**The 24th Convention of
The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan**

***Convention Reports***

**The Commission on Ministry**

The following is the Mission Statement of the Commission of Ministry:

*To assist all individuals, alongside the Office of the Bishop, in fulfilling their call to ministry.*

Scripture to support our Mission Statement:

*The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the Body of Christ.* Ephesians 4:11-12

The means to accomplish our Mission:

1. *Provide resources to assist all God’s people as they discern their gifts for ministry.*

*2. Support the ministry of all God’s people.*

*3. Oversee the discernment of those seeking ordination.*

*4. Support the Bishop in articulating the ministry of Christ.*

This past year, COM has made revisions to the interview process for persons on the ordination track. We strive to be actively engaged in the discernment process and in supporting vestry involvement for all those seeking ordination. One of the goals of COM is to encourage more effective communication between COM, the Standing Committee, supervising clergy, the Bishop’s office, vestries, and all persons who are involved in this holy process, providing clarification where needed.

We support the work of the Canon to the Ordinary Michael Spencer and the Vocational Leadership Academy in their efforts in lay ministry training and development. During the past year, COM spent two days in retreat experiencing *Listening Hearts,* a book used in discernment, for the purpose of better understanding how the discernment of gifts and call can be beneficial to lay persons, clergy, and those in the ordination process.

Since Oct. 2017, The Rt. Rev Cate Waynick has taken the following actions after consulting with COM. The Rev. Nancy Mayhew was ordained priest in this diocese and The Rev. Drew Christiansen was ordained priest in Louisiana.

COM currently has nine members who have been appointed by the bishop, five lay persons and four clergy. Members of COM as of Oct. 26, 2018: The Rev. Sue Colavincenzo, Ms. Emily Klein, The Rev. Anna Leigh Kubbe, The Rev. Pam Lynch, Ms. Ellen McVey, Mr. Jon Steele, Ms. Doris Sutton, Ms. Joyce Thewalt, The Rev Sharon Voelker and as Ex-officio, The Rt. Rev. Cate Waynick. We would like to thank Ms. Angela Krueger for her patience and excellence in working with COM. She has been invaluable to us.

Members of COM have served with integrity, generosity of spirit, love, and a willingness to seek God’s will in all we do. I thank them.

Respectfully submitted by the Rev. Sue Colavincenzo, Chairperson of COM

The Coppage-Gordon School for Ministry

In June we celebrated the second graduation ceremony for the Academy for Vocational Leadership. The Academy provides the educational component of preparation for local ordination to holy orders, and 14 people have now completed this program. This three-year joint program with the Dioceses of Michigan and Western Michigan has just begun its fifth year, and we look forward to five more graduates next June.

New this year is Licensed Lay Preacher training at the Academy. This training began in September with nine students from the Dioceses of Eastern Michigan and Michigan and includes the Academy classes in Holy Scripture and Homiletics. Participation in the Academy Bible class or a comparable program is now an expectation for those seeking to become licensed preachers in the Diocese of Eastern Michigan.

The Academy classes in Bible, Church History, and Theology and Ethics, held once a month on a Saturday, continue to be open to anyone interested in exploring these topics.

This year Coppage-Gordon also provided leadership formation opportunities through Safeguarding trainings and worship leader training.

Information about all of these programs may be found on the Coppage-Gordon page in the Ministries section of the diocesan website [www.eastmich.org](http://www.eastmich.org).

Respectfully submitted by the Rev. Dr. Valerie Fargo, Director, Coppage-Gordon School for Ministry

Recovery Outreach Ministry

The Recovery Outreach Ministry continued its focus on providing information to the Diocese about the nature of Addiction and Recovery through an educational presentation at the Northern Clericus in mid-January, 2018. Also, several presentations on the subject were done at the local Grayling Gratitude AA open speaker meeting, wherein the general public was invited to attend. During ministry committee meetings in 2018, discussion continued regarding possibly doing an educational workshop about these subjects somewhere more central within the Diocese. It is hoped that this goal will be realized before the 2019 Annual Convention.

Another focus of the committee was the adoption, by the Diocese of Eastern Michigan, of rules and regulations regarding how alcohol shall be treated at parish & diocesan functions. This was something that emerged out of the National Convention of the Episcopal Church, which this committee has been seeking to have adopted by this Diocese. At present, the mechanics of this goal is still being worked out, with the understanding that it may not be a priority while the Diocese is seeking to clarify its vision now that the former bishop was transferred to the Central Office of the American Episcopal Church.

The Committee has continued its activities regarding ministering to the Recovery-Community. The yearly 11th Step Retreat, held the first weekend in June, went rather well. The theme was “Renewing Connections with God, Self & Others”. There were 26 participants, and their response to the retreat activities was very favorable, particularly as many of them had been on early retreats held by the Committee, in conjunction with the G.R.A.C.E. center. It was felt, by the presenters, which keeping the attendee’s numbers between 25-35 seems to work best, and future retreats will reflect these limits. Financially, the retreat seems to be paying for all its costs, which will allow for more scholarship funds to be available for the next one.

One discussion that has developed within the committee, regarding another ministering-activity to the Recovery Community is to hold a Healing Service at one of the Episcopal Churches in the Northern Area. This idea has already been done by the Roman Catholic Church in Evart, MI., on a yearly basis, and there are many from the various 12-Step communities that attend. Given the positive response that this Service has generated, the Committee felt that this might be a viable means of doing outreach to those in Recovery. Hopefully, this too will be enacted before the 2019 Annual Convention.

Respectfully Submitted by Doug Pryor, Outreach Committee Liaison

Registrar’s Report

This is a report of the actions taken by the Bishop and/or the Standing Committee from **October 21, 2017 to October 26, 2018**. All records in the Diocesan office are in good order and preserved in a seemly manner.

Actions taken were:

 Ordinations to the Priesthood 2

 Ordinations to Deacon 1

 Baptisms 0

 Confirmations 16

 Receptions 11

 New Clergy Received 2

 Clergy Transferred Out 1

 Clergy Renunciations/Depositions 0

 Clergy Funerals 2

 Deconsecrations of Buildings 0

 Visitations 34

 Celebrations of New Ministries 3

Respectfully submitted by Angela Krueger, Assistant to the Bishop

Bishop’s Chaplain to Retired Clergy and Spouses

At the end of 2017 there were 23 Retired and Senior, Annually-licensed Clergy canonically and actually resident in the Diocese of Eastern Michigan; and of the 23, 14 remained active to some degree in ordained ministry in our congregations (as associates, interims, priests-in-charge, supply clergy, etc.). There were 14 Retired Clergy from other dioceses who live in the Diocese of Eastern Michigan, and of those 14, 8 are licensed and active to some degree in ordained ministry in our congregations. There are 17 Retired Clergy from the Diocese of Eastern Michigan who now live in other dioceses. There are 17 Surviving Spouses (widows or widowers of clergy) who live in the Diocese of Eastern Michigan. There are 8 Surviving Spouses of clergy canonically resident in the Diocese of Eastern Michigan at the time of their deaths who now live in other dioceses.

With my retirement from this office, I appreciate the help of the Church Pension Fund and our Bishops who have supported this ministry, and I look forward to its further growth under the care and nurture of The Rev. Ann Grady, the next Bishop’s Chaplain to Retired Clergy & Spouses and Surviving Spouses

Respectfully submitted by the Rev. Charles E. Curtis, Bishop’s Chaplain to Retired Clergy & Spouses and Surviving Spouses

Standing Committee

It is an exciting time to be the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement in Eastern Michigan, and in response, the Standing Committee had an exciting year.

We worked with Bishop-Provisional Cate Waynick and diocesan council and staff to help shape diocesan ministries, policies, procedures, and finances. We offered consent to the ordination of bishops throughout the church. We took our part in the oversight of people in the ordination process. All this is the usual work standing committees do.

We’re doing some unusual work, too. The eyes of the Episcopal Church look to the Diocese of Eastern Michigan as we explore what new thing God may be calling us to do as the church in the years ahead.

The Standing Committee is the body charged by canons to oversee the transition process from one bishop to the next. In so doing, we have worked with you, the people of Eastern Michigan, to remember where we’ve been, to evaluate where we are now, and to consider options for our future.

With the “outside” help the Office of Pastoral Development and the “inside” help of our provisional bishop and diocesan staff and council, the Standing Committee has:

1. Invited you to five regional self-study meetings and two diocesan-wide meetings, one with our transition consultant the Rev. Dr. Diane Vie and the other with Bishop Sean Rowe from the Diocese of Northwest Pennsylvania.
2. Sent you regular electronic communications, with helpful links and videos, to survey you and to keep you informed and up-to-date on the transition process.
3. Continued informal yet intentional conversations with the bishop and representatives from the Diocese of Western Michigan around ministries we already share and to consider going deeper into a relationship with each other.
4. Brought you three resolutions to pre-convention meetings and to this convention, seeking your broad consensus and support for one of them to shape our work in the coming year.

We are thankful for God’s blessings and grace in the past year and are confident of God’s continued faithfulness in guiding the work we will do in the coming year. We are thankful to you, the church in Eastern Michigan, for your grace, goodness, and prayerful participation in this process.

Standing Committee members are: Stephanie King, Vice-president, Beth Barkley, Rev. Sue Rich, Rev. Phil Seitz and Bill Thewalt.

Respectfully submitted by the Rev. Dan Scheid, President of the Standing Committee

Diocesan Trustees
*as of June 30, 2018*

The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan started the 2018 year with an endowment of $9.54 Million. As of September 30, 2017, interest and dividends appreciated $197,744 and stocks depreciated $170,565 and $123,089 was withdrawn for expenses. The value of the endowment as of June 30, 2018 was $9.44 Million. The June 30, 2018 allocation has 65% equities, 29% Bonds and 6% cash, which has provided a Year to Date investment return of 0.29%. This rate is superior to the Dow Jones return of -1.81% for the same time period.

The trustees now manage the following funds:

 Main Endowment

 McMath, Batchelder and Demille Funds

 Breaking New Ground Fund

The McElroy Fund

 The CDRF Fund

 Loans and Grants Fund

 Growth and Income Fund

 Charitable Contributions Fund

Respectfully submitted by Michael Keenan, President