

Journal of Proceedings  
of the 167th Annual  
Convention of the  
Episcopal Diocese of Iowa

**Clergy Entitled to Seat and Vote**

\* Denotes Attendance

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Whence Received</u>
* The Rt. Rev. Alan Scarfe	Mar 1, 2003	Los Angeles
The Rev. Canon Thomas Stanford Hulme	Jun 15, 1955	Ordination
The Rev. Canon Marlin Lee Whitmer	Jun 22, 1955	Ordination
The Rev. Canon Ronald Douglas Osborne	Jun 24, 1965	Ordination
The Rev. Canon Frederick Ferdinand Kramer	Sep 2, 1966	Minnesota
The Rev. Canon Glenn Edger Rankin	Jan 18, 1971	Ordination
The Rev. Robert David Gamble	Jun 10, 1974	Massachusetts
The Rev. John Irvine Kilby	Feb 11, 1976	Quincy
The Rev. Canon George Franklin Wharton, III		Sep 1, 1976 Louisiana
* The Rev. Canon Sally Suzanne Peterson	Dec 18, 1976	Ordination
The Rev. Wayne Lloyd Pelkey	May 9, 1977	West Missouri
The Rev. Thomas Clyde Putnam	Jun 23, 1977	Ordination
The Rev. Canon Robert Roger Elfvin	Oct 17, 1978	Ohio
The Rev. William Samuel John Moorhead	Aug 1, 1980	Nebraska
The Rev. Randall Robert Lyle	Dec 29, 1982	Colorado
The Rev. Melvin Leslie Low	Aug 15, 1983	Fond du Lac
The Rev. James Frederick Norton, Jr	Nov 2, 1984	Southern Ohio
The Rev. Wayne Kenneth Kamm	Apr 9, 1985	Ordination
* The Rev. Canon Kathleen Sue Milligan	Apr 18, 1986	Ordination
The Rev. Kristy Kay Smith	May 10, 1986	Ordination
* The Rev. Kathryn Sue Campbell	Jun 11, 1986	Ordination
The Rev. Margaret Yoder Weiner	Jun 13, 1987	Ordination
The Rev. Peter Lawrence Sickels	Oct 15, 1987	California
The Rt. Rev. Carl Christopher Epting	Sep 27, 1988	Consecration
The Rev. Arthur "Paddy" Patrick Stanley	Dec 1, 1988	Guilford, Surrey England
The Very Rev. John Liston Hall	Aug 31, 1989	Springfield
The Rev. Susanne Kay Watson Epting	Nov 4, 1989	Ordination
The Rev. Roy Lee Chrisman	Mar 2, 1991	Nebraska
The Rev. Charles Michael Pumphrey	Sep 1, 1991	Maryland
The Rev. Canon Peter Oliver Sanderson	Nov 1, 1991	Brechin, Scotland
The Rev. Julia Kathleen Easley	Jun 1, 1992	Kansas
* The Rev. Liane Mae Nichols	Oct 18, 1992	Ordination
The Rev. William Walter Magie	Mar 17, 1993	Ordination
* The Rev. Benjamin Sewell Webb	Mar 30, 1993	Ordination
The Rev. Elizabeth Coulter	Sep 21, 1993	Ordination
The Rev. Charles Maurice Pope	Nov 30, 1993	Ordination
* The Rev. Richard Warren Graves	Mar 10, 1994	Los Angeles
The Rev. Leon Henry Pfothenauer	Apr 25, 1995	Ordination
* The Rev. Mary Jane Kaisersatt Oakland	Jun 7, 1995	Ordination
The Rev. Mary Elizabeth Hoffman	Aug 15, 1995	Ordination

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<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Date Received</u></b>	<b><u>Whence Received</u></b>
The Rev. John Brammer Harper	Sep 16, 1995	Ordination
* The Rev. Charles Lewis Lane	Oct 6, 1995	Ordination
* The Rev. Mark Eldon Eccles	Dec 3, 1995	Ordination
The Rev. Patrick Edward Genereux	Dec 5, 1995	South Dakota
The Rev. Patricia Joyce Roberts	Dec 17, 1995	Ordination
The Rev. Donald Robert Payer	Dec 19, 1995	Ordination
The Rev. Elizabeth Mary Koffron-Eisen	Jan 7, 1996	Ordination
The Rev. Karen Wacome	Mar 23, 1996	Ordination
The Rev. Margaret Stilwell Harris	Apr 13, 1996	Ordination
The Rev. August Fred Berger	Nov 16, 1996	Ordination
The Rev. Netha Nadine Brada	Aug 23, 1997	Ordination
The Rev. Dian Marie Ong	Sep 17, 1997	Ordination
The Rev. Elsa "Muffy" Ellen Harmon	Jan 10, 1999	Ordination
* The Rev. Patricia Ann Johnson	Apr 24, 1999	Ordination
The Rev. Mary Eleni Christopher	Jul 13, 1999	New Jersey
The Rev. Linda Mae Hughes	Sep 9, 1999	Indiana
The Rev. Lynne Tyson Carver	Oct 31, 1999	Chicago
The Rev. Martha Ellen Lang	Nov 22, 1999	Ordination
* The Rev. Jean Elizabeth Rinner McCarthy	May 27, 2000	Ordination
The Rev. Artis Louise Ferrel	Jun 3, 2000	Ordination
The Rev. Stephanie Marie Green Tramel	Jun 10, 2000	Ordination
The Rev. George William Rogerson	Apr 7, 2001	Ordination
* The Rev. Merle Edwin Smith	Apr 7, 2001	Ordination
The Rev. Kathleen Ruth McDowell Tripses	Apr 7, 2001	Ordination
* The Rev. Robert Andrew Kem	Feb 27, 2002	Nebraska
The Rev. Melvin Harlan Schlachter	Mar 1, 2002	Southern Ohio
The Rev. Sharon Marie Mahood	Jun 21, 2002	Minnesota
* The Rev. Barbara Marie McCaulley	Oct 16, 2002	Ordination
The Rev. Maureen Catherine Doherty	Feb 11, 2003	Oklahoma
* The Rt. Rev. Alan Scarfe	Mar 1, 2003	Los Angeles
* The Rev. Anne Elizabeth Moats Williams	May 23, 2003	Ordination
The Rev. Terence James Kleven	Jul 17, 2003	Eastern Newfoundland & Labrador
The Rev. James Lloyd Davis	Sep 2, 2003	Milwaukee
The Rev. William Joseph Pugliese	Oct 10, 2003	Spokane
The Rev. Mary Elaine Cole-Duvall	May 18, 2004	Delaware
The Rev. Margaret "Peg" Ruth Brosz Jackson	Jun 12, 2004	Ordination
* The Rev. Wendy Kay Abrahamson	Aug 1, 2004	Virginia
The Rev. Tim E. Vann	Sep 1, 2004	Nebraska
The Rev. Curtis Roghair Moermond	Dec 18, 2004	Ordination
The Rev. Lori Jean Erickson	Apr 16, 2005	Ordination
* The Rev. Alice Bordwell Fulton Haugen	Apr 30, 2005	Ordination
The Rev. Catherine Mary Quehl-Engel	Sep 2, 2005	Ordination
* The Rev. Carl Douglas Mann	Dec 3, 2005	Ordination

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<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Whence Received</u>
* The Rev. Elizabeth Carol Duff Popplewell	Dec 16, 2006	Ordination
* The Rev. Jan "Raisin" Maria Horn	Dec 16, 2006	Ordination
* The Rev. John Charles Horn	Dec 16, 2006	Ordination
The Rev. Sallie Cheavens Verrette	Dec 16, 2006	Ordination
* The Rev. Donald Franklin Keeler	Dec 17, 2006	Ordination
* The Rev. Vincent Songaben Bete	Jun 18, 2007	North Central Philippines
* The Rev. Judith Connie Dalmasso	Jun 23, 2007	Ordination
* The Rev. Mark Edwin Holmer	Oct 1, 2007	ELCA-CCM
* The Rev. John Stephen Doherty	Oct 7, 2007	Ordination
* The Rev. Sue Ann Raymond	Oct 25, 2007	Colorado
* The Rev. Martha Ruth Kester	Oct 29, 2007	Central Florida
* The Rev. Kent Howard Anderson	Jun 4, 2008	Ordination
The Rev. Cathi Head Bencken	Aug 12, 2008	Western New York
* The Rev. Judith Hale Wallace Crossett	Feb 8, 2009	Ordination
* The Rev. Melody Neustrom Rockwell	Feb 21, 2009	Ordination
* The Rev. Diane Lynn Eddy	Feb 22, 2009	Ordination
The Rev. Martha Crowley Rogers	Jun 1, 2009	Colorado
* The Rev. John Haven Greve	Jul 26, 2009	Ordination
* The Rev. Jennifer Ann Masada	Jul 26, 2009	Ordination
* The Rev. Jane Louise Stewart	Jul 26, 2009	Ordination
The Rev. Sean Dennis Burke	Oct 2, 2009	California
The Rev. Lyle Leslie Brown	Oct 25, 2009	Ordination
The Rev. Barbara Ann Easley	Oct 25, 2009	Ordination
The Rev. James Gordon Kannenberg	Oct 25, 2009	Ordination
The Rev. Georgia Lehman Humphrey	Jan 19, 2010	Colorado
The Rev. Kathryn Ann Halverson-Rigatuso	Jan 23, 2010	Ordination
* The Rev. Shelley Ray Dowling	May 9, 2010	Ordination
The Rev. Marilyn Marie Wentzien	May 9, 2010	Ordination
* The Rev. Christine Annette Gowdy-Jaehnig	Jun 6, 2010	Ordination
* The Rev. James Cade Griesheimer	Jun 6, 2010	Ordination
The Rev. Jeannette Noyes Pillsbury	Jun 6, 2010	Ordination
* The Rev. Stacey Pecaut Gerhart	Mar 2, 2011	Ordination
* The Rev. Diana Lee Wright	Dec 17, 2011	Ordination
The Rev. Patricia Ann Kirkland	Jan 8, 2012	Ordination
The Rev. Sarah Dempster Lopez	Jan 28, 2012	Ordination
* The Rev. Kevin Ray Emge	Jul 1, 2012	Ordination
* The Rev. Jean Douglas Smith	May 18, 2013	Ordination
* The Rev. Ruth Evelyn Ratliff	Jun 8, 2013	Ordination
* The Rev. Bonnie Carver Wilkerson	Jul 6, 2013	Ordination
The Rev. Hannah Elyse Cornthwaite	Dec 7, 2013	Ordination
* The Rev. Karen Graham Crawford	Dec 7, 2013	Ordination
* The Rev. Sheryl Ann Hughes Empke	Dec 7, 2013	Ordination
* The Rev. Frederick Leo Steinbach	Dec 7, 2013	Ordination

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<u>Name</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Whence Received</u>
The Rev. Paul Edward Walker	Dec 31, 2013	Bethlehem
The Rev. Randy Lee Webster	Dec 31, 2013	Bethlehem
* The Rev. Kelly Ann Shields	Feb 1, 2014	Ordination
* The Rev. Lauren Jean Lyon	May 9, 2014	West Missouri
* The Rev. Kay Joan Beach	Jul 5, 2014	Ordination
* The Rev. Holly Danielle Scherff	Dec 6, 2014	Ordination
The Rev. Judith Ann Thayer	Dec 6, 2014	Ordination
* The Rev. Kathleen Ann Travis	Dec 6, 2014	Ordination
* The Rev. Mary Margaret Wagner	Dec 6, 2014	Ordination
* The Rev. Kristine Kathryn Leaman	Feb 15, 2015	Ordination
* The Rev. Troy Cavan Beecham	Apr 1, 2015	Atlanta
* The Rev. Steven Robert Godfrey	Apr 14, 2015	Chicago
* The Rev. Elaine Sue Caldbeck	Oct 16, 2015	Southern Ohio
* The Rev. Kenneth Blaine Messer	Dec 12, 2015	Ordination
* The Rev. Marcus John Haack	Dec 19, 2015	Ordination
* The Rev. Thomas Michael Early	Dec 10, 2016	Ordination
* The Rev. Marilyn van Duffelen	Jan 16, 2017	Moosonee-Anglican Church of Canada
The Rev. Joan Elizabeth Farstad	Feb 11, 2017	Ordination
* The Rev. Stephanie Patterson Moncrieff	Aug 11, 2017	Texas
* The Rev. Kevin P. Goodrich, O.P.	Dec 15, 2017	Brandon-Anglican Church of Canada
* The Rev. Stephen Mark Benitz	Dec 16, 2017	Ordination
* The Rev. Sinclair Conrad Paul Ender	Dec 16, 2017	Ordination
* The Rev. Elizabeth Cone Preston	Dec 16, 2017	Ordination
* The Rev. Zebulun Bevans Treloar	Sep 29, 2018	Ordination
* The Rev. Kim Turner Baker	Oct 18, 2018	Washington
* The Rev. Hal Thomas Lee Hayek	Oct 19, 2018	Maryland
* The Rev. Nicola Bowler	Nov 29, 2018	Ordination
* The Rev. Michael A. Last	Jun 1, 2019	ELCA-CCM

## Lay Delegates to the Annual Convention

**Algona, St. Thomas'**

Mr. Ormond Curry

**Ames, St. John's**

Ms Brenda Freeman

Mr. Ed Gillott

Ms Marie Schwartz

Mr. George Smith

Ms. Dorothy Yoerger

Ms Barbara Waldron

**Bettendorf, St. Peter's**

Ms Maggie Tinsman

Mr. Bruce Tinsman

**Boone, Grace**

Ms. Catherine Schroeder

**Burlington, Christ**

Ms. Michelle Callahan-Moore

**Carroll, Trinity**

Mr. C.J. (Clinton) Petersen

**Cedar Falls, St. Luke's**

Ms Noel Neff

Ms Jennifer Rasmussen

Mr Daryl Smith

**Cedar Rapids, Christ**

Mr. Doug Anderson

Mr. Tony Bever

Mr. Parker Meinecke

Ms. Paula Sanchini

**Cedar Rapids, Grace**

Ms. Kim McIrvn

Mr. Douglas Wilson

**Chariton, St. Andrew's**

Ms. Sherry Steinbach

**Clinton, Christ**

Ms Alescha Caldwell

Ms Nancy Nieland

**Coralville, New Song**

Mr. Jim Conger

MS Lois Oba

**Council Bluffs, St. Paul's**

Ms. Miriam Smith

**Davenport, St. Alban's**

Ms. Sherry Rodriguez

Ms Robin Sade

**Davenport, Trinity Cathedral**

Ms Karen Brooke

Ms. Sue Duhring

Mr. Tim Long

Mr Andrew Petersen

Ms Catherine Petersen

**Denison, Trinity (Trinity Cluster)**

Mr. Luke Schulte

**Des Moines, Cathedral Church**

**of St. Paul**

Mr. Harold Alexander

Mr. Bruce Beeston

Ms. Phyllis Blood Melton

Ms Diane Hayes

Ms. Donna Hendrick

**Des Moines, St. Andrew's**

Ms. Carrie Devries

Ms. Hannah Early

**Des Moines, St. Luke's**

Ms Cinda Abbey

Mr Alex Jenson

Ms. Kenna Marple

**Des Moines, St. Mark's**

Ms. Ann Skallerup

**Dubuque, St. John's**

Ms. Susan Forshey

Mr. David Vanderah

**Durant, St. Paul's**

Terry Martz

**Emmetsburg, Trinity**

Mr. David Nixon

**Fort Dodge, St. Mark's**

Ms Sharon Vogel

**Fort Madison, St. Luke's**

Ms Elizabeth Critz

**Glenwood, St. John's**

Ms. Karen McCallan

**Grinnell, St. Paul's**

Mr. Sig Barber

Ms. Jennifer Latham

**Harlan, St. Paul's**

Mr. Bill Early

**Independence, St. James'**

Ms. Wanda Stahl

**Indianola, All Saints'**

Ms Christine Enos

**Iowa City, Trinity**

Mr Chris Gibbons

Ms. Jennifer Jetton

Mr. Paul Muhle

Ms. Donna Prime

Mr. Mike R. Wagner

Ms. Donna Wong-Gibbons

**Keokuk, St. John's**

Ms Meg Oliver-Mills

**Marshalltown, St. Paul's**

Mr. David Bursley

**Mason City, St. John's**

Ms. Mary Pieper

Ms. Jan Willeke

**Mount Pleasant, St. Michael's**

Ms Liz Bunnell

**Muscatine, Trinity**

Ms Molly Haller

Ms. Sheila Marks

**Newton, St. Stephen's**

Ms. Janice Carpenter

Mr. Christopher Templeton

**Orange City, of the Savior**

Mr. Mike Kugler

**Oskaloosa, St. James'**

Mr. Shane Vernoooy

**Ottumwa, Trinity**

Ms. Carol Logan

**Perry, St. Martin's**

Mr. John Powell

**Shenandoah, St. John's**

Ms Kim Gee

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### **Sioux City, Calvary**

Mr Robert Kistler

### **Sioux City, St. Thomas'**

Ms. Jannette Domayer

Ms. Joni Miller

Mr. Toby Varvais

### **Spirit Lake, St. Alban's**

Ms Stevie Shively

Ms Jane Wiest

### **Storm Lake, All Saints**

Ms. Pat Cowan

### **Waterloo, Trinity**

Mr. Matthew Aronson

Ms Judy Henry

### **Waverly, St. Andrew's**

Dr. Kyle Schenkewitz

### **Webster City, Good Shepherd**

Mr. Tom McLaughlin

### **West Des Moines, St. Timothy's**

Ms. Beth Arnold

Mr.. Chris Bice

Ms Gloria Blondino

Ms Sarah Bunch

Ms Abigail Livingood

Ms. Jennie McKinney

Mr. Vince Preston

### **Youth Delegates**

Ms Sharon Freeman

Ms Grace Fleming

Mr Charles Jetton

### **Chancellor**

Mr. William Graham

### **Registrar**

Cn. Julianne Allaway

### **Treasurer**

Mr. Bill Smith

## **Proceedings of the 167th Annual Convention Episcopal Diocese of Iowa 26-27 October, 2019 Downtown Marriott, Des Moines, Iowa**

### **Plenary Session I (Saturday Morning)**

Following the opening service of worship, Bishop Scarfe convened the 167<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese of Iowa at 9:13 a.m. After welcoming the delegates, he called upon the Reverend Mary Jane Oakland for the report on Credentials. On behalf of the Credentials Committee, Oakland reported that, in accordance with Article VII, Sec. 1 of the Constitution, a quorum was present for the transaction of business.

Bishop Scarfe called for a Roll Call vote of those present. On the motion of the Very Reverend John Horn, Trinity Davenport, duly seconded and passed, attendance will be taken from registrations rather than from a Roll Call.

The bishop then called for the reading of the Minutes from the 166<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention. On the Motion of Dean Horn, duly seconded and passed, the reading was dispensed with, and the Minutes approved as they appear in the Journal for 2018.

Bishop Scarfe again welcomed delegates and visitors. The bishop then welcomed the youth who are present. There are young people here in childcare; older youth are in a Youth Conference at the Cathedral; and three young people are here as youth delegates. These are:

Grace Fleming

Sharon Freeman

Charles Jetton

Christ Church, Cedar Rapids

St. John's by the Campus, Ames

Trinity Church, Iowa City

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We were reminded to wear our name tags at all times, and to keep track of our voting cards and our meal tickets which were given with our name tags. An explanation was given about the use of “pronoun tags”. The bishop drew our attention to the blue and yellow cards. These are for voting. Blue cards would be for “yes” votes; yellow would indicate “no”. Other methods of voting were also described. These would be voice votes, or by a show of cards. Balloting for elections would be done through a digital tally.

Bishop Scarfe then called upon the Reverend Jean McCarthy, Chair of the Dispatch of Business Committee. On her resolution duly seconded, the Agenda for the 167<sup>th</sup> Convention, as prepared by the Dispatch of Business Committee and the Secretary of the Convention was adopted. She further moved that the Rules of Order, as approved by the 156<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese of Iowa, be the Rules of Order for this 167<sup>th</sup> Convention. The motion was duly seconded and passed.

The Bishop then introduced special guests to the Convention. We welcomed Bishop Lorna Halaas, Bishop of the Western Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church; Bishop Laurie Haller, Bishop of the Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church; and the Right Reverend Richard Mbikoyesu Aquila and his wife Mama Yodita from our Companion Diocese of Nzara in South Sudan. In addition, we welcomed our Keynote Speaker, Mr. Shane Claiborne.

Further, he introduced Standing Committee member Aileen Chang Matus, who is not a delegate this year; Donna Scarfe, who is our Convention signer and a member of the Resolutions Committee. He also introduced diocesan staff: Anne Wagner, diocesan Comptroller, Amy Mellies, Youth Missioner; and Traci Ruhland Petty, Administrative Missioner for Growing Iowa Leaders-Engaging All Disciples. Others present are David Oakland, chair of the Commission on One World, one Church; and clergy licensed to serve congregations in this diocese: Gary Dalmasso and Robert “Bob” North. In addition, the following postulants and candidates, who were not delegates were also recognized:

### Postulants:

Jean Marie Davis (St. Paul’s Cathedral, Des Moines)  
Elizabeth Abbott Wells McElroy (Trinity Church, Iowa City)

### Candidates:

Elizabeth Walters Gillman (St. Andrew’s Church, Des Moines)  
Jennifer Briggs Latham (St. Paul’s Grinnell)  
Kevin Thomas Powell (Church of the Saviour, Clermont)  
Eric Joseph Rucker (St. Andrew’s, Des Moines)

On the motion of the Reverend Mary Jane Oakland, for the Credentials Committee, duly seconded those listed above were granted seat and voice in this Convention.

On the motion of Elaine Caldbeck, duly seconded, the Reports to Convention, which have been available at the diocesan Website for 30 days, were received as presented. These include the Acts of the Bishop; reports by Diocesan Boards, Commissions, Committees, Officers and Coordinators; financial reports and diocesan statistics.



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At this point, the Convention heard through a Zoom Connection, a word of greeting from Bishop Andrew Swift of our Companion Diocese of Brechin in Scotland. He offered best wishes and prayers, as well as appreciation for the ongoing Companionship over so many years.

After this greeting, Bishop Scarfe called for the election of officers for this Convention. On the motion of the Reverend Jean McCarthy, the **Reverend Canon Kathleen Milligan**, interim at Trinity Muscatine, was nominated as Secretary for the Convention. There being no further nominations, Milligan was elected. She then appointed the Reverend Lauren Lyon as Assistant Secretary.

On the nomination by the Reverend Jean McCarthy, **Mr. William H. Smith** of St. Timothy's Church in West Des Moines, was elected, as there were no further nominations.

The Bishop called for Confirmation of Diocesan officers for the upcoming year. He nominated Mr. **William "Bill" Graham** as Diocesan Chancellor. Bill's nomination was confirmed on a voice vote. He then nominated **Vicki Ingham** as Diocesan Historiographer. On a voice vote, she was confirmed. Both are members of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Des Moines.

Bishop Scarfe then nominated **Canon Julianne Allaway** of the diocesan staff, as Convention Registrar. Her nomination was approved on a voice vote. **Mr. William H. Smith** was nominated as diocesan Treasurer, and his nomination was also affirmed.

Bishop Scarfe then called upon the Reverend Raisin Horn, Christ Church, Clinton, for the report from the Nominations Committee. He invited the nominations for the Standing Committee. One clergy and one lay member were to be elected.

Clergy Nominations:

Elaine Caldbeck, St. Peter's Church, Bettendorf  
Kathleen Milligan, Trinity Church, Muscatine.

Lay Nominee:

Aileen Chang-Matus, Christ Church, Cedar Rapids.

There being no further nominations from the floor, it was moved the Very Reverend John Horn, duly seconded and passed, that nominations be closed.

Bishop Scarfe then called for nominations for the at-large members of the Diocesan Board of Directors. One lay member and one clergy member were to be elected.

Clergy nominee:

John Greve, Grace Church, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Lay nominees:

Paula Sanchini, Christ Church, Cedar Rapids  
Dale Schirmer, St. John's Church, Mason City  
John Stewart, St. John's Church, Dubuque

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Bishop Scarfe called for nominations from the floor, and Molly Haller of Trinity Church, Muscatine, was nominated, and the nomination was seconded. She was added to the slate for Lay Member of the Board.

Additional Board Members are selected and nominated by each chapter in a three year rotation system. This year's nominees for a three-year term are:

For the North Central Chapter: The Reverend Mark Holmer, St. Thomas, Algona  
For the South Central Chapter: Mary Neis, Trinity, Ottumwa.

There was no nominee at this time from the Central Chapter. As there were no nominations from the floor, a representative from the Central Chapter may be chosen at a later time, and confirmed by the Board of Directors. On the motion of Jane Stewart, nominations were closed for the Board of Directors.

Nominations were then presented for the Disciplinary Board. Two clergy and two lay members are elected for a 2-year term. The nominees were:

### Clergy:

Lauren Lyon, Trinity, Iowa City  
Anne Williams, St. Mark's Church, Anamosa  
Diana Wright, Trinity Church, Carroll

### Lay:

Cynthia Danielson, St. Michael's Church, Mount Pleasant  
Eric Rucker, St. Andrew's Church, Des Moines

There being no nominations from the floor, Maggie Tinsman moved that nominations be closed for the Disciplinary Board. The motion was seconded and passed.

The Bishop then called for nominations for Deputies to General Convention. Four Lay and Clergy Deputies and four Lay and Clergy Alternates will be elected at this Convention. The nominees are

### Clergy Deputies

Nicola Bowler, St. John's, Ames  
John Doherty, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Des Moines  
Thomas Early, St. Alban's Church, Spirit Lake  
Kevin Emge, St. Paul's Church, Grinnell  
Steven Godfrey, St. Andrew's Church, Des Moines  
Raisin Horn, Christ Church Clinton  
Hal Ley Hayek, Christ Church, Cedar Rapids  
Lauren Lyon, Trinity Church, Iowa City  
Elizabeth Popplewell, St. Luke's Church, Cedar Falls  
Zebulun Treloar, Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Des Moines  
Meg Wagner, Diocese of Iowa

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### Lay Deputies

Charles Crawley, Christ Church, Cedar Rapids  
Jeffrey Cornforth, St. Andrew's Church Waverly  
Emily Jetton, Trinity Church, Iowa City  
Annaleah Moore, St. Paul's Church, Council Bluffs  
Maire Powell, Church of Our Saviour, Clermont  
Dale Schirmer, St. John's Church, Mason City  
William Smith, St. Timothy's Church, West Des Moines  
Margaret Tinsman, St. Peter's Church, Bettendorf

There being no nominations from the floor, Elaine Caldbeck moved that nominations be closed. The motion was seconded and passed. Bishop Scarfe called on Kathleen Milligan, Secretary of Convention and The Rev. Carl Mann, Christ Church Burlington, Chair of the Elections Committee, to explain the voting procedure. Voting is done electronically, using phones, or electronic devices available at the back of the Convention Hall. After the explanation the voting period was declared open when the first Plenary session would be recessed., until the beginning of the Third Plenary Session at 2:00 p.m. Bishop Scarfe next called upon our Treasurer, Mr. Bill Smith (St. Timothy's, West Des Moines) for a report on finances for 2018 and 2019 to date. Smith reported that the year 2018 finished up with an excess income of \$31, 377. Income line items totaled \$1.121.012 which was \$25,667 less than budgeted; but expenses for the year came in at \$57,444 less than budgeted as well. Overall, our financial position at the end of 2018 showed that our total Net Assets stood at \$15,194,275.00. These reports are found in the report booklet beginning with the Audit Report following page 29.

Turning to 2019 to date – in this case 31 August, which is the last month for which we have final data: Income is at \$804,320 or 69% (benchmark should be 75%) or \$804,320. Expenses are at \$808,486 leaving us with a deficit of \$4,166 with a quarter of the year to go. This is about normal for the end of summer, and is well in line with our usual experience. Congregational stewardship shares at the end of September showed a shortfall of \$33,310, which compares to around \$38,000 at the same point in 2018.

Smith then made a preliminary report on the results of the Gilead Campaign. The Campaign resulted in payments and pledges totaling right around 1.2 million dollars. This is a 3-year campaign; and the opportunity is still there to make a pledge. Smith drew the Convention's attention to the Exhibit Hall, where there is a table with more information and the opportunity to make a pledge if you haven't already done so. After a video presentation about the Gilead Campaign, Bishop Scarfe closed the first Plenary Session and dismissed us for a break. We were reminded that voting could take place during this time.

### **Plenary Session II**

Plenary Session II began at 11:06 a.m., with prayers from Chaplain Elizabeth Popplewell. It was acknowledged that there had been some problems with voting, and we were advised that the polls would remain open until 6 p.m. and that those whose votes had failed to register would still be able to vote. Treasurer Bill Smith was recalled and asked to present the diocesan budget for 2020. The budget was available in the report booklet. The budget for 2020 is set at \$1,164,393.00. This is just a shade

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under the amount in the revised 2019 Budget. New items in the budget include the provision of support for a position to oversee and coordinate the Gilead Grant process, and for part time assistance for our financial administration. In addition, we are now assuming some of the expenses for the Beloved Community Initiative. Insurance costs show a 5.5% increase – down a little from the earlier projections. In addition a modest 1.25% increase has been applied to all salaries, with the exception being that of Bishop Scarfe. This budget adds \$5,000 to his salary. This has the effect of raising his Highest Annual Compensation in anticipation of his mandated retirement. In addition, it helps us to be in a better position to attract candidates when it will be time to elect the 10<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Iowa. There being no questions or comment, Smith moved the adoption of the proposed budget for 2020. The motion was duly seconded, and passed.

Bishop Scarfe then took the podium for his address to the 168<sup>th</sup> Convention. During this address he highlighted the theme for the year of Engaging All Disciples. The work of supporting our smaller congregations took the form of four meetings in the quadrants of the state, to look at common issues. At the first of these meetings, Bishop Swift and a group from Brechin Zoomed in to participate.

Bishop Scarfe shared the signs of new growth and vitality in the smaller congregations (ASA 25 or under), which are 50% of our worshipping communities. There is evidence of growth in other communities as well; and in fact, in 2018 Iowa was one of only 20 dioceses which saw some modest growth. It is too early to be sure there is a trend; but there certainly are signs of a turnaround in our congregations. He highlighted the production of the Congregational Vitality Survey, which we borrowed and adapted from our Companions in Brechin.

He then gave a report from the Engaging All Disciples weekends this past year, including the work at the Summer Ministries School and Retreat, where 7 cohorts were developed around the seven most popular subjects from the Growing Iowa Leaders days in 2018. These cohorts met with a coach at the Retreat and will meet regularly in this year online, and come together again at the Ministries Retreat in 2020.

Drawing our attention to New Initiatives, the bishop turned over to Meg Wagner who reported on the work of the Beloved Community Initiative. This included a week-long immersion experience for high school students; an Underground Railroad pilgrimage in the spring; the ongoing work of revamping the Dismantling Racism Training and offering it around the Diocese. She especially highlighted the 2020 Vision Resource, which includes materials that can be used in congregations to look at issues of racism and white privilege.

Bishop Scarfe resumed his report by introducing the work of Faithful Initiatives; it is a program from Luther Seminary, designed and led by Dwight Zscheile. Elizabeth Popplewell, Stephen Benitz and Traci Petty were the core team who went with him to three trainings over the last few months. The bishop expects to continue meeting in clusters over the next 18 months to introduce this work to congregations. In addition, there will be 3 trainings scheduled for teams from any congregations which are interested in the work. The Reverend Stephen Benitz (St. John's Mason City), and the Reverend Elizabeth Popplewell (St. Luke's, Cedar Falls) were called upon to make a presentation about this initiative.

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Moving to the GILEAD Campaign, the bishop thanked those who have participated, and outlined plans for further opportunities to pledge to and support the campaign. He then introduced Traci Petty and Tina Austin, who have come on to the staff to work on the Gilead Grant process and to provide accounting support for both the campaign and the Comptroller's Office.

Speaking of his own experiences as a teenager and a young adult coming to faith, Bishop Scarfe gave the opportunity for Amy Mellies to make her report on the Youth Ministry in the diocese. He then called on Traci Petty who, in addition to her work on Gilead, has also taken on the support for ongoing work with Young adults.

He reported on the Companion Diocese relationships. He talked about the recent visit Iowans made to Swaziland (Eswatini) where we met with them for their Synod. We were joined by Bishop Swift and Pat Millar from the Diocese of Brechin.

We were introduced to Bishop Richard Aquilla, who became the second Bishop of our Companion Diocese in Nzara. He and his wife Yodita were here for this convention, and we would be hearing from them later. Our friend Samuel Peni became the Archbishop of the Interior Province of Western Equatorial in 2019. This province includes Nzara, along with the Diocese of Yambio of which he is also bishop.

Bishop Scarfe then shared personal reflections on his life in faith, and particularly some reflections on his time as bishop in Iowa. He concluded by announcing that he expects to retire in 2021, and is calling for the election of the Tenth Bishop of Iowa sometime that spring, with a consecration date set for 18 September 2021. He concluded by expressing his gratitude to the diocese for the trust and support for these years as our bishop.

Bishop Scarfe resumed the Chair and called upon the Reverend Elaine Caldbeck (St Peter's Bettendorf), Chair, for the report of the Resolutions Committee. Caldbeck reported that one Resolution, # 167A was offered by the East Chapter and Maggie Tinsman (St. Peter's, Bettendorf) The resolution is titled **Human Trafficking and Slavery**.

Caldbeck indicated that there were 4 late resolutions to consider. The first is called **Support of Resolution from the Diocese of Swaziland**, and would be # 167B; The Second is called **Add Canon 38 Of the Election of Bishops**, and would be # 167C. The third resolution is titled **Proposed Amendment of Article III of the Constitution of the Diocese of Iowa** and would be #167D. These two resolutions come from the Constitution and Canons Committee of the diocese. The fourth resolution comes from Cathedral Church of St. Paul and is titled **Strategic Review**, and would become #167E.

For these late resolutions to be considered, our rules of order needed to be suspended. in order to be considered. Caldbeck moved for the Committee on Resolutions that the rules be suspended. The motion was seconded and duly passed. These new resolutions were then read by their proposers and were put on the agenda for the Fourth Plenary Session. A hearing on the resolutions was offered for the Saturday Evening following the banquet and program.

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Bishop Scarfe called for the presentation of Resolution # 167A, which had been in the hands of the delegates for the required time. He called on the originator Maggie Tinsman to make her presentation.

### Resolution 167A Human Trafficking and Slavery

**Resolved,** That this 167th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa hereby urges and encourages a vote of the Iowa Legislature on providing in the FY2021 Iowa Appropriation Bill of the Attorney General Office a separate line item for funding to address human trafficking and slavery services only.

This was moved by the Resolutions Committee and duly seconded. It was approved on a voice vote.

Bishop Scarfe called on Kathleen Milligan, Secretary of the Convention to read the three proposed Amendment to the Constitution of the Episcopal Church. This reading is for informational purposes. They will need to be ratified following the next General Convention. The Bishop declared a recess for lunch, reminding us that the Third Session would be a time for discussion and that we should be sure to look for our assigned tables when we reconvened.

### Plenary Session III (Saturday Afternoon)

Bishop Scarfe resumed the Chair and called us back into session at 2:04 p.m., and opened with music and prayer. He read a message of greeting from Bishop Ellinah Wamokoya of our Companion Diocese of Swaziland. He then introduced Bishop Laurie Haller, Bishop of the Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church, who brought us greetings from our Ecumenical partners in Iowa.

The bishop introduced The Reverend Wendy Abrahamson (St. Paul's, Grinnell) who updated us on her work as a Registered Lobbyist for the Diocese of Iowa to the Iowa General Assembly. She commented on our Episcopal Day on the Hill, and expressed gratitude for those who support the Faith in Action initiative.

Bishop Scarfe introduced Mister Shane Claiborne, author of *The Irresistible Revolution* and *Common Prayer for Ordinary Radicals*, as our Keynoter for the theme "A Simple Way" There was a Q. and A. time following his presentation.

Following a short break, we were back in session at 3:15 for Table Talk about Mr. Claiborne's presentation. Feedback came through the Mentimeter platform.

When we gathered together again, we were led in a Service of Evening Prayer by the Very Reverend John Horn, Dean of Trinity Cathedral. The sermon was given by The Reverend Lorna Halaas, Bishop of the Western Synod of the ELCA.

The Convention Recessed at 5:10 until the Morning Session at 8:30 on Sunday.

The Banquet introduced new clergy and was enlivened by an evening of Improvisational Theater presented by Kim Scarfe, Ben Broedel and other friends.

## Plenary Session IV (Sunday Morning)

Plenary Session IV was called to order at 8:06 a.m. with music and prayer led by Chaplain Elizabeth Popplewell. The Bishop Scarfe called on the Reverend Mary Jane Oakland (Credentials Chair). She moved that seat and voice be granted to Mr. Robert Wooten and Mr. Matt Petty, from the Cathedral Church of St. Paul so that they might speak to the Convention regarding Resolution 167E. The motion was seconded and passed.

The Bishop then called on Elizabeth Popplewell for her report on our Companion Diocese of Nzara. She and her husband Dennis attended the Consecration of the II Bishop of Nzara in August, on behalf of Bishop Scarfe. She introduced the Right Reverend Richard Mbikoyesu Aquilla and his wife, Mama Yodita. He addressed us briefly, and then handed the podium to his wife Yodita, who spoke more about their delight in our Companionship.

The Reverend Jean McCarthy (Retired) was then called to the podium to give her report on Ecumenical Relations. She spoke in particular about the relationship with our United Methodist partners, and asked our prayers as they are going through a difficult time of discernment regarding the future of their church.

Bishop Scarfe then invited Mr. David Oakland, Chair of the One World One Church Commission to come forward for the report of that Commission.

Bishop Scarfe drew our attention to the United Thank Offering boxes, before announcing the grants received by and through the diocese of Iowa.

<b>Diocese of Nzara</b>	<b>\$28,520</b>	<b>Pre-natal and Birth Clinic</b>
<b>St. Timothy's, WDM</b>	<b>\$10,605</b>	<b>Faith and Grace Garden, Greenhouse</b>

He reported on the 2019 International Development Grant Awards coming from the September meeting of One World One Church. A total of \$8,158 was awarded in the following way

<b>Diocese of Swaziland</b>	<b>\$3,500</b>	<b>Piggery expansion</b>
<b>Diocese of Nzara</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>Pre-natal clinic, consumable supplies</b>
<b>Bahamas Dorian Relief</b>	<b>\$1,658</b>	<b>Care of Diocese of Southeast Florida</b>

The Reverend Stacy Gerhart was introduced by the bishop for her report on her time in Swaziland and remarks about our ongoing Companion Relationship.

Bishop Scarfe then announced the results of the elections:

Standing Committee:

<b>Clergy:</b>	<b>Kathleen Milligan</b>
<b>Lay:</b>	<b>Aileen Chang Matus</b>

Board of Directors

<b>Clergy:</b>	<b>John Greve</b>
<b>Lay</b>	<b>Molly Haller</b>

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Chapter Reps:

<b>North Chapter</b>	<b>Mark Holmer</b>
<b>South Central</b>	<b>Mary Neis</b>

Disciplinary Board

<b>Clergy</b>	<b>Anne Williams</b>
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<b>Lay</b>	<b>Diana Wright</b>
	<b>Cynthia Danielson</b>
	<b>Eric Rucker</b>

Deputies to General Convention (in order of election)

<b>Clergy Deputies:</b>	<b>Nicola Bowler</b>
	<b>Steven Godfrey</b>
	<b>Elizabeth Popplewell</b>
	<b>Thomas Early</b>

**Alternates**

**Meg Wagner**  
**John Doherty**  
**Raisin Horn**  
**Hal Ley Hayek**

**Lay Deputies**

**Maggie Tinsman**  
**Jeff Cornforth**  
**William H. Smith**  
**Emily Jetton**

**Alternates**

**Dale Schirmer**  
**Annaleah Moore**  
**Charles Crawley**  
**Maire Powell**

Bishop Scarfe congratulated those who had been elected and offered thanks to all of those who had put themselves forward for these offices.

Elaine Caldbeck, for the Resolutions Committee was called back to present the late resolutions which had been approved for considerations on Saturday. On behalf of the Committee she moved consideration of Resolution 167 B, Strategic Planning. The Reverend Steven Godfrey came to the microphone and moved that this resolution be referred to the diocesan Board of Directors; but asked that Mr. Wooten and Mr. Petty from the Cathedral be allowed to share the rationale for the resolution. The motion was seconded and passed. Mr. Petty and Mr. Wooten talked about the thinking behind the



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resolution, on the need to streamline processes and look at ways where resources could be shared between parishes and across the diocese.

Caldbeck then moved Resolution 167 C

### **Support of Resolution from the Diocese of Swaziland.**

The Synod of Diocese of Swaziland 2019, sponsored by Bishop Ellinah Wamukoya, passed the following resolution which challenged the Diocese of Iowa and the Diocese of Brechin to adopt the same resolution.

Be it resolved that the Diocese of Iowa accept this challenge by adopting the same resolution:

#### **1. SEASON OF CREATION**

##### **This Convention noting that:**

Care for creation is our mandate as the Church and noting that the Anglican Fifth Mark of Mission calls for the care for creation:

##### **Resolves that:**

- All congregations of the Diocese of Iowa observe the Season of Creation, to raise awareness, pray and take action towards Creation care
- The Season of Creation readings as may be provided are considered in this season.
- All congregations appoint an Environmental coordinator to facilitate environmental education and ensure that materials through the Creation Care movement are disseminated at their congregations and ensure environment ministry is rolled out in their congregations
- Promote the occasional holding of services outdoor, in natural settings in order to connect people to nature

#### **2. COMBATTING PLASTIC POLLUTION**

##### **This Convention noting that:**

It is becoming increasingly clear that plastic is proving to be extremely damaging to the health and well-being of people and the planet;

And that the quantity of plastic is polluting water, air and land and threatening the survival of millions of species;

And that this applies in particular to micro plastics which can enter the respiratory system and the blood stream;

Noting that: Kenya, Rwanda and other African countries have banned plastic bags

##### **This Diocesan Convention respectfully requests;**

- The Bishop to communicate to the Chairperson of Councils of Churches or Interfaith groups that member congregations start having Dialogue on use

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of plastics in the country and find solutions and recommendations to make to policy makers.

We further request that the Bishop and all Clergy and lay leaders to encourage all parishioners to:

1. Put pressure on local shops to stop using non-biodegradable plastic bags.
2. Combat plastic pollution by joining with local communities/churches in clean-up campaigns in rivers, townships and market places or other polluted communities.
3. Support the Bring Your Own Bag (BYOB) Campaign and pledge to stop using single use plastic bags and encourage parish sewing groups to make materials bags and both income generating project and environmental project.

AND

### **3. CLIMATE CHANGE**

#### **This Convention, recognizing:**

How climate change has affected the Agriculture sector and food security, Water sector, Health Sector, Biodiversity and ecosystems in the country:

And also recognizing that of all the most affected sectors by climate change; most of the rural poor depend for their livelihood and women and girls are the most affected;

#### **Respectfully requests;**

- The Bishop to communicate to the Chairperson of Council of Churches or Interfaith groups that member congregations start having a Dialogue on climate change issues to find the role that the church can play in the country on climate justice advocacy and finding adaptation and mitigation measures that can be applicable within the church as means of taking action
- That these groups start looking for funding to run Climate Actions

#### **We further resolve that:**

1. Congregations Embark on Rainwater harvesting in Churches and Rectories and their individual households
2. Planting vegetable gardens for income generation and food security
3. Teach Parishioners about Climate Smart Agriculture
4. Use of Energy conserving light bulbs and appliances and invest in solar geysers in rectories.
5. Invest in renewable energy projects where possible and applicable
6. Encourage planting of trees as Carbon sinks in special occasions such as Baptism, Confirmation, wedding anniversaries and birthdays and/or funerals.

AND be it further resolved that; the resolutions be adapted for their contexts.

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The motion was seconded, and discussion followed. Bishop Scarfe turned the Chair over to the Reverend Elizabeth Popplewell during the course of consideration of this Resolution. Several amendments were proposed but all failed to pass. The Resolution as proposed was passed on a show of hands.

Bishop Scarfe resumed the Chair, and again called on Caldbeck, who moved Resolution 167 D on behalf of the Committee.

### **ADD CANON 38 Of the Election of Bishops**

**Sec. 1.** Upon the announced resignation of the Bishop, the receipt from the Bishop of written intent to resign, or notice of the death of the Bishop, the Standing Committee shall convene within sixty (60) days to initiate the process for the election of the successor Bishop. The Standing Committee [in consultation with the bishop]\*\* shall have oversight and responsibility for the process of electing the successor Bishop in accordance with this Canon and the applicable provisions of the Constitution of this Diocese and the Constitution and Canons of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church.

**Sec. 2.** The responsibilities of the Standing Committee shall include:

1. Establishing procedures for election of the successor Bishop, to include procedures for election of delegates to the Electing Convention;
2. Appointment of a Transition Committee and such other committees and consultants as it deems appropriate;
3. Designation of the date of the Electing Convention;
4. Collaborate with the Nominating Committee, the Transition Committee and diocesan leadership to provide appropriate financial means, staff support and facilities support for the search and nomination process, the Electing Convention, episcopal transition and the consecration and seating of the successor Bishop.
5. Oversight of the election of members of the Nominating Committee;
6. Oversight of the activities of the Nominating Committee;
7. Receipt and publication of the slate of nominees submitted by the Nominating Committee;
8. Solicitation and receipt of nominations by petition to be submitted to the Standing Committee within ten (10) days after publication of the Nominating Committee's slate of nominees, such petition nominees to be supported by signatures of at least one hundred (100) adult communicants of the diocese in good standing representing not fewer than five (5) parishes of this Diocese.
9. Establishing rules of order for the Electing Convention;
10. Conducting the Election Convention and oversight of the election;
11. Provision of all required certifications and notices respecting the election of the Bishop;
12. Seek all required consents to the election and ordination of the elected Bishop;
13. Provision for the consecration of the elected Bishop in collaboration with the Office of the Presiding Bishop; and
14. Provision for the seating of the elected Bishop.

**Sec. 3.** A Nominating Committee for the election of the successor Bishop shall be established by the Standing Committee. The Nominating Committee shall be comprised of fifteen (15) members. Ten (10) of those members shall be selected from nominees received from the Mission Chapters. The Standing Committee shall establish procedures for solicitation of nominees from the Chapters and each Chapter may submit up to two (2) nominees. The Standing Committee, shall select five (5) additional

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members of the Nominating Committee and shall designate from among those members the individual who will serve as Chair of the Nominating Committee. All lay members of the Nominating Committee shall be adult communicants of the diocese in good standing and all clergy members shall be canonically resident in the diocese. The Standing Committee shall complete the process of establishing the Nominating Committee by not later than one hundred twenty (120) days following receipt of notice of the resignation, intended resignation or death of the serving Bishop.

**Sec. 4.** The Nominating Committee shall:

1. Determine its own procedures and processes, subject to oversight by the Standing Committee;
2. Prepare and publish a Diocesan Profile;
3. Develop and follow policies and procedures for conducting the search for candidates. Such procedures and policies shall be consistent with the principles and values presented in Section III of the Task Force on the Episcopacy's Blue Book Report to the 79<sup>th</sup> General Convention of The Episcopal Church to foster diversity across the Church's leadership, including its bishops. The policies and procedures shall include:
  - a. Actions designed to encourage a diverse applicant pool;
  - b. A search and nomination process that reduces the likelihood of discrimination based on the criteria described in Canon III.1.2 of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church;
  - c. Participation of committee members in training required by the Standing Committee to facilitate processes and procedures which encourage diversity and comport with the Church's nondiscrimination principles and values;
  - d. Provision for reasonable transparency of the process, subject to appropriate confidentiality respecting the committee's deliberations and the collection of information regarding candidates being considered for nomination; and
  - e. Development, *prior to submission of its slate of nominees and, as to petition nominees, prior to publication of petition nominees*, of pertinent data regarding candidates under consideration for nomination using the most current feasible means available for background checks, collection of financial information, interviews of all bishops and transition officers having knowledge of the person under consideration; and interviews by the Chancellor of proposed final candidates.
4. At least six (6) weeks prior to the designated date of the electing convention, submit to the Standing Committee a slate of at least three (3) and not more than five (5) nominees.

(\*\*Words in brackets were in the original resolution but were removed by amendment)

The Reverend Martha Kester (St. Luke's, Des Moines) moved to amend the resolution by removing the words "in consultation with the bishop" from the first paragraph. The Amendment was duly seconded and passed; and then the Resolution as amended was passed.

Caldbeck then moved the adoption of Resolution 167 D

### PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE III OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF IOWA

RESOLVED, that Section 4(a) of Article III of the Constitution of the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa be amended to read as follows:

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"Sec. 4(a). The representation of Congregations in the Convention shall be determined by the number of communicants in good and regular standing in the Congregation. Each Congregation with fewer than 100 such communicants shall be entitled to two delegates. Each Congregation with at least 100 but fewer than 375 such communicants shall be entitled to three delegates. Each Congregation with at least 375 but fewer than 450 such communicants shall be entitled to four delegates. Each Congregation with 450 or more such communicants shall be entitled to five delegates."

The resolution was duly seconded, and during the discussion a motion was made to extend the time for debate by 15 minutes. The motion was seconded and passed. Attempts to amend the Resolution failed, and the motion was finally adopted. This is the first reading, and passed on a simple majority. It will need to be passed at the 2020 Convention, in identical form in a Vote by Orders.

We were already late for worship; so the chair recessed us for our Convention Eucharist. At the time of the Offertory, Bishop Scarfe and others read the following Courtesy Resolutions.

### **Memorial Resolutions**

#### **The Reverend Canon F. David Titus**

WHEREAS, The Reverend Canon F. David Titus was born in North Platte Nebraska on April 29, 1942, growing up and graduating from High School there, before serving in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War; and

WHEREAS, he received a degree in theology from the Episcopal Seminary in Lexington, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, he was ordained deacon and priest in 1978 and 1979 respectively; and whereas he served as deacon at St. Luke's Church in Des Moines, before being called as priest to St. Andrew's Church in Clear Lake; and

WHEREAS he then moved to Sioux City, first serving as vicar of Calvary Church, Sioux City and at St. George's Church in LeMars, and

WHEREAS, he became Vicar at St. Paul's Indian Mission in Sioux City in 1988 and served that community faithfully until his retirement in 2007, passionately advocating for the congregation and its people; exercising abundant hospitality to visitors, and serving fabulous meals to all and sundry; and

WHEREAS, his commitment to serve included not only that congregation, but the native Americans in the entire Siouxland Region extending into Nebraska and South Dakota, with his number of baptisms exceeding the diocesan average every year; and

WHEREAS, during his years in ministry in Iowa, he served on numerous diocesan boards and committees, as well as serving as Assistant Director of the North Iowa Poor People's Conference during the Farm Crisis of the early 1980s; and

WHEREAS having served for 25 years in full-time ministry in the Diocese of Iowa, he was created an Honorary Canon of the Historic Trinity Cathedral in Davenport in 2004; and

WHEREAS, when he retired from the active ministry in Iowa, he found a new pasture in Garden City Kansas, where he served at St. Thomas Episcopal Church; and

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WHEREAS, having returned to Sioux City when his health was declining, he entered the Church Expectant in the early hours of September 30, 2019;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this 167th Convention of the Diocese of Iowa gives abundant thanks for his faithful witness and ministry; that we express our sympathy to his wife Charlene, and give thanks to her for her unstinting support of his ministry, as well as for her own ministry in partnership with him; that we extend this sympathy as well to his daughters Kathleen and Michelle and their families; and that we assure them of our continuing prayers for them.

Submitted by The Rev. Canon Kathleen S. Milligan

**The Reverend Donald E. Baustian**

WHEREAS The Reverend Donald E. Baustian entered into eternal life on May 19, 2019; and

WHEREAS he was born in Iowa City, raised in Davenport, attended Iowa State Teachers College (now UNI) and received academic degrees from Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois and the General Theological Seminary, New York City; and

WHEREAS in 1957 he married Beverly Kaiser and was ordained to the diaconate and priesthood in the Diocese of Iowa by The Rt. Rev. Gordon V. Smith and served churches in Emmetsburg/Algona, Fairfield, and Keokuk; and

WHEREAS in 1981 he became rector of Christ Church, Little Rock, Arkansas, and continued to reside canonically in the Diocese of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS he and Beverly served as faculty members of the Theological Seminary of the Diocese of Haiti (at the invitation of Bishop Luc Garnier) from 1988 until 1991, before returning to Arkansas to serve in several other churches; and

WHEREAS upon retirement in 1997, Fr. Don served a five year term as North American Warden of the International Order of Saint Luke the Physician, traveling extensively throughout North America, New Zealand, and the Caribbean to lead and teach in Healing Missions and various conferences on Christian Healing; and

WHEREAS in 2013 he and Beverly moved to Ames where they participated regularly at St. John's; and

WHEREAS, The Reverend Donald Baustian is survived by his wife, Beverly (Ames), three children: Anne Ruybal and husband Joseph, Gregory Baustian and wife Jennifer, and Teresa Balsley. He is also survived by a sister, Myra Tunwall, three grandchildren: Zackery Ruybal, Samuel Balsley and Taylor Rae Balsley, and nieces and nephews.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Diocese of Iowa gives thanks to God for his faithful witness and ministry among us and to the larger church, and prays God's blessings for his continued growth in the love and presence of his God; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Diocese of Iowa extends its sympathy to his family.

Submitted by the Reverend Mary Jane Oakland

## **Courtesy Resolutions**

### **The Reverend Anne Williams**

WHEREAS, The Rev Anne Williams has served the Diocese of Iowa for many years as the Diocesan Coordinator of Education for Ministry from the Beecken Center at the University of the South in Sewanee, TN; and

WHEREAS, she has faithfully served over 23 years as a Mentor and as a Trainer for the EfM Program through Sewanee; and

WHEREAS, she has faithfully gathered Mentors from across the Diocese of Iowa each August for training and certification at Prairiewoods Retreat Center in Hiawatha, IA, and has patiently, successfully and cheerfully led them and others from across the Midwest (and further) to become good mentors of EfM, by developing fellowship and learning from each other; and

WHEREAS, she has retired as the Diocesan Coordinator of EfM in 2019 and passed the torch to Deacon John Doherty, and

WHEREAS, she started EfM in the prison at Anamosa, IA and continues to serve as Mentor for the prison EfM group; and WHEREAS, she has brought enthusiasm, humor and strong leadership to EfM in the Diocese of Iowa;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED the 167th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa gives thanks for her ministry and ongoing service to the Diocese of Iowa and the EfM Program.

Respectfully submitted by the Rev. Jean McCarthy

### **Mr. Dan Kaiser**

WHEREAS, Dan Kaiser has stood in a long and faithful line of historiographers for the diocese of Iowa; and where as he has responded to many and various requests to connect with times past, sharing from the history and stories of the diocese of Iowa; and

WHEREAS, he has generously given of his time and energy to be the wise steward of the past and present for future use of the diocese, and;

WHEREAS, he has been an active and devoted member of St Paul's Grinnell, and;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 167th convention of the Diocese of Iowa honors his long service as historiographer, offers good wishes for his future, knowing his contributions continue.

Submitted by the Resolutions Committee

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**The Reverend Chuck Lane**

WHEREAS, The Rev. Chuck Lane served as a Deacon of Trinity Episcopal Parish, Waterloo and retired on March 17, 2019: and

WHEREAS, his ministry included co-founding Hope Camp in 2010, a place of refreshment, and experience of God's love for children of the incarcerated by planting seeds of hope; and

WHEREAS, his dedication to prison ministry and social justice advocacy in Cedar Valley prompted work at the Blackhawk County Jail, Jeremiah House and the Episcopal Urban Caucus; and

WHEREAS, he was a vital member of the Cedar Valley Interfaith Council and a joyful presence at services at Faith Temple Baptist Church, Payne AME Church, Antioch and 1st Baptist Church;

WHEREAS, he has been a Night Chaplain at Allen Hospital for 24 years walking alongside those who suffer bringing solace and God's care; and

WHEREAS, he proclaims by word and example the freedom and joy which is God's purpose for all people, the members of Trinity Episcopal Parish wish to thank Chuck for his many contributions to Trinity and his dedication to act in the world in Jesus's name.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED the 167th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa gives thanks for his ministry and ongoing service to the Diocese of Iowa.

Submitted by the Resolutions Committee

**Mr. Andrew T. Hicks**

WHEREAS, the holy scriptures commend the faithful to sing God's praise with gratitude and to tell of God's mighty acts: and

WHEREAS, Andrew Hicks, having entered his twentieth year of service as organist and choirmaster at Trinity Church Iowa City, now prepares to retire; and

WHEREAS, Andrew Hicks has always led the people of Trinity to sing with the Spirit and with understanding also; and

WHEREAS, Andrew founded and gave a firm foundation to the youth choir at Summer Ministry School and Retreat; and

WHEREAS, in those two decades of service Andrew has sought to model the ideals of the baptismal covenant in his work with parishioners, musician colleagues, and the wider community; and

WHEREAS, he has been a teacher and mentor to multiple generations of church musicians who give thanks for his leadership and spiritual friendship;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the 167th Convention of the Diocese of Iowa offer him hearty congratulations on his life's work to date and wish him Godspeed in his retirement.



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Submitted by the Rev. Lauren Lyon, Rector, Trinity Iowa City

**Sharon Strohmaier**

WHEREAS Iowa Religious Media Services has served as a resource center for six denominations since May 1986; and

WHEREAS the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa was a founding judicatory of this ecumenical body; and

WHEREAS Sharon Strohmaier has served as Executive Director of Iowa Religious Media Services since 2001; and

WHEREAS, under Sharon's leadership and guidance, IRMS has brought to our congregations educational resources that are current, of good production quality, and theologically sound; and

WHEREAS Iowa Religious Media Services will discontinue operations with its official dissolution on November 30, 2019;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this 167th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa expresses its regret at the closure of Iowa Religious Media Services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this 167th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa extends to Sharon Strohmaier its profound thanks for her wisdom, her leadership, and her years of hard work as Executive Director of Iowa Religious Media Services.

Submitted by The Rev. Jeanie Smith

**Mrs. Martha Hippee**

WHEREAS Martha Hippee has held the position of diocesan altar guild directress for a good number of years, serving faithfully and with impeccable graciousness, and she has decided it's time to retire; and

WHEREAS she has skillfully supported, and coordinated the preparations for diocesan worship services held at the Cathedral, such as, the diaconal ordinations; preparing oils of chrism and unction for distribution to clergy at Chrism Mass on Monday in Holy Week; the diocesan services which take place at Summer Ministry School & Retreat, as well as, Diocesan Convention; and

WHEREAS she has also developed the diocesan altar guild loan closet at St. Paul's as a resource to the diocese; and reached out in support to those who serve their local congregation's altar guild, issuing a newsletter periodically; and

WHEREAS she is passing the torch to Ms. Stephanie Wells, of St. Paul's Cathedral-Des Moines; and

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WHEREAS she plans to continue her care of the Diocesan Altar Guild Loan Closet, and be an excellent resource person for the new director to consult.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the entire of Diocese of Iowa gives deep gratitude to God for the spirituality, wisdom, flexibility and hard work of Martha for facilitating our communal worship and celebration.

Submitted by the Resolutions Committee

### **Convention Volunteers**

WHEREAS the annual convention of the Diocese of Iowa gathers us to rekindle faith, affirm friendship and gain new inspiration as the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement; and,

WHEREAS planning and carrying out a diocesan convention is a challenging team effort requiring the time, energy and hard work of many hands, hearts and minds; and,

WHEREAS the majority of these folks doing all this with love and care are volunteers whose skilled, kind passion make convention a success; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the 167th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa celebrates and offers sincere gratitude to these many volunteers who have made this gathering possible and congratulates them on the success of their efforts.

Submitted by the Resolutions Committee

### **Diocesan Staff**

WHEREAS, the annual convention of the diocese is the significant celebration of the year where new dreams begin, ministry envisioned, planned and evaluated within the developing and deepening bonds of friendship continues, and

WHEREAS, preparations for convention requires an entire year, with intensity of work and stress building in the final weeks; and,

WHEREAS, as always, they have done a magnificent job in preparing all the materials, visuals and technology for the best understanding of all present;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Convention of the Diocese of Iowa extend to diocesan staff heartfelt congratulations and gratitude for their amazing efforts and success, with this event and throughout the year.

Submitted by the Resolutions Committee

### **The Rt. Reverend Richard Mbikoyesu Aquilla**

WHEREAS, the Rev. Richard Mbikoyesu Aquilla, previously Dean of the Cathedral, was elected

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Bishop of Nzara in August 2019; and

WHEREAS, he wants to focus on improving the education of his clergy and the evangelism of his people and he is delighted to continue strengthening the bonds of our Companion Relationships; and

WHEREAS, he has taken time off from his own degree studies and new duties as Bishop to come to Iowa with his wife Mama Yodita, and join us at Convention and visiting some congregations in the diocese; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the 167th Convention of the Diocese of Iowa assures the Bishop of Nzara of our Companionship prayers and support, that we may continue to grow in grace together working for God's kingdom.

### **The Cathedral Church of St. Paul**

WHEREAS, The St. Paul's Cathedral Choir, augmented with singers from the Diocesan Convention and under the direction of Mark Babcock, gave a stirring Evensong service to begin our Convention, and for the other musical offerings at the Eucharist service; and

WHEREAS, while hosting the Clergy Gathering and the Convention Dinner afterwards, St. Paul's displayed the welcome for which it is known; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 167th Convention of the Diocese of Iowa gives hearty thanks and appreciation to St. Paul's Cathedral for sharing gracious hospitality and ministry with us all.

Submitted by the Resolutions Committee

### **Mr. Shane Claiborne**

WHEREAS, from an intentional community of believers and Holy Agitators in Philadelphia, Shane visited Iowa with his wisdom, experiences, engagement and humor, recounting takes of how God is doing a lot of small things in the world and showed us how to join these dots together and become Red Letter Christians; and

WHEREAS, his stories and images opened up new ways to imagine our world and our spiritual life, he also challenged us to get closer to the hurt in the world which causes us to sleep less comfortably and helped us to see our own "Calcuttas" in the places where we live; and

WHEREAS, he urged the church to have the courage to interrupt the patterns of injustice present in our society and to become Holy Agitators that fight against the things that squash the dignity of any human being;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 167th Convention of the Diocese of Iowa gives thanks to God for the message and ministry of Shane Claiborne, who cares for the most vulnerable as a sacramental act, and we wish him much blessing for his future endeavors.

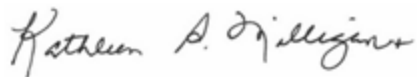
Submitted by the Resolutions Committee.

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At the Conclusion of the Eucharist and before the Blessing, Bishop Scarfe announced that the Appointments would be conveyed to all delegates as soon as possible after the close of the 167<sup>th</sup> Convention. He then called upon Jean McCarthy to give the final report of the Dispatch of Business Committee. She reported that with the exception of the Appointments, as noted above, the Business of this Convention, set out in the Agenda had been accomplished.

Bishop Scarfe then blessed the Congregation and the Convention; and the meeting of the 167<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese of Iowa was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



The Rev. Cn. Kathleen S. Milligan +  
Secretary of Convention

Attest:



The Right Reverend +Alan Scarfe  
IX Bishop of Iowa

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**Necrology 2018-2019**

*We remember all who gave died in the peace of Christ*

**Algona, St Thomas'**

William "Bill" Kuhn

**Ames, St. John's**

Alan DeWitt Abbott

The Rev. Donald E. Baustian

Giles Merrill Fowler

Charles "Charlie" M. Fouts

Barbara Cary Baldwin Hanway

Michael H. Heffron

Judith "Judy" F. Kavanagh

Katelyne Sofia Winkler Pratt

James Clyde Stilwell

Clayton Albert Swenson

Suzanne Kirkham Zaffarano

Philip B. Zaring

**Anamosa, St. Mark's**

David Odeen

**Ankeny, St. Anne's**

Richard Alexander Tripses

**Bettendorf, St. Peter's**

Phyllis Kirkland

Harold E Rayburn

Samuel Smith

**Burlington, Christ Church**

Bonnie Jean Baldwin

Dorothy Agape Ganakes

James Howard Small

Anna Mae Ware

**Carroll, Trinity**

Marilyn Copeland

**Cedar Falls, St. Luke's**

Mary Ann Franczyk

Roger Dean Hickins

Charles "Pat" Lyman

Jerold Donald Raber

Robert Loraine Savereide

**Cedar Rapids, Christ Church**

Martha Canon

William Draeger

Steve Manley

Nancy Sims Spencer

Trudy Stewart

James "Jim" Nelson Wetherbee

**Chariton, St. Andrew's**

Arlyce Morris

**Charles City, Grace**

Constantina "Connie" Pota Micich

**Clinton, Christ Church**

Paul Proud

**Coralville, New Song**

David Evans

David Hacker

Bill Matthes

Marty Sixt

**Davenport, St. Alban's**

Barb Dodds

**Davenport, Trinity Cathedral**

Gloria deSilva Gierke

John Walter Goslowsky, Sr.

Marion Jeanette Hull

Gene Helen Lischer

Barbara Jane Major

Pheraby Pendleton

Georgene M. Rock

Shirley Marie Shore

Anne M. Sinner

Madeleine Sonnevile

Linda Sullivan

Harry A. Topalian

Richard Baldwin von Maur, Jr

**Des Moines, Cathedral Church of St. Paul**

Charles Robert Brenton

Ruby Briar

James Richard Dillman

Sara C. Hill

Jonathan Kim Ingram

Donald Sherinian

**Des Moines, St. Andrew's**

Martha F. Kemble

Kuol Lueth Mabior Lueth

Frankie Mae Stevenson

**Des Moines, St. Luke's**

Donna M. Carter

Marion "Randy" Randolph

Margaret P. Sears

George E. Turner

**Dubuque, St. John's**

Gene Duwe

Phoebe Erzen

David Weidenbacher

Richard Wortley

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**Fort Dodge, St. Mark's**

Mark Merrill  
Sharon Phillips

**Grinnell, St. Paul's**

Yvonne Neville  
Dorothy Pinder

**Iowa City, Trinity**

Naomi Asprey  
Romaine "Ben" Bendixen  
Sue Davis  
Lois Eichacher  
Jan Dom  
Audrey Scott  
Hélène Soper  
Joy Steele  
Neil Tunnicliff

**Keokuk, St. John's**

Jud Boyle  
Carla Jo French  
Rosalie Pilkington

**Maquoketa, St. Mark's**

Don McDonald

**Marshalltown, St. Paul's**

Ross Patton "Pat" Apgar  
William Horace "Bill" Baltisberger  
Eleanor "Pudd" Handorf  
Freida Mae McInroy  
John Franklin Veldey  
Beverly Ann Whitehill  
William "Bill" Whitehill

**Mason City, St. John's**

Sara "Sally" Irish Baker  
Thelma Bean  
John B. Dixon  
Joy M. Drennen  
Richard Frederick Endress  
Milford "Mick" Knutson  
Leslie John "Jack" Larson  
Fredrick Ray Whorley

**Mt. Pleasant, St. Michael's**

Verdell Campbell  
Juanita "Blondie" Gholson  
Mary McKenzie

**Newton, St. Stephen's**

Mary Ellan Mellinger  
Elizabeth Vanderploeg

**Oskaloosa, St. James'**

Lucille Shafer

**Ottumwa, Trinity**

Betty Fowler

**Shenandoah, St. John's**

Pat (Peggy) Benjamin

**Sioux City, St. Paul's Indian Mission**

Arthur Denny  
Anna Lee Flute  
Milton LaBelle, Sr.  
Henrietta E. Paulson  
The Rev. Frederick David Titus  
Anthony R. Torrez  
Javier Valadez  
Brenda Kathleen White-Olson

**Sioux City, St. Thomas'**

Doris Adams  
Marguerite Cordice  
Henrietta Smith Jacobsen  
Nancy Yourd

**Spirit Lake, St. Alban's**

Alfred Klein  
Ralph Schneider  
Nancy Wolfe

**Waterloo, Trinity**

Joe Van Dorn  
LeRay "Buck" Henry  
Georgia Potter  
Dorothy "Dot" Teague

**West Des Moines, St. Timothy's**

Claudia Brollier  
Sandra Cain  
Mary Lou Imus  
Robb Meyer  
Robert Seaholm  
Glenn Uding

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### **Bishop's Address to the 167<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention**

**The Right Reverend Alan Scarfe, Ninth Bishop of Iowa**

This year through Engaging All Disciples, we have been giving thanks to God and celebrating one another as we are sent out in ministry. And my thoughts first went to the examples of discipleship recognized not only by our congregations but by our communities.

For example, we celebrate with the people of St. Timothy's the recognition of both their priests, Mary and Milton Cole-Duvall as citizens of the year by the West Des Moines City Council. They are joined by Cynthia Danielson of St. Michael's, Mount Pleasant and Fred Steinbach of St. Andrew's, Chariton who were acknowledged in their local newspapers for their outstanding contributions as local citizens. And later this month Mary Jane Oakland is to be recognized with the Heartland Global Health Advocate award for her work in Ghana, eSwatini (formerly Swaziland), Pakistan, and elsewhere around the world. Jesus said that we would be known as His disciples by our love, and when society at large is noting what's going on in their local Christian people, that is a good sign.

These are just the references that have come to the surface in outstanding ways, and you know others equally noteworthy whose names may not have risen to that level of attention. In the small church gatherings in quadrants across the diocese held this year, we called together members of all our smaller congregations in four regional venues.

The focus was celebrating each other and what God was doing in their midst. The quadrants provided an opportunity for each congregation (typically under 25 in average Sunday attendance) to share their experiences and their challenges. There was a scarcity of whining and complaining, and an abundance of declaring the excitement of God at work and the advantages that they felt about being small. At the first quadrant in Emmetsburg, we invited congregations from the Diocese of Brechin to Zoom into the conversation along with their Bishop. We hope to follow up with an international summit on rural and small churches. A Small Church Core Group has been formed to design this as well as to find ways to keep the encouragement and conversation going.

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I know that we are growing in several places. Our overall statistics tell us so for 2018, as we are one of 20 dioceses in The Episcopal Church who can say that. Thanks to our Presiding Bishop's increasing profile, and the hunger people have for inclusive churches, God is helping us find our voice. At St. Mark's, Fort Dodge, sixteen people, mostly adults, were prepared for confirmation, reception and re-affirmation. And this was during a transition period of a rector search. A local Catholic couple who loved their gay son had had enough "pulpit gay bashing" and heard that The Episcopal Church was different. They found a genuine welcome, and then invited two of their closest couple friends with whom they had grown up from kindergarten through the local Catholic school system. Other couples that made up the confirmation class included a Methodist and her Baptist wife, a gay couple engaged and seeking a place to be married, and some other young people. What at one time motivated some people to exodus from the church—our efforts to be more open to the LGBTQ+ community—is now becoming a vehicle of attraction for people, previously dismissed by the church, to find that God loves them and so do we.

At Fort Dodge people found God with us because we were the ones who would embrace their children, celebrate and applaud their marriages, and rejoice in God's ongoing and always surprising work of salvation in Jesus Christ. Rectors at St John's Mason City and St Luke's Cedar Falls have also recorded that they are seeing a growing intrigue about faith and the Episcopal Church among people for whom Church is a new or forgotten experience. This is inspiring us to grow in courage to share our faith and witness, and to extend our excitement.

We are no longer God's frozen chosen; and if this is not happening around you, I lovingly and humbly invite you to pay attention, and get on board with what God is doing through us. I believe people are increasingly finding the courage of which the apostle Paul spoke to Timothy, when he said "God has not given us a Spirit of fear but of courage, love and a sound mind". He invited his young disciple to "stir up the gift that is in you". As God resurrects this Church, I recall the words of a famous Iowan revivalist, Billy Sunday, (also from Fort Dodge) who famously said "if The Episcopal Church wakes up, then, Devil, watch out!".

This year, we have taken a leaf out of our companion diocese of Brechin's play book. Each year they ask each congregation to give a summary of their ministry and challenges from the passing year. We invited you to take stock of your own vitality as congregations and many of you sent in a profile of the year. Please look for the published results in the Congregational Vitality Report. We have given a copy to your congregational leader, or resident clergy person; and there should be one copy for the delegation to share with the congregation. Assessing Diocesan vitality is a key element coming from 2018 General Convention and can be expected to be resumed as an item in Baltimore in 2021.

So I come into this Convention with a great sense that we are alive and well, thanks be to God. As we read in the Gospel passage which we have been using for the Engaging All Disciples days' worship, from Luke 10 – Jesus declares, on hearing the report of the disciples as they return from mission, having found that even the demons were subject to them in Christ's Name— "I saw Satan falling like lightning



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from the heavens”; yet he warned them not to rejoice in this but that their names were written in heaven. In other words – rejoice that God knows who you are and, as Archbishop Tutu would say “loves you terribly!”. At every small action of kindness during this divided national climate of ours, every bringing of hope to a despairing person, every sign of companionship to persons fearful of losing everything including their minds, every help offered to someone to come home to God from their lost wandering, Satan falls from heaven. “If it’s of God, it’s love; and if it’s not of love, it’s not God”. Whatever our size, to paraphrase CS Lewis in *Screwtape Letters* “God really enjoys people’s praises” and we can find imaginative ways to witness to God’s grace.

The people of St John’s Glenwood suffered a tree loss during a severe storm. A huge branch broke off and was headed through the Church roof, only to be stopped by the cross on the top of the Church. Bent over and twisted but not broken, the small cross held up that branch from doing incredible damage. Afterwards they had to cut down the branch and the tree. An eight-foot stump remained. The congregation of six invited a local wood sculptor to “do something holy” with the stump. He shaped it into the Praying Hands. On Engaging All Disciples day, St John’s invited other Episcopal neighbors, as well as the community for an afternoon of celebrating the power of prayer during which eighteen people came forward for the laying on of hands and anointing. And testimonies were offered to God’s grace in responding to our prayers, including that of a young man, now a quadriplegic due to car crash, whose mother brought him to give thanks to God for the power of prayer which they experience together. The broadness of his smile after receiving the laying on of hands was unforgettable.

All of us could do worse than invite ourselves and our neighbors “to do something holy”. This is the kind of thing that brings me hope and energy. We can’t ever say how we will survive, but we are to flourish while we exist, and in all things to be the instruments of God’s way. The world needs us. And we need to find the joy that comes from being engaged as disciples of Jesus. A group of us experienced such joy recently in a trip to the Synod of the Diocese of Swaziland in eSwatini (Swaziland’s new name). Grace, Gratitude and Generosity were the three elements we observed as key to such a joy filled life in Christ.

And so, after last year’s Convention, the question arose -how do you follow the Presiding Bishop? One simple answer is that you don’t. And you don’t try. But where do we go from there? Well my first inclination was to go global. Invite Rowan Williams or an international writer like Francis Spufford, the author of “unapologetic” with his infamous reference to THFTU. And then through a video clip as part of the Ascension Day to Pentecost series “Thy Kingdom Come”, I was re-introduced to Shane Claiborne, someone whose message and journey in discipleship I have admired for some time. God has given him a message I pray that we will benefit from hearing, and which is prophetic for our times. In line with his community’s desire to be a Simply Way of living, it is intriguing to raise the question -what would it mean for us as a diocesan community to find the simple way? That is the banner under which we lay out our plans for this coming year, as we enter into a third year of Revival follow-up.

Talk of Finding the Simple Way seems incongruous. The Episcopal Church holds the largest gathering of any legislative body in the world when it meets at General Convention. Our elaborate canons and Prayer

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Book rubrics dictate how we are to be and we embrace change in increments of every three years. How can we be a simple Church that finds the nimbleness or agility that can take, not just preserve, the Gospel to an ever changing or even increasingly impenetrable or indifferent culture? That means standing with members of We are Church Confessing here in Des Moines; or standing alongside folk at an Immigration Rally outside a local jail; or marking the anniversary of the Pulse shooting tragedy wearing my collar even while acknowledging that for some that is an unwanted symbol because we have not always been there when discrimination, hatred and oppression has been the experience of those with whom I was seeking to stand. It means circling in solidarity our local Mosques or Synagogues against acts of religious hatred and racial violence.

And even now we continue to play games as a Church with people's relationships -inviting all Bishops to Lambeth but only the spouses of heterosexual couples. I know that some of us are having our boundaries pushed at this Convention just by the offering of a defining pronoun on your registry nametag. Someone challenged me as to what that had to do with the Gospel, and my answer is this, "how can one believe who has never heard; and how can anyone hear unless someone talks to them?" You have to earn a listening and first that requires a seeing; and we've not always been very good about that.

And we want to learn how to do that better. This has been the second year of follow up from the Revival (2017). Engaging All Disciples is an effort to allow God to send us out. For some that has meant learning how to welcome, invite and connect, and take courage to share the Good News of God in Christ. For others, as in the Quad Cities for example, it has meant first mapping out the residencies of the three Episcopal congregations across the Iowa side of the Quad Cities; and seeing where they overlap and where there are areas with no Episcopal presence, and so, where mission could happen jointly. For yet others Engaging All Disciples has given the opportunity to come together as Episcopalians from separate congregations in the same town, and intentionally getting to know one another, as they sought to do in Iowa City, Cedar Rapids and the Siouxlands.

As you have heard, Engaging All Disciples has two parts. At Summer Ministry School and Retreat this year, we invited coaches in the seven most popular areas of learning identified during the Growing Iowa Leaders year to lead interested parties in cohorts. After the weekend of face to face learning, the cohorts have been meeting via video conference to encourage each other in applying what they are hearing to their local context. I am signed up for a group on "Next Generations of Faith", mostly about finding a hearing among Millennials and Gen Z population, but learning ways common to developing relationships with any mission targeted population, including my own "where do we still fit in" wandering Boomers. It is a sad comment on the state of the episcopacy, or perhaps just mine, that I am hard pressed to have meaningful conversations with folk outside of church circles, but I am trying. The seven topics of the Engaging All Disciples cohorts are: Evangelism; Stewardship; Public Advocacy; Liturgical Renewal in worship and worship space; Engaging

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the Neighborhood; Christian Formation and Discipleship; and Engaging New Generation or New Populations.

This is an operation in the sowing of the seed. There are endless ways of going beyond our Church walls; and becoming more faithful to Jesus' commission to "Go and preach the Gospel". I anticipate the growth of new initiatives from these efforts, many of which will surprise us, as the Holy Spirit helps us surprise ourselves.

The 2020 Vision for Becoming Beloved Community program is the first of its kind across The Episcopal Church seeking to develop the Beloved Community Initiative diocesan-wide. I am grateful to Meg Wagner and Susanne Watson Epting for their bold founding of The Beloved Community Initiative, which as you have heard is not only our way of fulfilling the General Convention and House of Bishops mandates on dismantling racism, but has also become a source of partnership with Native Peoples, African American initiatives in the state, and other agencies seeking to work for a new and harmoniously diverse society. We should express our appreciation to Donna Prime, a major contributor to the 2020 Vision curriculum, and to the advisory committees of BCI that come from the local community and from the diocese. It is a spectacular venture which fulfils the Presiding Bishop's desire to see our evangelistic efforts linked with social reconciliation.

Revival 2017 was the year of inviting the Holy Spirit to call us to our first love. We have followed this up with a year of Growing Iowa Leaders, or being fed with knowledge and more broadened perspectives. As we have shared, this second post-Revival follow up year has sought to engage us as disciples, and to have us see ourselves as sent out by the Spirit to see what God is already doing in our neighborhoods

**This coming year, we will build on that concept of being sent out, and consider what it means to live with Gospel values in our communities.**

To further that end, in July of this year, I invited a small team—Elizabeth Popplewell, Stephen Benitz and Traci Ruhland Petty to join me in being trained in the **"Faithful Innovations" process of congregational redevelopment** being created out of Luther Theological Seminary by Dwight Zscheile and Michael Binder. Both of these individuals respectively have visited the Diocese of Iowa as part of our Baptismal Living Days, and more recently at the Growing Iowa Leaders day at St. Andrew's in Des Moines in 2018. As I say, their goal is to help us discover God at work in our neighborhood, and through such fresh encounters, to recover our zeal for mission. This is a missionary age—a new age of the Spirit and our heroes are the saints who have dared to cover new ground out of their love for God and for the people God loves. In recent days I have recovered for myself the concept of the lost—which is not about proselytism—as much as it is about loving others just as Jesus did as in his parable of leaving the ninety-nine safely in the fold while going out to find the lost sheep. **During the next round of visitations, I will continue to invite you to gather in Revival clusters—but spread out over eighteen months— and will walk with you through some parts of the process we are learning. It will be a practical time together including a literal walk around the neighborhood.**

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**In addition, the Faithful Innovations Diocesan Team will hold three indepth trainings for congregations who want to send teams (of 3-8 persons) to help bring the concepts closer to home. We are planning such trainings at the end of April, in the Summer, and in September, all in 2020, with intention to train trainers for subsequent years, as well as congregational teams to scout the neighborhood and ask what God is inviting you to partner in and do.**

Faithful Innovations and 2020 Vision are avenues for stretching our presence and spiritual awareness in the community. It's a way of saying to God "Here I am. Send me." God makes all things new. That is God's joy. The ancient prayer that we offer at ordinations rings true about that sacred mystery, the Church, through which God is raising up things cast down, and making new things that had grown old.

It had been 30 years since the diocese had held a capital campaign. This year we launched GILEAD—Growing Iowa Leaders, Engaging All Disciples. My hope was that the funds raised for local as well as diocesan-wide use would be the financial underpinning for our new ideas in mission and renewal. Initially I envisioned it as a campaign with a single launching point, on the Day of Pentecost 2019. It is however a campaign which will remain open through the next three years; with intentional askings taking place around the next Pentecost 2020 and 2021, as well as at the next three annual conventions.

It is not too late to make your pledge as we seek to move as close to a hundred percent participation as possible. I am glad to announce that the diocesan staff has committed at one hundred percent. People have made generous pledges for three years, with a percentage of their donations designated to their congregation's fund, and the remainder available to all our congregations through a Diocesan Board approved granting process. Please look out for announcement early next year, for applications to open around Eastertide and Pentecost.

We are delighted to introduce two people to the staff who have intimate workings with GILEAD—Traci Ruhland Petty, the GILEAD grant process administrating missioner, and Tina Austin, Anne's assistant for handling the accounting element of your generosity. We have been working with Denis Green and Church Development who are staying alongside us over the three-year period offering assistance in developing our congregational level annual giving processes as well as coaching in stewardship in general.

God caught my attention when I was fifteen years of age. You may remember the story—how I came home from an evangelistic service where I had decided to commit to following Jesus. My parents were in the living room watching TV. I burst enthusiastically through the door and announced "You won't believe what I just did tonight?" "What, lad?" My dad replied barely turning away from his program. "I gave my life to Jesus Christ," I said. "Never mind, lad," my dad said back, "We all do silly things sometimes!"

There's no age too young to have God take you on. Our youth programs have been a hallmark of our Diocesan life. As important as catching faith in our teens, is the ability to let it guide us and shape us as adults. Bishop Ellinah noted at her Synod a couple of weeks ago that the Synod delegates noticed the hair color of most of us who made up the Iowa delegation. She was saying this to remark how much we

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are willing and able to do at our older age, and was encouraging her own younger population of Church leaders to increase their commitment. I don't believe that she meant anything offensive about this. But it remains true that we lose the middle generations and I am convinced that it's because we do not engage younger people in leadership. When Lydia Bucklin left for Michigan, some worried that we were going to lose her emphasis on young adult ministry. But the proof of the ministry's effectiveness is whether young adults are stepping into leadership under their own steam. And after five years, I believe that is happening and Traci Ruhland Petty is the diocesan staff liaison for young adult leadership development.

Real vitality in the Church comes when we let ourselves boldly care for people's lives beyond ourselves. The Church was always created to be a means, an agency, for God's ends; and never an end in itself. God continues to seek to reconcile humanity to God's self and to one another. Our companions know this. Among the risk-takers in South Sudan working for peace are our brothers and sisters in Christ. We have shared through prayer and support the peacemaking efforts of our friend Archbishop Samuel Peni. It is a joy to celebrate his election to Archbishop which carries with it a new diocesan responsibility as Bishop of Yambio. Now we welcome a new bishop for our companion diocese of Nzara in Bishop Richard Aquilla, whom we greet along with his wife. We hoped also to have with us his diocesan social development and education officer, Emmanuel Ramadan, but the U.S. visa process was unwilling to gamble on his youthfulness not becoming too enamored with the American way!

One of my task forces for the Churchwide body is one that seeks to develop conversation with South Sudanese Anglicans across The Episcopal Church. We have such groups here in Iowa and we hope at next Convention to be admitting our first South Sudanese congregation as a member of this Diocese. Several leaders in the South Sudanese diaspora in Iowa are beginning to be discerned for ordained callings. We look forward to hearing from Bishop Aquilla tomorrow.

My other current Church-wide responsibility in The Episcopal Church is to serve on the Task Force for Church Planting and Congregational Redevelopment. It is a group which is responsible for distributing grants across the Church for new initiatives, and for inviting congregations to seek their own redevelopment. We have a few places that could benefit from the wisdom of the Task Force. It is humbling to work with some very imaginative and creative people, who want God's mission to expand. We have such people in this diocese. It is my prayer that every leader in our congregations burn with such a passion. I know that the diocesan staff share such a prayerful desire for your growth and development. And if you don't know that, again I ask you to get to know one another better.

I was struck in the Synod of the Swaziland Diocese how much the clergy and congregational leaders saw themselves as the diocese. I was intrigued how the Bishop's address became owned by the Synod through resolutions supporting the main ideas of her charge, even when she spoke sadly about her perception of lethargy and indifference to the common causes of the diocese. Immediately a resolution entitled Unity and Renewal of Spirit was carved and presented; and people committed to a change of heart. I would like to think we would do the same.

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I started out in faith as an evangelical, brought to a personal relationship with God in a Methodist Church. That church itself was pretty independent. Our goal was to share our faith and sometimes we would go door to door; or stand on street corners and preach. The key was to engage our friends. I would hold pizza-type parties at my home, where I'd invite my school friends to sit in the living room and listen to a recording of a Billy Graham sermon. All I wanted was for them to bring Jesus into their lives and walk into the future in His shoes. In time I realized that the life of faith, and its historical community was much broader than this. I found contemplative prayer groups, and Eastern Orthodox ritual. I searched out the side altars of many local Anglican churches and Cathedrals to lay out my life for God's direction and blessing. And at college I came face to face with the power of sacraments, and later, through confirmation, with the holy lineage of the saints. Wesley was still a great inspiration; but so became men like Thomas Merton, and Trevor Huddleston. Our youth group would hold evangelistic campaigns along with VBSes in run down, abandoned housing projects; and we would travel to encourage other youth groups from other churches, across denominational lines. Through prayer for Christians being persecuted in Communist lands, I was led to join their struggle for religious freedom and this is how God bridged my zeal as a teenager with a maturing faith as a young adult. Eventually there was no turning back; and ordination beckoned but not where I expected to be serving. I came to America to teach church history and train missionaries to serve in Communist countries on a two year contract. Ten years later that calling came to an end. And the road opened to the priesthood within the Episcopal Church. By the time I took up my call as a new Rector in Eagle Rock, the Berlin Wall had fallen, and the people I had served in Romania were looking at life freed from the dictatorship of President Ceausescu.

The deacon who served with me at Eagle Rock for ten years was one of the principle early voices of Ministry Development, and I found in that vision of seeing every follower of Christ as a minister through baptism echoes of the early influence of my Methodist beginning. We bring our experiences and growing predilections into whom God shapes us to be in our relationship and calling in Jesus Christ.

And so it is not strange nor a surprise that all of these things have influenced ministry as your bishop. Everything that you have experienced in life is equally as determinative for how you are being formed as a follower of Jesus Christ and as His minister. My constant prayer for you is for God's gifts presented through your lives to be quickened by the Holy Spirit, "stirred up" as the apostle Paul says; and made relevant for the mission we have to carry out for this time and place. We are a people—one Church in many locations—brought together by the power of God for a time like this. And God works through each and all. I don't think it was a coincidence that our Revival preaching theme was a call to our first love; nor that we are this year invited to rejoice that our names are written in heaven.

I mentioned how I wondered how we follow the Presiding Bishop at our Convention. Well, let me let you into a secret—he feels the same way about you. "They really know how to praise Jesus in Iowa," he has volunteered. On several occasions I have had it reported to me how much the Presiding Bishop was blown away by your faith and your enthusiasm for God. "Is it heaven; no it's Iowa" but it just might as well be! I thank God for the gift of your faith and for the honor of be among you as your Bishop.

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Reminding oneself of how we have arrived at where we are is an important step in spiritual development. The Psalms are full of liturgical reminders, as is the Eucharist. It is important to reappraise, reflect and re-assess the way we have come, and the decisions we have made. I have thrown myself into such a mode because I believe that it is time to draw a finishing line across our time together as Bishop and People. This is my last Convention when you won't be obsessed with finding the next Bishop of Iowa.

I am calling for an election for the tenth Bishop of Iowa in Spring 2021, with a consecration date of September 18th, 2021. I will officially retire on that date as I look forward to handing over the diocesan crozier to my successor.

Nothing concentrates the mind like a deadline, and we have reached it. At the November Board retreat, Bishop Todd Ousley, Bishop for Pastoral Development of The Episcopal Church, will be present and lay out the estimated schedule for the election and transition process. I have asked the Standing Committee to be present at that gathering, as well as the staff. In Advent I will begin my final round of visitations, while completing the third gatherings of Revival clusters over that eighteen month period to explore "Faithful Innovations" and what it means to discover what God is asking us to partner with in our neighborhoods.

As I have said, God called me on June 27th, 1965. And I hope I have sought to be faithful to that calling. Of course, I have my doubts. We are all tempted to make the Christian life about us, and not always about Christ and Christ crucified. My reaction to being elected Bishop was a cynical voice in my head that whispered "You have your reward". We always have to ask Satan to get behind us!

This time next year, I will probably offer a full reflection of where I believe God has led us together. Sufficient right now to see a couple of phases. I was elected during the Gene Robinson era. The Church was getting to grips with the Spirit's work among us drawing members of the LGBTQ community into leadership in the Church. That impacted ministry heavily for six years. I sought to work with you on the stated goal of becoming a Total Ministry Bishop, seeking to develop a Ministry Development Team approach to congregational development as well as Diocesan Commissions and Agencies. And for the past six years, since the trip to Nzara in 2013, we have worked together on finding a renewed vitality through Revival, and the subsequent follow up years. And we are in the process of building a Capital Fund in GILEAD to support your ministry options coming out of God's stirring of us up.

In the meantime, ordination demographics have grown younger, and we continue to work at providing for sacramental ministry at all of our congregations, no matter what size. We are focusing on young adult leadership, with some success as we see younger wardens in congregations, and we have begun to work with the dynamics for vitality of small congregations. Gathering in Revival clusters have helped us work together regionally a little better; and though we experience our own steep numerical decline among mainline denominations, we have halted its progress. The soil for ministry has been turned over, fertilized and made ready for new plantings.

And what about the four years or so in between 2009 and 2013? Well, those were years of personal tragedy – of loss of a best friend, a brother, and a father; years in which I give thanks to God for your

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prayers that helped keep one foot in front of another. We all experience such phases in our lives. We still moved forward, and God kept sending us new leaders and calling new vocations, settling us as an inclusive Diocese, and sending us good companions from the Communion with whom we could grow.

I am and have been a “Who’d have thunk it bishop?” That was what a friend said shortly after my election when we met up in New York. Your gracious and generous spirit have made me your Bishop. I am always humbled and grateful even in my travels, always to be the Bishop of Iowa and never the Bishop from Iowa. To stand before General Convention in 2018 and describe your Revivals was a great and terrifying moment. We won’t know how many sparks we have set in motion elsewhere as other diocese think—well, if Iowa can do it, we can do it. And the Spirit whispers the words she put into the writing of the apostle Paul:

“Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Jesus Christ, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption. In order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord”. (1 Cor. 1: 26-31)

Thank you; and God bless you.

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**Bishop's Sermon at the Convention Eucharist  
Downtown Des Moines Marriott Hotel  
Friday, November 1, 2019  
The Right Reverend Alan Scarfe, Ninth Bishop of Iowa**

Please be seated. Well first of all welcome to all of you who are listening in on livestream this morning. I'm told there are forty of you gathering that way. That's wonderful; and if it doesn't quite kind of get through all the time, well, just have a good time anyway.

We have certainly had a good time here at convention. We have just been upstairs (on third floor), and were embroiled in a heated resolution debate. It is amazing what live TV can do for your sense of hurrying up. We managed to get here on time. In fact, we haven't yet finished convention. And so, to all of you out there, I ask the convention to give you seat and voice. And best of luck with your voice.

I am always amazed that we have this historically produced lectionary that somehow manages to come up with lessons that seem so appropriate to whatever is going on around us currently. It is as though there was a secret "knowing" of what we might need for a certain time.

"The time for my departure has come," writes the Apostle Paul. And if I didn't have that written into my being already—by Evensong last night we were being reminded that we are now in transition. And as I heard the officiant say that, I thought to myself, "I'm not dead yet!"

And yet all of that is premature and somewhat presumptuous! For Paul, the reference to escaping the lion's mouth was literal! Death was at his doorstep. It was his life's ministry that was coming to its close; and he knew it. A resigning bishop in contemporary times merely resigns from a position within the Church using the canonical language for "reason of advanced age." Yes, we write a letter to the Presiding Bishop and that is the reason we have to give: "for reason of advanced age!" But I hope that the life of ministry and the service of Christ goes on, and for some time yet.

But Paul was reaching his final days. He clearly had been tried and, it seems, sentenced, and found himself standing alone at his trial. All those with whom he had had fellowship down the years, even those he had come to Rome to be with, it seems that none of them were present as it came to the time of his trial. He now awaited his final act of faithful service. He probably knew that his Roman citizenship had rescued him from the lions in the Coliseum, quite literally, but it was not going to rescue him, not from the Roman sword.

For him, the race was run. For him, the fight was done. And for him, all that was left was to keep the faith until the last darkening of his eyes. Just one final act of courageous faith stood between him and the One whose face he had once seen on the Damascus Road. It was a face that he had always sought to keep before him, saying as he once did to the Corinthians, that as he looked upon that face he prayed that the likeness of the love of Christ might, from glory to glory, appear and shine within his own face. He would soon see that which he urged so many of us to press on to see—His Savior face to face as he readied himself to submit to the martyr's witness.

For most of us—and I am not saying all of us—for most of us in this building, it's hard to imagine such a time. And yet, some of you here, you know persecution and you know martyrdom.

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We all know that our faith rests upon such acts of courage and trust. Ultimately it is because God carved out such an act of self-sacrifice and self-offering upon the Cross in His Son, that God then asked us as Church to follow suit. And so we are the beneficiaries of such courage. We stand upon the sacrifice and self-offering of so many others. And even as we sit here, others continue to make that offering.

No great change seems to come easily. No great shift of our culture or of our perspective on life, within and without the Church, seems to occur without some degree of self-offering, without lives poured out as libations. Because our preference is to have tingling ears; our preference is to follow things that just comfort us. And, as we have heard this weekend, it is not even our passions or our visions, not even the warm feeling Christ brings us that is essential, but what actions of Christ— bringing food to the hungry, making shelter to the homeless, bringing justice to those that are afflicted—at whatever level of society it needs to be done—that is what is important. This we have been reminded about at this convention.

It's not just our passion; it's not just our vision; or our vision statements, but the reality of what we do, or with whom we stand, or whom we give our time to be with, and in whose shoes we are going to walk—all of this makes the difference, and brings the change God seeks.

We have been told by our convention speaker, Shane Claiborne, how this can happen through small things—and how many wonderful small things you are engaged in as we saw on Mentimeter – and so through that smallness, the transformation of the Kingdom can come. We might thank God that not many of us are asked to make the final act of submission—to have our lives physically taken from us for Christ's sake. But we thank even more those who have so responded—and we know that we live as we do because they have died for a much greater love than we could embrace or know. That is the peace that is given to us, and is offered to us, which surpasses human understanding, guaranteed upon the price of Calvary, and everyone who has so imitated Christ down the ages.

I may stand before you nearer the end of ministry together as people and Bishop, though I pray, as I say, that we are nowhere near to the end of our service in Christ's Name and God's Kingdom. And it is good. But the Gospel reading today reminds us at such a time, how we are to present ourselves always before our God and before one another.

Jesus had taught and was teaching his disciples to pray. And as you may recall from last week's lessons, how important it was to Him that they not grow weary in that act of prayer. The gospel last week reminded us that they were to persist in their praying and not lose heart. If an unjust judge without any respect for God or his fellow human beings, would nevertheless listen to a persistent widow, we know how much more eagerly God who loves us wants to answer our cries for justice, peace, and the welfare of human beings. He wanted His disciples to be persistent and not lose heart; and yet in the midst of that assurance, and being confident in offering prayer, they were to be reminded that God's favor is never appropriated for our own ends.

Yes, we are to be persistent in prayer, but always aware of our station as sinners who are saved by grace through faith, and not of our own steam or worthiness. We barely lift up our eyes under heaven. Our first words are "O God, have mercy upon us as sinners"—even while we then go on to pray for peace in this world, for the justice of God to roll down upon this earth. As we pray for all of the good things God desires, we remember who it is that offers such prayer and is heard. It is the tax collector; not the Pharisee.

Also from our reading last week, when Jacob turned Israel by wrestling a blessing from God, he would

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always be remembered because of his limp. We also limp along, ever reminded of whose we are and for whom we live. There is a humility with which the blessed children of God walk. It is what enables us to come alongside people, and to be with them.

That is a message for any of us facing retirement, and who may be proud of our achievements. It is a message for us as we enjoy this experience of being this Iowa Episcopal branch of a much broader and greater Jesus movement.

Finding the simple way. Finding the simple way. I don't know what we expect will happen with that theme as we move forward. I don't think we really know. We borrowed it from Shane's community, really.

Maybe it's about "strategic review?" Maybe it's about sharing our resources that way? Maybe it's about dismantling the entire diocesan structure altogether? So that the time we have can be more among the poor? So that the energy we have can be more for justice? So that the money we have can be better distributed among the needy? What kind of constitutional amendment do we need to perform that? To say that we don't come only to our churches as much, or any more? We come into our neighborhoods. And we support the churches in our neighborhoods with our neighbors, and join in what they are doing. And if there is no such place, then we will provide our own. I don't know I'm just talking off the top of my head. (Or maybe the bottom of my heart!)

What would it look like? How can we make these structures of ours pliable, more porous so that we can make decisions about what we do with the circumstances and events we are faced with, and given? And how can we do that and still stay grounded in place as Anglicans?

You know, I invited a man (in Shane Claiborne) to come among us who ended up in that kind of community. And I wanted his witness to percolate among us on how that might work for us. And so, bring it to your vestries, bring it to the Board meeting, bring it to your living rooms as you gather together. Think about these things. How can we really get alongside people and not just be institutionalized in everything, everything we do?

Finding the Simple Way is a call to "humble ourselves in the sight of the Lord," before the presence and desires of our Loving Creator God, and to follow where Jesus leads us to go. He needs us to go very small indeed. We have to squeeze into those places where He squeezes in. And there's no place for self-righteousness there, just as there is no place for contempt of others there. And this includes all sides of our current political factions, and our cultural divides.

There is no place for self-righteousness on the one hand, and no place for contempt on the other. And that is a hard requirement in such an age as this. "God, have mercy upon us" is our daily prayer and with it comes the promise that it is such voices that God will lift up to do remarkable things in Christ's Name, and the question is—can it be done through us?

So I invite you to embrace with abandon the promise of God that we receive through Joel; to let the Spirit be released upon us, within us, and through us; to act with boldness because our feet are invited to be set firmly on the ground, and all self-aggrandizement is pushed aside for the sake of God's love. And having settled that score with ourselves and with God, we let the Spirit of God take us where She will.

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Donna and I are terrible gardeners. And we invite you to our garden any time if you are in need of some good weeding. I thought Creeping Charlie was a friend, but now he's a carpet. So, we are not good gardeners, but God seems to have used us as spiritual gardeners.

As I say, Donna and I have always been soil turners and planters in this spiritual thing somehow. We rarely see the fullness of the harvest. We see God's reviving spirit among the people we have served as we drive away looking through the rear-view mirror. Time and again that has happened with us. Even in Eagle Rock, where we were for thirteen years, the church was closed last year. But now we see resurrection. The Church was closed and the keys handed over to the Bishop. He in turn handed them to some young people and said "Here, I have a church for you." And they have transformed the place and become instruments of God's resurrecting spirit. And if I dare say it—they are fulfilling all the wishes and dreams that we may have had together when we were there with the people of God at St. Barnabas.

It is true that I have secretly tried to do a deal with God that we would see a harvest in our time here; but who knows? I do see it in the seventy percent of active clergy I have been blessed to ordain; and, certainly in the new group coming through to be ordained as transitional deacons this December. I see it in all those amazing ideas you have had for Engaging All Disciples; your ways of responding to the call for prayer during the Revival; the amazing ongoing march of new generations of young adults and youth into leadership; in the generosity towards our companions; and in the growing deep involvement of you all in your communities, bringing the values of the gospel into your spaces.

Yet, turning to our Old Testament text for a moment, nothing of that ranks with what God promises in Joel. We do not live necessarily in drought plagued places so that the concept of a full early and later rain does not mean as much to us as it did for the children of Israel. Maybe there are similarities to other agricultural situations you have experienced. But I remember what it meant in Swaziland when the rains broke upon us as we sang the Sanctus in a small mission church. The rains clattered the corrugated iron roof. And the people heard this joyful thundering after experiencing months and months of drought. It was like the heavens opened and the angels and archangels were cheering with the people for what had come upon them. God says that such refreshment of the rains will come. The floors of the threshing halls will be filled with grain, and the vats will overflow with oil and wine.

And those external blessings will be more than matched by an overflowing expression of the exuberance of the Spirit. Sons and daughters will proclaim God's word on things. All generations including the elders will dream dreams, even if they might not all live to see them fulfilled. And it will be the younger generations who will turn those dreams into vision and reality.

The followers of Jesus experienced this happen to them. They made the connection at Pentecost with Joel's words.

And so, my prayer is, will you? I pray that there be a time when the life of the Spirit is so pulsating through your veins and your hearts, that somewhere in the midst of it all, you look back and you say to one another - remember when we held those Revivals? Remember when we were trying to share, or learning to share God's love? Remember when we walked those neighborhoods? Remember when we gathered to learn how to welcome, invite, connect; and when we sought how to connect with this new generation now entering the digital age? Remember those creative ways to renew our liturgy, and to create new worship spaces? Maybe we didn't think then that we knew what we were doing. Somehow, we found ourselves doing "silly things sometimes" in our enthusiasm to bring change in Jesus' Name?

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Remember all that? All of it, in all of it are the expressions of the real Pentecost that can happen among the people of God.

America loves awakenings. Somehow as a people, you have to have an awakening every now and then. You're a sensational people; you love sensation; and God knows that. So you have a history of sensational awakenings of the Spirit. What we have been messing around with over these past few years (since the Revival 2017) is precisely "messing around." We've been dipping our toes in the water and not yet plunged in. Joel's image is of something far more amazing.

Joel, we will say, was right. The Spirit has come upon us; and we have humbly submitted to Her. And we hear God calling everyone through us to find their way back to God, just as we have. Wouldn't that be great? Can't you imagine? Can't you feel it? Can't you just reach out and grab it? And, let the Spirit into yourselves as the people of God?

You know once we are all a bubble with the Spirit of God at work in us, God will still bring alive all of our traditions, all of our liturgies, all of our beautiful renderings of worship and being together. But that won't be the primary conversation. We will be taken up with something else. We will notice what we've not noticed much before; and we will notice with love, people we've not noticed before. And we will ask questions about their situation we've never raised before. All these things will be about how God's love can be made known here and there and everywhere.

You know, once again this February, we are going to be reminded that we in Iowa are positioned to test our nation's political realities. And I want to ask: is it possible that this is a particular charism or calling of the Iowa people? I don't know the background of the creation of the caucus and how you became the first voting group in the country, but I know that you take great pride in it. And you do well in sorting through the first candidates in the election process. So I think it is why we are also called to try out and test things of the Spirit. It is in such fertile souls as yours that God can now reap the great harvest.

So, my prayer is that God so works within us and among us this year, as we go and walk and take the bold steps into our neighborhoods; and that we will see what God is already doing, and what is not being done, and that for which God waits for us to partner with God to do. We are being called to see our neighbors how God sees them. To let them know, whether they know it or not, that they are Beloved. There is absolutely no limit to how all that can be expressed, experienced and enjoyed.

Let us pray,

Lord, I am no longer my own, but Yours. Put me to what You will. Rank me with whom You will. Let me be employed by You, or laid aside for You, exalted for You or brought low by You. Let me have all things. Let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to Your pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father Son and Holy Spirit, You are mine and I am Yours. So be it.

Amen