

MINUTES OF THE 117th ANNUAL CONVENTION
OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MONTANA
OCTOBER 9, 10 & 11, 2020
Video Convention via Zoom Media

The 117th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Montana commenced at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, October 9, 2020. In light of current health concerns, the 2020 Diocesan Convention was held virtual-only, via Zoom Media. The Rt. Rev. Martha (“Marty”) E. Stebbins, Tenth Bishop of Montana, led the Convention delegation in Evening Prayer, including the reading of the Necrology list. Bishop Stebbins called the business session to order at 7:20 p.m.

Welcome. Bishop Stebbins welcomed all to Convention. Canon for Administration and Finance, Barb Hagen, explained the logistics of the virtual-only convention and how to navigate through Zoom Media. Barb stated voting throughout Convention will be conducted via Zoom Poll, or by Doodle Poll. To commemorate Bishop Stebbin’s first year as Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Montana, Barb Hagen presented Bishop Stebbins with a photo album of parishioner’s pets.

Convention Committees. Bishop Stebbins announced the following individuals serving on Convention Committees:

Credentials: Sandy Williams, Jill Sallin and Barb Hagen

Legislation: The Rev. Stephen Day (Chair), The Rev. Jaime Leonard, Pat Sylvia and Brad Foster.

Nominations: The Rev. Randy Pendergraft (Chair), The Rev. Charlie Knuth, Wendy Kuhn and Tom Wojtowick.

Resolutions: The Rev. Jean Collins (Chair), The Rev. Terri Grotzinger, Laura Sacchi and Mick Archdale.

In addition, Bishop Stebbins introduced George Kimmet, Parliamentarian, who will offer council to Bishop Stebbins as Chair of the Convention. The Convention delegation will act on two pieces of legislation to change Canons, which requires a two-thirds majority vote of each order (clergy and laity) for approval. In addition, the Convention delegation will vote on one resolution.

Credentials Committee. On behalf of the Credentials Committee, Sandy Williams stated 31 clergy delegates and 85 lay delegates had registered and were in attendance. All delegates in attendance (lay and clergy) comprise a two-thirds majority, therefore, Bishop Stebbins stated a quorum was present and the business of the convention could proceed.

Election of Diocesan Secretary and Treasurer. Bishop Stebbins announced Gayle Archey from Great Falls, has been nominated as Diocesan Secretary. There being no further nominations for Secretary, upon motion made, seconded and approved, the

nominations were closed. By motion duly made and seconded, Gayle Archey was elected by acclamation to serve as Diocesan Secretary until the 2021 Annual Convention. Bishop Stebbins stated Mark Dvarishkis from Missoula, has been nominated as Diocesan Treasurer. There being no further nominations for Treasurer, upon motion made, seconded and approved, the nominations were closed. By motion duly made and seconded, Mark Dvarishkis was elected by acclamation to serve as Diocesan Treasurer until the 2021 Annual Convention.

Diocesan Reports Filed in a Timely Manner. The Convention delegation reviewed a list of parishes that have filed the following reports on time: (1) Parochial Report-due March 1st; (2) State Reports-due April 15th; and (3) Annual Audit Report-due September 1st.

Vote to Allow Seat, Voice and Vote at Convention. St. James Church in Dillon has not paid \$9,339.74 of their 2019 Diocesan Assessment. As a result, St. James will have no seat, voice and vote at this Convention, unless the Convention delegation votes to allow St. James to participate in Convention, and to forgive their debt to the Diocese. Upon motion duly made and seconded, a majority of the Convention delegation voted to allow St. James Dillon to join Convention with seat, voice and vote, and also to forgive the \$9,339.74 they owe the Diocese.

Committee on Legislation. The Rev. Stephen Day, Chairperson of the Legislation Committee, stated the Diocesan office received 2 proposed Resolutions to Amend the Diocesan Canons prior to the 60 day pre-Convention deadline. Therefore, the 2 proposed pieces of legislation will be presented for consideration to the Convention delegation during tomorrow's business session.

Committee on Nominations. The Rev. Randy Pendergraft, Chairperson of the Nominations Committee, stated nominations are being received to fill the following Diocesan positions. Elections will be held during tomorrow's business session.

Diocesan Council: Two laity and two clerics, each for 3-year terms.
Standing Committee: One laity and one cleric, each for 3-year terms.
Foundation Board: Two clerics, each for 4-year terms.

Committee on Resolutions. The Rev. Jean Collins, Chairperson of the Resolutions Committee, announced the Diocesan office received one proposed Resolution prior to the 60 day pre-Convention deadline. The proposed Resolution will be presented for approval during tomorrow's business session.

Introduction of Chancellors of the Diocese. Bishop Stebbins introduced Brad Foster and Julianne Burkhardt, Diocesan Chancellors, and thanked them for their time and expertise providing legal advice during the past year.

Rules of Order for the Convention. Bishop Stebbins stated the Convention will follow the General Convention Constitution and Canons, the Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Montana, and the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order. George Kimmet,

Parliamentarian, will be available to advise the Bishop on the Rules of Order throughout the Convention.

Official Acts of the Bishop. Bishop Stebbins presented a list of Official Acts during her first year as Bishop of Montana. Although her schedule was significantly modified as a result to the Coronavirus pandemic, Bishop Stebbins list includes visitations, confirmations, ordinations and receptions.

New Clerics to the Diocese. The Rev. Canon J. Christopher Roberts, Canon to the Ordinary, introduced the following new clerics to the Diocese:

1. The Rev. Charles Knuth, Rector at All Saints in Columbia Falls/Whitefish.
2. The Rev. Mikayla Dunfee, Caplain at the Kalispell hospital.
3. Heidi Jones Magee, Vocational Deacon at St. James in Bozeman.

Donation Made during Convention. During Convention, donations can be made to either Episcopal Relief and Development or Camp Marshall; the links are provided in the chat feature on Zoom.

Dave Campbell, Executive Director of Camp Marshall. Bishop Stebbins introduced Dave Campbell, the new Executive Director of Camp Marshall. Dave stated the virtual Camp held this year was successful. Dave spoke of a few current projects at Camp Marshall including retro-fitting the kitchen, and a new steel dock which will soon be completed.

Adjournment of Friday Business Session. Bishop Stebbins concluded the business session at 8:00 p.m. The Ven. Dorcie Dvarishkis, Archdeacon, offered the closing prayer.

Convention Reconvened Saturday Morning. The Convention reconvened Saturday, October 10, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. with an Ante Communion worship service lead by Bishop Stebbins. In conjunction with the worship service, Bishop Stebbins gave her first address to the Convention delegation.

Morning Business Session. Bishop Stebbins called the business session to order at 8:45 a.m. Sandy Williams gave an updated report from the Credentials Committee. Sandy announced the number of Convention delegates in attendance this morning is the same as last night (31 clergy delegates and 85 lay delegates), which constitutes a quorum, and the business of the Convention can proceed.

2021 Diocesan Operating Budget. Diocesan Treasurer, Mark Dvarishkis; and Canon for Finance, Barb Hagen, presented the proposed 2021 Operating Budget for the Diocese of Montana. The budget is drafted by the Finance Department, then reviewed, revised and approved by Diocesan Council. The budget is comprised of 3 separate budgets: Administrative, Program and Camp Marshall. The 2021 budget is based on a 19% assessment, which is the same as last year. The 19% assessment is calculated using the average operating income reported on the Parish's parochial reports for the

prior 3 years. The 2021 budget does not include raises for Diocesan staff. Health insurance premiums for Diocesan staff will increase in 2021. The assessment amount the Diocese pays to the National Church will also increase in 2021. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the 2021 Diocesan Budget as presented, was accepted by a majority vote of the Convention delegation.

Barb Hagen announced the deadline for parishes to submit a Request for Reduction in 2021 Assessment to the Diocesan office is October 15, 2020.

2020 Standing Committee Report. Rick Harden, President of the Standing Committee, stated the Standing Committee met 22 times since the 2019 Diocesan Convention. Rick gave an overview of the Standing Committee's purpose. The Committee works with the Bishop to review the spiritual health and vitality of the Diocese, consent to the sale or purchase of real property, and consent to the ordination of persons to Holy Orders. Early in the year, the Standing Committee assisted in the interview and hiring process to select Dave Campbell as the new Executive Director of Camp Marshall. The Committee also assisted with staff transitions at Camp Marshall, the hiring of Mark Clemow as the Site Manager at Camp, and planning the 2020 camping season at Camp Marshall. The Standing Committee also developed a Letter of Agreement for hiring clergy within the Diocese.

Foundation Board Election. Two clerics need to be elected as Trustees of the Foundation Board, each to serve 4-year terms. Nominations Committee Chairperson, The Rev. Randy Pendergraft, announced The Rev. Connie Campbell-Pearson from Manhattan, and The Rev. Charles Knuth from Columbia Falls/Whitefish were nominated. There being no further nominations, upon motion duly made and seconded, the nominations were closed. Upon motion duly made and seconded, The Rev. Connie Campbell-Pearson and The Rev. Charles Knuth were elected by acclamation.

Diocesan Council Election. The Rev. Randy Pendergraft announced the nominees to serve on Diocesan Council. Two clerics and two lay people are needed, each to serve 3-year terms. The nominees in the clergy order are The Rev. Mary Alice Jones from Anaconda, and The Very Rev. Scott Anderson from Helena. There being no further nominations in the clergy order, upon motion duly made and seconded, the nominations were closed. Upon motion duly made and seconded, The Rev. Mary Alice Jones and The Very Rev. Scott Anderson were elected by acclamation. The nominees in the lay order are Rick Harden from Helena, and Henry Tuell from Red Lodge. There being no further nominations in the lay order, upon motion duly made and seconded, the nomination were closed. Upon motion duly made and seconded, Rick Harden and Henry Tuell were elected by acclamation.

Standing Committee Election. The Rev. Randy Pendergraft stated there are two vacancies on the Standing Committee that need to be filled, one cleric and one lay person, each to serve a 3-year term. Sandy Williams from Livingston was nominated in the lay order. There being no further nominations in the lay order, upon motion duly

made and seconded, the nominations were closed. Upon motion duly made and seconded, Sandy Williams was elected by acclamation. The Rev. Melinda St. Clair from Billings, and The Rev. Canon Gary Waddingham from Billings were nominated in the clergy order. There being no further nominations in the clergy order, upon motion duly made and seconded, the nominations were closed. A vote of the Convention delegation was conducted via Doodle Poll, with The Rev. Melinda St. Clair being elected by majority vote.

Thanks to Committee Members. Bishop Stebbins offered her thanks to those individuals who have served on various Diocesan boards, commissions, committees and councils, whose terms of serve are now expiring:

Diocesan Council: Manny Hoag, Cynthia Hoelscher,
The Rev. Wells Warren, The Rev. Randy Pendergraft,
and The Rev. Steven Yurosko (Treasurer)

Congregational Development: Dr. Mary Cavalier, Rick Harden,
The Rev. Canon Clark Sherman; and Daryl Todd

Congregational Formation: Cynthia Benkelman, Dr. Jamie Sherman, and
The Rev. Gretchen Strohmaier

Standing Committee: The Rev. Bradley Wirth, and Rick Harden

Commission on Ministry: The Rev. Louise Baker, and The Rev. Donnel O’Flynn

Finance Department: Martha Winford, and The Rev. Steven Yurosko

Foundation Board: The Rev. Rick Johnson, The Rev. Steven Yurosko,
The Rev. Dorcie Dvarishkis, and Rick Harden.

Appointment of New Committee Members. Bishop Stebbins announced the names of those individuals she has appointed to serve on the following Diocesan boards, commissions, and committees:

Commission on Ministry: The Rev. Raymond Brown, Sharon Hatley,
The Rev. Mikayla Dunfee, and Richard Pate

By vote taken via Zoom Poll, the Convention delegation approved the appointment of those individuals serving on the Commission on Ministry.

Finance Department: Doris Gerstner

By vote taken via Zoom Poll, the convention delegation approved the appointment of those individuals serving on the Finance Department.

Disaster Coordinator: The Rev. Mary Alice Jones

Ecumenical Officer: The Rev. Valerie Webster

Historian: The Rev. Canon Gary Waddingham

United Thank
Offering Coordinator Vicki Van Rennselaer

Committee on Legislation. The Committee on Legislation Chairperson, The Rev. Stephen Day, stated two proposed legislation amendments have been submitted to Convention.

1. Amend Canon 16, Professional Standards with a new Section 6. This amendment is proposed by the Standing Committee, and its adoption is recommended by the Legislation Committee.

A vestry can have a stipendiary priest, deacon or assistant, but he or she cannot do anything until the Bishop is satisfied the cleric has health insurance per Church Pension Group guidelines, and also that payments are being made to the Church Pension Fund. A Letter of Agreement or a Vestry Resolution which includes the specific language setting forth these requirements would provide the assurance the Bishop must have.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was approved by a two-thirds majority Zoom Poll vote by orders (clergy and lay) to adopt the Resolution to Amend Canon 16 of the Diocesan Canons entitled Professional Standards, by **adding a new Section 6**, as follows:

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

CANON 16.

Section 6. All stipendiary clergy, in order to obtain licensure in the Diocese, upon election as a Rector, or selection as an assistant clergy person, shall provide evidence to the Ecclesiastical Authority, that either through a Letter of Agreement or Vestry Resolution (if there is not a Letter of Agreement), that the parish guarantees the clergy person health insurance per Church Pension Group (“CPG”) guidelines, if the individual is not covered by Medicare or other government program. In the event that the clergy person is not working sufficient hours for coverage under CPG guidelines, the parish shall show evidence to the Ecclesiastical Authority of the parish’s willingness to contribute to the clergy person’s health insurance policy obtained in the market and the specific amount thereof, providing that the cleric is not covered by Medicare or other government program. Licensure shall be withheld until such evidence is produced. As well, licensure can be revoked if a parish vestry does not provide health insurance per CPG guidelines, or contribute to health insurance if the clergy person obtains health insurance in the market. The same conditions shall hold true for payments into the Church Pension Fund.

2. Amend Diocesan Canons to Allocate Diocesan Convention Delegates Based on Average Sunday Attendance (ASA). This amendment is proposed by the Billings Deanery (Calvary Episcopal in Red Lodge, Church of the Ascension in Forsyth, Emmanuel Episcopal in Miles City, St. Luke’s and St. Stephen’s in Billings, and The Rev. Canon Clark Sherman). The Legislation Committee recommends adoption of the amendment.

The goal of replacing the data point for assigning delegates to parishes for Diocesan Convention is a more equitable distribution of votes based on the most widely accepted data point used within the wider Episcopal Church, the Average Sunday Attendance or ASA. The ASA is based on real statistics and the weekly lives of our faith communities, and includes everyone in church on Sunday. The adult communicant number, on the contrary, is a much more ambiguous and historical measure. Our current system for allocating delegates uses data that may be out of date as parish membership lists are often inflated and not representative of the actual current reality in the parish. The ASA allocation of delegates better reflects the current reality of our diocese by providing more delegates to mid-sized congregations. The largest congregations still receive the most delegates, and the smallest still maintain the minimum of two. Additionally, the current model only counts adult communicants. It is important to remember and recognize that children and youth are also the church.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was approved by at least a two-thirds majority Doodle Poll vote by orders (clergy and lay), to adopt the Resolution to Amend Canon 3, Section 2, Part C of the Diocesan Canons, by **revising Part C of Section 2 (to be effective the 2021 Diocesan Convention)**, as follows:

CANON 3
SECTION 2

Part C. Each congregation shall be entitled to lay representation to be based upon their average Saturday evening and Sunday attendance (otherwise known as ASA), as reported in the most recent annual parochial report in accordance with the following table:

| <u>ASA</u> | <u>Delegates</u> |
|--------------|------------------|
| 0 - 24 | 2 |
| 25 - 49 | 3 |
| 50 - 74 | 4 |
| 75 - 99 | 5 |
| 100 - 124 | 6 |
| 125 - 149 | 7 |
| 150 - 174 | 8 |
| 175 - 199 | 9 |
| 200 and Over | 10 |

Committee on Resolutions. Committee on Resolutions Chairperson, The Rev. Jean Collins, stated one proposed resolution has been submitted to Convention by The Rev. Donna Gleaves, entitled “*Resolution to Adopt a Covenant to Root Out Racism.*” The Resolution Committee recommends adoption of the resolution, and therefore makes the motion for approval, which was seconded.

This resolution is an opportunity for our Diocese to engage in meaningful action to end the sin of racism. This work involves risking ourselves for the sake of God’s love, moving beyond ourselves in order to seek and serve Christ and one another.

A motion was duly made and seconded to amend the resolution to change the following covenant: *“We covenant to financially support the important work of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and Native American and Tribal Colleges.”* Following vote of the Convention delegation, the amendment to the Resolution was approved.

Upon affirmative vote of a majority of the Convention delegation, the following resolution, as amended, was adopted by the Episcopal Diocese of Montana:

A COVENANT TO ROOT OUT RACISM.

“Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen.” -1 John 4:20

The sin of racism disrupts the harmony and oneness that God intends for humanity. Racism is dangerous, divisive, and damaging. Racism purports that some are deserving of dignity over others and disregards the image and likeness of God found in every human being. We are created in the image of God; therefore, to engage in racism of any form is to refuse to acknowledge the image of God in the other and the stranger. The fact that we were created in the image of God should remind us that each person is a living expression of God that must be respected, preserved, and never dishonored. Throughout our history, courageous people of God have taken the risk of standing up and speaking out with the least and the lowest, God now challenges us to become courageous people who seek to create sacred communities of hope by dismantling the sin of racism. This work involves risking ourselves for the sake of God’s love, moving beyond ourselves in order to seek and serve Christ and one another.

WE LAMENT...

As people of faith, we acknowledge our sins and our failure to respect the dignity of every human being. We have, individually and corporately, fallen short of the glory of God, and now call to mind and name the aspects of our lament.

- *We lament the Church’s role in the subjugation, enslavement, and genocide of societies of indigenous peoples, including Native Americans and Pacific Islanders.*
- *We lament the Church’s role in profiting from the selling, trading, and genocide of people of African descent and the lasting effects of the peculiar trade present with us today.*

- *We lament the Church's complicity-by-silence in the commoditization, dehumanization, and belittling of peoples brought to this country to toil in brutal labor, including Latinx people, Asians, Pacific Islanders, and other immigrants and undocumented populations.*
- *We lament the Church's complicity in the historical exclusion, internment, and denial of civil rights of Asian and Pacific Islanders.*
- *We lament the Church's complicity in failing to honor the language, culture, and civil rights of Latinx people, both American citizens and those from other countries.*
- *We lament to places in which we have been spectators and participants in the public and private lynching of peoples of African descent.*
- *We lament the Church's lack of moral courage to stand with and on the side of the poor, the marginalized, and the oppressed.*
- *We lament the systems of white supremacy, white exceptionalism, and white privilege present in the Church that have condoned people - particularly people of African descent, - being viewed as less, inferior, or unworthy rather than as beloved children of God, made in the image of the Divine.*
- *We lament the ways in which the stories of People of Color have been diminished or erased from the histories of our churches, institutions, and communities of faith.*
- *We lament the collusion of the Church with systems that directly and indirectly promote racism, oppression, segregation, and disenfranchisement.*
- *We lament the willful blindness of Christian leadership in promoting and advocating for systems of over-policing, the militarization of police, mass incarceration, school-to-prison pipelines, poverty, and violence.*
- *We lament the resounding silence and the crippling fear that often infects the Church in matters of racial reconciliation and social justice.*

WE COVENANT...

As people of faith, we are called to "love the Lord with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves," Recognizing the places in which the church and people of faith have fallen short of God's love, particularly in the legacy of racism and white supremacy, we seek to amend our lives to more fully reflect God's dream of Beloved Community.

- *We covenant to re-examine the history of our communities of faith and institutions to, in tangible ways, acknowledge racist legacies and to recognize, remember, and re-tell the stories of Native American, enslaved persons and other People of Color, whose labor contributed to white privilege.*

- *We covenant to engage our communities of faith, staffs, colleagues and experts in critical discourse that propels us forward.*
- *We covenant to devise and implement standards, policies, and programs that make our commitment to diversity and inclusion a visible reality.*
- *We covenant to invest in local businesses that are owned and operated by People of Color and under-represented populations.*
- *We covenant to listen to and to validate the stories, experiences, and feelings of People of Color as companions along the journey, valuing those experiences as being sacred.*
- *We covenant to adopt an intersectional approach in all aspects of our common life, remembering that all forms of oppression are connected.*
- *We covenant to financially support the important work of Historically Black Colleges and Universities, **and Native American and Tribal Colleges.***
- *We covenant to work towards the dismantling of the school to prison pipeline and other systems of institutional oppression.*
- *We covenant to stand up and speak out against everyday micro and macro acts of oppression or aggression.*
- *We covenant to struggle and speak out against denial of civil liberties and voter suppression.*
- *We covenant to educate ourselves, and share with others, the many places where our privilege binds us from being compassionate to others.*
- *We covenant to call out bigotry and hate speech in all aspects of our common life.*
- *We covenant to gather with others, including faith leaders and decision makers, at all levels of the church, to ask the hard questions:*
 - *Does the leadership of our institution reflect the diversity of those we serve?*
 - *Are the many faces of the diverse body of Christ represented in decision-making processes?*
 - *How are we inviting and forming leaders?*
 - *Who is missing around the table?*
 - *Whose untold story do we need to hear?*
- *We covenant that in our corporate worship; and other activities of our communities to intentionally cultivate welcome, hospitality, and participation for people of all cultures, ethnicities and backgrounds, and to include their rich musical and liturgical offerings in worship.*
- *We covenant to invite all members of our faith communities to reflect about and seek a better understanding of racism and privilege.*
- *We covenant to preach about, and pray together for an end to racism and white supremacy, not to bring down people of European descent, but to lift all others up.*

- *We covenant to join with local community organizations in working for racial justice.*

Annual Diocesan Report. Upon motion duly made and seconded, by vote taken via Zoom Poll, it was unanimously agreed to accept the 2019 Annual Report of the Diocese, which is posted in its entirety on the Diocesan website.

Courtesy Resolutions: Members of the Resolutions Committee offered the following Courtesy Resolutions:

Whereas, we are blessed to minister alongside one another, laity and ordained clergy, and

Whereas, we desire to celebrate significant milestones along the way,
Be It Resolved, we, the delegates of the Diocese of Montana at this virtual 117th Diocesan Convention recognize those ordained who have reached:

20 years since ordination:

- Randy Pendergraft - April 15
- Sue Eades - June 17
- Mary Rowe - September 14
- Judy Anderson - October 14

30 years since ordination:

- Brenda McLellan - June 3
- Rick Johnson - July 20
- Dennis Campbell - December 28

40 years since ordination:

- Steve Brehe - March 24

50 years since ordination:

- Bob Sisk - January 29
- Maurice Champion-Garthe - May 7

With thanksgiving and gratitude for their many gifts shared over all these years.

Whereas, Chris Roberts, Dorcie Dvarishkis, Donna Gleaves, Dave Campbell and Mark Clemow have done many practice sessions with Zoom and Doodle voting to troubleshoot and help provide instruction,

Be It Resolved, that the 2020 Diocesan Convention thank them for their work in testing and troubleshooting to try to help convention run as smoothly as possible.

Whereas, Dorcie Dvarishkis, Mary Alice Jones, Stephen Day, Valerie Webster and Chad Brinkman have provided online sessions as our virtual “convention displays” this year, sharing their wisdom and insight,

Be It Resolved, that the 2020 Diocesan Convention thank them for their ministry among us and willingness to share their gifts in a new way.

Whereas, the people of the Diocese have signed up for Zoom practice sessions, Doodle poll practices and have joined in on the online convention display sessions, and for all of those who are live-streaming church, using YouTube, Facebook, and Zoom, and being the church in a new way in 2020,

Be It Resolved, that the 2020 Diocesan Convention acknowledge our efforts and faith as we live and move and have our being in these days of uncertainty.

Whereas, Gayle Archey has served as the Diocesan Secretary for 20 years. She has faithfully recorded our debates, discussions, and discourses with accuracy and great competence. She has attended 19 conventions and almost one hundred Diocesan Council meetings, always ready to document these important proceedings.

Be It Resolved, that the 2020 Diocesan Convention shares their grateful appreciation for this quiet servant among us.

Whereas, Sandy Williams has served as the Credentials Committee Chair for the last 25 conventions, she has never missed a convention, always there to greet our clergy and delegates with a smile, even when she has to track down people who didn't sign in! She reports the quorum and keeps us on track to properly conduct the business of the diocese.

Be It Resolved, that the 2020 Diocesan Convention honor Sandy's dedication and commitment to the Diocese of Montana.

Whereas, Steven Yurosko has served as the Diocesan Treasurer for three years, attending many Finance and Diocesan Council meetings and guiding the budget process.

Be It Resolved, that the 2020 Diocesan Convention share their thanks for Steven's work and dedication to the Diocese of Montana.

Whereas, The Venerable Roxanne Klingensmith has served as the archdeacon for the Diocese of Montana for more than 16 years; and

Whereas, as the first Archdeacon for the Diocese, she has blazed many trails as a loving servant, faithful role model, spiritual leader, and prayerful steward of the trust and responsibilities placed upon her; and

Whereas, the people of the Diocese have grown in our understanding of what diakonia requires of us all as we serve alongside our most vulnerable; and

Whereas, she will now be known as The Venenerable (Retired), and forever, a Deacon, moving in God's love and in partnership with our Bishop.

Be It Resolved, that the 2020 Diocesan Convention surrounds Roxy with our gratitude for her great dedication and commitment to the Diocese of Montana and all of God's people.

Whereas, Barb Hagen and Jill Sallin give so much of themselves to their work for the Diocese of Montana in 'normal times'. In the midst of a pandemic, they have outdone even themselves! In addition to their regular tasks, they have welcomed a new Bishop and planned and implemented a virtual Diocesan Convention. They have patiently offered training and answered at least a million questions with good humor.

Be It Resolved, that the 2020 Diocesan Convention rise from our seats and offer Jill and Barb a hearty applause in grateful thanks for their fabulous ministry among us.

Diocesan Convention 2021. The 118th Diocesan Convention will be held in Billings during the fall of 2021. An invitation to attend was extended by the parishes of St. Luke's and St. Stephens, who will join together to co-host the convention next year.

Convention Adjournment. Upon motion duly made, seconded and approved via Zoom poll vote, the business session was adjourned at 2:10 p.m. Bishop Stebbins offered the closing prayer, thereby concluding the 117th Diocesan Convention.

Sunday Worship Service. A pre-recorded Eucharist was celebrated by The Rt. Rev. Martha "Marty" E. Stebbins at St. Peter's Cathedral in Helena on Sunday, October 11, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,
Gayle Gallik Archey, Diocesan Secretary.