

## *DRAFT MINUTES*

### **The Fifty-First Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota October 8-9, 2021 Bismarck, North Dakota**

The Fifty-First Annual Convention Business Session of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota was called to order at 10:30 am, October 9, 2021 by Bishop Provisional, the Right Rev. Thomas Ely. The bishop invited the convention chaplain The Rev. Jamie Parsley to offer prayers.

#### **Introductory Business**

- The bishop welcomed everyone present to the business session of the convention and announced the following appointments for convention:
  - Chaplains: The Rev. Jamie Parsley, The Rev. Zanne Ness
  - Dispatch of Business: The Rev. John Floberg, The Rev. Steve Godfrey
  - Resolutions: The Rev. Mary Johnson, The Very Rev. Mark Strobel, Donna Pettit
  - Credentials: The Rev. Deacon Beth Lipp, Sandy Holbrook, The Rev. Hal Weidman
  - Parliamentarian: Chancellor Leo Wilking
  - Tellers: The Rev. Deacon Beth Lipp, Sandy Holbrook, The Rev. Hal Weidman
- Following the appointments, the bishop introduced those seated at the head table: Himself, John Floberg from Dispatch of Business, Leo Wilking, Parliamentarian, and Tammy Enockson yet to be elected Secretary of Convention.
- The bishop called upon Deacon Beth Lipp to present the certification of delegates on behalf of the Credentials Committee.
  - Out of 100 lay delegates 65 were in attendance
  - Out of 27 clergy delegates 24 were in attendance
  - Out of 20 congregations 17 were in attendance
- Based on the information presented by the Rev. Deacon Beth Lipp, the bishop declared a quorum.
- The bishop offered opening comments acknowledging this to be the first in person convention since Covid. The Bishop thanked everyone for following masking protocols. He offered this land acknowledgment: Our diocese encompasses traditional tribal homelands of Dakota, Lakota, Turtle Mountain Chippawa, Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara people. I acknowledge and understand that this land was stewarded by the people who lived here for thousands of years before the arrival of Europeans, and I express my appreciation for their faithful stewardship of this land. I also deeply regret the violations of these tribes' dignity and heritage, many of which continue to this day.
- The bishop offered thanks to the convention committee, St George's, "John Floberg Sound & Light Co." and the diocesan Ministry Support team.

#### **Business**

- The bishop called upon the Chancellor to offer remarks on rules and procedures for the day.
- The bishop called upon the Rev. John Floberg for additional comments.

- The bishop called for a motion to approve the minutes of the 2020 Diocesan Convention.
  - *Moved by Brad Benton; Seconded by the Rev. Robert Hoekstra*
  - *Motion passed*
- The bishop called for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2021, Special Convention.
  - *Moved by Brad Ben Benton; Seconded Sandy Holbrook*
  - *Motion passed*
- The bishop called upon Leslie Ross, co-chair of the nominating committee, to offer a report. The following nominations were presented:
  - Secretary of Convention nominee: Tammy Enockson. *Approved by Acclamation.*
  - Diocesan Treasurer nominee: Charlotte Peterson. *Approved by Acclamation.*
  - Standing Committee clergy nominee: the Very Rev. Mark Strobel for a 3 yr. term. *Approved by Acclamation.*
  - Standing Committee lay nominee: Robert Fox for a 3 yr. term. *Approved by Acclamation.*
  - Standing Committee lay nominee: Jason Thoms for a 2 yr. term. *Approved by Acclamation.*
- The bishop called for the election of members to the North Dakota Episcopal Foundation for Ministry in Higher Education (EFMHE).
  - Two members recently resigned leaving an unexpired term of one year and another term of two years. Leah Henderson is willing to stand for another term.
  - Motion to elect Leah Henderson and to direct Council to look at the founding documents of the foundation, review its ministry and report to 2022 Convention.
    - *Motion by Sandy Holbrook; Seconded by the Rev. Bart Davis*
    - *Motion Passed*

## Resolutions

### Resolution #1: Saint Mary and Mark, Oakes

- The bishop called upon the Resolutions Committee member the Very Rev. Mark Strobel to introduce the Resolution for the dissolution of Saint Mary and Mark, Oakes

#### **Convention Resolution on the Dissolution of Saints Mary and Mark, Oakes**

**Whereas** the members of Saint Mark's in Oakes and Saint Mary's in rural Guelph and the union of the two into Saints Mary and Mark in Oakes have faithfully continued to minister to the spiritual needs of the congregations and their communities through worship, fellowship, and outreach for well over a century, keeping alive the faith and legacy of the hardy pioneers who established these congregations; and

**Whereas** the church building in Oakes was sold in 2018, and the congregation has not come together for worship, fellowship, or outreach regularly since that time, and the members are attending other churches; and

**Whereas** the elected leadership and a majority of remaining members of Saints Mary and Mark, grieving the loss of their building and community and seeking to move on with their lives as part of new spiritual communities, have requested the dissolution of the congregation; and

**Whereas** the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota will miss the fellowship and counsel of these long-time congregations, and we join the remaining members in mourning that loss even as we look to the future with hope and faith; therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that this Convention dissolves the congregation of Saints Mary and Mark, at the recommendation of the bishop, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, in accordance with the provisions of Canon 6, Section 6, of the Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota.

Dean Strobel read the letter from Saints Mary and Mark, Oakes expressing their wish to be dissolved. The Dean explained the process for this request noting that the delegates for convention had been notified the required month (09.09.21) in advance of the convention.

- *Dean Strobel moved the Resolution, seconded by several voices from the floor. There was no further discussion.*
- *The Resolution was approved by a unanimous vote.*

#### Resolution #2: New Season of Ministry Matrix

- The bishop called upon the Resolutions Committee member Donna Pettit to introduce the resolution: A Resolution on Acceptance of the New Season of Ministry Mutual Ministry Review Matrix and Creation of a New Season of Ministry Task Force.

**Whereas** the Diocesan Council and Bishop's Transition Committee developed a Mutual Ministry Review Matrix to evaluate progress on the New Season of Ministry activities (based largely on the Diocesan Discernment Task Force Report found at this link: [Diocesan Discernment Task Force – Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota \(ndepiscopal.org\)](https://www.ndepiscopal.org/discernment-task-force); and,

**Whereas** the Diocesan Council gave final approval to the Mutual Ministry Review Matrix on August 14, 2021 and,

**Whereas** one of the goals in the Mutual Ministry Review Matrix is to establish a Diocesan *Way of Love Mission Focus* based on the Episcopal Church's *Living the Way of Love* practices that help provide guidance on meeting the spiritual and material needs of our parishes, communities, and the world (see <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love/>); and,

**Whereas** a New Season of Ministry Task Force is proposed to begin work in January 2022 to assist the Diocese and parishes with identifying specific activities and a timetable for carrying out the Diocesan *Way of Love Mission Focus*; now therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the 2021 Diocesan Convention of the Episcopal Church in North Dakota:

1. Commends the New Season of Ministry Mutual Ministry Review Matrix;
2. Authorizes the Bishop and Diocesan Council to establish a New Season of Ministry Task Force; and
3. Authorizes the New Season of Ministry Task Force to develop a Way of Love Mission Focus for the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota according to the timetable in the Mutual Ministry Review Matrix <https://www.ndepiscopal.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Convention-Resolution-MMR-Matrix-Approved-by-Council-14Aug21.pdf>

- Since the resolution was received less than 60 days before the Convention, 2/3 majority is required for the resolution to be considered. Motion was made, seconded and passed to consider the resolution. The bishop called for the vote. That majority was acquired.
  - *Passed: Unanimously*
- The bishop called on Sandy Holbrook, a member of the Bishop's Transition Committee, to make a brief presentation about the MMR Matrix and the resolution from Council establishing the New Season of Ministry Task Force.
- The bishop gave instructions for the table conversation on the MMR Matrix and the Resolution allowing 20 minutes for this discussion.
- Following table discussions, Donna Pettit read the resolution and moved the motion from the Council to the Convention, seconded by several voices from the floor. The bishop called for the vote. *The Resolution was approved by a unanimous vote.*

#### Courtesy Resolutions Set #1

- The bishop called upon the Rev. Mary Johnson from the Resolutions Committee to present the first set of Courtesy Resolutions

**Whereas** our Diocesan Council has brought members, guests, and friends of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota together, in person and electronically, for our annual Convention in the centrally located city of Bismarck; and

**Whereas** many people have given of time and talent in preparation for this 51<sup>st</sup> Convention of the Diocese of North Dakota, most notably: the people, staff, and clergy of St. George's Church, Bismarck; members of the Diocesan Convention Planning Team: Steve Godfrey, Zanne Ness, Kim Becker, John Floberg, Jamie Parsley, Leslie Ross, Hal Weidman, and last but by no means least Sandy Holbrook; members of Diocesan Council; and the Administrative team of the Diocese: Kelly Nowak, Diocesan Office Administrator; Charlotte Peterson, Treasurer; Steven Godfrey, Diocesan Minister, Hal Weidman, Canon for Mission; and Kim Becker, Coordinator of ministry in the Northwest Quadrant of this Diocese; and

**Whereas** the management and staff of the Radisson Hotel, Bismarck have welcomed us with efficient and responsive service; now therefore be it

**Resolved**, by this 51<sup>st</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota, as we convene, that we express our gratitude to the people of St. George's Church; the members of Diocesan Council; the Diocesan Convention Planning Team; and the Administrative Team of our Diocese for their careful planning; and be it further

**Resolved**, that we express our gratitude to the management and staff of the Radisson Hotel for their exemplary hospitality.

*The Resolution passed by acclamation.*

**Whereas**, the COVID pandemic has interfered with the ability of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota to hold worship services, meetings, and conventions for almost two years, making the work and ministry of our Diocese more challenging, and

**Whereas**, the Standing Committee's obligations as Ecclesiastical Authority during a time of transition between diocesan bishops were already significantly increased; and

**Whereas**, the Standing Committee and its Chair, the Rev. John Floberg; the Treasurer, Charlotte Peterson; the Canon Missioner, Hal Weidman; diocesan Chancellor Leo Wilking; and administratively gifted lay leaders, Sandy Holbrook and John Baird, gave tirelessly of time and talent to provide leadership, oversight and administrative support during this time of transition: now therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the 51<sup>st</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota convey its profound appreciation and gratitude to those aforementioned and the many others who served alongside them during this time.

*The Resolution passed by acclamation.*

## **Budget**

- The bishop called upon Diocesan Treasurer, Charlotte Peterson, to present the 2022 Diocesan Budget on behalf of the Diocesan Council.
- Charlotte made a brief presentation followed by table conversations lasting 20 minutes. Discussion followed.

## **Noonday Prayer, Lunch and Regional Meetings**

- Chaplain Zanne Ness offered Noonday Prayer.
- The Bishop gave instructions for lunch and the concurrent regional meetings.

## **Budget & other business continued**

- After returning from lunch, the bishop called the Convention back to order.
- Before continuing with budget discussion, the Rev. Deacon Sloane Floberg offered a report for the United Thank Offering. She is looking for someone to replace her and

noted that UTO has given about \$500,000 to ND. She offered a challenge about what we are giving back and showed a video of the UTO's work.

- There was no further questions or discussion concerning the budget. Charlotte moved to accept the 2022 Diocesan Budget as presented. No second required.
  - *Passed: Unanimously*

## **Reports and Presentations**

- North Dakota Episcopal Foundation (NDEF): report by Amy Oksa
- North Dakota Council on Indian Ministries (NDCIM): report by Elaine McLaughlin
- Covid Relief Grant: report by the Rev. Steve Godfrey
- Commission on Ministry: report by the Rev. Harvey Henderson
- Safer Church: report by Sandy Holbrook & the Rev. Zanne Ness
- Companion Relationship with Diocese of Texas: report by Bishop Ely
- Presiding Bishop coming to North Dakota for 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Cathedral on October 21-23, 2022: report by Bishop Ely
- Youth Ministry on Standing Rock - St. Gabriel's: report by the Rev. Deacon Sloane Floberg

## **Regional Reports**

- The bishop called upon the presidents of the East and West regions of the diocese to report the results of the Diocesan Council elections.
  - **East:** Brandy Watson (3 yr. term), Stephanie Garcia (3 yr. term), the Rev. Deacon Helen Lodu (2 yr. term)
  - **West:** Leslie Ross (2 yr. term), Tammy Enockson (3 yr. term), Christi Iron Eyes (3 yr. term)

## **Final business**

- The bishop announced various appointments to Committees, Commissions and Boards. A list of those appointments is attached to these minutes.
  - *Motion by the Rev. Mary Johnson; Seconded by Don Leroux to approve these appointments. Passed: Unanimously*
- The bishop urged the convention delegates to complete an evaluation of the convention. The evaluation can be completed online, via an email or picked up at the registration table.
- The bishop also urged members of the diocese to join and use Realm for easier and safer communication.
- Courtesy Resolutions Set #2 presented

**Whereas** our Companion Diocese, the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, has continued to be supportive of the ministries of our Diocese during this time of transition and discernment; therefore, be it

**Resolved** that the 51<sup>st</sup> convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota express its gratitude and commit to offering prayers for the wellbeing and effective ministry of the Diocese of Texas.

*The Resolution passed by acclamation.*

**Whereas** Conventions of the Diocese of North Dakota offer us the gift of remembering the ministries of former bishops of the Diocese in forming us as the people and institutions we are today; and

**Whereas** since we last met together in real time at a diocesan convention the Right Reverend Andrew Fairfield has been called into the nearer presence of Our Lord; and

**Whereas** the Rt. Rev. Michael Smith resigned as our Diocesan Bishop in 2019 and has continued to seek faithfully to serve Christ's Church in other capacities; and

**Whereas** the Rt. Rev. Keith Whitmore served with distinction and pastoral sensitivity during our time of transition before the arrival of Bishop Tom Ely; therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that the 51<sup>st</sup> Convention of the Diocese of North Dakota send its condolences and best wishes to Sally Fairfield, widow of Andrew Fairfield; and be it further

**Resolved**, that the 51<sup>st</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota send its warm greetings to Bishop Michael Smith; and be it further

**Resolved**, that the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota express its gratitude to Bishop Whitmore for his caring manner as he helped us to continue the work of the Diocese as we sought to follow a path of discernment for the future.

*The Resolution passed by acclamation.*

**Whereas** the Rev. John Floberg has served God faithfully and with distinction in ordained ministry in the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota since 1991; therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that the 51<sup>st</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota express our gratitude for his ministry among us at this, his thirtieth anniversary of ordained ministry; and be it further

**Resolved**, that lay leaders of our various congregations commit to inform the Diocesan Minister as they become aware of significant (25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup>) anniversaries of the ordination of their clergy so that delegates of future diocesan conventions may celebrate appropriately with each priest or deacon.

*The Resolution passed by acclamation.*

**Whereas** appointed lay and clergy leaders of our Diocese in conjunction with leaders of The Episcopal Church brought the Rt. Rev. Thomas Ely to us as candidate for Provisional Bishop of the Diocese of North Dakota and

**Whereas** Bishop Ely was duly and unanimously elected at a Special Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota on February 6, 2021; therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that the delegates to the 51<sup>st</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota, grateful to God for Bishop Ely's leadership, commit wholeheartedly to pray for Bishop Ely and, under his leadership to pledge their commitment to follow Our Lord Jesus Christ Who leads us in a joyful dance into a new season of ministry.

*The Resolution passed by acclamation.*

- The Rev. Hal Weidman suggested the convention determine an alternative date for next year's convention. Next year's Convention dates have not been selected yet.
- Chaplain Zanne Ness offered closing prayers
- Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tammy Enockson  
*Secretary of Convention*



## **Diocesan Commission/Committee Appointments October 9, 2021**

### **Commission on Ministry:**

The Rev. Harvey Henderson – Chair  
The Rev. Dn. John Anderson  
The Rev. Bart Davis  
The Rev. Dn. Sloane Floberg  
Joanne Lassiter  
Elaine McLaughlin  
The Rev. Jamie Parsley  
Donna Pettit  
The Rev. Canon Hal Weidman  
The Rev. Steve Godfrey, dMST

### **Personnel Committee**

Sandy Holbrook – Chair  
Carmine Goodhouse  
David Lokudu  
Joyce Tello  
Leo Wilking  
Leslie Ross  
The Rev. Robert Hoekstra  
The Rev. Steve Godfrey, dMST

### **Youth Commission**

Ericka Morlan – Chair  
Don Henderson  
Michelle Weidman  
Hannah Gendron

### **Title IV Disciplinary Board**

The Rev. Dn. Beth Lipp, John Baird, through Convention 2022  
The Rev. Mary Johnson, Tom Tudor, through Convention 2023  
The Rev. Dn. John Anderson, Donna Pettit, and The Rev. Robert Hoekstra, through Convention 2024

### **Congregational Development Committee**

Donna Pettit – Chair  
John Baird  
Tammy Enockson  
The Rev. John Floberg  
Charlotte Peterson  
The Rev. Hal Weidman  
Leo Wilking  
The Rev. Steve Godfrey and The Rev. Kim Becker, dMST *ex officio*

**Canons Committee**

Leo Wilking, Chair

Tom Tudor

The Rev. John Floberg

The Rev. Larry Thiele

Sandy Holbrook

**Finance Committee**

Charlotte Peterson – Chair

John Baird

The Rev. Bart Davis

The Rev. John Floberg

Robert Fox

Andrea Stromberg

The Rev. Steve Godfrey, dMST

**Reconciliation Committee**

The Rev. Larry Thiele – Chair

Christie Iverson – Vice Chair

Robert Fox

Carmen Goodhouse

Amy Phillips

Peter Halbach

Fern Pokorny

Kathy Hintz

The Rev. Kim Becker

The Rev. Dn. Hellen Lodu

**UTO Coordinator\***

TBD

**Episcopal Relief and Development Coordinator**

Andrea Stomberg

**Education for Ministry Coordinator**

Michelle Weidman