

JOURNAL 2009

**One Hundred
and Thirty-Fifth
Annual Convention**

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH
DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN**

2009

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

of the

One Hundred and Thirty-Fifth Annual Convention

of the Diocese of Western Michigan of the Episcopal Church

which met in Kalamazoo, Michigan

Friday and Saturday

April 24-25, 2009

**THE ASSOCIATION
OF THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN**

The Association of the Diocese of Western Michigan is a corporation formed under the laws of the State of Michigan authorized by the civil and canon laws to receive and hold any property, real or personal, for the use and benefit of the diocese or of any parish affiliated with the diocese. Contributions to the Association are deductible from the income of individuals and corporations subject to Federal Income Taxes within the percentage limits established by the United States Internal Revenue Code. Such contributions are also deductible from the estates of individuals subject to the Federal Estate Tax, under current tax law.

Suggested Form of Bequest

I hereby give, devise and bequeath to the Association of the Diocese of Western Michigan, a Michigan nonprofit corporation, the sum of _____dollars.

PRAYER FOR THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

O God, by your grace you have called us in this Diocese to a goodly fellowship of faith. Bless our clergy, and all our people. Grant that your Word may be truly preached and truly heard, your Sacraments faithfully administered and faithfully received. By your Spirit, fashion our lives according to the example of your Son, and grant that we may show the power of your love to all among whom we live; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Diocese of Western Michigan
Journal- 2009

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THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN
At the time of Convention 2009

The Right Reverend Robert R. Gepert, Bishop

DIOCESAN OFFICE:

Episcopal Center
Diocese of Western Michigan
535 S. Burdick, Suite 1
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

THE BISHOP The Right Reverend Robert R. Gepert

CANON TO THE ORDINARY The Rev. Canon William J. Spaid
Phone 269 381-2710 ext. 11
Fax 269 381-7067

ARCHDEACON The Venerable Anne Reed
Phone 269 381-2710, ext. 17

BISHOP'S ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Ms. Nancy Calme
Phone 269 381-2710, ext. 14

ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP FOR BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION . Ms. Tammy Mazure
Phone 269 381-2710, ext. 12

DIOCESAN SECRETARY/ SECRETARY TO CONVENTION Ms. Mary McGuire
Phone 269 381-2710, ext. 10

**ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP FOR ADMINISTRATION AND TRANSITION
MINISTRY...** The Venerable Anne Reed
Phone 269 381-2710 ext. 17

**ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT
MINISTRIES**..... Gennie Callard
Phone 269 381-2710 ext. 13

PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING Dr. Kenneth E. Reid
Phone 269 381-4442

CHANCELLOR Mr. William J. Fleener Jr.

CONVENTION TREASURER None at this time

ECUMENICAL OFFICER Dr. E. Rozanne Elder

ASSISTANT ECUMENICAL OFFICER The Rev. Robert A. Smith

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN PRESIDENT Ms. Patricia Purol

STANDING COMMITTEE

Ms. Netty Cove, President (2011)
The Rev. Knute Jacobson (2010)
Ms. Anne Davidson (2011)
Ms. Sarah Loomis (2010)
The Rev. Michael Fedewa (2009)
Prof. Henry Fulton (2009)
The Rev. David Myers (2011)
The Rev. Mary Perrin (2009)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Bishop The Right Rev. Robert R. Gepert
Standing Committee Representative The Rev. Michael Fedewa
Youth Representative.....Olivia Adams
E.C. W. President Ms. Patricia Purol
Ex-Officio Members The Venerable Anne Reed
.....Mr. William J. Fleener, Jr.

EASTERN DEANERY:

Ms. Debra Dally – Chair (2009)
The Rev. Stephen Bartlett (2010)
The Rev. Carol Spangenberg (2011)

GRAND VALLEY DEANERY:

Ms. Pamela Chapman - Chair (2009)
Mr. Wes Hackett (2011)
The Rev. Sue York (2010)

LAKESHORE DEANERY:

The Rev. Lily Marx - Chair (2011)
Ms. Michele May (2010)
The Rev. David Brower (2009)

ST. JOSEPH DEANERY:

Ms. Anna Cushman - Chair (2010)
The Rev. Cynthia Black (2011)
The Rev. Rick Swanson (2009)

TRAVERSE DEANERY:

Ms. Sheila Garner - Chair (2011)
Ms. Nancy Foster (2010)
The Rev. Valori Mulvey Sherer (2009)

COMMITTEE ON CANONS: Mr. William J. Fleener, Jr., Chairperson

ECCLESIASTICAL TRIAL COURT

The Rev. Jennifer Adams (2009)
Mr. David Penniman (2009)
The Rev. David Brower (2010)
Mr. Thomas Hawley (2010)
Ms. Sharon House (2011)
The Rev. Paula Durren (2011)

DIOCESAN CONSULTING TEAM

The Rev. Anne Reed, Bishops Assistant for Congregational Development and Transition Ministry
Mrs. Sarah Loomis,
Mrs. Anne Davidson
The Rev. Bill Fleener
The Rev. David Meyers
Ms. Carol Rickey
Mr. Ivan Egnatuk
Ms. Nurya Parish

FORMATION

Adult Formation Committee, Co Chairs – Ms. Mary Huisman, The Rev. Mary Perrin
Camp Planning Committee, Director Ms. Genevieve Callard
Youth Ministry Advisory Committee, Ms. Genevieve Callard

JUSTICE AND PEACE MINISTRIES

Jubilee Committee Coordinator, The Rev. Cindy Nawrocki
Episcopal Relief and Development Fund Coordinator, Terry Dorcy

THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

Ms. Janet MacKenzie, Chairperson	(2009)
Mr. Steve Sherer	(2011)
The Rev. Jim Croom	(2011)
Ms. Musette Bell El-Mohammed	(2010)
The Rev. Mary J. Frens	(2009)
Mr. Stephen Leonard	(2009)
Mr. Stuart Smith	(2010)
The Rev. Beth Tomczak	(2011)
The Rev. Christine W. Tillman	(2009)
The Rev. William Whiting	(2010)
The Rev. Wayne Nicholson	(2011)

Ex officio:

The Rev. Canon William Spaid	Diocesan Representative
The Rev. John Crean	Director, Vocational Discernment

THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Ms. Anna Cushman	(2011)
Mr. Ivan Egnatuck	(2011)
Mr. Rob Wagley	(2011)
Ms. Jill Adamski	(2010)
Ms. Tammy Mazure	Diocesan Representative

Ex Officio Members

The Rt. Rev. Robert R. Gepert

CLERGY OF THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

In Order of Canonical Residence

Lester B. Thomas, Jr.	June 12, 1951	Ordination
John L. English	Jan 15, 1963	Eau Claire
Glen P. Williams	Sept 1, 1963	Louisiana
John B. Hills	Aug 15, 1965	Northern Indiana
Charles F. Frandsen	Jan 15, 1967	Nebraska
Joseph A. Howell	Feb 1, 1971	Chicago
William J. Fleener	July 1, 1971	Chicago
Jack D. Bowling	Oct 1, 1971	Northern Indiana
John W. Reishus	Jan 11, 1976	Chicago
Robert H. Walton	March 1, 1976	Michigan
D. Edward Emenheiser	June 1, 1976	Quincy
Warner C. White	Jan 15, 1977	Chicago
Charles F. Homeyer	April 1, 1980	Missouri
Fredrick E. Myers	Aug 1, 1980	Ohio
Joseph C. Neiman	Nov 15, 1980	Ordination
Wm B. VanValkenburgh	March 1, 1981	Newark
Hugh S. Hostetler	Jan 1, 1982	Northern Indiana
David R. Pike	June 5, 1982	Ordination
William C. Hamm	Sept 1, 1982	Montana
Jack B. Van Hooser	Sept 1, 1982	Chicago
John R. Kirkman	Jan 4, 1983	Restored
Kenneth L. Sherfick	Aug 23, 1984	Indianapolis
Thomas L. Toeller-Novak	Nov 19, 1984	Roman Catholic
Richard N. Clark	April 10, 1986	Arkansas
David C. Meyers	May 3, 1986	Ordination
Audra M. Nickerson	May 3, 1986	Ordination
Christine W. Tillman	May 3, 1986	Ordination
Claire K. Wolterstorf	Nov 16, 1986	Ordination
Richard L. Stravers	June 11, 1987	Michigan
Gary J. Dorrien	August, 3, 1987	Albany
Henry Idema, III	Sept 1, 1987	Chicago
J. Robert Hector, Jr.	Sept 1, 1987	Milwaukee
Scott J. Anderson	Oct 1, 1987	West Missouri
William J. Spaid	Oct 19, 1987	Maryland
Robert A. Smith	Oct 1, 1988	Northern Michigan
Kenneth W. Taber	May 1, 1989	Connecticut
Philander L. Carter III	Aug 29, 1989	Central Florida
William M. Murphy	Sept 30, 1989	Northern Indiana
Edward A. Scully	Dec 1, 1989	Brandon
Louise Kountze	Jan 1, 1990	Chicago
G. Corwin Stoppel	Jan 29, 1990	Edmonton
Charles P. McCabe, III	Jan 30, 1990	West Virginia
Barbara Wilson	July 26, 1990	Michigan
Walter R. Draeger, Jr.	Sept 11, 1990	Michigan
Judith A. Neiman	Oct 13, 1990	Ordination
Margaret A. Nattermann	Dec 21, 1990	Ordination
Cynthia L. Black	Jan 23, 1992	Newark
John W. Inman, Jr.	Feb 23, 1992	NW Pennsylvania

Mary B. Smith	April 5, 1992	Ordination
Michael C. Fedewa	Sept 23, 1992	Western New York
Terry L. Haughn	Oct 1, 1992	Michigan
Kathleen R. Eickwort	Feb 19, 1993	Central New York
Theodore F. Sirotko	Sept 1, 1993	Northern Indiana
Leonard J. Brinkmoeller	Jan 12, 1994	Northern Indiana
Kathleen Kingslight	April 12, 1994	Wyoming
Katherine Brower	May 7, 1994	Ordination
Jennifer Lin Adams	June 11, 1994	Ordination
Marilou Schlotterbeck	Aug 6, 1994	Ordination
LaRae J. Rutenbar	Sept 9, 1994	Atlanta
John S. David	Jan 1, 1995	Alaska
Ladd K. Harris	Feb 15, 1995	Central New York
J. Ralph Patston	March 29, 1996	Kentucky
Susan S. York	June 22, 1996	Ordination
Beth A. McLaren	July 1, 1996	Connecticut
Geraldine B. Carlson	July 7, 1996	Ordination
Daniel S. Grubb	Sept 30, 1996	Pittsburgh
Charleen F. Crean	Sept 30, 1996	Hawaii
John E. Crean	Sept 30, 1996	Hawaii
Kimberly Hoop	Nov 16, 1996	Ordination
Carol A. Spangenberg	Jan 23, 1997	Michigan
William H. Smith	April 5, 1997	Kenya
Nancy L. Hotra	June 21, 1997	Ordination
Nancy C. Fulton	Sept 27, 1997	Ordination
Harold L. Comer	March 5, 1998	Northern Indiana
Stephen I. Bartlett	Oct 1, 1999	Michigan
F. James Gunn	Nov 1, 1999	Western Massachusetts
R. Wayne Hutson	Jan 19, 2000	Chicago
Pamela J. Breakey	March 2, 2000	Pittsburgh
Thomas H. Guback	May 27, 2000	Ordination
Mary J. Frens	June 17, 2000	Ordination
H. Knute Jacobson	Sept 7, 2000	West Virginia
Barbara J. Wagner	Dec 13, 2000	Eastern Michigan
Lynne A. Dukes	Feb 9, 2001	Florida
Nancy F. Barton	April 18, 2001	Lexington
Karen L. McDonald	April 4, 2001	Ordination
Mary E. Perrin	April 22, 2001	Ordination
Patricia A. Green	May 29, 2001	Northern Michigan
Gregory B.F. Brown	June 2, 2001	Ordination
Celine A. Burke	Oct 15, 2001	Iowa
Everett H. Klein	Dec 1, 2001	Ordination
Jason A. Fout	Jan 3, 2002	Chicago
Paula F. Durren	May, 26, 2002	Ordination
John R. Meengs	June 15, 2002	Ordination
Cynthia M. Spencer	Sept 30, 2002	Bethlehem
Cindy Nawrocki	Sept 20, 2003	Ordination
Anne Reed	June 1, 2003	Maryland
Valerie Ambrose	Sept 3, 2003	Western Oregon
Duncan Johnston	Aug 31, 2004	Durham
Meredith Hunt	Jan 26, 2005	Michigan

William Whiting	May 17, 2005	Massachusetts
Valori Mulvey Sherer	Oct 4, 2005	Georgia
Brad Aillard	Nov 19, 2005	Ordination
Daniel Scheid	Dec 17, 2005	Ordination
Floyd Kunce	June 10, 2006	Ordination
Lily Marx	June 10, 2006	Ordination
Wayne Nicholson	Sept 26, 2006	New York
David Brower	Sept 31, 2006	Western New York
Richard Swanson	Dec 4, 2006	Newark
Zachariah Char	Dec 9, 2006	Ordination
Abraham Anei	Dec 9, 2006	Ordination
Thomas McPherson	Jan 9, 2007	Georgia
Robert Schiesler	May 15, 2007	Iowa
Stephen Holmgren	Nov 24, 2007	Louisiana
Pam Sten	Jan 3, 2008	Chicago
Rebecca Crise	March 1, 2008	Northern Indiana
James Croom	March 25, 2008	California
Nicholas Novitsky	June 21, 2008	Ordination
Beth Tomczak	June 21, 2008	Ordination
Dave Madsen	Dec 21, 2008	Ordination
Matthew Potts	Dec 21, 2008	Ordination
Laurel Dahill	Jan 6, 2009	Chicago
Brian Coleman	March 4, 2009	Los Angeles
Thomas Scott	May 12, 2009	Chicago

CANDIDATES FOR HOLY ORDERS

Lisa Ward
Cindy Stravers

POSTULANTS FOR HOLY ORDERS FOR THE PRIESTHOOD

David Meyers

CLERGY LICENSED TO OFFICIATE IN THIS DIOCESE

The Rev. Benjamin M. Baldus	NW/Lower Michigan Synod (ELCA)
The Rev. Jude Bell	Pittsburgh
The Rev. Paul Brisbane	Colorado
The Rev. Dr. Robert C. Brook	Michigan
The Rev. Albert Hugh Dickinson	Pennsylvania
The Rev. Rob Dorow	Pittsburgh
The Rev. Paul S. Downie	Michigan
The Rev. Drew Downs	Eastern Michigan
The Rev. Marilyn K. Dressel	Eastern Michigan
The Rev. Patricia Eichenlaub	Michigan
The Rev. Richard Emrich	Chicago
The Rev. Mark Engle	Northern Michigan
The Rev. William Ericson	Michigan
The Rev. Gregory L. Flentje	Springfield
The Rev. William Gordon Forrest	Fond du Lac
The Rev. Barbara Ransom Fry	Fond du Lac
The Very Rev. Charles Glidden	Fond du Lac
The Rev. William Heil	NW/Lower Michigan Synod (ELCA)
The Rev. James B. Hempstead	Indianapolis
The Rev. Michael P. Herman	Eastern Michigan

The Rev. Dr. Kathleen L. Kircher	Southwest Florida
The Rev. David Lillvis	Michigan
The Right Rev. Andrew Marr, O.S.B.	Chicago
The Rev. Karl E. Marsh	Nebraska
The Rev. Robert F. McDougall	Michigan
The Rev. William McGill	Central Pennsylvania
The Rev. J. Nixon McMillan	Michigan
The Rev. David Mellor	NW/Lower Michigan Synod (ELCA)
The Rev. Sam Morrison	Fond du Lac
The Rev. Bill Nicholson	NW/Lower Michigan Synod (ELCA)
The Rev. Corydon Randall	San Diego
The Rev. Dennis Remenschneider	NW/Lower Michigan Synod (ELCA)
The Rev. Daniel Richards	Fond du Lac
The Rev. Deborah Semon-Scott	Michigan
The Rev. Thomas Scott	Chicago
The Rev. Richard E. Shinn	Michigan
The Rev. James Slack	Dallas
The Rt. Rev. William W. Wiedrich	Chicago

PARISHES IN UNION WITH CONVENTION

Albion	St. James
Allegan	Good Shepherd
Battle Creek	Resurrection
Battle Creek	St. Thomas
Belmont	Church of the Holy Spirit
Benton Harbor	St. Augustine
Beulah	St. Philip
Big Rapids	St. Andrew
Boyne City	Nativity
Cadillac	St. Mary
Charlotte	St. John
Charlevoix	Christ
Coldwater	St. Mark
Dowagiac	St. Paul
Elk Rapids	St. Paul
Fremont	St. John
Grand Haven	St. John
Grand Ledge	Trinity
Grand Rapids	Grace
Grand Rapids	St. Andrew
Grand Rapids	St. Mark
Grand Rapids	St. Philip
Greenville	St. Paul
Harbert	Church of The Mediator
Hastings	Emmanuel
Holland	Grace
Ionia	St. John
Kalamazoo	St. Luke
Kalamazoo	St. Martin
Kentwood	Holy Cross
Lansing	St. David

Ludington
Manistee
Marshall
Montague
Mt. Pleasant
Muskegon
Muskegon
Muskegon
Newaygo
Niles
Northport
Orangeville
Paw Paw
Petoskey
Plainwell
Portage
Richland
St. Joseph
Saugatuck
South Haven
Sturgis
Texas Township
Three Rivers
Traverse City
Wyoming

Grace
Holy Trinity
Trinity
St. Peter
St. John
St. Alban
St. Gregory
St. Paul
St. Mark
Trinity
St. Christopher
St. Francis
St. Mark
Emmanuel
St. Stephen
St. Barnabas
St. Timothy
St. Paul
All Saints
Epiphany
St. John
Christ the King
Trinity
Grace
Holy Trinity

MISSION:

Beaver Island

St. James

PARISH MISSION:

Grand Rapids

Sudanese Grace Episcopal Church

SEASONAL CHAPEL:

Harbor Springs
Interlochen
Leland
Onkama

St. John
St. Cecelia
St. Peter
St. Johns-by-the-Lake

RULES OF ORDER (Amended)

135th Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan

I. ORGANIZATION

- A. The President having the Chair, the Convention shall be called to order.
- B. Each session of the Convention shall be opened with suitable devotions.
- C. The [lay delegation or entire delegation lay and clergy] of any parish that has not properly turned in their parochial report for the preceding year, prior to the beginning of a diocesan or special convention, shall not have the right to vote at that convention. Such a parish shall retain its right to seat and voice.
- D. The Secretary of the preceding Convention (or, in his/her absence, the secretary pro tempore to be elected via vote) shall call out the names of the Parishes and Missions in union with the Convention; and the lay delegates from each shall present their certificates of election, which shall be referred to a committee on Credentials, appointed by the President, consisting of one presbyter or deacon and one lay person. However, at the discretion of the Bishop, certificates of election may be required to be sent in prior to the Convention and be referred to the Committee on Credentials immediately preceding the opening session of the Convention, thereby eliminating the reading of the names of the Parishes and Missions.
- E. If provision has not been made for registration of clerical members before the opening session of the Convention, the Secretary shall call out the names of the clergy entitled to seats in the Convention and shall enter into the Journal the names of those who are present.
- F. The Committee on Credentials shall report.
- G. Quorum and right to vote from time to time shall be determined on the basis of clergy who have registered or answered present and lay delegates who have theretofore been seated by the Convention after the above reports.

II. GENERAL

- A. Nominations from the floor must be accompanied by written consent from the nominee and sufficient copies of biographical material about the nominee for distribution to all delegates at the Convention.
- B. When nominations are made for any office, the names shall be recorded in the order in which they were presented.
- C. Elections
 - 1. The Elections Committee Chair shall cause all names proposed for offices which are to be filled by balloting to be printed on a separate ballot for each office. Separate ballots shall be taken for each office and shall be the order of the day from such hour as the Convention shall fix.
 - 2. In all elections, a ballot shall be void unless the number of votes cast on the ballot is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled.
 - 3. In order for any person to be elected to any office, he/she must receive a vote on a majority of ballots cast.
 - 4. If all offices on a ballot have not been filled after two ballots, then the person who received the fewest number of votes on the second ballot will not appear on the third ballot. If balloting continues, the lowest vote getter will be removed from each successive ballot.

5. A person named on a ballot may remove his/her name from the ballot at any time during the balloting process.
- D. In case the Bishop shall withdraw from the sittings of the Convention, he shall appoint a Presbyter to preside during his absence.
- E. At any time before the final adjournment of the Convention, the President may, and if requested by any seven (7) members shall, call for the reading of the minutes of the sessions just completed; and after such reading the minutes shall be corrected, signed by the President and attested by the Secretary.
- F. All substantive resolutions shall be in the hands of the Resolutions Committee by at least forty-five (45) days prior to the Convention. Resolutions arising out of the Bishop's Address, submitted by the Chairperson of the Resolutions Committee, are excluded from this rule. A majority vote shall be required to permit consideration of later resolutions.
- G. No motion shall be considered as before the Convention until it is seconded and stated by the President.
- H. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received, unless it is to lay on the table, to move the previous question, to postpone to a set time, to commit, to amend, to substitute, to postpone indefinitely, or to divide it, and motions of any of these purposes shall have precedence in the order therein named.
- I. A motion to amend by substitution shall be in order.
- J. A motion to amend, to substitute, or amend by substitution must be in written form and presented to the Chair when the motion is made.
- K. A motion to adjourn and a motion to lay on the table shall always be in order and shall be decided without debate. A motion to lay on the table shall require a two-thirds vote of the members present.
- L. A question being decided, it shall not be reconsidered at the same convention without the consent of two-thirds of the members present nor without a motion being made by one of the majority on the prior decision.
- M. Every member present, when a motion is put, shall vote thereon unless excused by the Convention.
- N. **The Convention shall vote by presentation of colored cards, except when requested by any delegate and supported by five others, the ballot shall be written. On the requisition of any two members, the yeas and nays shall be called and entered in the Journal. (Concerning the vote by order, see Articles III, Section 8, of the Constitution of the Diocese.)**
- O. All committees shall be appointed by the President unless otherwise ordered by the Convention, and when he may deem it advisable, he may appoint on a committee, to report to the next Convention, a person qualified to be a delegate who is not a member of the Convention.
- P. When a member desires to speak, he or she shall arise and stand at one of the designated places, using the microphone, address the President in an audible voice. If more than one member arises and stands at one of the designated places, the President shall determine the preference, alternating between those who wish to speak for and those who wish to speak against the issue on the floor, when feasible.
- Q. No member shall speak more than once on the same subject without leave of the Convention, except that the person making a motion may speak twice on that motion.
- R. Debate on any principle motion and on subsidiary motions addressed to it shall be limited to a total of two minutes per person, unless the limit shall be changed by majority vote of the Convention.

- S. No member shall withdraw from the Convention without leave asked and voted.
- T. These rules of order may be suspended on a two-thirds vote of the members present.
- U. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings of the Convention, except as otherwise provided herein above.

NECROLOGY

April 2008 to April 2009

ALBION, ST. JAMES: *Robert Bushong, Dorothy Newman, Keith Waito, Michael Basha, Sidney Pombier*

BATTLE CREEK, ST. THOMAS: *Eileen Cora French, Arlene Frances Ballard, CarolynRae Baker McTague, Cora Catherine Schott, Sebring Bassett Simpson, Arthur Pemberton, Max Victor Phares, Celia E. Kaplan, David Louis Hasenauer, Deborah K. Nickerson Grossman, Jean Elizabeth Temple, Ernest J. L. Webber, Patricia Graves*

BELMONT, CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: *Phyllis Hayworth, Edna Jordan, Lyn R. Campbell, Pat Dekoker*

BEULAH, ST. PHILIP: *Faith Crawford, Phyllis Link, Dottie Fisher, Shirley Bishop*

BIG RAPIDS, ST. ANDREW: *Betty Jean Cole Keller, Lavonne Shepherd, Rosemary Williams, John Stolberg, Danny Dice*

COLDWATER, ST. MARK: *(Mary) Adelaide Olsen, Phillip Ribble, Marjorie Reynolds (Stolte) Biehler, Barbara Hope (Watson) Symons, Lillian Scibior, Gladys C. Stanfill, Lester J. Bunce*

ELK RAPIDS, ST. PAUL: *Bud Hassard, Bill Geddes, Barbara Coburn, Jackie Lawrence*

GRAND HAVEN, ST. JOHN: *Peggy Hutchinson-McKinley, Margaret Babcock, Dorothy Myers, Charlotte Pegg, C. Frederick Kerr, Mira G. Lindeman, Lucia Christman, Joan Karell, The Rev. G. Colyer Brittain*

GRAND RAPIDS, ST. ANDREW: *Marian Ruth Kadwell, Eleanor Ray Herring, Joan Rogers, Flora L. Buckhout, J. Thomas VanSlooten, Maurice Hubert Mills, Jean Dyksterhouse, Ralph Bernatson, Sophie Alford Michalaski, Leonard Franklin Lambert*

GRAND RAPIDS, ST. PHILIP: *Marylena M. Mitchell, Yvonne M. Lee, Samuel S. Triplett*

GREENVILLE, ST. PAUL: *Julia Anne Hosflinger, Faith Merrs Lline Kutckinski*

IONIA, ST. JOHN: *Eve Steere, Patricia Robinson, John Stowell, Joseph Jones*

KALAMAZOO, ST. LUKE: *Lilly Holmes, Joseph Wessels, Beth Woodruff Shipman, Elizabeth Haas, Richard Seydel, William Verdries, Dorothy Sager, Anne Calloway, Carilee Galligan, Maria Anderson, Stina Gustafson, Anne Lucke, Harriet Gilchrist*

LANSING, ST. DAVID: *Pauline Atkinson, Marguerite Rice, Rowena Strong, Kenneth Cole, Terry Mattson, Michael Basha, John Stiles, Rhoda Swift, Fr. Jerry Smith*

LUDINGTON, GRACE: *Martha (Christie) Byrne, Muriel Smith Hawley, Henry C. Doench, Patricia Schul, John T. Healy*

MARSHALL, TRINITY: *Enid Smith, Wanda Nash, Paul A. Rauth, Ann E. Shaw, LeMoyne Pardoe*

MONTAGUE, ST. PETER-BY-THE-LAKE: Valerie A. Roesler, David Alan Current, June Colson Whitney, Byrnece Elaine Garwood

MUSKEGON, ST. GREGORY: Forrest Hall, Martha Choquette, Robert Hughes, Michael Benedict

MUSKEGON, ST. PAUL: Jean Wills, Merle “Bud” Eichmann, Margaret Bly, Jane Hughes, Harvey Waite

NORTHPORT, ST. CHRISTOPHER: Robert Hunt

PETOSKEY, EMMANUEL: Clarence Damsgaard, Shirlee Talberg, Faith Brooks, Donale Hodgkiss, Walter Willey, Helen Reid, Dean John

PORTAGE, ST. BARNABAS: Henrietta Makowski, Betty Darling, Lois Darst, Penny Grant, Edward Borton, Donna Maycock, Sean Lindberg

RICHLAND, ST. TIMOTHY: Charles Parker

SAUGATUCK, ALL SAINTS: Richard Wilson, Al Masters, Major Robert Wieland, Robert Johnson, Lois Frazier, Sue Lack, Harold Hall, Isabelle Nicholson

SOUTH HAVEN, CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY: Ed Darling, Harold Fritz, Shirley Wondergum, Helen Robinson

ST. JOSEPH, ST. PAUL: Virginia Blatchford

THREE RIVERS, TRINITY: Charles Green, Jean Brooks, Raymond Hora, Jane Monroe

TRAVERSE CITY, GRACE: June Marie Bieker, Jessie Horton, Virginia Hedelund, Ernest Snetting, John Hurdowsky, Rosalind Clapp, Margaret Dunn, Nonny Bolmer

WYOMING, HOLY TRINITY: Don Anderson, Julie Jordan

CLERGY REGISTERED AT THE 135th CONVENTION
The Rt. Rev. Robert R. Gepert, Bishop

Adams, The Rev. Jennifer L., Grace, Holland
Allard, The Rev. Bradley, St. Michael’s, Cascade
Ambrose, The Rev. Valerie
Bartlett, The Rev. Stephen I., St. Mark’s, Coldwater
Bennett, The Rev. Dale, (no vote)
Black, The Very Rev. Cynthia L., Parish Church of Christ the King
Brinkmoeller, The Rev. Leonard J.
Brower, The Rev. David A., St. Gregory’s, Muskegon
Brown, The Rev. Gregory B. F., Emmanuel, Petoskey
Clark, The Rev. Richard
Coleman, The Rev. Brian, St. Thomas, Battle Creek
Comer, The Rev. Harold L., St. Philip’s, Beulah
Crean, The Rev. John E.
Crise, The Rev. Rebecca, St. Mark’s, Paw Paw
Croom, The Rev. Jim, Holy Trinity, Wyoming
Danill, The Rev. Laurel, St. Andrew’s, Big Rapids
David, The Rev. John, Christ Church, Charlevoix
Downs, The Rev. Drew (no vote)
Durren, The Rev. Paula, Church of the Mediator, Harbert
Ericson, The Rev. William (no vote)
English, The Rev. John L.

Fedewa, The Rev. Michael C., St. Andrew s, Grand Rapids
Fleener, The Rev. William J.
Frens, The Rev. Mary J., St. Mark s, Newaygo
Fulton, The Rev. Nancy C.
Hamm, The Rev. William
Hamp, The Rev. Gary, (no vote)
Haughn, The Rev. Terry L., St. Stephen s, Plainwell
Holmgren, The Rev. Stephen, Grace, Grand Rapids
Hunt, The Rev. Meredith, St. John's, Sturgis
Jacobson, The Rev. H. Knute, St. Timothy s, Richland
Johnston, The Rev. Duncan, St. John s, Fremont
Kingslight, The Rev. Kathleen A., St. Barnabas , Portage
Kirkman, The Rev. John R., St. Paul s, Greenville
Klein, The Rev. Everett H., St. Peters-By-The-Lake, Montague
Kunce, The Rev. Floyd, Trinity, Niles
Lillvis, The Rev. David M. (no vote)
Marx, The Rev. Lily, St. Paul's, Muskegon
McDonald, The Rev. Karen, St. Barnabas, Portage
McLaren, The Rev. Beth, St. Luke's, Kalamazoo
McMillan, The Rev. Nixon J. (no vote)
McPherson, Thomas, St. John's, Fremont
Meengs, The Rev. John R., All Saints , Saugatuck
Meyers, The Rev. David C., St. Mark's, Grand Rapids
Morrison, The Rev. Sam (no vote)
Natterman, The Rev. Margaret A, Church of the Nativity, Boyne.
Nawrocki, The Rev. Cindy, St. Mark's, Grand Rapids
Neiman, The Rev. Joseph C.
Neiman, The Rev. Judith A.
Nicholson, The Rev. Wayne, St. John's, Mt. Pleasant
Novitsky, The Rev. Nicholson, St. Mark's, Newaygo
Perrin, The Rev. Mary E., St. Martin of Tours, Kalamazoo
Pike, The Rev. David R., St. David s, Lansing
Reed, The Ven. Anne
Richards, The Rev. Daniel, (no vote)
Rutenbar, The Rev. LaRae
Scheid, The Rev. Daniel, St. Augustine's, Benton Harbor
Schiesler, The Rev. Robert, St. Mark's, Grand Rapids
Schlotterbeck, The Rev. Marilou J., St. Philip s, Beulah
Sherer, The Rev. Valori Mulvey, St. Mary's, Cadillac
Slack, The Rev. Jim, (no vote)
Smith, The Rev. Robert
Spaid, The Rev. Canon William J., Diocesan Center
Spangenberg, The Rev. Carol A., St. John s, Charlotte
Sten, The Rev. Pamela V., St. Paul's, St. Joseph
Stoppel, The Rev. Dr. G. Corwin, All Saints , Sautauk
Swanson, The Rev. Richard R., St. Paul's, Dowagiac
Taber, The Rev. Kenneth W.
Tillman, The Rev. Christine, Holy Trinity, Wyoming
Toeller-Novak, The Rev. Thomas
Tomczak, The Rev. Beth
Whiting, The Rev. William R., Good Shepherd, Allegan
Wilson, The Rev. Barbara A., St. Francis, Orangeville
York, The Rev. Susan S., Church of the Holy Spirit, Belmont

LAY DELEGATES REGISTERED AT THE 135th CONVENTION

Albion, St. James': Tamara Crupi, Richard Porter
Allegan, Church of the Good Shepherd: Norm Richards, Lynne Winters
Battle Creek, Resurrection: Mary Cherney, Thomas Cowan
Battle Creek, St. Thomas': Robert Dixon, Susan Holcomb, Sue Shafe
Belmont, Church of the Holy Spirit,: Donna Scott, Amy Zimmerman
Benton Harbor, St. Augustine's: Patricia Leonard, Michael McGuire
Beulah, St. Philip's: Joann Kittendorf, Keri McCumber
Big Rapids, St. Andrew's: Netty cove, Elizabeth Stolarek
Boyne, Nativity: Virginia McCord
Cadillac, St. Mary's: Nancy Foster, Dawn Paulin
Cascade, St. Michael's: Lisbeth Eichner, Ross Mast
Charlevoix, Christ Church: Ed Bahr, Don Collier
Charlotte, St. John's: Sharon Degner,, Eric Pintar
Coldwater, St. Mark's: Janet Burr, Christine Hatch, Elizabeth Marshall
Dowagiac, St. Paul's: Mary Jo Appelt, Jennifer Frechette
Elk Rapids, St. Paul's: Dale Mankin, Marie Mankin
Fremont, St. John's: Scott Adrain, Cindy Johnston
Grand Haven, St. John's: Barbara Grimm, Tom Hammontre, Joan Hilarides
Grand Ledge, Trinity: William Fleener, Jr., Ellyn weihl
Grand Rapids, Grace: Dale Grogan, Sue Kirkwood/Lynne Perrin, Sue Lennon, Alice Porter
Grand Rapids, St. Andrew's: Barb Allen, Jodi Baron, Donald Davies, Donna Johnston
Grand Rapids, St. Mark's: Jeff Brown, Lisann Gurney, Larry Manglitz, Margaret Stretton
Grand Rapids, St. Philip's: Pamela Chapman, Ellen Davis
Greenville, St. Paul's: Sandra French, Robert Walenga
Harbert, Mediator: Mike Durren, Larry Oszust
Hastings, Emmanuel: Sue Radant, Kathy Woloszyk
Holland, Grace: Cal Boer, Christi Brower, David Hawley-Lowry, Carol Rickey
Ionia, St. John's: Justin Gregory, Wesley Hackett
Kalamazoo, St. Luke's: James Forrest, Eric Kent, Walter Ogston, Karl Sandelin
Kalamazoo, St. Martin: Erik Dantes, Shari Smith
Kentwood, Holy Cross: Genia Brown, Ross Mast
Lansing, St. David's: Carol Abbott, Patricia Purol, Barbara Van Dyke
Ludington, Grace: Katharine McPike, Jere Healy
Manistee, Holy Trinity: Susan Lund Coyle, Patricia Williams
Marshall, Trinity: Deberah Egnatuk, Ivan Egnatuk
Montague, St. Peter's: Debbie Hoeker, Rona Howell
Mt. Pleasant, St. John's: Henry Fulton, Joann Redman
Muskegon, St. Alban's: Dana Henry
Muskegon, St. Gregory's: Patricia Ganson, Linda Westerhouse/Clark Ganson
Muskegon, St. Paul's: Sally Carmean, Judy Fleener, Kent VandeVrede
Newaygo, St. Mark's: William Melcher
Niles, Trinity: Karen Slack, Beth Winquist
Northport, St. Christopher's: Jill Foerster, Robert Walker
Orangeville, St. Francis': Patricia Johns
Paw Paw, St. Mark's: Sharon House, Gerry Stackhouse
Pentwater, St. James': Robert Brockwell
Petoskey, Emmanuel: Bess Bleyaert, Mary Hord, Andrew Spence
Plainwell, St. Stephen's: Robert Milne
Portage, St. Barnabas': Albert Dixon, Janet Tucker, John Tucker
Richland, St. Timothy's: William Morris, Dorothy Morris
Saugatuck, All Saints': Sue Thomas, David Vander Laan

South Haven, Epiphany: Bob DeHaven, Joan DeHaven
St. Joseph, St. Paul's: William Davidson, David Jennings, Catherine Thomas
Sturgis, St. John's: Judy Burnham, Mary Kay Kunce
Texas Corners, Christ the King: James Roach, Pete Spry
Three Rivers, Trinity: Charles Thomas, Lois Weed
Traverse City, Grace: Greg Hagan, Rosemary Hagan, Maxcie Latimer, Nancy Templeton
Wyoming, Holy Trinity: Jennifer Luurtrsema, Lisa Nelson

YOUTH DELEGATES REGISTERED AT THE 135th CONVENTION

Olivia Adams
Selena Noel Brown
Jordan Degen
Lucky Middaugh
Maya Prectel
Matt Totzke
Linda Zimmerman

**MINUTES OF
135th ANNUAL CONVENTION
THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN**

Friday, April 24, 2009

MORNING PRAYER AND INTRODUCTION OF OUR CHAPLAIN Jean Denton, St. Paul's Church, Indianapolis, IN.

CONVENTION WAS CONVENED by Bishop Gepert on April 24, 2009, at 10:20 a.m.

The Bishop called upon William Fleener, Jr., Credentials Chairperson, who declared that a quorum was present in both the lay and the clerical order.

WELCOME AND GREETING – Nancy Foster from St. Mary's, Cadillac on behalf of the Executive Council.

RECITATION OF THE DIOCESAN VISION STATEMENT

INTRODUCTION OF BIBLE STUDY, Canon to the Ordinary William Spaid

BISHOP'S ADDRESS presented by the Rt. Rev. Robert R. Gepert

INTRODUCTION of Diocesan Staff, Canon to the Ordinary – William Spaid; Bishop's Assistant for Transitions and Congregational Development, Anne Reed – Bishop's Assistant for Children, Youth and Young Adults – Gennie Callard; Bishop's Assistant for Business and Finance – Tammy Mazure; Bishop's Administrative Assistant – Nancy Calme; Diocesan Secretary – Mary McGuire; Deacon for Children and Youth Ministries – Christine Tillman; Deacon for Millenium Development Goals – Beth Tomczak.

AMENDED RULES OF ORDER moved and supported. Amended Rules **adopted.** Bill Fleener Jr., Chancellor reminded everyone that Nominations from the floor must be accompanied by written consent from the nominee and sufficient copies of biographical material about the nominee for distribution to all delegates at the Convention.

SEATING EX-OFFICIO WITH SEAT AND VOICE, EXCEPT THOSE ENTITLED TO VOTE BY OTHER OFFICE was **moved, supported and carried** for the Chancellor Bill Fleener, Jr.; lay members of the Standing Committee, Executive Council Laity; Licensed Interim Priests and Full-Time Licensed Assistants with their respective parishes; representatives from Seasonal Chapels.

APPROVAL OF CONVENTION OFFICERS FOR 2009-2010 was **moved, supported and carried** for Secretary Mary McGuire, Registrar Jane Puvogel and Chancellor Bill Fleener Jr.

NOMINATIONS FOR STANDING COMMITTEE (I.3.10) two clerical, one lay for three-year term were **moved** by Nominations/Elections Chairperson Steve Wade, **supported.** Nominations for clerical order was Charleen Crean, (Grand Valley Deanery); Rebecca Crise, (St. Mark's, Paw Paw); Stephen Holmgren, (Grace, Grand Rapid's); Robert Schiesler, (St. Mark's, Grand Rapid's) being no nominations from the floor, nominations were **closed.** Nominations for the lay order for a three-year term was **moved and supported.** Judy Fleener, (St. Paul's, Muskegon); Brian Tillman, (Holy Trinity, Wyoming). Being no nominations from the floor nominations were **closed.**

NOMINATIONS FOR ECCLESIASTICAL TRIAL COURT (IV.2.6) one clerical for three-year term, one clerical for two-year term, one lay for three-year term were moved by Nominations/Elections Chairperson Steve Wade, **supported**. Nomination for clerical order was Dale Bennett, (Eastern Deanery) for three year-term; Paula Durren, (Church of the Mediator, Harbert) for two-year term being no nominations from the floor, nominations were **closed, moved** and **supported, elected by acclamation**. Nomination for lay order was Dave Penniman, (Emmanuel, Petoskey) being no nominations from the floor, nominations were **closed, elected by acclamation**.

ELECTIONS TO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL were moved by Nominations/Elections Chairperson Steve Wade, **supported** and **approved**. Traverse Deanery, Greg Brown, (Emmanuel, Petoskey); Lakeshore Deanery Everett Klein, (St. Peter's- By-The-Lake, Montague); St. Joseph Deanery Richard (Rick) Swanson, (St. Paul's, Dowagiac); Eastern Deanery, Sharon Degner, (St. John's, Charlotte); Steve Bartlett (St. Mark's, Coldwater); Grand Valley Deanery Laurel Dahill, (St. Andrew's, Big Rapids).

AFFIRM APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSION ON MINISTRY Jennifer Adams, (Grace, Holland); John Bosserman, (St. Mark's, Grand Rapids); Jim Croom, (Holy Trinity, Wyoming – Chair).

CONFIRMATION CUSTOMARY REPORT TO CONVENTION – Rt. Rev. Robert R. Gepert

BALLOT #1 STANDING COMMITTEE CLERICAL (See Appendix)

BALLOT #1 STANDING COMMITTEE LAY (See Appendix)

RESOLUTIONS presented by Skip Comer (Resolution Committee Chairperson)

R-3 *Resolution for General Convention, endorsing a Saints' Feast Day*, presented by William Spaid. **Moved** and **supported**. Resolution **passed**. (See Appendix)

R-1 *Diocesan Mission Project* Presented by Skip Comer. **Moved** and **supported**. Resolution **passed** . (See Appendix)

R-2 *Returning Confirmations to the parishes* presented by Skip Comer. **Moved** and **supported**.

Referral to Skip to send back to task force. **Moved** to refer **supported**. Referral **defeated**.

Vote on original Resolution **defeated**. (See Appendix)

R-4 *Minimum clergy Compensation Standard*, presented by Skip Comer. **Moved** and **supported**. Resolution **passed**. (See Appendix)

R-5 *Church Wide Task Force on Older Adult Ministries* presented by Skip Comer. **Moved** and **supported**. Resolution **passed**. (See Appendix)

R-6 *Establish a Task Force to develop a relationship with the Dominican Republic in cooperation with the other dioceses of Michigan* presented by Skip Comer. **Moved and supported.** Resolution **passed.** (See Appendix)

Bill Fleener, Sr. amended the first resolve to read ...Convention Address directs the Diocese. **Moved and supported. Passed** (See Appendix)

Rick Swanson amended the first resolve to read ...in cooperation with the other lower dioceses. **Moved and supported. Passed** (See Appendix)

Rick Swanson made a second amended to the first resolve to read ...the Episcopal Diocese of the Dominican Republic. **Moved and supported. Passed** (See Appendix)

Vote on the Resolution as amended **Passed** (See Appendix)

BALLOT #2 STANDING COMMITTEE CLERICAL (See Appendix)

INTRODUCTION OF JUBILEE OFFICER Cindy Nawrocki made a presentation to St. Luke's (excepted by Eric Kent) for their Thrift Shop as a new Jubilee Ministry.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW CLERGY SINCE LAST CONVENTION

Laurel Dahill – Rector (St. Andrew's, Big Rapids); Nick Novitsky, Deacon, (St. Mark's, Newaygo); Matthew Potts, Harvard; Dave Madsen, VA Hospital, Brooklyn, NY; Tom Scott, Rector, (St. Paul's, Muskegon); Beth Tomczak, Deacon, Millenium Development Goals; Daniel Richards, Priest-in-Charge, (Grace, Traverse City); Brian Coleman, Rector (St. Thomas', Battle Creek); Tom Otis, Rector, (St. Christopher's, Northport).

INTRODUCTION OF INTERIM CLERGY WHO ARE PRESENT AND NOT CANONICALLY RESIDENT

Gary Hamp, (St. Luke's, Kalamazoo)

CLERGY FAREWELL AND HAPPY RETIREMENT

Len Brinkmoeller (Trinity, Marshall); David Brower, Interim Pastor, (St. Gregory's, Muskegon); John Meengs, Deacon, (All Saints, Saugatuck); Ed Scully, (St. James', Albion).

RECOGNITION OF POSTULANTS TO HOLY ORDERS

David Meyers, Postulant for the priesthood

RECOGNIZE PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE GENERAL CONVENTION OFFICIAL YOUTH PRESENCE

Lucky Middaugh, (St. John's, Sturgis)

RECOGNIZE THE YOUNGEST DEPUTY TO GENERAL CONVENTION

Olivia Adams, (St. Andrew's, Big Rapids)

PRESENTATION ON MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS by Beth Tomczak

BALLOT #3 STANDING COMMITTEE CLERICAL ORDER (See Appendix)

REPORT AND REQUEST FROM THE CASCADE PROPERTY COMMITTEE presented by Cindy Nawrocki requesting Convention to think of ideas on what to do with the property and give feedback to the committee.

REPORT OF THE CANONS COMMITTEE presented by Canon Bill Spaid

CONVENTION WAS RECONVENED by Bishop Gepert at 8:45 a.m., April, 25, 2009. Chancellor, William Fleener Jr., reported that a quorum was present in both orders.

DISPATCH OF BUSINESS Pam Chapman reported no carryovers from Friday and the agenda for the day.

CONVENTION EUCHARIST at St. Luke's, Kalamazoo

BUDGET presented by Anna Cushman from Executive Council and representative of the Finance Committee. **Moved** and **supported**. Tammy Mazure Assistant to the Bishop for Business and Finance addressed the Budget. Budget **passed**.

COURTESY RESOLUTIONS presented by the Rev. Skip Comer, chairperson. **Moved, supported, and carried.** (see appendix).

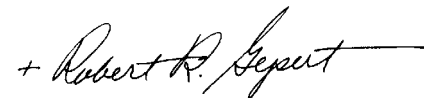
INVITATION FOR THE 2010 DOCESAN CONVENTION was introduced by Nancy Foster, Convention Planning Committee Chairperson for the 2010 and 136th Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan to be held in Traverse City, April 23-24.

BISHOP GEPERT DECLARED THE CONVENTION ADJOURNED at 1:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary McGuire
Convention Secretary



The Rt. Rev. Robert R. Gepert
VIII, Western Michigan

**APPENDICES
TO THE MINUTES
135th CONVENTION**

BALLOT RESULTS FOR STANDING COMMITTEE

Ballot #1 – Standing Committee Clergy

(189 votes cast, 2 invalid, 94 votes necessary)

Charleen Crean 128, Rebecca Crise 69, Stephen Holmgren 88, Robert Schiesler 89, **Charleen Crean** elected in the clerical order

Ballot #1 – Standing Committee Lay

(188 votes cast, 0 invalid, 94 votes necessary)

Judy Fleener 109, Brian Tillman 79, **Judy Fleener** elected in the lay order

Ballot #2 – Standing Committee Clergy

(177 votes cast, 3 invalid, 88 votes necessary)

Rebecca Crise 40, Stephen Holmgren 67, Robert Schiesler 67, no election

Ballot #3 – Standing Committee Clergy

(181 votes cast, 2 invalid, 89 votes necessary)

Stephen Holmgren 101, Robert Schiesler 78, **Stephen Holmgren** elected in the clerical order

COURTESY RESOLUTIONS

RESOLVED that this 135th Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan offer its appreciation to the clergy and people of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Kalamazoo for providing our worship space and childcare; the Diocese of Western Michigan Cursillo Community for providing our Chapel; and Mr. Peter K., our convention speaker.

RESOLVED that this 135th Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan send greetings to the Rt. Rev. Edward L. Lee, seventh Bishop of the Diocese of Western Michigan, and his wife Kathryn.

RESOLVED that this 135th Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan send greetings to Mrs. Marjorie Bennison, wife of the late Rt. Rev. Charles L. Bennison, fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Western Michigan.

RESOLVED that this 135th Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan send greetings to The Rt. Rev. Tod Ousley, Bishop of the Diocese of Eastern Michigan, The Rt. Rev. Wendall Gibbs, Bishop of the Diocese of Michigan, and The Rev. Kevin Forrester, Bishop-elect of the Diocese of Northern Michigan

**RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT
THE 135th ANNUAL CONVENTION
THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN
APRIL 24-25**

1. Diocesan Mission Project

Resolved that this 135th Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan shall hold a Mission Conference annually *in order to determine diocesan mission destinations, choose Project Leaders, identify a Diocesan Coordinator for each Project and to do Project planning.*

As a Christian people, it is important to ask, “What in the life and teaching of Jesus supports this resolution?”

Explanation: The *Mission* Conference shall be divided into two sessions.

SESSION ONE

Participants will determine mission destinations the Diocese of West Michigan will annually sponsor. Once mission destinations are chosen, Mission Project Leaders will be determined. Mission Project Leaders will be chosen according to the boundaries of the five Deaneries of the Diocese. More than one Mission Project Leader may be chosen from each Deanery.

SESSION TWO

Deanery Mission Project Leaders shall first choose a Diocesan Coordinator for the Mission Project. The Diocesan Coordinator and Deanery Leaders will then plan the annual Mission Project. All Conference participants may attend Session Two in order to provide input to the Coordinator and Deanery Leaders as they prepare for the successful completion of the missions.

3. Resolution for General Convention, endorsing a Saints’ Feast Day

Resolved, that this 135th convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan submit to the General Convention this resolution to add to the calendar on a trial use basis a feast day for Saints Andronicus and Junia, Apostles, mentioned in Romans 16:7 and venerated or 1400 years in Eastern Orthodoxy and for over three decades in Anglican Churches in the U.S.A. and Canada on May 17th.

As a Christian people, it is important to ask, “What in the life and teaching of Jesus supports this resolution?”

Rationale: The Bible verse mentioning these saints, written by St. Paul, says, “Greet Andronicus and Junia, my relatives and prison companions; they are notable Apostles, and they were in Christ before me.” It is appropriate to include in our calendar and to celebrate these two Apostles, a woman and a man, who worked together in mission and evangelism despite being jailed. These Apostles are suitable models in the Communion of Saints for all the baptized. We believe this feast can serve as a reminder that both men and women were part of Jesus’ inner circle. Paul, called them outstanding Apostles. Ancient church sources such as Jerome, Chrysostem and others, consider “Junias” a woman. John Chrysostem writes in a homily on Romans, “. . . Oh! How great is the devotion of this woman that she

should be even counted worthy of the appellation of apostle! . . .” We feel it would be fitting if the wider church would honor them in like fashion.

Since 1984 some parishes in the Episcopal Church have celebrated this feast day, long hidden from our knowledge by the mistranslation of Junia’s name in Romans 16:7. (The evidence for the correct translation has now been well documented by Dr. Eldon J. Epp and CEB Cranfield, Professor of Theology at the University of Durham, 1984.) God the Holy Spirit gave both these saints gifts, and the Spirit is giving men and women in our diocese gifts, and we can see how our call to use *our* gifts for the mission of the Church is an echo of their discipleship. They also represent for us our acceptance of the Spirit calling both men and women to all orders of ministry in our Church. Adding this feast to our calendar would balance it so that it would reflect the truth that the Risen Christ entrusted the Gospel ministry to both men and women. The Diocese of Massachusetts began formal trial use observance of this feast in 2007, and by 2008 parishes in at least seven dioceses observed this feast, from Rome to Iowa to Texas to Hawaii. In 2009 even more parishes and dioceses will be observing this feast.

4. Minimum Clergy Compensation Standard

Resolved, that in accordance with Diocesan Canon 11.10.2., the 2010 Minimum Clergy Compensation Standard will be based on the cost of living percentage as provided by the Federal Government at the end of 2009.

be it further resolved that the exact figures of minimum compensation for clergy will be communicated to parishes no later than November 1, 2009.

5. Church Wide Task Force on Older Adult Ministries

Resolved, that this 135th Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan urge the 76th General Convention to continue a Task Force on Older Adult Ministries to determine programs currently being offered by congregations, dioceses and provinces, to establish a method of sharing this information; and to explore ways that the church can expand ministries by, with and for older adults and to explore how we might connect with one another in intergenerational opportunities. The task force will be comprised of individuals with a background in this ministry area and will represent a cross section of our church. The task force will work collaboratively with the Evangelism and Congregational Life Center and report annually to the Executive Council and provide a complete written report to the 77th General Convention.

And Be It Further Resolved, that the General Convention request the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation of \$75,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

Rationale: As a Christian people, it is important to ask, “What in the life and teaching of Jesus supports this resolution?”

Many retired people model an active lifestyle by becoming mentors and educators of other parishioners and by providing leadership in service to the elderly. Over one in three Episcopalians is age 65+ and they range from very active to the homebound members. Another 41% are age 45-64, which means 3 of every 4 members are age 45 or older.

Currently one in every eight Americans is age 65 or older, and over one in four live alone. Every hour, 330 Americans reach the age of 60. These same baby boomers will start turning 65 during this triennium. Within 10 years, the age 85+ population will increase by 40%. This unprecedented rapid growth of the older adult population nationwide and worldwide and the resultant challenges to the social and economic system demands response from the church.

To raise awareness of these opportunities and challenges, the work of this proposed task force is in concert with the priorities for the mission of the church as established by the Executive Council in the following ways:

Doing Justice and Alleviating Poverty by encouraging outreach to homebound, institutionalized and all those marginalized through poverty and illness. This brings Christ's message of love and hope through a ministry by, with and for older adults, their families, and caregivers.

Claiming Our Identity by calling attention to the contributions of older adults to the church, while promoting their roles in developing spiritual and service ministries by, with and for all generations.

Growing Congregations by developing ways to recognize and honor the wisdom and gifts of older adults in the life of the church and community.

Strengthening Governance and Foundations for Mission and Promoting Anglican Partnership by recognizing that this work cannot be done without the awareness and collaboration of a myriad of church, faith-based and community resources. This would encourage a new kind of networking matrix for the church nationwide and worldwide.

6. Establish a Task Force to develop a relationship with the Dominican Republic in cooperation with the other dioceses of Michigan

Resolved that this 135th Convention of the Diocese of Western Michigan in response to Bishop Robert Geper's Convention Address directs the diocese to establish a Task Force to develop a companion relationship with the Episcopal Diocese of the Dominican Republic in cooperation with the other dioceses of Lower Michigan.

Rationale: As a Christian people, it is important to ask, "What in the life and teaching of Jesus supports this resolution?"

- Jesus called his disciples – and therefore us – into community. This expands community.
- We exist as the Body of Christ – greater version of the Body.
- Jesus' special concern for the poor. Gifts the people of the Dominican Republic have to offer us are a joyful, vibrant, future oriented community of faith.
- Part of the Episcopal Church.
- Cooperation with brother and sister Episcopalians of Michigan
- Jesus provided opportunities for spiritual transformation. Friendship with an emerging country is a transformative opportunity for us.

Bishop's Address

I want to begin by getting the obvious out of the way by simply naming that the budget you will receive at this convention is inadequate to fund our mission and hopes. This is nothing new for us as the people of God in Western Michigan, and while I must name *what is*, I also want to name what *can be*. Most of you heard *what is* from me at the pre-convention meetings throughout the diocese. So at this time I only want to flesh out a few things.

Over the years that I have been here diocesan staffing has taken a hit. We have eliminated a communications and technology position, we have reduced the diocesan secretary position to half time, in 2006 we reduced the business manager to half time (fortunately this position was reinstated as full time following that), we reduced the Canon to the Ordinary's salary in an administrative restructuring, and staff was not given a cost of living adjustment in 2005 and 2006, for half of the year in 2007, and for this year the COLA will begin for staff in August. The total amount saved because of the staffing cuts is \$131,407.89.

When I spoke to you at the pre-convention meetings, I told you that when the staff does not receive a cost of living adjustment, they are donating that amount of money to balance your budget, and I watched many of you nod in agreement. At this time I want the following staff people to stand:

Bill Spaid
Anne Reed
Gennie Callard
Tammy Mazure
Mary McGuire

The total amount the staff has contributed to your budget so far is approximately \$50,000. Please join me in thanking them.

Again, this year, the Finance Committee of the Diocese, recommended to the Executive Council cuts in program and support. At the pre-convention meetings many of you asked that the budget begin to reflect what could not be funded, and some of you made suggestion about ways to format the budget to give us a clearer picture of finances. However, time did not permit us to make those additions and changes to the budget, but let me give you some examples of what we can look forward to as we live more fully into the apportionment canon: We will begin to be able to respond to requests for assistance and to develop relationships throughout the world. – Bishop relationships were built at the Lambeth Conference last summer. Those relationships have resulted in invitations to ministry – cries for help.

- Bishop Martin Breytenbach, Diocese of St. Mark the Evangelist in the Province of Southern Africa – Church is growing, need is great, unemployment at 60%. Please come and see so you will know how your brother and sister Anglicans are suffering, and yet are able to grow the Body of Christ.

- Bishop Mark van Koevering (Grand Rapids native), Diocese of Niassa, Mozambique, Province of Southern Africa, new congregations being formed – people knocking on the bishop’s door asking him to establish congregations in their towns and farming communities, a great deal of the population with HIV/AIDS, poverty, not nearly enough clergy. Join us in ministry to the people of Mozambique.
- Bishop Bijaykumar Nayak, Diocese of Phubani, CNI (India) – churches being burned, Christians being killed, 13 from his diocese. We need your prayers and support. Come see what is happening and tell the world.
- Bishop Julio Holguine, Diocese of the Dominican Republic, Province of the Episcopal Church. (More about that later in this address.)
As we live into full participation by giving, we will be able to more fully subsidize,
- Our Vocational Discernment Program.
- Deacon aspirants in our diocesan Oakerhater School for Ministry.
- Seminary and other costs for those studying for the priesthood.
- More fully support struggling parishes in their journey toward greater health.
- Provide incentives for parishes to experiment with creative and innovative ministry.
- Establish a more formalized way of training lay leadership for service in mission and the Church.
- Domestic and foreign mission trips.
- Save an appropriate amount of money for your next bishop search.
- Give our full 21% to The Episcopal Church, for the support of programming, providing resources, having a voice in the worldwide Anglican Communion and providing for mission and missionaries to proclaim the Gospel as we have received it.
- Live into the dreams we can dream for the sake of God’s mission in Western Michigan and the world.

In order for us to accomplish all that we can for the sake of the Gospel, we must be able to develop “community eyes.” That is, eyes which see the bigger picture. Eyes which look beyond our individual parishes and focus more clearly on how we are the Body of Christ in the largest sense of that concept.

This year our theme for Convention is “Living into Wholeness: Healthy Bodies.” Of course we all know what that means for us as individuals. Our body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, and therefore God calls us to provide a healthy place for the Holy Spirit to dwell. I will not presume to speak for you, but as I step out of the shower every morning I catch a glimpse of this person whose face I recognize, but whose body, I’m sure belongs to someone else. – I know it’s my own fault - the result of choosing to eat what I *want* and do what I *want*, rather than what I *need* to be the healthiest temple of the Holy Spirit I can be.

I need you to be able to see with “community eyes” how we are the Body of Christ and *collectively* the temple of the Holy Spirit. I need you to look beyond the individual parish body to the larger Body of the Diocese – the Church in the world. When you break a bone, or cut a finger, or are stung by a bee, your whole body recognizes the pain. When you are elated because you accomplished something, or

engaged in something pleasurable (like convention), your whole body recognizes the joy – the pleasure. We are told by St. Paul that it is the same with the Body of Christ.

But the whole of the Body of Christ cannot be healthy if the individuals or individual parishes choose what they *want* over what is *needed* by the larger Body. When that happens it is like catching a glimpse of ourselves in the mirror and recognizing the face of the Church on a body other than the Body of Christ. In order for us to be the healthiest Body of Christ – Temple of the Holy Spirit, we must begin to develop “community eyes.” - Eyes which see us as related – eyes which can focus beyond your place of worship to see the need in other parts of our diocesan Body of Christ and the Body of Christ in the world, and also to see the joy and accomplishment in other parts of the diocesan Body of Christ and the Body of Christ in the world.

I have been working at changing the culture of this diocese from a culture of parochialism to a culture which sees with “community eyes” who we can be if we move from wants to needs – if we understand we can accomplish so much more together by combining our people, talents and financial resources than we can by choosing to work separately and even in opposition to. To call you to unity for the sake of mission and ministry is my job as your bishop.

As a diocese we are moving in that direction. – I rejoice in that because our belief that we are the Body of Christ demands it of us. Rejoice with me in looking at the decisions made, which prove we are developing “community eyes:”

We agreed that we would participate in cutting world poverty in half by the year 2015 by passing a resolution that each individual Episcopalian, each parish in Western Michigan, and our diocesan budget would give 0.7% to the Millennium Development Goals. – “Community eyes” seeing our sisters and brothers throughout the world and desiring to work at eliminating poverty and all that goes with it. (This diocese gave \$86,400 to Episcopal Relief and Development in 2007, and \$101,400 for the 1st nine months of 2008. Out of the 15 dioceses of the Province of the Midwest, we are the 2nd largest provider of funds to E.R.D, with only the Diocese of Chicago giving more.)

- We have begun to organize mission trips to Mississippi and New Orleans as a diocesan community. – “Community eyes” seeing the need and the Body responding to the needs of fellow citizens in the U.S., bringing us together with each other and Episcopalians from around the nation.
- The Bishop’s Mission trip bringing youth together from around the diocese to join forces for mission work. – “Community eyes” – young people expanding their view of the Body and serving that Body at the same time.
- The community’s decision to pass an apportionment canon to ensure resources for all of the Body as a diocese. – “Community eyes” seeing that appropriate giving to the diocese is a way of providing for those among us who cannot afford staff, need intervention, want help in various aspects of growth, mission, and ministry and provides funding for the larger Body of the Episcopal Church, the Anglican Communion, and mission to those who have not heard the Good News.

- The community's decision to pass a canon to restore congregations to health. – "Community eyes," able to provide a mechanism through which I and the Standing Committee can intervene in the life of a congregation and restore it to health, so as not to lose its presence in the community in which it was founded.
- Cooperation in reviewing, as a larger Body, Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation and ways that we can come together as the larger Body to provide opportunities for the People of God in this diocese to experience God's transforming love and be commissioned for missionary work in the world. "Community eyes" – seeing that our people need to see and experience the larger Body beyond their parish.
- Through deployment, new clergy bring new eyes to assist us in seeing the church differently and bringing us a new perspective.

We are on the move, but we have more moving to do in order to live into being a diocesan community. We will have opportunities to practice using "community eyes" at this convention as I call for a resolution to begin developing a partnership with the other Episcopal Dioceses of Michigan and the Diocese of the Dominican Republic. I will get to that.

In his book *New Monasticism*, Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove says, "Almost everywhere I go these days people agree that something is wrong in American Christianity. Whether I'm talking to Pentecostals or Presbyterians, Democrats or Republicans, academics in a coffee shop or neighbors on their front porch, there seems to be a consensus on this: the church in America isn't living up to what it's supposed to be. Somehow we've lost our way." (p. 1) Wilson-Hartgrove's statement that somehow we've lost our way" rings even more true following my mission discovery trip to the Dominican Republic with the other bishops of the lower peninsula of Michigan. Pictures from that trip have been appearing on the screen.

Deacon Beth Tomczak accompanied me. We were there for a life-changing six days. I came home from that trip saying to myself, "I want what they have." And, while I believe that "the Church in America has somehow lost its way," I even more firmly believe, after my experience of the Diocese of the Dominican Republic, that we can find it again by reclaiming the radical message of the Gospel of Jesus. I am witness to the Church alive and well and living fully into a radical Christian life – a life in the world, but not of the world.

I believe that the truth of Wilson-Hartgrove's statement does not have to be true for us as the Diocese of Western Michigan. I believe we can be pioneers in finding our way again in reclaiming and living the radical countercultural message of the Gospel. I know this because we are in the Easter Season, alleluia!, and, "Even if the church is the dead and broken body of Christ, God can resurrect it." Sometimes "It's hard for the church to remember God's resurrection power." (p. 20)

And yet, in the midst of the truth that somehow "we have lost our way," God presents us with opportunities, with adventures for the sake of God's Mission to reconcile all people to each other and to God. I believe God is presenting us with such an opportunity – such an adventure. I believe God is calling us to community beyond

individual parishes, and beyond our diocese. I believe God has been preparing us for resurrection in this moment in our history as a people who are the Body of Christ.

I am going to ask you to participate in this call and moment in history – in this opportunity and call to an adventure – in this gift of relationship which can bring us more fully alive in Jesus, by passing a resolution which will start us on a journey which will help us to focus less on our individual wants and more on the needs of the world, by partnering with the dioceses Eastern Michigan, Michigan, and the Dominican Republic as a way of seeing with “community eyes” the larger Church as the risen body of Jesus, and as a way of giving and receiving gifts from one another.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, “The more genuine and deeper our community becomes, the more will everything else between us recede, the more clearly and purely will Jesus and his work become the one and only thing that is vital between us.” (p. 25) The kind of partnership I am talking about can move us more genuinely and deeply into community, the Body of Christ, and move us more clearly into the work of Jesus, the only thing that is vital between us. I believe it is time for us to do this.

After years of focus on internal matters and crises, we are at the wonderful place of deciding how to live the rest of our lives as a diocesan community.

The book, *New Monasticism*, which I mentioned earlier, describes the way that God has called people in all times to create communities living lives of prayer and study, living with and engaging in ministry with the poor. It is going on today as people come together to dedicate their lives to Christian community and the poor. Wilson-Hartgrove comments on monasticism through the ages when he states: “... sometimes you have to relocate in order to really see the world and reimagine your role in it. That’s why Anthony went to the desert and Francis took to the streets. They knew something was wrong with the church, but they couldn’t see any alternatives from where they were. Their location blinded them, holding their imaginations captive. The monastics needed to see the world from a different place if they were going to see it anew. So they moved. And when they did they started movements. The renewal of the church depended on relocation.” (p. 77) “Patterns of life we learned (in the places we know best) hold us captive, making it harder to imagine other possibilities.” (pp. 81-82)

The Diocese of the Dominican Republic is part of the Episcopal Church. Our Presiding Bishop is their Presiding Bishop. And while they are part of the Episcopal Church they are an emerging country, struggling to provide for the basic needs of their people.

Beth and I visited about 25 locations while we were there. I was impressed mostly by the joy of the people in the midst of poverty. I was overwhelmed by the welcome we received everywhere we went (“this is your house,” they would say), and I was touched by the hospitality offered by people who had hardly enough for themselves. I also noticed how the Episcopal Church in the Dominican Republic looked to the future. “This is what we’re doing, this is what we are going to do.”

The mission strategy was to plant churches in the poorest neighborhoods and rural areas. Church buildings were often shacks that were once used as residences, but the people began schools in them to educate their children, clinics to care for the medical needs of the people, homes for children abandoned on the streets, places to meet for people to organize their towns or communities, building homes for people who have no homes.

When my wife asked me to tell her about my trip to the Dominican Republic, as I spoke my eyes filled with tears, not because of the poverty and the fruits of that poverty, but because I saw the Church **alive** – the Risen Jesus working with the poor, healing the sick, and proclaiming the kingdom of God. Like Anthony and Francis, I relocated, if only for six days, and I was able to imagine other possibilities. I was able to see the church differently. -- It was a gift. I want the people I love to have that gift as well. I want you to have the opportunity to see what I saw and experience what I experienced. Not just because of my love for you, but also for the love of the church and her renewal.

Someone asked me to describe the best experience I had there. It was an easy question to answer. It was in a barrio about an hour and a half from Santo Domingo. The name of the town I cannot recall. As our small bus began down the street on which the church we were visiting was located, we could already hear the people singing – men and women, young and old, children joyfully singing at the top of their lungs a song of welcome. They filled the little church and spilled out into the street – all holding candles to invite us in. They parted like the Red Sea to make a pathway for us – toothless smiles, wrinkled hands throwing flower petals over us, the bright eyes of children staring at us, arms extended to embrace us with all sincerity – “this is your house.” We were seated on some folding chairs as the people pressed in and we listened to the songs of children and heard the witnesses of adults telling us what God has done for them – healing them from disease and giving them the gift of joy in the midst of poverty. (When was the last time you heard a witness in your church?) Then we walked through the streets to where they were building a church, the children maneuvering themselves to hold our hands and to hold the hands of the children who were holding our hands, as if some wonderful gift could be received through a handholding chain. -- People excited to show us the progress they have made on building a church; kids excited to show us the school which is not there yet, but will be, and giddy at the thought that they would be getting an education.

Do they need us? Yes! - Medical and dental mission trips, groups to build those churches, schools and clinics, people to teach English, projects for clean drinking water, and all sorts of opportunities.

Do we need them? You bet! Given the state of the church in America, I believe we need them more than they need us.

Therefore, I am calling on the Resolutions Committee to bring before this convention a resolution to form a Task Force under the direction of the Rev. Beth Tomczak, deacon assigned to call our diocese into accountability for the Millennium Development Goals, and Dr. Henry Fulton, lay leader in this diocese and parishioner at St. John’s, Mt. Pleasant, to begin to explore a partnership relationship between the

Dioceses of Western Michigan, Eastern Michigan, Michigan, and the Dominican Republic. This Task Force will coordinate its work with the mission conferences to be held in our diocese.

There are some practical reasons for the Dominican Republic. First is cost. The Dominican Republic is affordable to reach. The second is organizational. American missionaries already working in the Dominican have everything organized on that end, and have mission work and programs all ready to go when groups arrive. Third, the Diocese of the Dominican is interested not only in partnerships with dioceses, but also in fostering parish to parish relationships. Fourth, they are able to offer safe mission trips for youth. Fifth, they are willing to exchange youth and seminarians, deacons and priests, and groups of laity with special interests. Sixth, they are interested in partnership – in a developing a learning experience. They are looking for relationships which recognize the gifts they have to offer as well as the gifts we have to bring.

This resolution will not interfere with other relationships you may already have developed outside this country and wish to continue. Instead it is an opportunity to help us to focus with “community eyes” on the bigger picture. It is an opportunity to provide us with a way to be relocated and know that God is at work in the people and places that society has given up on. (p. 85) It is an opportunity to renew the Church in this diocese. It is an opportunity to know what it means to receive more than we can give. It is an opportunity to see our own situation with new eyes. It is an opportunity to combine resources and meet needs at home and beyond our borders. It is an opportunity for us to unite for the sake of common mission and ministry. It is an invitation to stop going to church and start being the church.

I'm looking forward to an adventure with you.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPORT

The Executive Council is comprised of 18 elected members both clergy and lay persons from each Deanery, including a youth delegate and a liaison from the Standing Committee. The focus of our ministry is to have general oversight of all Diocesan commissions, helping to develop strategy and policy in collaboration with our Bishop, other agencies of the Diocese, and with the Standing Committee. The Executive Council also manages, through the Treasurer, the Budget adopted by the Convention and all monies of the General Fund.

The Executive Council meets every other month throughout the year, and more frequently if necessary. A complete listing of the Council members is available on the Diocesan Website edwm.org.

The Executive Council meets in a two day retreat each year to organize by electing a vice chair, secretary and commission liaisons.

During the past year 08-09, we studied and discussed the Mission and Vision Statement of the Diocese, each month focusing on a different paragraph. We looked carefully at each component of the mission and vision statements for convergence with focus and energy in our diocesan programs and ministries. In the coming year, we will continue to keep these statements and goals before us as we work together for the good of the entire diocese.

We feel that we have been good stewards of the Diocesan funds, and with the help of the Treasurer and Finance Committee, expenses have been held in line and Investment funds managed prudently within a challenging economic environment. We will continue to encourage competent and motivated people to serve on the Council and on Commissions and Committees. Acknowledging tightening of resource availability, we feel that such people with will help us to accomplish our goals for the Diocese. We feel a spirit of teamwork with our Bishop that will help to accomplish goals in the areas of Stewardship, Evangelism and Social Justice within the coming year. We have been encouraged by the work that has been done by the Congregational Development Committee, and the task force developing a Confirmation Customary. We know that work continues on revision of Constitutions and Canons for the Diocese, Stewardship and Missions. We are grateful as that work continues. We hope that more people within the Diocese will see these committees and task forces as a place to live out their calling to ministry for the good of all God's people. It has been our pleasure to serve God and the people of the Diocese of Western Michigan as members of Executive Council.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Susan S. York, Vice Chair

STANDING COMMITTEE

The Standing Committee consists of eight elected members, four clerical and four lay. The Standing Committee serves as the ecclesiastical authority of the diocese in the absence of a bishop. It serves as the bishop's council of advice. The Standing Committee is requested to give consent for all bishops elected in the Episcopal Church. It recommends persons for ordination. It gives the bishop advice and consent on the purchase, sale, or encumbrance of any property held by a congregation or the diocese. It gives the bishop advice and consent as to any judicial sentence given to a clergy person or concurs in allowing a clergy person to cease functioning as a member of the clergy. It investigates and reports to the bishop on the charge that a deacon or priest has abandoned the Episcopal Church.

The Standing Committee meets monthly in Grand Rapids and undertakes all the business as is presented. Time is set aside each meeting for bible study to ensure our work is gospel centered.

These are some of the highlights of the work and issues addressed during this year:

- Requests for 2 candidates to the priesthood and 2 to postulancy.
- All clergy depositions and inhibitions throughout the National Church are heard along with the request for consents to election for all Bishops.
- Property issues from seven parishes have been handled. At the request of the Standing Committee, Wes Hackett, Grand Valley Deanery, undertook the beginning of a large project to ensure the Diocese has all the deeds for all Episcopal property and at this time has ensured the Grand valley Deanery has completed this work and is working on addressing the mechanism for this in the other Deaneries.
- A final report of the Mutual Ministry Review for Learning (MMRL) was provided to Executive Council with a prioritized action plan in the areas of Staffing, Communication, Relationship Building/Connectedness within the Diocese, Regenerating the Diocesan Consulting Team and Revising the Deanery Structure.
- Ongoing meetings have occurred with representatives from Commission on Ministry and Standing Committee to clarify roles and expectations in the steps for postulancy and candidacy and a new document will be available to clarify all steps and requirements.
- The Bishop took his Sabbatical time as planned during September, October and November, 2008 and he retained ecclesiastical authority during this time.
- After thorough investigation in February 2009 the Standing Committee advised the Bishop that St. James' Parish, Albion be declared a "distressed parish". With the Bishop's decision and unanimous approval by the Standing Committee, Canon 14 was invoked in March 2009. An action plan has been presented to the parish in order for the Diocese and the parish to work together towards a healthy future.

Sincere thanks to all members of Standing Committee: Mike Fedewa, Mary Perrin, Knute Jacobson, David Meyers, Henry Fulton, Sarah Loomis and Anne Davidson.

Respectfully submitted,
Netty Cove, President

BISHOP WHITTEMORE FOUNDATION

The Bishop Whittemore Foundation is in its fifty-seventh year of service to the Diocese of Western Michigan. The Foundation trustees meet quarterly to review loan and grant proposals in support of Diocesan and parish objectives. The following grants were funded during the calendar year 2008:

St. John's, Sturgis (annex)	\$10,000.00
DOWM (Speakers t Christian Formation event)	\$ 5,000.00
St. James'. Beaver Island (organ, paint)	\$15,000.00
St. Andrew's, Grand Rapids (handicap access)	\$10,000.00
St. Luke's, Kalamazoo (archival supplies)	\$ 500.00
Emmanuel, Petoskey (physical plant upgrades)	\$ 7,500.00
DOWM (Youth Event 2008)	\$ 5,000.00
St. John's Charlotte (furnace)	\$10,000.00
DOWM (Youth Camp 2008)	\$10,000.00
Grace, Holland (Youth Pilgrimage)	\$ 6,000.00
Grace, Holland (Child Care Center)	\$10,000.00

St. Mark's, Newaygo (Vera's House outreach)	\$ 5,000.00
Good Shepard, Allegan (roof replacement)	\$10,000.00
Christ Church, Charlevoix (balcony railing)	<u>\$ 3,500.00</u>
	\$107,500.00

As of December 31, 2008 the following grants had been approved, but not yet funded:

Mediator Harbert (elevator)	\$15,000.00
Trinity, Grand Ledge (boiler)	\$15,000.00
St. Timothy's, Richland (ramp for altar)	\$ 8,000.00
St. John's, Mt. Pleasant (computer)	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>
	\$39,000.00

As of December 31, 2008 Foundation assets totaled \$1,493,617.37 consisting of \$150,068.40 in loans to parishes, \$1,255,770.37 in marketable securities and \$87,778.60 in cash equivalents and accruals

Total grants in any calendar year are limited to five per cent of the Foundation's assets, computed annually on a rolling average of the ten previous quarters. The 2009 spending rule computation is attached. Loans to any one parish are limited to \$100,000.00 and typically have a five-year maturity with a twenty-year amortization.

The trustees of the Bishop Whittemore Foundation are committed to the growth of the endowed fund balance, the prudent investment of the trust corpus and the careful consideration of every grant application to insure the best use of available grant funds.

The Bishop Whittemore Foundation thanks Greer Candler, Norm Richards and Roger Gramache for their service to the Foundation and welcomes Peter Coorigan, Robert Brower and the Rev. James Croom as new trustees. Any one interested in service as a trustee of the Bishop Whittemore Foundation is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Anyone making a contribution to the Bishop Whittemore Foundation can be assured that the contribution will be vigilantly guarded, carefully invested and wisely dispensed to fund worthy projects. Sunday, May 3, 2009 is Bishop Whittemore Foundation Sunday when all parishes are requested to remind their members of the good works of the Foundation and encourage gifts to the Foundation.

The Foundation trustees deserve recognition for their devoted service in behalf of the Diocese of Western Michigan.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert D. Stanton, President

BISHOP WHITTEMORE FOUNDATION #23-19186

Spending Rule Computation for 2009

QUARTER	MARKET VALUE
09/30/06	\$ 2,102,209
12/31/06	\$ 2,216,738
03/31/07	\$ 2,217,364
06/30/07	\$ 2,331,828
09/30/07	\$ 2,394,708
12/31/07	\$ 2,345,085
03/31/08	\$ 2,156,161
06/30/08	\$ 2,117,364
09/30/08	\$ 1,901,818
12/31/08	\$ 1,493,617
Total Market Value:	\$ 21,276,892
Average per valuation period:	\$ 2,127,689
5% of average valuation period:	\$ 106,384

TRANSITION MINISTRY AND CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Overview

Within my portfolio falls the ministry of working with congregations seeking new clergy and clergy seeking new congregations (a.k.a. Transition Ministry); providing resources to congregations in the areas of revitalization, evangelism, growth, and overall health (a.k.a. Congregational Development); and a few administrative items (Secretary to Diocesan Executive Council and Coordination of Diocesan Convention). In this report will be summaries of Transition Ministry and Congregational Development.

Transition Ministry

Transition Ministry/Deployment-Statistics

- ✘ Attended Transition Ministry/Deployment Officers Gatherings
 - March & September: Transition Ministry Conference (40 dioceses in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and Ohio Valley – including Chicago)
 - December: Province V ('Big 10) Conference

- ✘ Clergy Transitions in congregations
 - Since the last convention 18 congregations have experienced, or continue to experience a transition in clergy.
 - 3 rectors/clergy leaders retired
 - 6 congregations called a rector
 - 2 interim rectors were called

Diocesan Consulting Team members have conducted Exit interviews with 1 congregation and have worked with or are working with 5 congregations as Transition Consultants and as Interview trainers

- ❖ Clergy Update Church Deployment Office profile – It is important that all clergy have an updated CDO. Several clergy and seminarians updated their profiles through the Diocesan Transition Ministry Office. Others updated with the help of the National Church Transition Ministry/Deployment Office. Offering assistance for updating is an ongoing ministry of this office.
- ❖ Interim Clergy met every other month for reflection and support.
- ❖ 6997 miles were traveled within the diocese to meet with Vestries and Search Committees during transition

Reflections

This diocese is blessed with a devoted and well trained Diocesan Consulting Team. This year new members have joined, and others are being encouraged to join. The work of Transition begins from the time the rector announces his/her retirement to into the second year of a newly called rector's tenure.

Although every transition is unique, as part of the work of transition, and before a new rector is called, every congregation must have a financial audit (as required by canon); parish by-laws must be reviewed by the Chancellor to verify compliance with canons; and no paid staff, relatives of staff, or relatives of other Vestry members may serve on the Vestry. In order to call a full time rector, the congregation must have *at least* a \$125,000 budget.

Times of transition are difficult for both clergy and congregation. A 'good ending' helps a congregation have a healthy beginning with the next clergy leader. Good endings are the responsibility of both people and priest. There are wonderful resources for 'Saying Goodbye,' and the clergy retirement policy is posted on our diocesan website.

Please call on me regarding your transitions, so that as many resources as possible can be brought to bear in your situation.

Congregational Development

Congregational Development Ministry & Statistical Summary

- ❖ Living Stones Partnership – Attended Partnership gathering with the Bishop and Debbie Egnatuk from Trinity, Marshall. The Baptismal Ministry Experience and Reflection presentation, and notes from the gathering are posted on the Diocesan Website (<http://www.edwm.org/congregations/congdev/documents/BMER2009.pdf>).
- ❖ *Smaller Membership Churches: A Process of Transformation for All the Saints* – Once again our ecumenical partners with the support of Journey at Western Theological Seminary have developed a year long reflection and learning process for our smaller membership churches (those with fewer than 100 in Average Weekly Attendance). After an initial kick-off, where the Rev. Mary Frens (St. Mark's, Newaygo) was one of the presenters, the participating churches read *Christianity for the Rest of Us*, by Diana Butler Bass. To help churches 'go deeper' there have been two cohort meetings in geographically central locations. Thanks to folks on our Congregational Development Commission who served as cohort leaders for these gatherings. In May, those churches participating will meet with Dr. Bass for a final event.

- ❖ TEAM-M (The Episcopal Area Ministry in Muskegon) -Two years ago, the churches in Muskegon County began conversations about how to enliven the ministries of individual congregations and collaborate in the area of Outreach and evangelism. As part of their work, a Vision Team was appointed to consider how the Episcopal Church could become an even more significant presence in the Muskegon area. The Vision Team, with which I worked, made a recommendation to the TEAM-M group in June.
- ❖ Congregational Development Commission – began its work in earnest in the Fall of 2008, ably convened by the Rev. Sue York. As Staff person to the Commission, much has been discussed. We look forward to having the Rev. Karen Ward in the diocese on September 26, 2009, to speak with the diocese about what it means to be a *missional* church. A separate report from the Commission is being filed for convention.
- ❖ Cascade Property Committee – The Executive Council asked that a group be convened to make a recommendation to them regarding the disposition of the Cascade Property (formerly St. Michael’s Church). Ivan Wheland and Lisbeth Eichner, along with the Revs. Val Ambrose, Charleen Crean, Cindy Nawrocki, Christine Tillman have met and continue to gather information in order to make a recommendation to the Executive Council. We are grateful for their commitment and time, as well as input from John Kingslight and Steve Wade, and look forward to making a recommendation in September.
- ❖ Natural Church Development (NCD) – As expressed at the Congregational Leadership Day, this program is being expanded (slowly, and as ‘coaches are available’) in the Diocese. To date 5 churches have taken the NCD survey and received some form of coaching, and 4 churches have expressed an interest in the program. We have at least 2 consultants who will be receiving coaches training within the next year.
- ❖ Church of the Holy Spirit – Continues to live with an eye to growth and innovative ways of engaging ministry. Meeting with the Advisory Board and the Vicar to work through issues and discuss ongoing future possibilities continues to be part of the Congregational Development portfolio.
- ❖ Vestry and parish meetings – are an ongoing part of the work of Congregational Development. At least 5 churches, not in clergy transition, have taken advantage of the resources of the Congregational Development Office.
- ❖ National Gathering of Congregational Development Officers in February – was an opportunity to learn from colleagues about engaging ministry in new and creative ways. Of particular interest to our diocese is the work of the Diocese of Colorado in Resort ministry. CDs of the first event are available to congregations, and we hope to send folks to the conference in 2010.
- ❖ 5738 miles travelled (within the diocese) in service to Congregational Development.

Reflections

Our world is rapidly changing, and the church is no exception. With costs increasing in insurance and the cost of living, we now have over half of the churches in the diocese served by clergy on a part-time basis. Congregations are discovering new ways to engage partnership both within the diocese, and ecumenically. We have are well poised as a

diocese to respond to the call of the Emergent Church, and reach out in creative and unexplored ways. I look forward to embracing this journey with you.

Respectfully submitted,
(The Ven.) Anne L. Reed,
Bishop's Assistant for Transition Ministry and Congregational Development

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Diocesan Finance Committee's mission is to advise Diocesan Executive Council in the financial administration of the Diocese. The Finance Committee currently consists of six members, who meet six times during the year. The Finance Committee also oversees the Insurance Committee.

The Finance Committee contracted with auditors Brickley DeLong, CPA's, in 2006, and has continued to contract with them for the 2008 annual audit. The 2008 audit will be completed in June, 2009. Audited financial statements are available on the Diocesan website. The Executive Council, at Finance Committee's recommendation, has developed a policy for bidding on the audit every three years, beginning with the 2009 audit period.

At the direction of the Executive Council, the Insurance Committee sought bids for Diocesan wide multi-peril (property & liability), umbrella, and workers' compensation insurance coverage. The Diocese had contracted with Church Mutual Insurance Company for this coverage since 1997. The Finance Committee wanted to be sure that the Diocese was receiving comprehensive coverage at the best possible rates for our parishes. The Insurance Committee decided (and Executive Council concurred) to contract with the Church Insurance Agency Corporation, an affiliate of the Church Pension Group, for Diocesan wide multi-peril, umbrella and workers' compensation insurance, which was implemented January 1, 2009. This resulted in a large decrease in premiums for parishes, increased property coverage's, and also an increase in coverage for umbrella insurance from \$5 million to \$10 million. A policy was also developed for bidding on multi-peril, umbrella and workers' compensation insurance coverage every three years.

The newly developed Apportionment Review Committee, which was formed out of the Canon for Parish Apportionment approved at our 2007 convention, met last year several times. This committee worked with parishes to help them identify areas of need, and offer assistance to these parishes so that they may live into their full apportionments by the year 2012.

A representative from Arcadia Investment Management Corporation presented an annual review of the Diocesan investment funds to the Finance Committee. This report provided the Finance Committee pertinent information regarding the scope, value and direction of these investments, and how those incorporate with the Diocesan investment strategies.

In following the investment distribution policy adopted by the Executive Council in 2005, which was created to retain and rebuild investment principal, the Finance Committee again developed a budget without the use of investment principle. The Executive Council once again was faced with difficult decisions to present a balanced budget to the Convention. Due to decreased pledges, the Diocese continues to be unable to fund many mission and ministry needs both within, and outside the Diocese.

The Finance Committee is currently in need of new members, including a Diocesan Treasurer, due to service terms which have expired over the past year. Please contact me if you have an interest in serving.

Respectfully submitted,
Tammy Mazure, CPA, Acting Chairperson
Assistant to the Bishop for Business and Finance

GRAND VALLEY DEANERY

The ministry of the Grand Valley Deanery is to serve as a communication and support liaison for the 14 parishes (Belmont - Church of the Holy Spirit * Big Rapids - St. Andrew * Fremont - St. John * Grand Rapids - Grace * Grand Rapids - Grace Sudanese Grand Rapids - St. Andrew * Grand Rapids - St. Mark * Grand Rapids - St. Philip * Greenville - St. Paul * Ionia - St. John * Kentwood - Holy Cross * Mt. Pleasant - St. John * Newaygo - St. Mark * Wyoming - Holy Trinity) that make up the Grand Valley Deanery. Pamela Chapman and the Rev. Duncan Johnston have capably served as the Chair and Vice Chair these past 3 years. We utilize the Convocation meetings for sharing of parish activities, supporting one another in prayer and fellowship, providing grant funds as available for special needs and hearing information from Executive Council, the Diocese, and General Convention Deputies and forwarding same to our individual parishes.

In 2008-2009 term we changed our meeting schedule to 3 (2 preceding Convention and 1 in the fall) times during the year. This past February we elected the Rev. Laurel Dahill, Rector, St. Andrew's Big Rapids, Chair of the Deanery and Wes Hackett, Delegate from St. John the Apostle, Ionia as Vice-Chair for the coming term. In other business over the year the Deanery elected Wes Hackett in 2008, as Lay Representative to Executive Council, funded an Intern to conduct and complete a property survey for parishes in the Deanery as requested by Executive Council, and approved a tithe of all monies received to the Diocese of Western Michigan.

In 2009-2010, the Grand Valley Deanery hopes to be able to continue providing grant money that will benefit the Diocese, Deanery, and parishes, and serving as a means of communication and support between the parishes and the Diocese.

Respectfully submitted,
Ms. Pamela Chapman, Deanery Chair
Rev. Duncan Johnston, Deanery Vice-Chair
Margaret Stretton, Secretary/Treasurer

TRAVERSE DEANERY

The Traverse Deanery held three meetings during the past year at Grace Episcopal Church in Traverse City. Our meetings include Bible Study, recitation of the Diocesan Vision Statement, hearing a report from our Executive Council representatives, business and fellowship.

Our February and April meetings focused on planning for the Diocesan Convention in Traverse City on April 25 and 26. Steve Wade and Fr. Skip Comer were responsible for working with the Diocese and coordinating the local resources for Convention. At our April

meeting we also focused on preparation of delegates and clergy to attend Convention and planning our Deanery confirmation service.

At our fall meeting we began a process to develop a mission statement and vision for the Traverse Deanery.

In February, 2009, The Rev. Greg Brown and Nancy Foster were elected as deanery representatives on the Executive Council. They join Sheila Garner, our Deanery Chairperson on Council.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Garner, Chair

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN

We are Episcopal Church Women of all ages, ethnic origins and socioeconomic backgrounds who serve on a diocesan board to assist parish churchwomen, congregations and to empower women to do Christ's ministry. The diocesan ECW board meets approximately 5 times annually and corresponds by email and phone/phone conferencing. Our current members, their parishes and year to rotate off positions follow. We are currently seeking deanery representatives, an assistant treasurer and a newsletter person.

Patricia Purol	President	2012	St. Davids, Lansing
Linda S. Gerrard	Vice-president	2012	Church of the Holy Spirit, Belmont
Kay Hanson	Secretary	2009	St. Martin of Tours, Kalamazoo
Tammy Mazure	Treasurer	2012	Diocesan Office
Gail Donovan	UTO	2012	St. David's, Lansing
Char Camfield	CPC	2012	Holy Trinity, Wyoming
Pam Chapman	parliamentarian	2011	St. Philips, Grand Rapids
Sharon Love	Mary Powers	2010	St. Philips, Grand Rapids
Clair Turner	MOS	2012	St. Davids, Lansing
Kay Hanson	Triennial Delegate	2012	St. Martin of Tours, Kalamazoo
Char Camfield,	Chaplain	2009	Holy Cross, Wyoming
Sally Carmean	Altar Guild	2012	St. Pauls, Muskegon

The board has been reviewing diocesan and ECW mission statements along with MDGs (millennium development goals) to assess where we are, what we need and how to proceed. We are actively improving communication with all parishes within our diocese and identifying a key contact and spokesperson in order to build an ECW resource that can better meet the growing needs of today's woman. Some parishes have active ECW groups; others have guilds and groups which perform a variety of functions within parishes. One highlight was in response to a request for assistance to begin a new parish ECW. Resources were provided and diocesan, provincial and a national ECW member met with the parish to see how they could best develop an ECW that enhanced their parish's community life and growth as well as individual personal growth. Particularly exciting this year has been the overwhelming response from parish altar guilds and connecting with Ann Geper as she establishes a diocesan altar guild and training to educate, serve and assist other altar guilds. All interested people will be encouraged to participate

Younger women (pre-teen/teen) are being encouraged to participate in women's ministries, by inviting them to this year's Annual meeting May 9. We are looking for interested people and girls to start GFS (Girl's Friendly Society). To enhance spiritual growth, we are seeking retreat centers and diocesan leaders to bring back affordable retreats around the diocese. Spiritual based leadership programs such as WOV (Women of Vision) and GATES (Gaining

Authority Through Education and Service) are also being revived. The potential works for everyone.

We continue to be a financial resource. CPC scholarships have been distributed for EFM/seminarians from the diocese. The Diocesan Youth Program received a national CPC grant last year. The Mary Powers Endowment Fund designates funds specifically for women in ministry. M.O.S. (Missions, Outreach & Scholarship Fund) gives assistance to projects and service often not funded by other sources or needing additional support. The diocesan ECW board assists with UTO in-gatherings and UTO grant applications. Just \$3.65 (1 penny a day) from each person would allow all grant requests from the 9 Provinces to be fulfilled. Our diocese has received substantial UTO grants over the years - more recently to assist with parish growth and community outreach.

We are connecting in a time when sharing is vital, continually seeking to serve within our parishes, diocese and in the bigger world.

Respectfully submitted,
Your sister in Christ
Patricia Purol, President

EPISCOPAL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT

The ministry focus of the Diocesan Mission Project is to provide disaster relief through a call to mission work by Diocesan parishioners. The names of E.R.D. Parish Representatives are attached. There is one Diocesan Conference each year.

The highlights of the 2008 program were the two mission trips. The trips were for hurricane relief along the Gulf Coast. Thirty-seven volunteers went to New Orleans in May. Thirty-one volunteers went to Long Beach, Mississippi in September. The sixty-eight parishioners were from eighteen Diocesan Churches.

The goals for this program year are to once again return to New Orleans and Mississippi to aid Episcopal Relief and Development in its ongoing commitment to the Gulf Coast. The mission movement will also consider helping Diocesan churches in W. Michigan that request help for parishioners who are victims of local disasters. Needs include communication within the organizations of the Diocese regarding mission trips, such as parishes, committees, commissions, and the Executive Council. Fund raising to defer costs for mission trips is also needed.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Dorcy, Diocesan E.R.D. Coordinator

JUBILEE MINISTRIES

Jubilee Ministries are those ministries doing work in outreach, advocacy and empowerment. They have applied for recognition by the National Episcopal Church and have received that designation. This recognition makes the centers eligible for resources and networking with other ministries doing similar work, along with grants awarded by the national church annually. Our diocese currently has 8 Jubilee Centers, the most recent one being St. Luke's Thrift Shop in Kalamazoo. The other existing centers are: Grace Child Care Center at Grace, Holland, Partners In Transition; ESL at St. Luke's; St. Mark's Church, PawPaw; St. John's, Charlotte; Goodrow Funds at St. John's, Mt. Pleasant; Grace Church, Traverse City; The Baby

Pantry at St. Philip's, Beulah.

There are currently 3 other parishes in the process of application for Jubilee status. Parishes are invited to contact me for application and assistance.

The Jubilee Officers from across the country recently met in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and did mission work to restore building ravaged by the flood of 2008.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Cindy Nawrocki, Diocesan Jubilee Officer

VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT PROGRAM

The Vocational Discernment Program (VDP) exists to prepare and screen *aspirants*, those persons wishing to discern the next stage of God's call on their lives. This next call may be discerned as to an *enhanced baptismal ministry*, to *consecrated religious life*, to the *vocational (permanent) diaconate* or to the *priesthood*.

The VDP staff consists of a director and three other faculty members. The director and two other faculty members teach courses in three complementary subject areas of spirituality; another faculty member conducts group spiritual direction. VDP faculty meet about ten times a year with frequent e-mail and telephone contact.

The 2008 VDP session met every two weeks from the weekend of August 22/23 through the weekend of December 5/6 at The Franciscan Center in Lowell. The format has included Friday evening and all day Saturday for a total of eight weekends. In 2008, four aspirants and three spouses participated, i.e., three married couples and one single person. 2008 marked the fourth year of the program. Participants and faculty shared all meals and common worship together, creating a congenial learning and worshipping community.

We hope to have at least six aspirants in the 2009 VDP Class, which will also meet at least some of the time at The Franciscan Center in Lowell. The program is currently in revision. An updated program description with application blank may be found on the EDWM Website.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. John Crean, Director

**CONSTITUTION AND CANONS
OF
THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN**

THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

CONSTITUTION

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THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

CANONS

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CONSTITUTION OF THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

Dedicated to the worship and service of Almighty God, this Constitution is ordained and established for the Diocese of Western Michigan.

ARTICLE I ACCESSION TO PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH

This diocese is a constituent of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, otherwise known as The Episcopal Church (which name is hereby recognized as also designating The Church) and accedes to the doctrine, discipline, worship, constitution, canons and authority of that Church.

ARTICLE II TERRITORY IN DIOCESE

The Diocese of Western Michigan embraces substantially the western half of the Lower Peninsula, including thirty-three counties and the islands jurisdictionally attached to any thereof, and extends north from the south line of said state a distance of three hundred miles, more or less, to the Straits of Mackinac, and is bounded west by the west line of said state opposite the western tier of the counties hereafter named, and is bounded on the east by the east line of the several counties of Branch, Calhoun, Eaton, Ionia, Montcalm, Isabella, Clare, Missaukee, Kalkaska, Antrim, Charlevoix, and Emmett, and includes all of the territory within said counties, and includes as well all of the territory within the counties of Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph, Van Buren, Kalamazoo, Allegan, Barry, Ottawa, Kent, Muskegon, Oceana, Newaygo, Mecosta, Mason, Lake, Osceola, Manistee, Wexford, Benzie, Grand Traverse and Leelanau.

ARTICLE III CONVENTIONS

Section 1. AUTHORIZATION.

An Annual Convention shall be, and special Conventions may be, called and held in this diocese, as shall be provided by canon.

Section 2. COMPOSITION OF CONVENTION

The Annual Convention shall be comprised of clerical and lay delegates as follows:

- a) The Bishop;
- b) Each member of the clergy canonically and actually resident and having pastoral charge, or engaged in work requiring exercise of clerical duties;
- c) Each member of the clergy canonically and actually resident in the diocese but not exercising clerical duties solely by reason of age or sickness; d) Each member of the clergy canonically resident in this diocese but who is on active duty in the Chaplain's Corps of the Armed Forces of the United States of America;
- e) Each abbot, prior or acting head of a monastic community who is canonically and actually resident in the Diocese.

- f) Professed and ordained members of a monastic community canonically and actually resident in the Diocese and having pastoral charge of a parish in the Diocese.
- g) Lay delegates shall be adult communicants in good standing chosen as prescribed by Canon. Each congregation in union with convention shall be entitled to not more than four lay delegates nor less than one lay delegate as prescribed by Canon. Congregations shall be intentional about the inclusion of Persons of Color as delegates.
- h) Youth delegates shall be adult communicants in good standing, between the ages of 16 and 21 years. Each Deanery shall select one (1) youth delegate and an additional five (5) youth delegates shall be selected as prescribed by Canon. Congregations shall be intentional about the inclusion of Persons of Color as delegates.

Section 3. QUORUM

A majority of the clergy entitled to vote and a majority of the qualified lay delegates entitled to vote, duly assembled in Convention shall constitute a quorum. In the absence of a quorum, a majority of the voting members present may adjourn the Convention from time to time.

Section 4. OTHERS WHO MAY BE SEATED

Provision may be made by canon for seating any officer of the Diocese in the Convention, but without right to vote unless otherwise qualified.

Section 5. OFFICERS OF CONVENTION

The Bishop shall be the presiding officer at any Convention. In the absence of the Bishop, the Bishop Coadjutor, if any, shall preside, or in the Bishop Coadjutor's absence the Suffragan Bishop, if any, shall preside. Otherwise, the Convention shall elect a president pro tempore from among its clerical members or a Bishop performing episcopal functions in the diocese as provided by Canon. In case of a tie in any vote, the presiding officer shall cast the deciding vote.

The Convention shall elect annually by ballot: (a) members sufficient to fill any vacancy on the Standing Committee, such committee to consist of four clergy and four lay adult communicant in good standing whose terms shall be delineated under the provisions of Title 1, Canon 3, Section 11, and shall elect annually (b) a secretary, (c) a treasurer, (d) an assistant treasurer, and (e) a registrar.

A chancellor shall be nominated annually by the Bishop, subject to confirmation by the Convention.

There shall be elected, or appointed, such other officers, committees, boards and trustees as shall be required by Canon, wherein their respective powers and duties shall be defined.

Section 6. LEGISLATION

The Convention shall have power to adopt such Canons and other legislation as it shall deem beneficial to Diocese, and to amend or repeal the same, provided that such legislation shall be consistent with this constitution and with the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention and not in conflict with any valid law established by civil authority.

Section 7. PARISHES

Provision shall be made by Canon for the organization of congregations as parishes and for their admission into union with the Diocese, and for their continuation therein or exclusion therefrom, or dissolution.

Section 8. VOTING

A simple majority vote shall be sufficient for the adoption of any motion, resolution or legislation, except as shall be otherwise required by Constitution or Canon. When required by Constitution or by Canon, or upon request of any seven members entitled to vote, the two orders shall vote separately, and concurrence of the requisite majority of each order shall be necessary for adoption.

**ARTICLE IV
ELECTION OF A BISHOP**

The procedure for election of a Bishop shall be as provided by Canon, and the same procedure shall be applicable to election of a Bishop Coadjutor or a Suffragan Bishop. At any such election, a motion to go into committee of the whole shall be of highest privilege after the first ballot, and shall be carried by one-third of the votes of each order.

**ARTICLE V
NOTICE**

Notice of any meeting or action shall be valid if given as provided by Canon.

**ARTICLE VI
AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION**

This Constitution or any part thereof may be amended in the following manner only: At least ninety days in advance of the annual Convention then next ensuing, the proposal to amend shall be submitted to the Bishop in writing, who shall cause the substance of the proposed amendment to be mailed, not less than thirty days in advance of the Convention, to each member of the clergy entitled to seat and vote and to each parish in union with the Diocese. The Bishop shall refer such proposal to an appropriate committee, which shall report to the Convention. After hearing the report of the committee, the amendment may be considered by the Convention and, if approved, or approved with change, then shall lie over until the next annual Convention. If the amendment is adopted at the Second Annual Convention by a majority of each order, the Constitution shall stand amended accordingly from and after the close of the day of final adjournment of the Convention at which such adoption occurs.

CANONS OF THE DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

TITLE I ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

CANON I OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE DIOCESE

Section 1. STATUS

The Diocese of Western Michigan (for brevity also referred to as “Diocese” in these Canons) is a non-profit, non-stock, ecclesiastical trustee corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Michigan, and is custodian for the collection, holding, investment and management of:

- a) All property and permanent funds of the Diocese except such as are or may be held by the Bishop as discretionary funds.
- b) All property and funds which may be conveyed to and held by it in trust for specified congregation, societies, groups or communities.
- c) All property and funds conveyed to it in trust for the furtherance of any religious, educational or charitable purpose of this Church.

The Executive Council of the Diocese of Western Michigan, as defined in Canon 5 of this Title, shall function as the executive committee of the Diocese acting with the authority of and in the name of the Diocese between meetings of the Annual Convention and in accordance with such direction and limits as may be set forth by the Diocese in its own articles of incorporation or by such resolutions or canons that may be passed by the Convention.

Section 2. TITLE

Except as otherwise provided in the preceding Section 1 hereof, all conveyances shall be made to, and title to all property belonging to the Diocese shall vest in the Diocese, to be held for such purposes as its articles provide, or as the Convention may direct by Canon or resolution, or as may be provided in any will, trust instrument or valid order of a court of competent jurisdiction; provided that title to such property may be conveyed to and held by the Bishop Whittemore Foundation, a Michigan nonprofit corporation organized and operated for the purpose of furthering the work of the Diocese, whenever and to the extent the Executive Council deems it necessary or expedient, and subject to such terms and conditions, if any, as the Executive Council sees fit to impose.

Section 3. SECURITIES AND CONTRACTS

The Diocese shall have full authority to buy and sell investments, securities, notes, mortgages, and to enter into leases and other contracts upon the approval of the Annual Convention or Executive Council.

Section 4. INCOME FROM THE EPISCOPAL FUND

The income from the Episcopal Fund shall be paid by the Association to the Treasurer monthly, and shall be used solely for payment of the designated salary of the Bishop, and of the Bishop Coadjutor and of the Bishop Suffragan, if any. If in any month such income is insufficient for said purpose, the deficiency shall be paid by said Treasurer of Convention from the General Fund.

Section 5. EXTENSION OF AGENCY SERVICE TO VESTRIES AND OTHERS

If any vestry, society, guild, circle, or board of any congregation of this diocese shall desire to avail itself of the services of the Diocese as an Agency for the safekeeping and management of

funds or securities, it may do so under such form of agency agreement as may be approved by the Executive Council. Application for such service shall be pursuant to resolution of the governing body of the applicant and shall have the written approval of the rector.

CANON 2
OF THE CONVENTION: MEETINGS COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONS

Section 1. ANNUAL CONVENTION

The Annual Convention shall be held at a place to be determined by vote of the Annual Convention immediately preceding. This shall follow the submission of an invitation. The date and time of Annual Convention shall be appointed by the Ecclesiastical Authority, which appointment shall be made at the same Annual Convention which determines the place.

Section 2. SPECIAL CONVENTIONS

The Bishop or other person then acting as the Ecclesiastical Authority as defined by the Canons of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church in the United States of America shall have power to call special conventions and shall do so when requested in writing by any five members of the Standing Committee. When there is no Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor, or Bishop Suffragan, the Standing Committee shall have power to call a special convention.

Section 3. NOTICE OF ANNUAL OR SPECIAL CONVENTION

Written notice of the date, hour and place of holding any annual or special Convention shall be given by the Secretary, by mailing to every member of the clergy in the diocese and to the wardens of every parish without a rector at least thirty days before the date of meeting.

Notice of an Annual Convention shall be accompanied by a copy of the provisions of the Constitution and Canons relating to the election of lay delegates and alternates, together with a form of certificate of their election, which is to be signed by the rector or warden and by the secretary of the vestry or the secretary of the annual meeting at which they were elected.

Notice of a special convention shall specify the purpose or purposes thereof.

Section 4. COMPOSITION OF CONVENTION

A convention, whether annual or special, shall be composed as provided in Section 2 of Article III of the Constitution. Lay delegates and alternates shall be chosen at a preceding annual meeting of the parish or vestry in accordance with the parish by-laws and with Title II, Canon 3, Section 1, unless there be a vacancy, in which case it shall be filled as prescribed by such by-laws. At least one lay member of a parish's delegation shall where possible be a member of the vestry. Representation at any convention by lay delegates shall be based upon the average Sunday attendance as reported in the annual parochial report filed in the current year as determined by Title 1, Canon 6, Section 3. The number of delegates shall be determined by the following table:

Classification based on parish size

Average Sunday Attendance	Authorized number of delegates
1-26	1
27-100	2
101-150	3
151+	4

Youth Delegates at any Convention shall be selected as follows:

- a) One youth delegate and one alternate from each of the five Deaneries shall be selected by each Deanery, at its first meeting following the preceding Diocesan

Convention. The Deanery shall have the authority to fill any vacancies that occur in these two positions.

- b) Five Youth Delegates and five alternates shall be selected at the Annual Youth Convention, or by the Committee on Youth Ministries if a Youth Convention is not held. This Committee shall have the authority to fill any vacancies that may occur in these ten positions.

The following officials shall be seated in the convention as members ex-officio, but without right to vote unless qualified as clerical or lay delegates: the Secretary, the Assistant Secretary, the Treasurer, the Assistant Treasurer, the members of the Standing Committee, the members of the Executive Council, the Chancellor, the Registrar and the Historiographer.

Section 5. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

At the opening of each convention, annual or special, the Bishop or other person then acting as the Ecclesiastical Authority shall present to the convention, and the Secretary shall record, a list of the members of the clergy actually and canonically resident in the diocese, together with the names of their respective cures, offices and residences, and the dates on which they became resident in the diocese. By reference to this list and to the list of accredited lay delegates registered at the Convention, the presence of a quorum as Section 3 of Article III of the Constitution shall be determined.

Section 6. FUNCTIONS OF CONVENTION

A convention, whether annual or special, except as limited by Constitution or Canon, has Power:

- a) To prescribe its own rules of procedure;
- b) To amend the Constitution;
- c) To enact, amend, or repeal Canons;
- d) To elect a Bishop, in case of vacancy;
- e) To elect a Bishop Coadjutor or a Bishop Suffragan as provided by Constitution or Canon;
- f) To elect officers and confirm appointments as provided by Constitution or Canon;
- g) To appoint instrumentalities, ad hoc or otherwise, as necessary for the business of the Convention, and to define their duties;
- h) To admit a congregation into union with the Convention in the manner prescribed by Canon, and to terminate such union;
- i) To adopt, order filed, or reject reports of officers and other instrumentalities; and
- j) To adopt budgets.

Section 7. AMENDMENT OF CANONS

Any proposal to amend any canon of the Diocese shall be submitted in writing to the Bishop not less than ninety days in advance of the meeting of the convention at which time the same is to be offered. The Bishop shall cause the proposed amendment to be mailed out not less than thirty days in advance thereof, to each member of the clergy entitled to seat and vote at

the convention, the lay delegates to convention, if known, and a warden of each parish in union with the Diocese. Such a proposal may be referred to an appropriate person or committee prior to the convention if the Bishop feels that expert analysis and comment would be useful and enlightening to the convention. Any persons or Committee so appointed may be asked to report to the convention. If such amendment shall then be approved by vote of the convention in accordance with Article III, Section 8 of the Constitution, the amendment shall become effective as of the close of the day of final adjournment of the convention.

CANON 3 OF THE OFFICERS: ELECTED AND APPOINTED

Section 1.

A year for the purpose of this Canon shall mean the interval between successive Annual Conventions.

Section 2. QUALIFICATIONS

To be eligible to serve as an officer of any convention, member of the Standing Committee or Executive Council, deputy to the General Convention or Provincial Synod, any member of the clergy or lay person must have the qualifications required of members of the Annual Convention by Article III, Section 2, of the Constitution of the Diocese, except that a lay person may be elected who is not a delegate to the Annual Convention.

Section 3. PRESIDING OFFICER

The presiding officer shall be as provided in Article III, Section 5, of the Constitution. The presiding officer shall:

- a) Control the order of business except as otherwise provided by rules prescribed by the Convention or by Canon,
- b) Maintain order and decorum and accelerate the dispatch of business, and
- c) Shall have no vote except in case of a tie.

Section 4. SECRETARY

The Secretary shall be elected by the Annual Convention for a term of one year and shall have the duty to:

- a) Attend to the giving of all notices of the convention and shall perform all duties assigned by the presiding officer or by the Convention, or by Canon,
- b) File and preserve all certificates of election of lay delegates and all written reports laid before the Convention;
- c) Preserve in permanent form complete minutes of the proceedings of the convention and all its records;
- d) Deliver to the Bishop such documents of historical value as the Bishop may request;
- e) Prepare, proofread and cause promptly to be printed, the Journal of the Annual Convention, and shall transmit or disseminate a printed copy thereof throughout the diocese at the direction of the Executive Council.

The Secretary may appoint an Assistant Secretary or secretaries with approval of the Annual Convention.

Section 5. TREASURER

The Treasurer shall be elected by the Annual Convention for a term of one year. Prior to engaging in the duties of office, the Treasurer shall give bond as required by Canon of the General Convention. Such bond shall be deposited with the Bishop.

The Treasurer shall have the duty to:

- a) Receive and safely preserve and account for all monies and other things of value which come into the Treasurer's possession or control, and to make disbursement there from when, as, and only to the extent, duly authorized;
- b) Maintain in books belonging to the Diocese an accurate record in detail of all receipts and disbursements of money or other things of value and to maintain a separate complete account of each fund;
- c) Obtain and keep on file proper receipts and vouchers evidencing all disbursements;
- d) Present to the Annual Convention, and deliver to the Executive Council upon request, a detailed report of the receipts and disbursements of each fund, and of the balance on hand;
- e) Cause an audit satisfactory to the Executive Council to accompany the annual report;
- f) Exercise diligence in the collection of all funds due and payable to the Diocese; and
- g) Deliver promptly to a duly elected and qualified successor in office, all monies and other things of value which have come into the Treasurer's hands, or control and which have not been lawfully disbursed, together with all books, records, files, documents, receipts, vouchers, and correspondence pertaining to the office of Treasurer.

Section 6. ASSISTANT TREASURER

The Assistant Treasurer shall be elected and shall give bond in the same manner as the Treasurer and shall assist the Treasurer as requested and perform the duties of Treasurer in case of absence or disability of the Treasurer.

Section 7. REGISTRAR

The Registrar shall be elected by the Annual Convention for a term of one year and shall be the custodian of all diocesan documents and records not in the hands of the Bishop or required by Canon to be in the custody of some other officer.

Section 8. CHANCELLOR AND VICE CHANCELLORS

The Bishop shall appoint a Chancellor and may appoint such Vice Chancellors as the Bishop deems necessary, all for a term of one year.

Chancellor and Vice Chancellors shall have the duty to, promptly, upon request from the Bishop prepare, sign and transmit, in duplicate, to the Bishop a written opinion of the law or procedure relating to any question of law or legal procedure relating to the affairs of the diocese, or any parish.

The Vice Chancellors shall assist the Chancellor and act under the Chancellor's supervision. In the absence or disability of the Chancellor, the Bishop may designate one of the Vice Chancellors to act.

Section 9. HISTORIOGRAPHER

The Bishop may appoint without necessity for confirmation an Historiographer to serve at the pleasure of the Bishop. As the historian of the Diocese, the Historiographer shall prepare and file with the Registrar accurate records, or copies thereof of important diocesan events.

Section 10. STANDING COMMITTEE

The Annual Convention shall elect by ballot a Standing Committee consisting of four members of the clergy and four adult communicants in good standing for no more than two consecutive terms of three years each in the following manner:

In the initial year (1993), one member of the clergy and two confirmed adult communicant shall be elected for three-year terms. In addition, one member of the clergy and one confirmed adult communicant shall be elected for two-year terms. In subsequent years, two members of the clergy and one adult communicant in good standing, or one member of the clergy and two adult communicants in good standing, or one member of the clergy and one adult communicant in good standing, as the case may be, shall be elected by the Annual Convention for terms of three years as terms expire.

Section 11. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Annual Convention shall elect by ballot members of the Executive Council as required under the provisions of Canon 5, Title I.

Section 12. NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Bishop shall appoint members of Nominating Committee subject to confirmation by the Executive Council, to assist in nominating persons for appropriate offices, to be elected by the Annual Convention. At least 2 members of the Nominating Committee shall be Persons Of Color. The Anti-Racism Team shall assist the Bishop in identifying individuals for these positions. The term of office for members of the Nominating Committee shall be from the time of appointment until the conclusion of the next subsequent Annual Convention.

**CANON 4
OF THE DEPUTIES TO GENERAL CONVENTION
AND PROVINCIAL SYNOD REPRESENTATIVES**

Section 1. ELECTION OF DEPUTIES AND ALTERNATES TO GENERAL CONVENTION

The Annual Convention shall elect by ballot, not later than the next year preceding any General Convention, eight deputies to the General Convention, being four members of the clergy and four adult lay communicants in good standing together with an equal number of alternate deputies having like qualifications.

The four members of the clergy and four adult lay communicants in good standing first receiving a simple majority of the votes cast, shall be declared elected deputies. An election shall then be held for alternate deputies. The four members of the clergy and four adult lay communicants in good standing receiving the highest number of the votes cast, shall be declared elected alternate deputies. Alternate deputies are to be ranked in the order of their election.

Section 2. PROVINCIAL SYNOD

Every three years the Annual Convention shall elect by ballot one member of the clergy and two adult lay communicants in good standing to serve as diocesan representatives on the Provincial Synod for a period of three years. At the same time one member of the clergy and two adult lay communicants in good standing shall be elected to serve as alternate diocesan representatives on the Provincial Synod for a period of three years. One representative, either clerical or lay, must be a deputy to General Convention.

Section 3. DUTIES

It shall be the duty of the Deputies to the General Convention and Provincial Synod to notify the Bishop and the Secretary of the Diocesan Convention at least three weeks before the session of the General Convention or Provincial Synod, as the case may be, whether or not they will attend the same; and it shall be the duty of the Bishop and Secretary, in case any deputies decline to attend such session, to notify the alternate deputies consecutively as provided in Canon 4, Section 1, above, of the vacancies as they occur, and to see that they are filled accordingly by some alternate deputy. If any vacancy shall occur in the delegation from the Diocese during a session of the General Convention or of the Provincial Synod, the Bishop, with the concurrence of such deputies or representatives as may be present, may appoint to fill such vacancy any person possessing the qualifications necessary for a deputy or representative, with preference to alternates present.

CANON 5 OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Section 1. COMPOSITION

The Executive Council shall be composed of the Bishop, a member of the Standing committee, the President of the Episcopal Church Women, a designated youth representative, the Chairperson of each Deanery Convocation, and two additional persons nominated by each Deanery and elected by Annual Convention. The Bishop shall have the authority to appoint the designated youth representative on an annual basis or as vacancies arise. Each Deanery Delegation to Executive Council must include at least one lay person and at least one member of the clergy. The Chancellor and the Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of the Executive Council without vote.

Section 2. ELECTION

In the years in which a full term for Chairpersons of deanery convocation begins, no other three-year term members will be elected to Council. In every other year, each convocation of the deaneries shall nominate and the Annual Convention shall elect one person, lay or clerical, to serve a three-year term on Executive Council. Members so elected to a three-year term shall not be eligible to succeed themselves more than once.

Vacancies between Annual Conventions shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by election of the same deanery convocation from which the member causing the vacancy was nominated. All persons elected to fill vacancies shall be confirmed by election at the next Annual Convention.

Section 3. OFFICERS

The Bishop shall normally serve as presiding officer. The Council shall elect from its ranks annually a Vice President. A secretary, who need not be a member of the Executive Council, may be likewise elected.

Section 4. DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Executive Council shall:

- a) Meet once a month on call of the presiding officer; however, upon mutual agreement and sufficient reason, the number of meetings may be increased or decreased;
- b) Have general supervisory oversight over the work of all commissions of the Diocese;
- c) Develop strategy, policy and work in the name of the Diocese in conjunction with the Bishop and all other agencies of the Diocese and the Executive Council;
- d) Receive, control, and expend through the Treasurer, for purposes designated by the Budget adopted by Convention, all monies of the General Fund; and
- e) Submit a written annual report of its work to the Annual Convention.

Section 5. RETIREMENT PENSIONS OF LAY EMPLOYEES

The Executive Council shall maintain, or cause to be maintained, a system of retirement pensions for all lay employees of the Diocese, commensurate with the Canons and directives of the General Convention. All such programs shall be reviewed annually in light of changing economic conditions and needs of such employees. The Council also recognizes the right of lay employees to enter into individual or collective bargaining with the Diocese on any economic issue.

Section 6. COUNCIL MEETINGS TO BE OPEN AND PUBLIC

All meetings of the Council shall be held in open session, with time, date, and place being announced by appropriate means to the entire Diocese, and members thereof, clerical and lay, shall be invited and urged to attend such meetings. Executive sessions shall be permitted upon two-thirds vote of all persons present and voting for the considerations of personnel matters. The ultimate resolution of such personnel matters shall be reported and ratified by vote in open meeting.

CANON 6 OF THE DEANERIES AND CONVOCATIONS

Section 1. COMPOSITION

The Diocese shall be divided into five Deaneries, the same to be determined by the Executive Council.

Section 2. PURPOSE AND POWERS

The Deanery Convocation shall be responsible for carrying out the following duties:

- a) Promoting and aiding in the implementation of cooperative ministries among the congregations in the Deanery;
- b) Identifying and communicating program and ministry ideas to the appropriate Diocesan Commission;
- c) Aiding diocesan commissions in the implementation of programs and ministries in the Deanery;
- d) Raising funds as necessary to its activities;

- e) Disseminating and responding to Diocesan communications relating to Annual Convocation concerns;
- f) Proposing names as required for membership on Diocesan Commissions; and
- g) Performing such other duties assigned by these Canons or the Constitution.

Section 3. MEMBERS

The membership of each Deanery Convocation shall consist of the canonically resident clergy in that deanery, the lay delegates to Annual Convention from each congregation contained within the deanery and the youth delegates to the Annual Convention from congregations contained within that Deanery. Each Deanery Convocation may determine additional deanery membership as desired.

Section 4. MEETINGS

Each Deanery Convocation shall meet not less than three times each year and such additional times as may be deemed necessary by the Chairperson or at the request of not less than 8 members of the convocation.

Section 5. OFFICERS

Each Deanery Convocation shall have the following officers:

- a) A Chairperson to serve for a three-year term beginning immediately after the conclusion of the Annual Convention commencing in 1997. The Chairperson may be lay or clerical, and shall be elected by secret ballot by the Deanery Convocation. In case of a vacancy, the Deanery Convocation shall fill the vacancy in the same manner for the remainder of the unexpired term. The Chairperson shall preside at meetings of the Deanery Convocation, and shall carry out such duties and communications as the Deanery Convocation or the Bishop may assign.
- b) A Vice-chairperson, who shall preside at convocation meetings in the absence of the Chairperson.
- c) Either the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson must be a member of the clergy.
- d) A Secretary and a Treasurer, who each shall perform the customary duties of their respective offices.

All officers shall be elected and members of the Executive Council shall be nominated by the Deanery Convocation at a meeting held no more than 60 days prior to the Annual Convention.

**CANON 7
OF THE GENERAL FUND**

Section 1. PURPOSE

The General Fund shall include all unrestricted funds of the Diocese and shall be used for the share of the Diocese in the General Church Program of the Episcopal Church as adopted by the General Convention, support of diocesan institutions, the stipend and expenses of the Bishop and the salaries and expenses of the Diocese.

Section 2. SOURCES, RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

The General Fund shall be derived from income from designated and unrestricted endowment and trust funds and from the pledges of each congregation. All monies due or accruing to the

Fund shall be paid to the Treasurer, who shall pay no monies therefrom which have not been provided for by the Budget adopted at the Annual Convention, unless authorized to do so by the Executive Council, or by the Bishop for expenditures under \$100.

Section 3. PARISH APPORTIONMENT

The Program and Budget of the Diocese, including its obligation to the Episcopal Church, shall be funded by an annual apportionment of each parish based on its Net Operating Income. This income shall be the total operating income as shown on the most current annual Parochial Reports.

A parish may use as its Net Operating Income for this formula the average of the last three Parochial Reports, or the most recent Parochial Report, whichever is the smaller amount.

A parish may then deduct from this amount the actual dollar amount of apportionment funds paid to the Diocese in the preceding year. This is the figure upon which the new apportionment is to be based.

The apportionment formula is as follows:

10% of the first \$75,000	(\$1 - \$75,000)
12% of the second \$75,000	(\$75,001 - \$150,000)
14% of the third \$75,000	(\$150,001 - \$225,000)
16% of any amount above \$225,001	

This apportionment shall be paid in twelve equal monthly payments.

Should a parish believe it needs time to live into this new apportionment plan, it may take up to five years to do so, increasing its support of the Diocese proportionately each year.

The Diocesan office will inform each parish of its apportionment in a timely manner. Each parish will then have a maximum of 45 days to respond in writing. If a parish believes itself to be unable to meet the apportionment it must indicate in writing why that is so. The Apportionment Review Committee will then contact the Rector/Senior Warden to meet with them and to connect them with those groups in the Diocese that are prepared to offer assistance.

If a parish will not work in good faith with the Apportionment Review Committee and the supportive groups within the Diocese, with the goal of strengthening the parish and meeting the apportionment goal, the Bishop and the Standing Committee will have the option of prescribing a course of action for the health of the parish.

Section 4. BUDGET

The Executive Council shall:

- a) Be responsible for submitting to the Annual Convention for approval, a balanced budget incorporating all the work and program of the Diocese. The proposed budget shall be distributed to all Convention delegates at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Convention.
- b) Advise the National Executive Council of the amount the Diocese intends to pay towards the National Church Program that year; and
- c) Have the authority during the course of the year to modify the budget approved by the Annual Convention in any manner it deems necessary to balance expenditures with anticipated resources.

Section 5. BUDGET PROCEDURE

- a) In April of each year, the Executive Council will ask the chairs of each commission and committee to prepare a proposed budget for the following year and submit them to the Executive Council by the end of May.
- b) A report will be prepared listing all proposed receipts and expenditures shall be presented to the Executive Council at its June meeting.
- c) The Executive Council will review the report and initiate the process of balancing the proposed expenditures with the forecasted receipts. At its September meeting, the Executive Council will approve a proposed balanced budget for the following year. The proposed budget will be distributed to all convention delegates at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Convention.
- d) Upon receipt of the formal written pledges from all congregations giving its pledge for the forthcoming year, the Executive Council shall prepare and submit a modified budget for the forthcoming year.
- e) Upon approval of the modified budget by the Executive Council, a copy of the budget will be sent to all congregations and a condensed version will be published.

CANON 8 OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND CANONS

Section 1.

After the close of each Annual Convention the Bishop shall promptly appoint, with the Executive Council concurring, a Committee on Constitution and Canons to consist of such number of persons, clergy or lay, as the Bishop shall deem necessary. The Bishop shall appoint, the Executive Council concurring, one of the members of the committee to serve as chairperson of the committee. The members of the Committee shall serve a term commencing upon appointment by the Bishop and running through the close of the next subsequent Annual Convention or until their successors are appointed and approved.

Section 2. DUTIES

The Committee on Constitution and Canons shall review proposed revisions to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese referred to it by the Bishop. Such review shall be to determine the canonical propriety of said revision and the compatibility of the proposed revision with the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention, the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese and any other documents that may be relevant. The Committee shall report the results of such review to the Bishop, the Executive Council, and the Annual Convention.

CANON 9 OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

Section 1. ORGANIZATION

The Standing Committee shall elect at its first meeting following the Annual Diocesan Convention a member to be president, a member to be vice-president and a member to be secretary. A majority shall constitute a quorum.

Section 2. EXPENSES

All necessary expenses incurred by members of the Standing Committee in attending its sessions shall be paid by the Treasurer from the General Fund.

Section 3. POWERS

During the interval between Annual Conventions, the Standing Committee, by and with the approval of the Bishop, shall have the power to fill by appointment, any vacancy in any elective or appointive office of the Diocese, except as otherwise provided by Canon. Such appointment will be for the unexpired portion of the term.

Section 4. DUTIES

The Standing Committee shall have the duty to:

- a) Call a special convention when there is no Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor or Bishop Suffragan.
- b) Investigate and make a recommendation to the Bishop regarding any matter of difference arising between a member of the clergy and a congregation or vestry, which matter is first referred to the Standing Committee by the Bishop or other person acting as the Ecclesiastical Authority. Such recommendation shall be binding upon the Bishop's approval.
- c) Preserve in a book belonging to the Diocese, correct minutes of all proceedings of the Committee which shall be signed by the secretary and countersigned by the president. Such record shall be at all times subject to inspection by the Bishop or other person then acting as the Ecclesiastical Authority and a summary thereof shall be presented at the Annual Convention next following.

CANON 10 OF THE ELECTION OF A BISHOP

Section 1.

The election of a Bishop, or of a Bishop Coadjutor, or of a Suffragan Bishop, shall be made at a convention, either annual or special, as described by these canons. If such election occurs at an Annual Convention it shall be required that notice of the convention include notice of the intent to elect such a Bishop, and that such notice be distributed to convention delegates not less than 60 days prior to the convention. Notification of a special convention called for the purpose of electing a Bishop, a Bishop Coadjutor, or a Suffragan Bishop shall be distributed to convention delegates not less than 60 days prior to the special convention, and such notice shall state the purpose of the special convention.

Section 2.

The election of a Bishop, or of a Bishop Coadjutor, or of a Bishop Suffragan shall be in the following manner:

- a) Nominations shall only be made as follows to the Standing Committee no later than the date specified by the Standing Committee:
 - 1) By the Search Committee appointed as directed by the Standing Committee; and
 - 2) By petition, the form of which shall be determined by the Standing Committee, signed by no less than three (3) clergy members canonically resident in no less than two (2) deaneries and by no less than three (3) lay members in good standing of at least two (2) deaneries. The person

nominated must indicate such person's willingness to be nominated and consent in writing to the normal background checks no later than the date specified by the Standing Committee.

- b) All nominees whose nomination has been made as set forth in subsection (a) hereof shall be eligible for election and no nominations may be made from the floor of convention.
- c) The members of clergy and lay delegates to convention shall vote by ballot and by orders. A concurrence of a majority of both orders shall be necessary for an election. If in either order less than 60 percent of all entitled to vote are present, two-thirds of the votes of those present in that order shall be necessary to determine the election. Absent non-stipendiary members of the clergy and absent retired members of the clergy shall not be counted in determining the majority of clergy.

Section 3.

In case of failure to elect upon any ballot as herein provided, the Convention shall continue to ballot until an election occurs or the convention adjourns.

**CANON 11
OF THE BISHOP COADJUTOR**

The Bishop Coadjutor, if any, shall be ex-officio a member of all diocesan boards, commissions, and committees of which the Bishop is ex-officio a member. In the Bishop's absence or disability to act, the Bishop Coadjutor shall possess all the powers and perform all the duties of the Bishop prescribed in these canons.

**CANON 12
OF SUPPORT COMMITTEES**

The Bishop may establish support committees whose duties, membership and duration shall be designated from time to time by the Bishop with the advice and consent of Executive Council.

**CANON 13
COMMISSION ON MINISTRY**

The Commission on Ministry shall be appointed by the Bishop. The Commission shall consist of twelve members appointed for three year terms from members of the laity, deacons and presbyters. At least three members of the Commission shall be persons of color. The duties of the Commission will be to advise and assist the bishop in the implementation of Title III of the national canons.

**TITLE II
PARISHES**

**CANON 1
ADMISSION OF PARISHES INTO UNION WITH DIOCESE**

Section 1. DEFINITION

All congregations, financially self-supporting or otherwise, shall be equal with respect to the Canons of the Diocese. Where the word "parish" occurs it is meant to refer to the official organization of any congregation in union with the Diocese.

Section 2. ESTABLISHMENT

- a) On recommendation of the Bishop, the Executive Council may establish a congregation, subject, however, to the provisions of Section 3 of this Canon.
- b) Before recommending the establishment of a congregation, the Bishop shall be satisfied that:
 - 1) a need exists for the establishment of such a congregation;
 - 2) a building has been acquired, or the use of a building provided;
 - 3) by-laws and articles of incorporation, consistent with the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention of this Church and the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese have been executed or are in the process of being executed;
 - 4) an application for establishment of a congregation has been made by letter, addressed to the Bishop, substantially as follows:

“We, the subscribers, baptized, adult persons, residents of the town of _____ in the state of Michigan, request that a congregation be established at _____ to be known as _____. We promise obedience to the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church in the United States Of America, the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese Of Western Michigan, and to the Bishop of Western Michigan. We promise the sum of \$ _____ annually for the support of the congregation and the clergy administering it.”

Section 3 CONSENTS

If the location of the place of worship of the proposed congregation is within three miles of the church of any congregation in union with the Diocese, the Bishop and the Executive Council shall obtain consent from the rector and vestry of each such congregation before establishing the proposed congregation.

Section 4. APPROVAL BY CONVENTION

If, after the establishment of a congregation by the Executive Council as herein above provided, the next Annual Convention of the diocese shall approve the same, the congregation shall thereby be admitted to union with the Diocese. If such establishment shall not receive approval of the Annual Convention, the Annual Convention shall by resolution determine the disposition of the congregation.

Section 5. CERTIFICATE OF UNION

The Bishop's certificate that said union has been effected shall be retroactive to the close of the Convention which approved the application, and shall be final and conclusive.

Section 6. ORGANIZATION

Upon establishment of a new congregation such congregation shall in a timely fashion organize itself by the election of a vestry and officers consistent with its own by-laws, its articles of incorporation, and the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese. Provisions for the conduct of worship shall be made in consultation with the Bishop and consistent with the policies of the Diocese.

**CANON 2
PARISH MEETINGS**

Section 1. BY-LAWS

All by-laws adopted by any congregation shall be consistent with the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention and the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese.

Section 2. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

A parish meeting shall be held annually in each congregation within the month of January. Such annual meeting shall:

- a) Elect qualified adult communicants in good standing to the vestry;
- b) Consider and act upon recommendations of the vestry concerning secular business of the parish;
- c) Receive reports of the rector, secretary, treasurer, and other officers of the parish and of its organizations;
- d) Consider and act upon proposed amendments, if any, to the articles of incorporation or by-laws of the parish.

Section 3. NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Notice of the date, hour and place of holding each annual meeting shall be given at a regular service on each of the two Sundays next preceding such meeting, by the rector, or in the rector's absence by a warden; or notice may be given with like effect by such publishing, posting, or mailing as the vestry may direct.

Section 4. SPECIAL PARISH MEETING

Special meetings of a congregation may be called by the rector or by written consent of two-thirds of the vestry, or by written consents of a majority of the vestry if the rector approves, or by consent of a majority of the vestry if there be no rector. Notice of a special meeting shall state the purpose or purposes thereof and may be given in the same manner as notice of an annual parish meeting.

Section 5. QUALIFICATIONS OF VOTERS

At all parish meetings, whether annual or special, the right to vote shall be limited to baptized persons:

- a) not less than 16 years of age,
- b) whose baptisms have been duly recorded in said parish,
- c) who for a period of not less than six months preceding have been regular worshiper in the parish and
- d) who for not less than six months preceding have been bona fide regular contributors to its support, according to the method used in the parish. Physical disability or absence from the parish during the preceding six months shall not disqualify an otherwise qualified voter.

Before any vote has been taken, the presiding officer shall state to the persons present the foregoing qualifications of voters. The rector and the wardens shall be judges of the qualifications of voters. If a warden is absent, the presiding officer may appoint a member of the vestry to act in place of the warden. The judges of election shall not permit an unqualified person to vote. Proxy ballots shall not be accepted.

Section 6. ORDER OF BUSINESS

Unless otherwise provided by by-law or resolution, the presiding officer shall control the order of business. The presiding officer may appoint tellers and other assistants. The secretary shall preserve a list of the names of all persons who voted for vestry members. The list shall be signed by the judges of election.

CANON 3

THE VESTRY: ITS OFFICERS, MEETINGS, AND DUTIES

Section 1. ORGANIZATION OF VESTRY

The vestry of a parish shall consist of not less than six nor more than fifteen lay members. Within these limits the number may be fixed by by-law. Members of the vestry shall be adult communicants in good standing as defined by Sections 2 and 3 of Canon 17, Title I of the General Convention, and shall be qualified voters of the congregation.

Unless otherwise provided by by-law, the term of a vestry member shall be one year and until a successor shall be elected. The by-laws of a parish may provide that the term of a vestry member shall be three years. In case the term be three years, the vestry at the first election shall be classified into three equal classes, as nearly as may be, and those of the first class shall be elected for one year; those of the second class for two years; and those of the third class, for three years. At subsequent elections their successors shall be elected for three years.

An election of vestry members shall be preceded by nomination. No voter shall vote for more candidates than the total number of vestry members to be elected. A majority of all votes cast shall be necessary to elect.

Immediately following the annual meeting (unless otherwise provided by by-law) the newly constituted vestry shall meet and elect for a term of one year:

- a) a senior warden,
- b) a junior warden,
- c) a secretary,
- d) a treasurer, and
- e) the authorized number of lay delegates to represent the parish at the Convention, as determined according to Title I, Canon 2, Section 4, together with the same number of alternate.

The secretary and the treasurer shall be ex-officio the secretary and treasurer, respectively, of the parish, unless otherwise provided by by-law.

Section 2. QUALIFICATIONS

The wardens shall be vestry members. The secretary and treasurer shall be qualified voters of the congregation who may or may not be members of the vestry. The delegates and alternates shall be communicants of some congregation in the diocese and shall likewise be qualified voters of the congregation.

Section 3. VESTRY MEETINGS

Unless otherwise provided by by-law, the vestry shall meet as often as once in each month in ten months of the calendar year at such day, place and hour as shall be fixed by resolution or by-law. Notice of a stated meeting, although desirable, shall not be legally necessary. The rector, when present, shall preside at all vestry meetings but shall have no vote except in the

case of a tie. In the rector's absence from the meeting, one of the wardens, if present, shall preside.

A special meeting of the vestry may be called by the rector at any time, upon notice given in any practical manner to each vestry member. The purpose of the special meeting shall be stated as a part of the notice. In a vacancy of the rectorate, a special meeting may be called by either warden at any time upon notice given in any practical manner to each other vestry member.

No notice of any meeting at which the rector and all members of the vestry are present shall be necessary. Any or all members may waive notice in writing either before or after the meeting has been held. All waivers of notice shall be kept on file by the secretary.

A majority of the members of the vestry, not counting the rector, when duly assembled, shall constitute a quorum. Less than a quorum may transact business if there be no objections, but any business so transacted is subject to ratification at the next regular meeting of the vestry.

Section 4. DUTIES OF VESTRY

The vestry shall have the duty to:

- a) Be helpful to the rector;
- b) Employ and fix the compensation of all employees of the parish PROVIDED THAT no person shall be employed or retained except by and with the approval of the rector;
- c) Provide maintenance for the rector and such compensation as shall be agreed upon for employees of the parish;
- d) Elect and call a rector after consultation with the Bishop, in case of a vacancy, provided that prior to the election of a rector of any parish, the vestry shall inform the Bishop of the name and residence of the person they propose to elect. It shall be unlawful for the vestry to take action on any name until the receipt of the Bishop's acknowledgment of such notification, and the Bishop's accompanying suggestion if there be any so long as the Bishop is then within the territory of the United States and his reply is made within thirty days after the receipt of such notification;
- e) Have charge, care and management of all property and temporal affairs of the parish;
- f) Supervise collection, control, and disbursement of all monies contributed or due to the parish corporation;
- g) Keep all buildings, structures, and tangible property of the parish adequately insured against loss;
- h) See to it that all treasurers and custodians of funds (other than banking institutions) obtained, contributed, held, or accumulated for the benefit of the parish, or of any of its activities, shall be adequately bonded;
- i) See to it that all treasurers and custodians of funds maintain records sufficient to enable proper accounting and audits;

- j) Deposit all trust funds, permanent funds and all securities, which come under their control, with a national bank, a state bank, the Executive Council pursuant to Canon 1, Section 6 of Title I, or some other custodian approved by the Finance Committee of the diocese, under a suitable deposit arrangement requiring not less than two signatures upon all checks and orders for withdrawals;
- k) Manage trust funds and income there from strictly in accordance with the lawful express requirements of the instruments creating the trust;
- l) Sell and convey unneeded personal property of the parish when deemed for the best interest of the parish to do so;
- m) Pursuant to a vote of the congregation, at a meeting duly called, sell and convey real estate of the parish, when deemed for the best interest of the parish to do so, but only pursuant to written consent of the Bishop and Standing Committee first obtained. Acting within the limitations upon debt contained in Title II, Canon 8, and in compliance with the requirements of that canon, to do any of the following acts, namely to:
 - n) Cause necessary repairs to be made upon the parish property; and
 - o) purchase necessary furnishings and equipment; and
 - p) mortgage real estate when deemed for the best interest of the parish to do so, but only pursuant to written consent of the Bishop and the Standing Committee first obtained; and
 - q) acquire appropriate real estate, and on real estate held in fee simple by the parish pursuant to consent of the congregation given at a parish meeting duly called and held, take down and remove or alter existing buildings, and erect, construct, or reconstruct, a church building, chapel, rectory, and/or parish house. This subsection shall not be held to apply to alterations which do not involve major structural changes to the buildings in question.

The foregoing duties of the Vestry shall always be subject to the authority of the rector to direct the spiritual activities of the congregation subject to the Bishop or other person acting as the Ecclesiastical Authority and to Canon Law and the rector's right to possession, use and control of the property of the parish as provided by the canons of the Episcopal Church.

Section 5. DUTIES OF OFFICERS OF VESTRY

- a) **WARDENS.** In case the congregation be without a rector, or in the absence of the rector, the wardens shall preside at meetings of the congregation and of the vestry, and shall provide public worship as circumstances shall permit.
- b) **SECRETARY.** The secretary shall keep correct minutes properly bound of all meetings of the vestry and of the congregation and shall sign the same and deliver the same to his/her successor. The records of the congregation and the vestry at all times shall be safely and permanently kept open to inspection by the Bishop, the rector, and all qualified voters of the congregation. The secretary shall be the custodian bond of the treasurer. The secretary shall see to it that proper timely notice is given of all meetings of the vestry and of the congregation.

- c) **TREASURER.** The treasurer shall receive and keep safe all monies of the parish, and shall make disbursements there from only upon order of the vestry. The treasurer shall obtain and keep on file proper receipts and vouchers covering all disbursements and shall maintain proper accounts covering all funds received disbursed and on hand. The treasurer shall report to the vestry at each stated meeting thereof, and whenever requested, all receipts and disbursements and the condition of the parish finances. The treasurer shall make a like report to the annual parish meeting. The treasurer shall give bond for the faithful performance of his/her duties. The treasurer's records shall be open to inspection by the Bishop and shall be promptly delivered to the treasurer's successor in office.

CANON 4 REGISTERS AND PAROCHIAL REPORTS

Section 1. DUTIES

It shall be the duty of all rectors, vicars, and other clergy of the Diocese to record in the appropriate Parish or Mission register all the official acts listed in Title I, Canon 6, of the Canons of General Convention.

Section 2. REPORTS

A report of every congregation and of every bishop, presbyter, and deacon not officially attached to a congregation shall be prepared annually as required by and in the manner set forth by Title I, Canon 6, of the Canons of the General Convention.

CANON 5 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO CONGREGATIONS

Section 1. ELIGIBILITY

Any congregation in union with the Diocese may make application for financial assistance from the Diocese. Such application shall be made through the Executive Council or such committee(s) as it may designate.

Section 2. PROCEDURE

The Executive Council shall establish and administer a process whereby congregations may apply for financial assistance from the Diocese. Such process shall be communicated to all congregations in the Diocese in an appropriate and timely manner and shall include, but is not limited to, the following:

- a) Dates and deadlines for applications and/or steps within the application process.
- b) Method of reporting from the applying congregation of:
 - 1) Conduct of a stewardship program for the support of the congregation and the diocese;
 - 2) Activity and worship in the congregation in the preceding year;
 - 3) Expectations for the future of the congregation.
- c) Method of accountability for use of assistance fund.

Section 3. FINAL APPROVAL

The final decision on all financial assistance grants shall be made by the Executive Council.

Section 4. FUNDING

Funds for financial aid to congregations within the Diocese shall be identified by the Annual Convention as a part of the budget of the General Fund as described in Canon 8 of Title I, in a line item entitled, "Aid to Congregations." In any given fiscal year, the total of all financial assistance granted by the Executive Council shall not exceed the total of the amount allocated for "Aid to Congregations."

CANON 6 DISSOLUTION OF CONGREGATIONS

Section 1. DISSOLUTION

Whenever any congregation shall be determined by the Bishop and Executive Council to be virtually extinct, the Convention may exclude it from union with the Diocese, but without prejudice to subsequent application for readmission in the manner prescribed by Canon for original admission.

In such case the real estate and invested funds that may be held by the Diocese or the Bishop Whittemore Foundation for the benefit of such congregation shall be administered for the benefit of the general missionary work of the Diocese and may be leased, mortgaged, sold or otherwise disposed of by the

Bishop and the Executive Council pursuant to Title III, Canon 5, Section 4(f) of these Canons and pursuant to the requirements of the Canons of the General Convention. All personal property and funds in the custody of the treasurer of the congregation shall be turned over to the Treasurer, to be used under the direction of the Bishop and the Executive Council for the general Missionary work of the Diocese.

Section 2. REORGANIZATION OF CONGREGATION AFTER DISSOLUTION

A dissolved congregation may be reorganized by the same procedure prescribed in these Canons and after reorganization having been completed, the reorganized congregation shall be entitled to the income accruing thereafter from invested funds derived from the predecessor congregation and then continuing to be held by the Executive Council, and not in the meantime disposed of, which fund shall be held for the benefit of such reorganized congregation, subject to such encumbrances as may have been created thereon in the meantime by action of the Executive Council or otherwise.

CANON 7 OF CHURCH PROPERTY

A parish or other entity of the Diocese of Western Michigan must obtain the approval of both the Bishop and the Standing Committee before acquiring real property, whether by purchase, gift, bequest, or otherwise. Title to real property shall be held *in trust* for the Diocese of Western Michigan, except as otherwise directed by the Bishop and the Standing Committee.

Section 1. LIMITATIONS ON DEBT

Hereafter no indebtedness shall be incurred by any congregation without the approval of both the Bishop and the Standing Committee, EXCEPT:

- a) Indebtedness for permanent improvements, replacement or additions to real estate or equipment, where the amount of such indebtedness, plus indebtedness of every

kind already existing, shall not exceed 150% of the average annual receipts of such congregation during the three years then last preceding;

- b) Indebtedness for current expenses where the amount of such indebtedness, plus all indebtedness heretofore incurred for current expenses and still existing, shall not exceed 20% of the total current receipts of such congregation during the preceding fiscal year; and the payment of all such indebtedness shall be provided for in the budget of the next ensuing fiscal year with reasonable expectation of its payment out of the receipts of the next two years;
- c) Indebtedness incurred to finance existing loans, provided the total amount thereof be not increased.

In computing receipts under subsections (a) and (b) hereof, income from endowments, devises and bequests available for general purposes may be INCLUDED but principal and income not available for payment of debts, and receipts earmarked for nonparochial purposes shall be EXCLUDED.

Section 2. PLAN OF PAYMENT REQUIRED

Where approval of proposed indebtedness is required, the application therefore shall be accompanied by a plan of payment, and such approval shall not be granted in any event unless such a plan is deemed feasible by the Bishop and the Standing Committee.

Section 3. EXISTING INDEBTEDNESS

This Canon shall not apply to the refinancing of existing indebtedness, provided the total existing indebtedness is not increased.

CANON 8 FISCAL YEAR, AUDITS AND INSURANCE

Section 1. FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of this diocese and of every congregation and affiliated or subsidiary organization thereof, shall be the calendar year beginning January 1, and ending December 31, both inclusive.

Section 2. AUDITS

As soon as may be after the close of each fiscal year, the accounts of all officers handling funds, whether of the Diocese or its auxiliaries, or of congregations and their auxiliaries, shall be audited in a manner satisfactory to the Executive Council.

Section 3. INSURANCE

- a) All buildings and tangible personal property, owned or held in trust by the Diocese or by any congregation, shall be insured under the Diocesan Blanket Insurance program; including but not limited to hazards to be insured against, amount and sufficiency of such insurance for each congregation, and insurance carrier or carriers, shall be as prescribed by the Executive Council. Each congregation insured under this program shall pay to the Convention Treasurer its fair share of the cost of the total Blanket Insurance program, which fair share shall be determined by the Executive Council.
- b) If any congregation neglects or refuses to pay its fair share of the cost of the Blanket Insurance Program, the Executive Council may exclude its property from the program.

- c) Each congregation and the Cathedral Corporation that provides employee health insurance shall provide that coverage through the organization providing coverage to Diocesan employees. The diocesan employee plan will provide a range of benefit plans that are financially sound, providing high quality care, and in a range of prices. Failure to comply with this subsection may result in the Diocese no longer providing a group health insurance plan. At that point, each parish would have to seek its own health insurance coverage.

CANON 9 SEASONAL CHAPELS

Any Summer or Seasonal Chapel within the confines of the diocese shall be under the control and direction of the Bishop, who, in turn, shall order the liturgical norm for such chapels and be responsible for appointing members of the clergy to officiate, as the Bishop sees fit and proper.

The Bishop has the discretion for purposes of administration, to appoint a presbyter, resident in the diocese, as priest-in-charge, to function and administer such a chapel.

All assets and real properties of such chapels shall be vested in the hands of the Diocese as provided under Title I, Canon 1, Section 2, of the Canons of the Diocese.

CANON 10 OF MINIMUM COMPENSATION STANDARDS FOR CLERGY

Section 1.

There is hereby established a minimum standard of compensation for all members of the clergy exercising a full-time, parochial, stipendiary ministry in the Diocese of Western Michigan. Compensation is defined as stipend, social security reimbursement (if provided), housing/housing allowance, and utilities.

The establishment of a minimum compensation standard is not meant to prevent a congregation from providing additional forms of compensation.

Section 2.

The Executive Council shall present to each Annual Convention a recommendation for an annual compensation minimum. Upon adoption by the Annual Convention such shall become the minimum compensation standard for the next ensuing fiscal year. For those who have been ordained more than one year, the minimum standard shall be increased by an amount, to be determined by the Annual Convention on recommendation from the Executive Council, for each year of ordained ministry beyond the first year to a limit of ten years.

Section 3.

In any case where compensation provided is below the minimum standard the position should realistically be regarded as less than a full-time position and the Bishop, or the Bishop's representative, shall assist in negotiating a mutually agreeable solution.

Section 4.

Consideration for adequate reimbursement shall also be given by vestries in the areas of:

- a) Reimbursement of automobile expenses;
- b) Continuing education; and
- c) Other professional expenses.

CANON 11
ON DISSOLUTION OF THE PASTORAL RELATION

Section 1.

Except upon mandatory resignation by reason of age, a Rector may not resign as Rector of a Parish without the consent of its Vestry, nor may any Rector canonically or lawfully elected and in charge of a Parish be removed there from by the Vestry against the Rector's will, except as hereinafter provided.

Section 2.

If for any urgent reason a Rector or Vestry desires a dissolution of the pastoral relation, and the parties cannot agree, either party may give notice in writing to the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese. Whenever the Standing Committee is the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese, it shall request the Bishop of another Diocese to perform the duties of the Bishop under this Canon.

Section 3.

Within sixty days of receipt of the written notice, the Bishop as chief pastor of the Diocese, shall mediate the differences between Rector and Vestry in every informal way which the Bishop deems proper and may appoint a committee of at least one presbyter and one lay person, none of whom may be members of the parish involved, to make a report to the Bishop.

Section 4.

If the differences between the parties are not resolved after completion of the mediation, the Bishop shall proceed as follows:

- a) The Bishop shall give notice to the Rector and Vestry that a godly judgment will be rendered in the matter after consultation with the Standing Committee and that either party has the right within ten days to request in writing an opportunity to confer with the Standing Committee before it consults with the Bishop.
- b) If a timely request is made, the President of the Standing Committee shall set a date for the conference, which shall be held within thirty days.
- c) At the conference each party shall be entitled to representation and to present its position fully.
- d) Within thirty days after the conference, or after the Bishop's notice if no conference is requested, the Bishop shall confer with and receive the recommendation of the Standing Committee; thereafter the Bishop, as final arbiter and judge, shall render a godly judgment.
- e) Upon the request of either party, the Bishop shall explain the reasons for the judgment. If the explanation is in writing, copies shall be delivered to both parties.
- f) If the pastoral relation is to be continued, the Bishop shall require the parties to agree on definitions of responsibility and accountability for the Rector and the Vestry.
- g) If the relation is to be dissolved:
 - 1) The Bishop shall direct the Secretary of the Convention to record the dissolution.

- 2) The judgment shall include such terms and conditions including financial settlements as shall seem just and compassionate.

Section 5.

In either event the Bishop shall offer appropriate supportive services to the Priest and the Parish.

Section 6.

In the event of the failure or refusal of either party to comply with the terms of the judgment, the Bishop may:

- a) In the case of a Rector, suspend the Rector from the exercise of the priestly office until he Priest shall comply with the judgment.
- b) In the case of a Vestry, invoke any available sanctions including recommending to the convention of the diocese that the Parish be placed under the direct supervision of the Bishop until it has complied with the judgment.

Section 7.

For cause, the Bishop may extend the time periods specified in this Canon, provided that all be done to expedite these proceedings. All parties shall be notified in writing of the length of any extension.

Section 8.

- a) Statements made during the course of proceedings under this Canon are not discoverable nor admissible in any proceedings under Title IV of the National Church Canons, provided that this does not require the exclusion of evidence in any proceeding under the National Church Canons which is otherwise discoverable and admissible.
- b) In the course of proceedings under this Canon, if a charge is made by the Vestry against the Rector that could give rise to a disciplinary proceeding under Canon IV, 1, of the National Church Canons, all proceedings under this Canon shall be suspended until the charge has been resolved or withdrawn.

**CANON 12
NEW CHURCH STARTS**

Section 1. ESTABLISHMENT

On recommendation of the Bishop, the Executive Council may establish a new church start, subject, however, to the provisions of Section 4 of this canon.

Section 2. CONSULTS

If the gathering place for worship of the proposed new church be within three miles of the church of any parish in union with the Convention, the Bishop and Executive Council shall consult with the rector and vestry of each such parish church before establishing the new church start.

Section 3. ACTION BY CONVENTION

If, after the establishment of a new church start by the Executive Council as hereinabove provided, the next annual Convention of the diocese shall approve the same, the new church start shall thereby be admitted to union with the Convention. If such establishment shall

Not receive approval of the Convention, the Convention shall by resolution determine the disposition of the new church start.

Section 4. ORGANIZATION

- a) After establishment of a new church start under this canon: the Bishop shall appoint a presbyter, as the church planter, to have charge of the spiritual affairs of the new church start under direction of the Bishop. The Church Planter's salary shall be fixed within the approved diocesan guidelines for clergy compensation. A new church start established under this canon shall not place itself under the charge, temporary or permanent, of any person without the consent of the Bishop.
- b) The Bishop and church planter shall appoint an advisory committee from new church missionary members.

Section 5. MEETINGS

- a) A meeting of the new church congregation shall be held annually during the month of January on such date as may be fixed by the by-laws. The first annual meeting shall adopt bylaws; and the first and each subsequent annual meeting shall be for the following purposes:
 - (1) The election of a warden, secretary, treasurer and not more than 6 other persons, having the qualifications of voters, to constitute the advisory committee;
 - (2) Consideration and action upon recommendations of the church planter or advisory committee concerning secular business of the new church start;
 - (3) Reception of reports;
 - (4) Consideration and action upon proposed amendments to the by-Laws.
- b) Special meetings may be called by the church planter or advisory committee for purposes to be stated in the notice of the meeting.
- c) Notices of the annual and all special meetings shall be given in not less than 7 days in advance of the meeting.
- d) All covenant members who are 16 years of age or older, are regular attendants at the services of the New Church Start, and who make bona fide regular contributions to its support, shall be entitled to vote at the meetings of the congregation.
- e) The annual meetings shall also choose the authorized number of lay delegates to represent the New Church Start at the Convention, as determined according to Diocesan Canons Title I, Canon 2, Section 4, together with the same number of alternates, if the New church start is in union with the Convention under the Constitution of this Diocese. They must have the same qualifications as prescribed for delegates from parishes. If not so elected, the advisory committee may appoint delegates and alternates.

Section 6. PROPERTY

New church starts shall be incorporated under the Michigan non-profit act when they show evidence of being financially self-sufficient for one year. Title to all personal property given to or purchased by or for a new church start established under this canon, and to monies contributed for operating purposes, shall vest in the treasurer of the new church start and his/her successors in office in trust for the new church start, subject to use by the church planter in his/her canonical administrations.

The Diocese of Western Michigan shall hold title to all real estate given to or purchased by or for a new church start established under this canon. Donations of real estate for the benefit of a new church start shall not be accepted except by consent of the Bishop and the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Western Michigan.

Title to endowments and invested funds given or bequeathed for the use or benefit of a new church start established under this canon shall be held by the Diocese of Western Michigan, which shall administer the same for the purposes directed in the instrument of gift or trust, unless some other Trustee shall be named in such instrument and shall accept the trust.

When a new church start is replaced by an incorporated parish, such parish shall be deemed the lawful successor of the new church start and all property held in trust for the new church start shall be conveyed to such parish, provided such conveyance is not inhibited by the provisions of the trust.

Before any church, parish house or other buildings shall be built by such a new church start, or structural alterations made to any existing building, satisfactory drawings thereof shall be submitted to and approved by the Bishop and the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Western Michigan.

Section 7. OFFICERS' DUTIES.

The wardens, the secretary and treasurer shall have such duties, as conform as nearly as practicable to those of the corresponding officers of a parish. The treasurer shall give bond under the circumstances and in the form required by the canons of this diocese and of the General Convention, satisfactory to the Bishop and Standing Committee.

Section 8. SUPERVISION OF NEW CHURCH STARTS RECEIVING DIOCESAN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

The Bishop and Executive Council shall exercise supervision over the financial affairs of every new church start.

Section 9. CHANGE FROM NEW CHURCH STATUS TO PARISH STATUS.

To become a parish, a new church start must follow the procedure and comply with the standards prescribed by Title II, Canon 1.

Section 10. DISSOLUTION.

On recommendation of the Bishop, the Executive Council may close a new church start after giving the officers of the new church start a reasonable opportunity to be heard. In such case the real estate and invested funds held by the Diocese of Western Michigan for the benefit of such new church start shall be administered for the benefit of the evangelical work of the diocese and may be leased, mortgaged, sold or otherwise disposed of, with the advice and consent of the Bishop and Executive Council. All personal property and funds in the custody of the new church start treasurer shall be turned over, in such case, to the treasurer of the diocese, to be used under the direction of the Bishop and Executive Council for the evangelical work of the diocese.

CANON 13
PAROCHIAL MISSIONS

Section 1. ESTABLISHMENT

On recommendation of the Bishop and Standing Committee, the Executive Council may establish a Parochial Mission, subject, however, to the provisions of Section 4 of this Canon.

Section 2. CONSULTS

If the gathering place for worship of the proposed Parochial Mission be within three miles of the church of any parish in union with the Convention, the Bishop and Executive Council shall consult with the rector and vestry of each such parish church before establishing the Parochial Mission.

Section 3. APPLICATION

An application for establishment of a Parochial Mission shall be made by in writing to the Bishop by the parish proposing to sponsor the Parochial Mission. The application shall set forth:

- a). A description of the group (which may be identified by native language, ethnic group, geographic location, or other affinity) to be served by the proposed Parochial Mission;
- b). An explanation of the reasons why such group would be better served by the establishment of the proposed Parochial Mission than by the sponsoring parish as presently constituted or by some other existing parish;
- c). A description of the physical facilities to be used by the proposed Parochial Mission;
- d). A description of the arrangements proposed for taking charge of the spiritual affairs of the proposed Parochial Mission;
- e). A description of the relationship contemplated between the sponsoring parish and the proposed Parochial Mission, including the arrangements for supervision of the financial affairs of the Parochial Mission and any expectations for eventual self-sufficiency of the proposed Parochial Mission; and
- f). An affirmation to the effect that the proposed Parochial Mission will, if established, obey the Constitution and Canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Western Michigan, and the Bishop of Western Michigan.

The sponsoring parish shall in addition furnish the Bishop with such other information as he/she may require to satisfy himself/herself of the need, and the adequacy of the arrangements, for such proposed Parochial Mission.

Section 4. ACTION BY CONVENTION

If, after the establishment of a Parochial Mission by the Executive Council, the next annual Convention of the diocese shall approve the same, the Parochial Mission shall thereby be admitted to union with the Convention. If such establishment shall not receive approval of the Convention, the Convention shall by resolution determine the disposition of the Parochial Mission.

Section 5. ORGANIZATION

After establishment of a Parochial Mission, the Bishop shall appoint a person to have charge as vicar of the spiritual affairs of the Parochial Mission in cooperation with the sponsoring parish under the direction of the Bishop, on such terms and for such period as the Bishop may direct. The Bishop shall also appoint a warden, secretary, and treasurer and advisory committee for the Parochial Mission, to hold office until the next annual meeting of the mission's congregation. The officers and advisory committee of the Parochial Mission shall administer the secular affairs of the Parochial Mission in cooperation with the officers and vestry of the sponsoring parish.

Section 6. MEETINGS

- a) A meeting of the Parochial Mission shall be held annually during the month of January on such date as may be fixed by the By-Laws. The first annual meeting shall adopt the By-Laws; and the first and each subsequent annual meeting shall be for the following purposes:
 - (1) The election of wardens, secretary, treasurer and not more than 9 other persons having the qualification of voters to constitute the advisory committee;
 - (2) Consideration and action upon recommendations concerning the secular business of the Parochial Mission in cooperation with the sponsoring parish;
 - (3) Reception of reports; and
 - (4) Consideration and action upon proposed amendments to the By-Laws.
- b) Special meetings may be called by the vicar or advisory committee for purposes to be stated in the notice of the meeting.
- c) Notices of the annual and all special meetings shall be given in such reasonable manner as the vicar or the advisory committee shall direct.
- d) All baptized persons who are 16 years of age or older, are regular attendants at the services of the Parochial Mission, and who make bona fide identifiable contributions to its support, shall be entitled to vote at the meetings of the congregation.
- e) The annual meeting shall also choose the authorized number of lay delegates to represent the Parochial Mission at the Convention, as determined according to Diocesan Canons Title I, Canon 2, Section 4, together with the same number of alternates, if the Parochial Mission is in union with the Convention under the Constitution of this Diocese. They must have the same qualifications as prescribed for delegates from parishes. If not so elected, the advisory committee may appoint delegates and alternates.

Section 7. PROPERTY

Parochial Missions shall not be separately incorporated. Title to all personal property given to or purchased by a Parochial Mission, and to monies contributed for operating purposes, shall vest in the treasurer of the mission and his/her successors in office in trust for the mission, subject to use by the vicar in his/her canonical administration.

The Diocese of Western Michigan shall hold title to all real estate given to or purchased by a Parochial Mission. Donations of real estate for the benefit of a Parochial Mission shall not be

accepted except by consent of the Bishop and the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Western Michigan.

Title to endowments and invested funds given or bequeathed for the use or benefit of a Parochial Mission shall be held by the Diocese of Western Michigan, which shall administer the same for the purposes directed in the instrument of gift or trust, unless some other Trustee shall be named in such instrument and shall accept the trust.

When a mission is replaced by an incorporated parish, such parish shall be deemed the lawful successor of the Parochial Mission and all property held in trust for the Parochial Mission shall be conveyed to the new parish, provided such conveyance is not inhibited by the provisions of the trust.

Before any church, parish house or other buildings shall be built by a Parochial Mission, or structural alterations made to any existing building of a Parochial Mission, satisfactory drawings, cost estimates; thereof shall be submitted to and approved by the Bishop and the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Western Michigan.

Section 8. OFFICERS' DUTIES

The wardens, secretary and treasurer shall have the same duties as those of the corresponding officers of a parish. The treasurer shall give bond under the circumstances and in the form required by the Canons of the Diocese of Western Michigan and of the General Convention, satisfactory to the Bishop and Standing Committee.

Section 9. SUPERVISION OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

The financial affairs of the Parochial Mission shall be supervised by the sponsoring parish.

Section 10. CHANGE TO PARISH STATUS

To become a parish, a Parochial Mission must follow the procedure and comply with the standards prescribed by Title II, Canon 1.

Section 11. DISSOLUTION

On recommendation of the Bishop, the Executive Council may close a Parochial Mission after giving the sponsoring parish and the officers of the mission a reasonable opportunity to be heard. In such case any real estate and invested funds held by the Diocese of Western Michigan for the benefit of such Parochial Mission shall be administered for the benefit of the evangelical work of the diocese and may be leased, mortgaged, sold or otherwise disposed of with the advice and consent of the Bishop and the and Standing Committee. All personal property and funds in the custody of the Parochial Mission treasurer shall be turned over, in such case, to the treasurer of the diocese, to be used under the direction of the Bishop and Executive Council for the evangelical work of the diocese.

CANON 14 ON RESTORING CONGREGATIONAL HEALTH

Section 1. Purpose. This Canon is intended to address the exceptional case of a parish whose continued viability as a self-sustaining entity appears to be in jeopardy, such that a degree of Episcopal intervention or oversight is needed as a means of restoring the health of the congregation. It is not intended to derogate from the traditional right and responsibility of parishes in the Episcopal Church to govern themselves. In those cases where an inquiry is initiated, and where a distressed parish is declared, it shall be the duty and obligation of all parties to strive to accomplish the speedy end or substantial amelioration of the conditions that

led to the inquiry or to the declaration of distressed parish, and to restore the congregation to spiritual and temporal health.

Section 2. Initiation of Inquiry. An inquiry by the Ecclesiastical Authority leading to a declaration of distressed parish under this Canon may be initiated only in one of the following ways:

The Bishop, believing that one or more of the conditions in Section 4 may exist, may initiate such inquiry;

The Standing Committee by vote of two-thirds of its members, believing that one or more of the conditions in Section 4 may exist, may petition the Bishop to initiate such inquiry; or if the Standing Committee is the Ecclesiastical Authority, it may initiate such inquiry by unanimous vote;

The Rector, both Wardens, or a majority of the Vestry of such parish, believing that one or more of the conditions in Section 4 may exist, may petition the Ecclesiastical Authority to initiate such inquiry.

Section 3. Inquiry by Ecclesiastical Authority. Upon proper initiation as provided in Section 2, the Ecclesiastical Authority, either itself or through persons it may designate, shall conduct such inquiry into the condition of the parish as it deems appropriate. Such inquiry shall include conversations with persons in the parish, and may also include written or oral questions to the parish or members thereof and examination of any books and records of the parish. The parish must cooperate in the inquiry by answering such questions fully, accurately, and promptly, and by making available the books and records of the parish upon reasonable notice. If, after such inquiry, the Bishop finds that one or more of the conditions in Section 4 exist in the parish, the Bishop may, with the concurrence of two-thirds of the

Standing Committee, declare the parish to be a distressed parish. If the Standing Committee is the Ecclesiastical Authority, it may make such declaration following inquiry, by unanimous vote.

Section 4. Distressed Conditions in the Parish. No declaration of distressed parish may be made except upon a finding, following inquiry, that one or more of the following conditions exist in the parish:

- (a) The failure of the parish, for two years or more, to consist of at least twenty-five adult Communicants of the Church or, for two years or more, to be financially self-supporting.
- (b) The failure for at least two years to elect a Vestry or a Rector (where the parish is without a Rector).
- (c) The failure to pay the minimum clergy compensation as required by canon; or the failure to make timely payment of premium under the clergy pension system as required by canon, or of premium for any other obligatory insurance for clergy.
- (d) The refusal or willful failure to arrange for representation of the parish at an Annual Convention of the Diocese.
- (e) The failure or neglect to make canonically-required reports, including the annual parochial report to the Bishop, the annual pledge to the diocese, and

parish audit report; or to pay duly-assessed Diocesan apportionments or assessments. Voluntary giving shall not be considered a Diocesan apportionment or assessment.

- (f) Persistent and significant instability or decline in the financial or temporal condition of the parish, as evidenced by, for example, substantial invasion of the principal portion of endowment or trust funds, to such a degree that, in the judgment of the Bishop and two-thirds of the Standing Committee, the long-term viability of the parish as a self-supporting entity is in jeopardy.
- (g) Persistent failure or neglect to conform to the business methods in church affairs required by the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church or of the Diocese, including those requirements relating to the bonding of treasurers or other custodians of funds, proper record keeping, proper maintenance of books of account, annual audit, and the maintenance of adequate insurance.
- (h) The purchase, use, or conveyance of property of the parish, or the incurring of debt, other than in conformity with the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church and of the Diocese, except where such non-conformity was inadvertent and resulted in no substantial prejudice to the property or temporal interests of the parish.
- (i) The failure to cooperate in an inquiry under this Canon, or in connection with any other canonical inquiry by the Ecclesiastical Authority or its designee, including the failure or refusal to provide full and accurate information on the state of the parish and its affairs.
- (j) The failure to implement in good faith any plan or arrangement agreed to by the parish under this Canon.
- (k) Apart from the foregoing, any deliberate and manifest breach of obligation of the parish, set out in the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church or of the Diocese, but only if the following additional conditions are met:
 - (i) the Bishop shall have transmitted to the parish a written warning summarizing the conduct or failure to act by the parish which constitutes the deliberate and manifest breach under this section, indicating the reasons why such conduct or failure to act constitutes such breach, and explicitly directing the parish to cease and desist from the conduct which constitutes the breach, or to act affirmatively as the canonical obligation requires; and
 - (ii) within 30 days following transmittal of the warning and direction, the parish shall have failed or refused to conform to the directive so provided, or shall have failed or refused to provide to the Bishop a written plan and agreement satisfactory to the Bishop to bring its conduct into prompt conformity with its canonical obligation.

Section 5. Remedies. If a parish is declared to be a distressed parish in accordance with this Canon, the Bishop, with the concurrence of two-thirds of the standing committee, may require the application of one or more of the remedies below, anything in the articles of incorporation or by-laws of such parish to the contrary notwithstanding. The remedies shall be considered independent remedies with no requirement of exhaustion of certain remedies before the

application of others. If the standing committee is the Ecclesiastical Authority, it may require such application by unanimous vote.

- (a) A plan for the parish to cure the conditions which led to the declaration of distressed parish, agreed to by the parish within 90 days, and implemented thereafter in accordance with its terms.
- (b) Appointment by the Ecclesiastical Authority of five or more adult communicants temporarily to govern the affairs of the parish as Warden and Vestry, notwithstanding any other canonical or other provision for such governance, until the Ecclesiastical Authority declares the end or sufficient amelioration of such conditions, or applies further measures under the Canons.
- (c) Designation of the Rector of the parish Clergy-in-charge, until the Ecclesiastical Authority declares the end or sufficient amelioration of such conditions, or applies further measures under the Canons.
- (d) Conveyance of title of all real property of the parish to the Diocese, which shall preserve and control such property in trust until the Ecclesiastical Authority declares the end or sufficient amelioration of such conditions, or applies further measures under the Canons.
- (e) Such other measures as the Ecclesiastical Authority shall determine with the advice and consent of two-thirds of the Standing Committee (or as determined by the Standing Committee acting unanimously, if it be the Ecclesiastical Authority), until the Ecclesiastical Authority declares the end or sufficient amelioration of such conditions, or applies further measures under the Canons.

TITLE III ORGANIZING FOR MINISTRY

CANON 1 ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN

Section 1. AUTHORITY

The Executive Council, which is representative of the five deaneries of the Diocese of Western Michigan, shall create such commissions, committees, and departments as shall be deemed appropriate to the mission and ministry of the Diocese. Each shall have a stated Mission, membership, and program and, when necessary, budget, which collectively shall be deemed the Administrative Plan for that year.

Section 2. ACCOUNTABILITY

Except for staff groups accountable directly to the Bishop, all such commissions, committees and departments shall be directly accountable to the Executive Council. The Executive Council shall provide supervision, interpretation, clarification, and direction to such groups as the Executive Council may deem necessary.

Section 3. COMMISSION REPORTS

Each commission shall report annually and in writing to the Executive Council and at other times the Council deems reports necessary. Copies of these reports shall also be sent to the

Bishop as Presiding Officer. The Bishop and the Council shall submit in writing an annual report of their work to the Annual Convention, including the annual report of the Treasurer.

Section 4. REPORT TO CONVENTION

The Executive Council shall report each year to the Annual Convention on the Administrative Plan, providing the names, mission, membership, and budget for each commission, committee, and department which it has created to meet the mission and ministry needs of the Diocese.

Section 5. STAFF GROUPS

Staff groups are advisory committees appointed by the Bishop to assist diocesan staff persons who work directly under the supervision of the Bishop.

CANON 2 YOUTH MINISTRIES

Section 1. COMMITTEE ON YOUTH MINISTRIES

There shall be a Committee on Youth Ministries which shall have such duties as assigned by the Executive Council. This Committee shall be composed of fifteen members selected by the bishop. The Committee shall convene a Youth Convention as set forth in Section 2, to which the youth of the Diocese grades nine through young adults shall be invited. The Committee shall act upon the recommendations made at the Youth Convention.

Section 2. YOUTH CONVENTION

There shall be an annual Youth Convention, organized by the Committee on Youth Ministries which shall have as one of its responsibilities the nomination of 5 youth delegates and 5 alternates to the Diocesan Convention, which upon approval by the Committee, shall be submitted to the Diocesan Convention pursuant to the Canons of the Diocese.

TITLE IV ECCLESIASTICAL DISCIPLINE

CANON 1 OF REGULATIONS RESPECTING THE LAITY

Section 1. CHURCH REGISTERS

In every congregation, the wardens shall provide a proper book in which the rector or, if there is no rector, one of the wardens shall record the name and date of birth of every child baptized, with the names of the parents and sponsors; the name and date of birth of every adult baptized, with the name or names of sponsors; the name of every person confirmed and received; the names of all persons married, with the signature of the witnesses to marriages; a list of all burials; and a list of all communicants in the church, with the date of every event recorded, all of which shall be over the signature of the person making such record. The warden shall not drop from the record the name of any resident communicant. No alteration shall be made in the baptismal registers, except:

- a) By the minister who made the original entry, within one year following the making of the entry, to correct a clerical error; or
- b) Pursuant to final order of appropriate civil authority having jurisdiction to determine the pertinent facts, having binding effect on the church, or accepted as binding by the rector or vestry.

Section 2. SERVICE RECORDS

In every congregation, the warden shall provide a proper book in which the rector or, if there is no rector, one of the wardens shall record all services held in the congregation which record shall show the date, time, place, and kind of service held, the number of persons present, and if the service be that of the Holy Eucharist, the number receiving communion.

Section 3. ANNUAL REPORT TO BISHOP

The rector or warden of each congregation shall annually, on or before the first day of February, deliver to the Bishop the annual report required by Canon.

Section 4. CUSTODY OF REGISTER OF EXTINCT CONGREGATION

When any congregation shall have been determined by the Bishop and Executive Council to have become virtually extinct, its register shall be sent to the Registrar immediately and shall remain in the Registrar's custody subject to the Bishop's further direction.

Section 5. ABSENCE FROM HOLY EUCHARIST

If any communicant of a congregation shall be irregular or negligent in coming to Holy Eucharist, it shall be the duty of the rector to admonish the communicant. If after admonition, a communicant shall for a period of one year continue to neglect this sacrament, the communicant shall cease to be counted as a communicant in good standing.

Section 6. ABSENCE FROM CONGREGATION

If any communicant from a congregation shall be absent for a period of two consecutive years without sufficient reason therefore made known to the rector, the person's name shall be removed from the register and that person shall not be entitled to a letter commendatory unless and until satisfactory explanation is made.

CANON 2 ECCLESIASTICAL DISCIPLINE

Section 1.

This Canon is adopted pursuant to the Canons of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church, including Title IV thereof, "Ecclesiastical Discipline," which Title, including Canon IV. 4 thereof, is incorporated herein by reference.

Section 2.

The Ecclesiastical Trial Court of the Diocese of Western Michigan is hereby established. As set forth in Title IV of the Canons of the Church, the members of the Court shall be elected by the Annual Convention of the Diocese; the Court shall include both lay persons and priests or deacons, with the majority by no more than one being priests or deacons; the Court shall annually elect a Presiding Judge from among its members within two months following Diocesan Convention; and the Court shall include, as an officer thereof, one or more persons appointed by the Court as Church Attorney. In addition, the Court shall appoint a Clerk, a Reporter, and at least one (but no more than three) Lay Assessors. The Church Attorney shall be appointed no later than 30 days after the filing of a Charge with the Standing Committee. The Clerk and the Reporter shall be appointed no later than 30 days after the issuance of a Presentment by the Standing Committee. At least one Lay Assessor shall be appointed no later than the commencement of trial.

Section 3.

The Court shall consist of seven members, of whom four shall be priests or deacons and three shall be lay persons. The Presiding Judge may be either ordained or a lay person, shall serve a one-year term as Presiding Judge, and may be re-elected by the Court as Presiding Judge. A quorum for the rendering a verdict, judgment, and sentence by the Court is seven, and these

actions must be concurred in by a two-thirds affirmative vote, or five of the seven members of the Court. Otherwise, a quorum for the taking of official action by the Court shall be five, of whom three shall be priests or deacons and two shall be lay persons, and the Court may act in such other matters upon the affirmative vote of simple majority.

Section 4.

The terms of service shall be three years, commencing at the close of the Convention at which a member's election occurred and expiring at the close of the Convention three years later. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a term shall be deemed extended to permit the completion of a trial actually commenced before the expiration of a term. This section is subject to the initial election procedures set forth in Section 6 hereof.

Section 5.

Members of the Court may be re-elected by the Convention, except that no person may serve more than two consecutive three-year terms. No person may simultaneously serve as a member of the Court and a member of the Standing Committee, nor may any member of the Court participate in a case in which that member had direct prior involvement, either as a member of the Standing Committee, as Church Attorney, or otherwise.

Section 6.

At the 1995 Annual Convention of the Diocese, all seven members of the Court shall be elected for the following terms of service: three persons (two ordained and one lay) shall be elected to serve for three years, or until the close of Convention in 1998; two persons (one ordained and one lay) shall be elected to serve for two years, or until the close of Convention in 1997; and two persons (one ordained and one lay) shall be elected to serve for one year, or until the close of Convention in 1996.

At each Annual Convention commencing with the 1996 Convention, two persons (one ordained and one lay) shall be elected to three-year terms, except that at every third Convention after 1995 (i.e., at the Annual Conventions of 1998, 2001, 2004, etc.) three persons (two ordained and one lay) shall be elected to three-year terms.

Section 7.

In the event of a vacancy on the Court caused by death, disability rendering a person unable to act, resignation, or declination to serve, the remaining members of the Court shall, by majority vote and within a reasonable time, appoint a replacement member of the Court. Such replacement member shall serve until the next Annual Convention, at which time the Convention shall elect a new member to fill the remaining term (if any) of the original member. A replacement member shall be from the same order (ordained or lay) as was the person replaced.

Section 8.

If a member of the Court is disqualified from a case for cause, as set forth in Canon IV.4.8 of the Canons of the Church, or is otherwise determined by the Court to be unable to serve in a particular case due to conflict of interest or other cause making it inappropriate or impracticable under the circumstances for that member to serve in the case, the remaining members of the Court shall appoint an acting member to serve. Such acting member shall be elected by majority vote of the remaining members of the Court from persons otherwise qualified for election under the Canons. Such acting member shall be a member of the Court 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. A person selected by the Court to serve as an acting member of the Court shall be from the same order (ordained or lay) as was the person for whom substitution was made.

Section 9.

The Court may adopt and publish from time to time such Rules of the Court as it deems appropriate and proper. Such Rules of the Court shall be not inconsistent with the Constitutions and Canons of the Church or the Diocese of Western Michigan, and shall be binding on all persons appearing before the Court or under its jurisdiction.

Section 10.

The Chancellor of the Diocese of Western Michigan shall be available to provide advice and counsel to the Ecclesiastical Trial Court on matters of procedure or on any matter touching upon ecclesiastical or civil law, to the extent such involvement is not inconsistent with the responsibilities of the Chancellor under Section 8, Canon 3 of Article I hereof. However, the Chancellor shall not express a view on or have any involvement in the merits of a particular case before the Court.

**CANON 3
OF THE SEXUAL MISCONDUCT PREVENTION POLICY**

Section 1.

The annual Convention may adopt and from time to time amend policies related to sexual misconduct by clergy, parish and diocesan employees and volunteers. Such policies may require periodic training or certification as a mandatory prerequisite for participation in the ministry of the Diocese and its parishes.

Section 2.

The failure to abide by the provisions of any policy adopted in accordance with Section 1 hereof, to attend any required training or to comply with a required certification process shall subject such a person to the sanctions and discipline as provided in these Canons and in the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church.

**CANON 4
OF THE ANTI-RACIST CHURCH POLICY**

Section 1.

The annual Convention may adopt and from time to time amend policies related to becoming an Anti-Racist Church. Such policies may require periodic training or certification as a mandatory prerequisite for participation in leadership positions of the Diocese and its parishes.

Section 2.

The failure to abide by the provisions of any policy adopted in accordance with Section 1 hereof, to attend any required training or to comply with a required certification process shall subject such a person or congregation to the sanctions and discipline as provided in these Canons and in the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church.

2009
Treasurer's Report
And
Vital Statistics

