

# The 44<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Alaska

*Hosted by Saint Mary's Episcopal Church*

*Anchorage, Alaska*

*October 3-6, 2019*

*Theme: Living in the Spirit: The Art of Life.*

*"Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit."*

*Galatians: 5:25 NIV*

**Thursday October 3, 2019**

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Registration opened at 2:30 p.m. followed by optional pre-convention activities, Deanery gatherings, dinner, committee meetings and opening Eucharist.

## **Opening Business Session**

**8:10 p.m. Call to order.** The Rt. Rev. Mark Lattime, 8<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Alaska, called the convention to order.

**Quorum.** 60 delegates were certified by registration and are indicated on attachment #1 *Delegate List*. A quorum was established by a roll call indicating 48 of the 60 certified delegates were present.

## **Convention Officers and Administration**

- **Secretary:** The Bishop nominated Dee Ellen Grubbs, guest Holy Trinity, Juneau, as convention secretary; she was accepted without objection.
- **Robert's Rules of Order:** The Bishop moved that the convention adopt as the rules of order, Robert's Rules of Order and the Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Alaska; accepted without objection.
- **Treasurer:** The Bishop nominated Rev. Marilyn Duggar, delegate from St. Mark's, Nenana, Treasurer; she was accepted without objection.
- **Chancellor:** The Bishop announced that Eric Wohlforth has resigned from the practice of law and thus as Chancellor for the Convention. He will be named Chancellor Emeritus. Sarah Stanley was named as Chancellor for the 2019 Convention; her appointment was confirmed by affirmation.
- **Parliamentarian:** The Bishop appointed Peg Fisher, All Saint's, Anchorage, as Parliamentarian; she was accepted without objection.
- The Bishop appointed delegates to the convention committees as listed on Attachment #2, *Committee Assignments*.

**Resolutions:** The Bishop announced that the standard for bringing forth a resolution is by a convention committee or by the pre-filing process. There were no pre-filed resolutions submitted for consideration by this convention.

**Committee Reports:**

➤ Dispatch of Business: Rev. Katherine Hunt, Christ Church, Anchorage, was introduced as Chairperson of the Committee on the Dispatch of Business. Rev. Hunt introduced her committee members and announced the committees to which they were assigned as contact persons. Committee chairpersons were directed to contact their assigned member if they wished to be listed on any of the agendas for upcoming business sessions.

➤ Prayer: Rev. Judith Lethin, St. Augustine's, Homer, interim Chairperson for the Committee on Prayer, advised that there are blank prayer cards available at the back of the sanctuary for prayer requests; the committee will be praying for these requests and others throughout the convention.

The business session was recessed at 8:50 p.m.

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**Friday October 4, 2019**

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8:00 a.m. Breakfast

9:00 a.m. The Bishop reconvened the business session.

➤ Report from Committee on Nominations:

Margie Adams, St. John's, Ketchikan, Chairperson for the Committee on Nominations, announced that nominations are now open from the floor and gave instructions on how a nomination may be made using the form enclosed in each delegate's packet. Sky Stemmons, St. David's, Wasilla, committee member gave the initial report from the Nominations Committee by referring the delegates to the enclosure in their packet which lists the positions that are vacant and need to be filled by vote at this convention; see attachment #3 *Positions Open for Election/Nominations*

✚ Rev. Teresa Thomas announced that based on personal issues she is withdrawing her nomination for General Convention Clergy Deputy.

➤ Special Recognition

Eric Wohlforth, Esquire has been Chancellor for every Convention for the Diocese of Alaska; he has served with every Bishop of Alaska and is the longest continuous serving Chancellor within the Episcopal Church. He announced his retirement this year and has been named Chancellor Emeritus of the Diocese of Alaska. The Bishop offered grateful thanks and congratulations for Eric's many years of service.

➤ Announcements:

✚ Clergy Appointments

Rev. Chip Mills has been installed as Priest in Charge at St James in Kodiak.

Rev. Dawn Allen-Herron has been hired as Associate Rector at St. Mary's Anchorage and remains Rector at St Andrew's, Petersburg.

Rev. Catherine Amy Kropp is new to the staff at St. Mary's Anchorage, Associate Rector

Rev. Jim Brisson was appointed Rector at St. Bartholomew's, Palmer.

Rev. Gayle Nauska, St. Mary's Anchorage, was appointed as Clergy Chaplain with the small mission clergy program to St. Luke's Shageluk and St. Paul's, Grayling.

Rev. Dr. Nancy James was appointed as Clergy Chaplain with the small mission clergy program to St. Paul's Hughes.

Rev. David Elsensohn most recently Rector at St Phillip's in Wrangell has retired. Wrangell is looking for new clergy in cooperation with the Lutheran church in Wrangell.

Rev. Susan Mitchell was ordained to the Diaconate this year and serves at Holy Trinity in Circle as well as St. at Matthew's in Fairbanks.

✚ Clergy Deaths:

Rev. Liz Simmons

Rev. Betty Lou Anthony, Deacon

✚ Appointments to the Commission on Ministry:

Clergy appointment for the Interior: Rev. Marilyn Duggar, St. Mark's, Nenana

Lay appointment for South Central: Sarah Stanley

Business session recessed at 9:20 a.m.

9:45 a.m. *Drawn to the Word: Bringing the Word to Life Before Your Eyes*  
Key Note Speaker: Pastor Paul Oman painted during the readings to reflect the story of Jesus and the fishermen.

11:45 a.m. Break

11:30 a.m. Reflection/Discussion

12:00 noon Lunch

**1:15 p.m. The Bishop's Address**

The Bishop's address focused on five principals of faith: Prayer, Study, Serving, Giving and Sharing. Details are contained in *A Summary of the Bishop's Address* attachment #4.

At the conclusion of his address the Bishop announced that in 2020 he has planned a sabbatical to start the Monday after Easter Day. He will spend some time in retreat at his family's cabin; he will spend some time in study of the impact of climate change on indigenous lands and he will study to obtain an instrument rating for his pilot's license.

2:15 p.m. Sharing

2:30 p.m. Committees Meet

3:45 p.m. Break

4:00 p.m. Business session reconvened

➤ Rev. Katherine Hunt, Christ Church, Anchorage, Chairperson for the Dispatch of Business set the agenda for the session.

➤ Prayer Committee: Paul Williams, Jr., St. Matthew's, Beaver, Chairperson for the Committee on Prayer, opened the session with prayer.

➤ Announcements:

✚ Rev. Gail Loken, Christ Church, Anchorage, EFM (Education for Ministry) coordinator for the Diocese; spoke on the curriculum of EFM and comments on the effectiveness of EFM were offered from several delegates. It was announced that an EFM program is starting in the Fall in the Southeast Deanery; all were encouraged to investigate enrolling in EFM; an online class is also available.

➤ Committee on Resolutions: Rev. Michael Burke, St. Mary's, Anchorage, committee member introduced the following resolution and moved for adoption by the convention:

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF TRAINING NATIVE MEN AND WOMEN  
FOR ORDAINED MINISTRY.

WHEREAS, The Episcopal Diocese of Alaska offers training and support to Native men and women for ordained ministry.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The Episcopal Diocese of Alaska, meeting in its 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Anchorage, Alaska, renews its support in the raising up and training of a new generation of Native men and women for ordained ministry, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Episcopal Diocese of Alaska, encourages our congregations, deaneries, and the Commission on Ministry to do all that they can to seek the guidance of The Holy Spirit in actively identifying and raising up those who may have a vocation of ministry, particularly ordained ministry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in this undertaking, The Episcopal Diocese of Alaska shall call upon the many resources of this diocese including the Fr. David Salmon School and to create and use other appropriate resources and programs as needed.

Discussion: Rev. Marian Nickelson, St. Francis, Kenai, noted that the resolution does not have any accountability in it. She opined that without a requirement for a report, there would likely be no action or progress, much like the resolution she introduced in 2003 in support of prison ministries.

Paul Williams, Jr., St. Matthews, Beaver, opined that there is no contact information in the resolution; if someone is really interested, they need contact information.

The Bishop stated that he is in support of the resolution and advised that the place to start is at the local community. The local church should have a discernment committee; anyone wanting information should contact the Bishop and the Commission on Ministry. Currently the commission is working on making the process clearer and more accessible.

Rev. Dr. Nancy James, St. Paul's, Hughes, offered an amendment to be added as a final paragraph:

“AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that there be a report on the status of the resolution at the 45<sup>th</sup> Convention.”

Rev. Dawn Allen-Herron, St. Andrew's, Petersburg, asked who would be responsible to make the report?

Rev. Lauran Pifke, Holy Spirit, Eagle River, opined that the report should be from the Commission on Ministry.

The Bishop called for a vote on the proposed amendment, which passed unanimously.

Rev. Susan Mitchell, St. Matthew's, Fairbanks, moved to amend the amendment by adding “by the Commission on Ministry” after the word “report”. The motion was seconded by Al Alvarez, Holy Spirit, Eagle, and the motion to amend the amendment passed unanimously.

Rev. Michael Burke, St. Mary's, Anchorage, spoke on behalf of the resolution. Rev. Burke urged the delegates to vote yes on the resolution and to make that vote a commitment by each delegate to do the work of the Holy Spirit in their home churches by encouraging participation in the discernment process.

The Bishop called for a vote on the resolution as amended by an amendment to the amendment; the resolution passed unanimously. The resolution as finally amended reads as follows:

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF TRAINING NATIVE MEN AND WOMEN  
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WHEREAS, the episcopal Diocese of Alaska offers training and support to Native men and women for ordained ministry.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The Episcopal Diocese of Alaska, meeting in its 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Anchorage, Alaska, renews its support in the raising up and training of a new generation of Native men and women for ordained ministry, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Episcopal Diocese of Alaska, encourages our congregations, deaneries, and the Commission on Ministry to do all that they can to seek

the guidance of The Holy Spirit in actively identifying and raising up those who may have a vocation of ministry, particularly ordained ministry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in this undertaking, The Episcopal Diocese of Alaska shall call upon the many resources of this diocese including the Fr. David Salmon School and to create and use other appropriate resources and programs as needed.

“AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission on Ministry shall report on the status of the resolution at the 45<sup>th</sup> Convention.”

The business of the Committee on Resolutions having been concluded; the committee was released by the Bishop.

➤ Committee on Nominations:

Margie Adams, St. John’s, Ketchikan, reported that profiles of the nominees are posted on the wall in the hallway to the right of the sanctuary; she encouraged all delegates to read the profiles. She informed the delegates the nominations are still open until noon tomorrow.

➤ Budget Committee Report:

Rev. Marilyn Duggar, St. Mark’s, Nenana, Chairperson of the Budget Committee, presented the draft of the initial budget, see attachment #5 Budget. She informed the delegates that the committee is meeting at noon tomorrow for any delegates that would like to meet with the committee to answer questions.

➤ Rev. Michael Burke, St. Mary’s, Anchorage, gave a report about St. Mary’s senior living complex, the Thomas Center. The development is an LLC subsidiary of St. Mary’s and thus the Diocese. The complex is a senior living center designed to build community; there is a preference for members of the Diocese. The reception this evening will be hosted by residents of the Thomas Center.

The business session recessed at 5:10 p.m.

5:30 p.m. Dinner

7:00 p.m. St Simeon and St. Anna Celebration and Memorial for Clergy who have died since the last convention.

8:30 p.m. Reception and fellowship at the Thomas Center.

**Saturday October 5, 2019**

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8:00 a.m. Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

9:30 a.m. Business Session reconvened

- Margie Adams, St. John's, Ketchikan, Chairperson nominations committee, reported that nominations must be in by noon today; voting will start at 1:45 p.m.
- Committee on the Next Convention: Rev. Luran Pifke, Holy Spirit, Eagle River, Chairperson of the Committee on the Next Convention reported that the 45<sup>th</sup> convention will be held at St. Matthew's, Fairbanks on October 1-3, 2020 and All Saint's, Anchorage has been asked to consider hosting the 46<sup>th</sup> Convention in 2021. The report was accepted and the Bishop released the Committee on the Next Convention with thanks.
- Committee on Constitution and Canons: Rev. Chip Mills, St James the Fisherman, Kodiak, Chairperson of the Committee on Constitution and Canons, referred the delegates to the insert in their packet, *A Resolution on an Amendment to the Constitution of the Diocese of Alaska* which was first read at the 2018 Convention and the amendment was passed at the 2018 Convention. As required by the Canons this is the second reading of the amendment which must be passed at the second reading to become effective. Rev. Mills presented the second reading with a motion and recommendation to pass. The Bishop called for a vote; the amendment passed unanimously. The Committee on Constitution and Canons is a permanent committee and was not released.
- Committee on the Bishop's Address: Alison Talley, Holy Trinity, Juneau, Chairperson for the Committee on the Bishops Address, engaged the committee and the delegates in an interactive presentation on the summary of the Bishop's address; delegates were invited to put examples of activities that they used to enact the five areas of challenge to live out our faith, on the poster people on the windows. See attachment #4 *A SUMMARY OF THE BISHOP'S ADDRESS* for details. The Bishop released the Committee on the Bishop's Address with thanks.
- FIT (Faith Into Tomorrow) Committee: Rev. Mary Norton, St. George's-in-the-Arctic, Kotzebue, member of the FIT Committee, referred the delegates to the written reports in the Convention Packets. There were brief presentations by several of the grant recipients. The delegates were encouraged to apply for a FIT grant; deadline October 11, 2019. The FIT Committee is a continuing committee and was not released.

The business session was in recess at 10:35 a.m. for a break.

10:45 a.m. Key Note Speaker: *The Fire of the Spirit, Blessing and Glory and Honor and Power*  
The Rev. Dr. Nancy James

Noonday Prayers

Lunch

The business session reconvened at 1:45 p.m. for the afternoon session:

- A motion from the Bishop to grant seat and voice to visitors passed unanimously.

- Moved and seconded and passed unanimously that the convention dispense with the secretary's reading of the Resolutions Referred to Dioceses From the 79<sup>th</sup> General Convention, and accept the resolutions in written form as provided in the delegates' packet.
- The Bishop declared that nominations for positions slated for election at this convention are closed.
- Committee on Nominations:  
Margie Adams, St. John's, Ketchikan, Chairperson for the Committee on Nominations, reported that there are 6 uncontested elections.

The Bishop conducted the election of each uncontested candidate by acclamation as follows:

Commission on Ministry: Southeast Deanery Lay Position: Michael Rowcroft elected by acclamation.

FIT (Faith Into Tomorrow Endowment) Committee: Seat D Clergy position: Rev. Julie Platson elected by acclamation.

Disciplinary Board Seat C: Clergy position, not deanery specific; Rev. Michael Burke elected by acclamation.

Standing Committee Seat #8 Southcentral Clergy position: Rev. Luran Pifke elected by acclamation.

Standing Committee Seat #7 Arctic Coast Clergy position: Rev. Mary Norton elected by acclamation.

Standing Committee Seat #9 Interior Lay position: Mable Vent elected by acclamation.

Chairperson Adams announced the candidates for each contested position as follows:

***Standing Committee Seat 1 Arctic Coast Lay*** (vote for one)

Robert Dirks  
Gail Gallahorn

***General Convention – Lay*** (vote for 4)

Al Alvarez	Alice Holinger
Fred Arriola	Adam Lees
Robert Dirks	Tom Marsh
Florence Folger	Janet Mitchell
Dan Hall	Loyd Platson
Paul Williams, Jr.	

***General Convention – Clergy*** (vote for 4)



The Rev. Enoch Adams, Jr.                      The Rev. Caroline Malseed  
The Rev. Dawn Allen-Herron                  The Rev. Mary Norton  
The Rev. Michael Burke                      The Rev. Julie Platson  
The Rev. Elsa DeHart                         The Rev. Bessie Titus  
The Rev. Betty Glover

Prior to the distribution of the ballots the Bishop addressed questions from delegates.

Rev. Dr. Anna Frank, St. John's, Allakaket, asked if write ins were permitted; the Bishop responded that write-ins are always permitted.

An inquiry was made if those nominated at the convention would be permitted to make statements?

The Bishop explained that nominations started in the Spring in the Deaneries, and that all nominees were required to submit written resumes on the form provided by the Diocese. The same process is required for nominees put forth at the convention. Nominees may or may not be delegates and therefore some nominees are not present at convention. Therefore, to make the process fair, delegates are instructed to read carefully the resumes posted throughout the convention. In-person speeches are not a part of the process and are not permitted.

Paul Williams, Jr., St. Mathew's, Beaver, Chairperson of the Prayer Committee, led the delegates in prayer prior to voting.

Ballots were distributed and collected; while the committee on nominations counted the ballots, business continued:

➤ Rev. Ann Whitney, St. David's, Wasilla, president standing committee: Rev. Whitney announced that the standing committee has encountered an administrative problem and they are seeking advice and help from the delegates and members of the Diocese. The Society of St Simeon and St. Anna has grown to so many members that the administration is very difficult and has created a significant burden on the Diocesan office. Rev. Whitney asked that delegates please take this concern home to parishes and deaneries for discussion and prayer. She asked all to consider a study cultural differences in the ways of honoring elders and other ideas to decrease the administrative burden on the Diocesan office. She asked all to consider how we can serve our elders and how can our elders serve us. Please discuss this at the next meeting of your deanery and report to the standing committee.

➤ Report from the Courtesy Committee  
Sharon Korwan, Christ Church, Anchorage, offered the following Resolution from the Committee on Courtesy:

#### COURTESY RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that we express our sincere thanks to all those involved in organizing, hosting and participating in the 44<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese of Alaska.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT we thankfully recognize the congregation of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Anchorage for their hard work in preparing for this large gathering. We thank the gracious host families, all the drivers who coordinated transportation and those who provided

hospitality, including cooking, cleaning and food donations. Special thanks to Margaret Sharrow and Laura Hanrahan for the homemade cloth convention bags presented to the delegates.

BE IT RESOLVED that we thank the Southcentral Deanery and all the Episcopal churches for their generous assistance during this convention.

BE IT RESOLVED that we thank the Bishop's staff for their preparations and support of this Convention: Canon Suzanne Krull, Melissa Ward and Lynette Winfrey-Frank.

BE IT RESOLVED that we express our deep appreciation to the Right Rev. Mark Lattime for his address and for presiding at the convention. We give thanks to the Bishop for modeling taking care of himself (planning a sabbatical) so he may better serve us as a good shepherd for our flock, loving us in faithful service. Through your guidance, we look forward to worshipping our faith in fellowship through prayer, studying, serving, giving and sharing the Good News.

BE IT RESOLVED we express gratitude and appreciation for the overwhelming support in terms of time and commitment of Mr. Eric Wohlforth, Esq., Chancellor of the Diocese for 47 years. Mr. Wohlforth is the longest serving Chancellor in the history of the Episcopal church, and he will now be a Chancellor Emeritus.

BE IT RESOLVED that we thank our keynote speakers: Pastor Paul Oman who shared his artistic talents among us and opened our minds to the inspiring color of the Word. And we thank the Rev. Dr. Nancy James who enlightened us on the Fire of the Spirit: Blessing and Glory and Honor and Power.

BE IT RESOLVED that we express our thanks to Dee Ellen Grubbs, Secretary; all the chairs and committees for making the meetings run smoothly.

BE IT RESOLVED we thank all the singers and musicians for their inspirational musical talents, especially Wade Hampton Miller and the Praise Singers.

BE IT RESOLVED that we express our sincere appreciation to the clergy, delegates, and visitors who gathered here in the Name of Jesus to do the work of the Church. Above all we give thanks for the guidance of the Holy Spirit into the future of our Diocese.

BE IT RESOLVED that we send our condolences to the families of the late Rev. Liz Simmons the and the late Rev. Betty Lou Anthony. We lift up the Rev. Carrie Oktolik on the passing of her husband and the Rev. Bessie Titus on the death of her sister.

Submitted by the Courtesy Committee: Sharon Korwan, Chairperson, Kathy Daquilanea, Robert Dirks, Kaitlin Pabo-Eulberg, Anna Frank, Dawn Allen-Herron, Nancy Tarnai.

The Courtesy Resolution was adopted by the Convention and the Committee was released from service.

- Report on Dancing with the Spirit: Rev. Belle Mickelson, St. George's, Cordova: Reported on the ministry concluded with a song and a lively two step by the Bishop and CeCe Nollner!
- Report by the Budget Committee: Rev. Marilyn Duggar, St. Mark's, Nenana, Chairperson of the Budget Committee, moved to adopt the budget as presented yesterday by the Budget Committee; the motion passed unanimously and the Budget Committee was released.
- Bishop's presentation of our Lady of Alaska to the next parish to house the icon. The Bishop presented our Lady of Alaska to Holy Spirit, Eagle River to serve as a blessing over the entire Anchorage region as it recovers from the earthquakes of last year.
- Rev. Caroline Malseed, St. Brendan's, Juneau: Report on the group *Sustain Island Home*: The group has developed a software to calculate the carbon footprint in your diocese and how to reduce the footprint; detailed information will be forthcoming.

3:00 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Break

Chairperson of Dispatch of Business Rev. Katherine Hunt, Christ Church, Anchorage:

- Announcements/ general discussion  
The Bishop inquired if there is any interest in reforming the UTO (United Thank Offering) grant committee? If so, please let the Bishop know.
- Nominations Committee:  
Margie Adams, St. John's, Ketchikan, reported on the results of the contested elections.

Standing Committee: Seat 1 (Arctic Coast – Lay) Robert Dirks was elected

#### General Convention Deputies -Lay

Fred Arriola was elected Lay Deputy 1  
Dan Hall was elected Lay Deputy 2  
Robert Dirks was elected Lay Deputy 3  
Paul Williams, Jr. was elected Lay Deputy 4

#### General Convention Alternate Deputies Lay

The first ballot resulted in a tie for Alternate Deputy Lay positions #1 and #2; after a second ballot to determine the order for Alternate Deputies the results are:

Alice Holinger was elected Alternate Lay Deputy #1  
Janet Mitchell was elected Alternate Lay Deputy #2  
Adam Lees was elected Alternate Lay Deputy #3  
Tom Marsh was elected Alternate Lay Deputy #4  
Al Alvarez was elected Alternate Lay Deputy #5  
Florence Folger was elected Alternate Lay Deputy #6  
Loyd Platson was elected Alternate Lay Deputy #7

General Convention Clergy Deputy

The Rev. Mary Norton was elected Clergy Deputy #1  
The Rev. Michael Burke was elected Clergy Deputy #2  
The Rev. Bessie Titus was elected Clergy Deputy #3  
The Rev. Enoch Adams Jr., was elected Clergy Deputy #4

General Convention Alternate Clergy Deputy

The first ballot resulted in a tie for Alternate Clergy Deputy positions #4 and #5; after a second ballot to determine the order for Alternate Clergy Deputies the results are:

The Rev. Betty Glover was elected Alternate Clergy Deputy #1  
The Rev. Dawn Allen-Herron was elected Alternate Clergy Deputy #2  
The Rev. Julie Platson was elected Alternate Clergy Deputy #3  
The Rev. Elsa DeHart was elected Alternate Clergy Deputy #4  
The Rev. Caroline Malseed was elected Alternate Clergy Deputy #5  
The Rev. Judith Lethin was elected Alternate Clergy Deputy #6

The Bishop declared the work of the Nomination Committee complete and stated the Nomination committee is released with thanks.

- Committee on Dispatch of Business Rev. Katherine Hunt, Christ Church, Anchorage, Chairperson recognized all the members of the committee and stated that the business of the convention has been concluded. The Bishop declared the work of the Committee on Dispatch of Business has been completed and the committee was released with thanks.
- The Bishop announced the winning bid for the painting created by Pastor Paul Oman during clergy conference Thursday morning. The winner was Barb Chase, St. James the Fisherman, Kodiak.
- Closing Prayer was offered by Paul Williams Jr., St. Matthew's, Beaver.
- The Bishop released the Committee on Prayer with thanks.
- The Convention was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Dee Ellen Grubbs, Secretary 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Alaska