



The Sheaf

50th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota

Council Endorses the Diocesan Discernment Task Force Report

In a nearly unanimous decision, the DDTF Report (as amended) is being sent to the 50th Annual Convention of the Diocese of North Dakota. Along with the Report is a Budget Proposal that enables the Report to be acted upon and the plan to be moved forward.

At its base, the Report makes a call for leadership and decision making within the Diocese to become circular. That is, to recognize that congregations form the basis of life, mission and ministry in the Diocese. Ideas, plans and programs will be encouraged to come from the base up and not from a hierarchical model of governance from the top down.

In an attempt to use the same diagram of authority, there would be a reversal. Instead of a model of leadership where the bottom (all of the

congregations) support the top in its endeavors, this model switches it. The leadership that is “over” the whole is actually “under” it in order to support the endeavors of the congregations.

While not directly cited in the Report, a principle of subsidiarity has been undergirding the decisions of funding and action in the Episcopal Church. “Subsidiarity is an organizing principle that matters ought to be handled by the smallest, lowest or least centralized competent authority. Decisions should be taken at a local level if possible, rather than by a central authority.” ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subsidiarity_\(Catholicism\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subsidiarity_(Catholicism)))

The dynamic that is being developed is the expectation that our congregations, with support created within the whole, becomes stronger in a variety of ways. That will in turn cause vitality in the life of the whole. The focus and energy will be spent parochially in the years ahead. The structure of Diocesan Life is to encourage and support a healthy interdependence among the congregations that make up the Diocese. This is being designed so that the Diocese is not developing “parochialism.”

Parochialism is the skewing of the local life of a congregation to the point that it does not recognize itself as part of the larger whole, or to use another term for the whole, “churchwide.” To become a churchwide movement there needs to be a hub that helps to balance and provide support to the whole.

The Discernment Task Force put in extensive hours and energy to listen, to learn, communicate and to provide the Diocese with a plan that provides a way forward for the next three years. The Report is being sent out to Convention Delegates and Clergy and is found at <https://ndepiscopal.org/diocesan-discernment-task-force-ddtf/>

2nd Notice:

Delegates to Diocesan Convention

Congregations are asked to send the names and contact information (physical mailing and email addresses) for each of your Convention Delegates to the diocese immediately **or no later than September 14** (Holy Cross Day). The DDTF wants to send their Report to you well before Convention and help you engage the material. Don't delay! Call or email the information to:

Canon Hal Weidman
Email: canon@ndepiscopal.org
Phone: 701 235 6688

In This Sheaf

In the following pages of this Pre-Convention Sheaf you will read a brief description of the Task Force's Report that was approved by Council. The whole report is being printed and sent to Diocesan Convention Delegates, Clergy, Congregations and the Sheaf Mailing List. The delegates will receive multiple copies to share with members of their congregations in order to solicit feedback from them prior to the Pre-Convention Meetings and the Convention itself. It is also available, along with many supporting documents to the Report, on the Diocesan website: www.ndepiscopal.org. Follow the tabs to find the DDTF page.

A shortened version of the Diocesan Budget is also in this issue of the Sheaf. The complete budget will be sent with the DDTF Report to the Delegates and Clergy. The whole of the budget may also be found online www.ndepiscopal.org. Follow the tabs to the DDTF, Convention or Finance pages of the website.

There are several Committee appointments to be made that can significantly increase the vitality of the Diocese. They are found in this issue of the Sheaf as well as elected offices: Alternate Deputies to the General Convention (Lay and Ordained), the Standing Committee (Lay and Ordained), the Treasurer, East and West Region Representatives to the Diocesan Council, EFMHE, NDEF and the Secretary of the Convention.

And of course, there is information concerning the Convention arrangements for this year. With the challenges that Covid-19 has been bringing to the State of North Dakota, the Diocesan Council has approved of doing this Convention virtually. A company from Maryland that is working with other Episcopal Dioceses will be enabling the use of technology to conduct this year's convention.

A Virtual Convention

The Diocesan Council approved a resolution at its August meeting to hold the 2020 Convention online. AE Productions is contracted to handle the details for the Convention. AE Productions "has been in business of producing ROI-focused events and related media for non-profit, private sector and government clients for over 10 years. Each of AE Production's contractors and freelance staff possess over 15 years' experience in the video production and AV Support environment."

Delegates and Clergy will be able to take part from their homes, in small groups or with the delegation from their own congregations. The purpose of going virtual is to keep our members safe while we conduct the necessary business of the Diocese of North Dakota. Safety protocols applicable to each setting is expected to be followed.

This company was recommended to the Diocese of North Dakota by the vice-chancellor in San Joaquin, California. Several dioceses in California and around the Episcopal Church have been working out the details of holding Virtual Diocesan Conventions. Robert's Rules of Order, which our Convention uses, has developed a section in the Rules on holding Virtual Conventions.

As the Convention gathers the Delegates and Clergy will be registered and a quorum established. The first order of business will be to approve of the use being virtual. All business may follow the approval of that order.

Unlike the typical use of Zoom, the TV/Monitor Screen will not be showing all of the remote sites at once. The primary video will be the Table at which the officers of the Convention will be seated. Individuals wishing to speak to the Convention will be recognized by the Chair and then their live feed will be transmitted to the screen for all to see and to hear.

This is the 50th Annual Convention as a Diocese. Video recordings that bring greetings to the whole of the Diocese are encouraged from congregations, clergy, retired clergy, community leaders - really anyone that would like to encourage the Episcopal Church in North Dakota. Please send these to the following email jffloberg@gmail.com.

A schedule of the Convention will be provided at a later date. It will begin on Friday, October 23 and end in the afternoon of Saturday, October 24. It may include the "election" of a Temporary Provisional Bishop who will serve the Diocese part-time for the next three years (or so). The Convention will approve the way forward for the Diocese by accepting or amending the DDTF Report and a Budget that is forwarded to it through the Standing Committee and Diocesan Council.

All committees, commissions and others planning to report to Convention are encouraged to create their report in a video recording and sending them to jffloberg@gmail.com.

This is a reminder that any resolutions, canonical revisions, etc. must be presented in writing sixty days prior to the Convention. A resolution may be admitted to the floor of Convention through a 2/3 vote of the delegates if submitted within sixty days of the Convention.

*50th Annual Convention
Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota
October 23-24, 2020*

Delegate Registration Form & Nomination for Elected Office
(registration fee for 2020 is \$45.00 per delegate or clergy)

Personal Information (please print clearly)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Congregation: _____

Are you interested in being nominated for any of the following position (check those that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary of Convention | <input type="checkbox"/> EFMHE Member (2 positions) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer of the Diocese | <input type="checkbox"/> NDEF Member (3 positions) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Standing Committee
(Lay Member) | <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Alternate Deputy to General Convention
(4 positions) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Standing Committee
(Clergy Member) | <input type="checkbox"/> Clergy Alternate Deputy to General Convention
(4 positions) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> East Region Representative to Council (2 positions) | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> West Region Representative to Council (2 positions) | |

Nominee's Affirmation (check boxes)

- I understand the obligations of the position.
 If elected to this office, I agree to serve.

Nominee's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Nomination Deadline: Nominations will be received "from the floor" of Diocesan Convention, by the deadline of September 28, 2020 is set for publication of pre-convention materials.

Experience and Qualifications

NOTE: this information will be published in 2020 pre-convention materials.

1. Please list the experiences which help equip you for this position.

2. Why do you wish to serve in this ministry and what gifts would you bring to it?

Complete both pages of this form and send to:

The Rev. Dr. John Floberg
820 West Central Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58501
Cell - (701) 891-2911

OR

E-mail: jffloberg@gmail.com

A copy of the Proposed Diocesan Budget will be posted on the Diocesan Web Site along with Dates and Times for Pre-Convention Meetings that will lead up to Diocesan Convention.
The page is found at
https://ndepiscopal.org/wp-admin/post-new.php?post_type=page

First Order of Business

RESOLVED, that the 50th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota utilize these Virtual means to gather, deliberate, hear reports, vote on motions and elections according as approved in Robert's Rules of Order.

EXPLANATION: When Diocesan Convention last met there was no pandemic threatening our welfare and the welfare of our neighbors and our members. Robert's Rules of Order, which we subscribe to, has provision for Virtual Meetings. The Standing Committee and Council have made it possible for the Diocesan Convention to meet Virtually that accounts for registrations of Delegates and Clergy, voting on resolutions et al and in voting by orders as proscribed in the Canons. This, being the very first act of Convention makes it clear that it is the determination of the Convention to operate in this way for the good of Diocese and the safety of our neighbors and our members. Leo Wilking, the Diocesan Chancellor and Chair of the Constitution and Canons Committee concurs with these arrangements.

Author: The Rev. Dr. John Floberg, Standing Committee President

The Enabling Resolution by the DDTF for Diocesan Convention

RESOLVED, that the 50th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota accept the report created by the Diocesan Discernment Task Force (DDTF) as adopted by the Standing Committee and Diocesan Council, and adhere to the plan laid out by the DDTF for the diocese.

EXPLANATION: On October 20th, 2018, at the 48th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota, Bishop Michael Smith announced his plans to resign on May 1st, 2019. This announcement sent the diocese into an interim period of discernment. During this period, the Diocesan Discernment Task Force (DDTF) was created and tasked with discerning *What God is up to in North Dakota* and to report their findings to the Standing Committee, Diocesan Council, and the Convention by the 50th Annual Convention in 2020.

After diligent data gathering and discernment, through pandemic and fierce North Dakota winter, the DDTF presented their final report to a joint meeting of the Standing Committee and Diocesan Council on Saturday, August 22nd, 2020. The Standing Committee and Diocesan Council fully support this resolution.

Author: Joshua Floberg, member of DDTF - Resolution Passed at Diocesan Council

The Registration Fee for Diocesan Convention will be \$75.00 for Clergy and Delegates. This covers the cost of providing an Online Convention with the assistance of a AEProductions. Please send registrations and fees to:

Canon Hal Weidman
c/o St George's Episcopal Church
P. O. Box 1241
Bismarck ND 58502

Liturgy Conference

*Presented for Publication
by Joshua Floberg,
Member of the
Commission*

The Standing
Commission on Liturgy
and Music (SCLM) will
host a Gathering on
Liturgical Formation, a
formation opportunity on
the liturgy of the
Episcopal Church. This

event will be held online via Zoom teleconferencing from October 19 - 20. This symposium will help articulate current initiatives of the SCLM and Taskforce for Liturgical and Prayer Book Revision (TFLPBR) in preparation for the 80th General Convention; respond to current liturgical anxieties of the wider Church; produce fruitful conversations across a wide range of backgrounds; and provide resources for cultural competence in planning liturgy. The topics of these webinars include: The Purpose of Liturgy; The Church Calendar; an update on the TFLPBR; and The Book of Common Prayer. For more information on topics and speakers, see the schedule below. Each plenary session will include two speakers in a conversation facilitated by the current chair of the SCLM, the Rev. Dr. Paul Fromberg. The four webinar plenary sessions will be open to anyone who wants to participate. Have questions? Email Ellen Johnston: ejohnston@vts.edu

Members of the Clergy and Licensed Worship Leaders are encouraged to make use of this Conference in place of the regular Diocesan Minister's Conference. That Conference will not be held this fall due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

SCHEDULE (EASTERN TIME)

Monday, October 19

-1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Plenary I: What is liturgy for? - The Rt. Rev. Mary Gray-Reeves and The Rt. Rev. Deon Johnson
-4:00 pm - 5:30 pm Plenary II: The Church Calendar - Dr. Liza Anderson and The Very Rev. Dr. James Turrell

Tuesday, October 20

-1:00 pm - 2:30 pm Plenary III: Task Force for Liturgical and Prayer Book Revision - The Rt. Rev. Dr. Neil Alexander and The Rev. Dr. Cameron Partridge
-4:00 pm - 5:30 pm Plenary IV: The Book of Common Prayer - The Rev. Dr. Juan Oliver and The Rev. Jemonde Taylor

To register for free:

<https://liturgyandmusic.com/a-gathering-on-liturgical-formation/> and follow the link to register.

What is God Doing in North Dakota?

Reconciliation

A Healing Ride by the Yanktonai & Hunkpatina

Written by: John Floberg

There is no dispute about the facts. But more often than not, it seems that only ½ of the story is told when reciting history.

The Dakota Territory was established in 1861 by an act of Congress. But this part of the plains were already inhabited by the Oceti Sakowin, *The Great Sioux Nation*. It was three years prior that the 1858 Ft. Laramie Treaty retained a homeland for the Lakota and that identified unceded territory, but that treaty did not include the Dakota from East River and into Minnesota. Conflict and bloodshed erupted.

1862 and 1863 were times of great conflict in the upper Midwest. With the Minnesota Conflict in the summer of 1862, followed by the execution of 38 (+2) on the day following Christmas in Mankato the whole region was bound up into a battle.

That conflict spread onto the Dakota prairie in the summer of 1863. An encampment of several hundred Yanktonai and Hunkpatina were processing upwards of 500,000 of buffalo for the winter in an early September day. They were at a place known as Whitestone Hill, a place of small lakes amidst the long and blowing grass. It was into that village that Sully and his troops caused a massacre.

This village, these Chiefs, were not involved in the Minnesota Conflict. In fact, they had never been at war with the United States. The killing of children, women and men in their village with the destruction of their food supply for the upcoming winter is an act of genocide.

In just another 30 years survivors and their children were being baptized in the Episcopal Church at Crow Hill on Spirit Lake, and Cannon Ball and Ft. Yates on Standing Rock. The Episcopal Church of North Dakota inherited this history. The Bible, Prayer Book and Hymnal that were translated among the Santee in Minnesota have been used on Standing Rock and Spirit Lake to this day.

The ride up Whitestone Hill on September 3rd, 157 years after the Massacre was an assault on the generational grief and pain. The DDTF Report calls upon the Episcopal Church in North Dakota to walk this way that can lead to reconciliation. It won't come through Convention Resolutions, but in knowing the whole of our history, and knowing the generational keepers of the stories.



Makha-akanl wolakhota kte -
May peace prevail on Earth



Request The Appointment Call of a Full-time Diocesan Minister Activate Diocesan Youth Ministry

A **Provisional Bishop** is appointed by the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. This is similar to the way in which the Missionary District of North Dakota would receive Bishops prior to 1970.

In this case, the Presiding Bishop will recommend a Bishop to the Diocese through the Standing Committee. They will be interviewed by a Committee of Seven and their recommendation will then be returned to the Standing Committee who would place their name on a ballot for the Diocesan Convention to approve.

The TPB (Temporary Provisional Bishop) will be presented with a Letter of Agreement that is supported by the Job Description that is being used to determine a candidate. The appointment is for three years with provision to end it early or to continue it longer.

The Provisional Bishop provides the point of contact to the House of Bishops and some aspects of Churchwide body of the Episcopal Church. Their focus is both internal to the Diocese and external to the Episcopal Church and ecumenical relationships.

This position is part-time. They may serve concurrently with another position or may themselves be “retired.”

A **Diocesan Minister** is a novel title. Meaning that it is not a title that is currently being used in other parts of the Episcopal Church. It is not to be confused with a Canon to the Ordinary who works for and represents the Bishop of the Diocese. This person will be appointed by the Provisional Bishop, but the clear intention is that they “work for the congregations of the Diocese.”

There is an aspect of borrowing from the United Methodist system where there is a Bishop and there are District Superintendents that have a primary position, but limited authority. The United Church of Christ has what is called a Conference Minister. They are a Congregational Church Model where the authority of the Church is based in the congregation and their focus is internal.

What the DDTF envisions is a Diocese whose ministry is based in the congregation with the resources of the Diocese being utilized to support their ministries. The Diocesan Minister is a resourceful position that significantly assists congregations to fulfill their life, mission and ministry. The vitality of the congregation in relationship with others forms the vitality of the Diocese.

Diocesan Administrator and Administration is a full-time equivalent pairing of responsibilities. The administration of the Diocese through communication (web site, facebook and social media, the Sheaf as well as other diocesan communication) is the focus of the Administrator.

A second aspect of the position is to provide organizational support for the life, mission and ministry of the whole. Theirs is a ministry of connectivity. They provide the point of contact for Church Pension, Church Insurance and liaison to the Churchwide body of the Episcopal Church.

The other aspect of administration is the Finance of the Diocese. The financial affairs of the Diocese is overseen by the Treasurer, the Finance Committee and Diocesan Council. Presently the work of Diocesan Finances is contracted to the accounting firm of Haga Kommer. The expected triad of Diocesan Finance is between the Treasurer, the Diocesan Administrator and Haga Kommer.

The

Of A Part Time Provisional Bishop Hire A Diocesan Administrator FTE Reconciliation, Circular Form of Governance

Diocesan Youth Minister is a fourth stipendiary position that is part of the Report. In this instance the term “stipendiary” is used to describe a paid position that is likely more valuable to the Diocese than the actual salary paid for the work.

They will assist the Commission on Youth Ministry to develop programs and opportunities for middle school, high school and traditional college aged students. The desire for youth ministry opportunities is recognized by smaller congregations that may not have much of a traditional youth group. This form of Diocesan Youth Ministry connects those places that have youth ministry in place along with those that have some youth, but little local activity.

This position will be supported and supervised by the Diocesan Minister and assisted by the Diocesan Administrator, particularly in the ministry of communication and finance.

Reconciliation is a central aspect of the vocation of being a Christian person and congregation. The Body of Christ is empowered to be reconciled with God in Christ and to be reconciled with others through Christ.

This ministry was highlighted by the Diocesan Discernment Task Force as a necessary aspect of healing relationships that are strained within the Diocese and in the State of North Dakota. It is a recognition that the history of the State has within it a story that has not been resolved. That story has several chapters: East and West, Cultural and Racial as well as differences between the Smaller and Larger Congregations.

Difference does not have to lead to division. History does not have to determine the future. Scripts can be changed, and diversity can become a strength.

Governance, while not changing in form, is envisioned to be changing in style. The default position of the Episcopal Church is reflected in the name “Episcopal.” That means in its extreme to be ruled by Bishops. The vision of the DDTF Report is not to do away with having a Bishop, but to enhance the ministry of the laity along with that of the congregations in the Diocese. The Diocese will lean into the work of the Commission on Ministry to provide training, discernment and support for locally training for ministries of both lay and clergy.

The Provisional Bishop, Diocesan Minister, Diocesan Administrator and round table collaboration and transparency of governance within the Diocese will become the norm to making use of resources, supporting initiatives, responding to difficulties and making necessary evaluations and course corrections. The Diocese will need to develop collaborative groups of its members to further its life, mission and ministry.

DDTF Report

The full report can be found at:

www.ndepiscopal.org/diocesan-discernment-task-force-ddtf/



50th Annual Diocesan Convention October 23 & 24, 2020

Meeting Virtually Throughout the Diocese

Recent developments have lead the Standing Committee and Council to consider alternatives to a face to face Diocesan Convention this fall. Even though the decisions to be made at Convention this year are weighty, the consequence of a Covid-19 outbreak among the delegates proves to be an overriding consideration.

As a result of the Council’s decision to hold the Convention Virtually, each congregation is advised to plan for its delegation to meet together, where possible. Instructions will be provided on how delegates will be registered for the Convention and the rules of a Virtual Convention.

The Registration Fee for Convention is \$45.00 for Delegates and Clergy.

Who can serve as delegates with seat, voice and vote?

All Clergy in Good Standing, Diocesan Council Members and Standing Committee along with Delegates from each congregation.

From the Parochial Report of each Congregation it is determined that there will be 2 delegates (16 years older) for each Congregation with up to 15 members

3 delegates for 16 to 30	6 delegates 91 to 120	9 delegates 181 to 280
4 delegates for 31 to 60	7 delegates 121 to 150	10 delegates 281 to 380
5 delegates 61 to 90	8 delegates 151 to 180	11 delegates 381 to 480

Open Positions for the Life, Mission and Ministry of the Diocese

Diocesan Committee Work

Finance
 Constitution and Canons
 Title IV – Disciplinary Board
 United Thank Offering
 Grant Writing

Episcopal Relief & Development
 Commission on Ministry
 Commission on Youth Ministry
 Constitution and Canons

Elected Positions

Secretary of the Convention
 Diocesan Treasurer
 Representatives to Council
 from the East and From the West
 EFMHE Board Member

NDEF Board Member
 Standing Committee
 Clergy and Lay Alternate Deputies
 to the General Convention

Diocesan Committee and Commission Application for Appointment

Personal Information (please print clearly)

Name. _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Congregation: _____

Are you interested in serving in any of the following position (check those that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commission on Ministry | <input type="checkbox"/> Grant Writing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commission on Youth Ministry | <input type="checkbox"/> Title IV Proceedings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Stewardship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Reconciliation | <input type="checkbox"/> Ecumenical Relationships |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Finance Committee
(Approved of by Diocesan Council) | |

Please state why you would like to work in the selected area and your qualifications:

Complete both pages of this form and send to:

The Rev. Dr. John Floberg
820 West Central Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58501
Cell - (701) 891-2911

OR

E-mail: jffloberg@gmail.com

Episcopal Youth Event canceled/EYEx planning underway

[August 25, 2020] The Episcopal Church Department of Faith Formation, in collaboration with the [2020 Episcopal Youth Event](#) (EYE20) planning team and Episcopal Church leadership, announced today that the Episcopal Youth Event (EYE) will not be convened this triennium due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

“I recognize and share the deep disappointment this holds,” said Bronwyn Clark Skov, staff officer for Youth Ministries. “During the next year, our office will focus on discerning and implementing creative and meaningful support for youth ministry and leadership formation. Undoubtedly, new models for ministry are emerging and God is calling upon us to unite and respond.”

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, in responding to the change in plan, said, “EYE is one of the most important and transformational ministries of The Episcopal Church. Over the years, so many youths have begun their journey in the Jesus Movement through it, so many have deepened their faith by it, so many have gone on to proclaim the Way of Love based on their experiences during it. We make this decision now out of an abundance of not just caution, but also of love for our youth and those who serve them.”

Since the adoption in 1982 of [General Convention Resolution #1982-D079](#), the Church has supported an international youth ministry

event at least once during each triennium. Last summer’s successful Evento de Jóvenes Episcopales (EJE) in Panama City, Panama, fulfills this requirement for the present triennium. The Office of Youth Ministries remains committed to embracing and lifting up “the energy of the youth of The Episcopal Church” so that it “can continue to be utilized in active ministry as members of the Body of Christ.”

In coming months, the Department of Faith Formation anticipates offering an alternative means of responding to God’s call to “Unite/Uninamos,” which was the planned theme for EYE20. Titled Episcopal Youth Experience or EYEx, the content will be planned and implemented by an EYEx Steering Committee, made up of youth and adults from the EYE20 planning team and the Youth Ministry Council of Advice.

“I recently was invited to join Encuentro de Jóvenes, an online youth gathering in Province IX, which was creative, inspiring, and hopeful,” continued Skov. “This event gave me hope for what we can do together online since we cannot gather in person.”

Details about EYEx will be available in the fall.

For questions or additional information, contact Bronwyn Skov, eye@episcopalchurch.org or 212-716-6074.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer's “Eight Theses on Youth Work in the Church”

Faith & Leadership MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2014

Editor’s note: The following is a summary from Volume 12 of the “Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works.”

1. [The future of the church is not youth](#) itself but rather the Lord Jesus Christ alone.
2. The question is not, What is youth and what rights does it have? but rather, What is the church-community and what is the place of youth within it?
3. Being in the church-community means being in Christ; being in Christ means being in the church-community.
4. Youth enjoys no special privilege in the church-community.
5. The Bible judges youth quite soberly: [Genesis 8:21](#); [Isaiah 3:5](#); [Jeremiah 1:6](#); [Ecclesiastes 11:10](#); [1 Peter 5:5](#); [2 Timothy 2:2](#) and other passages.
6. Church youth work is possible only on the basis of addressing young people concerning their baptism and with the exclusive goal of having them hear God’s word.
7. The authenticity of young people’s protest against their elders is demonstrated by their willingness to maintain solidarity with the guilt of the church-community and to bear that burden in love, abiding in penitence before God’s word.
8. There is no real “church association”; there is only the church.



In support of the 2020 Annual Convention taking place virtually.

*The Virtual Broadcast of the 50th Annual Convention
of the Diocese of North Dakota*

The 2020 Annual Convention will take place on Friday and Saturday, October 23-24, 2020 from a location in Bismarck, ND.

The login page and user interface link will be created and ready for distribution to the attendees early in September, 2020. These will be made available to all delegates, clergy of the Diocese following the September 14th deadline for naming of delegates up through the final registrations prior to the Convention.

The Work Plan

Leading up to the setup day and event days, AE Productions will work closely with the staff of the Diocese of North Dakota to put together an all-encompassing agenda for the convention.

Testing and rehearsals can then be scheduled to start around 1pm the day before the Virtual Convention for whomever would be interested in getting a look at how the event will run.

At The Event

All remote participants will connect to the convention using the registration page we created and will designate themselves as either “Lay Delegate”, “Clergy Delegate”, “Presenter”, “Visitor”, or “Support Staff”. Only Lay Delegates and Clergy Delegates will have voting rights. Some Clergy and Lay Delegates will also be Presenters and/or Support Staff. Some named Visitors will be accorded Voice but not Vote. Our Zoom platform will then admit them into the convention and their Audio and Video will automatically be turned off. Anyone not a Lay Delegate or a Clergy Delegate will then be moved to the “Participants” panel, thus removing their ability to vote during the convention. Attendees will be instructed to participate in the convention by “Raising their hand” and requesting permission to speak, just like they would if they were in the room and stepping to a microphone.

As it relates to voting. Most of the voting ques will be created beforehand, however, we do have the ability to make changes on the fly and add in additional votes or update pre-created votes when the need arises. The votes will be called out and discussed by the dais and then put to a vote. Each attendee will have the vote flashed up in the middle of their screen. Once they vote, the que will disappear, and the results will be shown to the dais; when requested we will then publish the results to the attendees.

The Post Event

AE Productions will record the day's events in HD form. All voting results and registration lists will be sent in excel spreadsheet form after the event.

AE Productions Introduction

With respect to the Diocese of North Dakota's specific needs, you will find that AE Productions has an unparalleled breadth and depth of experience to draw on to deliver the required services.

AE Productions has been in the business of producing ROI-focused events and related media for non-profit, private sector and government clients for over 10 years.

The Productions Staff

The following AE Productions staff will be the points of contact for the council on this project.

Eric Nicholas, Senior Production Engineer/CEO, AE Productions LLC

Mr. Nicholas will act as AE Production's team lead on the Conference AV Support Team. In Mr. Nicholas's role as the lead for AV Support, he will work side by side with the Ripple Effect team and receive conference assignments from that manager. Mr. Nicholas will be responsible for the high-quality aesthetics and sound reinforcement of the conference rooms. Mr. Nicholas has been in the business of AV Support and Video Production for over 20 years, making sure to meet the highest standards in quality from conferences, meetings and remote events. With prior stints at Comcast, Bloomberg TV, the National Archives and Exxon Mobil among others, Mr. Nicholas now leverages that experience in support of AE Productions client engagements.

Price Quote (Total = \$4,550)

Labor for this event will consist of 2 crew members. We will have a designated Technical Director and a designated Zoom Technician/Support Technician for the entire event and rehearsal days. We are also including the travel costs in the costs of the event, so there will be no additional costs for this.

Conclusion

AE Productions is grateful for this opportunity and hopes that this is just the first in many opportunities to get to work together on a number of different events. We look forward to making your event a great success and building this relationship moving forward.

Bishop John Tarrant

[Diocese of Western Massachusetts] The Rt. Rev. John Thomas Tarrant, former bishop of South Dakota, [passed away](#) Aug. 24 of an apparent heart attack, according to a pastoral [statement](#) issued by Western Massachusetts Bishop Douglas Fisher. Following his retirement as bishop, Tarrant began serving as an interim at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, in May 2019.

Tarrant was consecrated bishop coadjutor of the Diocese of South Dakota on Oct. 31, 2009, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He became diocesan bishop on Feb. 2, 2010.

Tarrant was born in Kansas City, Missouri, on Feb. 18, 1952, and raised in rural Michigan. He graduated from Michigan State University in 1974 with a political science degree and received his master of divinity degree from Virginia Theological Seminary in 1983. He has served congregations in Western Massachusetts, Connecticut and South Dakota.

Upon his retirement as bishop, Tarrant returned to Western Massachusetts.

“His pastoral presence was a great blessing to the people of St. Stephen's. His support of the Cathedral of the Beloved and the under-housed in the city resonated with John's lifetime commitment to forming ‘beloved community.’ His passion for justice motivated John's witness at Standing Rock. His humble ministry among indigenous people made John a wonderful storyteller of God's love for diversity. While this loss is especially local, it is felt churchwide. The House of Bishops mourns John today as we remember a colleague and friend,” wrote Fisher.

In his life, John fought the good fight of faith and he has now finished his course with joy. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Tarrant is survived by his wife Pat and their children.

A memorial service was [livestreamed](#) on Saturday, August 29, 2020, at 1 p.m. EDT.

“Go into the world in peace. Be of good cheer.
Fight the good fight of faith that you might finish your course with joy.
And the blessing of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
be with you and those you love, always.”
-The Rt. Rev. John Tarrant's favorite blessing



Geo-Thermal Being Installed

Significant progress is being made at Star Lodge on the property of St. Gabriel's. The Geo-Thermal heating and cooling system is being installed by Schaff & Sons Repairs and Well Drilling along with Bismarck Heating and Air are doing this portion of the project. The Geo-Thermal System is connected to the Solar Panels located on the south side of the Camp.

The system is rated at 6 tons, which requires 6 holes to be bored in excess of 140 to 180 feet into the ground. Warmth is brought up from the earth through a fluid mixture, and then returned to be reheated. The air that is forced into the building will be about 100 degrees through the Geo-Thermal technology.

This will be the third Geo-Thermal System in the Diocese of North Dakota. St. John the Divine and St. James' in Cannon Ball are the other two sites.



The Sheaf

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Diocesan Calendar – *God Giveth The Increase*

September

- 14 - Convention Delegate Registration
- 20 - *Bishop Whitmore at All Saints, Minot*

October

- 23 & 24 - Diocesan Convention - To be held Virtually.
- 25 - *Bishop Whitmore at Sts Luke's and St. James', Ft. Yates and Cannon Ball.*
- 31 - *Eastern North Dakota Synod of the ELCA Bishop's Consecration, Fargo*

November

- 1 - *Bishop Whitmore at Gethsemane Cathedral, Fargo*
- 1 - *Bishop Whitmore at St. John the Divine, Moorhead*

December

- 5 - *Bishop Whitmore at Sts Mary and Mark, Oakes*
- 6- *Bishop Whitmore at Grace Church, Jamestown.*