministry

Patrick Galley from the Trust Association.

And be it resolved that we thank all who stood for election at this 126th diocesan convention.

Be it further Resolved that we express our gratitude to those who facilitated today , Brother Thomas thank you for guiding us as chaplain and for your generous presence in our diocese, Charles Murphy for your ministry of music and being with us today, and sacred space and other occasions. Music connects us in ways

which touch our souls. We are delighted to welcome our visitors from various parts of the US including Alaska, and our friends in Canada, and for those visitors who are using their Autumn break from Virginia theological seminary to share in the journey and conversation of Ministry.

And Be it Resolved We express our Yooper welcome to Sarah Diener-Schlitt And her family, Trinity Houghton. Sarah joins with the other missionaries in our communities and churches. We are also very excited and blessed to welcome Leora Tadgerson director of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Her love, joy and enthusiasm for Creation and people is contagious and it is a delight to welcome her.

And may it be resolved that during the extraordinary and challenging circumstances which the Pandemic thrust upon us and the challenges to re-engage gatherings in our buildings and face to face times of worship and community celebrations ---we continue to embrace our SISU and creativity to be present as church families, and we delight in being together.

Be it further resolved that We give deep appreciation for Sacred Space and the Thursday meditations, and we offer our appreciation for Lanni Lantto and Wild Church for opportunities to be in Creation and be awed by winds, storms, colors, and lazy summer days. Appreciation also to Marna Franson and "Soul Shop" which brings suicide and suicide prevention into the light changing despair to hope. We also offer thanks for Feeding America which brings nutrition and more food security into many of UP communities, and we are very appreciative for Steve Pelto who shepherds workers to the sites. Also, we give thanks for Peace Camp, for the Great Lakes Peace Center who is guiding the program and especially to Kathy Vanden Boogaard for presenting today. This is based on the Seven Grandfather teachings.

May it be resolved that we offer our deep gratitude to Kathy Binoniemi, Jane Cisluycis, Lydia Bucklin, and Steve Pelto who help us plan, figure out scheduling meetings, agendas, reports, budgets, and forms, for this is a gift of deep hospitality ---your patience, kindness, wisdom, and your good humor. We treasure you--thank you.

May it further be resolved we offer an abundance of love and deep gratitude to Rayford, our Bishop who walks with us, responds and partners with our church communities-- your presence at events, your leadership, guidance in decisions, wise council, and deep listening is a blessing to this diocese as we move forward in walking the Way of Love, together.

May it be also resolved, we celebrate and offer thanks to those outside our UP communities who offer support, wise counsel, and friendship. And may We also lift Lester Mackenzie in prayer Lester was not able to be with us at this convention because of health concerns --and we miss his joy and exuberance in being together -and you know--God Loves it when we pray.

May we resolve to send the affectionate greetings from this 126th convention of the Diocese of Northern Michigan to those noted:

*Greetings to: Diocese of Michigan, Diocese of Eastern Michigan, Diocese of Western Michigan
Greeting to: Diocese of Eau Claire, Diocese of Fond du Lac, our neighboring diocese
Greetings to: Charlie and Linda Piper, Tom, and Peg Lippart, Marsha and Chuk Kleber
Sandy and Burt Purrington, Shane Spellmeyer, Steve Kelsey, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, President of the House of Deputies Julia Harris, Mark & Sharon Engle, Rise and Kevin Thew Forrester, Bob and Cathy Scott, April Stace. Lester Mackenzie, Gwen Hetler, Jim Livingston*

Respectfully submitted, Arlene Gordanier

Time and Place of 2023 Annual Convention

The next Convention will be held at St. Stephen's, Escanaba on October 20th – 21st, 2023.

Closing Reflections

Brother Thomas closed the convention with final thoughts on St. Francis. Charles Murphy led us in music and songs.

Dismissal

Dale Jamison dismissed the gathering at 3:30 pm.



Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Binoniemi

Convention Secretary

Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan