

The 45th Convention of the Episcopal Dioceses of Alaska

Online “Virtual” Zoom Meeting

October 3 and October 10, 2020

Theme “United with Christ in the Interest of Others”

“Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.” Philippians: 2:4 NIV

Saturday October 3, 2020

9:45 a.m.-10:00 a.m. Delegates logged onto the Zoom Meeting

Opening Business Session

10:00 a.m. Welcome by Bishop Mark

10:15 a.m. Opening Prayer by Bishop Mark

10:30 a.m. Zoom “how to” by Suzanne Krull

10:40 p.m. Call to order/Opening Business Session. The Rt. Rev. Mark Lattime, 8th Bishop of Alaska, called the convention to order.

Quorum. 66 delegates registered; see attachment #1 *Delegate List*. A quorum was established by a roll call indicating 55 of the 66 delegates were present and certified.

Convention Officers and administration

- Secretary: The Bishop nominated Dee Ellen Grubbs, 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 Sarah Stanley was named as Chancellor for the 2020 Convention; her appointment was confirmed by affirmation.
- Parliamentarian: The Bishop appointed Sarah Stanley as Parliamentarian; she was accepted without objection. The Bishop also appointed Peggy Fisher to act as Parliamentarian for Robert’s Rules of Order. 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 are no pre-filed resolutions submitted for consideration by this convention. There was no response to the Bishop's request for non-prefiled resolutions. The Bishop declared that there are no resolutions before the Convention.

Review and Open Nominations: The Bishop called on Suzanne Krull for a reading of the positions open for election/nominations and the nominees from the Deaneries.

Commission on Ministry:

Arctic Coast Clergy position: Elected for a three-year term:

Rev. Carrie Oktolik nominated by the Deanery

Interior Lay position: Elected for a three-year term: no Deanery nominee

Vocational Deacon position: Appointed for a three-year term:

To be appointed by the Bishop

Standing Committee:

Seat #1 Arctic Coast Lay position; Term Liturgical Year A, 2023:

Austin Swan, Sr. nominated by the Deanery.

Seat #2 Interior Clergy position; Term Liturgical Year A, 2023:

No Deanery nominee

Seat #3: Southeast Clergy position; Term: Liturgical Year A, 2023:

Rev. Julie Platson nominated by the Deanery.

Disciplinary Board:

Seat D: Lay position, not deanery specific: Term: 5 years:

Adam Lees nominated by the South Central Deanery.

Seat G: Clergy position, not deanery specific: Term: 5 years:

Rev Wallace "Chip" Mills nominated by the South Central Deanery.

FIT (Faith Into Tomorrow Endowment) Committee:

Seat A: Lay position, not deanery specific: Term 4 years:

Austin Swan, Sr. nominated by The Arctic Coast Deanery;

Al Alvarez nominated by the South Central Deanery

Seat #1 APPOINTED Term 4 years:

To be appointed by the Bishop

St. Simeon and St. Anna: There is a moratorium on inductions for 2020; no nominations for 2020

11:30 a.m. Stretch Break

11:40 a.m. **Bishop's address** based on Philippians 2:4: See Report from the Committee on the Bishop's Address, Attachment #3

12:15 p.m. Lunch Break

1:00 p.m. **Presentation of Recommended Budget:** Rev. Marilyn Duggar presented the proposed budget as found in the delegate's 45th Convention packet; see Attachment #4

1:20 p.m. **Committees meet in Zoom break out rooms:** Each committee met in individual Zoom rooms to determine their schedule for meeting during week between business sessions.

1:40 p.m. **Report from Committee on Nominations**

Rev. Belle Mickelson reported the slate of nominees as follows:

Commission on Ministry:

Artic Coast Clergy position: Elected for a three-year term:

Rev. Carrie Oktolik

Interior Lay position: Elected for a three-year term:

Allan Hayton

Vocational Deacon position: Appointed for a three-year term:

Rev. Barbara Zimmerman appointed by the Bishop

Standing Committee:

Seat #1 Artic Coast Lay position; Term Liturgical Year A, 2023

Austin Swan, Sr.

Seat #2 Interior Clergy position; Term Liturgical Year A, 2023

Rev. Betty Glover

Seat #3: Southeast Clergy position; Term: Liturgical Year A, 2023:

Rev. Julie Platson

Disciplinary Board:

Seat D: Lay position, not deanery specific: Term: 5 years:

Adam Lees

Seat G: Clergy position, not deanery specific: Term: 5 years:

Rev Wallace "Chip" Mills

FIT (Faith Into Tomorrow Endowment) Committee:

Seat A: Lay position, not deanery specific: Term 4 years:

Austin Swan

Al Alvarez

Bella Schjenken

Seat #1 APPOINTED Term 4 years:

Ron Moore appointed by the Bishop

The nominations were accepted without objection

The Bishop called for nominations from the floor. After issuing the call three times, and hearing none, nominations were closed without objection. Suzanne Krull provided information on the Zoom/telephone process for voting. Polls open at noon on October 7th and close at 1:15 p.m. on October 10th.

The Bishop entertained a motion from the floor by Adam Lees to elect by acclamation those candidates who are running unopposed. The motion was seconded by Susan Mitchell. The candidates running unopposed were elected by acclamation.

Final Announcements and Recess: The Bishop announced that the only position with multiple candidates is position for the Faith Into Tomorrow Endowment Committee. Results of the election will be announced at the conclusion of the business session on October 10, 2020. Paul Williams announced his email address and phone number and asked that he be contacted with requests for prayer. The Convention was declared in recess to reconvene on October 10, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. and closed with prayers, led by Paul Williams, Jr.

Saturday October 10, 2020

10:00 a.m. The **Convention reconvened** via Zoom; a quorum was established. Delegates registered, 66; delegates present by roll call, 57. Opening Prayer was led by Paul Williams, Jr., Chair of the Prayer Committee, with the Lord's Pray in Gwich' in Athabaskan by Paul, English by Fr. David Yaw and Deg Xinag Athabaskan by Jeanette Dementi.

10:15 a.m. The Bishop reminded the delegates to vote before the polls close, with the FIT Committee being the only contested election.

10:30 a.m. Committee Reports:

- **Standing Committee Report:** Rev. Caroline Malseed referred the delegates to their packet for the full report and pointing out two goals for the upcoming year:
 - After receiving recommendations from all deaneries, recommend a format for the Society of St. Simeon and St. Anna
 - Sell the Emmaus Center
- **Commission on Ministry:** Rev. Gordon Blue referred the delegates to the reports in their packets, especially page 5 of the 2019 Convention Minutes and page 11 of the report from the Commission on Ministry regarding the ongoing efforts to encourage the training and support of Native men and women for ordained ministry. Rev. Blue referred the delegates to the resolution offered at last year's convention "A Resolution in Support of Training Native Men and Women for Ordained Ministry" and remarked that although the resolution was not formally renewed at this Convention it is an ongoing call to "...all Baptized persons". The Commission on Ministry closed the report by imploring the deaneries of the diocese to report on the progress according to last year's resolution to the Commission and to the Convention in 2021.
- **Committee on the Bishop's Address:** See attachment #3 which includes an artistic visual handout expressing the essence of the address.

12:15 p.m. Lunch Break

1:15 p.m. **Announcements:** The Bishop announced that the polls are now closed. Rev. Belle Mickelson gave a report on the Dancing with Spirit ministry which has adapted to on line and distance ministry by increasing the use of video workbooks and the distribution of zip drives. The ministry has been supported by several community organizations and churches.

1:30 p.m. **Budget Committee Report:** Rev. Marilyn Duggar presented the 2021 budget as it appears in the delegates' packets; on behalf of the committee she moved that the budget be accepted. The Bishop called for discussion. Alice Rooney questioned the increase in convention expense for the next year. The Bishop explained that the increase in the budget was to account for the possibility that the public health emergency would be continuing and it would not be possible to house delegates in parishioner's homes. The plans depend upon the situation at the time and if an in-person convention is not possible, the next convention will be conducted by Zoom and the budget will be adjusted accordingly. The Bishop called the question and the motion to accepted the 2021 Diocesan Budget passed unanimously.

Next Convention Committee Report: The committee moved that the 46th Convention be held in a hotel in Anchorage to be named at a later date. Dates for the 46th convention are September 30-October 2, 2021. The committee recommends that St. Matthew's in Fairbanks be asked to consider

hosting the 47th convention in 2022. Committee member Rev. David Terwilliger commented that the 46th convention may of necessity be held via Zoom. Paul Williams spoke in favor of the committee's motion. The Bishop called the question; the motion passed unanimously.

Courtesy Committee Report: The Courtesy Committee offered the following resolution with a motion for the Convention to adopt same:

BE IT RESOLVED that we express our sincere thanks to all those involved in organizing, hosting, and participating in the 45th Convention of the Diocese of Alaska, "United in Christ, in the Interest of Others."

BE IT RESOLVED that we thank the Bishop and the Bishop's staff for their effort and spirit of joy in organizing and planning this Convention. Bishop Mark Lattime; Canon Suzanne Krull; Lynnette Winfrey-Frank, Administrative Assistant; and Melissa Ward, the Bishop's Assistant, by their extraordinary effort and with the support of consultants, have made it possible for us to gather virtually to accomplish the work of Convention.

BE IT RESOLVED that we express our thanks to Convention Officers for their work, and for their part in making the meetings run smoothly, including Chancellor and Parliamentarian Sarah Stanley, Roberts Rules Helper Peggy Fisher, Secretary Dee Ellen Grubbs, and Treasurer Rev. Marilyn Duggar.

BE IT RESOLVED that we thank Convention Committee Chairs for their work to ensure a seamless path for conducting committee work, including the Rev. Katherine Hunt, Rev. Julie Platson, Judy Gau, Paul Williams, Jr., Rev. Michael Burke, Dee Ellen Grubbs, Rev. Chip Mills, Rev. Marilyn Duggar, Rev. Dawn Allen-Herron, and Rev. Luran Pifke.

BE IT RESOLVED that we thankfully recognize the Standing Committee for their work throughout the year, and their leadership during these unusual times. Specifically, we thank those who are completing their service, Rev. Caroline Malseed, outgoing president; Bobby Dirks; and Rev. Bessie Titus.

BE IT RESOLVED that we thankfully recognize the delegates who learned to use Zoom and appreciate their hard work in preparing for this unusual gathering.

BE IT RESOLVED that we express our deep appreciation to the Right Reverend Mark Lattime for his address and for presiding at the Convention. We extend sincere thanks for his listening, insights, prayers, guidance, leadership, kindness, and sense of humor during this Convention, and throughout the year. We recognize that our bishop's planned sabbatical was postponed because of the 2020 pandemic, and we look forward to the time when he will be able to enjoy the refreshment of a sabbatical.

BE IT RESOLVED that we thank leaders who have accepted nominations for committees and commissions for the coming year, including Al Alvarez, Bella Schjenken, and Austin Swan, Sr. (FIT Committee); Rev. Carrie Oktollik and Allan Hayton (COM); Adam Lees and Rev. Chip Mills

(Disciplinary Board); Rev. Julie Platson, Austin Swan, Sr., and Rev. Betty Glover (Standing Committee).

BE IT RESOLVED that we thank all whose work and leadership make our Closing Eucharist possible, including the clergy, musicians, and staff of St. Mary's, Anchorage; readers Kaylee Nelson, Chele Bifelt, Bob Coghill, Jane McMillan Ginter, Michelle Bifelt and Kris Green. We also thank the many musicians throughout the Diocese who contributed their voices to a Virtual Diocesan Choir, including Molly Buttars, piano and viola; Alex Cruver, compilation; and vocalists Anna Cometa, Andrea Gardner, Braydon Perrupato, Kyle Gantz, Christina Talbott-Clark, Joel Bolger, Rev. Judith Lethin, Patricia Hull, Nell Gustafson, Alice Rooney, Shastina Charlie, Mim McConnell, Barb Hameister, Jim Hameister, Rev. Gayle Nauska, Helen Howard, and Lena Simmons. Both their willingness to do this and their voices are inspiring.

BE IT RESOLVED that we give thanks for those who are faithfully leading worship services and other ministries in congregations throughout the diocese. In particular, we recognize the many lay worship leaders who are leading in places where clergy are not available. Their committed service is a testimony to the ministry of all of the baptized.

BE IT RESOLVED that we recognize the challenging context in which the ministries of our diocese have taken place this year. We give thanks for technologies available to us; for scientists, engineers, and technicians whose work has created these possibilities; and for herculean efforts of lay and ordained ministers to accomplish new ways of spreading the Gospel and working toward the restoration of all people to unity with God and each other.

BE IT RESOLVED that we express our deep appreciation for the work of those who have worked this year to mentor and guide new postulants and candidates: from the Interior Deanery, Helen Stafford, Judy Gau and Gary Shields; and from South Central Deanery, Ross McKay and Kris Green. We are grateful for the service of Commission on Ministry members who are completing their service: Rev. Elsa DeHart and Lorraine Pavlick. May the newly admitted postulants and candidates, through our prayers, continue to be guided by the Holy Spirit to faithful and reverent service.

BE IT RESOLVED that we send our condolences to the family of the Reverend Chuck Eddy who has joined the number of the Church Triumphant. We also remember all of those ministers, both lay and ordained, whose work continues within us, though they have departed from our midst this year.

BE IT RESOLVED that we grieve the many losses being experienced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our hearts are heavy as we consider those who have died, the ongoing physical separation experienced, and the increased stress for families and households throughout the world. We recognize that the burden of this pandemic is not being shared equally but is borne most severely by the most vulnerable.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we express our sincere appreciation to the delegates, officers,

and staff who gathered through Zoom in the Name of Jesus to do the work of the Church in this Convention. Above all we give thanks for the guidance of the Holy Spirit into the future of our Diocese, a future in which we are “united in Christ, in the interest of others.”

Submitted by the Courtesy Committee

Rev. Dawn Allen-Herron

Margie Adams

Rev. Jim Brisson

Rev. Dr. Anna Frank

Kris Green

The resolution was adopted by unanimous vote of the Convention

The Bishop also recognized the passing of two members of the clergy from the Diocese of Alaska, Rev. Andy Fairfield and Rev. Pat Kellar. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

1:40 p.m. **Election Results and Final Announcements:** The Bishop announced that Bella Schjenken was the successful candidate for Seat A on the FIT Committee. The Bishop thanked Al Alvarez and Austin Swan for running for election for this position.

- The Bishop presented the Icon Our Lady of Alaska to be housed at St. Mary’s in Anchorage during the upcoming year in recognition of the life and ministry of Rev. Chuck Eddy. The Icon is currently housed at Holy Spirit in Eagle River; the Bishop charged the delegates from Holy Spirit with the responsibility of moving the Icon to St. Mary’s.
- The Bishop released the committees of the Convention except for the Minutes Review Committee and the Committee on Constitutions & Canons, which have continuing responsibilities.
- The Bishop announced that at 2:30 a Zoom Worship is scheduled for all the members of the Diocese.

2:00 p.m. **Adjournment and Leave Zoom Meeting:** The Bishop adjourned the 45th Convention of the Diocese of Alaska with a Blessing and closed the Zoom Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted:

October 24, 2020

Dee Ellen Grubbs, *Dee Ellen Grubbs*

Secretary 45th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Alaska