



***JOURNAL OF THE PROCEEDINGS***

***Of the***

***TENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION***

***of the***

***EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
DIOCESE OF EASTERN MICHIGAN***

***held in***

***FLINT, MICHIGAN***

***at***

***ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
OCTOBER 22 and 23, 2004***

***Together with the Constitution and  
Canons of the Diocese  
Revised to Date***

***Published by the Secretary of Convention 2004  
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**AGENDA - Tenth Annual Convention**  
Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan - October 22 & 23, 2004  
St. Paul's Church, Flint

***FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2004***

- 3:30 p.m. Registration (Parlor) **POLLS OPEN**
- 7:00 p.m. Eucharist and the Bishop's Address (St. Paul's Sanctuary)
- 8:30 p.m. First Business Session
- Opening Prayer and Welcome
  - Convention Business (Rules, Roll call, Credentials, Clergy Changes, Appointments, etc.)
  - Introduction of Candidates
  - Nominations Review Task Force Report
  - Treasurer's Report, Budget
- 9:25 p.m. Announcements
- 9:30 p.m. Social Hour (Barth Hall)
- 9:45 p.m. **POLLS CLOSE FOR NIGHT**

***SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2004***

- 7:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast (Barth Hall)
- 7:30-8:30am Registration (Parlor) **POLLS OPEN & CLOSE**
- 8:30 a.m. Second Business Session Opening Prayer (St. Paul's Sanctuary)
- Announcements
  - Report of Constitution and Canons
  - ARM Presentation
  - Report from Youth Coordinator
  - Report on Resources/Formation Events
  - Short Presentations
- 9:30 a.m. Special Order of Business Keynote Address, The Rev. Dr. Kevin Thew Forrester
- 10:45 a.m. Workshops
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch and Presentation (First Presbyterian Church - across street)
- 1:30 p.m. Third Business Session (St. Paul's Sanctuary)
- Diocese New Vision
  - Report of Resolution Committee
  - Election Results
  - Short Presentations

Close of Business  
Closing Prayers, Recessional and Send Out  
Adjourn

**MINUTES OF THE 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION  
DIOCESE OF EASTERN MICHIGAN**

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan is called to order at 8:50 p.m., Friday, October 22, 2004. The chair recognizes Jack Carlsen, President of the Flint River Valley Convocation and Martin Field, Rector of St. Paul's Church, Flint.

Jack: Good evening. I have to admit that I am amazed that ten years have gone by already in the life of this diocese. How many of you were at Port Huron ten years ago? I wanted to pick up one point from that convention. Ten years ago at Port Huron, Bishop Wood pointed out to us that we had made several promises in the formation of the new diocese. Among those promises was a commitment to anti-racism, a commitment to be caring in response to the needs of our brothers and sisters within the perimeters of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan, and a promise for a greater sense of collegiality. And he went on to say this about collegiality, loyalties to various understandings of our tradition, our scripture and the results of our reasoning are bound to place us at times, in tension. That is the heart of humanness. But then he warned us, you can build new structures, you can staff its necessary roles, but if you do not commit yourselves to self-conscientiously supporting one another in this new diocese, you will have only enclosed yourselves in a smaller cage. So it's in the spirit of those commitments we made ten years ago and a renewal of that sense of collegiality, that the Convocation of Flint River welcomes you tonight. May our Lord guide and bless our proceedings tonight in the work of the next decade.

Martin Field:

Bishop: Why are we here? There are four reasons why we gather every year – first reason is our canons require it, secondly we are here to celebrate our life together, thirdly we are here to be formed, to be reminded of who we are, and last of all we come together to make decisions about our common life.

I would like to introduce Barb Meikle, and entertain a motion that she be appointed Secretary to Convention. Support, so moved. The chair also introduces Sandy Reardon, and entertains a motion that she be appointed Assistant Secretary to Convention. Support, so moved.

I would also like to introduce Edward Henneke, Chancellor, and Dean Bedford, President of the Standing Committee.

The chair now recognizes the Secretary for roll call of congregations. Please stand when your congregation is called. Roll call proceeds. St. Mark's, Atlanta, was not present. The chair declares that a quorum is present.

Bishop: The rules of convention were mailed out. The green and red cards have already been used. You will have three minutes to speak at the green (pro) and red (opposed) microphones, then a gong will sound. I would ask for a motion to accept the "rules of convention". Support, so moved.

The chair recognizes Rev. Gail Vince, Chair of the Credentials Committee.

Rev. Vince: Pursuant to Title 1, Canon 2, Section 2, 45 congregations of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan have filed their Parochial Reports in a timely fashion and will have voice and vote of their lay delegates and clergy at this convention. 6 other congregations were late, but have been appropriately forgiven by the bishop according to our canonical provisions and with the approval of this convention, they too shall have voice and vote of their lay delegates and clergy at this convention. Motion to approve. Support, so moved.

Bishop recognizes the Secretary for announcements.

Meikle: At this time I would like to call on Dean Bedford to give a charge to the convention.

Bedford: I think I speak for all of us here, when I say I greeted the Bishop's announcement this evening with joy, gratitude and sadness. Joy, for the privilege of having known Ed, and for the privilege of working with him in this diocese. Gratitude, for the service which he has given unto us, and how he has lead us these past years. Sadness, because that is coming to an end. As the chair of the Standing Committee it is now my responsibility to charge this Convention with responsibility of working with the Standing Committee to work out a process and a calendar for the election of a coadjutor bishop to be in place at least three months before Bishop Ed's retirement at the end of 2006. To that end I have invited Bishop Clayton Matthews, Executive Officer of the Episcopal Church's Office of Pastoral Development, to meet with and counsel the Standing Committee about its next steps. Bishop Matthews will be present to meet with the Standing Committee at our regular December meeting (December 9<sup>th</sup>) at the Diocesan Center. At this coming November Standing Committee meeting the committee will watch a video and review some materials that the National Church will send to us. Let the minutes of our gathering record that I have hereby charged the Convention and the Standing Committee with this holy and awesome responsibility.

Meikle: Announcements.

Bishop: The chair appoints Edward Henneke, to be Chancellor, and David Herrington, to be Assistant Chancellor for the coming year. Motion from the floor to accept. Support, so moved.

Other appointments are Rev. Todd Ousley, Diocesan Worship Coordinator; Bruce Michaud, Chair of the Examining Chaplains; Russell Merrill and Abigail Chou, Bishop's appointments to the Commission on Ministry; Sherry Young, Archdeacon for Deacons; Ann Ousley, Coordinator for Stewardship Ministries.

Candidates for nomination now come forward to introduce yourselves.

I will now announce the clergy changes that have taken place this last year – Wayne Larson, Priest St. Johns, St. Johns; Judith Downey, Voc. Deacon, Grace, Lapeer; Buel Eldridge, Trans. Deacon, St. Paul's, Harsens Island; Elsa Pressentin, Priest in Charge, St. John's, Otter Lake; Gail Vince, Long Term Supply, St. Andrew's, Rose City; Mike Herman, Interim Priest, St. Luke's, Rogers City; Laura Truby, Interim Priest, Christ Church, Owosso; Sue Rich, Trans. Deacon, St. John's, Dryden; Bob Davidson, Long

Term Supply, Nativity, Holly; Pete Clapp, Interim Priest, Calvary, Hillman/Grace, Long Rapids; Mike Bell, Seminarian, Calvary, Hillman/Grace, Long Rapids; Darren Elin, Rector, St. John's, Saginaw; Chuck Curtis, Interim Priest, Trinity, Flushing; Tracie Loffhagen, Seminarian, All Saints', Marysville.

Three other clergy who are not present with us this evening – John Walmsley, Missioner, St. Elizabeth's, Higgins Lake; Rob Skirving, Rector, St. John's, Midland; Rick Schark, Seminarian Trinity, Lexington.

The chair recognizes Mary Jo Schuetz, Chair of the Nominations Task Force.

Schuetz: This Nominations Task Force is a group of very hardworking people. You will find a report on the handout table, but I wanted to let you know that our main goal is to make the leadership positions in our diocese more accessible to all people. Some of the tasks that we are undertaking are redefining the roles and the qualifications for all those offices. We are in the process of creating a nominations process, where anyone can nominate someone, including themselves, for any position, and to help to offer and designate some meeting times and places that may be more accessible for members to attend, and to publish by all means possible, the openings for the nominations, as well as a simplified process for nominating. One of the first things that we began to work on was establishing core values for that process. We wanted there to be a sense of connectedness with the entire community, so we determined a set of core values in order to simplify this process. I would encourage you to take a copy of this report. It also includes, rather than job descriptions, we are calling them ministry descriptions, and there are definitions of each of the nominations in our diocese for offices and not only gives you the length of the term and the duration/location/frequency of meetings, but also offers the spiritual gifts that would be helpful for a person serving in that capacity. We will have much more for you next year. Thank you.

Bishop: This is really an important work. We call ourselves a diocese of all the baptized, where everybody's voice, and everybody's gifts for ministry are important, so access to leadership roles is a very key piece. I am pleased to announce that the Standing Committee is acting before the Nominations Committee makes any suggestions, and is moving its Thursday afternoon meetings to Saturday mornings. Right now meeting on Thursday afternoons means about half of the diocese, those who are in employment where you can't get away, are no longer eligible, to serve on the Standing Committee. This will be a four-month experiment beginning in January.

The chair now recognizes Molly Girard, to present the Financial Report.

Girard: Please refer to the white one page report that you picked up on the handout table. Since we don't have a lot of time, in the 2005 budget column, I will be pointing out the lines that have changed drastically from last year. In the General Operating Accounts Receipts, Tithes per year line, there is decrease. We derived that number by taking the first two quarters of 2004, and projecting quarters three and four. Tithes prior year line - because of the way tithes are paid, the month after they are received, we receive your December tithes in January, therefore we always receive from congregations, prior years tithes. Before this year, it had not been budgeted as such, but we decided to make that more distinct and clear this year. Unrestricted endowment income line – due to higher

market performance, we are expecting to receive more endowment income from the Episcopal Endowment Fund. Restricted endowment income line – now includes the Batchelder Restricted Endowment Fund. Other receipts general operating line – that includes anticipated donations to the Diocesan Center. The other three lines under that category have stayed about the same. If you look at the Total General Operating Acct. line, for 2005, the budgeted number for receipts is \$819,716.78. Moving to Receipts, Other Funds line – loan and grants, that includes the interest from the diocesan mortgage, and church loans that we expect to receive. Receipts McElroy – expecting a decrease, however it may be more than we have budgeted. That is restricted money that is paid toward seminarian training. Receipts CDRF (congregational development/redevelopment fund) – includes pledge from St. John's, Midland, for the congregational development. The Interfund Transfer line – just to make that clear, that is money that is being transferred from CDRF to fund the Missioner's office and programs and also a very small part of one staff position that does congregational development work. Disbursements General Operating Acct. line – ministry of the diocese, that has decreased slightly, we are looking at a reduction in the cost of retirees medical premiums. Office of the Missioner – shows as zero because that is covered by the CDRF account, and not taken out of general operating funds. Diocesan Communications/Administrative support line – currently figured in a 2% cost of living adjustment, and are anticipating increased medical premiums. Diocesan Center line – now reflects the Diocesan mortgage payment, due to a change in our accounting system, from accrual to cash for that line item. Total General Operating Acct. disbursements - \$819,716.78. Balanced budget for the year 2005. Copies of the detailed budget are available from Molly Girard.

Bishop: The chair recognizes Dean Bedford to make a presentation on behalf of Standing Committee.

Bedford: Bishop Ed's service to this diocese will be his permanent memorial because that is what he has done, he has made this diocese. The Standing Committee felt that there should be at least some other remembrance of him, more typical of tradition. I would ask that Merrill Downs & Tom Downs come forward to present the portrait of Bishop Ed.

Meeting is adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> BUSINESS SESSION – SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2004

The session opened with a hymn and prayers.

Bishop: When we were introducing clergy changes yesterday, we overlooked the fact that Elizabeth Morris Downie has just recently been called to be Sunday Associate at St. Christopher's, Grand Blanc.

Secretary: Roll call continued. St. Mark's, Atlanta, still no one present.

Bishop: I call Molly Girard to the microphone.

Girard: I just wanted to reiterate the most important thing that I said last night, that we have a balanced budget. If anyone would like a copy of the detailed budget, they can see met later.

Bishop: Does anyone have any questions for Molly at this point? The budget looks good. The books are balanced in spite of challenges here, we have done very well, and I thank you all for the contributions you have made.

The chair now calls on Chancellor, Ed Henneke, to explain the process for giving a vote to ELCA Pastor, Steven Abend, who is with us this morning.

Henneke: As you know the General Convention in 1999 adopted a relationship of full communion with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, in a call to common mission. That agreement provided in part, that clergy ordained in one church could serve in occasional ministry or extended service with appropriate acceptance procedures, in the other church. In our case, members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church are expected to teach and act in a manner that is consistent with the doctrine, discipline and worship of the Episcopal Church, if serving in the Episcopal Church. In essence that agreement provides for the interchangeability of the clergy. Toward that goal, the Bishop has licensed Steven Abend of the ELCA to work at Hope-St. John's as their pastor in charge on an annual basis. We have also publicly celebrated his installation as pastor in charge of Hope-St. John's. This was done pursuant to the guidelines established by the National Church, which recognized that pastors and priests are recognized as ministers of word and sacrament in both denominations and are therefore fully interchangeable. This is also consistent with the revisions to the National Canons.

Bishop: Therefore, I move that this Convention recognize Steven Abend as Pastor in Charge of Hope-St. John's and that he be placed on the list of clergy with voice and vote, pursuant to Title I, Canon 2, of the Canons of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan. This is a one-year license, which is renewable every year. Support, so moved.

Pastor Abend comes forward to receive his license.

The chair now recognizes The Very Rev. Charles Curtis, member of the Constitution and Canons Committee.

Curtis: This year the report is longer than the walk. The report of the Committee on Constitution and Canons is presented in the stapled Business Section for Convention. The committee's report is on pages 3 & 4. This was distributed to the lay delegates and to the clergy in the September packets. The committee received one request from the Chancellor for changes in the Canons this year. One other request was received, but not in time to be considered this year. I would like to thank the other members of the committee, The Rev. Frederick Houghton, The Rev. Elsa Pressentin, Ms. Linda Rathborn and Mr. Charles Reagan, and Mr. Edward Henneke for their faithful and diligent service this year. Due to the nature of the proposals, we would like to present the items in one motion, as they are printed in the report. On pages 3 and 4 of the report under item I, I move to amend Title III, Canons 3,4,5 and 6 as printed. Support, so moved.

I would remind the delegates, clergy and other members of the Diocese and guests, that proposals for changes in the Constitution and Canons, should be submitted to the Secretary of the Convention by July 21 of the coming year. That concludes the report.

Bishop: The chair recognizes Kris Forsyth, Diocesan Youth Coordinator and member of the Camp Chickagami board. She will be giving a dual report.

Forsyth: First I wanted to start by celebrating and recognizing the presence of some young people with us for convention. I wanted to share with you that those of you that I recognize from the Acolyte Festival, or Leadership Camp... I saw young people here last night from Otter Lake, from St. Paul's, Flint, and from St. Christopher's today, and St. Paul's, Saginaw, young people, and I wanted to say, this is your church, too, and you are a member of this church, you are not just the future, and we celebrate and recognize your presence here with us today.

I want to share just a little bit about Camp Chick. We are going through some really wonderful times recently. We have added some winterized facilities so we have an expanded season this year. We have quite a few groups in through the fall. In fact, I think there are groups still there today and we are excited about that change and hoping to see additional use during the year, all through this year, even into the winter. We also created some new program emphases this year. We were very fortunate to have the leadership of Barb and David Vickers with us. They helped us with making our youth camp program quite a bit more focused on spiritual formation and Christian formation. Our emphasis this year, or our program focus, was on baptism. The theme was "water all around", and we had a wonderful time...we had a full house for youth camp, with a waiting list, and were really excited about that. Thank you Barb and Dave for your leadership. We also developed a leadership camp, and again had a full house for that. It was the first time that we had offered a leadership camp here and some of our young people are here today from that camp, and are hoping to participate in the workshop later today. The Steering Committee is wrestling right now with mission and call, about who we are called to be, who we're called to serve, what are our priorities in terms of reservations. We are working through that, and hoping to come to some resolution in about a year's time. We are also hoping to elect new members of our Steering Committee from Convention in the future and are working toward that for next year.

I am two weeks back from Acolyte Festival, and I have to say that as a Diocesan community we need to stop and say a big thank you to The Rev. Anna Leigh Kubbe. As many of you know, Anna Leigh retired from teaching this year and it was a good thing. Acolyte Festival is a full-time project and she did a wonderful job, very detailed. We had eleven parishes represented on the trip, and Anna Leigh shared this on the bus on the way home... she followed our group up the aisle during the grand procession in the Cathedral, and she was sharing that when our first pair reached the Bishop of Washington, they were just rounding the back of the aisle, so we took up the whole aisle of the National Cathedral from our Diocese, and what a celebration that was. We were the only Diocesan group represented. I was speaking to someone from the Diocese of Pennsylvania, who was saying "wow, isn't that exciting that you can bring your churches together for such a project". That was an alleluia.



Looking to the future we are hoping to expand our leadership camp at Camp Chick this summer. We are adding a counselor in training program and hoping we can begin to build up our staff and give them a lot of training to prepare them for work in the youth camp, so for the LIT program will be available for those who would like to work on general leadership skills, but for those who think they are called to ministry with children, the counselor in training program will be available, as well. We are also working on preparing for the Episcopal Youth Event, coming up next summer in Kentucky at Berea College. We are hoping to take a delegation of 15-20 next summer. We didn't take a delegation last time that it happened so we are really hoping to do that and I could use your help. I am asking each convocation to provide one adult and one young person to participate on a preparation/planning team, to get together twice or three times, and to begin to make our preparations for the trip and secondly, to determine who it is that is called to participate in the EYE next summer. So convocation councils, we need your help.

There is something that has been developing in the National Church. Many of you probably heard that one of the great celebrations that came out of General Convention was that there was a very new and significant commitment to youth and young adult ministry...one million dollars in additional funds was set aside to support youth and young adult ministry, and one of those focuses was on peer ministry training and the National Church has just sent out some information about opportunities that are available. One of those ways that we can learn about peer ministry training is at the EYE and I am hoping that our delegation can bring back some information and some resources to help us in our diocese, and maybe we can determine if that is a path we want to pursue.

Another emerging youth direction is on contemplative spirituality and with the support of the Batchelder Fund I am attending a Sabbath retreat for Diocesan Youth Coordinators in January and also hoping to explore that as a possibility for that in the future. I want to thank you for listening we can close with our song.

Bishop: Kris Forsyth, you may recall was called to her office as part-time coordinator of youth in the diocese, just last year, and so in one year a great deal has happened. We are blessed to have Kris with us. She, of course, had a lot of experience at Camp Gordonwood years ago, and so that has worked to the good of our diocese.

The chair now calls Claudia Hollinger, co-chair of ARM.

Hollinger: The Anti-Racism Ministry is a dedicated group whose mission is to raise the awareness of racism, and other "isms" in the church in the US. The workshops consist of videos, large and small group exercises, dialogue, and most importantly, references from the Bible pertaining to inclusiveness. The ARM presented workshops in all four convocations since the latter part of 2003. The goal of the ARM is to visit each convocation twice, but unfortunately, due to low registration, we were not able to accomplish this goal except in the Blue Water Convocation, and we thank you very much, Blue Water. An evaluation sheet was given at the end of each workshop, for the participants to give their opinion of the eight-hour long day of exercises and dialogue. According to the evaluations, the participants left the workshop with more awareness and the importance of total inclusiveness, as well as learning things about themselves and each other, especially that we are more alike than we are different. The members of the Anti-Racism team are the following facilitators – Flint River – Lorna Anderson, Frank

Burger, Jim Harrison, and Ruth Scott; from Saginaw Valley – Lori Peyerck, Jerry Kabell; from Blue Water – Anna Leigh Kubbe; and myself, I am also a nationally certified consultant for the National Church. We will begin planning for our 2005 workshops in the very near future, which will include some new videos and exercises, which will cover the same areas as the previous workshops. So if you have been to a workshop before, and you would like to see the new video or experience the new exercises you are perfectly welcome to come back because this is not a one-time deal, this is continual education for the rest of all of our lives. We will schedule only one visit per convocation this year. The registration form will be in the Anglican Connections so please be looking out for that, and you can mail it either to Lori Peyerck or myself. The ARM would like to thank all of you who have participated in the workshops for seeing the face of God in each other.

Bishop: We are indebted to the work that you have done, in some ways, groundbreaking work, in offering the kind of workshop that is unique to our diocese and our needs in this place.

The chair now recognizes Marnie Bash, the Resource Formation Coordinator for the diocese.

Bash: I am here to talk about formation resources. I want to talk about the supplement to the Resource Center Directory. There was a manila envelope for every church on the handout table. Inside there are two updates. I did not do a completely new directory this time. It includes the things that we have added since last year and some other material that I hope will be helpful. What I neglected to include was the fact that anything that does not have a specific location listed with it, is at the Diocesan Center. The other thing is that Jerry and Cindy Kabell's African library is with Jerry and Cindy Kabell. Two other things are in the package, one is a prayer for children, something that I think all of us should be meditating on, and a list of good children's literature. It's not a curriculum, it's a resource.

Now regarding Christian formation. How do we continue to grow in our spiritual faith as adults. What keeps us on the journey? There are a lot of things that I am going to mention, but probably one of the quickest ways to jump-start your spiritual journey is a Cursillo weekend. Cursillo encourages you to strengthen or renew your relationship with God. It includes presentations, small group work, liturgies and lots of good food. Following the weekend, you are encouraged to be involved with a small group. If you attended a weekend years ago but haven't been involved for awhile, seek out an ultreya. Other short courses include Alpha, Via Media, or the Discovery series. More in-depth studies include the ministry team development and EFM. These courses that I have mentioned are all quite good, but the major problem people feel is that when they end, they drop you flat. In addition to regular worship I have two suggestions, which I think qualify as "both/and" not "either/or". The first suggestion is to develop and/or continue a daily devotional period. Most of these courses will encourage you to get into daily bible reading, daily prayer. If you haven't already established the habit, that's one of the things you want to do. The other suggestion is to be part of an ongoing small group in your congregation or community. There are many resources for small group work, one is the adult scripture journal from Living the Good News, the second is Life Cycles. One final

suggestion if you want to grow in your faith, the way to really do it is to offer to teach a class. You will learn far more when you teach, than you ever did as a student.

Some upcoming events include Cursillo weekends in November and in April. There is a conference the end of February put on by Prov. VI & VII called Today's Disciples in Today's World. It is designed to assist leaders in adult education. The first Saturday in May the Diocese of Michigan will have a Ministries Fair. Many areas of ministries will be covered. The Christian Formation Leader Training will be in the Diocese of Chicago, and it will be a Prov V. event next August. It will cover children, youth, and adults. If you are working in Christian Formation leadership get that date on your calendar.

Bishop: The chair now calls on Todd Ousley, our Missioner for Congregational Development, who is going to give us an update on Breaking New Ground.

Ousley: In late 2001, a committee of people comprised of folks from all across the diocese began meeting to do strategic planning for a capital campaign for the diocese to create a permanent endowment fund for congregational development and redevelopment, entitled Breaking New Ground. During the Great Fifty Days of Easter in 2002, various events and contacts were made across the diocese, and we celebrated on the eve of Pentecost, the culmination of the Breaking New Ground Fund with four million dollars in pledges and bequests for this tremendous fund for the diocese. I am able to announce at this time that we had available to us, to grant January 1, 2005, \$32,000 for congregational redevelopment in the Diocese of Eastern Michigan. The first grant that was recommended by Mission Council and approved by Standing Committee was \$18,000 to St. John's, Dryden, to assist them in making the move toward calling a full-time rector for the first time in recent memory at St. John's. That has been done and there will be declining funding, lesser amounts in subsequent years, to assist them in that transition. I am also able to announce that a grant of up to \$4,000 has been given to St. Paul's, Gladwin, for Christian formation consultation and strategic planning. Finally, to Holy Family, Midland, \$2,150 to enable them to develop a strategic marketing plan for evangelism, produce a workshop with a consultant, and advertising for a labyrinth that is under construction on their property: a part of their planning to develop passionate spirituality and to reach out to the neighboring community. The total amount funded as of this date is \$24, 150 for three specific grants. We have \$7, 850 available to us, and one grant in rewrite and revision to be further considered by Mission Council and Standing Committee. I would also like to report that as of today we have just over one million dollars in receipts in this fund, so we anticipate in the next funding cycle that we will be able to grant somewhere in the neighborhood of \$50,000 for congregational development/redevelopment in the diocese. Thank you for your continued support.

Bishop: Thanks to all of you who were generous in making your contributions to that fund, which will mean so much in years to come. Imagine \$50,000 available next year, with three million more coming, means \$200,000 available sometime in the near future just on interest, so that is going to be a huge boost.

The chair now calls on Jim Schuetz, member of the Planned Giving Committee.

Schuetz: I think it is appropriate that I follow Todd Ousley because I too am going to talk about money. I am going to talk about planned giving and share with you some

rather astounding figures. I don't know about you but I have trouble imagining a million dollars. Fifty million dollars, if it were won in a lottery, most news media would cover this event. Fifty thousand million dollars (fifty billion dollars), numbers which our politicians toss around indiscriminately, are incomprehensible to me. If we go still further and multiply fifty billion dollars by another thousand, fifty thousand billion dollars (fifty trillion dollars), that is the amount of money that is going to change hands from this generation to the next. In our Book of Common Prayer, page 445, it says "the minister of the congregation is directed to instruct the people from time to time about the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provision for the well-being of their families, and of all persons to make wills while they are in good health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable usage." Planned giving helps guarantee the future of the services and programs currently being provided by your parish and diocese. It presents the opportunity to do more. Planned gifts include gifts through wills, charitable gift annuities, life insurance, pooled income funds, and charitable trusts. Don't be bashful about asking for money. If you are like Mary Jo and me, we receive requests from political groups, especially during this presidential election, charitable organizations, universities, seminaries, hospitals, and so forth. In the last several months, I have made presentations on planned giving to both our Saginaw Valley Convocation Council and Clericus. So far, I have had no response. I am quite disappointed because it is an extremely important mission for our church and diocese. Think for a moment the amount of outreach you could do with the proceeds from a million dollar bequest. There is a lot of help available. We have numerous publications on planned giving. We have financial and legal professionals available, or you can contact the diocese or the planned giving team members. Again, I ask you to think about the good works you could do for Jesus Christ and our Episcopal Church with endowed funds. Please don't shrug off this opportunity to enjoy the benefits of the fifty trillion dollars being passed on from this generation. Thank you.

Bishop: We will continue every year to talk about what Jim has shared with us. There will be workshops and opportunities for the members of this task force to visit your congregation or your convocation. It really is a very important subject for the future of our church.

Thew-Forrester:.....

Bishop: We finished lunch with the hint that the new vision that was going to be presented, and that is indeed what we are going to do right now. We have four presenters who are going to talk about one – the history, how it came to be, how it came from you; someone is going to talk about what it means; and then we are going to talk about how to apply it; and last of all we are going to sing a song about it. I call Sharon Naughton who is going to begin with an explanation of the process.

Naughton: My role here today is to introduce you to the process by which our diocese arrived at this new vision statement, that is to give you a brief history of how our vision of the future came into being. If we could make a documentary of this process, we could call it "birth of a vision". In broad terms, the process actually began over a year ago when the Holy Spirit courted Bishop Ed, prompting him to take a prayerful and reflective look at how our diocese had lived into its first vision of being "an apostolic community

of miraculous expectations for grassroots ministry”. But also, to begin visioning for the future. In more specific terms, the grassroots visioning process was conceived about nine months ago in early February, when lay and clergy representatives, four from each convocation, gathered with the Bishop and Todd Ousley for a training of the trainers workshop in a process called Appreciative Inquiry or AI. Appreciative inquiry is a lofty sounding title for a process that is really a rather simple but very exciting one. The workshop was lead by Robert Voyle, an Episcopal priest and psychotherapist, who adapted the process used in businesses, to church ministry development. The three-day training workshop was an energizing and affirming experience, using individual reflection and small and large group collaboration, during which we looked at all the positive stuff going on in our diocese as groundwork for building to the future. This was for us, a revealing and welcoming break from the old paradigm of focusing on “what’s wrong with us anyway, and how do we fix ourselves up”. The trainers came away from this workshop with a real sense of excitement that this AI process could lead us to a vital vision of what the Diocese of Eastern Michigan could look like in the future. And if you are interested in more detail about how this process works, there are booklets on the table in the parlor that explains it in a bit more detail than I can right now. And/or you can talk to any of the trainers up here or Todd Ousley. Following that embryonic stage came a series of Town Hall meetings, one in each convocation, held in March and April. I suspect that many of you attended those Town Hall meetings, or at least one of them. At these meetings, the trainers guided those who attended, through a condensed version of our longer training workshop. And once again working in small and large groups we told stories of our best experiences in this diocese. Where we experienced a true sense of apostolic community, where we witnessed miraculous things happening and where we saw grassroots mission, flower. And we imagined what God was calling us to do, as we looked to the future. The meetings were filled with the high energy of the Holy Spirit. There was a sense that our diocese was pregnant with possibilities. Following the Town Hall meetings, the labor pains began. The training team met several times to analyze, synthesize and organize, the reams and reams of ideas we had gathered at the Town Hall meetings, looking for common themes, and looking for core values. A rough vision statement was drafted and sent to a variety of leadership groups in the diocese for their reaction and feedback. The feedback was then discussed and analyzed and those ideas were incorporated as we worked, revised, and word-smithed the new vision statement into the concise one that you see today. And so now it is nine months after that original AI workshop. Our new vision statement has been born, and we are here to celebrate that new life with all its potential and to begin the challenging parenting process of nurturing it into maturity.

Running: So what’s this new vision statement all about? One of the things we did as a task force was we got into the conference room at the diocesan office and pasted all of your comments along the walls, that came out of the various Town Hall meetings. Every one of them was put up there, so we could see them, and we looked at these many, many things, and from that, we came up with a series of core values, things that were obviously very important to you, as the members of this diocese. And that is where the statement comes from, and what it is trying to express for us. First off, it says that the Diocese of Eastern Michigan is diverse. What that means is that we are diverse, we come from many different backgrounds, we come from many different races, age groups, socioeconomic groups – we are different. In our difference, we have differing views on human sexuality, on liturgy, on music, on politics. We are different. We are diverse.

But in that, we have one thing that is definitely in common – we believe in the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We know that Jesus loves us everyday, all the time. As we live in Jesus Christ's love, we acknowledge that Christ is calling us in one baptism, by water and the Spirit, to come together as one body of Christ here on earth, gathered around one table, one altar, where we are fed by the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. As Christ calls all of us to come together as disciples, we know that we are fully equipped to be sent as apostles into the world, to restore all creation. And by all creation, we mean not just human beings and the relationships between them, but the animals, the birds, the fish, the plants, in fact, all of this great creation that we are a part of. And finally this vision statement says that, we the members of the body of Christ known as the Diocese of Eastern Michigan, believe that the best way to restore all creation to unity with God is through grassroots mission. Meaning, as we all know so well, not something that comes from a central top-down direction, but from little bitty seeds, from small ideas that are scattered throughout this great diocese, that are nurtured, encouraged and allowed to grow from that mustard seed into a great and glorious tree that fulfills this new vision of our diocese.

Creamer: Well, if you are like any new parent you are probably wondering now that you've got the baby home, how do you care for it? A vision statement is more than words printed on a letterhead or a banner, like a newborn child it has to be nurtured. That nurturing comes from living out what God is calling us to do. In one of the workshops this morning you may have heard how you can live into this vision. Let me share with you now how that can be done. The first place you can begin is by using the booklet that each congregation has received. It outlines the process for caring for the vision on the local level. It provides a guide that allows each congregation to discover, dream, design, and deliver a positive life-giving statement about themselves and their mission. Now you may ask, why should we do this? Well you've all heard talk about having a clear visitors packet – how about having a clear vision statement. Having a clear focus of who you are will draw passionate people to you. A clear vision of your congregation brings a stronger sense of unity not only to the members, but also to the convocation and the diocese. I recently read an interview with the Reverend James B. Lemler, the new director of Mission for the Episcopal Church. In the interview he said mission is formed by the experience of local congregations, of how the people and leaders can come alive to their own call. This booklet not only provides us with guidance for the much needed nurturing process, but also for living into the vision.

Vickers: song

Bishop: There is one other piece that we had hoped to accomplish but some things just take longer to birth, and we wanted to involve you in some special way. We are trying to discern a logo, and we have some initial versions of what that might look like, and in about a month's time we will have a few more of those versions and possibilities, and then we are going to have a contest. I haven't told Tom Downs about this yet, but hopefully we are going to use Anglican Connections and there will be three or four different logos and you will decide what logo represents who we are and what we are becoming.

The chair now calls on Charles Parker, of the Resolutions Committee.

Parker: The Committee on Resolutions consists of one clergyperson and one layperson, and is responsible for presenting to Convention those resolutions submitted for action. Resolutions may be written by any individual, group or organization within the diocese, but may only be presented to Convention for consideration by any of the four convocations or by the Standing Committee. All resolutions to be considered must be received by the Committee on Resolutions no later than sixty days before the date of the Convention, and should be in the hands of your convocation at least one month before that. The Committee on Resolutions is charged with determining that each resolution complies with the Canons of the Diocese as to the manner and time frame of submission, and that it is in a proper form and style with its intent and action plainly spelled out. The Committee has no authority to alter a resolution's intent or content. In past years when the form or content of a resolution has been unclear, the Committee has communicated with the original author to resolve the question to their satisfaction. The Committee is directed to present to Convention, a report of the title, text, and accompanying explanation of each resolution to be considered, which is included in your packets. The Committee is also to present a report of the title of each resolution submitted that either was not presented to convocations or the Standing Committee or which was not received in the specified time frame. This year no non-compliant resolutions were received. I wish to thank my committee colleague, The Rev. Mary Delaney, particularly for taking care of the Committee's early procedural work, when I was unavailable.

In your booklet with the pink cover, if you will turn to page five. There are two resolutions for consideration by this Convention. The first – resolution to recommend use of the Revised Common Lectionary submitted by the Standing Committee.

RESOLVED that this tenth annual convention of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan commend the use of the Revised Common Lectionary to the congregations and clergy of this diocese, and recommends that such use begin, if possible, on the first Sunday of Advent 2004. Committee moves adoption of this resolution. Support, so moved.

The second for consideration – resolution to denounce certain votes of the Eastern Michigan deputation to the 74<sup>th</sup> General Convention, and to authorize affiliation with the Network of Anglican Communion Dioceses and Parishes, submitted by the Flint River Valley Convocation without endorsement on behalf of the Rector and Wardens of Grace Church, Lapeer.

BE IT RESOLVED that this 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan does denounce the vote of our Bishop and our entire deputation to the 74<sup>th</sup> General Convention regarding the Episcopal election of V. Gene Robinson and the blessing of same-sex unions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in order to ensure our place in the world-wide Anglican Communion, the Diocese of Eastern Michigan and its Bishop immediately take the necessary steps to become an active participant and affiliate of the Network of Anglican Communion Diocese and Parishes.

Motion has been moved and supported.

Colavincenzo: This afternoon when we were in the workshop, one of the things that really struck me was when Todd and our keynote speaker Kevin made the comment that when you are in a congregation you have to do a reality check to really know where you are. And as I look at this resolution, I realize that there are two things, that are different, that really deal with different issues, and I don't know if we can do this, but my recommendation would be that we would cut these – that we would make these two resolutions. I, and many of my congregation, not all, and many people that I have seen and met throughout our diocese....there were seven priests last year at the convention who stood against the actions of the General Convention, and many of those people are gone, and I feel like we haven't really addressed the issue to see where we as a body are. So I, as somebody who's been called to look at the Lambeth Commission report, I need to know where we stand on this issue, and I think as far as the issue of joining the Anglican Network, I think after the decision is made, what to do with the report, then we deal with that. To me, they are totally separate issues. That would be my recommendation, and I don't even know if it can be done.

Dewey: You could move to strike the second clause.

Colavincenzo: I move to strike the second clause from this proposed resolution. So moved, support.

Bishop: This is really an amendment to strike the second paragraph so only the first paragraph would stand. Is there discussion?

Dewey: As one of the authors of the resolution, the wardens and I have talked about this as well, and it would seem to me that the first clause is a clause that it is important for folk to know, the second clause on the other hand might be perceived to be very divisive. I would encourage us to drop that second clause, so that we just might have a handle on where we are as a diocesan household as opposed to what we are going to do as a diocesan household, so I would urge you to affirm the striking of the second clause in the resolution.

Bishop: Does anyone wish to speak against the amendment? If not, it is time to vote on the amendment. We are not voting on the motion, just on the amendment to strike the second paragraph. All in favor of striking the second paragraph, raise your green cards. Opposed, raise your red cards. Amendment passes.

Now we are talking about just the first paragraph of the resolution.

Kabell: Three years ago at this convention you elected four delegates and four clergy delegates, myself and Mr. Dewey among them, and you sent us off to the 74<sup>th</sup> General Convention, and we were advised at the time, that we were elected as deputies, and that our charge was to prayerfully and carefully in consultation with those elected deputies from other dioceses, do our best to discern the will of God for the future of the Episcopal Church in the USA. I can report to you that having been there and seen the process, that this is precisely what we did. Now you are being asked to condemn the action that we took when we did precisely what you empowered us, and sent us there to do. I believe that is inappropriate but under the circumstances, I think it shows something else as well. We have clearly identified an issue, which is a very sore point for many members of this



church. It is an issue, which clearly deserves some very careful conversation and consideration and we need to be about that business. Denouncing votes does not advance us along the path of doing that, and therefore I urge defeat of this particular resolution, so that we may undertake that conversation and attempt to bring us all to that place of reconciliation that we need to reach.

Dewey: I would say to you all that this resolve is important to any conversation that we might have. I agree that we need to have some conversation, but from my private conversations with folk in and around the diocese, the folks that put this forth, over the past year we have been led to believe that there are some folks who have felt un-represented by General Convention 2003 and we think it is important for the clergy and laity of the diocese and for our Bishop to know how many or how few people actually have felt disenfranchised, perhaps hurt, some even angry about the crisis that the church now faces. I think a vote of this convention is an avenue to demonstrate the extent of the pain that's felt. As Sue mentioned, there were seven of us standing here last year, miffed at General Convention, there are two of those seven left in the diocese now. I just ask that you let your voice be heard. The substitute resolution that has been passed around talks about having the conversation and caring for those that have been disenfranchised or at least feel as if they have been disenfranchised....caring for those, it would be very difficult to care for those if you don't know who they are. This is simply a vote for us to figure out who we are. Who does, in fact have some serious opposition and feeling and angst with respect to what took place at General Convention that caused the disease that we have now throughout the Anglican Communion.

Schuetz: I wish to propose a substitute resolution. I believe that you have a copy of this, it has been available on the table. If you don't there are some here that can be handed out.

Bishop: Is there support for this substitute resolution? Support acknowledged.

Schuetz: This is a proposed substitute resolution for the second resolution on page five of the business section.

RESOLVED that this 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan, fully, unequivocally, and joyfully embraces our unity in Christ for which he prayed, which is his gift, and which absolutely transcends our conscientious differences over actions of General Convention 2003; and be it further

RESOLVED, in light of the recently published Windsor Report which calls us to increase our common bonds of affection, that we will shun schism, and remain in communion with one another; in Faith, that Christ is Lord of his Church; in Hope, that in our unity the Holy Spirit will lead us through our confusion and darkness into the Light of Christ; and in Love, reaching out both to homosexual persons in their pain and struggle, as well as to those conscientiously opposed to the General Convention Resolution and Consent. We support our Bishop in efforts to foster faith, hope and love in our Diocese, the Episcopal Church, and the Anglican Communion, so that we may faithfully remain one Body of Christ, and as such be a positive force for peace and reconciliation in our community; and be it further

RESOLVED, that we will strive to understand the concerns of those among us who struggle with some of the actions of this past General Convention and appreciate their efforts to remain fully within the community of our faith, expressing our commitment to honor the integrity of their concern. We welcome our Bishop's appointment of our own Diocesan Windsor Commission to seek ways to maintain and deepen continued loving relations among ourselves that honors our honestly held, divergent opinions; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Secretary send a copy of this resolution to each Bishop in the Episcopal Church, and to each of the other 38 Primates in the Anglican Communion.

Bishop: This resolution has been moved and supported. Now it is time for discussion.

Lackey, A: Mary Jo said much more eloquently than I could have said in her substitute resolution about healing the schism because I feel like if we do pass the resolution to denounce the vote of the Bishop, then we are on our way to a schism, we are on our way to being separate churches, and I think that its wonderful that we should be able to embrace each other, and then understand people's concerns. I know a lot of us are still conflicted about the consecration of Bishop Robinson, a lot of us are still confused about the whole same-sex marriage....I am not going to say that I'm not, and I have prayed on it constantly, but that we as a church are bigger than all that, and we need to remain as a church and to honor our Bishop who we sent to Convention to make those decisions and who I know prayed and asked God for help with those decisions, and we are never going to reach a consensus on this issue as a diocese. So we need to agree to disagree. I know that's a cliché but that's what we need to do.

Dewey: I don't know that there is anything in this particular resolution that I would object to, I think it's a wonderful resolution and very heartfelt, but it has absolutely nothing to do with the one its trying to replace. I would encourage you, not so much to defeat the intent of the resolution, but I would want you to defeat it as a substitute to the real resolution, that actually gets to the heart to help identify to our diocesan household where it is that we are and how it is that we feel, and what it is that's going on in our lives and in our congregations. I would encourage the defeat of this resolution, again not the content, but the intent.

Lackey, D: In my life, growing up in high school, in college, in meeting people, I've met quite a number of gay men. One man particularly, was about 18 years old, sat in my dining room at my table, and cried his heart out because he didn't want to be a homosexual, but he didn't have a choice, it wasn't something he chose. It was something he was born into, he couldn't help himself, but he wanted to so terribly be normal, like me. But it wasn't his choice and to use the bible in such a way, to say this is a sin to do what he does. He was created by God just like we are, all created by God and we are good. That's what the bible said, so to use the bible to divide us, is just wrong.

Colavincenzo: I think the substitute.....

Troy: I am Patty Troy, Grace, Port Huron, and I was going to speak to the original resolution in support of it, but I may not have that opportunity so I wanted to speak. I just wanted to share some of my perspectives in that, all of us have a natural orientation

for sin and that all of us are in need of redemption, and that homosexuals no less than heterosexuals are people created in God's image and they are in need of the amazing saving grace of God. Through faith in Jesus God accepts us just as we are, but He doesn't leave us that way. Thanks be to God, He transforms us in a continuing process until we are remade in His image. The issue before us is not merely homosexuality, but it's a matter of scriptural authority, of sexual morality, of the meaning of repentance, redemption, renewal and transformation. I'm a parent of young adults and I know that they've been growing up in a sex-saturated culture. They need a church that holds them to a higher moral standard, a higher traditional biblical standard of faithfulness within marriage and abstinence outside of marriage. They also need a church that will provide them with hope and help that they can maintain that standard. Bonhoeffer speaks of cheap grace, I want to quote him, "we are fighting today for costly grace. In cheap grace the world finds a cheap covering for sin. No contrition is required, still less any real desire to be delivered from sin. Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without repentance, cheap grace amounts to the denial of the word of God, in fact a denial of the incarnation of the word of God. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ living and incarnate."

And Jesus speaks of discipleship as denying oneself and taking up your cross and following him. The Windsor Report calls upon the Episcopal Church in the United States to apologize for the divisive actions of General Convention. The original resolution provides us with a real and meaningful opportunity to do just that. And finally, the church that bestows a blessing on sin ignores the transforming redemptive message of the Gospel. By offering cheap grace it is capitulating to a culture that holds tolerance as the highest virtue. It is offering no moral guidance for its youth. It is ignoring the need that all of us sinners have for hope that by God's grace we can withstand temptation and remain faithful to His Word.

Downs, A.: I came up here to say exactly the same thing that Gail said awhile ago, that the motion on the table right now is productive. The motion on the table right now is a fantastic way to send a message throughout the community. The motion on the table right now is very strong, and very Christian, and very moral centered. The previous amendment had nothing to do with an actual account. Its about humiliation. The previous amendment on the floor before this was about humiliation. It is about denouncing the statements of your elected bishop. Its denouncing your representatives. Its denouncing everything that they have worked hard to do in your name. If you had disagreed with him, disagreed with them, this could have been brought before the convention. This could have been expressed in many opportunities. What happened, has happened and we are here 14 months later. We have a great opportunity to expand ourselves, to grow as a community. I believe that this motion on the table is a fantastic first step.

Reif, B: My name is Beverly Reif, St. Alban's, Bay City. The proposed substitute resolution, I feel doesn't go far enough. I think that ought to be redone. We had the election of Gene Robinson and as someone mentioned the blessing of same-sex marriage. I think those are the two issues, but I agree with this substitute motion in that, we should not divide our people up. We all basically agree on most everything. That's why we belong to the religion that we do. I think that it's important that it be spelled out, you hear it verbally – we don't believe in the blessing of same-sex marriage, but you don't

see it in print. I think that's being dishonest. Now I've got nothing against homosexuals, some of my friends are homosexuals, they're wonderful people, we are all the same. But I don't believe in same-sex marriage. If they want to have a union of some kind, I don't believe it should be called marriage because according to the bible I don't think it fits the description of a marriage – it's supposed to be a man and a woman joined together, and I don't think this is appropriate to have same-sex marriage. If we wanted to be honest, we would insert something in this, I have not read the Windsor Report so I don't know what it says in that report, but I will get a copy of it. But I believe it should state somewhere about, there should not be a blessing of same-sex marriage – let them call it some other kind of union, or whatever they want to call it, but not marriage. And also, on Gene Robinson I believe it was inappropriate and I do not denounce our bishop, I love him, he's a wonderful person. I just denounce what happened because of that and I think that Gene Robinson should not be set up as a top, ideal person to guide our church, to guide our young people in their lives, I think its not appropriate.

Elin, D.: Darren Elin, St. John's, Saginaw. I believe that Dietrich Bonhoeffer would never say that justice is cheap, and I believe that reconciliation is never a cheap grace, but a costly grace, at that. People are speaking today of a matter, that is saying that it's a way for them to express a personal denouncement, but there is nothing personal about a corporate matter, of a corporate act, that just has a unilateral voice to that, and therefore I am commending this substitute resolution. I also speak to the author's point of the original resolution that speaks of a desire today of caring. Do we truly believe that a denouncement is a caring way to listen to one another and find reconciliation. Having your say does not mean having your way.

Boli, J: Three things to think about 1) someone mentioned the authority of scripture – those of us who support the substitute resolution accept the authority of scripture as much as those who oppose it. For instance, scripture needs interpretation. What are you going to do with the portion that says “suffer not a witch to live”. What are you going to do with the part that says don't eat pork. What are you going to do with the part that says keep a leper outside the camp. What are you going to do with the one that says kill someone who works on the Sabbath. Scripture needs interpretation. So those of us who support the resolution also accept the authority of scripture. 2) The situation at General Convention with the approval of the consecration of Gene Robinson confused many of us. The same kind of situation happened in the book of Acts, with probably more confusion because the stakes were higher, people were getting killed. They were getting burned at the stake, thrown to lions and such. Paul said “Gentiles do not need to become Jews before they can become Christians.” And everyone on Paul's side said that. Peter's side said “oh yes the do.” They agreed to disagree and let the Holy Spirit work. 3) We are the body of Christ, and individually member of it. And Jesus said, He prayed that all may be one, as we and the Father are one. My request is that we support our bishop, that we love those who were willing to take the risk of going to General Convention, because that must have been a hellish decision, and that we pray that the Spirit will continue to lead us as we figure what in the world God wants us to do in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Trask, R: First of all I have to tell you, I would have voted against the original resolution, and I think I am probably not the only one who feels like they are being caught between two different resolutions here. Probably 95% of this resolution here I could endorse fully, but frankly, the language here in the third paragraph...that we will

strive to understand the concerns of those among us who struggle with some of the actions of this past General Convention....and so forth. I don't know what other word to use but condescending and for that reason I cannot support this substitute resolution.

Mills, J: My name is Jack Mills, St. Jude's, Fenton. I will just take a few seconds here, but I want to remind everyone here that we do have this diocesan Windsor Commission, who is going to be thinking this through and coming up with recommendations and whatever. I think to go back to the original resolution would be very negative. This new one is very positive, it's done in a loving spirit and I would also like to remind us that we heard a wonderful address about including everyone at God's table. Keep that in mind, and with that in mind I would like to move the previous question.

Bishop: Is there support? Support acknowledged. Majority voted to end discussion. Now we are going to vote on the substitute resolution. Please understand that if we vote in favor of the substitute resolution, then we move on. We have completed the resolution business, and the original resolution is lost. All in favor of the substitute resolution? Motion carried.

Now we have to vote one more time to complete the process of passing the substitute resolution. All in favor of the substitute resolution – which is now the only resolution on the floor? Motion carried.

Thank you for your patience, for your conversation and your honesty that was expressed here this afternoon.

We have election results, so I call on Jack Carlsen, Chair of the Elections Committee to come forward.

Carlsen: A number of candidates ran unopposed, so I won't repeat their names. For the Ecclesiastical Court – William Boli, James Sorenson, Gloria Davenport, Jack Thompson elected. For General Convention – Anna Leigh Kubbe elected, Robert Trask alternate; Mary Lou Creamer elected, Mary Ruth Wiley alternate; Philip Seitz elected, Mary Delaney alternate; Carol Moggo elected, Beverly Shortt alternate; Thomas Downs elected, Joe Running alternate; Charles Reagan elected; Jerry Kabell alternate.

Bishop: Thank you very much for your work, Jack, and congratulations to all of you who were elected. I deeply appreciate all those who allowed your names to stand for nomination.

I ask for a motion to accept all of the reports as written. Support, motion carried.

The chair calls on Ira Leidel, co-chair of Kinkiizi Task Force, and Rich and Stacy Frontjes to the microphone.

Leidel, I: Our companionship with Kinkiizi is really broadening the table of Christ, we were very fortunate to be able to continue this, we hope to be able to continue the visitations back and forth to keep the table together, to learn from one another and we were very fortunate to be able to ask Rich and Stacy Frontjes to go on our behalf and they have a report for us.

Frontjes, R: Thank you to the entire convention, especially to Ira Leidel for that introduction. Stacy and I would like to extend our most sincere thanks to Ira and the Companionship Task Force, which made our trip possible, and did a lot by their preparatory work with us to make the trip productive. As for our trip, we left from Texas on July 21 and returned on the 17 of August, just this past summer, so we were in Kinkiizi for almost a month. During that time we had a very flexible schedule. We were able to travel with the bishop on his year-long tour of various educational facilities throughout that diocese. When we were not traveling with the bishop, we pretty much set our own agenda, contingent on the fact that traveling by road was very difficult, so places that we could walk to, set our agenda, and we discovered across the street from where the bishop lives, Kinkiizi High School where God is definitely at work - a beautiful opportunity for learning about how ministry and education is done in Africa. Stacy and I very much enjoyed the four or five days that we spent there, supposedly teaching, but we were actually learning at least as much as we taught, if not more. We also had the great pleasure of twice visiting Nyakabungo School for Girls, which is actually about ½ hours drive away from where we were staying, so we were limited in how many times we could visit there. But the first time we were there was with the bishop. There was a large informal procession and presentation. We didn't have a lot of time to investigate or ask questions that we really wanted to ask. We went back again on our own and discovered that through the support of Eastern Michigan and through the support of other dioceses and through the grace of God, Nyakabungo Girl's School is one of the most highly regarded schools in Kinkiizi Diocese. It now attracts students from all around that part of Uganda. I think that is really noteworthy. I would like Eastern Michigan to know how much impact the sponsorship program really is having in Nyakabungo. Praise God!

Frontjes, S: I greet you from ETSS, from St. John's, Dryden, and from the Diocese of Kinkiizi. I just wanted to let you know the work the Holy Spirit is doing in Kinkiizi, and it is in no short amount to your prayers, to your support, and to your constant desire to build relationships with the people of Kinkiizi. They think of you often, they think of you every day. They are praying for you, they talk about you, and they ask about you. When I came to Kinkiizi, they didn't say how is St. John's, Dryden, how is St. John's, Midland, how is St. John's, Saginaw. They said "how are the people of Eastern Michigan?" And I said, "well, I think they are OK". I hope that was the right answer. I just wanted to encourage you that if you are communicating with parishes, individuals, or students, to continue to do that. I know communication is somewhat difficult because it is very expensive to mail a letter from Kinkiizi to the USA, and it's also not a guarantee if you mail something from here that it's going to show up. It's just the way the postal system works in Africa. It doesn't work very well. So don't be discouraged – if you sent a letter and you didn't hear anything, because they are thinking about you, and write your letters and try to send them with the next people that go. I know that Dr. Cox from St. Paul's, Flint, is going sometime in early 2005. So keep writing those letters, and if you are not praying for your companion parish, start tomorrow in your corporate worship, because they really do think of you, so you should think of them. I just wanted to say that if you are wondering "what can our parish do?", perhaps you are from a parish that isn't providing much support yet. Like I said prayer is extremely important, building a relationship is very important – write a letter to your companion parish. You can support a girl for school scholarship at Nyakabungo Girl's School. The difference for a girl going on to secondary school, if she doesn't go to secondary school, she faces getting married

at 13 years old and being a mother at 14 or 15. You know girls over there aren't any different than 13 or 14/15 year old girls here. They are not ready to be mothers so education is really precious and important to these girls and they wouldn't have it if you didn't support them. A lot of times your parishes are hurting. Our parish that we visited, our linked parish, was very sad. The people are very joyful but the conditions of the buildings falling down around them, so even a little bit of money, a hundred dollars here doesn't sound like much but it can go an immense way in Kinkiizi. So think about that, pray about that, and consider it. Also if you are in the ECW, there has been request by the Mother's Union to help them in a project that they're doing to develop a vocational center for women to teach about taking care of family, to teach about Christian education, and also to help these girls who have fallen through the cracks and haven't finished secondary school to provide them with some training so they can take care of their families, and take care of themselves for employment. I encourage you to think about that. I just say, God bless you for you, the people in Kinkiizi bless you, and I know they feel blessed by you.

Bishop: I call on Linda Crane to talk about Befriender Ministry.

Crane: I am the Befriender Coordinator at Grace Church, Port Huron. "Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian. He led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush. He looked and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, I must turn aside, and look at this great sight and see why the bush has not burned up. When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see God, God called to him out of the bush, Moses, Moses. And he said, here I am."

A lot of times we see people in our parishes or the community who are hurting in some way. Perhaps they have just moved to the area, they have lost a spouse or another close family member, and they are grieving. They have now left their friends where they are, perhaps they have moved to a daughter's home or close to another family member. This is where Befrienders can come in and be a listening source to that person. Expressing hospitality is central to creating Christian community. Befriender ministry provides leadership training and program support for a listening ministry of lay pastoral care. The mission of Befriender ministry is to educate, form and support men and women as leaders for a listening ministry of care. Based on a model of mutuality, this national and ecumenical ministry heals hearts, energizes communities and transforms a suffering world. God calls us in our everyday life. Our life experiences build on one another like the rings on a tree. Mutuality is a way of being in relationship with others. Our interpretation of events in our lives is influenced by past experiences. We learn from our ministry by making meaning. We follow a process outlined by the letters HEAR: hear the story, express your response, answer two questions, and reflect on how your faith connects. With this process we live out the principles and practice, the skills of Befriender ministry. I hope you all know that you are Befriender ministers sitting out there. You've all sat and listened to all of us speaking up here very quietly, and very intently. In your packets that your clergy/parish received there should have been a white envelope. In there you'll find two pamphlets for Foundations for Befriender Ministry. On Feb. 11-12, 2005 and March 4-5, 2005, they are going to have Befriender training. It will be foundations for Befriender ministry and be a core workshop for leaders who want

to implement and maintain this listening ministry of lay pastoral care in their church, health care institution or long-term care facility. Usually a team of clergy, or someone on the staff, and at least one or two other people would attend this workshop. It's 30 hours and its offered on a Friday and Saturday, usually 8:30 – 5:00. Both weekends are required to complete the training. Even if you have a small parish, this is a wonderful ministry. There's so many things you can do with it. We've incorporated welcoming new members with ours at Grace Church, we visit some of our shut-ins, and we visit the sick. So hopefully everyone, please take this into consideration. Let's try to get a group of people in the Befriender Ministry. As Henri Nouwen said, "the friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing, not curing, not healing, and face with us the reality of our powerlessness, that is the friend who cares."

Bishop: Thank you, Linda. Out of curiosity, those of you who are here...if you have a Befriender ministry in your congregation, please raise your hand. I just want to get a sense of how well known the ministry is. Well...we have a long ways to go. This is a powerful ministry of the laity, where all people can become ministers. There are some costs involved in this training and if that is the only reason that your congregation is holding back, please give me a call. Sometimes I can find resources to help and I really would love to have at least four or five new congregations launch into Befriender training ministry at this coming conference. We are sponsoring this with the Diocese of Saginaw, and so I hope that it won't just be all Roman Catholics that are there. I hope that we can have some Episcopalians there as well. If you are interested and finances are a problem, please do give me a call.

I would like to ask Bob Finn and Elsa Pressentin to come forward. We are getting near the end of the convention and as many of you who have been here before know, one of the things that we do is to honor leadership in the diocese, and this year we've already done a couple of honors, The Rev. Tom Trimmer, who is not with us because he is ill, he has served faithfully as a deacon in this diocese for many years. He was awarded an Excellence in Ministry award in his local congregation, St. John's, Alma. The Rev. Edward Bennett, who many of you know, has been a priest for sixty years, and was honored at a special dinner a few weeks ago, and he was not able to be here today, but he will be receiving his award at another time. Bob Finn is here and in many ways represents the core values of this diocese that we have been talking about. Way back when we started the Commission on Ministry, Bob was one of the initial persons that was called forth to do that ministry, and particularly working with Betty Kirkley has been involved with Mutual Ministry Team development. Bob lives and breathes this ministry and so it is with a great heartfelt appreciation for your ministry Bob, that we give to you the certificate and diocesan pin. Congratulations.

In Ed's absence....sixty years of ministry. There aren't very many clergy who can have that kind of a celebration, and have the humor and good health that Ed has. On behalf of us, give him one huge hug and we will give him a little applause now too.

Elsa Pressentin this last year has done a number of things that we want to mark. One of them, her local congregation being very much concerned about becoming a congregation that was self-supportive, has worked really hard. Having been linked to St. John's, Saginaw, who adopted them., and time was coming, there was a critical time when they



had to raise their income significantly, so last year in their pledge campaign, I think they raised their annual giving by 65%. That is.....applause. Also, Elsa has been a marvelous witness to the deaf in a ministry which she continues to have interest in. Serving in her local clergy consortium this last year, after some of the turmoil and conversation that the Episcopal Church was going through, was asked to no longer be a member of that group. But she said, "I'm not going away." She has recently been re-elected as an officer in that group, so I think she deserves a lot of credit.

And now I am going to ask the entire diocesan staff who are present to come forward. One of the great joys in my life, is coming to the office every week, and finding these marvelous people who are present. Over the last forty years I have worked with lots of different staffs and I have to say the staff that we have right now at the diocesan office serves this diocese amazingly well. Going back about two years ago we were experiencing financial crises in terms of the whole country – incomes were down, people were getting laid off, and diocesan income was questionable because parish income was questionable. We tried to be supportive of your local congregations, not asking more money for the diocese but trying to help you in your local situations. Since that time, I think we've reduced our overhead in our diocesan office, by something like 20%....using both sides of the paper, turning off lights, we have a sheet of about 20 different things that they have done, it's incredible, it's incredible what this staff does. They empty their own wastebaskets, we do our own cleaning in the diocese. We clean our bathrooms...I don't want to get too more detailed. The thing is that we work together. When we have staff meetings, we all take turns in terms of leadership. Usually we eat together when we have staff meetings, and we have wonderful meals and surprises that occur. This is a diocesan staff that I am very proud of, and I want today to honor them and say how much I appreciate every one of you. You are one terrific bunch of people, and I thank God for you. Our diocese as you know, it was 5 and now it is 6% of income from the congregations. There is no diocese in this country that operates on an income as little as that. So many of us up here are part-time, three of us are full-time, but there is an awful lot of work and service ministry that comes out of the diocesan center for you. We exist for you and I want to thank these people for the service that they do.

The chair recognizes Dean Bedford, President of the Standing Committee to talk about appointments required by canons.

Bedford: I would like to take this opportunity to announce the make up of the 2005 Convention Committees – the Committee on Constitution and Canons (The Rev. Frederick Houghton, The Rev. Elsa Pressentin, The Very Rev. Charles Curtis, Charles Reagan, Linda Rathburn, Eldon Card), Committee on Admission of New Congregations (The Rev. Glenn Stone, The Rev. Todd Ousley, Frank Davenport, Virginia McNabb), Credentials Committee (The Rev. Gail Vince), Resolutions Committee (The Rev. Mary Delaney, Charles Parker). For the 2005 Convention Planning Committee there will be at least four people working with the Dean and President of the Blue Water Convocation.

Bishop: We thank you all, those who have been appointed. We look forward to working with you in your various capacities.

The chair calls upon Charles Parker for the courtesy resolutions.

Parker: As usual, I will read these in a group and ask for their approval, following which I do have a separate resolution of special courtesy. First, WHEREAS, the congregation of **St. Paul's, Flint**, having a long history of Christian outreach to its community, has so graciously given of their facilities and the time and talent of their members to welcome this gathering of the diocesan family to celebrate our shared history and to envision our shared future,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that this 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan does offer its most grateful thanks for a place to gather and a table where all may share in business, fellowship, and the breaking of bread.

WHEREAS, the congregations and people of the **Flint River Valley Convocation** have brought together their many gifts, talents, and resources in a joint ministry to support this gathering,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that this 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan does extend its thanks to the host convocation.

WHEREAS, our presenters, **the Rev. Todd Ousley, Mary Lou Creamer, Jack Carlsen, Brian Chace, Charles Bash, Betty Kirkley, Bob Finn, and Kris Forsyth**, have shared with us their expertise to develop and explore our vision for our future together,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that this 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan does extend its prayers and blessings to them for their gracious contributions.

WHEREAS, **the Rev. Dr. John Ackerman**, a minister of the Presbyterian Church, has come to be with us to share his strategies for spiritual awakening,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that this 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan does offer most prayerful thanks for his willingness to share his gifts that we might become more aware of the Spirit among us.

WHEREAS, **the Rev. Dr. D. Jay Koyle** of Huron University College has joined us to share avenues of vibrant and faithful worship,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that this 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan does offer its gratitude for his insights and expertise on expressing the Good News of Jesus in ways that both honor tradition and excite modern society.

WHEREAS, **the First Presbyterian Church of Flint** has graciously provided its space and staff to serve lunch to their brothers and sisters in Christ,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that this 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan does gratefully thank our fellow Christians for their most generous hospitality.

WHEREAS, **the Rev. Dr. Kevin Thew Forrester** of the Diocese of Northern Michigan has shared with us the understandings and experiences of mutual ministry developed in

his diocese, to tap the God-given gifts in all people, and to overcome the artificial barriers that have so long dictated how things should be done,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that this 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan offers most heartfelt thanks for his witness and teaching that our ministry is to open the table to all God's children, to see Christ in all with whom we interact, and to respect the dignity of all persons, even those who do not respect our own.

I move adoption.

Bishop: Is there support? Support, all in favor respond by applause. So moved.

Parker: Now I have a special resolution that would not be appropriate to be considered with the rest.

WHEREAS, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety-Six, by the Grace of God, a priest was called to be the apostle of the 100<sup>th</sup> diocese of the Episcopal Church, and

WHEREAS, this apostle of the Lord's Church has taught us, and inspired us, and guided us, and challenged us, and when necessary, comforted us and helped us to find healing, as we walked together a road to grow in the miraculous expectation of the love of Jesus, and

WHEREAS, we are now about to begin the final two years of our journey together, not as a winding down, but in the quest to meet the challenge of new vision and to grow even closer to our Lord Jesus,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that this 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan does gratefully thank **the Rt. Rev. Edwin M. Leidel, Jr.**, for his ministry among us as apostle, episcopos, pastor, and teacher, does offer its prayers for his future ministry, both among us and afterwards, and prays for a renewed and continuing devotion of all of us in Eastern Michigan to the Good News and Love of Jesus, in the greater understanding of which our bishop has so devotedly led us.

Bishop: Thank you. As I said, it's a great joy to be your bishop, an honor.

We are at the end of our time and I would announce at this time the close of business. Our next convention is October 21-22, 2005, at Grace Church, Port Huron.

# **Reports**

## **ANTI-RACISM MINISTRY (A.R.M.)**

A.R.M. is a dedicated group whose mission is to raise the awareness of racism (and other isms) in the Church and the United States. The workshops consist of videos, large and small groups exercises, dialogue and most importantly, references from the Bible pertaining to inclusiveness..

The Anti-Racism Ministry presented workshops in all four Convocations since the latter part of 2003. The goal of A.R.M. was to visit each Convocation twice, but unfortunately due to low registration, we were not able to accomplish this goal, except in the Blue Water Convocation.

An evaluation sheet was given at the end of each workshop for the participants to give their opinion about the 8 hour day of exercises and dialogue. According to the evaluations, the participants left the workshop with (more) awareness and the importance of total inclusiveness, as well as, learning things about themselves and each other.

The members of the A.R.M. team are as follows:

Facilitators:

Flint River- Lorna Anderson, Frank Burger, Jim Harrison and Ruth Scott  
Saginaw Valley – Lori Peyerck (Co-Chair)  
Northern Convocation – Jerry Kabell  
Blue Water – Rev. Anna Leigh Kubbe

National Certified Consultant:

Flint River – Claudia Hollinger (Co-Chair)

We will begin planning for the 2005 workshops, in the near future, which will include new videos and exercises, which will cover the same areas as the previous workshops. (We will schedule one visit per Convocation)

The Anti-Racism Ministry would like to thank all those who participated in the workshops and “SEEING THE FACE OF GOD IN EACH OTHER.”

Respectfully submitted by,  
Claudia Hollinger and Lori Peyerck, A.R.M. Co-chairs

## **CAMP CHICKAGAMI REPORT**

Camp Chick, a premiere asset of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan continued to operate for the past year without benefit of direct funding by the diocese. Our sources of revenue, in addition to user fees, continue to be gifts and grants from convocations, congregations, trusts, individuals and other groups. For these we are truly thankful.

Last fall the Camp Chick Steering Committee decided to appoint a sub-committee whose sole responsibility was to be the planning and operation of our summer youth camp. This group consisted of some members of the Steering Committee, plus other folks with specific skills or interests in the area of youth education in a camp setting. This group began its work in early December, resulting in an enlarged summer camp for our youth and the development and implementation of a "Leaders in Training" program for our older youth. The objective was to identify and train outstanding young people to serve effectively in the church of the future.

The summer Youth camp combined with the LIT group brought together 51 campers and a staff of 32 for a period slightly longer than previous years, while reducing the time obligation of staff from two weeks in previous years to an eight-day commitment this year. At the same time this plan achieved a better utilization of the facility and made more time available for other groups.

We were pleased that the Clergy Family Camp returned for a second year. Comments received were favorable.

Our plan of facility improvements continued. New tables and chairs were installed in the dining hall (Fletcher). The enlargement and improvement of Johnson/Kauffman was concluded with the installation of wood paneled ceilings in the older portion of the building. The LIT group designed and built a labyrinth for all to enjoy. Many new bunk beds and mattresses were placed in service and for the water-lovers there were new PFD's.

The camp facility continues to be used by many churches, family groups and other Christians. Cold weather utilization is growing as more people become aware of the availability.

We of the Camp Chick Steering Committee appreciate being allowed to serve as your stewards of this treasure of the church.

***RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, JOHN EHLERS, CHAIR***

## **COMMISSION ON MINISTRY (COM)**

**PURPOSE:** The COM assists the Bishop with development, training, utilization and affirmation of the ministry of all the Baptized, with a focus on those seeking holy orders.

**NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN PROCESS:** 10 Diaconal track and 8 Priest track

**CALL FORWARDING:** Plans are currently being developed for a Gifts/Vocation Discernment Conference to be held March 11-12, 2005.

**HURON COLLEGE:** Four parishes entered the program in 2004 and are currently participating in the second stage of the Team-Leadership Program at Huron College, London, Ontario. Two additional parishes took *Module 1 - Team Based Leadership Within the Communities Jesus Calls Us to Nurture and Minister* in May 2004.

**MUTUAL MINISTRY:** Lynne Wilson from Living Stones presented a workshop to the Mutual Ministry Development Team. Living Stones is a worldwide organization promoting the ministry of the Baptized and mutual ministry.

**MUTUAL MINISTRY SUPPORT TEAM (MMST):** The Mutual Ministry Development Team formulated a working definition of a Mutual Ministry Support Team which was accepted by the COM for use within the Diocese.

**READINESS INTERVIEWS:** All persons seeking to be ordained receive a Readiness Interview by the COM prior to their Candidacy Interview with the Standing Committee. To ensure consistency, a revised and expanded series of guidelines and question have been implemented by the COM.

**WAYNE SCHWAB:** Wayne Schwab, former Evangelism Chair of the National Church, spent time with the COM during its March meeting. Basing his comments on his book "When the Members are the Missionaries," Wayne spoke about the changing nature of the church and COMs in particular. He stressed the COMs role in visioning ways to develop leadership within all the Baptized.

*Respectfully submitted by* Bob Finn and Joe Running, Co-Chairs

*COM Members:* LAY: Sylvia Bargiel, Jane Hutchins, Sally Sealey, Nancy Steele;  
CLERGY: Judith Boli, Elizabeth Chace, Jay Gantz (Standing Committee), Suzanne Sorenson, Bob Trask, Mary Jo Schultz; *Ex officio:* Bishop Leidel; *Administrative Assistant:* Gail Vince; Betty Kirkley, Dean of Mutual Ministry Team Formation; Mary Delaney, Dean of Vocational Deaconate Studies.

## A GRASSROOTS COMPANIONSHIP

### Companionship Taskforce Report

One of the core foundations of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan is to be a "grassroots" diocese, sharing the leadership with the baptized membership through the congregation, convocation and diocese. Everything that is done is done with idea of shared leadership.

The primary purpose of the relationship between Eastern Michigan and Kinkiizi, Uganda is to build up our common life in Christ. This relationship will enable us to mutually care for one another and to learn from one another, the main goal is the spiritual interface of our relationship. This journey was begun in faith and no one knows how it will evolve. In 2002, every congregation in E MI was matched with one or more parishes in Kinkiizi. This was done to honor the decision of convention to enter into the companionship with all congregations.

Our companionship continues to work on the goals as stated in our mutual covenant.

The goals of our National Episcopal Church mission statements are being fulfilled in our relationship. A current update of our relationship is below:

- Support of the Nyakabungo Girls Secondary School has increased to 64 scholarships, and various other support
- E MI 1% Funds are Supporting Phase 3 at the Nyakabungo School to upgrade another building and funding 2 Health Care workers in 3 schools.
- A Health Care Coordinator position is also being funded for 11 Kinkiizi clinics with the 1% Development Fund.
- St. John's, Midland Endowment Fund gift has begun the work of Phase 3 at the school
- Dr Cox of St Paul's, Flint is doing repeated mission trips to do eye surgery and upgrade local surgery skills and serves as a liaison from E MI when able
- Rich and Stacey Frontjes seminarians from Dryden were in Kinkiizi July 2004
- Attempts to develop Cottage Industry of basket making are in the works
- A Companion Relationship How To Manual was created for E MI congregations
- Kinkiizi was connected with Heifer International through coaching of E MI
- Per request we are assisting in revision of a Character Program for Kinkiizi Youth
- E MI Kinkiizi Supporters E mail list serve effectively shares news and information

God's hand continues to be at work in this companionship. Learning that mission leads to LIFE, for us and those to whom we journey with is becoming clearer all the time. We are seeing Christ's face in our companions and in the faces of our neighbors at home.

Praise God for the journey we are on together.  
The Kinkiizi Companionship Taskforce  
Stephanie King and Ira Leidel, Co Chairs

## **COMPANIONSHIP TASKFORCE TREASURER'S REPORT**

The past year of 2004 has been a fruitful and busy year for the taskforce. Since our last convention money has been carried to Kinkiizi by Dr. and Mrs. Scott Kellerman, Dr. Clifford Cox, and Stacy and Rich Frontjes. The personal touch has proven to be an asset for everyone. We are indeed fortunate to have people in our diocese desire to visit Kinkiizi and willing to travel with our money.

In 2004 we sent \$2628.70 from our parishes to the Kinkiizi parishes for the needs of the parish; \$2700.56 was sent in support of several schools in the Ugandan diocese; and \$12,658.51 has been sent for scholarships for the girls we sponsor at the Nyakabungo Secondary Girls' School. Sponsorships are generally for four years and are due to the treasurer on the anniversary of the first check sent. An anonymous person with a big heart sent \$100.00 to the girls at the school to have an end of the year party. We are still waiting to hear how the party turned out.

We are fortunate to have such caring and giving people in our diocese. It is my pleasure to serve the peoples of both dioceses.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stephanie King, Treasurer

## BLUE WATER CONVOCATION

The Blue Water Convocation continues to live out its vision statement of *One Water, Many Ministries* through its numerous activities in its individual churches.

On the congregational level, members are busy with such events as Bible studies, food pantries and soup kitchens, Brass on the Grass, youth activities, a Blue Christmas service, talent auctions, Cursillo, Angel-to-Angel, Daughters of the King, chicken, steak and lobster dinners, music ministries and more.

There is a growing support for Kinkiizi from various congregations and groups. A gathering of Kinkiizi representatives took place during the Bishop's visitation, and Grace-Port Huron held a one-year anniversary celebration with Interfaith Community Church, an African-American church the Kinkiizi delegation visited during their stay and has now joined with Grace in raising scholarship money for girls in our companion diocese.

All Saints-Marysville, which in the previous year saw the ordination of Cathy McKinney as its transitional deacon, celebrated her ordination into the priesthood in a glorious service attended by people of the entire convocation.

St. Paul's-Harsens Island also saw the ordination of its lay vicar, Buel Eldridge, to that of a transitional deacon.

It also has been a joyous yet sad year for two of our congregations. On the bright side, St. John's-Dryden joined the Blue Water Convocation earlier this year. On a sadder note, the convocation joined in support with the members of St. Andrew's-Algonac as they decided to close their doors after 142 years of service to God and the community. The good news is that each of the members has found a new home in other congregations within the convocation.

On the Convocation level, we continue to support a variety of ministries, including Bridge Builders Counseling, Project Blessing, NET and Education for Ministry. The council continues to provide \$1,000 for outreach work and \$1,000 for education to each congregation as well as 12-passenger van for church outings.

Assorted projects included the celebration of four graduates from EFM, helping to fund a reconciliation ministry at St. Paul's-Harsens Island, and the first Blue Water confirmation retreat and joint confirmation service in the diocese.

Recurrent projects include the purchase of convocation advertisements in the local newspaper, a second year of sponsoring a Blue Water Area vacation Bible school, and its annual Mass on the Grass Eucharist and Picnic.

The council held its fourth annual retreat and this year was joined by the clericus of the convocation. Led again by the Rev. John Chapman of Huron College in London, Ontario, it provided a starting point for the two groups to work together on developing a future for the convocation.

We have seen growth in some of our churches, and the convocation has provided financial support for Rich and Stacy Frontjes' seminary education. Ultreyas are taking place at St. Mark's-Marine City and St. Paul's-Port Huron, and the vestry wardens of the Blue Water Convocation are now happening on a quarterly basis.

As new and exciting things continue to evolve in the convocation, we continue to do the mission of the church in our celebration of being *One Water, Many Ministries*.



*Respectfully submitted, Mary Lou Creamer, Blue Water Convocation President*

### **FLINT RIVER VALLEY CONVOCATION**

This has been a challenging year for the Flint River Valley Convocation. Of the twelve congregations in the convocation, one (Dryden) transferred to Blue Water. Three (Davison, Flushing, and Owosso) saw their clergy and some members resign in protest over the New Hampshire controversy. One (Fenton) celebrated the retirement of their respected rector, the Rev. Elizabeth Morris Downie. Another (Lapeer) is withholding funds from the diocese and the convocation. Two more, (Holly and St. John's) confront questions of economic viability. And, in the midst of turmoil, the convocation understandably has been without a dean for a year.

In turn, both the change in the canons and the canonical penalties imposed for failure to meet assessments have undermined the mission and outreach of the Flint River Valley Convocation. FRV currently receives between 1/5<sup>th</sup> and 1/6<sup>th</sup> of the income available to each of the other convocations. The remainder of FRV's equal share has been redirected to cover diocesan expenses. Consequently, the opportunities to serve the I-69 corridor are very limited with little or no improvement in sight for 2005 and beyond. As a result, the convocation council has used the reserve fund, intended for new starts, to assist St. John's and Holly, to cover ministry team expenses at Corunna and to continue support for Christ Episcopal Center and Crossover. The remaining funds will be used for the Acolyte Festival trip in support of FRV youth, the diocesan convention and for any unmet commitments to Kinkizi.

As we look to the future, there are some welcome signs of new life. The Rev. Russ Merrill, St. Paul's, Corunna, ordained priest this past year, is a popular addition. The Rev. Laura Truby, interim at Christ Church, Owosso, is guiding that congregation back into the life of the diocese. Two new deacons, the Rev. Sharon Naughton, St. Paul's, Flint, and the Rev. Judith Downey, Grace, Lapeer, bring training and guidance in developing lay led ministry. The Rev. Charles Curtis will serve as interim at Trinity, Flushing, and St. Jude's, Fenton, is preparing to seek a new rector. St. Christopher's, Grand Blanc, with the newest church in the diocese, continues to grow. St. Paul's, Corunna, models the team ministry concept. St. Paul's, and St. Andrew's, Flint, remain committed to their vital city ministries.

Finally, with its newly limited financial role, the convocation council is looking at other ways to serve as a catalyst among the eleven congregations in the Flint River Valley.

1. Connecting congregations, in the convocation and diocese, in support of ministries such as Christ Center.
  2. Connecting congregational resources in support of each other's missions and outreach.
  3. Linking education and social programs within parishes.
  4. Identifying issues and needs in both town and country.
  5. Bridging the diverse views and providing a focus within the convocation.
- To this end, four convocation wide events are being planned for 2005.

Members of the Flint River Valley Convocation Council:

Lou Alarie, St. Christopher's, Grand Blanc; Midge Baker, Treasurer, Grace, Lapeer; Don Chamberlain, St. John's, St. Johns; Stephanie Chamberlain, Nativity Community, Holly; Andrew Dill, St. Paul's, Flint; Pat Gearhart, St. Andrew's, Flint; Jack Mills, St. Jude's, Fenton; Lloyd Peterson, Trinity, Flushing; John Snell, Vice President, St. Paul's, Flint; Nancy Steele, Secretary, St. Paul's, Corunna; Don Steibel, St. Dunstan's, Davison.

*Respectfully submitted by Jack Carlsen, President FRV Convocation*

### **NORTHERN CONVOCATION REPORT**

## **FUNDING AND PROJECTS**

The Northern Convocation is funding eight grants and five outreach ministries this year, for a total budgeted amount of \$47,500. We have also budgeted \$12,500 for formation, including \$3000 for seminarian assistance. Our overall budget shows an intentional deficit of approximately \$20,000 in an attempt to spend down a surplus from previous years, and we seem to be on target as of the writing of this report.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

There were four Convocation special events of note in the this year. The first was the Convocation Retreat, held on Friday, February 6 and Saturday February 7 at Ray's Retreat Center in Waters. About fifty council representatives, senior wardens, and clergy from the convocation, led by Philip J. Alexander, Community Organization Development Specialist for the MSU Extension Service, braved a snowy weekend to develop Convocation goals for a four – five year timeframe and develop action plans to meet the goals. We developed four goals: improve internal communication and interaction; implement team ministry programs; continue supporting locals services (grants, outreach, and formation); and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the convocation.

The second event was the Northern Convocation Town Meeting, held at St. Elizabeth's Higgins Lake on Saturday, April 3. Approximately fifty members of the convocation experienced the use of Appreciative Inquiry techniques to help develop a new vision for the Diocese of Eastern Michigan.

The third event was the Commission On Ministry Retreat for people in the ordination process in the diocese, held at St. Bartholomew's Mio on Friday, August 6 and Saturday August 7.

The fourth was the Bishop's visitation to the convocation, held at St. Bartholomew's Mio on Saturday, August 15. The visitation consisted of Bishop Leidel's meeting with senior and junior wardens of the convocation in the morning, followed by an afternoon workshop presented by Bishop Leidel on conflict resolution.

## **CLERGY**

The Rev. Elizabeth Chace, Priest-In-Charge at St. Francis' Grayling and St. Bartholomew's Mio, was ordained to the priesthood on Saturday, October 25 at St. Francis' Grayling. The Rev. Mary Shortt, Rector of Calvary Hillman and Grace Long Rapids, left to accept a call in the Diocese of Ohio. These two churches are now being served by the Rev. Pete Clapp as interim priest and by Mike Bell as lay missionary. The Rev. Dokun Adewumni, Development Missioner at St. Luke's Rogers City, left to accept a call to a non Anglican church for African expatriates in Texas. The Rev. Richard Anderson, long term supply priest for St. Andrew's Rose City, retired from that position and has been replaced by the Rev. Gail Vince. The Rev. Dr. John Walmsley has accepted a call as rector of St. Elizabeth's Higgins Lake.

## **FORMATION**

Ten members of St. Elizabeth's Higgins Lake, along with the president of the Northern Convocation, attended Module 1 of the Huron College Team Leadership Formation series.

*Respectfully submitted by Brian Chace, Northern Convocation President*

**Saginaw Valley Convocation**

## ***“CONGREGATIONS GROWING IN COMMUNITY”***

### **Council Activities**

The 60/40 split in tithing means a significant reduction in Convocation Income (reducing your income from 50% to 40% is a 20% change, think about it carefully). Saginaw's Episcopal Community Services (ECS) remains our largest outreach and support of St. Paul's Bad Axe and St. John's Otter Lake (an unplanned budget item) are the second largest component. We did fund a Cable TV series of advertisements aimed at the Saginaw region and constructed by the Saginaw churches. The advertisements looked very good, but we have not had any feedback about effectiveness.

Overall, we expect to reduce our savings by about \$8,000. While we can reduce them somewhat more, a cash reservoir is necessary as income from the Diocese is not steady, but most of our spending is.

At a recent council meeting, a straw vote indicated that the first preferences for spending in 2005 are the “missions” in Bad Axe and Otter Lake followed by a reserve intended to be spent when needs are better known. It's a well know fact that many of the needs are not known 18 months in advance and therefore can not be specifically budgeted.

### **Staffing Changes**

St. John's Saginaw has completed their call and the Rev. Darren Elin started the middle of September. St. John's Midland is still in the search process with the Rev. Vance Mann as Interim.

Within the Council, Beverly Reagan was elected Convocation Vice President. The Council is looking for candidates for President and Secretary (if any volunteers are reading this) to begin service in January of 2005.

Your servant in Christ,  
Charles W. Bash, President

## **EPISCOPAL CURSILLO**

Cursillo is a worldwide movement in the Christian Church. Episcopal Cursillo is a movement of the Episcopal Church designed to help those in the church understand their individual callings to be Christian leaders.

Cursillo is part of the church and never separate from the church. In fact, no one can make a *Cursillo Weekend* if they are not actively involved in an Episcopal church. Making a *Cursillo Weekend* is only the beginning of a renewed Christian walk called the *Fourth Day*.

Cursillo is patterned on Jesus' own example of servanthood. Leaders are encouraged to be servant leaders in their churches, homes, workplaces, and environments. Participants in a *Cursillo Weekend* are shown how to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ by practicing the spiritual disciplines of *Piety*, *Study*, and *Action*. They are shown an effective method of witnessing to friends about Jesus Christ.

Since the *Cursillo Weekend* is just the beginning of the *Fourth Day*, participants are encouraged to gather for *Group Reunion*, a small group of friends who encourage and hold each other accountable in their spiritual journeys. Participants are encouraged to seek spiritual direction.

Cursillo in the Diocese of Michigan and the Diocese of Eastern Michigan is one body. Named ECDM/EM, the group is under the authority of both Bishop Leidel and Bishop Gibbs.

A spring weekend and a fall weekend are held each year with candidates and team from both dioceses. The fall weekend will be held from Nov. 4-7, 2004, and the spring weekend will be April 28-May 1, 2005. Candidates arrive on Thursday evening and return home on Sunday evening.

For more information on Cursillo, contact Sue Colavincenzo, Lay Director, at 810-695-2719 or [rockyc@voyager.net](mailto:rockyc@voyager.net).

"To be honest, I was not all that excited about attending Cursillo. My sponsoring diocese while in seminary required attendance at Cursillo in order to be ordained. So I went, kicking and screaming. But was I ever wrong! What a spiritually renewing and uplifting experience. The sense of community that has remained with me since then has helped guide my ministry."

*The Rt. Rev. Wendall N. Gibbs, Jr., 10<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Diocese of Michigan*

"Cursillo demonstrated to me that when a team of committed Christians decide to share their faith, they can significantly and wonderfully impact the faith in other people's lives. Cursillo was the first spiritual dynamic that I encountered in my ministry that, time after time, actively converted friends and colleagues to a deeper relationship with God, and to a more vital Christian ministry. If you have not been through Cursillo yet, you still have one of your life's best experiences to experience. I thank God for Cursillo in my life and in the lives of so many others."

*The Rt. Rev. Ed Leidel, Bishop of Eastern Michigan*

"Cursillo has been the most powerful tool for the spiritual awakening of the congregation that I have experienced in both my lay and ordained ministries."

*The Rev. Todd Ousley, Missioner for Congregational Development and Clergy Deployment, Diocese of Eastern Michigan*

**Respectfully submitted by Sue Colavincenzo, Lay Director Episcopal Cursillo**

## **EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT**

Episcopal Relief and Development works all around the world to help people who find themselves in tragic circumstances. Thanks to the 125 donors in our Diocese, we contributed \$23,634.61 in the first six months of 2004 to help ERD in their monumental task. But as good as this is, I would like to see our Diocese's commitment grow in the future. This would mean that all of our churches should consider ERD in their 2005 Outreach Budgets.

ERD is one of the first organizations to respond to any disaster anywhere in the world and ERD teams are always among the first on the scene. Without our financial help ERD could not keep up their fantastic record in responding to people in need.

Not only does ERD respond to disasters, but they also work very hard in third world countries to make life better for people by teaching them modern farming techniques and otherwise help them to improve their everyday lives.

Please find a place in your outreach for ERD.

*Respectfully submitted by*

*The Reverend Jane Spencer, Diocesan Coordinator for ERD*

## **JUBILEE MINISTRY REPORT**

The mission of Jubilee Ministry is to make a direct and dynamic link between our theology and our ethics, i.e. The talk of our faith and the walk of our faith. We do this, as Christians, by empowering local people to live out the biblical teaching of Micah 6:8 and Matthew 25:35.

Our eight Jubilee Centers are:

- St. Paul's, Saginaw (since 1989)
- Christ Enrichment Center, Flint
- St. Andrew's, Flint
- Trinity, Alpena
- St. Francis (two centers), Grayling
- Bridge Builders, Port Huron
- Episcopal Community Services, Saginaw

Small grants have been given this year by the national Jubilee office to G.R.A.C.E. at St. Francis, Grayling, and Bridge Builders, Port Huron.

There may be other parishes or agencies with programs of outreach and advocacy. Contact The Rev. William Boli (989)799-2189, to see if you can qualify to be a national Jubilee Center.

**Respectfully submitted by The Reverend William Boli, Diocesan Jubilee Officer**

## ***MICHIGAN INTERFAITH TRUST FUND***

Transition continued to mark the year for the Michigan McGehee Interfaith Loan Fund. At the 2003 convention, I reported that a merger with the Michigan Housing Trust Fund was being explored by both Boards. The advantages of scale and reduction of overhead were clear at once, but discussions of mission, corporate culture, and staffing took longer. Both parties worked hard, and we are delighted that the merger is virtually complete. The new name of the Fund appears above, and is beginning to appear on our mailings. As of this writing (August 20, 2004) we await only the final approval by the State of Michigan of the offering circular, approval that we anticipate receiving before our diocesan convention convenes.

The new Board of Trustees is made up of both trustees or directors from both parent organizations, with a few new faces. It truly is interfaith, with Muslim, Jewish, Roman Catholic, Protestant, and Episcopal members. It is operating very smoothly under the able leadership of Eugene Kuthy, former President of the McGehee Fund board, and Christine Helbig, the Executive Director and former Executive Director of the Michigan Housing Trust Fund. Offices are maintained both in Lansing and Detroit, with Ms. Helbig

dividing her time between the two locations. With several loan officers, outreach to more of the State of Michigan and closer supervision of loans has become possible.

The work of the Trust Fund for economic justice is carried on in two areas: low-interest loans for housing construction for low-income families or special needs persons, and low-interest loans for minority entrepreneurs who have difficulty getting conventional financing from banks. Often the approval of a loan by the Trust Fund leverages a larger loan from a bank for our applicant. Both predecessor funds had excellent relationships with local banks, and these relationships continue with the new Fund.

The Annual Celebration for Economic Justice will be held Thursday, November 11, 2004 at Focus HOPE Conference Center in Detroit. It's an excellent opportunity to hear from some of our borrowers, meet the staff, and enjoy a good dinner with others who support economic justice. For further information or tickets, call Jane Carpenter at (313) 964-7300.

Please consider the Michigan Interfaith Trust Fund when you are planning your investments or charitable gifts. The monies are very carefully managed to maximize opportunities for lower-income and minority persons, and often provide the only ray of hope in an economically oppressive situation. Jane Carpenter can give you complete information about investing in or giving to the Fund.

*Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Morris Downie  
Diocese of Eastern Michigan Representative  
Board of Trustees, Michigan Interfaith Trust Fund*

## **MINISTRIES RESOURCE CENTER**

The Ministries Resource Center (MRC) continues to provide people with materials on a wide variety of topics. The major sections in the MRC directory are:

Anglican/Episcopal Church	Music and Worship
Christian Formation	Peace and Justice Ministries
Congregational/Leadership	Sacraments/Bible/Prayer
Development	Stewardship/Mission and Outreach
Ecumenism/Evangelism	Youth/Journey to Adulthood

New to the MRC in 2004 is a series of binders which contain pamphlets, articles, and other information that cannot be filed on a bookshelf. Each section of the MRC has one or more binders-clearly marked-to give you brief pieces about said subject. Each binder also includes a set of potentially useful websites, a list of the other binders, and on the back of that list, a list of places for ordering pamphlets, complete with phone and fax numbers and websites.

The Ministries Resource Center has two "types" of materials:

- ❖ Curriculum resources are available in all the sections of the MRC (not just *Christian Formation*); there are often several resources of a similar nature, and these may be compared against one another to choose the specific materials needed to order for a class or project. For instance, under *Sacraments/Bible/Prayer* we have samples of several different kinds of Confirmation curriculum; under *Music/Worship* there are several different hymnals.

- ❖ Library materials, often books or videos, are meant to be read (or viewed) to give information on a topic to the reader (or viewer). The borrower may then choose to share that material with others or buy additional copies, but the primary intent is to gain information personally. We have many such books under *Congregational Development* and *The Anglican/Episcopal Church* among others.

All materials are available for borrowing for one month. They are loaned to a specific person, not a church, and any costs for mailing are the responsibility of the borrower. **ALL** materials should be signed out, either at the Diocesan Center or at the location from which they were borrowed, and a copy of the sign-out sheet should be returned with the materials.

Members of the Diocese may find out about materials by checking the print catalog – copies have been distributed to each congregation and an '04 supplement will be passed out at Diocesan Convention - or by checking the website, which is updated regularly at [www.eastmich.org/resources/Dem.htm](http://www.eastmich.org/resources/Dem.htm)

For more information regarding the Ministries Resource Center contact Marnie Bash at:

- ❖ [mpbash@ameritech.net](mailto:mpbash@ameritech.net)
- ❖ 989-839-9364 or
- ❖ 1304 Brentwood Dr, Midland MI 4864

## ***REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR***

**OCTOBER 2004**

This is a report of the actions taken by the Bishop and/or the Standing Committee from August 1, 2003 to July 31, 2004.

Actions taken were:

Ordinations to Local Priesthood	1
Ordinations to Priesthood	3
Ordinations to Transitional Deacon	1
Ordinations to Vocational Deacon	2
Baptisms	12
Confirmations	68
Receptions	31
New Clergy Received	1
Clergy Transferred Out	7
Clergy Renunciations	2
Diocesan Chapel Services	8
Marriages	1
Clergy Funerals	1
Deconsecrations	1

All records in the Diocesan office are in good order and preserved and recorded in a seemly manner.

*Respectfully submitted by,*  
Margaret F. Klumb, Registrar

## **2004 REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE**

The Standing Committee met each second Thursday of the month at the Diocesan Center, Saginaw. The annual Standing Committee Retreat was held in conjunction with the regular monthly meeting on 12 February 2004 at Trinity Episcopal Church, Bay City. The Executive Committee, consisting of Bishop and the officers met monthly the week prior to the regular Standing Committee meeting.

### **DIOCESAN FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**

Much of the work of the Standing Committee was concerned with the financial affairs of the Diocese. The Diocesan Budget for 2004 was approved at the November 2003 meeting. Congregational tithes were reduced \$55,000 from the 2003 budget, based on actual numbers from 2002. Per the resolution passed at the 2003 Diocesan Convention, tithe income will be divided 60%/40% between the Diocese and the four Convocations. Also in accord with the action of the 2003 Diocesan Convention, the Diocese will pay a minimum of 10% of their 2002 unrestricted income (without the \$100,000 exemption) to the National Church in response to the 2004 asking. If the exemption were considered, this amount would be approximately 14% as compared to the 21% asking. Continued generous tithe and other contributions by the vast majority of congregations, plus frugal management by the Diocesan Staff, have resulted in total general operating receipts to date being \$40,591 over budget while general operating account expenses were \$22,956 under budget.

The Standing Committee is currently developing the 2005 Budget, a draft of which will be presented to the 2004 Diocesan Convention prior to its final approval.

In December 2003, Mr. Colin Broddle tendered his resignation as Treasurer of the Diocese. He continues to serve until a new Treasurer is appointed.

### ***Breaking New Ground Capital Campaign***

At the time of the annual financial report in May 2004, the value of the Breaking New Ground Fund was \$794,089. Per the recommendation of the Trustees of the Diocese, the Standing Committee approved the first grants from the Fund for disbursement in January 2005. Grants totaling \$32,000 were made to St. John's – Dryden, St. Paul's – Gladwin and Holy Family – Midland.

### ***Nomination Task Force***

At the request of the Bishop, a Nomination Task Force has been formed to examine the nominating process for Diocesan Offices and recommend changes to make it more "grass roots". When the Task Force completes its work, canonical changes will be presented to the Diocesan Convention for their approval.



### *Missioner for Congregational Development*

The Missioner for Congregational Development made regular reports to the S.C. Working with the Bishop and parishioners, redevelopment has been successfully initiated in several parishes.

### *Companion Diocese*

The Standing Committee recommended the reaffirmation of the Covenant for Companion Relationship between the Anglican Diocese of Kinkizzi in Uganda and the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan. The first three years of this relationship have been a marked success and both dioceses look forward to even more progress as we work together building up the Kingdom of God. A grant of \$4,000 from the 1% Fund was approved by the Standing Committee in July to support a Clinic Coordinator in the Diocese of Kinkizzi.

*Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Standing Committee by Dean Bedford Jr.,  
President*

## **BY-LAWS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE DIOCESE OF EASTERN MICHIGAN**

### **ARTICLE I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Standing Committee is defined in Title I, Canon 7 of the Canons of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan.

### **ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP**

Sec. 1. The Standing Committee shall be composed of twelve persons serving terms of three years each except as otherwise provided. (Title I, Canon 7, Section 9)

Sec. 2. No person can serve more than two consecutive terms (Title I, Canon 7, Section 9).

Sec. 3. Vacancies shall be filled in accordance with Title I, Canon 7, Section 9 (e) and (f).

Sec. 4. The Bishop of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan shall serve as an ex officio member of the Standing Committee and of all committees of the Standing Committee.

### **ARTICLE III. OFFICERS**

Sec. 1. The officers of the Standing Committee shall be a President and a Vice President, one of whom shall be ordained, and the other not ordained, and a Secretary. The Treasurer of the Diocese may, if desired, be elected from the members of the Standing Committee. The officers shall be elected at the first meeting following the Annual Convention (Title I, Canon 7, Section 10).

Sec. 2. The President shall preside at all meetings except as otherwise provided in the by-laws; shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, officers and committee members; shall present the order of business; shall speak for the Standing Committee; shall serve ex officio on

committees; and shall perform other responsibilities assigned by the Standing Committee or as defined in the Canons (Title I, Canon 3, Section 5).

Sec. 3. The Vice President shall preside in the absence or at the request of the President; shall have specific assigned spiritual or secular responsibilities as arranged between the two officers with the approval of the Standing Committee; shall serve ex officio on committees as assigned: and shall speak for the Standing Committee in the absence of or at the request of the President.

Sec. 4. The Secretary “shall keep faithful record of all its proceedings; preserve the originals of all papers and letters addressed to the Standing Committee; attest to its acts; and deliver to a successor all books and papers which, by virtue of that office, have been received. The minutes of the Standing Committee, and all papers in its hands relative to the church, shall be subject to the examination of the Bishop and of the Convention.” (Title I, Canon 7, Section 12).

All papers, records, interviews and discussions related to nominees, postulants, candidates, questions of conduct, or actions of the Standing Committee, where confidentiality must be preserved, shall be open only to the Bishop and members designated by the Standing Committee.

The Secretary shall preside in the absence of the President and Vice President. An Assistant Secretary may be appointed to perform duties of the Secretary as assigned.

Sec. 5. The Treasurer of the Diocese shall have oversight of all funds, shall keep or supervise full and accurate accounts of receipts and disbursements in records provided for that purpose, shall deposit or supervise deposit of all such funds, securities and other valuable effects in such depositories as designated for them, shall present a monthly financial report to the Standing Committee, shall make reports to the diocese and convocations as required, and shall arrange for the annual audit.

The Treasurer shall chair the Finance Committee. An Assistant Treasurer may be appointed to perform duties of the Treasurer in the absence or at the request of the Treasurer.

Sec. 6. The Standing Committee may elect “such other officers as it deems necessary.” (Title I, Canon 7, Section 10).

#### **ARTICLE IV. COMMITTEES**

Sec. 1. “The Standing Committee may create commissions, task forces, committees, and boards to carry out its work. These entities will operate under guidelines and time frames established by the Standing Committee. Any committee, board, etc. created by the Standing Committee can also be terminated by it.” (Title I, Canon 7, Section 4).

Sec. 2. The Finance Committee shall include, but not be limited to, the Treasurer, the Assistant Treasurer and the four treasurers of the convocations. The

Finance Committee shall prepare the annual budget; shall meet at least quarterly to monitor the finances of the diocese and the convocations and to make recommendations to the Standing Committee; shall provide annual orientation for treasurers of congregations and shall monitor pension fund requirements. (Title I, Canon 7, Section 6).

Sec. 3. The Executive Committee of the Standing Committee shall consist of the Bishop (ex-officio), President, Vice President, Secretary, and one other member. The Executive Committee shall have authority to act on secular matters for the Standing Committee in an emergency; and shall at its discretion serve as a study committee to prepare recommendations for action by the Standing Committee.

## **ARTICLE V. MEETINGS AND VOTING**

Sec. 1. A regular meeting shall be held each month except for July, or August, and the month of the annual diocesan convention. A meeting in the excepted months shall be optional.

Sec. 2. "Special meetings of the Standing Committee may be called on forty-eight (48) hours notice in accordance with Title I, Canon 12, Section 1 of the Canons of the General Convention, said notice may be waived by consent of the Standing Committee." (Title I, Canon 7, Section 11). Consent to waive said notice shall require approval of a majority of the Standing Committee.

Sec. 3. Meetings of the Standing Committee shall be open to all except for matters pertaining to evaluation or discipline of personnel and for matters related to formal sessions, which shall be closed to all except members of the Standing Committee. Formal sessions include, but are not limited to, review of applications, interviews of candidates, review of COM recommendations, review of Letters Dimissory, and voting on postulancy.

Sec. 4. A quorum is a majority of the members of the Standing Committee.

Sec. 5. Voting, except for amendments to the by laws, shall require a majority of the members present to affirm. Voting on matters affecting applicants, candidates and consents shall require a majority of all members to affirm.

Sec. 6. "When the Standing Committee shall act as the Ecclesiastical Authority under Article III, Section A of the Constitution, it shall have the powers and duties normally performed by the bishop in matters of discipline, the exception being in those cases where the powers and duties are specifically designated to the ordained members of the Standing Committee, in which case such powers and duties shall be exercised by the ordained members alone." (Title I, Canon 7, Section 7).

Sec. 7. In the event a member is absent for three (3) consecutive regularly scheduled meetings, the Standing Committee may rule the position vacant. (Amendment 12/7/95.)

## **ARTICLE VI. REVIEW AND AMENDMENTS**

Sec. 1. The by-laws shall be reviewed periodically but no later than every three (3) years.

Sec. 2. The by-laws may be amended at any regular meeting by a two-thirds vote of all members, provided that the amendment has been considered at a prior meeting.

Adopted January 21, 1995  
Amended December 7, 1995  
Retyped October 31, 1996  
Amended June 5, 1997  
Amended November 13, 2003  
Retyped: January 7, 2004

## **REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES**

The Canons of our Diocese provide for the Standing Committee and/or the Trustees to “have full powers over all property conveyed or transferred to it (them).” Therefore, a portion of the endowment funds of the Diocese has been put under the care of the Trustees. Canon 10, Section 5 states that “The Trustees shall report to the Annual Convention each year, including in that report a statement of all sales, conveyances or mortgages of real estate made by them and all income, expenses, gains, and losses during the preceding year, and of the property held by them as Trustees.” Space does not allow a report of all activity for the past year, however an external audit is available at the Diocesan office. A summary follows:

The Trustees oversee the investment of several of the endowment funds of the Diocese:

**1. Diocese of Eastern Michigan Endowment Fund**

Five percent of this fund is withdrawn each year to support the diocesan operating budget. **Value 12/31/2003 = \$3,969,837.** During the 12 months ending 12/31/03, \$203,875 was withdrawn to support the diocesan operating budget.

**2. McMath Fund** – Five percent of this fund may be withdrawn annually to support lectures in the Diocese. During the 12 months ending 12/31/03, \$1,409 was withdrawn for the stated purpose **Value 12/31/2003 = \$23,319.**

**3. Batchelder Fund** – Five percent of this fund may be withdrawn annually to support the camping program of the diocese. **Value 12/31/2003 = \$80,323**

**4. DeMille Fund** – Five percent of this fund may be withdrawn annually to help pay medical premiums for clergy retired before 1/1/95. During the 12 months ending 12/31/03, \$25,000 was withdrawn for the stated purpose. **Value 12/31/2003 = \$307,637..**

**5. Breaking New Ground Fund** – no funds have been withdrawn from this fund as of 12/31/03. **Value 12/31/2003 = \$664,410.**

**Fund #1** as of 12/31/03 was invested in 73% equities, 21% fixed income and 6% cash. The investment managers are **Lord Abbett Large Cap Value, Capstone Large Cap Growth, Lord Abbett Mid Cap Value, and Capstone Government/Credit Bond.** **Funds #2, #3, & #4** were invested in the **Capstone Balanced Fund.** **Fund #5** was managed by **Capstone Government/Credit Bond Fund, Lord Abbett-Large Cap Value, & Essex-Large Cap Growth Fund.** For all of these funds, the trustees utilize the Private Advisor Service of **A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc.** As part of this contract, A.G. Edwards recommends investment managers, presents quarterly reports about their performance to the Trustees, and buys and sells all the equities involved. The total

expense of these advisory and investment management companies was 1.13% annually.

The Trustees meet quarterly on the second Wednesday of Feb., May, Aug. & Nov. at the Diocesan Center.

**Terms expiring in 2004:**

Peter Hanoian, Pres.

Neil Larson

**Terms expiring in 2006:**

George Klumb, Treasurer

Lynn Forrest (resigned)

**Terms expiring in 2005:**

Suzanne Pederson, V. Pres.

William Thewalt, Secretary

**Terms expiring in 2007:**

Rev. Rick Houghton

Bill Millar

**Respectfully submitted by Peter P. Hanoian, President**

## United Thank Offering 2004

Mission Statement: The United Thank Offering invites people to offer daily prayers for thanksgiving to God and to offer outward and visible signs of those prayers that will benefit others. Your thank offering supports grants for ministries at home and overseas as an outreach of the Episcopal Church. Grant awards are made in the spring of each year.

Amount of Ingathering:

1. Fall 2003
  - a. \$1,701.32
  - b. 8 churches
2. Spring 2004
  - a. \$2,451.02
  - b. 10 churches

Amount of Grants for Diocese of Eastern Michigan

1. 2002 \$0.0
2. 2003 \$0.0

How can organizations get grants:

Look around you for a mission project that could use funds from UTO to benefit others. (kitchen equipment for homeless shelter, handicap access to church and service buildings, half-way house, after-school programs, etc.) The Diocese of Eastern Michigan may submit two requests. For forms contact Helen Johnson, 4345 Monroe, Midland, MI 48642, e-mail heljohnson@juno.com, or 989 839-9536.

What can you do?

1. As you count your blessings, put a penny (or more) in your blue box.
2. Empty your "Blue Box" and take your blessings coins to church. Ingatherings are held two times a year, Fall Ingathering is held the 3rd Sunday in October and a spring Ingathering is held in April.
3. Be sure your church has someone to coordinate the Ingathering. Materials are sent to your church in September. If more are needed contact: Episcopal Parish Services, PO Box 1321, Harrisburg PA 17105
4. Send Ingathering to our Diocesan ECW treasurer: Sallie Swanson, 1825 Carolan Pl., Saginaw, MI 48603.
5. Remember UTO is NOT just for women any more!! Everyone who has anything to be thankful for is invited to participate in the Ingathering.

***RESPECTIVELY SUBMITTED BY HELEN JOHNSON, DIOCESAN COORDINATOR FOR UTO***

# **Constitution and Canons of The Diocese of Eastern Michigan**

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**as adopted by the Primary Convention,  
October 28-29, A.D. 1994**

**and**

**as amended by the Annual Conventions  
through  
October 22 and 23, A.D. 2004**

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**THE CONSTITUTION  
OF THE DIOCESE OF EASTERN MICHIGAN**

**ARTICLE I  
Territory**

The Diocese of Eastern Michigan embraces all that part of the Lower Peninsula of the State of Michigan lying within Cheboygan, Presque Isle, Otsego, Montmorency, Alpena, Crawford, Oscoda, Alcona, Roscommon, Ogemaw, Iosco, Gladwin, Arenac, Midland, Bay, Huron, Gratiot, Saginaw, Tuscola, Sanilac, Clinton (that portion north of Price Road), Shiawassee, Genesee, Lapeer, St. Clair, and Oakland (that portion within Holly Township) counties.

**ARTICLE II  
Loyalty**

As a constituent part of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, the Diocese of Eastern Michigan accedes to, recognizes, and adopts the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention, and acknowledges their authority.

**ARTICLE III  
The Bishop**

A. The Bishop, an apostle of Jesus Christ, is the chief priest and pastor of this Diocese; in the exercise of this ministry the Bishop is its Ecclesiastical Authority. In case of the Bishop's absence or disability the Bishop may temporarily designate the Bishop Coadjutor as the Ecclesiastical Authority. If no Bishop is qualified and able to act, or in case of a vacancy in the Episcopate, the Standing Committee shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority.

B. Whenever the Constitution or Canons of this Diocese make provision for action by the Bishop, such action, except where otherwise specifically provided, shall be taken by the Ecclesiastical Authority as defined above.

C. The Bishop or Bishop Coadjutor of this Diocese shall be elected in an Annual Convention or in a Special Convention called for that purpose. Notice of such election shall be given at least sixty (60) days prior to such Convention. A two-thirds vote of those present and eligible to vote shall be required for election.

**ARTICLE IV  
The Convention**

A. There shall be an Annual Convention of this Diocese as provided by Canon.

1. The Convention shall be composed of the following members with voice and vote: The Bishop, at least one lay delegate from each of the congregations in union with the Convention, and all deacons, presbyters, and other bishops canonically and actually resident within the Diocese. Any other baptized members of this Diocese who are present shall have voice but no vote.

a. The mode of determining the number of lay delegates, of electing lay delegates, and of admitting congregations into union with the Convention shall be prescribed by Canon.

b. The mode of identifying and determining those deacons, presbyters, and other bishops shall be prescribed by Canon.

c. Provision in the Canons may be made for the denial of vote at a Convention of which they may be members to lay delegates and clergy on the basis of failure to submit the Annual Parochial Report required in Title I, Canon 11, Section 2 (Of Parish and other Congregation Registers and Parochial Reports) of the Canons of this Diocese.

2. In all matters which shall come before the Convention, the lay delegates and clergy shall deliberate and vote in one body. A majority of those voting shall be required to approve any matter before the Convention, except proposals to amend the Constitution and Canons and to elect a Bishop or Bishop Coadjutor.

3. The President of the Convention shall be the Bishop, or in the Bishop's absence the Bishop Coadjutor, or in the absence of both the Bishop and the Bishop Coadjutor, if any, the President of the Standing Committee. In the absence of all the foregoing the senior presbyter (by length of time in canonical residence in this Diocese) present shall call Convention to order, and the Convention shall elect a President *pro tempore*.

4. At each Annual Convention a Secretary shall be chosen, and shall remain in office until the next Annual Convention and until a successor be chosen. The Secretary shall perform such duties as may be prescribed by Convention and by Canon. If a vacancy occurs it may be filled by the Bishop with the consent of the Standing Committee.

B. Special Conventions may be called:

1. by the Bishop or the Standing Committee, or
2. by the Standing Committee, if a petition to convene a Special Convention, signed by a majority of each of the governing boards (Vestry or Committee) of ten different congregations in union with the Convention of this Diocese, and also fifteen presbyters canonically and actually resident in this Diocese, is presented to the Standing Committee.

The convener shall notify the Secretary of the Convention specifying the purpose, date, time and place of the proposed Special Convention. The Secretary of the Convention shall give notice to the lay delegates and clergy of the Special Convention in a manner as provided by Canon. The business at such Special Convention shall be limited to the matters set forth in that notice.

C. Every Convention shall include such services of worship as shall be approved by the Bishop, including at least one celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **Convocations**

Regions of the Diocese to be known as Convocations shall be created as prescribed by Canon.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **Canons**

Canons, not in conflict with this Constitution, may be adopted by the Convention to implement the provisions of this Constitution and to prescribe the operation of this Diocese. Such proposed Canons or amendments thereto may be adopted, which shall require a two-thirds vote of the members present and eligible to vote at such Convention.

## ***ARTICLE VII***

### **Amendments**

A. Any proposed amendment shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Convention at least one hundred twenty (120) days before the Convention at which it is to be considered. It shall then be filed by the Secretary of the Convention with any committee as determined by Canon, which committee shall report on the proposed amendment, with or without a recommendation, to the Secretary of the Convention not less than sixty (60) days before the date of the Convention.

B. The Secretary shall mail copies of the proposed amendment, including any such report, to the lay delegates and clergy of the Convention at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of such Convention, and shall report the same to the Convention.

C. When such proposed amendment is before the Convention for first consideration, changes may be made during the debate and before the final vote.

D. If such proposed amendment, with any changes made during the debate, is approved by a two-thirds vote of the members present and eligible to vote, it shall lie over to the next Annual Convention for final approval or rejection.

E. When such a proposed amendment comes before the next Annual Convention for final approval, its reading shall be the first order of business. If the amendment is adopted by a two-thirds vote of the members present and eligible to vote, such amendment shall be effective immediately and shall govern all matters coming before the same Convention and thereafter.

**THE CANONS  
OF THE DIOCESE OF EASTERN MICHIGAN**

**TITLE I  
ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION**

**CANON 1    Of Lay Delegates**

Sec. 1. Each congregation in union with the Convention is entitled to a maximum of four (4) lay delegates to the Convention, and to a corresponding number of alternate delegates. Immediately upon the admission of a congregation into union with the Convention its delegates shall be entitled to vote.

Sec. 2. Each lay delegate has one (1) vote in the Convention.

Sec. 3. Each lay delegate and alternate must be an adult (sixteen years of age or older) communicant in good standing (as defined by Title I, Canon 17, Sec. 3 of the Canons of the General Convention) in the congregation which they represent. No person under ecclesiastical censure is eligible to be a lay delegate or alternate to the Convention.

Sec. 4. The lay delegates and alternates are to be elected by a simple majority of the members present at the Annual Meeting of the congregation to serve from the following April 1 until the March 31 following. The Clerk of the Vestry shall send a Congregational Data Form containing the names and addresses of the newly elected lay delegates and alternates to the Secretary of the Convention at the Diocesan Center on or before March 1 each year, and that form is to be certified by the signature(s) of the Warden(s). If, at the time of the Annual or any Special Convention, a congregation has less than four (4) duly elected Delegates and Alternates willing to serve, the Vestry of that congregation may elect a sufficient number of qualified persons to so serve. The Clerk of the Vestry shall provide a list of such persons to the Secretary of the Convention before such persons may be recognized as Delegates and/or Alternates.

Sec. 5. The lay delegates of any congregation which has failed to file the annual report required by Title I, Canon 11, Sec. 2 by March 1 of any year shall lose their vote at the next Annual Convention and any intervening Special Conventions, except as provided in Title I, Canon 11, Sec. 3.

**CANON 2    Of a List of the Clergy**

Sec. 1. On or before the day of the meeting of the Diocesan Convention the Bishop, or if there be no Bishop, the President of the Standing Committee shall cause to be prepared a list of the clergy, consisting of all bishops, presbyters and deacons, canonically and actually resident in the Diocese, annexing the names of their respective cures or congregations or missionary stations, or of the institutions of learning with which they are connected, or of the other vocation in which they are engaged; but no clergy while suspended from the ministry shall have a place in such list. The list thus made shall be laid before the Convention immediately after it shall have been called

to order. It shall also be appended to the Journal, and sent to the Secretary of the General Convention. For the purposes of interpreting the phrase "actually resident in the Diocese," those clergy whose respective cures or congregations or missionary stations noted above are located within the Diocese shall be deemed to be actually resident, the location of their domiciles notwithstanding; for all other clergy the location of their domicile shall so determine.

Sec. 2. If the right of any of the clergy to a seat in the Convention is disputed, the Convention shall determine whether his or her name should be inserted or deleted in the list aforesaid according to the provisions of the Constitution.

Sec. 3. Any of the clergy who shall have failed to submit the annual report required by Title I, Canon 11, Sec. 2 by March 1 of any year, shall lose their vote at the next Annual Convention and any intervening Special Conventions, except as provided in Title I, Canon 11, Sec. 3.

Sec. 4. It shall be the duty of all clergy having a vote in the Convention to attend every meeting thereof unless excused by the Bishop.

Sec. 5. Reference in the Canons of this Diocese to ordained persons or to clergy is intended to include bishops, presbyters, and deacons without any distinction or differentiation, except where reference to one or more of those orders is specifically made.

### **CANON 3    Of the Annual and Special Conventions**

Sec. 1. The Diocese will hold an Annual Convention in accordance with Article IV of the Constitution. The date, time, and place shall be determined by the previous Convention; but if the date, time, and place shall not have been so appointed, it shall be determined by the Bishop. The Annual Convention shall be held in each of the Convocations in rotation. The Bishop or Standing Committee calling a Special Convention shall give the Secretary of the Convention reasonable notice as to the proposed date, time, place, and purpose of such Special Convention.

Sec. 2. The Secretary of the Convention shall give written notice of the date, time, and place of any Convention, annual or special.

(a) Notices will be sent to the lay delegates of the congregations in union with the Convention and to all clergy canonically and actually resident in the Diocese.

(b) Notices of Annual Conventions must be mailed no less than ninety (90) days prior to the Convention date. Notices of a Special Convention must be sent at least thirty (30) days prior to the Convention date and shall contain the purpose for which the Convention is being called. Notices of a Special Convention for the election of a Bishop or Bishop Coadjutor must be sent at least sixty (60) days prior to the Convention date and contain the purpose for which the Convention is being called.

Sec. 3. The Secretary of the Convention is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the agenda for the Convention.

Sec. 4. Lay delegates entitled to vote from no less than one-half of the congregations in union with the Convention and at least fifteen (15) clergy entitled to vote constitutes a quorum for

the transaction of business.

Sec. 5. The President of the Standing Committee shall appoint members to the following committees. All committee members hold office from the close of the Convention at which they were appointed until the close of business of the following Annual Convention. The President of the Standing Committee shall notify all members so appointed, and, with the exception of subsection(a) below, shall designate one of the members of each Committee to convene each Committee's first meeting. Each Committee shall then elect one of its members to serve as Chair. Vacancies will be filled by the President of the Standing Committee.

- (a) **CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**, consisting of one person, lay or ordained, responsible for certifying the lay delegates and clergy, including compliance with Title I. Canon 11, Sec. 2.
- (b) **COMMITTEE ON ADMISSION OF NEW CONGREGATIONS**, consisting of two ordained persons and two lay persons, responsible for recommending approval or rejection of congregations requesting union with the Convention in compliance with canons. This committee may solicit support or advice from the Convocations as required.
- (c) **COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND CANONS**, consisting of three ordained persons and three lay persons, plus the Chancellor of the Diocese, responsible for reviewing all proposed changes to the Constitution or Canons and recommending approval or rejection, insuring that the proposed change is in proper form and style and not in conflict with the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention prior to presentation to Convention. This committee may solicit support or advice from the Convocations as required.
- (d) **CONVENTION PLANNING COMMITTEE**, consisting of at least four persons responsible for planning all aspects of Conventions, working closely with the Bishop, the Secretary of Convention, the Dean and President of the host convocation and representatives of the host congregation.
- (e) **RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE**, consisting of two (2) persons, one (1) ordained person and one (1) lay person, responsible for presenting to Convention those resolutions approved by the Convocations or submitted by the Standing Committee and offered to the Convention for consideration.

Sec. 6. Resolutions will be submitted to the Convention through the Resolutions Committee in the following manner: Resolutions will originate in a Convocation Council or the Standing Committee.

- (a) A proposed resolution originating through the Convocation Councils may be submitted by any ordained or lay person in good standing.
  - (1) Any proposed resolution will be submitted to the proposer's respective Convocation Secretary with sufficient time for the Convocation Secretary to circulate copies of the proposed resolution to each of the Convocation Council members so that it is received before it is scheduled to be discussed by the Council.
  - (2) The Council will review, discuss, amend and act upon each proposed resolution.
  - (3) The Secretary of each Convocation will then forward to the Resolutions Committee all proposed resolutions submitted to and approved by the Council within seven days of their approval.
- (b) All proposed resolutions must be received by the Resolutions Committee no later than sixty (60) days before the date of the Convention.

(c) For each proposed resolution, the Resolutions Committee will determine that the resolution complies with this Section as to origination and timeliness, and insure that it is in the proper form and style (not altering its intent nor content, nor combining it with other resolutions), and present it to the Convention for action, informing Convention that the proposed resolution has been approved by a Convocation or submitted by the Standing Committee.

(d) The Resolutions Committee shall submit its report to the Secretary of the Convention at least forty-five (45) days before the Convention. The Secretary of the Convention shall forward this report to the lay delegates and clergy at least thirty (30) days before the Convention.

(e) The Resolutions Committee shall submit a written report to the Convention of the title of proposed resolutions originating in a Convocation or the Standing Committee but not received in a timely fashion according to this Section.

Sec. 7. An Annual Convention from time to time may adopt, alter, or delete permanent rules of order not inconsistent with the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention and of this Diocese for itself and subsequent Annual and Special Conventions. Where not otherwise provided, the rules contained in *Robert's Rules of Order - Revised* shall govern the Convention in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention and of this Diocese or the rules of order of the Convention.

#### ***CANON 4 OF THE SECRETARY OF THE CONVENTION***

Sec. 1 There shall be a Secretary of Convention, elected upon nomination by the Bishop at the opening of the Convention. An Assistant Secretary may be appointed but need not be confirmed by the Convention.

Sec. 2 The Secretary shall be responsible for the keeping of an accurate record of the Convention actions, and shall transmit a copy of the Journal of every Convention to the Clerk of the Vestry of every congregation in union with the Convention, each of the clergy entitled to vote in the Convention, to the President of each Convocation, two copies to the Secretary of the House of Deputies of the General Convention, and to any other member of the Convention who may request a copy in writing within thirty (30) days after the adjournment of the Convention. The Secretary shall also perform such duties as are prescribed by the canons of this diocese.

Sec. 3. The expenses incurred by the Secretary in the performance of official duties shall be



paid out of Diocesan funds.

Sec. 4. The Secretary shall notify, in writing, the members of all committees named as a result of any action of the Convention, within fourteen (14) days of their appointment.

## **CANON 5    Of the Clerk of Nominations of the Convention**

Sec. 1. A Clerk, lay or ordained, shall be appointed by the President of the Standing Committee at each Annual Convention to serve a term of one year.

Sec. 2. The Secretary of Convention shall notify the Clerk and the President of each Convocation no more than thirty (30) days after an Annual Convention of those positions and offices due to be filled by election at the next Annual Convention.

Sec. 3. The Clerk of Nominations of the Convention shall receive and verify nominations for Convention elections and any other bodies as prescribed by Canon, except nominees for the election of a bishop and nominees by Convocations for election to the Standing Committee.

- (a) The names of persons proposed for nomination for any election must be received by the Clerk at least ninety (90) days before the Convention at which the election is to take place.
- (b) The Clerk will forward to the Secretary of Convention a list of positions to be filled by the election and names of nominees thereto with both a brief biographical description and the written consent of the proposed candidate to nominating, at least sixty (60) days before the Convention at which said elections are to take place.
- (c) The Secretary of Convention shall forward this report to the lay delegates and clergy at least thirty (30) days before that Convention.
- (d) This report shall indicate that additional names may be added by petition to the Clerk signed by a least eight (8) members of the Diocese and received by the Clerk at least fifteen (15) days before that Convention. Any petition must include both a brief biographical description and the written consent of the proposed candidate to nomination. The Clerk shall verify the qualification of each candidate.

## **CANON 6    Of Elections**

Sec. 1. A Committee on Elections, consisting of three persons, lay and/or clergy, shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Convention. The Committee will provide for and manage the procedure of elections at Conventions of the Diocese and report on the results of the same in a manner consistent with these Canons and as approved by the Convention or the Standing Committee.

Sec. 2. In the election of a Bishop or Bishop Coadjutor the names of all persons nominated shall appear on each ballot, unless the President of the Convention is advised by the candidate or the candidate's authorized representative that the candidate desires to withdraw his or her name from the list of nominees on the ballot, in which case that candidate's name shall be withdrawn on subsequent ballots.

Sec. 3. In all other elections of the Convention or of the Convocations the first ballot for an election shall contain the name of all persons as nominated by the appropriate Committee. Any person(s) receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected.

Sec. 4. Should less than the necessary number of persons to fill the positions of an office being elected receive a majority of the votes cast in the first ballot, a second ballot shall be prepared. The names of the remaining unelected nominees receiving the most votes shall, in order of most votes received, be placed on the second ballot in sufficient number to provide only twice the number of names as positions to be elected. Any person(s) receiving a majority of the votes cast in the second ballot shall be declared elected. Should less than the necessary number of persons to fill the positions of an office being elected be elected on the second ballot, a third ballot shall be prepared and taken as provided in this Section for the second ballot.

Sec. 5. Should an election by a majority vote be inconclusive after a third ballot, a deadlock shall be declared. Any persons elected on the first, second, and third ballots shall be declared elected, and the remaining unfilled positions shall be filled as provided for the filling of vacancies in the Canon governing that office. Should that vacancy be required to be filled by election at an Annual Convention of the Diocese or a Convocation Council, that vacancy shall hold over and the next subsequent Annual Convention or Council meeting shall fill that vacancy by election; the person(s) then elected shall serve the unexpired remainder of the original term.

## **CANON 7    Of the Standing Committee**

Sec. 1. There shall be a Standing Committee to administer the secular affairs of the Diocese pursuant to the statutes of the State of Michigan and to perform the various functions and duties prescribed by the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention and the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese.

Sec. 2. The Standing Committee shall function as the governing authority of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan, a Michigan ecclesiastical corporation. It shall prepare and adopt the annual financial budget of the Diocese.

Sec. 3. The Standing Committee shall have full powers over all property conveyed or transferred to it, in trust or otherwise, or held or received by it, for or in connection with the work and business of the Church and the Diocese, or elsewhere, and to collect, pay out, and dispose of all income received or held by it for any such purpose aforesaid, subject, however, to the terms of the trust or trusts under which any such property or money may have been received by it.

Sec. 4. The Standing Committee may create commissions, task forces, committees, and boards to carry out its work. These entities will operate under guidelines and time frames established by the Standing Committee. Any committee, board, etc. created by the Standing Committee can also be terminated by it.

Sec. 5. The Standing Committee shall designate a committee or other subdivision to provide the following review, approval or disapproval. No congregation which receives financial aid

from the Diocese or Convocation, or which requires permission of the Bishop acting with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee to encumber property in order to finance any construction project, shall erect any new building or make changes in existing buildings until the plans for such erection or alteration shall have been approved by the committee or other subdivision so designated by the Standing Committee. Any such congregation that fails to comply with this provision shall render itself liable to the forfeiture of its aid, and/or liable to disapproval of the Standing Committee to encumber property.

Sec. 6. The Standing Committee shall designate a committee or other subdivision to review and report on compliance with the requirements of Title I. Canon 8 of the Canons of the General Convention in a timely and effective manner and to work to resolve any deficiencies in that compliance.

Sec. 7. When the Standing Committee shall act as the Ecclesiastical Authority under Article III, Section A of the Constitution, it shall have the powers and duties normally performed by the Bishop in matters of discipline, the exception being those cases where the powers and duties are specifically designated to the ordained members of the Standing Committee, in which case such powers and duties shall be exercised by the ordained members alone.

Sec. 8. The Standing Committee shall present to the Annual Convention each year a report of its work and activities during the preceding year, except such as pertain to the exercise of its function as The Council of Advice to the Bishop. All rules and by-laws of the Standing Committee shall be published annually in the Journal of the Convention.

Sec. 9. The Standing Committee shall be composed of twelve persons serving terms of three years each.

- (a) Two lay persons and two ordained persons elected by the Annual Convention in 1996 and in each third year thereafter, from at least eight (8) nominees, four (4) in each order.
- (b) A vacancy in the term of a person elected as provided in (a) above shall be filled by vote of the remaining members of the Standing Committee.
- (c) Four ordained persons elected by the Annual Convention in 1997 and in each third year thereafter, from four (4) nominees, one nominee selected by the Convocation Council in each Convocation preceding that Annual Convention by at least sixty (60) days.
- (d) Four lay persons elected by the Annual Convention in 1998 and in each third year thereafter, from four (4) nominees, one nominee selected by the Convocation Council in each Convocation preceding that Annual Convention by at least sixty (60) days.
- (e) Should any Convocation fail to submit the name of its nominee for the elections prescribed in (c) or (d) above to the Secretary of the Convention in a timely manner, the election of a member of the Standing Committee from that Convocation shall be declared a vacancy, and the position shall be filled as provided in (f) below.
- (f) A vacancy in the term of a person elected as provided in (c) or (d) above shall be filled through election at the next meeting of the Council of the Convocation of which the person whose unexpired term is being filled was a member. The Secretary of the Convocation shall forward the name and address of a person so elected to the Secretary of Convention within ten (10) days of such election.

(g) Deans and Presidents of Convocations are not eligible to serve as members of the Standing Committee.

(h) No person can serve more than two consecutive terms as a member of Standing Committee.

Sec. 10. The Secretary of the Convention shall convene the first meeting of the Standing Committee following each Annual Convention. At that first meeting the Standing Committee shall:

(a) Elect from its own members a President, Vice-President, and Secretary.

(b) Elect a Treasurer of the Diocese and such other officers, as it deems necessary.

(c) Determine the specified date, time, and place of its regular meetings. The Secretary of the Standing Committee shall notify all members of the specified date, time, and place of these regular meetings.

Sec. 11. Special meetings of the Standing Committee may be called on forty-eight (48) hours notice in accordance with Title I. Canon 12, Section 1 of the Canons of the General Convention, said notice may be waived by consent of the members of the Standing Committee.

Sec. 12. The Secretary of the Standing Committee shall keep faithful record of all its proceedings; preserve the originals of all papers and letters addressed to the Standing Committee; attest to its acts; and deliver to a successor all books and papers which, by virtue of that office, have been received. The minutes of the Standing Committee, and all papers in its hands relative to the Church, shall be subject to the examination of the Bishop and of the Convention.

## **CANON 8    Of the Chancellor of the Diocese**

Sec. 1. There shall be a legal advisor to the Bishop to be known as the Chancellor of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan, who shall be a resident communicant in good standing of some congregation of the Diocese and an attorney. The Chancellor shall take office upon nomination by the Bishop to, and receiving the approval of, the Annual Convention of the Diocese and shall serve at the pleasure of the Bishop.

Sec. 2. The Bishop may, upon the request of the Chancellor, appoint a Vice-Chancellor and Assistant Chancellors of like qualification, to assist the Chancellor. These shall also hold office at the pleasure of the Bishop.

Sec. 3. If for any reason the Chancellor shall be unwilling or unable to act, the Vice-Chancellor, if there be one, shall succeed to the office of Chancellor until the next Annual Convention.

## **CANON 9    Of the Registrar**

Sec. 1. There shall be elected annually by the Convention, upon nomination by the Standing Committee, an officer to be called the Registrar of the Diocese, who shall hold office until a

successor shall have been chosen. Should a vacancy arise in the office during the recess of the Convention, it may be filled by appointment by the Standing Committee.

Sec. 2. The Registrar shall be responsible for the safekeeping of all registers, documents, and papers belonging to the Diocese and not required to be kept by any other person or officer, shall cause to be collected and preserved such materials as can be obtained relative to the history of the Diocese and of particular congregations, and shall so arrange, catalogue, and classify all such books, documents, and papers as to make their contents accessible for reference and use by the members of the Diocese, under such regulation as may be prescribed by the Bishop and the Standing Committee.

Sec. 3. The Registrar shall also be responsible for the keeping of a book containing a record of all consecrations of church buildings, of all confirmations, with the names of the persons confirmed, of all ordinations, of all sentences and acts of deposition for offenses in the Diocese, of all admissions and dismissals of clergy into or from the Diocese, and of all deaths of clergy belonging thereto.

Sec. 4. The Registrar shall annually present to the Convention a report showing the condition of the collections for which the Registrar is responsible and the additions made to them, with suggestions concerning their preservation, arrangement, and increase, and concerning the best method of securing to the Church a knowledge of all matters of importance contained therein.

## **CANON 10 Of the Trustees of The Episcopal Church for the Diocese of Eastern Michigan**

Sec. 1. The Trustees shall establish, maintain, and administer a Church Trustee Corporation (Public Act A, No. 327, MCLA 450.159) composed of eight (8) Trustees elected from the Diocese (undistinguished as to ordained or not ordained). The Trustees shall elect from among themselves a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and any other officers they deem necessary.

Sec. 2. Each Convocation Council shall nominate at least one (1) person for each vacancy to be filled by election. Each Annual Convention shall elect from the persons so nominated, two (2) persons to be Trustees for four-year terms. In the case of a vacancy, each Convocation Council shall nominate to the Annual Convention or a Special Convention called for that purpose, at least one person; and the Convention shall elect one of the persons so nominated to serve the remainder of the unexpired term. No Trustee who has served for more than two years of an expiring term shall be eligible for re-election until at least one year shall have elapsed after the Trustee's term of office shall have expired.

Sec. 3. The Trustees shall have full powers over all property devised, conveyed, or transferred to them in trust or otherwise for the use and benefit of the Church in this Diocese, or of any congregation, organization or institution therein, and to collect and receive all income there from, and to pay out such part of the principal and of the net income there from for the purposes aforesaid, pursuant and subject to the terms of the trust or trusts under which any such

property or money shall have been received by them. The Trustees shall have such authority as is provided by the laws of the State of Michigan.

Sec. 4. The principal of the several trusts, or such part thereof as the Trustees deem advisable, unless the terms of such trust shall require separate investment, may be combined for the purpose of investment, in a single fund, and the income from such fund shall be paid over proportionately to the beneficiaries of the several trusts.

Sec. 5. The Trustees shall report to the Annual Convention each year, including in that report a statement of all sales, conveyances or mortgages of real estate made by them and all income, expenses, gains, and losses during the preceding year, and of the property held by them as Trustees.

## **CANON 11 Of Parish Registers and Parochial Reports**

Sec. 1. It shall be the duty of all clergy in this Diocese to record in the appropriate Parish Registers all those official acts listed in Title III, Canon 14, Sec. 3 of the Canons of the General Convention.

Sec. 2. A report of every congregation, and of every bishop, presbyter, and deacon whose report is not included in the report of a congregation of this Diocese, shall be prepared annually as required by and in the manner set forth in Title I, Canon 6, of the Canons of the General Convention.

Sec. 3. If any of the congregations or clergy which have not filed these required annual reports shall file such report at least thirty (30) days prior to the holding of the next Convention, the right of the lay delegates of the congregations, and of the clergy so filing to vote in such Convention and subsequent Conventions may be restored upon good cause shown and with the consent of a majority of the lay delegates and clergy present at such Convention.

The showing of good cause must be made by petition in writing addressed to and received by the Bishop not less than thirty (30) days prior to the next Convention, accompanied by the reports required by Section 2 of this Canon. The Bishop shall thereupon determine within fifteen (15) days after receipt of such petition and reports whether such delay was "for good cause shown" and shall notify the offending parish, other congregation, or member of the clergy of that determination. Such determination shall be final and may not be appealed to the Convention.

## **CANON 12 Of Business Methods in Church Affairs**

Sec. 1. Every congregation shall follow the standard business methods as outlined in Title I. Canon 7 of the Canons of the General Convention.

Sec. 2. The Standing Committee of the Diocese shall designate a committee or other subdivision thereof to exercise the duties and responsibilities of "The Finance Committee or Department of Finance of the Diocese" as assigned in Title I. Canon 7 of the Canons of the General Convention.

Sec. 3. It shall be the duty of the treasurer of each congregation and of the treasurer of every organization within each congregation to present an annual report in written form to the annual meeting of the congregation. It shall further be the duty of the treasurer of each congregation to present a monthly written financial accounting of the affairs of such congregation to the Vestry thereof.

## ***CANON 13 OF DIOCESAN FINANCE***

Sec. 1. The Standing Committee shall prepare, not later than December 31 of each year, a Budget for the following year including a minimum of 10% of the Diocesan unrestricted income to be our share to the support of the Episcopal Church. The Standing Committee will then notify each congregation of that Diocesan Budget.

Sec. 2. The Budget of the Diocese shall be based upon the forwarding to the Treasurer of the Diocese by each congregation the first 10% of its Total Operating Revenues (Unrestricted/Undesignated) each month for the common mission and ministry of the Diocese. Total Operating Revenue includes pledges and open plate; assistance from the convocation; unrestricted endowments, gifts, bequests, and interest; other operating income such as rental and building use donations; gifts from congregational organizations; and all other unrestricted income. The annual Total Operating Revenue is the same amount as was found on Line "B" on the 1997 Annual Parochial Report.

(a) Of the monies so forwarded, 60% shall be retained by the Treasurer of the Diocese for the operation of the Diocese and for that portion to be forwarded to the Treasurer of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of The Episcopal Church, and 40% shall be set apart by the Treasurer of the Diocese to fund the missionary, educational, and social service work of the Church through the four Convocations, in equal shares.

(b) Should any congregation vary its amount more or less than this 10%, the overage or shortfall shall be added to or deducted from the amount set aside for the work of the particular Convocation of which such congregation is a part.

(c) Should the Standing Committee determine that the amount raised as provided in (a) above for the operation of the Diocese, together with other available revenues for that purpose, is more than is likely to be needed for this purpose, any amount so designated shall be divided equally between the Treasurer of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society for the use set forth in (a) above and the amount set apart for the missionary, educational, and social service work of the Church through the Convocations in equal parts as set forth in (a) above.

Sec. 3. Subject to any specific directions in the Constitution and Canons, the Standing Committee shall have power, between the meetings of the Convention, to rearrange, change, add to or reduce at its discretion, any of the items in the Budget.

Sec. 4. The Standing Committee shall advise each congregation of the percent of Total Operating Revenues given by that congregation for the common mission and ministry of the Diocese in the previous year.

Sec. 5. Each congregation shall institute a program of stewardship education (including tithing, the minimum standard of giving) designed to emphasize and ensure that stewardship is a continuing mission embracing all aspects of the Church's life.

Sec. 6. Any proposed motion or resolution calling for a Diocese-supported or Diocese-conducted fund appeal must first be submitted to the Secretary of the Convention at least one hundred twenty (120) days in advance of the Annual Convention. The Secretary shall forward such proposed motion or resolution to the Standing Committee at least ninety (90) days before the Convention; and the Standing Committee shall submit any recommendation on that proposed motion or resolution to the Secretary of the Convention at least sixty (60) days before the Convention. The Secretary of the Convention shall mail copies of the proposed motion or resolution, including any such report, to the lay delegates and clergy of the Convention at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of such Convention, and shall report the same to the Convention.

Sec. 7. The Bishop, or the Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, may make direct appeal to the congregations and members of the Diocese for response to emergency needs in extreme or unusual circumstances.

#### **CANON 14 Of The Church Pension Fund**

Sec. 1. In conformity with Title I, Canon 8 of the Canons of the General Convention, the Diocese of Eastern Michigan accepts and adopts the system of The Church Pension Fund.

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of all clergy in the Diocese receiving a stipend, and of every congregation or other ecclesiastical organization paying a stipend or stipends, to furnish a statement thereof upon request to any committee charged by the Canons or Standing Committee to report on compliance to the provisions of the Church Pension Fund.

Sec. 3. All income of the Retired Clergy Assistance Fund shall be applied for the benefit of the retired clergy and of their surviving spouses and orphans in the discretion of the Trustees of this Diocese, subject to the specific directions, if any, of the trust instruments under which such funds are held.

#### **CANON 15 Of Deputies to the General Convention**

Sec. 1. The Annual Convention, at its meeting in the second year prior to the year of each triennial General Convention, shall elect, by ballot, eight lay members of the Church, two from each Convocation, each of whom is a communicant in good standing in some congregation of the Diocese, and eight ordained persons, presbyters and/or deacons, two from each Convocation, each of whom is entitled to vote in such Annual Convention, to act as Deputies and Alternate Deputies from the Diocese to the General Convention (until their successors have been chosen).



The lay person and the ordained person from each Convocation receiving the highest number of votes shall be designated as Deputies, and the lay person and ordained person from each Convocation receiving the next highest number of votes shall be designated as Alternate Deputies.

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of the Deputies-elect to signify to the President of the Standing Committee, at least sixty (60) days before the meeting of the General Convention, whether, or not, they will attend such meeting.

(a) Should a Deputy not be willing or able to so attend, that Deputy's place shall be taken by the Alternate Deputy from the same Convocation. If that Alternate Deputy also be unwilling or unable to so attend, the Standing Committee shall fill such vacancy by appointing a Deputy from the same Convocation having the same qualifications as an elected Deputy.

(b) Ninety (90) days before the General Convention for which they were elected, or as soon as may be convenient thereafter, the Standing Committee shall arrange the Alternate Deputies in an order of precedence to succeed to any vacancy thereafter among the Deputies in their own order without regard to Convocation. Should there be no qualified Alternate Deputy to fill a vacancy, the Standing Committee shall appoint a person otherwise qualified to serve as such.

(c) Any duly elected Deputy or Alternate Deputy who, though qualified for election at the time of the election, shall become unqualified as provided by this Canon after that election, may be removed from the Deputies or Alternate Deputies by the Standing Committee for that cause only, acting with the advice and consent of the Bishop.

## **CANON 16 Of Deputies to the Provincial Synod**

The Annual Convention in the year 1995, and in every third year thereafter, shall elect one ordained person, presbyter or deacon, who is entitled to vote in such Convention, and one lay member, who is a communicant in good standing in some congregation of the Diocese, to act as Deputies from the Diocese to the Synod Council of the Fifth Province for terms of three years. Such Convention shall elect in the same Convention, as Alternate Deputies, one ordained person, presbyter or deacon, and one lay member having the same qualifications as the other Deputies. In addition the Standing Committee shall appoint to Synod Council one of the General Convention lay Deputies. The Standing Committee shall also have the power to designate one or more other persons to fill any vacancy which may occur in the representation of the Diocese. Each person so designated by the Standing Committee shall have all the rights of a Deputy duly elected. It shall be the duty of the Deputies-elect to signify to the President of the Standing Committee, at least sixty (60) days before each annual meeting of the Synod Council whether, or not, they will attend to the duties of their office.

## **CANON 17 Of Convocations**

Sec. 1. The Diocese shall be divided into four areas, to be known as Convocations, which Convocations shall be responsible for the missionary, educational, and social service work of the Church:

(a) The Blue Water Convocation,

- (b) The Flint River Valley Convocation,
- (c) The Northern Convocation, and
- (d) The Saginaw Valley Convocation.

The Bishop shall establish and may alter the list of congregations within each Convocation with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee.

Sec. 2. Each member in good standing of a congregation is a member of the Convocation in which that congregation is located. Clergy officially attached to congregations shall be members of the Convocation in which their congregations are located. Clergy canonically and actually resident in this Diocese not so attached shall be members of the Convocation in which they are communicants.

Sec. 3. There shall be a Convocation Council in each Convocation to address, administer and carry forward the missionary, educational, and social service work of the Church in the Convocation, and to perform such other duties as may be delegated to it by Canon.

- (a) The Vestry of each congregation shall designate (by election or appointment) one member of that congregation to serve as its representative on the Council. This designation shall be communicated before the 28<sup>th</sup> day of February in each year by the Clerk of each Vestry to the Secretary of Convention and the Secretary of the Convocation. Representatives shall serve from the date of their designation until their successors are designated. The Council, if desired, may provide for clergy members of the Council, determining through its by-laws the number of manner of selection, and term of office.
- (b) The Council shall elect the following officers as provided by Canon, to terms as specified. There shall be no prohibition on re-election, unless provided elsewhere in these Canons.
  - (1) The President, a layperson to be elected to a two-year term from at least two nominees. The President shall preside at Convocation meetings, and, with the Convocation Council, oversee the work of the Convocation. Any compensation for the President shall be paid from the Convocation's funds.
  - (2) The Secretary, to be appointed to a one-year term by the President with the consent of the Council.
  - (3) The Treasurer, to be elected to a two-year term from at least two nominees. The Treasurer shall present an annual report in written form to the Convocation Council and to the Vestry of each congregation in the Convocation, and present a monthly written financial accounting of the affairs of the Convocation to the Council as requested.
  - (4) The Council may provide through its by-laws for a Vice President to be elected in a manner and to a term similar to those of the President.
  - (5) The dates of elections and the beginning and ending of terms shall be determined through its by-laws by each Convocation.
  - (6) Should a vacancy occur in any of these offices, the Council may select a replacement to serve until the end of the term.
  - (7) The Convocation Council shall mail a list of the offices and positions to be filled by election and its nominees for those elections to each of the congregational representatives and to each of the clergy at least twenty-one (21) days prior to a meeting at which an election is to be held. The notice shall indicate that additional

names may be added by petition to the Council signed by at least eight (8) members of the Convocation and received by the Convocation President at least five (5) days before the election. The President shall verify the qualification of each candidate and shall contact each candidate to verify the candidate's willingness to be nominated and to serve.

- (8) The Convocation Council shall recruit nominees as needed to reflect most adequately the quality of talents and gifts and the breadth of diversity in the membership of the Convocation.
- (c) The Council shall meet consistent with the provisions of Title I. Canon 7, Sections 10(c) and 11.
- (d) The Council shall prepare and adopt an annual budget for the missionary, educational, and social service work of the church for that Convocation.
- (e) The Council will manage the financial affairs of the Convocation in compliance with the requirements of Title I. Canon 7 of the Canons of the General Convention.
- (f) The Council may convene members of the Convocation at any time for purposes related to the work of the Convocation.

Sec. 4. (a) The Convocation Council at a meeting preceding by at least sixty-two (62) days the Annual Conventions of the Diocese in 1997 and every third year thereafter, one ordained person as nominee for election to the Standing Committee shall be elected from at least two such persons. The Secretary of the Convocation shall forward to the Secretary of Convention the name and address of the person so nominated at least sixty (60) days before the annual convention at which the election is to take place.

(b) The Convocation Council at a meeting preceding by at least sixty-two (62) days the Annual Conventions of the Diocese in 1998 and every third year thereafter, one lay person as nominee for election to the Standing Committee shall be elected from at least two such persons. The Secretary of the Convocation shall forward to the Secretary of Convention the name and address of the person so nominated at least sixty (60) days before the annual convention at which the election is to take place.

Sec.5. All members of the Convocation, unless otherwise authorized, shall have the right to attend all Convocation meetings with voice but without vote.

Sec. 6. At each Annual Convention of the Diocese, the state of the Church in each Convocation shall be reported by its President.

Sec. 7. The Council of each Convocation shall govern their programs and policies in accordance with the policies and stipulations of the Standing Committee of the Diocese.

Sec. 8. Nothing in these Canons shall limit the authority of the Convocations to act together in matters of common interest. The Bishop may convene a Mission Council, comprised of the Bishop, the several Convocation Presidents and Deans, and other persons as may be deemed helpful, to facilitate and support the communication and interchange among Convocations in the development and realization of the mission of the church.

Sec. 9. In each Convocation the Bishop, in consultation with the Convocation President, shall appoint an ordained person to serve as Dean. The Bishop shall notify the President of the

respective Convocation of each such appointment within thirty (30) days. The Dean shall serve a renewable three-year term. The Dean shall assist the Bishop in the Convocation pastorally, consult with congregations, and preside at clericus meetings. Any compensation for the Dean shall be paid by the Diocese.

## **CANON 18 Of the Organization of New Congregations**

Sec. 1. (a) In any city, village or township where no congregation is already situated, the written consent of the Bishop, after consultation with the appropriate Convocation and acting with the consent of the Standing Committee, shall be sufficient authority for the formation of a new congregation. The Bishop shall notify the three closest congregations of such intent before granting permission.

- (d) In any city, village or township in which a congregation is already situated, no new congregation shall be organized or regular services instituted in any location under the authority of the Diocese, of a Convocation or of any congregation without the approval of the Bishop acting by and with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee. But consent to establish a new location shall not be given until after comments are received and reviewed from (i) the appropriate Convocation Council(s) and (ii) the Rector and Vestry of each of the three (3) congregations whose places of worship are nearest to the site proposed. If no comments are received within sixty (60) days of their request, those comments will be presumed to support the new initiative.
- (e) In any city, village or township in which a congregation is already situated, the site of any existing congregation shall not be changed without the consent of the Bishop acting by and with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee; and further, no building thereon may be removed, taken down or otherwise disposed of for any worldly or common use, except as provided in Title I, Canon 21, Section 3. Consent to change a location shall not be given until after comments are received and reviewed from (i) the appropriate Convocation Council(s) and (ii) the Rector and Vestry of each of the three (3) congregations whose places of worship are nearest to the site proposed. If no comments are received within sixty (60) days of their request, those comments will be presumed to support the new initiative.

Sec. 2. An Organizing Fellowship may be formed in accordance with Sec. 1 of this Canon, and in consultation with the President and Dean of the Convocation in which it is to be located, by:

- (a) at least six adult members of this Diocese, or  
(b) a person authorized by the Bishop, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee and in consultation with the President and Dean of the respective Convocation, to start a new congregation.

Sec. 3. (a) An Organizing Fellowship may apply in writing to the Bishop for Recognition by the Annual Convention at least ninety (90) days before the next Annual Convention.

(b) If the Bishop approves such Application for Recognition, the Bishop shall so inform, in writing, the Secretary of the Convention at least sixty (60) days prior the date of such Convention.

(c) The Secretary of the Convention shall notify the lay delegates and clergy of the

Convention at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of such Convention of such Application, and shall report the same to the Convention.

(d) Upon approval by the Convention of such Recognition, the Secretary shall add this Organizing Fellowship to the List of Recognized Organizing Fellowships. As provided in Article IV.A.1 of the Constitution, the members of Recognized Organizing Fellowships who are present and otherwise qualified shall have voice, but no vote, in the Annual Convention of the Diocese.

Sec. 4. A Recognized Organizing Fellowship which does not apply for Admission as a Congregation into Union with the Convention of this Diocese within three (3) years from the date of its Recognition shall be removed from the List of Recognized Organizing Fellowships by the Secretary of the Convention

#### **CANON 19 Of the Admission of a Congregation into Union with the Convention of this Diocese**

Sec. 1. (a) A congregation may request Admission into Union with the Convention of this Diocese by submitting, in writing, to the Secretary of the Convention at least ninety (90) days before any Annual Convention, an Application for Admission and also the following:

- (i) The minutes of a meeting of the members applying to become a congregation showing that a majority of the members present has voted in favor of making such application and has elected at least three members to act as incorporators of the congregation;
- (ii) A certificate from the Bishop acknowledging the intention of said congregation to incorporate, and approving the Application of such congregation.
- (iii) Proof that the provisions for notification in Title I. Canon 18 have been satisfied.
- (iv) Proof that the Basic Standards in Sec. 2 of this Canon can be met.

(b) At the Convention at which Application for Admission is made, the proofs required in Sec. 1. (excepting the Report in Sec. 2.i) shall be presented covering at least one full calendar year prior to that of the Convention. A copy of the proposed Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws shall also be submitted.

(c) Should the Convention accept this Application, the congregation desiring to be admitted shall then immediately complete its incorporation and also submit a Parochial Report for the year in which the application is accepted.

Sec. 2. The Basic Standards for congregations shall be:

- (a) A congregation will conform to the doctrine, discipline and worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America.
- (b) A congregation, as a constituent part of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, and the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan, will accede to, recognize and adopt the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention and of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan.
- (c) A congregation will order its common life in concert with the Published Policies set forth by the Bishop and the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan.
- (d) A congregation will offer a weekly worship opportunity, with the Holy Eucharist being the principal act of worship on the Lord's Day whenever possible, and at minimum once a

month.

(e) A congregation will elect a Vestry of at least six (6), but not more than fifteen (15), members.

(f) A congregation will be incorporated according to the laws of the State of Michigan, and a copy of their current Articles and By-Laws will be filed with the Diocese of Eastern Michigan.

(g) A congregation will call and retain a priest, or be placed in the charge of a priest by the Bishop, in accordance with the Published Policies of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan.

(h) A congregation will have representation present at the Diocesan Conventions, and at its respective Convocation meetings.

(i) The Vestry will approve an Annual Budget and present it at the Annual Meeting. The Vestry will complete a yearly audit, submit a Parochial Report, and demonstrate the ability to pay its bills.

(j) A congregation will contribute to the Diocese at least ten percent (10%) of its Total Operating Revenue, also called NDBI (Net Disposable Budget Income.).

Sec. 3. At the next Annual Convention, following the Convention's acceptance of the Application for Admission, all of the evidence and documents required by Sec. 1, including a certified copy of the Articles of Incorporation, appropriate reports covering the time between the Annual Conventions, and proof that the Basic Standards in Sec. 2 of this Canon have been met, shall be presented. That Convention may then take final action to confirm acceptance or reject the Application of said congregation; if confirmed, the Convention thereby Admits the congregation into Union with the Convention effective immediately.

#### **CANON 20 Of Congregational Meetings**

Sec. 1 The first meeting of a congregation after its Articles of Incorporation have been duly filed may be called by any three or more incorporators, as soon as practical. Notice shall be given to all incorporators and interested parties.

(a) The incorporators and any persons sixteen (16) years of age or older who are baptized shall be entitled to vote at that meeting, provided that all those so voting first signify an intention of becoming attached to such congregation.

(b) Those entitled to vote shall

(1) choose a person to preside at the initial meeting and appoint a secretary and two persons to judge elections.

(2) elect Vestry members of the congregation by a majority of all votes cast. No person may be elected to the Vestry unless they are sixteen (16) years of age, baptized and a regular worshiper for six (6) months prior to the election.

(3) adopt a set of By-Laws to govern the management of the temporal affairs of the congregation. The By-Laws shall conform to the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese and of the General Convention and to the laws of the State of Michigan.

Sec. 2. At all subsequent meetings of the congregation, the right to vote shall be confined to such persons who are sixteen years of age or older, for six months prior to the meeting have been regular worshipers in such congregation, are baptized, and are physically present at the meeting.

Sec. 3. An annual meeting shall take place in January of each year. Notice shall be given by the Rector, or in the Rector's absence by either Warden, on each of two Sundays immediately

preceding the meeting.

(a) At each annual meeting a Vestry shall be elected consisting of not less than six (6) nor more than fifteen (15) members.

(1) The congregation may decide to classify Vestry members into three equal classes;

(a) Except for the first election, their terms shall be for three (3) years.

(b) On the first election, one class shall hold office for one year, one for two years, and one for three years.

(c) Each annual meeting will elect successors to fill the places made vacant.

(2) If Vestry members are elected for a three-year term, no Vestry members so elected shall be eligible for re-election until one year after his or her term expires.

(b) Except at the initial meeting, the Wardens, when present, shall be the judges of the election. A majority of all persons present and eligible to vote is necessary to elect.

(c) The Rector, when present, shall preside at all congregational meetings.

(d) A full and complete record of all meetings of the congregation shall be kept by the Clerk of the Vestry.

(e) The congregation may conduct such other business as may be brought before it. Unless otherwise required by the By-Laws all issues voted upon shall be passed by a majority of those present and eligible to vote.

Sec. 4. Special meetings of the congregation may be called by the Vestry, the Wardens, or the Rector, upon seven (7) days notice to the Vestry and to the congregation at a regular Service of the Church and a posting of a conspicuous notice at the church building; the purpose of the special meeting shall be incorporated in a notice.

## **CANON 21 Of the Vestry**

Sec. 1. (a) The Vestry members shall annually choose by ballot from their own body two members to be Wardens and one member to be Clerk.

(b) The Vestry shall appoint a Treasurer and may appoint a Secretary and such other agents as may be required at their discretion (who need not be members of the Vestry).

(c) A schedule of regular meetings of the Vestry shall be established at the first meeting of the Vestry after the Annual Meeting, and it shall be posted in a conspicuous place.

(d) Special meetings of the Vestry may be called by the Rector or by one-third of the Vestry members by giving notice thereof at a regular service of the Church and by mail or personal notice to all members of the Vestry.

Sec. 2. A majority of the Vestry members shall constitute a quorum. The Rector, or such other member of the Vestry designated by the Rector, shall preside at all meetings of the Vestry. In the absence of a Rector, one of the Wardens, or a Vestry member chosen by the Wardens, shall preside.

(a) The Rector shall have no vote at the meeting except when presiding, and then only in the event of a tie.

(b) All vacancies in the Vestry may be filled by the remaining Vestry members at any meeting, and the person so elected shall hold office for the unexpired term of the predecessor.

(c) Only those members present may cast a vote on any matter coming before the meeting.

(d) The Clerk shall (i) note and record, in a book provided for that purpose, the minutes of the proceedings of the Vestry meetings (which duty may be delegated to a Secretary appointed by the Vestry). (ii) attest to the public acts of the Vestry, (iii) preserve all records and papers belonging to the Congregation and not required to be kept by any other person or officer, and (iv) perform such other duties as may be assigned. The Clerk shall faithfully deliver into the hands of his or her successor all books and documents belonging to the Congregation that may be in his or her possession.

(e) The Treasurer shall receive all monies collected under the authority of the Vestry and shall disburse the same under the direction of the Vestry.

Sec. 3. Subject to the Canons of this Diocese and the General Convention and the laws of the State of Michigan,

(a) The Vestry shall have authority

(1) in the corporate name of the Congregation, to lease or to purchase and hold such real estate as shall be reasonably necessary for the Congregation's purposes.

(2) to erect, alter, enlarge, take down, or remove and rebuild any church or other building belonging to the Congregation provided such Vestry shall have first obtained the consent of said Congregation.

(b) The Vestry shall have the power to alienate or encumber any assets of the Congregation; except that it shall have no power or authority to alienate or encumber real estate without first being authorized to do so by: 1) a vote of the members of the Congregation at an annual or special meeting called for such purpose, and 2) the prior consent of the Bishop acting with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee of the Diocese. Should the Vestry encumber real property, it shall, within thirty (30) days thereafter, prepare and furnish the



Bishop and the Standing Committee with a statement showing the date and principal amount of such note and mortgage, the rate of interest thereon, the date and terms of payment of the principal and interest, the date of maturity thereof, and the name(s) and address(es) of the mortgagee(s). The Vestry shall make annual reports to the Bishop and the Standing Committee as to the status of said mortgage payments until said mortgage is fully paid.

(c) Except for the refinancing of an existing indebtedness, no indebtedness shall be incurred by a Congregation without the approval of the Bishop and the Standing Committee with these two exceptions:

- (1) When the indebtedness is to be incurred for permanent improvements, replacements or additions to real estate or equipment, and where the amount of such indebtedness, together with all other indebtedness of the Congregation, shall not exceed fifty percent (50%) of the average annual receipts of such Congregation during the previous three (3) years.
- (2) When the indebtedness is to be incurred for current expenses, and where the amount of such indebtedness, together with all existing indebtedness for current expenses shall not exceed twenty percent (20%) of the total current receipts of such Congregation during the preceding year, and the payment of all indebtedness for current expenses shall be provided for in the budget of the next two (2) years with reasonable expectation of its payment. The principal of endowments and bequests and receipts for purposes other than current expenses shall be excluded from computing receipts under this provision.

Whenever approval is required, the Congregation requesting such approval shall furnish a statement of the amount and terms of payment of said indebtedness, the reason for its necessity, and a plan for its retirement.

Sec. 4. (a) All documents requiring corporate signature shall be signed, in the name of the Corporation, by one of the Wardens and by the Clerk, or by such other members of the Vestry as shall be authorized to do so by resolution of the Vestry.

(b) The Vestry shall be responsible for the maintenance of the assets of the Congregation. It shall elect, call and provide for the maintenance of the Rector, keep order in the church during divine worship, and in general act in support of the Rector in whatever is appropriate for the furtherance of the Gospel.

(c) The Vestry shall keep a record of its proceedings together with a record of the meetings of the Congregation. Such records shall be kept open for inspection of the Rector, of any person qualified to vote at the annual meetings of the Congregation, and of the Bishop or the Bishop's designee.

(d) Whenever a Congregation shall fail to fill the vacancies in the Vestry or fail to elect Vestry members, fail to organize or be without a qualified and acting Vestry for a period of two years, it shall be the duty of the Bishop to appoint the proper number of Wardens and Vestry members with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee. These appointees shall constitute the Vestry of such Congregation until such Congregation is dissolved or a Vestry is duly elected and organized.

(e) Should any member of the Vestry be absent from the regularly scheduled meetings of the Vestry for a period of three consecutive months, the remaining members of the Vestry may, in their discretion and with the advice and consent of the Rector, declare that seat to be vacant and elect a qualified person to fill the unexpired term. In the absence of a Rector, the advice and consent of the Dean of the Convocation shall be secured.

(f) Any Vestry member under ecclesiastical discipline may be expelled from the Vestry upon the Vestry's determination that the Vestry member so accused is guilty of the violations charged with two-thirds of the Vestry concurring. The person expelled shall have the right to appeal to the Bishop, whose decision shall be final.

Sec. 5. (a) The control of the worship and spiritual jurisdiction of the Congregation shall be under the exclusive direction of the Rector with the godly counsel of the Bishop.

(b) It shall be the duty of the Vestry, when the Congregation is without a Rector, to provide for regular public worship and the instruction of the Congregation led by clergy or by lay persons as circumstances may permit.

## **CANON 22 Of the Renewal of Congregations**

Sec. 1. (a) Written notification to the Bishop of a congregation's possible inability to live into the Basic Standards for Congregation (Title I, Canon 19.2) may be made by the Priest in charge of the congregation, its Vestry, the Dean of the Convocation in which the congregation is located, or the Standing Committee.

(b) Upon receipt of such Notification the Bishop shall then notify the Vestry of such congregation and the Standing Committee of such possible inability within ten (10) days. The Vestry of such Congregation shall then so notify the members of such congregation within twenty (20) days of its receipt of notice from the Bishop. The President of the Standing Committee shall, within ten days, communicate in writing to the Bishop and to the Vestry of such congregation the date of the next regular meeting of the Standing Committee at least thirty (30) days thereafter.

Sec. 2. Notification by the Bishop of the congregation's difficulties shall be made to the Standing Committee at a regularly scheduled meeting. Members of the affected congregation and the Dean of the Convocation in which the congregation is located may give witness to the desire to work through the difficulties or for closure.

Sec. 3. The Bishop, in consultation with the Standing Committee, may recommend that the congregation be facilitated into living into the Basic Standards for Congregations.

(a) The Bishop, Dean, and the leadership of the congregation will be the primary participants in developing a plan of action.

(b) Progress reports shall be made to the Standing Committee every ninety (90) days until the Basic Standards for Congregations are met, or a decision to close the congregation is made.

Sec. 4. The Bishop, in consultation with the Standing Committee, may recommend closure of the congregation.

## **CANON 23 Of the Closure of Congregations**

Sec. 1. If the Bishop, in consultation with the Standing Committee, recommends closure of the congregation in accordance with Title I, Canon 22, the Bishop will notify the Congregation

within ten (10) days of such decision.

Sec. 2. A service for the celebration of the life and ministry of the congregation shall be scheduled, and, if appropriate, a rite for the secularizing of a consecrated building shall be included.

Sec. 3. All assets shall become the property of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan. Non-financial assets, real and personal property, including restricted funds, memorial funds, trusts, etc., will be property of the Diocese to be managed and disposed of by the Standing Committee. When the decision to close has been made, the remaining financial assets shall be distributed at closing in equal thirds as follows:

- (a) One-third to the Congregation Development Fund of the Diocese;
- (b) One-third to the Convocation in which the church is located; and,
- (c) One-third to charitable organizations of the closing congregation's choice; if none, to the Diocese.

Sec. 4. The President and Dean of the Convocation shall encourage and assist the communicants of the closing congregation in transferring their membership to other nearby Episcopal congregations.

Sec. 5. A congregation shall not be closed solely on the basis of noncompliance with Published Policies (Title I, Canon 19.2.c) without a minimum of one (1) year of dialogue with the proper ecclesiastical authority and without an opportunity to challenge the policy before the Annual Convention of the Diocese.

## **CANON 24 Of Chapels**

Sec. 1. A Chapel shall be a church without a resident congregation of Members or one which is open only part of the year.

Sec. 2. The title to the property of such Chapel shall be vested in the Diocese. An Offering shall be taken on at least one Sunday of each season for the missionary work of the Diocese.

Sec. 3. A Chapel Committee may be appointed by the Bishop in consultation with the Dean and Council of the Convocation in which it is located, which will work with the Bishop on the ministry and mission of the Chapel. Such a Committee shall report to the Bishop at least annually on its activities and finances.

## **CANON 25 Of Clergy and Congregations Seeking Affiliation with This Diocese**

Sec. 1. Whenever a Congregation of Christian people located within the boundaries of this Diocese shall seek affiliation with The Episcopal Church under the provisions of Title I, Canon 16 of the Canons of the General Convention, the Bishop shall report to the Secretary of the Convention of this Diocese when such affiliate status has been granted by the Presiding Bishop.

Sec. 2. The Secretary shall report to the Convention and list such Congregations separately as “Affiliate Congregations” in reports and listing of Congregations. The Clergy and members of “Affiliate Congregations” shall have seat and voice in the Annual Convention of this Diocese until such time as a) that status is revoked by the Presiding Bishop, b) the oversight of such Congregation no longer rests with the Bishop of this Diocese, or c) such Congregation is admitted into union with the Convention of this Diocese under the provisions of Title I, Canon 19 of the Canons of this Diocese. Should such a Congregation be admitted into Union with the Convention of this Diocese, the clergy thereof may be given vote in the Convention of this Diocese only by admission to the List of the Clergy (Title I. Canon 2) in accordance with the provisions of Title III. Canons 10, 11 or 12 of the Canons of the General Convention.

**CANON 26 Of the Jurisdiction of the Bishop in Communicant Status and Marital Status and the Solemnization of Marriages**

All matters which are subject to review under Title I, Canons 17, 18, and 19 of the Canons of the General Convention may, upon written application, be inquired into, reviewed and disposed of by the Bishop (or, otherwise, in accordance with Article III of the Constitution of this Diocese) in a manner as determined by the Bishop.

**TITLE II**  
***WORSHIP***

**CANON 1 Of Ordering the Worship of the Church in this Diocese**

The Bishop, in consultation with the Standing Committee, may appoint such bodies as deemed appropriate to further the provisions of Title II of the Canons of the General Convention.

**TITLE III**  
**MINISTRY**

**CANON 1 Of the Ministry of All Baptized Persons**

This Diocese shall make provision for the development and affirmation of the ministry of all baptized persons in the Church and in the world.

**CANON 2 Of the Commission on Ministry**

- Sec. 1. **Duties:** There shall be a Commission on Ministry whose duties shall be to:
- (a) Assist the Bishop, as prescribed by the Canons of the Episcopal Church;
    - i. to determine present and future needs for ministry in the Diocese;
    - ii. to recruit, select, guide, and examine aspirants, Postulants and Candidates, for Holy Orders;
    - iii. to provide for the guidance and pastoral care of Clergy and Lay Persons who are in stipendiary and non-stipendiary positions accountable to the Bishop;
    - iv. to promote the continuing education of Clergy and of Lay Professionals employed by the Church; and
    - v. to support the development, training, utilization and affirmation of the ministry of the Baptized in the world.
  - (b) The Commission shall have authority to appoint sub-committees, drawn from and beyond its own membership.
  - (c) The Commission shall make a report concerning its work to each Annual Convention of the Diocese.

Sec. 2. **Members:** The Commission on Ministry shall consist of six (6) elected members of the Clergy, both Priests and Deacons, who are canonically resident in the Diocese; and of six (6) elected Lay Persons, each of whom is over sixteen (16) years of age, confirmed, a regular attendant in good standing, and a contributor for at least twelve (12) months to the support of a congregation in the Diocese. Elected membership of the Commission shall represent all four Convocations of the Diocese.

- (a) The Standing Committee may name one of its members to serve with the Commission on Ministry, with voice and vote.
- (b) The Bishop shall be an ex-officio member of the Commission. The Bishop Coadjutor and/or Suffragan Bishop, if there be such, may be appointed by the Bishop as additional members.

**Sec. 3. Election:**

- (a) Six members shall be appointed by the Bishop for terms of three (3) years. The Bishop shall appoint one layperson and one ordained person each year and fill any vacancies at the opening of each Annual Convention.
- (b) Six members shall be elected by the annual convention for terms of three (3) years, one lay person and one ordained person shall be nominated and elected by the Annual Convention in a manner as provided by Title 1, Canon 5 and 6. Any vacancies shall be filled by the election of the Standing Committee.
- (c) No member may serve more than two successive 3-year elected terms.

### **CANON 3    Of the Election of a Bishop**

Sec. 1. The election of a Bishop or a Bishop Coadjutor of this Diocese shall be in an Annual Convention, or in a Special Convention called for that purpose in accord with Title 111, Canon 16 of the Canons of the General Convention. The concurrence of two-thirds of the members of the Convention present and voting shall constitute an election.

Sec. 2. Whenever the Bishop of this Diocese shall call for the election of a Bishop or Bishop Coadjutor, a committee shall be appointed to be known as "The Committee for the Nomination of Bishops", to consist of thirteen persons: four persons, including at least one lay person and at least one presbyter or deacon, appointed by the Standing Committee; one lay person and one presbyter or deacon from each Convocation, elected by their respective Convocation Assembly; and the Chancellor. The members of said Committee shall be appointed not less than one hundred eighty (180) days prior to the date set for the Convention at which such election is to be held.

- (a) The appointment of members shall be made known to the Secretary of the Convention by the Authority making the appointment and the Secretary shall convene the first meeting of the Committee.
- (b) The Committee may at any time fill any vacancies in its membership for whatever reason caused. Vacancies in the clerical membership shall be filled with ordained persons, and in the lay membership with lay persons.
- (c) The members of the Committee shall continue as members thereof until the close of the Convention at which the Bishop or Bishop Coadjutor shall have been elected or until the

Committee shall have been discharged by action of the Convention.

(d) The Committee shall choose its president and secretary from among its members, and shall have power to adopt rules and regulations governing its procedure, not inconsistent with this Canon.

(e) The Committee shall call for, receive and may itself propose for its consideration names of persons who may lawfully be elected to the episcopal office to be filled, and shall fix the time within which such suggested names may be filed with the Committee, but in no event less than forty-five (45) days prior to the date set for the Convention at which such election is to be held. Should the name of any member of the Committee be proposed for consideration as a nominee for the episcopal office, that member may withdraw from consideration; otherwise the member shall withdraw from the Committee.

(f) The Committee shall inform itself as to the persons so proposed and, after due consideration, shall select not more than five, whom it deems qualified for such office. The Committee shall prepare a report to the Convention giving the names of the persons so selected, together with a brief biographical sketch of each.

(g) The Committee shall arrange with the Convocations for appropriate opportunities for the nominees and electors to become mutually acquainted.

(h) The Report of the Committee shall be printed and mailed by the Secretary of the Convention to each of the lay delegates and clergy of the Convention not later than twenty-one (21) days prior to the date set for the Convention at which such election is to be held.

(i) The presentation of the Report of the Committee shall be the first order of business at the said Convention and it shall constitute a nomination of each of the persons therein named. If any person so nominated shall withdraw, the Committee may substitute the name of another person theretofore considered by the Committee and deemed qualified, and such a substitution shall constitute a nomination of the person so named.

(j) Nominations may be made from the floor at any time after the Report of the Committee shall have been presented, and until the close of the Convention or until an election shall have taken place, except when a vote is being taken.

(k) In the case of persons nominated by the presentation of the Report of the Committee, there shall be one seconding speech of not more than five minutes and there may be only one further seconding speech of not more than three minutes for each of the persons nominated by the Committee. In the case of all other persons nominated, there shall be a nominating speech of not more than ten minutes and a seconding speech of not more than five minutes, and there may be one only further seconding speech of not more than three minutes for each person nominated from the floor.

#### **CANON 4 Of the Calling of Rectors**

Whenever a Rectorate becomes open the Vestry shall fill such Rectorate according to the provisions of Title III, Canon 9 of the Canons of the General Convention; provided, however, that no election shall be had unless and until all requirements of the Church Pension Fund in that parish shall be paid in full, and the current Diocesan policy on Salary and Benefits be met unless other arrangements are made and approved by the Vestry, the prospective Rector, and the Standing Committee.

#### **CANON 5 Of the Reconciliation of Disagreements Affecting the Pastoral Relation**

When the pastoral relationship in a Congregation between a Rector and the Vestry or congregation is imperiled by disagreement or dissension, and the issues are deemed serious by a majority vote of the Vestry or the Rector, either party may petition the Bishop, in writing, to intervene and assist the parties in their efforts to resolve the disagreement in accordance with the provisions of Title III, Canon 14 of the Canons of the General Convention.

#### **CANON 6    Of the Dissolution of the Pastoral Relation**

Sec. 1. Except upon mandatory resignation by reason of age, a Rector may not resign as Rector of a Congregation without the consent of its Vestry, nor may any Rector canonically or lawfully elected and in charge of a Congregation be removed there from by the Vestry against the Rector's will, except as provided in Title III, Canon 15 of the Canons of the General Convention.

Sec. 2. If for any urgent reason a Rector or Vestry shall desire a separation and dissolution of the pastoral relation, and the parties can not agree respecting a separation and dissolution, either party may act in conformity with and subject to Title III, Canon 15 of the Canons of the General Convention.

Sec. 3. In regards to the provisions of Title III, Canon 15, Sec. 6 of the Canons of the General Convention, the provisions of subsection (a) shall apply in the case of a Rector. In the case of a Vestry, the Bishop may act in accordance with Canon I.22.1(b) of these Canons, said failure constituting a failure to live into the provisions of Canon I.19.2(a).

### **TITLE IV ECCLESIASTICAL DISCIPLINE**

#### **CANON 1    Of the Administration of Ecclesiastical Discipline**

The Diocese of Eastern Michigan adopts by reference Title IV of the Canons of the General Convention, as adopted and amended from time to time, applicable to the Ecclesiastical Discipline of Priests and Deacons, and as it pertains to the practices and procedures of the Ecclesiastical Trial Court.

#### ***CANON 2   OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL TRIAL COURT***

Sec. 1. There shall be an Ecclesiastical Court for the trial of any priest or deacon subject to the jurisdiction of this Diocese.

Sec. 2. Members of the Court.

(a) The Court shall be made up of nine members consisting of four lay persons and five priests or deacons. Said laypersons shall be at least 21 years of age and confirmed communicants in good standing in this Diocese. Said priests or deacons shall be canonically



resident and in good standing in this Diocese. No member of the Standing Committee nor a Dean shall be a member of this Court.

(b) Election of Members

The members shall be elected by the Annual Convention from persons nominated by the

Bishop. Members of the Court shall serve a term of three (3) years. The Bishop shall

nominate at least twice the number of persons to be elected. The Bishop will forward to the

Secretary of the Convention a list of nominees (with a brief biographical description) at least

forty-five (45) days before the Convention at which the election is to take place. The

Secretary of Convention shall forward this report to the lay delegates and clergy at least

thirty (30) days before that Convention.

(c) Vacancy

(1) Vacancies, other than for cause under Title IV, Canon IV, Sec 8 of the Canons of the General Convention, occurring in an Ecclesiastical Trial Court shall be filled in the following manner. The Bishop shall nominate at least two persons for each vacancy, who are otherwise qualified for election under the Diocesan canons, to the Court. The Court, by majority vote, shall elect from those nominated, a member to fill the vacancy until the next Annual Convention. Vacancies filled by the Court shall be from the same order (lay or ordained) as the person vacating that position.

(2) Vacancies for cause under Title IV, Canon IV, Sec. 8 of the Canons of the General Convention shall be filled as provided therein. Persons filling such a vacancy shall be elected only for the duration and purposes of the particular case; in all other respects and in regard to any other case before the Court, the duly elected member shall serve.

Sec. 3. Church Attorney

(a) The Standing Committee shall appoint a Church attorney. The Church Attorney shall appear and present relevant evidence on behalf of the Standing Committee and perform all matters and duties provided in these Canons, and the Canons of the General Convention.

The Church Attorney shall serve at the pleasure of the Standing Committee.

The Church Attorney shall be a member in good standing of the Michigan Bar Association and shall be a confirmed communicant in good standing of this church. The Chancellor, a Vice-Chancellor, a Lay Assessor, or a member of a Chancellor's Vice-Chancellor's or lay Assessor's law firm may not serve as a Church Attorney.

**TITLE V**

***CANONICAL LEGISLATION***

**CANON 1    Of Additions and Amendments to the Canons**

Sec. 1. All proposed amendments or additions to the Canons shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Convention at least one hundred twenty (120) days before the Convention at which they are to be considered.

(a) They shall then be filed by the Secretary of the Convention with any committee as determined by Canon, which committee, if any, shall report on the proposed amendments, with or without recommendation, to the Secretary of the Convention not less than sixty (60) days before the date of the Convention.

(b) The Secretary shall mail copies of the proposed amendments or additions, including any such report, to the lay delegates and clergy of the Convention at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of such Convention, and shall report the same to the Convention.

(c) No amendment or addition to the Canons shall be considered by the Convention unless so reported to it by the Secretary.

Sec. 2. When any proposed amendment or addition is before the Convention for consideration, changes may be made by a majority vote during the debate and before final vote. No amendment or addition to the Canons shall be finally adopted and approved unless concurred in and adopted by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

Sec. 3. New canons, deletions of whole canons, and additions to, amendments of, and deletions from existing canons, unless otherwise expressly ordered, shall take effect on the first day following the adjournment of the Convention at which they were enacted or made.

Adopted by the Primary Convention of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan, October 28-29, A.D. 1994, and as amended by the Annual Conventions of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan through October 22 and 23, A.D. 2004.