

Minutes of the 127th Annual Convention

Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Escanaba
October 20-21, 2023

Friday, October 20

Call to Order

The Convention opened with Charles Murphy leading us in song. Following the opening song, the meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. 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 Richard Graybill as Parliamentarian for the Convention.

Recommendation of adoption of Order of Business and Rules of Order

R Graybill 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

The Registration Committee reported the presence of a quorum with 16 congregations being represented.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the written minutes of the 126th Annual Convention, held October 22, 2022 was made by M Cutaiar, seconded by M Luckey. Motion carried unanimously.

Elections - 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 **Diocesan Council**: 3 3-year terms are open. Nominees: Jon Flath, Kristen Mowafy, Bonnie Turner.

Trust Association: *Motion to affirm the appointments of Tom Lippart and Ron Smith to the Trust Association by Bishop Ray was made and seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

Motion was made to close the nominations and a unanimous ballot be cast. Motion was seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Introduction of guests and newcomers to Convention

Lydia Bucklin recognized guests that were attending our Convention as part of Visitors' Weekend. Attendees were from Bexley Seabury Seminary, South Dakota, Diocese of Texas, Virginia Theological Seminary, Diocese of Central Gulf Coast, Shanequa Brokenleg, and Leah Wiste from MI Interfaith Power and Light.

The business portion of the evening concluded and attendees all gathered to celebrate Holy Eucharist at 6:30 pm.

Saturday, October 21

Convention Opens

Bp Ray reconvened the Convention at 9:30 am with the Land Acknowledgement. Our guest from Kenya, a student at Bexley Seabury in Chicago and a drummer led us in song and a brief reflection.

Chaplain's Reflection

David Chappel offered reflections on our connection to one another and how we need to be intentional about our identity as one in spirit. Charles Murphy led us in song to close the reflection.

Bishop's Address

Bishop Ray gave his address reflecting on memories of his wife Sue's son's baptism and its impact.

Walking Together: Finding Common Ground

Leora Miskopwaaganikwe Tadgerson introduced the Traveling Exhibit project. We watched a video of an interview with one of the survivors of the Indigenous Boarding Schools in Michigan that is part of this exhibit. Very heart wrenching interview. The Traveling Exhibit is scheduled to open on Saturday, Nov 18th with a gathering at the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community with a formal apology given by Bishop Ray to the tribal nations.

Prayers

Shaneequa Brokenleg led us in Prayers of the People.

James A. Kelsey Awards for Justice and Peace

The recipients of this year's awards were Tom Biron, Earl Meshigaud, Lean Wiste and Feeding America West Michigan.

Chaplain Reflection

D Chappel reflected on a part of Martin Laird's "Into the Silent Land: The Practice of Contemplation".

Announcement of Committees and Commission on Ministry Membership

G Mannisto asked attendees to refer to the paper included in their folders for a list of the committee conveners, appointments for 2023 and the offices and members of the Disciplinary Board. Motion to affirm the appointments was made and seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Nancy Olexick and Mary Sullivan were thanked for the time that they served on Diocesan Council, and thanks were extended to all who have served on various diocesan committees.

Treasurer's Report and Adoption of the 2023 Budget

Dick Graybill noted that reports have been sent out monthly and that the diocese is doing well. He noted that there is a \$52,000 shortfall but deployment changes – Hoover Foundation funding the Director of Reparations and Justice position will flip the budget and there will be a surplus of \$60,000. This year a committee grappled with preparing the budget. A workshop that took place during the lunch break offered a time for anyone to ask questions regarding the budget. *D Graybill entertained a motion to adopt the 2023 Budget as presented, motion was moved and seconded. Motion carried unanimously.*

Workshops

Attendees were offered several workshops:

1. UP Wild Church hosted by Lanni Lantto
2. Healing and Relationship Building with Indigenous Communities hosted by Miskopwaaganikwe (Leora) Tadgerson
3. Music that Makes Community hosted by Charles Murphy

Reconvene - Closing Business

Presentation by Title of Resolution

Be it resolved that this 127th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan meeting at St. Stephen's Church in Escanaba, Michigan on October 20 and 21, 2023, affirm, endorse, accept, and authorize

the adoption of these referred resolutions from the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church, meeting in Baltimore, Maryland, July 8 – 11, 2022. Be it resolved we will support the leadership, Diocesan Council, and this 127th Convention to engage the necessary action required by these Referred Resolutions of the 80th General Convention of the Episcopal Church.

Be it resolved that of the ninety-three diocesan referred resolutions passed, that those listed below are the resolutions that require each diocese in The Episcopal Church to a specific action and this 127th convention of the Diocese of Northern Michigan is charged to authorize and confirm the implementation of the designated action.

Be it resolved that we, the delegates to the 127th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Northern Michigan accept the charge of these referred Resolution in total and may it further be resolved to accept and authorize the required action as defined in each resolution.

Arlene Gordanier moved to adopt as a whole, the Resolutions presented in writing to the convention.

Seconded by Rick Stanitis. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports

Bp Ray introduced:

- **Leah Wiste from Michigan Interfaith Power and Light.** She gave a brief report on their work nothing they are focused on reducing climate pollution, expanding renewable energy, healing broken relationships.
- **Steve Mulder from Solar Faithful.** It was a group created by MI Interfaith Power and Light and began about 6 months ago. Of the 9,000 houses of worship in Michigan, less than 100 have solar. To date that have completed 6 projects with 2 additional contracts signed. 100 more are interested. Lots of conversations taking place, lots of discussion. Takes time to build trust. In our area, Christ Church, Calumet and St. Paul's, Marquette have reached out for more information. If a congregation is interested, fill out an interest form and send in a utility bill to get the process started.
- **Ken Estelle, Executive Director of Feeding America West Michigan.** FAWM works to provide equitable access to healthy, safe food. 5 yr goal was to have less people attending each event. In 2022 there were 133 distributions, in 2023 it rose to 152. They want to do less. Traditional food pantries have seen a decrease of 20% while mobile pantry attendance is up 35%. He noted that mobile food ministry is even more important and he's very honored to be a part of this work.

Time and Place of the 128th Annual Convention

Bp Ray announced our 128th Annual Convention will be held October 25 and 26, 2025 in Marquette.

Closing Reflection

D Chappel led the closing reflections urging us not to risk the reality of unbounded freedom and unlimited love with cages of worry, scarcity, and perfection. Charles Murphy led us in song.

Dismissal

The gathering was dismissed by Deacon Coralie Voce.

Adjournment

The Convention adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Binoniemi,
Convention Secretary
Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan