



**The Journal of the 146<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention  
of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia**

October 26 – 28, 2023  
Martinsburg, West Virginia  
*Updated 02.01.24*



**THE EPISCOPAL  
DIOCESE OF  
WEST VIRGINIA**

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# Leadership of the Diocese of West Virginia

## The Bishop Diocesan

The Right Rev. Matthew D. Cowden

## Canon to the Ordinary

The Rev. Canon Chad Slater

## Canon for Communications & Congregational Development

The Rev. Canon Jordan Trumble

## Canon for Mission and Ministry

Canon Catherine Saxe

## Chief Financial Officer

Ms. Cecelia Annette Combs

## Executive Assistant to Bishop Cowden and Diocesan Administrator

Ms. Tracy Hannah

## Receptionist

Mrs. Jennifer Slater

## Treasurer of the Diocese

Mr. Thomas Farnsworth

## Chancellor of the Diocese

Ms. Karen Klein

## Vice-Chancellors of the Diocese:

Mr. Lee Javins, Mr. Travis Eckley

## Diocesan Trustees:

Mr. Tom Gilpin, Head Trustee

Mr. Gat Caperton, Mr. Steve Robey, Mr. David Kersey, Mr. John McGhee

## Commission on Ministry Coordinator

Mrs. Kim Javins

## Sandscrest Director

Mrs. Cheryl Harshman

## Sandscrest Assistant Director and Chef

Mrs. Chris Villamagna

## Highland Educational Project Director

The Rev. Paul Barker

## Peterkin Camp and Conference Center Interim Director

Mr. Jim Cormack

## Dayspring Editor

Ms. Linda Comins

## Diocesan Altar Guild Director

Mrs. Hollie Mitchell





**THE EPISCOPAL  
DIOCESE OF  
WEST VIRGINIA**

**Schedule of Events**

Thursday, October 26

- 3:00 pm Registration opens at the Holiday Inn Martinsburg  
Convention Registration opens at the Holiday Inn Martinsburg
- 5:00 pm Evening Prayer and Opening Business at Trinity Church
- 6:30 pm Clergy Spouse Dinner
- 7:00 pm Dinner at the Holiday Inn Martinsburg
- 8:00 pm Hearings for Resolutions and Budget

Friday, October 27

- 8:00 am Convention Registration opens at the Holiday Inn
- 9:00 am Morning Prayer and Bishop's Convention Address
- 10:00 am Budget & Finance Presentation and Open Hearing
- 11:00 am Busses depart for Morgan's Chapel
- 11:45 am Noonday Prayer and Presentation at Morgan's Chapel
- 12:30 pm Lunch at Morgan's Chapel
- 1:30 pm Busses depart for Holiday Inn Martinsburg
- 3:00 pm Convention Registration closes  
Convention Business with Elections and Debate on Resolutions
- 5:00 pm Training and Education Seminars  
*Stewardship and Kids*  
*Commission on Spirituality – Taizé*  
Youth Council Meeting
- 6:00 pm Episcopal Church Women meet
- 7:00 pm Diocesan Banquet and Keynote Address

Saturday, October 28

- Check-out of Holiday Inn Martinsburg
- 10:00 am Convention Eucharist and Ordinations
- 12:00 pm Convention closes

# Convention Agenda

At Evening Prayer on Thursday, October 26  
Church, Martinsburg

Trinity

*In place of the sermon during the service the Opening Business of Convention will be held.*

1. Call to Order
2. Declaration of a Quorum
3. Appointments for Convention Business
  - a. Secretary of Convention
  - b. Parliamentarian
  - c. Committee on Credentials
  - d. Committee on Resolutions
  - e. Committee on Constitutions and Canons
  - f. Budget Committee
  - g. Tellers
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Approval of Rules of Order
6. Referral of Resolution to Committee

*Following this, Evening Prayer will continue and Convention will be in recess. Evening Hearings will be at the hotel.*

9:00 a.m. Friday, October 27

Foxcroft

Ballroom, Holiday Inn

7. Morning Prayer with Bishop Cowden's Address to Convention
8. Approval of the Minutes 2022 Diocesan Convention
9. Acceptance of the Minutes and Notes of Diocesan Council
10. Report of the Standing Committee
11. Recognition of New Clergy and Transitions in the Diocese
12. Announcement of Parish Changes of Status
13. Presentation of the Official Acts of the Bishop to Diocesan Convention
14. Courtesy Resolutions
15. Report of the Trustees to Convention
16. Presentation on the Diocesan Finance and Budget Matters

*At 10:45 a.m. Convention will recess to Morgan's Chapel for Noonday Prayer and Diocesan Picnic.*

3:00 p.m. Friday, October 27

17. Election to Diocesan Offices
  - a. Trustee
  - b. Standing Committee
  - c. Sandcrest Board
18. Presentation of Ministry Reports
19. Consents
20. Consideration of Resolution
21. Adoption of the 2024 Diocesan Budget
22. Concluding Business
23. Adjournment

## Appointments for Convention Business

### Secretary of Convention

Ms. Linda Comins

### Parliamentarian

Ms. Karen Klein

### Clergy Seating Committee

The Very Rev. Susan Claytor, The Very Rev. Kim Webster, The Rev. Marie Mulford

### Lay Seating Committee

Mr. Bill Saviers, Ms. Sue Owen, Mrs. Vicki Iber

### Resolution Committee

Mr. Lee Javins, Ms. Beth Marquart, The Rev. Greg Pennington, The Very Rev. Dean Lawrence

### Constitution & Canons Committee

Mr. Tim Brown, Mr. Chuck Andrus, The Rev. Maggie Blanchard

### Budget Committee

Mr. Tom Farnsworth, Mr. Jim Sutherland, The Very Rev. Bobby Shives,  
Mr. Jim Shaver, The Very Rev. Susan Claytor, Mrs. Susanne Pulse

### Head Teller

Mrs. Barbara Lutz

### Board of Tellers

Mr. Benjamin Slater, Ms. Emma Slater, Mr. Andy Brown, Mr. Elliott Brown

### Courtesy Resolution Committee

The Rev. Canon Chad Slater, Mr. Ray Lowther, the Rev. Gina Griffith



# Minutes of the 145<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia

November 18-19, 2022

Trinity Episcopal Church and DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Huntington, West Virginia

## Friday, November 18, 2022

The Rt. Rev. Matthew D. Cowden, 8th Bishop of the Diocese of West Virginia, called to order the opening session of the 145<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Diocese of West Virginia at 1:00 pm on Friday, November 18, 2022 at the Doubletree Hotel in Huntington, WV.

Bishop Cowden led the convention in an Opening Prayer.

Bishop Cowden then secured from Ms. Karen Klein, Diocesan Chancellor and Parliamentarian, confirmation that a quorum of at least 10 Clergy and 10 Lay Persons representing at least 20 congregations, as required by the Canons, were present and that the Convention could proceed.

Bishop Cowden recognized Mr. John Canfield as Secretary of the 145<sup>th</sup> Convention, having been previously elected as Secretary at the prior convention and continuing to serve in that role until replaced.

The Bishop then appointed the following persons to various Convention positions and committees:

### Parliamentarian:

- Chancellor Karen Klein.

### Clergy Seating Privilege Committee:

- The Rev. Susan Claytor, the Rev. Kim Webster, and the Rev. Marie Mulford.

### Lay Seating Privilege Committee:

- Ms. Vicki Iber, Ms. Marilou McClung, and Mr. Andy Bird.

### Resolutions Committee:

- Vice Chancellor Lee Javins (Chair), the Rev. Marjorie Bevans, the Rev. Greg Pennington, and Ms. Marti Steiner-Unger.

### Constitution and Canons Committee:

- Chancellor Karen Klein (Chair), the Rev. Maggie Blanchard, Mr. Matt Iber, and Ms. Beth Marquart.

### Board of Tellers:

- Mr. Andy Bird and Ms. Marti Steiner-Unger

### Budget Committee:

- Diocesan Treasurer Thomas C. Farnsworth (Chair), the Rev. Joshua Saxe, the Rev. Bobby Shives, Mr. Jim Sutherland, Mr. Bob Shields, and Ms. Tandy Stone.



Courtesy Resolutions:

- The Rev. Canon Chad Slater and Ms. Linda Comins (Co-Chairs), the Rev. Nancy Martin, Dr. Ray Lowther, and Ms. Dale Walter.

Bishop Cowden then announced the following appointments to various Diocesan positions:

Title IV Intake Officer:

- The Rev. Jordan Trumble.

Diocesan Ecumenical Officer:

- The Rev. Greg Pennington.

A motion was moved and seconded from the floor for approval of the above-listed Convention board and committee appointments. Motion passed unanimously via voice vote.

Bishop Cowden then asked for approval of the proposed Convention Agenda, as printed in the Digest. A motion was made and seconded from the floor for approval of Agenda. Motion passed unanimously via voice vote.

Bishop Cowden then gave welcoming remarks to open the 145<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Convention. The Bishop specifically thanked the parishes of Trinity, St. John's and St. Peter's for their efforts to host this year's convention in Huntington.

The Rev. Jim Morgan then presented Bishop Cowden and the convention with a Proclamation from the City of Huntington and Mayor Steve Williams which proclaimed November 18<sup>th</sup> as "*Episcopal Diocese of WV Day*" in the City of Huntington.

Bishop Cowden then asked for review and approval of the Minutes from last year's 144<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Convention. Those Minutes were published in the Convention Digest. A motion was made and seconded from the floor for approval of the Minutes. Motion passed unanimously via voice vote.

Bishop Cowden then submitted to the Convention Secretary the Canonical papers of both himself and the Rt. Reverend W. Michie Klusmeyer, now retired, for the prior year for the Archives of the Diocese. These include:

- Bishops' Travel Diaries
- Summary of Bishops' Official Acts
- List of Canonically Resident Clergy
- Ordinations to the Diaconate
- Ordinations to the Presbyterate
- Letters Dimissory – Issued
- Letters Dimissory – Received
- List of Clergy Licensed to Officiate
- Consents of Election of New Bishops
- Consents to Retirements of Bishops
- Consents for Consecrations
- Baptisms, Confirmations, Reception/Reaffirmations

The Bishop then recognized and thanked the following members of the Diocesan staff for their service to the Diocese: The Rev. Canon Chad Slater, Ms. Tracy Hannah, Ms. Annette Combs, Ms. Daisy McBride, and Ms. Cheryl Harshman.

Bishop Cowden further announced that Mr. David Ramkey had resigned as the Diocesan CFO after 15 years of service, and that Ms. Sandy Bachman would retire at year-end after 35 years of service at Sandcrest. The Bishop also announced that the Rev. Susan Claytor would take over interim leadership of the Highland Education Project, replacing Ms. Mary Green.

Bishop Cowden then led the Convention in a reading of the Necrology, which was printed in the Convention Digest, and led the delegates in prayer for all those in the diocese who have died in the past year. Each name in the Necrology was read aloud by Bishop Cowden, the Canon, the Chancellors, and the Treasurer.

Bishop Cowden then presented reports from various Diocesan Ministries, which were published in the Convention Digest. These included reports from the Highland Education Project, Peterkin, and the Reading Camp programs. A motion was made and seconded from the floor for approval of the Reports. Motion passed unanimously via voice vote.

The Bishop then recognized Diocesan Treasurer Tom Farnsworth, who announced that the Budget Committee hearing would be held at 2:00 p.m. Budget materials for the hearing were printed in the Convention Digest.

Bishop Cowden next called upon Vice Chancellor Lee Javins for a final call for any Resolutions.

Vice Chancellor Javins reminded the Convention that, pursuant to Canon IV of the Diocese, all Resolutions should have been received 45 days prior to the opening of Convention, although the Canons do permit timely Resolutions regarding certain matters which may have occurred since the 45-day deadline. Vice Chancellor Javins solicited any such Resolutions from the convention floor. None were offered, and the call for Resolutions was closed. Vice Chancellor Javins announced that the Resolutions Committee would meet at 2:00 p.m.

The Bishop then recognized those Clergy who are new to the Diocese or are newly ordained since the last convention: The Rev. David Johnston (diaconate), the Rev. Greg Pennington (priesthood), and the Rev. Joseph Lutz (priesthood). Bishop Cowden also announced upcoming ordinations for the Rev. Deacon David Johnston (priesthood), the Rev. Deacon Nancy Martin (priesthood), and Ms. Gina Griffith (diaconate).

Canon Slater announced that hearings for the Resolutions Committee and the Budget Committee would commence immediately in breakout rooms at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel. A meeting regarding Peterkin would also be held at 3:00 p.m. in the Main Ballroom.

At this time, upon a motion from the floor, the general session of the Diocesan Convention adjourned until Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. at Trinity Church.

A Diocesan Youth Event was held from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Trinity Church.

A ceremony of Evensong, Recognition and Installation of Matthew D. Cowden as the 8<sup>th</sup> Bishop of the Diocese of West Virginia was held at Trinity Church at 5:30p.m.

A reception and dinner were held at 7:00 p.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel. Bishop Cowden presented the 2022 Bishop's Shell Awards to Ms. Kelly McGhee, Ms. Daisy McBride, and Ms. Vicki Iber.

### **Saturday, November 19, 2022**

The 145<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Convention resumed on Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. with a celebration of Holy Eucharist at Trinity Church. Bishop Cowden was the celebrant and gave his Convention Address during the worship service.

A Diocesan Youth Event was also held on Saturday at Trinity Church from 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Following the conclusion of the Eucharist celebration, the Convention business session reconvened at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary of Trinity Church.

Bishop Cowden called upon the Rev. Deacon Al Pritchard and the Rev. John Valentine to recognize the 2021 and 2022 graduates of the WV Iona Program: The Rev. Greg Pennington, the Rev. Joseph Lutz, Ms. Gina Griffith, Ms. Marti Steiner-Unger, Ms. Catherine Parker, Ms. Marilou McClung, Mr. Andy Bird, and Ms. Klara Kovacs.

Mr. Andy Bird, Ms. Marti Steiner-Unger, and Ms. Catherine Saxe gave a presentation on the Episcopal Youth Event, which is scheduled for July 2023 in Baltimore. They shared memories from a previous EYE in held Oklahoma City in 2017.

Bishop Cowden then called upon Ms. Linda Comins for the presentation of the following Courtesy Resolutions:

*+ Be it resolved that the 145th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia sends warm and heartfelt greetings to the Rt. Rev. William Michie Klusmeyer, and to his wife, Mrs. Marsha Klusmeyer. We express our deep gratitude for their life and ministry in our midst.*

*+ Be it resolved that this 145th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia sends warm and heartfelt greetings to Mrs. Victoria Smith, widow of the Rt. Rev. John H. Smith, former Bishop Diocesan of West Virginia. We express to her our deep and sincere gratitude for her life and ministry in our midst.*

*+ Be it resolved that this 145th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia sends warm and heartfelt greetings to Mrs. Rosemary Atkinson, widow of the Rt. Rev. Robert P. Atkinson, former Bishop Diocesan of West Virginia. We express to her our deep and sincere gratitude for her life and ministry in our midst.*

*+ Be it resolved that this 145th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia sends warm and heartfelt greetings to Mrs. Lena Carr, widow of the Rt. Rev. Frank Carr, former Bishop Suffragan of the*

*Diocese of West Virginia. We express to her our deep and sincere gratitude for her life and ministry in our midst.*

*+ Be it resolved that this 145th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia sends warm and heartfelt greetings to the Rev. Henry M. "Mac" MacLeod, widowed husband of the Rt. Rev. Mary Adelia MacLeod, former priest at St John's in Charleston, former Bishop of the Diocese of Vermont and the first female bishop diocesan in The Episcopal Church. We express to him our deep and sincere gratitude for his life and ministry in our midst.*

*+ Be it resolved that this 145th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia sends warm and heartfelt greetings to the clergy and people of our Companion Diocese, the Diocese of Colombia. We hold them in our prayers and look forward to the continued development of a mutually rewarding relationship.*

*+ Be it resolved that this 145th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia sends warm and heartfelt greetings to the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, to their Bishop, the Most Rev. Matthew Riegel, and to their clergy and congregations.*

*+ Be it resolved that this 145th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia thanks Mrs. Sally Lane for her many years of service to the Diocese and to the children of West Virginia as Diocesan Director of Reading Camps as she retires from that ministry.*

*+ Be it resolved that this 145th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia thanks the people of Trinity Church, Huntington, for hosting this year's convention, and the people of St. Peter's Church, Huntington, and St. John's Church, Huntington, for their assistance and support of this undertaking.*

A Motion was made to approve all of the Courtesy Resolutions. Coming from a Committee, no

second was necessary. Motion passed unanimously via voice vote.

Elections were then held for various Diocesan positions. The candidates for each position were published in the Convention Digest.

The following persons were elected by voice vote from the convention floor:

Diocesan Trustee:

Mr. Steve Robey (5 year term – expiring in 2027)

Constitutions and Canons Committee

(3 year terms –

expiring in 2025)

The Rev. Michelle Boomgaard

Ms. Vicki Iber

Sandscrest Board:

(3 year terms –

expiring in 2025)

Dr. John Holloway

Ms. Rebecca Sinclair

Ms. Mary Ruth Cilles

Ms. D.K. Wright

The following persons were elected via individual written ballot:

Standing Committee:

(4 year terms – expiring

in 2026)

The Rev. Greg Pennington

Mr. David Lumsden

Deputies to the 81<sup>st</sup> General Convention of the Episcopal Church in 2024:

*Clergy Deputies:*

The Rev. Joshua Saxe

The Rev. Jordan Trumble

The Rev. Kim Webster

The Rev. Greg Pennington.

Alternate Clergy Deputy is the Rev. David Johnston.

*Lay Deputies:*

Ms. Karen Klein (Lead Deputy)

Ms. Linda Comins

Ms. Vivian Kost

Ms. Beth Marquart

First Alternate Lay Deputy is Dr. Ray Lowther.

Second Alternate Lay Deputy is Ms. Colleen McConnell

Third Alternate Lay Deputy is Ms. Wendy Speer.

*[NOTE: Dr. Ray Lowther and Ms. Beth Marquart tied for the 4<sup>th</sup> Lay Deputy seat. By agreement of the candidates, a coin toss was used to determine the 4<sup>th</sup> Lay Deputy seat.]*

Diocesan Treasurer Tom Farnsworth next gave the Budget presentation. He presented the 2022 Financial Report and the proposed Diocesan Budget for 2023. Farnsworth reported that the Diocese received a “clean” audit report from its 2021 Audit. Farnsworth advised that the proposed 2023 Budget had been reviewed and approved by the Budget Committee, with a recommendation that the budget be approved. As the 2023 Budget comes from a Committee, no second is required. Following a brief discussion on the floor, the 2023 Budget was approved on a unanimous voice vote.

Vice Chancellor Lee Javins then presented the various resolutions which were considered by the Resolutions Committee. The first resolution considered was **Resolution #1 -- “Women’s Reproduction Freedom and Healthcare”** -- which was presented to Convention by the Kanawha Deanery and in an alternate form by St. John’s - Charleston. Resolution #1 was amended by the Resolutions Committee during yesterday’s committee hearing and the Committee recommended the approval of Resolution #1 as amended. Resolution #1 was approved on a voice vote.

The next resolution considered was **Resolution #2 -- “Reproductive Freedom & Expansion of Social Safety Nets”** -- which was presented to Convention by the Kanawha Deanery and in an alternate form by St. John’s – Charleston. Resolution #2 was amended by the Resolutions Committee during yesterday’s committee hearing and the Committee recommended the approval of Resolution #2 as amended. During discussion on the convention floor, an additional amendment was offered relating to perpetrators of rape or incest. The floor amendment was approved on a voice vote.

Subsequently, Resolution #2, as amended by the Resolutions Committee and later amended on the convention floor, was approved on a voice vote.

The final resolution considered was **Resolution #3 -- “Condemn Russian Federation Aggression Against Ukraine”** -- which was presented to Convention by the Kanawha Deanery. The Resolutions Committee recommended approval of Resolution #3. Resolution #3 was approved on a voice vote.

Bishop Cowden announced that the Standing Committee would meet immediately following the adjournment of the convention.

The Bishop also announced that the 2023 Diocesan Convention will be held in Martinsburg WV on October 26-28, 2023.

With no further business to conduct, and pursuant to a Motion and a Second from the floor, the 145<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia adjourned upon a unanimous voice vote.

Convention Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

*John Canfield*

Convention Secretary 2022

## **Minutes of the Meetings of Diocesan Council since the Last Diocesan Convention**

### **Minutes of the April 28-29, 2023 Meeting**

Voting members present: Bishop Matthew Cowden, the Very Rev. Nancy Woodworth-Hill (Northern Deanery), the Very Rev. David Johnston and Chuck Andrus (Southwestern Deanery), Debbie Ventura (New Southern Deanery), Jim Shaver (Monongahela Deanery), the Very Rev. Bobby Shives (Eastern Deanery)

Voting members absent: the Very Rev. Kim Webster and Denny Slater (Kanawha Deanery), the Very Rev. Marjorie Bevans and Connie Dale (Ohio Deanery), Debbie Cooley (Northern Deanery), Becki Krzywdik (Convener of Women’s Ministries).

Vacancies: Monongahela Deanery (clergy), Eastern Deanery (lay), New Southern (clergy), President of Episcopal Churchmen, President of Youth Council

Ex officio members present: Diocesan Chancellor Karen E. Klein, Diocesan Treasurer Tom Farnsworth, Rev. Cn. Chad Slater, Diocesan Chief Financial Officer Annette Combs (via Zoom)

Meeting opened with prayer at 8 p.m. April 28. There followed introductions, an outline of the roles and responsibilities of Council and a review of the proposed agenda.

#### Clerk

Chancellor Karen Klein served as Diocesan Council Clerk for this meeting and the Very Rev. Nancy Woodworth-Hill agreed to serve as Clerk going forward.

The Meeting recessed with Compline, to reconvene at 8 a.m. Saturday after Morning Prayer and Breakfast. Meeting reconvened at 9 a.m. April 29 in Campbell Hall.

After a prayer, the morning session opened with deanery reports. Chancellor Karen Klein determined a quorum was present to take official action.

### 2023 Diocesan Budget

Diocesan CFO Annette Combs then presented a proposed 2023 amended budget as prepared by the Diocesan staff, in accordance with conversations had at the 2022 Diocesan Convention. She noted that the amended budget has been completely redesigned to reflect greater clarity in both accounting and reporting.

Specific items highlighted by CFO Combs and by Bishop Cowden include:

- Missionary apportionment was reduced to account for lower ASA and revenues in our parishes.
- Deployment category is changed to deployment and transition to provide sufficient funds to bring new clergy to diocese.
- Increase in Racial Diversity category is to increase CORD's offerings, resurrect prior programming, and plan for a pilgrimage.
- Renewal: All members of Diocesan Staff are in new positions and need mentors/coaches to be more effective and to function better as a system and individually.
- We are now charging registration fee for clergy retreats/conferences. Adding the registration fee with the budgeted line item for clergy retreats and conferences gives a total available of \$56K.

Chuck Andrus moved, the Very Rev. Bobby Shives seconded to approve the budget as presented. The Very Rev. Shives voiced his appreciation to CFO Combs for overhauling the budget for clarity. Treasurer Tom Farnsworth said it may take a full year to digest all of the changes in the diocese and echoed the sentiment congratulating CFO Combs. The Very Rev. Nancy Woodworth-Hill said she believes this budget sets out the priorities set out at Bishop Matthew's consecration and commended the work that has been done to clean up the budget and to fuse this with steps toward the priorities. Motion passed unanimously.

### Minutes of February 5 meeting

Bishop Cowden requested the draft minutes be revised to reflect that the Bishop's Retirement Fund has paid \$3,000 per year. Chuck Andrus moved, the Very Rev. David Johnston seconded the minutes be approved as amended by the Bishop. Motion passed unanimously.

### Clergy Housing Allowance

Whereas the Rt. Rev. Matthew Cowden is employed as a minister of the Gospel by the Episcopal Diocese in West Virginia, which does not provide a residence for him, the Diocesan Council resolves that of the annual stipend to be paid to Matthew Cowden during 2023, \$50,000 be designated a parsonage allowance within the meaning of that term

as used in Section 107 of the IRS Code of 1986. Chuck Andrus moved, Debbie Ventura seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Whereas the Rev. Cn. Chad Slater is employed as a minister of the Gospel by the Episcopal Diocese in West Virginia, which does not provide a residence for him, the Diocesan Council resolves that of the annual stipend to be paid to Chad Slater during 2023, \$40,000 be designated a parsonage allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the IRS Code of 1986. The Very Rev. Bobby Shives moved, the Very Rev. Nancy Woodworth-Hill seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Whereas the Rev. Cn. Jordan Trumble is employed as a minister of the Gospel by the Episcopal Diocese in West Virginia, which does not provide a residence for her, the Diocesan Council resolves that of the annual stipend to be paid to Jordan Trumble during 2023, \$30,000 be designated a parsonage allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the IRS Code of 1986. Jim Shaver moved, the Very Rev. Bobby Shives seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Whereas the Rev. Heather Barta is employed as a minister of the Gospel by the Episcopal Diocese in West Virginia, which does not provide a residence for her, the Diocesan Council resolves that of the annual stipend to be paid to Heather Barta during 2023, be designated a parsonage allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the IRS Code of 1986. The Very Rev. Nancy Woodworth-Hill moved to approve a request for Rev. Barta's compensation to be designated a housing allowance, pending review by legal counsel; Jim Shaver seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

#### Apportionment Forgiveness

Rev. Cn. Chad Slater said a few parishes have been struggling, but unable to pay all or part of their missionary apportionment; this has affected their ability to minister to their communities. At the April 2022 Diocesan Council meeting, a few forgiveness requests were addressed but not sufficiently.

Therefore, he is bringing these before Council at this time:

- St. John's, Harpers Ferry: Approved \$1,000 forgiven in April 2022. They still have \$7,742.84 in arrears since 2020 after the 2022 forgiveness. The church has approximately \$8,000 cash assets and is no longer meeting. There are only two members remaining, who have been attending a Lutheran church. Chuck Andrus moved to approve forgiving the balance remaining of \$7,742.84, Debbie Ventura seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Jim Shaver moved, Chuck Andrus seconded to remove St. John's, Harpers Ferry, from all future apportionments.
- St. Thomas, Weirton: This parish is in arrears from a few years ago when they had building maintenance issues, although they are current now. The arrears are currently \$2,287.20. Forgiving this sum would clear out all prior debt. Rev. Nancy Woodworth-Hill moved to forgive the arrearage of \$2,287.20, Debbie Ventura seconded. Motion passed unanimously.



- Christ Church, Wellsburg: Diocesan Council approved forgiveness in April 2022 without a specific amount stated in minutes. The parish is current now, but has an arrearage from 2021 of \$4,523.57. Rev. David Johnston moved to forgive the arrearage of \$4,523.57, Debbie Ventura seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- St. Michael's, Kingwood: This parish set up automatic payments and has been paying the wrong amount. Their monthly apportionment is \$409.41 and they are currently \$1,212.78 in arrears. They receive quarterly statements but have not communicated with anyone regarding the increasing arrearage. Chuck Andrus requested this issue be tabled until someone in the Diocesan Staff has had a discussion with them. If they cannot make up arrears, we can discuss at a future meeting. No motion at this time.
- St. Luke's, Wheeling: The arrearage is \$16,945.04, although they have made regular payments since 2022. The April 2022 Council minutes reflected that St. Luke's requested forgiveness, but since it would receive some funds from the sale of St. Paul's Terrace/Narthex for approximately \$875,000, Bishop Klusmeyer advised Council that those funds would be applied against the debt, and no vote was taken on the matter. Bishop Klusmeyer sent a letter to St. Luke's that said their debt was forgiven by Council and money was going to be taken out of sale of Narthex. The property was sold to National Church Housing but no specific amount from the sale was designated as St. Luke's property and no money has been disbursed. Rev. Cn. Slater said they have a prominent feeding ministry in Wheeling and we want to see them move forward. He said it would be great and loving if we forgive the arrearage. Debbie Ventura moved to forgive \$16,945.04 in arrearage, Jim Shaver seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Rev. Cn. Slater will gather more information about the Narthex/St. Paul's Terrace history with St. Luke's to determine what portion of the sale proceeds should be designated property of St. Luke's. He will bring that information back to Council at its next meeting.

### Clergy Transitions

Rev. Cn. Chad Slater advised Council that one-third of our congregations do not have consistent clergy, including rectors, part-time positions and non-stipendiary positions. Several parishes are interviewing, including St. Thomas a Becket, Morgantown, and Trinity, Shepherdstown. He said we are anticipating a call at Christ Church, Clarksburg. Both Trinity, Parkersburg (the Rev. Charles Wilson) Zion, Charles Town, will have interims, and Rev. Chris Thompson is currently serving as interim at St. John's, Charleston. He has heard a nationwide statistic that for every one clergy person who is looking for a position there are eight open full-time positions. During the pandemic, many clergy who could retire and many dioceses put discernment on hold. Even before that, there was a priest shortage nationwide. Commission on Ministry is working on moving people through the process and he said we have the potential for up to eight ordinations by the end of 2023 for priests or transitional deacons. However, that won't completely

solve our problems. Additionally, he is aware that a couple of clergy are actively searching to leave the diocese, which is natural and expected.

The clergy search process varies from the model we have used in recent years. We are doing parish profiles, advertising them nationally on ENS, at no charge for two-week periods, and also posting the positions on TEC's Office of Transitional Ministries website. We have received applications from outside the state. He said we are hopeful we will have several new clergy colleagues by the end of the year.

Rev. Cn. Slater said we also are looking at developing a consistent way to track insurance and pension information when someone moves from one church to another in the diocese because of issues with CPG's website and administrator interface.

### Diocesan Capital Campaign

Bishop Cowden said he anticipates launching a capital campaign in two to three years. The model is we will approach churches and ask if they want to be part of a diocesan-wide campaign. The Diocese pays for a company to come in and do the assessment and the parishes benefit. We need to decide what we may want to fund and then help churches. People can then donate to their own parish and/or to diocese. He said this model has been wildly successful in other dioceses where both the diocese and the parishes exceeded their goals.

### Chancellor's Update

Chancellor Karen Klein advised the Council of the following activities:

- She assisted Standing Committee and the Bishop with drafting and approving the Bishop's Letter of Agreement.
- She has identified and discussed with Bishop Cowden approaching a potential new Vice Chancellor whose practice area is in real estate law.
- She and Vice Chancellor Lee Javins are attending a Conference of the Episcopal Chancellors Network in June.
- She has provided required Title IV training for our former Methodist pastors and others in the ordination process, with approximately 20 people receiving Title IV training over the previous 12 months.
- She advised that she has a program on the Diocesan Canons and respective roles of the Rector, Vestry and Trustees ("Canons 101") available for your parishes and is able to Zoom in the program if desired.
- She advised that if parishes or deaneries want to consider adopting bylaws, she have form bylaws available for modification.
- Our Regional Disciplinary Board president, who is selected by joint agreement of the Bishops in the six dioceses, is retiring April 30, so Bishop Mark Hollingsworth (Ohio) is supposed to be working with the other four bishops that are part of the Regional Disciplinary Board compact to select a new president.

### Grants

Bishop Cowden discussed various grants that have been offered or available in the past: Grants for Mission, Harper Grants and Grants for Capital Improvement. There is a

question of where the funds for the grants capital improvement come from. He noted other funds that Council oversees are available for that purpose.

- Harper Grants: The ad hoc committee for Harper Grants will be Chuck Andrus, Debbie Ventura and the Rev. Bobby Shives. One application has been received from St. Matthew's, Charleston. We discussed prior concerns about applicants and programs. The ad hoc committee will meet and make recommendations at the next Diocesan Council meeting.
- Capital Improvements: We previously believed we had funds available for capital expenditures, but those funds may have been restricted to the Diocesan House or Charleston area. Bishop Cowden said he would consult with the Chancellors about this fund and any restrictions on use. Nevertheless, he said we are trying to honor the Diocese's commitment to provide grants for capital improvements. We received two requests, which will be considered after additional information is received.
  - a. Zion, Charles Town: Has requested a \$25,000 matching grant to do lead remediation in the rectory. We previously requested audit reports from a parish when they request a grant. The last full audit of Zion, Charles Town, was in 2018 and a recent review was done. CFO Combs said we have a maintenance account held by Trustees and the \$100,000 that was allowed last year from the restricted funds still has enough left to pay the \$25,000.
  - b. Lawrencefield Parish, Wheeling. Requested \$25,000 to pave its driveway. The parish will contribute \$5,000 to \$10,000. They have patched and the driveway is in great need of work. They are also working on outside cladding of building and inside painting and have patched the roof.
- 2. Grants for Mission: NREM gets a grant of \$10,000 to \$15,000 every year that they use to try to stimulate and keep the churches going in the NREM. A question for Council is do we look at how we require accountability. We usually give \$50,000 per year, \$2,000-\$15,000 for each applicant. Last year, NREM asked for \$25,000. Nancy will work on the application process.

#### St. Andrew's, Mountain Mission

They are going to be opening Shannondale Food Pantry out of our property and fix up our dilapidated church. It would be nice if we could contribute funds to that. St. Andrew's still has money in its checking account and to take care of the cemetery and they get \$550 per month rent from the rectory and the parish hall. Annette reported the total assets are checking, \$14,886.02; Cemetery fund, \$10,824.74; about \$25,000 in Wesbanco. Total assets are \$49,886.02.

#### St. John's, Rippon & Bunker Hill

Bill Grantham was hired to maintain Bunker Hill. They are making sure the property is dry and protected. St. John's, Rippon, has been closed and deconsecrated. The church is

almost usable again. We have been approached by two Methodist congregations and there may be interest from the family in reacquiring the property. An appraiser is coming to evaluate the property, so we may have a sale in the next few months.

### Sandscrest/Peterkin/HEP

Chad reported the takeaway phrase is we have 1 of each, pilgrimage, retreat and mission. Pilgrimage is Peterkin, Sandscrest is our retreat place, HEP is our place of mission. These are places we can talk about and begin to build a future on. We are looking at visioning. We have the property and gift of Sandscrest and revenue from oil and gas. Also, we have the benefit of Peterkin and how to develop it as a year-round place. We will meet with Paul Barker, the new HEP director, to see how Premier Point building can house mission groups.

The next meeting is Zoom on June 17; our next in-person meeting is noon September 29 to noon September 30 at Sandscrest.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen E. Klein, Esq.  
Chancellor



### Meeting of June 10, 2023

Present: Bishop Matthew Cowden, James Shaver, Annette Combs, the Very Rev. Kim Webster, the Very Rev. Robert Shives, Mrs. Connie Dale, the Very Rev. Nancy Woodworth-Hill

*Given that there was not a quorum, these notes will outline the conversation that occurred.*

Opening Prayer provided by the Very Rev. Kim Webster

Deanery Reports

Discussion of Ten-Year Goal to double the number of baptized Episcopalians in the Diocese.

Annette reported one several items for Council consideration:

1. Zion, Charles Town request for grant funds.
2. Christ Church, Clarksburg request for a loan.
3. Mention of WesBanco's security needs (in the form of paperwork) to lend/give funds.
4. Diocesan Lay Pension plan (two options: defined benefit plan and RSVP) needs to be approved. The desire is to move to a Defined Benefit Plan which provides 9% of base salary to the Church Pension Group and away from adding to an RSVP. This currently impacts three employees, and potentially Sandscrest, Peterkin and HEP (having their own boards).

Bishop Cowden noted that we need to vote on a housing allowance for the Rev. Heather Barta, who is a congregation development specialist doing consulting work in the diocese. She would like her stipend to be declared a housing allowance.

The authorized use of the closed cemetery at St. Andrew's, Shannondale, has been identified.

Future discussion of the various granting opportunities and funds sources should be discussed, perhaps beginning with a subcommittee.

Next Meeting: September 29 & 30 at Sandscrest. Begin at noon on Friday, end by one on Saturday.

Closing Prayer: the Rev. Nancy Woodworth-Hill

Respectfully submitted,

The Very Rev. Nancy Woodworth-Hill, PhD



### **Meeting of September 29-30, 2023**

Voting members present: Bishop Matthew Cowden, the Very Rev. Nancy Woodworth-Hill (Northern Deanery), the Very Rev. David Johnston and Chuck Andrus (Southwestern Deanery), the Very Rev. Dean Lawrence (via Zoom) and Jim Shaver (Monongahela Deanery), the Very Rev. Bobby Shives (Eastern Deanery), the Very Rev. Kim Webster (Kanawha Deanery), the Very Rev. Susan Claytor (via Zoom),

Voting members absent: Connie Dale (Ohio Deanery), Debbie Cooley (Northern Deanery), Becki Krzywdik (Convener of Women's Ministries).

Ex officio members present: Diocesan Treasurer Tom Farnsworth and Rev. Cn. Chad Slater (both in person), Diocesan Chancellor Karen E. Klein and Diocesan Chief Financial Officer Annette Combs (both via Zoom)

#### Meeting Opened

The Meeting opened at 1:16 p.m. September 29 with prayer offered by The Rt. Rev. Matthew Cowden. Members each shared both a personal and Deanery/Church best.

#### Previous Meetings' Minutes

A motion to accept the April Minutes was made by the Very Rev. Kim Webster, seconded by Chuck Andrus, and unanimously passed.

A motion to accept the notes from the June meeting, with three changes, (correct name and title for Mrs. Connie Dale, the correct spelling of the Rev. Heather Barta's name, and that what was thought to be an 'unauthorized' use of the cemetery has been determined to be 'authorized'), was made by the Very Rev. David Johnson, seconded by Chuck Andrus, and passed unanimously.

## 2024 Budget

Canon Chad Slater presented the new, narrative, form of the budget. CFO Annette Combs discussed the income portion of the budget. Chad led the discussion of the proposed expenses. Chuck Andrus moved a motion that the budget be adopted and presented to October's Diocesan Convention. The Very Rev. Bobby Shives seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

## Restructuring Loan Offerings

Canon Chad Slater led a discussion of the three different loan fund offerings for parishes/missions and the two different loan fund offerings for clergy that are available in the diocese. Chuck Andrus made a motion to table the discussion until Saturday, September 30. Jim Shaver seconded this motion, which carried.

## Compensation Guidelines

Canon Chad Slater led a discussion of compensation guidelines. Several updates were discussed, including clarity about the value of a rectory, addition of the word "minimum" for supply clergy rates, specification that Parental Leave is to be considered in addition to annual vacation time, and the addition of a theological underpinning to the paragraph on appropriate boundaries for clergy who resign or retire yet remain in the area. Jim Shaver made a motion to accept this set of guidelines with the discussed changes. The Very Rev. Kim Webster seconded the motion, which carried.

Adjournment for Evening Prayer and Dinner

Meeting reconvened at 9:14 AM on Saturday, September 30, 2023

## Other Business

1. The Rev. Heather Barta's housing allowance request is challenging because we do not have a total compensation figure for IRS purposes. The figure should be available at our next meeting, December 16, 2023.
2. Canon Chad Slater updated us on Narthex. No action was necessary at this point in time.
3. A loan request for \$8,000 made by Christ Episcopal Church, St. Barnabas, Bridgeport to complete roof repairs has been received. The Rev. Kim Webster made a motion to fulfill this request, Chuck Andrus seconded it. The motion carried.
4. Chancellor's report was made by Karen Klein.
  - a. John Canfield resigned as vice-chancellor three weeks ago. Travis Eckley, who specializes in property law, has accepted the request to become the new vice-chancellor.
  - b. A request from the Jackson County churches to move from the Southwestern Deanery to the Ohio Valley Deanery has been received. A taskforce will be appointed to evaluate deanery structure.
  - c. As John Canfield was the Secretary of Convention, a new one will be needed.

## Restructuring Loan Offerings

Removed from the table, parish and clergy loans will be discussed separately.

1. For the parish/mission loan funds, discussion suggested rolling the CCC, EAF, and Hodges Loan funds together into a Church Improvement Fund for the purposes of making improvements to church and mission buildings, and covering emergencies for both churches and missions. To keep the principle from being depleted, the trustees will be tasked with making decisions on the amount of funds to lend. There will be no interest and a cap at \$20,000. The Rev. Kim Webster moved that the proposal with the above modifications be approved. Chuck Andrus seconded the motion, which carried. Trustees need to be informed.
2. For the clergy loan funds, discussion suggested to keep Peterkin as it is. The Murdock-Neal loan fund is to be used for education. Canon Slater will check on the language and intent of the original funds and report back at the next meeting.

#### Deanery Updates

Deanery updates were made by the members present.

#### Diocesan Updates

The Rt. Rev. Matthew Cowden updated the Council Members on a variety of issues and projects: Convention; upcoming ordinations; Deanery Exploratory Committee and Convention Resolutions; Budget, Audit, & Finance Committees; Grow Church, Holy Land Pilgrimage; and College for Clergy.

#### Adjournment

Chuck Andrus moved that the meeting be adjourned at 11:42 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Very Rev. Nancy Woodworth-Hill, PhD

# Report of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of West Virginia

## Report of the Acts of the Standing Committee of The Diocese of West Virginia

*November 19, 2022 through October 18, 2023*

Immediately following convention in 2022, the Standing Committee met to elect Mr. Chuck Andrus as President and The Rev. Dr. Susan Claytor as Secretary. The Standing Committee members for 2022-2023 are The Rev. Canon Jordan Trumble, The Rev. Gerg Pennington, Mr. Phil Steptoe, The Rev. Kim Webster, Mr. Chuck Andrus, Mr. Dave Lumsden, The Rev. Dr. Susan Claytor, Ms. Monika Jaensson. The Rev. Bobby Shives was brought on to replace The Rev. Jordan Trumble when she became a canon.

At the December meeting, Bishop Cowden outlined the role of the Standing Committee and his vision for the year ahead. There was also discussion of the roles of all the governing bodies of the Diocese: Standing Committee, Diocesan Council and the Trustees. The Diocesan Staff also was invited to share their positions in the management of the diocese.

Actions taken by the Standing Committee throughout the year:

The Letter of Agreement for the Bishop was created and approved.

The resolutions to recognize the Housing Allowances for the Bishop and Canon Chad Slater were approved.

Bishop Election consents were given for:

The Rev. Justin Holcomb (Diocese of Central Florida)

The Rev. Sally French ( Diocese of New Jersey)

The Rev. David Read (Diocese of West Texas)

The Rev. Ann Ritonia (Armed Forces and federal ministries)

Maryland Co-adjutor- approved unanimously

The Rev. John T. Harmon (Diocese of Arkansas)

Bishop Election consents were denied for:

The Rev. Charlie Holt (Diocese of Florida)

(2 approvals, 5 nays, one abstention)

The following were approval for ordination or reception to the priesthood:

The Rev. John Unger, an ELCA pastor (to be received)

The Rev. Chris Scott, a United Methodist minister

The Rev. Timothy Allen, a United Methodist minister

The Rev. Paul Barker (a deacon) for ordination to the priesthood

The Rev. Deacon David Johnston to be ordained to the priesthood

The Rev. Gina Griffiths to be ordained to the diaconate

The Rev. Deacon Nancy Martin to be ordained to the priesthood.

The following were approved for ordination to the transitional diaconate:

Mrs. Klara Kovacs

Mr. Bill Sigler



Ms. Amy Yates McClure  
Mr. Scott Williams  
Mr. Andy Bird  
Ms. Marilou McClung  
Ms. Marti Unger  
Mr. Aaron Carr

The Rev. Thomas Shepherd to be ordained from Universal Anglican Church to Episcopal

Candidacy for Holy Orders was approved for:

Mr. Ray Londeree

Property Issues:

The Standing Committee supports and encourages Canon Chad Slater's work to identify all properties owned by the Diocese. Record keeping has been poor so we are thankful for his work. Canon Slater is also working to get appraisals for unused property. Bishop Cowden and Canon Slater are developing plans to create a strong oversight and guidance of the dispersion or improvements on lands and business. Currently, many properties are being appraised and discussion on various properties are ongoing.

Approval was granted for the Memorandum of Agreement for the former St. Andrew's on the Mount, Mountain Mission. This property will be used as a food pantry. The Very Rev. Bobby Shives reported an email update from the mission that says served 117 families, filling a great service to a great need. The roof and furnace need repairs (permission is granted) and all are pleased that there is an Episcopal presence in the area, a visible sign that we are still present. There is a cemetery on the church grounds. Mr. Preston Rausch has all records.

There was a request from an individual to purchase the Northwest Quadrant of the St. Andrew's on the Mount. The area in question is roughly 3-5 acres, (worth \$56,000 10 years ago). Canon Slater was directed to pursue the sale by asking what the owner is willing to pay and the nod is given to pursue negotiations, local expertise would be helpful.

Canon Slater shares that an offer came in for property in Jefferson County in an area named Shannondale. Three lots are owned by the Diocese (though the Diocese was not aware of this property). The offer was \$1000 each for 2 of the lots and \$3500 for the third. Tax appraisal records show the lots are potentially worth more and Canon Slater recommends an appraisal of the property before sale is considered (The Committee agreed). Money can go to support the food bank and mountain mission work in the area.

Approval was granted to lease the former St. Andrew's in Mullens. A rental agreement is working with rent at \$400 month, and the renter is to cover insurance and utilities.

We received a \$200,000 appraisal for the former St. John's, Rippon, property. A nod was given to review options to sell the property. A church restart on the site is not planned.

The Standing Committee approves the sale of the property inherited by Grace Episcopal Church in Middleway, as per the request of the church and Bishop Cowden.

Respectfully submitted to the Diocese of West Virginia to the annual convention by  
The Rev. Dr. Susan Q. Claytor

*Secretary*

**Report to Convention from the President of the Standing Committee:**

The Standing Committee has several responsibilities in our role as advisor to the bishop and our responsibility to the diocese and the Episcopal Church at large. A simplified analogy can be made to part of the role of the vestry in a parish as advisors to the Rector. We have the responsibility to approve the sale or encumbrance of church property, approving candidates, ordinands and Deacons for Holy Orders, advising Bishop Cowden on diocesan policies, and consenting to the elections of bishops in other dioceses throughout the Episcopal Church in the United States. Other parts of the function of a vestry are done by other committees of the Diocese. The Diocesan Council has responsibility to act as the convention when that body is not in session regarding the budget, and the Trustees are responsible for the property of the diocese, along with the Standing Committee.

This last year we have advised Bishop Cowden on forming a committee to assist us and the Trustees as to the sale of property owned by the church by evaluating and opining as to fair market value, and drafted, along with Bishop Cowden, his employment agreement. We have also consented to several elections of bishops; however, we did not consent to one election. With the recommendation of the Commission of Ministry, we have approved the ordination of several candidates to the Diaconate, and the Priesthood, eight of whom will be ordained as Deacons at convention.

Next year, we anticipate to formalizing policy on sale of property, considering several recommendations for ordination to the Priesthood, acting on requests of people in discernment and candidacy for Holy Orders, and Several more requests fort consent of elections to bishop. We also plan to have joint meetings with some members of council and the Trustees to streamline our policies in the various areas of our responsibilities.

Charlie Paul Andrus

*President*

# Recognition of New Clergy and Transitions in the Diocese

## Ordained to the Vocational Diaconate

The Rev. Deacon Gina Griffith



## Ordained to the Transitional Diaconate

The Rev. Deacon Timothy Allen



The Rev. Deacon Christopher Scott



## Ordained to the Priesthood

The Rev. Paul Barker



The Rev. Nancy Martin



## Instituted as Rectors of a Parish

The Rev. Michael Delk  
St. Thomas à Becket, Morgantown



The Very Rev. David Johnston  
Trinity, Huntington



The Very Rev. Bobby Shives  
Trinity, Martinsburg



The Rev. Greg Pennington  
St. John's, Huntington



Retirements

The Rev. Jim Morgan  
Trinity Church, Huntington



The Rev. John Valentine  
St. Paul's, Weston, & Transfiguration,  
Buckhannon



The Rev. Cheryl Winter  
St. Timothy's-in-the-Valley, Hurricane



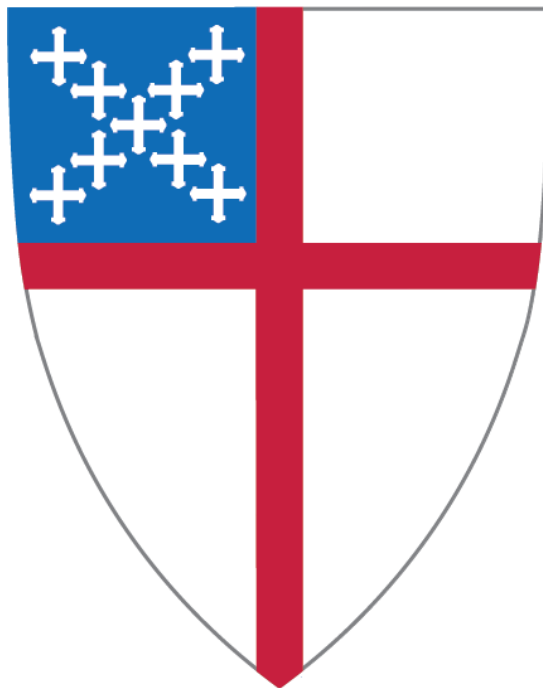
The Rev. Maggie Blanchard  
New River Episcopal Ministries



Prayer for Clergy and People

*BCP page 817*

Almighty and everlasting God, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift: Send down upon our bishops, and other clergy, and upon the congregations committed to their charge, the healthful Spirit of thy grace: and, that they may truly please thee, pour upon them the continual dew of thy blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honor of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ. Amen.





## Official Acts of the Bishop of West Virginia

The Right Reverend Matthew Davis Cowden  
Sacramental and Official Acts of the VIII Bishop of West Virginia  
November 2022 – October 2023

Visitations:	39	Reaffirmations:	4
Eucharists:	65	Funerals:	2
Confirmations:	63	Weddings:	2
Baptisms:	14	Ordinations:	6
Receptions:	14		

### November 2022

**Visitations:** St. Peter's, Huntington  
Christ Church, Wellsburg  
All Saints, Union  
St. Mark's, St. Albans

**Other:** Diocesan Convention- Doubletree by Hilton, Trinity, Huntington  
Peterkin Leadership Meetings  
Visit to Highland Educational Project, Welch, WV  
2022 Fall Clergy Retreat, Charleston, WV  
Visit to Boys Home in Virginia

### December 2022

**Visitations:** St. Timothy's, Hurricane  
Trintiy, Parkersburg  
St. Thomas, Weirton

**Other:** Ordination of Mark Stevenson, Diocese of Virginia  
Clergy and Spouses Christmas Party, Charleston  
Standing Committee Meeting at the Diocesan House  
Peterkin Leadership Meetings  
Diocesan Leadership Meetings  
Visit to Highland Educational Project, Welch, WV

### January 2023

**Visitations:** St. Christopher, Charleston  
Olde St. John's, Colliers  
Christ Church, Fairmont  
Church of the Incarnation, Ronceverte

**Other:** Ordination of the Rev. Nancy Martin in Hinton, WV  
Reynolds Memorial Hospital Board Meeting,

Ordination of The Rev. David Johnston, Trinity, Huntington  
Peterkin Leadership Meetings  
Diocesan Leadership Meetings

### February 2023

**Visitations:** St. Matthew's, Charleston  
St. John's, Ripley  
Zion, Charles Town  
St. Philips, Charles Town  
Thomas a Becket, Morgantown

**Other:** Ordination of The Rev. Gina Griffith, St. Mark's, St. Albans  
Diocesan Council Meeting at Sandscrest, Wheeling, WV  
Highland Educational Project, Wheeling, WV  
Standing Committee Meeting at the Diocesan House  
Reading Camp Meeting via Zoom  
St. Mark's, Berkeley Springs for Ash Wednesday  
Task Force to Study Household & Relationship Diversity via Zoom  
Appalachian Summit with Bishops from surrounding states  
Staff Training at Claggett Retreat Center, Diocese of Maryland  
Peterkin Leadership Meetings  
Diocesan Leadership Meetings  
Opening Prayer at the West Virginia Legislature, West Virginia State

Capitol

### March 2023

**Visitations:** St. Stephen's, Beckley  
St. Stephen's, Romney  
Grace, Middleway

**Other:** House of Bishops, Camp McDowell, Navou, Alabama  
Task Force to Study Household & Relationship Diversity via Zoom  
Highland Educational Project, Welch, WV  
Reading Camp Meetings via Zoom  
Commission on Ministry Meeting at Sandscrest, Wheeling, WV  
New River Episcopal Ministries Meeting, Hansford, WV

### April 2023

**Visitations:** Trinity, Martinsburg, Palm Sunday  
Christ, Point Pleasant, Maundy Thursday  
Grace, Ravenswood, Good Friday  
Good Shepherd, Hansford, Easter  
St. Andrew's, Oak Hill  
Lawrencefield Parish, Wheeling

**Other:**

St. John's, Charleston, Great Vigil of Easter  
General Convention Planning Meeting via Zoom  
Chrism Mass at the Diocesan House Chapel  
IONA at Sandcrest, Wheeling, WV  
Standing Committee Meeting at the Diocesan House  
Burial Office for The Rev. Kent Higgins, Charleston, WV  
Diocesan Leadership Meetings  
Peterkin Leadership Meetings  
Diocesan Trustees Meeting at the Diocesan House  
The Very Rev. David Johnston Installation at Trinity, Huntington  
Diocesan Council Meeting at Sandcrest, Wheeling, WV  
Lawrencefield Parish Anniversary Dinner, Wheeling Country Club

**May 2023:**

**Visitations:** Good Shepherd, Parkersburg  
St. Thomas', White Sulphur Springs  
St. James', Lewisburg

**Other:** Living Our Vows Residency, Richmond, Virginia  
Standing Committee Meeting at the Diocesan House  
Diocesan Leadership Meetings  
Peterkin Leadership Meetings  
Highland Education Project, Welch, WV  
Sandcrest Board Meeting at Sandcrest, Wheeling, WV  
Task Force to Study Household & Relationship Diversity via Zoom  
Ordination of the Rev. Timothy Allen and the Rev. Chris Scott at  
Christ Church, Fairmont  
Spring Clergy Conference, Flatwoods, West Virginia

**June 2023:**

**Visitations:** St. Paul's, Weston  
St. Stephens, Romney  
Mt. Zion, Hedgesville

**Other:** Commission on Ministry Meeting, Sandcrest, West Virginia  
Peterkin Leadership Meetings  
Diocesan Leadership Meetings  
Wedding in South Bend, Indiana  
WVU Panel with the National Office of Drug Control Policy,  
Morgantown  
Standing Committee Meeting at the Diocesan House  
Ordination of Paul Barker, Christ Church, Bluefield  
Diocesan Council Meeting via Zoom  
2023 Peterkin Camp, Romney, WV  
Burial Office of Wilma Coe, Shepherdstown, WV

The Rev. John Valentine Retirement Dinner, Weston, WV

**July 2023:**

**Visitations:** St. Bartholomew's, Leetown  
St. Mathias', Grafton

**Other:** Bishop and Mrs. Cowden in Residence at Peterkin for the Summer  
Boy Scout Jamboree, Mt. Hope, West Virginia  
Episcopal Youth Event, Baltimore, Maryland  
Standing Committee Meeting via Zoom  
Board of Examining Chaplains Meeting via Zoom  
Bishop's Symposium at Peterkin

**August 2023:**

**Visitations:** Ascension, Hinton  
Heavenly Rest, Princeton  
Trinity, Morgantown

**Other:** Peterkin Leadership Meetings  
Diocesan Leadership Meetings  
Standing Committee Meeting at the Diocesan House  
Installation of the Rev. Michael Delk at Trinity, Morgantown  
Leadership/CEO Training in Adirondack, New York  
Weekday Vacation Time

**September 2023:**

**Visitations:** St. Mark's, Berkeley Springs

**Other:** Trustees Meeting at the Diocesan House  
Standing Committee at the Diocesan House  
Ordination and Consecration of The Rt. Rev. Carrie K. Schofield-

Broadbent

Fall House of Bishops Online Meetings  
Work Weekend at Peterkin  
Diocesan Council Meeting at Sandscree

**October 2023:**

**Visitations:** Grace Church, Elkins  
Christ Church, Bluefield

**Other:** DCDI Grow Church, Charleston, WV  
2023 Fall Clergy Retreat, Charleston, WV  
Virginia Theological Seminary Bi-Centennial Celebration,

Alexandria, VA

Highland Educational Project Visit, Welch, WV



Wedding in Granville, Ohio  
WVU STEM and Religion, Morgantown, WV  
2023 Diocesan Convention, Holiday Inn, Martinsburg, Trinity

Church

The Rev. Maggie Blanchard Retirement Dinner, Oak Hill, WV

**Consents:**

To the election of the Rev. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent in the Diocese of Maryland  
To the election of the Rev. Ann Ritonia, Armed Forces and Federal Ministries  
To the election of the Rev. David G. Read in the Diocese of West Texas  
To the election of the Rev. Sally French in the Diocese of New Jersey  
To the election of the Rev. Justin S. Holcomb in the Diocese of Central Florida  
To the election of the Rev. Melissa Skelton in the Diocese of Olympia  
To the election of the Rev. Matthew Foster Heyd in the Diocese of New York  
To the election of the Rev. Anne Jolly in the Diocese of Ohio  
To the election of the Rev. John Harman in the Diocese of Arkansas  
To the election of the Rev. Jeremiah Williamson in the Diocese of Albany  
To the election of the Rev. Kristin Uffelman White in the Diocese of Southern Ohio

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**Postulants and Candidates for Holy Orders:**

**Admitted to Postulancy:**

Andy Bird  
D. Aaron Carr  
Marilou McClung  
Amelia McClure  
William Sigler  
Martina Unger  
Scott Williams  
Jacob Hall  
Karen Klein  
Timothy Brown  
Ray Londeree

**Admitted to Candidacy:**

Klara Kovacs  
Andy Bird  
D. Aaron Carr  
Marilou McClung  
Amelia McClure  
Willaim Sigler  
Martina Unger  
Scott Williams  
Timothy Allen  
Christopher Scott

**Ordinations:**

To the Priesthood

The Rev. Nancy Martin

The Very David Johnston

The Rev. Paul Barker

To the Transitional Diaconate:

The Rev. Timothy Allen

The Rev. Christopher Scott

Ordination to the Diaconate:

The Rev. Gina Griffith

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**Clergy Deceased:**

The Rev. Canon Kent Higgins

The Rev. John Kevern

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**Transferred Out:**

The Rev. Paul Hicks, Southern Virginia

The Rev. Michelle Boomgaard, Southern Ohio

The Rev. Marjorie Bevans, Pittsburgh, PA

The Rev. Faith Perrizo, Minnesota

**Transferred In:**

The Rev. Paul Barker

The Rev. Michael Delk

## Trustees Report

The Diocesan Trustees consist of a board of five persons elected by the Convention in addition to the treasurer of the Diocese (currently Tom Farnsworth) who serves ex officio with voice but no vote. The board meets four times each year to oversee the investment performance of the various funds under their care and to make decisions concerning the property entrusted to them. Under applicable Canons and West Virginia law the Diocesan Trustees are responsible for managing the permanent funds and the real estate of the Diocese transferred to the trustees by gift, bequest, or operation of the Canons. They also have oversight of the funds of local parishes deposited in the Endowment Fund as described below.

### Investment Summary

The investments under the overall care of the Trustees may best be understood by dividing them into the Endowment Fund and the New Dynamics Fund. The Endowment Fund contains an Equity Fund and a Fixed Income Fund and consists of both investments from individual churches and the Diocese represented by various sub-accounts. The use of some of these funds (both diocesan and individual churches) may be restricted by the terms of donative documents. Each sub-account can be invested in the Equity Fund, the Fixed Income Fund or some combination thereof as determined by the donative documents or the individual churches. There are currently 160 sub-accounts.

The New Dynamics Fund was established to provide operating funds for the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia. Approximately 5% of this fund is distributed annually to the Diocese for its operations. The amount needed for these operations is made to a distribution account periodically.

The board does not act alone in caring for these investments. For example, investment management is provided by Security National Trust Company. This company has provided these services to the trustees since 2013. These services are provided under a document called "Statement of Policy and Investment Objectives". This document seeks both solid performance, sufficient liquidity and diversity of assets. Under this document the assets entrusted to the Trustees are divided into the different categories of the Equity Fund, the Fixed Income Fund and the New Dynamics Fund. Each category has its own target percentage of various asset classes within which investments can be made subject to a minimum and a maximum percentage. Within these limitations Security National can make trades of equity and fixed income for these funds. Any trades made by Security National are discussed at the quarterly trustees' meeting. The percentages can be changed by the trustees at any meeting. The percentages and the role/performance of Security National are reviewed periodically. Representatives of Security National attend every meeting of the Trustees and provide both written reports and oral presentations as to the state of both the Endowment Fund and the New Dynamics Fund. Bill Paras of Security National has been the representative for these meetings. He also responds to any questions between meetings. The interaction between the Trustees and Bill Paras have been quite direct and informative. As of June 30, 2023 the overall results of the funds

invested on a year-to-date basis has shown an increase of 8.9%. For the twelve months ending on June 30, 2023 the increase was 11.6%. These seem quite reasonable returns for these periods.

As of June 30, 2023, the balances in the various investments subject to the care of the Trustees as shown by the reports of Security National are as follows:

1. Endowment Fund-Equity Account	
Cash Equivalents	\$61,269.09
Equity	<u>\$15,247,539.16</u>
	\$15,308,808.15
2. Endowment Fund-Fixed Income	
Cash Equivalents	\$119,375.30
Fixed Income	<u>\$5,487,184.49</u>
	\$5,606,559.79
3. New Dynamics	
Cash Equivalents	\$483,989.49
Equity	\$5,832,866.63
Fixed Income	<u>\$2,043,222.17</u>
	\$8,315,078.49
Distribution Account-Cash	\$155,933.54
Total Value =	\$29,386,379.94

It is important to remember that substantial amounts in the Endowment Fund are either the restricted or unrestricted funds of a particular parish or funds of the Diocese which are restricted in use.

Another aspect of the help provided to the Trustees is that given by Wesbanco Bank in the realms of accounting and administration. There is a lot of work that goes into handling the investments mentioned above and the observance of any limitations or restrictions on the various sub-accounts in the Endowment Fund. Wesbanco has handled these aspects well. Wesbanco in participation with the diocesan staff, particularly Annette Combs our current CFO, handles the ins and outs of the various sub-accounts. As noted above there are currently 160 sub-accounts. Our collective hats are off to them all.

#### Property Summary

The Diocese recently renewed its insurance on the Diocesan House in Charleston, HEP's property and various closed churches around the state. This renewal was also for liability insurance for the Diocese.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Tom Gilpin

*Head Trustee*



**THE EPISCOPAL  
DIOCESE OF  
WEST VIRGINIA**

## **Proposed 2024 Diocesan Budget**

*“Where your treasure is, there you’ll find your heart.”*  
~Jesus in Matthew’s Gospel 6:21

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This narrative budget tells a story about who we are at heart and what God is calling us to do, together. In this format, this narrative budget helps us to see where our hearts are and what we prioritize in our life together. It helps to align our treasure and our heart, to set our finances in line with our priorities. As the Anglican witness in the mountain state, we are called to fulfill our mission to share the Good News of Jesus Christ as the Episcopal Church has received him, working together to build up the Kingdom of God, and to be good stewards of all the resources God has placed in our hands. I am grateful for the labor that has produced this format and clarity for our consideration and look forward to engaging our mission together, putting our treasure where our heart is.

**The Rt. Rev. Matthew D. Cowden, VIII Bishop of West Virginia**

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A budget is more than just numbers on a page. A budget is a moral document.  
It is statement of priorities, hopes, and faith.  
It shows us where we have been and where we believe God is calling us.

2023 was a year of changes for the Diocese of West Virginia.  
It was the first full year of our new Bishop Diocesan.  
It was the start to new programing, opportunities, and adventures.

It was also a year of listening to each other and for what the Holy Spirit is doing in the Diocese.

2023 was a year of renewal—new energy, new people, new signs of life and vitality.

For the calendar year 2024 we want our budget to reflect how our diocesan changes, mutual listening, and ongoing renewal have informed the way the Diocese is now operating.

## Assessing our Resources

*Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.* —

Malachi 3:10



Gathering hay into a barn near the Green Bank Observatory, Pocahontas County

The Diocese of West Virginia is blessed with several streams of income to make sure that the work we begin can be completed. This includes direct support from parishes and various endowments and funds that directly support the work of the Diocese.

The largest contributors to the Diocese are the parishes by way of Missionary Apportionment. After spending the last year listening to our parishes it is apparent that this mandatory assessment creates an undue hardship for many. The percentage at which the Missionary Apportionment is calculated is dependent on the rolling three-year average of each parish’s operating income. Over the years the amount assessed has changed, at one point reaching 17.5%. For the past several years the assessment percentage has been 16%. We feel that the work of the Diocesan Office and our ministries will not be negatively impacted by reducing this further. The budgeted Missionary Apportionment of \$1,132,225 is based from a 15% assessment rate.

As you can see from the chart below, we anticipate investment earnings from our primary endowment, *New Dynamics*, to total roughly \$400,000 for the year 2024. Additional endowment and other funds, coming from a variety of sources entrusted to the Diocese and held in trust at Wesbanco, are anticipated to pay in interest or dividends roughly \$89,500. Two other funds, the *Permanent Fund* and the *Bramwell Fund*, supply additional resources to the Diocese (\$165,005 and \$43,000 respectively). Moreover, we expect additional income from oil, gas, and other mineral holdings and leases to provide the Diocese with \$10,000 of unrestricting funding.

<b><u>Income</u></b>	
<b><u>Missionary Apportionments</u></b>	
Missionary Apportionment	\$1,132,225.00
<b><u>Investment Earnings</u></b>	
Wesbanco New Dynamics	\$400,000.00
Wesbanco Distributions	\$89,500.00
Permanent Fund	\$165,005.00
Bramwell Fund	\$43,000.00
<b><u>Other Income</u></b>	
Oil and Gas Receipts	\$10,000.00



<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$1,839,730.00</b>
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## The Kingdom of God Here in West Virginia

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'*

-- Matthew 28:19-20

Now that we have seen what resources there are for us to work with, we must look at what must be done to work out our mission and purpose in and around the Diocese. We are proud to say that West Virginia is “Almost Heaven,” but we all know there’s still a lot of work to do to truly bring the Kingdom to the Mountain State “as it is in Heaven.”

A team restores a set of Coffindaffer Crosses in WV
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As mentioned earlier, Diocesan Staff have been listening to the needs, hopes, and call of the Holy Spirit over this last year. What we heard and saw was the need to focus on four areas of mission: Sharing the Good News, Working Together for the Kingdom of God, Building the Kingdom of God, and Being Faithful Stewards.

### Sharing the Good News:

This incorporates all of our work communicating—with each other and the outside world—the Good News of God in Christ, as well as our ecumenical partnerships working for the greater glory of God.

### Working Together for the Kingdom of God:

This category includes all of our relationships within the Diocese (like convention, governance meetings, and leadership) and outside of the Diocese (such as our contribution to the wider church and gatherings and work across the Episcopal Church).

### Building the Kingdom of God:

Here we see the work we do to form new Christians and leaders, raise up faithful clergy, and live out our Baptismal Covenant.

### Being Faithful Stewards:

This category represents managing the resources we have in a good, faithful, and responsible manner by spending money on good oversight, transparency, and upkeep.

All that we do in the Diocese flows from those four mission points. Therefore, our budget should flow from those four points of mission in the Diocese.

On the next few pages, we'll see exactly what each category includes and how much we have budgeted to spend for each.



<b>Sharing the Good News</b>	
<b>Communications</b>	
Print Communications	\$15,000.00
Telephone	\$16,500.00
Postage Expense	\$2,800.00
Computer Expense	\$12,500.00
Copier Expense	\$2,000.00
Website	\$2,000.00
<b>Evangelism</b>	
Conferences, Dues, & Travel	\$3,500.00
Bishop's Visitations	\$5,000.00
Missionary Redeployment	\$40,000.00
<b>Ecumenical Work</b>	
Subscriptions / Publications	\$1,200.00
WV Council of Churches	\$9,000.00
Conferences & Meetings	\$5,000.00
EC Officer Travel	\$500.00
Bishop Travel	\$500.00
<b>Sharing the Good News Total</b>	<b>\$115,500.00</b>

# Dayspring

The Newspaper of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia

April 2023 <http://www.wvdiocese.org> Volume 171, Number 1

**Bishop Cowden Articulates Priorities for Diocese**  
By Linda S. Conner

A recent Holy Spirit-led Diocesan Convention heralded the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia's upcoming theme, "Grounded and Rooted in Christ". The 2023 convention was held at Mountain View, VA, in a hybrid online system via virtual for a small number of participants who could not attend in person. The joint in-person and virtual convention was held from 2022 and 2023, were combined. A highlight of the gathering was a service of Evening Prayer, the first and second of the 19th-century Morning Prayer in the middle Eastern Service in the

Dean Cowden shared a moving account of being invited to serving an invitation to come a better—through the presence of several National Conferences—in the mid-19th century. He said that he was "in the middle of the 19th century" and that he was "in the middle of the 19th century" and that he was "in the middle of the 19th century".

**Peterkin 2023: Grounded and Rooted in Christ**  
By the Rev. Canon Jordan Tomlin

The "Peterkin 2023" is a call to welcome the Diocese to Peterkin for summer and beyond. We've been here in our own country for a long time, and we're here to stay. We're here to stay. We're here to stay. We're here to stay.



<b>Working Together for the Kingdom of God</b>	
<u>Life Outside the Diocese</u>	
TEC Diocesan Assessment	\$213,545.00
Provincial Assessment	\$7,000.00
Bishops' National Meeting	\$10,000.00
Bishops' Conf. & Meetings	\$3,000.00
Geneal Convention	\$50,000.00
<u>Life Within the Diocese</u>	
Diocesan Convention	\$45,000.00
Standing Committee	\$1,000.00
Canon Travel	\$1,000.00
Bishop Travel	\$1,000.00
Staff Travel	\$300.00
<u>Leading the People of God</u>	
Staff Meetings	\$5,000.00
Staff Group Insurance	\$197,000.00
Clergy Pensions	\$54,000.00
Lay Pension	\$18,500.00
Ministry Support - Staff	\$591,885.00
<b>Working Together for the Kingdom of God Total</b>	<b>\$1,198,230.00</b>



<b>Building the Kingdom of God</b>	
<u>Making Faithful Witnesses</u>	
Lay Formation	\$2,500.00
Congregational Development	\$35,000.00
Peterkin School of Ministry	\$150,000.00
Youth Ministry	\$20,000.00
College Ministry	\$70,000.00
Commission on Spirituality	\$2,000.00
Diocesan Vitality	\$28,000.00
Canon Travel	\$4,000.00
Bishop Travel	\$3,500.00
<u>Respecting the Dignity of Every Human Being</u>	
Reading Camp	\$7,500.00
Commission on Racism & Diversity	\$5,000.00
Safe Church	\$2,500.00
Health Ministries	\$1,200.00
<u>Ordained Ministry</u>	
Clergy Retreat	\$25,000.00
Commission on Ministry	\$10,000.00
Transition Ministry	\$18,000.00
Board of Examining Chaplains	\$1,500.00
College for Clergy	\$28,000.00
<b>Building the Kingdom of God Total</b>	<b>\$413,700.00</b>



<b><u>Being Faithful Stewards</u></b>	
Regular Maintenance	\$3,000.00
Utilities	\$12,000.00
Office Expense	\$1,000.00
Small Office purchase	\$500.00
Property Insurance & Taxes	\$18,200.00
Payroll Taxes	\$23,500.00
Legal & Accounting	\$45,000.00
Automobile Expense	\$2,600.00
Automobile Insurance and Taxes Exp	\$6,500.00
<b>Being Faithful Stewards Total</b>	<b>\$112,300.00</b>




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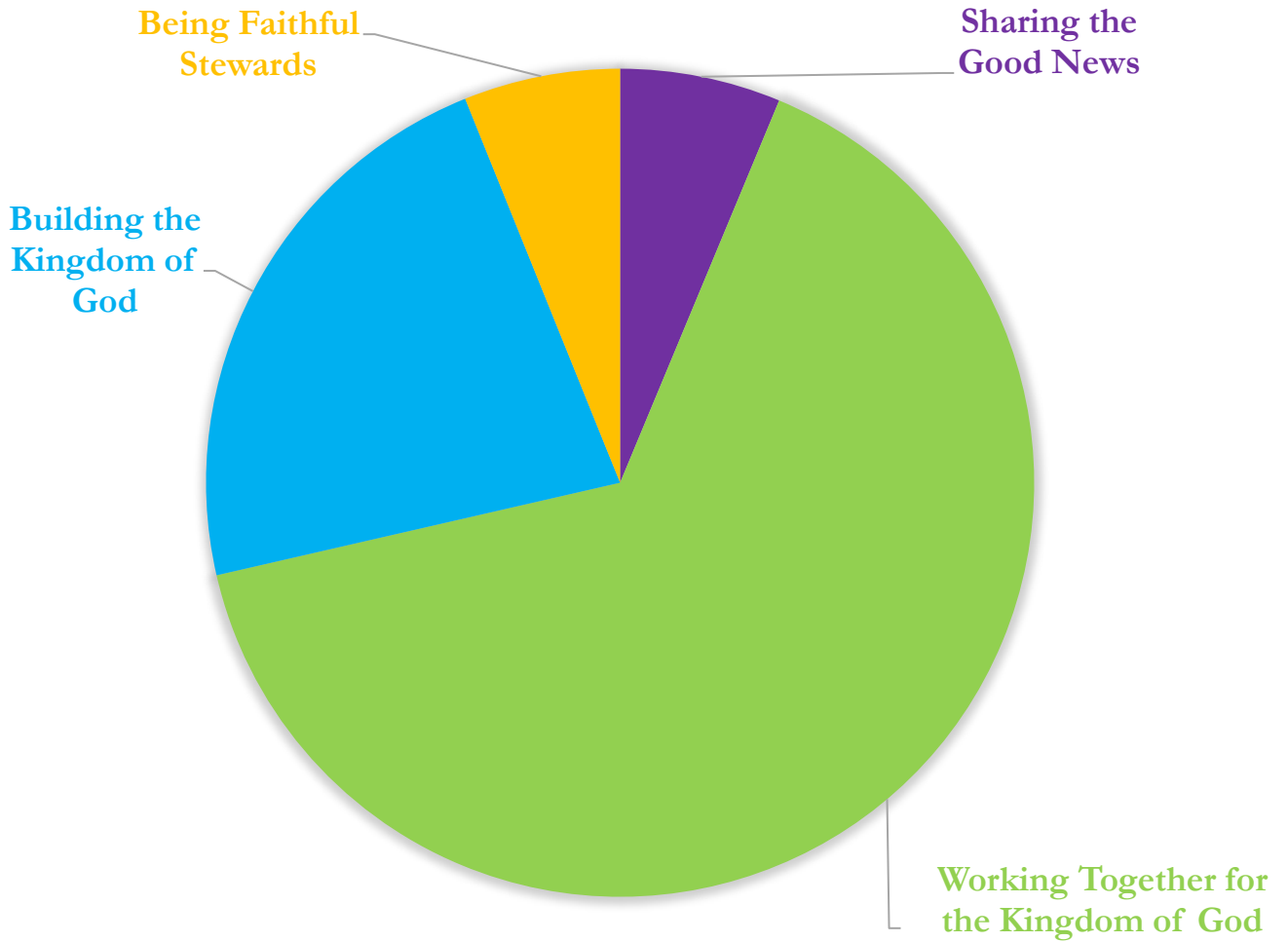
“The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, “He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ...”

*II Corinthians 9:6-15*

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# 2024 DIOCESAN BUDGET



This is how we propose to allocate resources to accomplish each mission point:

<b>Sharing the Good News:</b>	\$115,500.00
<b>Working Together for the Kingdom of God:</b>	\$1,198,230.00
<b>Building the Kingdom of God:</b>	\$413,700.00
<b>Being Good Stewards:</b>	\$112,300.00

<b>Total Expenses for All Diocesan Work</b>	<b>\$1,839,730.00</b>
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As we are anticipating a total income of \$1,839,730, the above allocations represent a balanced budget for the year 2024.

## Courtesy Resolutions

### Courtesy Resolution I:

Be it resolved that the 146<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia sends warm and heartfelt greetings to the Rt. Rev. William Michie Klusmeyer, and to his wife, Mrs. Marsha Klusmeyer. We express our deep gratitude for their life and ministry in our midst.

### Courtesy Resolution II:

Be it resolved that this 146<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia sends warm and heartfelt greetings to Mrs. Victoria Smith, widow of the Rt. Rev. John H. Smith, former Bishop Diocesan of West Virginia. We express to her our deep and sincere gratitude for her life and ministry in our midst.

### Courtesy Resolution III:

Be it resolved that this 146<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia sends warm and heartfelt greetings to Mrs. Lena Carr, widow of the Rt. Rev. Frank Carr, former Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of West Virginia. We express to her our deep and sincere gratitude for her life and ministry in our midst.

### Courtesy Resolution IV:

Be it resolved that this 146<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia sends warm and heartfelt greetings to the Rev. Henry M. "Mac" MacLeod, widowed husband of the Rt. Rev. Mary Adelia McLeod, former priest at St John's in Charleston, former Bishop of the Diocese of Vermont and the first female bishop diocesan in The Episcopal Church. We express to him our deep and sincere gratitude for his life and ministry in our midst.

### Courtesy Resolution V:

Be it resolved that this 146<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia sends warm and heartfelt greetings to the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, to their Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Matthew Riegel, and to their clergy and congregations.

### Courtesy Resolution VI:

Be it resolved that this 146<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia thanks the people of Trinity Church, Martinsburg, for hosting this year's convention, and the people of the churches of the Eastern Deanery, for their assistance and support of this undertaking.

### Courtesy Resolution VII:

Be it resolved that this 146<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia thanks the Most Reverend Dr. Thabo Makgoba and his wife, Mrs. Lungelwa Makgoba, for honoring us with their presence, encouragement, wisdom, and prayers.

Courtesy Resolution VIII:

Be it resolved that this 146<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia sends warm and heartfelt greetings to the Church of Southern Africa, its clergy, people, and congregations.

Courtesy Resolution IX:

Be it resolved that this 146<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia extends its heartfelt gratitude to Mrs. Becki Krzywdik for her many years of service to the Diocese as the Convener of Women's Ministries.

Courtesy Resolution X:

Be it resolved that this 146<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia extends its heartfelt gratitude to Mr. John Canfield for his many years of service to the Diocese both as Vice Chancellor and as Secretary to Convention.



## Nominees for Election

### For Trustee

*One (1) position is open for election to serve a five (5) year term. Under the direction of Diocesan Convention and Diocesan Council, Diocesan Trustees shall manage the holdings and funds of the Diocese and all other funds and property given, devised, or bequeathed for the use or benefit of the Diocese, or of any Diocesan activity. The Trustees also control and administer any funds or property given, devised, or bequeathed for the use or benefit of any Congregation in the Diocese which may be turned over to them for that purpose by the proper authorities of such Congregation, or by the person or persons having control thereof.*

### Gat Caperton



Gat Caperton is a member of St. Mark's Church in Berkeley Springs along with his wife Susan and three daughters. He grew up in Charleston and attended both St. Mathew's and St. John's Churches. He was a member of Trinity Church in Shepherdstown prior to moving to Berkeley Springs, where he runs a furniture manufacturing company with over 135 employees. He holds a BA in Economics from Davidson College and a MBA from the University of Chicago. Gat serves on the boards of Shepherd University, the Education Alliance, and the Seely Foundation. His knowledge would be an asset to the Trustees.



## **For Standing Committee – Clergy**

*Two (2) positions are open for election, one (1) presbyter, one (1) lay, to serve a four (4) year term. The Standing Committee consists of four (4) presbyters entitled to seats in Convention and four (4) lay persons, adult communicants in good standing of Congregations in the Diocese. In the absence of the Bishop, Bishop Coadjutor, or Suffragan, the Standing Committee serves as the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese as prescribed by General Convention. The Standing Committee serves as a council of advice for the Bishop, providing consideration and consent on various matters of property as well as in matters of clergy and their oversight. The Standing Committee gives the Bishop advice and consent on the purchase, sale, or encumbrance of any property held by a congregation or the diocese. The Standing Committee is the official committee that recommends persons for ordination. It also gives the Bishop advice and consent as to any judicial sentence given to a clergy person or concurs in allowing a clergy person to cease functioning as a member of the clergy. When necessary, it investigates and reports to the Bishop on charges that a deacon or priest has abandoned the Episcopal Church. It is also the body which receives the Bishop's resignation and designs that search/election process proceeds as necessary. In case of a vacancy, The Standing Committee may fill an open position until an election at the next Diocesan Convention. Members serve one term limit unless filling an unexpired term.*

### **The Very Rev. Bobby Shives**



I have served a partial term on this committee. I both a working knowledge of the diocese and a love for this diocese and the Episcopal Church. I also have experience in administration and leading in large government organizations.

I am seeking a full term to continue the work started with this committee as the diocese moves forward. I bring a love for our church and its people. I bring a desire to see our diocese grow in Christ. I bring the experience of leadership, leadership in church and

of government organizations. And of course a military background.

### **The Rev. Zach Drennen**



Fr. Drennen is a native West Virginian with a passion for the outdoors and a love for helping people along on their life's journey with the Divine. After growing up in Charleston, he studied environmental economics at Colorado College before working on numerous organic farms across the US and South America. Eventually, in his late 20s, Zach settled back in West Virginia and started his teaching career at a residential school for adjudicated

teenage boys. Within a couple of years, he entered Harvard Divinity School and was ordained in 2002. He spent two years as a curate at The Church of the Good Shepherd in Parkersburg, West Virginia. He then moved to Pittsburg, PA where he served for three years as the school chaplain and history/religion teacher. In 2007, Rev. Drennen left the US for Kenya where he served as an appointed missionary for the Episcopal Church for 8 years. During that time, he started and ran The Elewana Education Project, an NGO intent on improving the resources and educational offerings in local Kenyan high schools. Returning to the US and his native state of West Virginia in late 2015, Zach soon began working with the non-profit Coalfield Development. Then in 2019, Zach founded Revolt

Energy, a WV-based solar installation company, where he worked until late 2021. Beginning in 2022, Rev. Drennen moved with his family to Lewisburg, WV where he serves as Priest-in-Charge of St. James'. Zach is married to Lida Shepherd and they have two daughters, Lucia and Fredi, and one son, Everett.

**For Standing Committee – Lay**

William H. Grow, Jr.



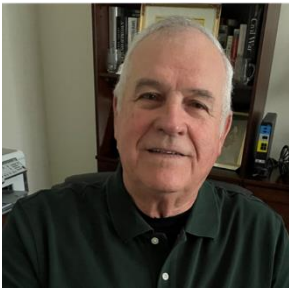
A large part of my career was spent in management and consulting positions. This has given me the ability to look at problems and opportunities, develop solutions, devise plans to implement the solutions and then track the plans to conclusion. In addition, my varied work, volunteer and other personal activities have allowed me to function successfully in collaborative situations from people from many varied backgrounds

My only goal is to help the bishop be successful in making the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia be the best it can be. The gifts I would bring to this position include having years of problem-solving experience, the ability to work collegially with many different types of people, the ability to identify problems and provide advice on solutions, and the ability to compromise in order to achieve the best possible result.

## **For the Sandscrest Board**

*Five (5) positions are open for election to a three (3) year term. New members may be either clergy or lay. Located near Wheeling, Sandscrest is a retreat and conference center of the Diocese. Members of the Sandscrest Board serve a three (3) year term. The Sandscrest Board is the entity which holds the title to Sandscrest. The Board meets 4 times per year.*

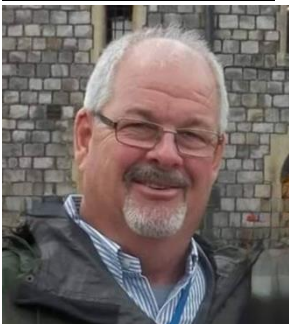
### **William H. Grow, Jr.**



William H. Grow, Jr. (Bill), raised in Bethlehem, PA, graduated from Moravian College in 1969 with a BS in Mathematics. After graduation, he began his career in the Information Technology Department of Bethlehem Steel Co. In 1986 he was promoted to be the Manager of Information Technology at the Sparrows Point, MD plant. He retired from BSC after 25 years as the company struggled and eventually closed due to bankruptcy. At that point he then worked for two consulting companies, Booz-Allen-Hamilton and SAIC. At Booz-Allen, he was part of the Information Technology Strategic Planning team and assisted various federal government agencies including the Dept. of Labor, Dept. of Education and NASA. In addition, he also did some consulting with the city of Olathe, KS. He later joined SAIC in the non-federal sector and was the Director of State and Local Government Programs prior to final retirement.

After retirement, he and his wife Carol moved to Berkeley Springs where they joined St. Mark's Episcopal Church. He became involved in various aspects of the church including becoming a Eucharistic Visitor, a member of the vestry, a church trustee and co-treasurer. In addition, he also became involved in volunteering with the soup kitchen, food pantry and the Morgan County Homeless Coalition. He was among the first members and eventually served as president for four years. In addition to serving the church at the local level, he has also become involved at the diocesan level as a member of the Commission on Ministry and as a member of the Sandscrest board of directors.

### **Charles McFadden**



I have 40 years of construction experience especially in the electrical field. The last 15 years of my career before I retired, I worked as an estimator and project manager for an electrical contractor in Wheeling area. My duties included preparing project bids and then managing the project when our company was the successful bidder. I live within a stone's throw of Sandscrest and often walk the grounds with my dog. I think it is a special place and have helped Cheryl in the past with construction and electrical issues. My gifts

would be my experience in the construction and electrical field.

Laura Mull



Served as recent search committee chair for our parish, local business owner, mother of two children. Sandscrest is a special spiritual destination and the location of many gatherings centered around hospitality and fellowship which I feel deeply to be a critical component to living in relationship with others and building community - I have many skills and talents around organizing events and bringing people together.

Donald Rebich



Previously served on Sandscrest Board, have been parish administrator for St Luke's for a number of years. I love and believe in the mission and ministry of Sandscrest. I would like to see the facility utilized more, in keeping with the Sands family will, which specifies religious, scientific or educational purposes. Under these categories, I believe there are many opportunities to see Sandscrest become more vibrant.

Erin Denise Rothenbuehler



I have a background in historic preservation and led a group of students in surveying and documenting the Sandscrest barn prior to its restoration. As a public library director, I am well versed in budgeting, grant writing, and event planning. Sandscrest is a special place that offers space for quiet contemplation and reflection for those seeking to commune with the still small voice as well as opportunity for fellowship for those seeking connection to a larger community. It would be an honor to serve and support a legacy of spiritual retreat in any capacity needed.



## Reports from Diocesan Ministries

### The Highland Educational Project

Greetings from McDowell County!

Since taking over the position of Director of Highland Educational Project (HEP) in January of this year, I have learned a lot about our mission in Welch, some history of HEP and about our center there, and, just as importantly, developed, and redeveloped, many partnerships and



friendships. These are partnerships and friendships with organizations and individuals who share a common mission; making life better for the people of McDowell County. This was a year of revisioning and redirecting and continuing to build our HEP mission. My experience in McDowell County started with bringing youth mission teams into the area from the Diocese of Pittsburgh and by connecting with HEP, so I came to the position with several years of experience and a small, budding idea of possibilities for the future. At my first significant sit down with Bishop Cowden in Welch to discuss HEP at length, I was encouraged by our Bishop's shared vision for our future and his guidance to focus on, at least in these first few years, three or four main "things" that we do well and what we can build on. Amen.

And, so, this is where I will take this report. The first few months, I searched out and connected with people in the immediate community who not only know about our project, but also care about it and see the good that we are doing. I learned their stories and listened to their commentaries. I then invited them into our mission. These folks were, to name a few, the president of the neighborhood homeowner's association and its board members, the director of the food bank nearby, the director of the Commission on Aging, the principal at the elementary school, the lady who runs the local hardware store, someone who cuts grass, someone who can fix a dryer, someone who lives near the center to keep an occasional eye on it and many others. We were building our initial team around the HEP mission and in the process, I discovered some amazing people.

We first focused on the mission teams that were returning to HEP and getting the building in good condition to host. We were doing this at a good pace anyway by organizing, cleaning and preparing the space for several families who had scheduled to rent the center for special events such as baby showers and birthday parties. Major projects completed included the repair of the HVAC unit above one of the bedrooms that was leaking. Also, we replaced damaged drywall in the same bedroom. Repairs were also made to the clothes dryer and the commercial refrigerator in our kitchen. The center was in fine shape when the mission teams arrived in June. We hosted a group of 26 from St. Catherine's School in Richmond, VA, a group of 20 from the Diocese of New, Jersey, Watchung Convocation and a group from the Diocese of Pittsburgh, who stayed in



Bluefield but worked in McDowell County. The work these teams performed was outstanding; the St. Catherine's team was tremendous! They completed multiple projects on the HEP campus, such as landscaping, clearing of the neighborhood park, clearing out and organizing our two storage sheds, and the biggie- they helped design and physically build our new library space! More on the library later. The team from New Jersey accomplished equally impressive feats; they continued with the many projects around the grounds, they reconstructed a deck cover for a gentleman who is disabled and cleaned and stained a large set of play equipment at the park. All three teams volunteered at the McDowell County Food Bank in nearby Kimbal doing several small projects and at Union Mission in Bluefield, preparing and serving a no cost meal to 120+ people and helping in the thrift store. The group from Pittsburg is relocating their team residence to HEP for summer 2024, and I am in conversations with three additional communities making plans to make HEP their week-long mission home. This is very exciting!



A second area of focus is on education. It's in our name so this makes sense. We decided on dedicating some center space for a children's literacy lending library. We have received many generous donations of children's books from communities around the state and we are truly grateful. As I mentioned, the team from St. Catherine's in Richmond stepped up and helped build the library in two days and they built and mounted in place, our lending book box at our main entrance. I thank Melissa Cowden for

her vision and guidance on the project along with assistant Gail Higgins. At the writing of this report, we are planning our first event around the library; our Fall Fun Day. This is going to be a fun event for children of all ages in the area and, again, thanks to Melissa for her work and support setting up this event. The library concept is to lend books to children after school that they can keep as long as they want, no checking out. On their first visit to the library, each child is given a reusable shopping bag that they can refill whenever they like. We hope to develop this project to include after-school programs involving arts and crafts, guest readers, and tutoring and STEM activities. We are excited about the library and for its future development within the community.

Our third area of focus is to be a presence in the community for spiritual well-being. A safe and nurturing place for families to gather for fun, for celebration, for learning and for support. We are converting an unused office into a small chapel. It's a work in progress but it's coming along. The center at HEP is designated as an emergency shelter location. We have heat, air-conditioning, bathrooms with showers, laundry, a large commercial kitchen and the space needed for emergency sheltering. We have acquired twelve beds and look forward to receiving more through donations. We always have extra Red Cross-issue cots if needed for the larger mission groups. The community is becoming more aware of our facilities. I pray we don't have to become an emergency shelter space again, like during the floods of



the early 2000's, but we are ready if needed. Folks are learning that the guy in the black truck, working up at the community center is a "preacher" and it seems to be comfort to some. I've done several home visits this year and have learned a lot about our neighbors. I've dropped off mail for folks, I've picked up mail, I've given rides to the grocery store, and I've gone on McDonald's runs. It's the same kind of ministry many are doing throughout our diocese, and it's just as important to the folks in our county. We are trying to build compassion and trust and I pray folks are noticing and spreading a good word.



Hopes and Dreams for the future; with our three focus areas in mind, we are looking to expand our library and literacy project. We need to maintain a good flow of book donations of all kinds, we need to recruit volunteers who can stock and organize and tutor and keep library hours. We will recruit guest authors for book events, ask teachers with special talents to share with our kids. We'll host movie and bingo nights. Our goal is to grow as a community center. Our grounds are rough, and we want to keep some of that appeal. A reason why groups like to stay at HEP and volunteer in the area is because they experience a transformative "getting away", but we don't want it to be too rough. I would love to get the main portion of our parking area paved, keeping the

appeal of the gravel country road entrance. One of the work groups for next summer is planning to reconstruct our gazebo. It would then be returned to a beautiful space for small group gatherings and for prayer and meditation. This will take lots of material and tools to complete. We are looking to design a large labyrinth somewhere on the grounds, possibly on the newly paved area. Our upper meadow has become drastically overgrown. It would be great to have that area cleared again and a walking trail be plotted out. Also, on the wish-list is a new and larger commercial oven for the larger mission teams to use and a riding lawn mower to make lawn care easier. And we would like to see the chapel completed and readily available for use,

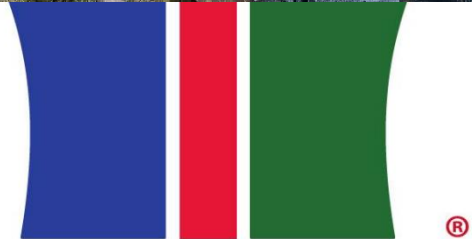
I am truly grateful to all the support we have received this year from you, our faith communities all throughout the diocese and beyond. I am available to speak with any group interested in making HEP a mission home away from home and to discuss our wonderful mission. I look forward to talking more about our Highland Educational Project and I thank you all.

Blessings and Peace.





Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Paul R. Barker,  
*Director*



### **Peterkin Camp and Conference Center**

Greetings from Peterkin! Much has transpired here in the last year, but before talking about that, I wanted to express gratitude for the folks who have helped and are helping to move Peterkin into the next chapter of its existence.

Thank you to Daisy and Gary McBride, and all of the folks that have worked for them over the years, for keeping Peterkin going, often in adverse conditions, and for your continued support as I transition into this position. Each time you come out to help, I can feel how much Peterkin means to you.

Thank you to Bishop Matthew and Melissa Cowden for embracing the gift of Peterkin, prioritizing the stewardship of the gift, and for starting to rebuild the camper community by spending the 2023 summer camp session with the campers.

Thank you to the Peterkin Board for their hard work in developing our Core Values (Grounded in Christ; Joyfully Committed; Good Shepherds), our Purpose, Cause and Passion (Forming God's People; Caring for God's Place; Doing God's Work) for articulating the Niche that Peterkin fills in the life of the church (Building Holy Community in God's Wilderness), and for setting the stage for summer camp to open this summer. Thanks especially to two outgoing members; Johnny McGhee, for his tireless efforts to create financials and help the board understand the fiscal requirements of running Peterkin, and to Diane Cormack, for her over-the-top efforts to organize and integrate the board, and her willingness to give her summer in 2023 to represent the board at Peterkin and help facilitate the successful opening.





Thank you to our facilitators from The Claggett Center - process facilitator Lisa Marie Ryder and facilities consultant James Ryder - for their continuing efforts to organize and align the board and review camp facilities and prioritize repairs.

Thank you to the Peterkin Leadership team for your efforts to prepare for camp, and for steering the campers and staff through the twists of this reopening summer.

Thank you to the volunteers - work weekenders, program staffs, and other workers who volunteered their time this summer, and for those who served on the Executive Director Search Committee.

Thank you to those who have given, and continue to give, your valuable dollars to help support Peterkin's mission, and for those who prayed for our success throughout the summer. Peterkin cannot survive and thrive without your enthusiastic support.

Thank you to the summer counselor staff, whose enthusiasm and energy, still there after three years away, helped to keep the campers safe, comfortable, and moving forward. It is hard to completely understand how those three years away obscured the path and just how much you had to re-blaze the trail to make camp successful.

Thank you to the volunteer Program Staffs for presenting thoughtful programs that enriched the lives of our campers, helped them to understand that they are loved, and moved them closer to God.

Thank you to the greater Diocese of West Virginia for your continued monetary support of Peterkin's mission.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all of those who have offered their personal support to me since I accepted this position. Your words of love and encouragement and offers of support have been overwhelming.

And lastly, a big thank you to the campers and their families for having the faith and patience to re-invest a week of your summer in Peterkin, and rediscovering what the Peterkin community and the Holy Spirit have to offer here.

We held an abbreviated summer camp season, covering five weeks. The Peterkin Board set a goal of 110 campers for 2023, which we exceeded at 126. During the summer, we had all lodges open except Campbell, which had some ongoing plumbing repairs during the summer. We have much to do to build the camper and camp numbers over the next few years, but 2023 was a great start.

This fall, we are hosting 4 events:



- Fall Work Weekend (completed): about twenty volunteers worked to mend, shine and organize Peterkin.
- Mindfulness Retreat (October 5-9): we are hosting almost eighty guests from Mindful Shenandoah Valley for a 4-day silent retreat. This group has also reserved two more 4-day weekends in 2024.
- Autumn at Peterkin (October 20-22): a weekend of fellowship with both former and new members of the Peterkin community.
- Peterkin Board Retreat (November 14-15)

Over the last several months, several large improvement projects have been completed, including:

- Replacement of the pool liner and pump
- Refinishing of floors and painting of interior walls in Gravatt Hall
- Refinishing of floors in the Dining Hall
- Major plumbing repairs and restoration in Campbell Lodge
- Humidity control systems in the lodges

With the completion of plumbing work in Campbell Lodge, we now have all lodges open.

There are still some larger problems to be solved over the next few years. For the next two quarters, we've arrived at these priorities:

- Ensure complete functionality of the wastewater treatment system
- Rebuild and reestablish a working Infirmary
- Reclaim/restore the program space at the Christian Pavilion
- Make incremental repairs at the Director's cottage to improve safety and viability of the structure, including installing drainage and replacing the roof



To secure Peterkin's ongoing operation and future expansion, we recognize and cherish the support of both the Diocese and the larger Peterkin community, which spans many states and countries. The Diocese has historically had in its annual budget a large line item to support the operation of Peterkin. While that will continue, we are endeavoring to decrease this line item over time by accepting the gifts that so many members of the Peterkin community are offering. To that end, we have instituted a three-pronged fundraising approach –

Wish Lists - supporters purchase supplies to meet Peterkin's programming needs. These purchases typically range from a few dollars to a few hundred dollars and will pop up at various times of the year as needs arise.

Operational Giving - supporters make donations to be used for ongoing operations, allowing us to make repairs and improvements that support our work, while decreasing the financial burden in the Diocesan budget.

Transformational Giving - a future capital campaign aimed at providing for the future vision of Peterkin as a place of pilgrimage.

Lastly, I want to invite you all to experience Peterkin, either at a retreat or family camp, and most especially to send your kids, neighbor's kids, nieces and nephews, etc. to a summer camp. It is a wonderful place for a young person to find, experience, and grow their faith.



Peterkin Peace.  
Jim Cormack  
*Executive Director*





## Sandscrest Conference Center



Sandscrest has seen a year of family growth and loss.

Our beloved heart and anchor, Sandy Bachman, passed away this summer. She had a warm welcoming smile and greeted every guest to Sandscrest. She taught us the meaning of this holy place and the sacrament of hospitality. She is missed.



With God's blessing our family grew with the addition of three new staff members: Adam Helt, Buildings Director, Nora Edinger and Kelly McCoy, Guest Services.

Visitors to Sandscrest included Diocesan members, local church choirs and vestry retreatants, artists, quilters, and even the American Kennel Club's Scottish Deer Hounds and enthusiasts. Maintenance projects, including a new roof on the veranda and on the Guest House, have kept us busy too.

Sandscrest and I look forward to your visit and sharing the quiet with you.

Peace,  
Cheryl Harshman  
*Director Sandscrest*



## Reading Camps

This year we had three parish communities participate in reading camp helping an estimated 70 children in the Charleston, Lewisburg, and McDowell communities.

Each camp successfully modeled a different program format focusing on the needs of the community in which these camps were located.

For the children who participated in these camps, the gifts of these literacy rich experiences will be pivotal in their growth as a reader and lifelong learner.

In looking ahead to 2024, our goal is to increase the number of parish communities and children participating in this program. We will be also be providing more hands-on training to help parishes set up reading camps at their sites and to ensure best literacy practices are being applied throughout the diocese.



In Christ,  
Mrs. Melissa Cowden

### **Congregational Development Report**

In early October 2023, the Diocese of West Virginia launched a new congregational development program, Grow Church: DCDI (Diocesan Church Development Institute). Through the Grow Church: DCDI program, cohorts of participants meet with trained DCDI facilitators four times a year for two years. Along the way, participants learn about best practices in growing their churches spiritually, functionally, and numerically. Each gathering is also grounded in prayer, with the rhythm of the Daily Office guiding participants along the way.



Participants are learning how to examine their church communities within and beyond their walls. In our first weekend together, participants learned about different frameworks for understanding church dynamics and then practiced applying their learnings in small groups. As the program continues, participants will engage in projects in their home congregations, implementing their learnings in their own churches.



One of the other functions of this training program is to help build connections between members of the Diocese. Approximately two dozen lay people and clergy from around the Diocese comprise the first Grow Church cohort; this group includes representation from ten parishes as well as several diocesan staff members. As Grow Church participants gather for learning and for prayer, relationships are formed, trust is developed, knowledge is shared, and our

Diocese is strengthened for Christ's service.

Although Grow Church: DCDI is a two-year process, the setup allows for new participants to begin each year in the fall and we look forward to welcoming our second cohort in Autumn 2024.

In Christ,  
The Rev. Canon Jordan Trumble  
Canon Catherine Saxe



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### **Commission on Spirituality**

The goal of this Commission on Spirituality is 'Creating space for people to know God'. It's a simple idea, but also something that we work towards our whole lives.

During the years of Covid 19, the commission did not do much. Now we are back! Our convention break out session is how to have a Taizé service. Take home kits are provided for those interested in trying this simple, yet profound way of worship.

Creating that space can take numerous forms. Kits can take the work out of gathering materials, figuring out the form and planning events. Retreats, articles and other programs are possibilities. We would like to know what would be helpful to your church.

Rev. Nancy Martin, *chairperson*

### **Commission on Ministry**

Our diocesan Commission on Ministry has been busy this past year. We currently have 21 people in the ordination process, either discerning or being ordained. Saturday, October 28, God willing and the people consenting, we will ordain 8 people. It has been a year filled with God's grace as the Commission on Ministry has prayed, engaged in conversations, and prayerfully walked with people from all corners of the diocese.



We have several members who will be retiring from our committee, and I want to publicly thank them for their years of faithful service to our diocese. If you may feel a call to serve on the Commission on Ministry, let me or the Bishop know of your willingness to be called to this ministry. As a Commission on Ministry, we know it is a privilege to engage people in their walk with God and we are grateful for the opportunity to serve our people, and our diocese.

Respectfully,

The Very Reverend Alan Kim Webster  
Chair of the Commission on Ministry

### **Committee on Racism and Diversity**



The Committee on Racism and Diversity has a challenging role to fill within our diocese. We are commissioned to provide antiracism and inclusion training for our diocese, but we also desire to engage in “on the ground” activities to foster bridge building activities among diverse communities of people within our state.

We provide 4 opportunities for antiracism conversations during the year, and we also provide a recorded session for our people to review on their schedule. If you have attended one of these sessions, you know the value of being open and honest about our understanding of race and diversity within our diocese. We know the process of change is slow, but we believe the arch of humanity bends towards justice and love.

We challenge our parishes to engage in conversations especially around race, diversity, acceptance of others, and work to make our diocese a safe, loving, and faithful community of believers who love God and all of God's people.

Respectfully,

The Very Reverend Alan Kim Webster

Chair of the Committee on Racism and Diversity

## Consents for Diocesan Convention

### Consent I:

That this 146<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia consents to the change the geographical boundaries of the Ohio Valley Deanery and of the Southwestern Deanery to place St. John's Episcopal Church, Ripley, and Grace Episcopal Church, Ravenswood, into the Ohio Valley Deanery as requested by the Rt. Rev. Matthew Cowden, Bishop of West Virginia.

### Explanation:

St. John's, Ripley, and Grace, Ravenswood, both located in Jackson County, have long been part of the Southwestern Deanery, which primarily includes the Cabell County churches of Trinity, Huntington; St. John's, Huntington; and St. Peter's, Huntington. However, travel from Jackson County to Trinity, Huntington, the middle location of the three Cabell County churches, takes a minimum of an hour and a half. By contrast, travel from the Jackson County churches to Parkersburg, the primary location of the Ohio Valley Deanery churches, takes between 30 and 45 minutes. Therefore, it is more cost effective and more logical from pastoral, administrative, and structural concerns for the Jackson County churches to be affiliated with the Ohio Valley Deanery.

Our Diocesan Canons state: "The Bishop may change geographical boundaries of Deaneries, subject to approval by the Convention." Canon II.8.1. Therefore, the Bishop is asking Convention to approve of the proposed change.

### Consent II:

That this 146<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia consents to the election or appointment of the following to Diocesan Council:

The Rev. Dean Lawrence, as Dean of the Monongahela Deanery

The Rev. Dr. Susan Claytor, as Dean of the New Southern Deanery

### Consent III:

That this 146<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia consents to the appointment of the Very Rev. Susan Claytor as Intake Officer for this Diocese in accordance with Title IV of the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church relating to the Discipline of Clergy.



## Resolution for Consideration

### Resolution I:

Submitted by the Very Rev. David Johnston, the Very Rev. Bobby Shives, the Rev. Josh Saxe, the Very Rev. Dean Lawrence, the Very Rev. Kim Webster, and the Very Rev. Susan Claytor

*Resolved*, That this 146th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia requests that Bishop Matthew Cowden establish and appoint members from across the Diocese, in both lay and ordained orders, to a task force to review the current diocesan Deanery structure and to make recommendations to the Bishop and the 147<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia for how the Diocese can more effectively serve its member churches and people.

### Explanation:

Canon II.8.1 of the Diocese of West Virginia states:

*The Diocese shall be divided by the Bishop into Deaneries, and the clergy within each such Deanery, together with lay delegates from the several Congregations therein, shall meet at least once a year in a Deanery Chapter at such time and place as its Dean may determine. The Bishop may change geographical boundaries of Deaneries, subject to approval by the Convention.*

Currently, the Diocese is divided into seven (7) Deaneries, containing between six (6) and twelve (12) congregations, although not all of the listed congregations have regular worshipping communities, many share ordained clergy, and some have no ordained clergy:

#### **Eastern Deanery (11):**

St. Mark's Berkeley Springs, St. Philip's Charles Town, Zion Charles Town, St. John's Harpers Ferry, Mt. Zion Hedgesville, Emmanuel Church Keyser, St. Bartholomew's Leetown, Trinity Church Martinsburg, Grace Church Middleway, St. Stephen's Romney, and Trinity Church Shepherdstown.

#### **Kanawha Deanery (7):**

St. Christopher Charleston, St. John's Charleston, St. Matthew's Charleston, St. Timothy's-In-The-Valley Hurricane, Holy Trinity Church Logan, St. Mark's St. Albans, and St. Paul's Williamson.

#### **Monongahela Deanery (11):**

St. Barnabas Bridgeport, Church of the Transfiguration Buckhannon, Christ Church Clarksburg, Grace Church Elkins, Christ Church Fairmont, St. Mark's at Valley Park Glenville, St. Matthias' Grafton, St. Michael's Kingwood, Trinity Morgantown, St. Thomas a Becket Morgantown, and St. Paul's Church Weston.

#### **New Southern Deanery (12):**

Church of the Redeemer Ansted, St. Stephen's Beckley, Christ Church Bluefield, Church of the Good Shepherd Hansford, Ascension Church Hinton, St. James' Lewisburg, St. Andrew's Oak Hill, Church Of The Heavenly Rest Princeton, Church Of The Incarnation Ronceverte, Chapel On The Mount Snowshoe, All Saints' Union, and St. Thomas' White Sulphur Springs.

**Northern Deanery (7):**

Olde St. John's Colliers, Trinity Church Moundsville, St. Thomas' Church Weirton, Christ Church Wellsburg, St. Luke's Wheeling, St. Matthew's Wheeling, and The Lawrencefield Parish Church Wheeling.

**Ohio Valley Deanery (5):**

St. Ann's New Martinsville, Church Of The Good Shepherd Parkersburg, Trinity Church Parkersburg, St. Paul's Sistersville, and Grace Church St. Marys.

**Southwestern Deanery (6):**

St. John's Huntington, St. Peter's Huntington, Trinity Church Huntington, Christ Church Point Pleasant, Grace Church Ravenswood, and St. John's Ripley.

This structure dates back to the founding of the Diocese, when boat or rail were the primary modes of travel throughout the diocese if one had to go a significant distance and both the mountains and the weather were significant obstacles. Therefore, the Deaneries were organized at that time along the rivers that dissect the state. The names of four of our original Deaneries (Kanawha, Monongahela, New and Ohio Valley) reflect this trend along the waterways of the Diocese.

With construction of interstate highways and, more recently, the Appalachian Corridor System, many of those geographic boundaries and groupings may no longer be cost-effective, time-effective and adequately serve our Diocese and its people. This is reflected in the request this year of the Jackson County churches of St. John's Ripley and Grace Ravenswood to Bishop Cowden to be aligned with the Ohio Valley Deanery, rather than the Southwestern Deanery, which resulted in a resolution before this body for Convention to ratify Bishop Cowden's decision to change the geographical boundary of these two Deaneries to respond to the request.

Additionally, retired priests are not eligible to serve on Diocesan Council (Canon IV.3.4(c)). Many of the churches are served by retired priests; this is especially true in some Deaneries. When all of a Deanery's clergy are retired priests, that Deanery cannot elect a Dean to serve on Diocesan Council and it, therefore, will be represented only by its President.

These are just two examples of issues with our current Deanery structure that place obstacles in the way of full participation by all in the governance of the Diocese. For these reasons and more, we would like a cross-section of people from the

Diocese, from small and large deaneries; small and large parishes; East, West, North and South; lay and ordained, to examine our Deanery structure and to recommend to Bishop Cowden changes that will facilitate a more effective organization of our Diocese to better serve the people of God in West Virginia.

## Parishes of the Diocese of West Virginia



Anstead, Redeemer	Middleway, Grace
Beckley, St. Stephen's	Morgantown, Thomas a Becket
Berkeley Springs, St. Mark's	Morgantown, Trinity
Bluefield, Christ Church	Moundsville, Trinity
Buckhannon, Transfiguration	New Martinsville, St. Ann's
Charles Town, St. Philip's	Oak Hill, St. Andrew's
Charles Town, Zion	Parkersburg, Good Shepherd
Charleston, St. Christopher	Parkersburg, Trinity
Charleston, St. John's	Point Pleasant, Christ
Charleston, St. Matthew's	Princeton, Heavenly Rest
Clarksburg, Christ	Ravenswood, Grace
Colliers, Olde St. John's	Ripley, St. John's
Elkins, Grace	Romney, St. Stephen's
Fairmont, Christ	Ronceverte, Incarnation
Glenville, St. Mark's	St. Albans, St. Mark's
Grafton, St. Matthias'	St. Mary's, Grace
Hansford, Good Shepherd	Shepherdstown, Trinity
Hedgesville, Zion	Sistersville, St. Paul's
Hinton, Ascension	Snowshoe, Chapel on the Mount
Huntington, St. John's	Summersville, St. Martin's
Huntington, St. Peter's	Union, All Saints'
Huntington, Trinity	Weirton, St. Thomas'
Keyser, Emmanuel	Wellsburg, Christ
Kingwood, St. Michael's	Weston, St. Paul's
Leetown, St. Bartolomew's	Wheeling, Lawrencefield
Lewisburg, St. James'	Wheeling, St. Luke's
Logan, Holy Trinity	Wheeling, St. Matthew's
Marlinton, St. John's	White Sulphur Springs, St. Thomas'
Martinsburg, Trinity	Williamson, St. Paul's

# Delegates and Alternates to the 146th Convention

## Ansted, Church of the Redeemer

Scott Wilson  
Jane Crist

## Beckley, St. Stephen's

Debbie Ventura  
Griffin Callahan  
Parr Claytor

## Berkeley Springs, St. Mark's

Bill Grow  
Rebecca Stroock

## Bluefield, Christ Church

Mimi Merritt  
Susanne Pulse  
Rob Merritt  
Jim Pulse

## Charles Town, St. Philip's

Donald Twyman  
Ruby Lawson

## Charles Town, Zion

Donald Delany  
Kenneth Fanelli  
Randolph Hilton

## Charleston, St. Christopher

Lloyd Miller  
Sally Miller

## Charleston, St. John's

Beth Marquart  
Ray Lowther  
Maggie McCabe  
Kris Morris

## Charleston, St. Matthew's

John McGhee  
Sandy Noe  
Jim Sutherland

## Clarksburg, Christ Church

Toni Limbers  
Bill Saviers  
Ira Richardson

## Colliers, Olde St. John's

Lorie Lynn Wagner

## Elkins, Grace Church

John Sabo  
Margi Gault

## Fairmont, Christ Church

KellyAnn Allen  
Vicki Iber

## Hansford, Good Shepherd

Bill Sigler  
Megan Sigler

## Hedgesville, Mt. Zion

Michael Roberts  
Melinda Keuroglan  
Marti Unger

## Hinton, Ascension Church

Debbie McNeer

## Huntington, St. John's

Linda Vinson  
Vivian Kost

## Huntington, Trinity Church

Charles Warder

## Hurricane, St. Timothy's

Steve Terry  
Michelle Terry  
Nathan Arnett  
Bonnie Bailey

## Keyser, Emmanuel Church

Sarah Crall  
Dottie Zais

## Kingwood, St. Michael's

Bill Lindley, II

## Lewisburg, St. James'

Amy McClure  
David McClure  
Barbara Lutz

## Logan, Holy Trinity

Susan Benson  
Denny Trader

## Marlinton, St. John's

Sue Owen  
Thomas Clevenger

## Martinsburg, Trinity Church

Lisa Miller  
Nina Arnett  
Linda Guest

## Middleway, Grace Church

Carmen Creamer  
Peggy Grantham

## Morgantown, St. Thomas a Becket

Linda Durfee  
John Beall  
Jeff Fedan  
Kathy Fedan

## Morgantown, Trinity

John Bocan  
Robert Lee Colgan

## Moundsville, Trinity Church

Katey Harbert  
Grant Harbert

## Oak Hill, St. Andrew's

Chris Dyer  
Angela Dyer

## Parkersburg, Good Shepherd

Karen Miller  
Linda Crocker  
Toni DeVore  
Halcott Foss  
Sarah Harris  
David Cooper

## Parkersburg, Trinity Church

Paul Miller  
Justin Warren  
Tim Northrup  
Dennis Ramsey

## Point Pleasant, Christ Church

Susan F. Haynes  
Peggy L. Wood

## Princeton, Heavenly Rest

Paula Gould

## Ravenswood, Grace Church

Marilou McClung

## Ripley, St. John's

Barbara Heckert  
Sheree Knotts

## Romney, St. Stephen's

Candy Ponchak  
Rick Hillenbrand

## Ronceverte, Incarnation

Susan Bowyer  
Betty Livesay

## St. Albans, St. Mark's

Carena Rouse  
Brenda Thacker

## St. Mary's, Grace Church

Penny Mahaney  
Kaila Dormon

## Shepherdstown, Trinity Church

Kirstin Grimm  
Jean Jacobs  
Dale Walter

## Snowshoe, Chapel on the Mount

Sue Owen  
Thomas Clevenger

## Union, All Saints'

Jim Caine

## Weirton, St. Thomas'

Wendy Speer

## Wellsburg, Christ Church

Robert Montes  
Connie Montes

## Weston, St. Paul's Church

Lora Abruzzino  
David Abruzzino

## Wheeling, Lawrencefield Parish Church

Bob Luchetti  
Thomas Farnsworth

## Wheeling, St. Luke's

Don Rebich  
Judy Rebich

## Wheeling, St. Matthew's

Tim Brown  
Emily Brown  
Mary Ruth Cilles  
Linda Comins

## White Sulphur Springs, St. Thomas'

Russ Conquist  
Suzanne Cronquist

## Williamson, St. Paul's

Denny Trader

## Clergy Canonically Resident in the Diocese of West Virginia

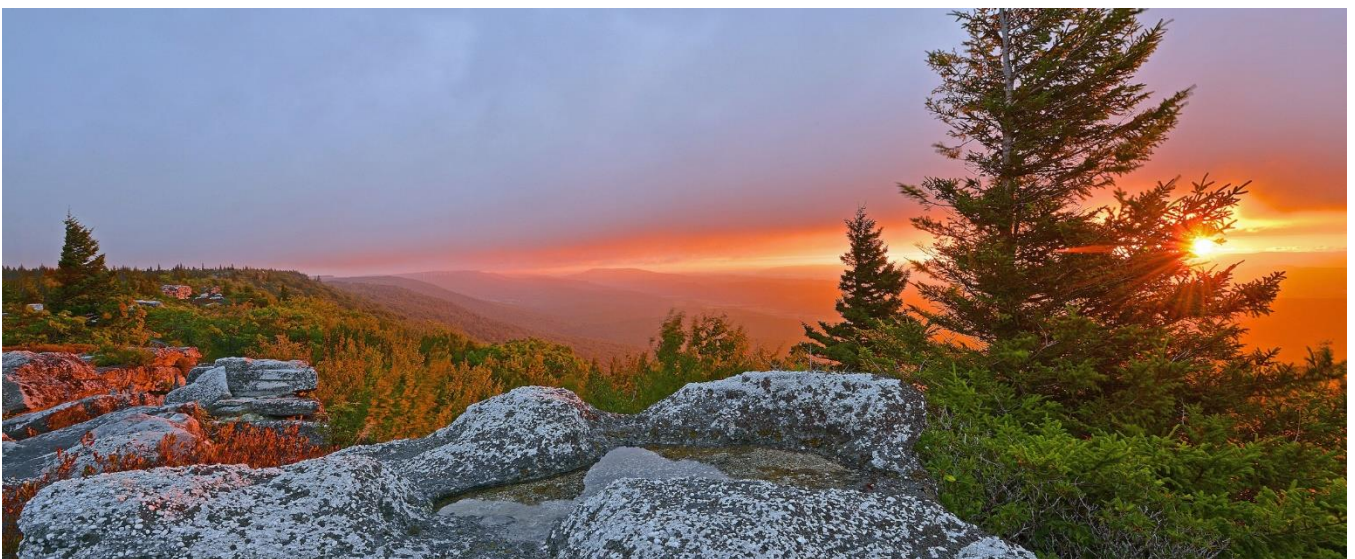
<p><b>1969</b> The Rev. Canon Arthur Bennett, II (Retired)</p> <p><b>1971</b> The Rev. James M. Martin (Retired)</p> <p><b>1974</b> The Rev. Adeeb Khalil (Retired) The Rev. Gilbert Watkins (Retired)</p> <p><b>1977</b> The Rev. G. T. Schramm – Trinity, Shepherdstown</p> <p><b>1978</b> The Rev. Dr. George Moses (Retired) The Rev. Arthur Chard (Retired) The Rev. Pamela Shier (Retired)</p> <p><b>1987</b> The Rev. Elizabeth (Betsy) Walker – St. Thomas’, White Sulphur Springs</p> <p><b>1988</b> The Rev. Cheryl Ann Winter (Retired)</p> <p><b>1990</b> The Rev. Canon Mark Seitz (Retired)</p> <p><b>1991</b> The Rev. Richard Skaggs – St. Matthew’s, Wheeling The Rev. Gary Waple (Retired) The Rev. Kirk Haas (Retired)</p> <p><b>1996</b> The Rev. Joseph Mackov (Retired)</p> <p><b>1997</b> The Rev. Raymond Hage (Retired) The Rev. Canon Stanley Holmes (Retired)</p> <p><b>1998</b> The Rev. Frederick Bird – Grace, Elkins The Rev. Frank Coe (Retired)</p> <p><b>1999</b> The Rev. William Armstrong (Retired) The Rev. Teresa Wayman (Retired)</p> <p><b>2000</b> The Rev. Sarah Bailey (Retired)</p> <p><b>2001</b> The Rev. Jean-Jacques D’Aoust (Retired) The Rev. Lisa Davis Heller (Retired)</p> <p><b>2002</b> The Rev. Zachary Drennen - Lewisburg, St. James’ The Rev. Patricia Geerdes (Retired) The Rev. Marie Mulford – Grace, Ravenswood The Rev. Richard Heller (Retired)</p> <p><b>2004</b> The Rev. David Thabet (Retired) The Rev. Nick England (Retired)</p> <p><b>2005</b> The Rev. Georgia DuBose (Retired)</p> <p><b>2006</b> The Rev. Dale Eugene (Gene) Sheppard (Retired) The Rev. Cynthia Byers Walter (Retired) The Rev. Julie Nan Harris (Retired)</p> <p><b>2007</b> The Rev. Ben James (Retired)</p> <p><b>2008</b> The Rev. John Valentine (Retired) The Rev. James Morgan (Retired)</p> <p><b>2010</b> The Rev. Joshua Saxe – St. Matthew’s, Wheeling</p>	<p><b>2011</b> The Rev. Nancy Martin – Ascension, Hinton The Rev. Deacon Albert Prichard – St. Thomas à Becket, Morgantown The Rev. C. Christopher Thompson (Retired) The Rev. Bruce Bevans – Trinity, Moundsville</p> <p><b>2012</b> The Rev. John Hagan (Retired)</p> <p><b>2013</b> The Rev. Canon Chadwick Slater – The Diocese of WV</p> <p><b>2014</b> The Rev. Brian Shoda – Mt. Zion, Hedgessville The Rev. Melissa Remington (Retired)</p> <p><b>2015</b> The Rev. Marquita Hutchens (Retired)</p> <p><b>2017</b> The Rev. Nora Becker (Retired) The Rev. Kim Webster – St. Matthew’s, Charleston The Rev. Canon Jordan Trumble – The Diocese of WV The Rev. Robert Shives – Trinity, Martinsburg The Rev. Margaret Blanchard – (Retired)</p> <p><b>2019</b> The Very Rev. Susan Claytor – St. Stephen’s, Beckley</p> <p><b>2020</b> The Very Rev. James Dean Lawrence – Christ, Fairmont The Rev. Very Nancy Woodworth-Hill – The Lawrencefield Parish, Wheeling</p> <p><b>2022</b> The Rev. Deacon Denise Giardina - St. Christopher’s, Charleston The Very Rev. David Johnston - Trinity, Huntington The Rev. Joseph Lutz - St. James’, Lewisburg The Rev. Greg Pennington - St. John’s, Huntington</p> <p><b>2023</b> The Rev. Deacon Timothy Allen - Christ Church, Fairmont The Rev. Paul Barker - Christ Church, Bluefield The Rev. Michael Delk - Morgantown, Thomas a Becket The Rev. Deacon Gina Griffith - St. Mark’s, St. Albans The Rev. Deacon Christopher Scott - Christ Church, Clarksburg</p>
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## Clergy Licensed to Officiate in the Diocese of West Virginia

The Rev. Dr. Muffett Barry	<i>Diocese of Central Florida</i>
The Rev. Ralph Bayfield	<i>Diocese of Virginia</i>
The Rev. Margaret Brack	<i>Diocese of Maryland</i>
The Rev. Garrett Carskadon	<i>Diocese of Maryland</i>
The Rev. Katherine Doyle	<i>Diocese of Kentucky</i>
The Rev. Warren Frederick	<i>Diocese of Western Massachusetts</i>
The Rev. Sarabeth Goodwin	<i>Diocese of Washington</i>
The Rev. Steve Haptonstahl	<i>Diocese of Minnesota</i>
The Rev. Russell Hatfield	<i>Diocese of Southwestern Virginia</i>
The Rev. Spencer Hatcher	<i>Diocese of Massachusetts</i>
The Rev. Louis B. Hays	<i>Diocese of Pittsburgh</i>
The Rev. Donald Hill	<i>Diocese of Rochester</i>
The Rev. Charles Holder	<i>Diocese of Maryland</i>
The Rev. Jim Lewis	<i>Diocese of Delaware</i>
The Rev. Canon Jeffrey A. Mackey	<i>Diocese of Florida</i>
The Rev. Susan McDonald	<i>Diocese of Virginia</i>
The Rev. Walter Mycoff, Jr.	<i>Diocese of Southern Ohio</i>
The Rev. Randy Nairn	<i>Lutheran – West Virginia</i>
The Rev. Charles Pope	<i>Diocese of Iowa</i>
The Rev. Patrick Pierce	<i>Diocese of Central Pennsylvania</i>
The Rev. William Ridenhour	<i>Lutheran – West Virginia</i>
The Rev. David Ruppe	<i>Diocese of Southern Ohio</i>
The Rev. Dennett Slemp	<i>Diocese of Southern Virginia</i>
The Rev. John Unger	<i>Lutheran – West Virginia</i>
The Rev. Jim Wicker	<i>Lutheran – West Virginia</i>
The Rev. Charles Wilson	<i>Diocese of Southern Ohio</i>





## Necrology of the Diocese of West Virginia 2023

### Ansted, Redeemer

Annearle Isom Schilling

### Bluefield, Christ Church

Bea Paine

Jay Kephart

John Kersey

### Charles Town, Zion

John Henry Cook

Archie Boling Smith

Charles Richard Langdon

### Charleston, St.

#### Christopher

The Rev. Kent Higgins

Monica Watkins

### Charleston, St. John's

Mary Pelts Coburn

Elizabeth Dresel Clark

### Charleston, St.

#### Matthew's

Judy Nixon Pugh

John M. Ford

William Keith Holmes

David B. McFarland

Jon Reifsteck

Curtis Lee Withrow

Richard A. Conway

Julia Thomas Hutchinson

Carolyn Henshaw

### Clarksburg, Christ

#### Church

Robert Matthew Riggs

### Elkins, Grace Church

Mark Brent Armentrout

Robin Shawn Coburn

### Fairmont, Christ Church

David Carlot

### Hansford, Good

#### Shepherd

### Hedgesville, Mt. Zion

Amy McDonnell

Frank McDonnell

Jane Wasson

Joan Lavell

### Hinton, Ascension

Joanne Victoria Katimery

Duvall

Michael Dennis McNeer

### Huntington, St. John's

Faith Spehr Balshaw

### Huntington, Trinity

Lansing Gaylord Brisbin,  
Jr.

Mary Henderson Hodges

Gwennyth Elise Hood

William Joseph Mackey

Susan Harwood Morton

James Bernard Poindexter,  
III

### Hurricane, St. Timothy's

Billy Wayne Bailey

### Keyser, Emmanuel

Francine Shanahan

### Kingwood, St. Michael's

Rev. Ellen Rowan

### Leetown, St.

#### Bartolomew's

Richard Snowdon Durham

Richard Beram Stiles

### Lewisburg, St. James

Margy Bruns

Joan Campbell

### Martinsburg, Trinity

Lester "Les" Smith

Gary Fleming

Wallace Bishop

### Middleway, Grace

### Morgantown,

#### St. Thomas a Becket

Sylvia Sperow

Tom Brown

Ellen Rowan

### Moundsville, Trinity

Sylvia Combs

Larry Wade

Mary Ann Mercer

### Parkersburg,

#### Good Shepherd

Dennis Armstrong

Larry Conaway

Charles Robert Flinn

Gary Norum

Dwight Kim Poole

### Parkersburg, Trinity

Billy Earl Bee

James V. Full

William Albert Harmon, Jr.

Robert Beauchamp

Newman, III

Henry Earl Jackson

### Point Pleasant, Christ

Chales Towner

Ruth Ann Roth

### Ravenswood, Grace

Ann Rauh

### Ripley, St. John's

Nicole Dawn Hayes

James Wright Chambers,  
II

### Romney, St. Stephen's

Louisa Hardy

### Ronceverte, Incarnation

John C. Williamson

### St. Albans, St. Mark's

Faul F. Hartling

Debbie McVey

Audrey Evelyn Grounds  
Leona Dawn Sigler  
Jenna Louise Sigler

**Shepherdstown, Trinity**

Sylvia Gehri Speron  
Saundra Specht Moreland  
Joseph Matthews  
Dennis D. Small  
Wilma Cassell Coe  
Anne Ferris Belota  
Gilbert L. Hendricks, Jr.  
Jo Ann Ewing

**Snowshoe,  
Chapel on the Mount**

Debbie Goodwin

Warren Larue

**Weston, St. Paul's**

James Alonzo Smith  
Domenick Del Castillo

**Wheeling, St. Luke's**

Frank McDonnell  
Amy McDonnell  
Mike Mirandy

**Wheeling, St. Matthew's**

Veronica Rose Bissett  
Shirley Elder Bailey  
James Bock  
Dr. John George Kramer  
Calvin Matzke  
Sandra Guthrie  
Mike Harasuik  
Sue Thieroff Mendenhall  
G. Ogden Nutting

**Williamson, St. Paul's**

Rose Marie "Penny"  
Venturino  
Cathee Pinson



## Recognition of Parishes Closed in 2023

### Prince of Peace, Salem



Prince of Peace, Salem, was a church plant that rented space in the local Roman Catholic parish of the Sacred Heart. For many years the church was led by the Rev. Pamela Shier. The congregation had always been a close-knit but small parish. The church met only virtually after the start of the COVID pandemic. Prince of Peace voted to close earlier this year but members still gather online for fellowship and prayer.

### St. John's, Harpers Ferry



St. John's, Harpers Ferry, has a long and interesting history. Records indicate the church building is at least the third structure to house an Episcopal congregation in the small town—with the parish opened and closed at least as many times. In recent memory the congregation was small but active. Services have not been held in the building since COVID and members have worshipped with the nearby St. John's Lutheran Church. Both churches, along with Camp Hill UMC, were led by the Rev. John Unger.

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

O God our refuge, our home is in you. You are greater than any temple, church, or cathedral that can be built by human hands, yet in these places we have met your divine majesty. We thank you for those who have been joined to this part of Christ's family through baptism. We thank you for opening our hearts and minds again and again to your Word, and for feeding us abundantly with the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of your Son. Now, we pray, be with those who leave

and with us who stay; and grant that all of us, by drawing ever nearer to you, may always be close to each other in the communion of your saints. All this we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.



## Acknowledgements

The flowers on the altar at Trinity Church, Martinsburg, for Evening Prayer on Thursday, October 26, 2023, are given by Bishop and Mrs. Cowden for the greater glory of God and in thanksgiving for the life and work of the Diocese of West Virginia.

The flowers on the altar in the Foxcroft Ballroom are given for the greater glory of God and in loving memory of the Malden Episcopalians, Karen Jean Glazier, Martha Darneal Cole and Lewellyn Shrewsbury Cole by Beth Marquart.

The flowers on the altar at Trinity Church, Martinsburg, for the service of Holy Eucharist and Ordination on Saturday, October 28, 2023, are given by the Rev. Canon Chad Slater, the Rev. Canon Jordan Trumble, and Canon Catherine Saxe for the greater glory of God and in thanksgiving for the ministry of those being ordained.

The hospitality flowers are given by Ms. Cecelia Annette Combs and Ms. Tracy Hannah in honor of the people and ministries of the Diocese of West Virginia.

Hearty thanks is given to Trinity Episcopal Church, Martinsburg, West Virginia, for their dedicated work in hosting our 146<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention.

Our gratitude is also expressed to the churches of the Eastern Deanery for their assistance and labor with the 146<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention.

We thank the Holiday Inn Martinsburg for their gracious hospitality.



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

## ADDENDUM A

**Bishop Cowden's Diocesan Convention address 2023:**

***Grow in Christ: Doubling the number of Episcopalians in West Virginia over the next ten years.***

***The Right Reverend Matthew Davis Cowden  
VIII Bishop of West Virginia***

The bishop opened with the familiar joke about the Catholic priest, Episcopal priest, and Baptist minister in a boat and the first two walking on water. After the last one sinks and the common punchline, “should we tell him where the stones are?” is said, and the convention’s obligatory laughter at the bishop telling this familiar joke, the bishop then added an addendum punchline, with the Episcopal priest turning to the Catholic priest and saying, “What stones?” A different laughter followed.

The Bishop went on to say as follows:

We are indeed, seeing and doing miraculous things in the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia. Clergy and lay leaders are already stepping out in faith all over the diocese. Many congregations are accustomed to passing a faith budget, budgeting for the next year and trusting in the Holy Spirit to bring the funding needed; and we are used to doing faith programming, creating ministries and building it for new people to come; and more, we see congregations opening doors to a festival in their community and participating without outreach. Lay leaders without clergy are regularly saying morning prayer, becoming licensed to preach or using sermons that work in our pulpits. You are keeping our congregations going through prayer and participation. Many of us, especially since the pandemic, are trying new technology. Others are taking courageous step to paying off a mortgage or replacing an aging roof before calling a new Rector. We are already trying new things being faithfully done around the diocese to grow the church, not just in numbers, but growing in knowledge and love of the Lord.

One of my favorite stories about growth is about a rector who at the very first vestry meeting passed around a piece of paper for the vestry to sign, the new rector agreed to stay on as long as every vestry member signed the covenant. The first part of the covenant said we are going to grow, and we are going to grow in this church more than we could ever ask or imagine. The vestry cheered when they



read the first part. Then they read the second part of the paper that they had to agree with: we are going to hate it. Growth calls us to change and try new things, and that is the hard part.

You're not going to be signing a piece of paper, but you, and I, are called to grow; to grow in Christ. I consider your signing on for this covenant through your baptism or confirmation or reception as your assent. Your signature is God's holy mark already on you, marked as Christ's own forever; for the growth of Christ in you, and for the growing in the Church that we are called to do here in West Virginia.

Yes, you are going to grow in Christ more than you could ask or imagine, and there will be days that you are not going to like it one little bit. We proclaim Glory to God who can do more than we can either ask or imagine in us and in the church, but there is a caveat: God who meets us where we are, loves us too much to leave us as we are. God meets us right where we are, that's true and comforting, but God always calls more from us, more to give and let go of, more to grow in, and to a greater life than we have right now.

During my first full year as your Diocesan Bishop I heard the call loud and clear and I share it with you now: we are called to double in the numbers of Episcopalians in the state and Diocese of West Virginia. When the thought first crossed my mind I laughed to myself and moved on to another thought. I was staring out the windshield at the time on one of those beautiful long drives across the diocese; when immediately, without time to think, another thought, not my own, pulled me back to this crazy idea I had just dismissed. The voice, if it was a voice, simply said "think about it." I started considering the possibilities of doubling our numbers in ten years. I realized that we have not grown as a Church because we've never really tried to. The letter from James says "you have not because you ask not." We have not properly done evangelism in most of The Episcopal Church, and certainly not in West Virginia for a long time. Ephesians 1: 10 reminds us that our mission is to restore all people to God and one another in Christ, repeated in our prayer book on page 855 in our catechism, "the mission of the church is restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ." For us, that's a focus on baptism, whether it's as simple as having our baptism recorded in the congregation we are attending, counting those who are already here, inviting those who have not been grafted into the body of Christ to join us through baptism, or reaching out to those who were already baptized, but are looking for a better way, one that is traditional and inclusive, open and orthodox. That's us as Anglicans and Episcopalians in the mountain state and we have a particular loving voice for introducing people to Christ through our

traditions, the scripture, and reason. Why? Focus on baptism? In Matthew 28: 19–20, with the words of Jesus in red, and with a command as strong, as “do this in memory of me” we find the words of Jesus saying “go into all the world and baptized, in the name of of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

And friends, we are already doing this. Where we are going, where we are called to go, we are already seeing the fruits of tending to our soil and soul. This growth is already happening. Your participation, you’re willingness to try new things, your willingness to discover new ways of communicating, operating and engaging in the programs we are offering, is all a testament to Jesus Christ, alive and well and infusing our exciting if messy work of revival, dare I say resurrection.

And here are some examples of where we are seeing revival and resurrection already happening around the diocese.

**St. Andrew’s Mountain Mission:** The Blue Ridge food pantry opened in our former church, St Andre’s in Shanondale. The food pantry is building on our long-standing partnership with St Andrews Mountain Mission and finding new ways to feed God’s people on the mountain and a prayerful way to engage and rehabilitate our closed church.

**Stewardship:** We see new life in the Stewardship program we ran this fall called Growing Givers Hearts, running both a clergy and whole parish day. Thank you to Fr Joshua Saxe and the congregation of St. Matthew’s , Wheeling for having the idea and hosting it for the diocese. We will be doing more events like these.

**Moving from the Iona program to the Stevenson School:** Our growth is also seen in embracing a new model for ongoing lay education and formation and for the education and formation of locally formed clergy. This year we said a tender goodbye to our use of the Iona school as a beloved program for many years. As a ministry it suffered from an identity crisis about its role among us. The Stevenson school will be used as an resource for our formation and education of locally trained clergy and for the development of lay ministers.

**EYE and EYC:** Three of our diocesan youth participated in the Episcopal Youth Event in Baltimore this year and we are in the process of reviving the Episcopal Youth Council, whose President has seat voice and vote on Diocesan Council.

**Peterkin, reawakening and transformation of our place of Pilgrimage:** We have the gift of incredible land and history in Romney and Hampshire County; a thousand acres of uniquely preserved wildlife, with generations of memories.

Truth be told, if it was just a summer camp for youth, with the diocese giving a half million a year, and if we were to simply run five stellar weeks of programming, creating peak experiences and positive life long memories for young people and helping them to develop a relationship with Jesus Christ and the Church, then it would still be worth every penny and more. But God who meets us where we are is not content to leave us as we are. Even a moderate investment for only five weeks of a 52-week year is poor stewardship of this incredible gift. We are called to grow and do more with this unique gift than we have ever done before. Having spent the summer there with Melissa I can now see what it's going to be, among other things: a place of pilgrimage, rustic retreats, solitude, outside church groups, something akin to the Wild Goose Festival in North Carolina but with a West Virginia, Appalachian flair. I am grateful to our new director Jim Cormack for taking on the many areas of deferred maintenance, including that of buildings, vision, and stewardship.

**Sandscrest, growing in our place for Retreat:** Director Cheryl Harshman and Assistant Director Chris Villamagna have done incredible spiritual work in tending to the property and to the souls of all those who come to this thin place. The new board and I will be looking at ways to not only improve the historic house, but how we want to develop the footprint and facilities for the next generation.

**Highland Education Project, renewing our place of diocesan Mission:** I am grateful for the new director, Fr Paul Barker for engaging in the relationships with the mission groups and the neighbors of Premier Park.

**New Clergy:** More ordinations this year than in many previous years combined. Eight transitional deacons tomorrow, and many more to come. New bishops often put a pause on ordinations while they retool the process. We cannot afford to do that, our Church needs clergy, and the Holy Spirit doesn't stop moving just because there's a change of bishop. But please bear with us during the messiness of redesigning the process while we respect the canonical processes and discover new ways of raising up individuals for ordained ministry.

**Grow Church: DCDI underway:** *Grow Church* is our new signature Congregational Development Ministry for the diocese. This is a two year program. It's not a quick fix, no lasting change comes from a quick fix or one off program. Growing and developing your congregation for the best health takes time and attention, it takes discomfort as we grow in ourselves and develop new skills, and new patterns of behavior for growth. *Grow Church: DCDI* will include elements of Christian formation, models for better understanding your church and community and experiments, projects for promoting growth, and a model for evangelism.

So how are we going to double the number of Baptized Episcopalians in 10 years, 14,000 by 2033? This could be as simple as keeping better records, recording new members in parish register, communicating these numbers. This is being good stewards of those who are already in our midst. It will also take being intentional in thinking about Baptism and Baptismal Identity and being intentional about being Evangelists.

**There are four levels of Evangelists,** and these are being trained I Grow Church: DCDI.

**Level 1: Connector:** Makes connections, invites people to check out your church people, active listeners, seeking out the lost, looking for those who long for community and hunger for a yet more excellent way. Able to tell your story, tell the story of your people/congregation.

**Level 2: Companion:** A shepherd and one who will follow up with people; active listeners, empathizers, make introductions to others, sponsors, witnesses their faith in Christ to others, invites to dinners and events, goes with others to dinners and events,

**Level 3: Catechist** (also a separate Lay License), teachers who tell the Church's story, Biblical history, Church history, able to articulate Anglican and Episcopal history and identity, able to prepare others for Baptism or Confirmation.

**Level 4: Caller: This is a local missionary,** a door-to-door evangelist who passes out the Book of Common Prayer, inviting or creating a connection point with for those living in the local parish to identify and know the Episcopal congregation near them. Callers are identified by dress and speech as those who represent the Episcopal Church. Callers may also set up in a coffee shop or a frequented "third space" where people gather. The BCP is our greatest evangelism tool, and bookmarks or pasted insert with the website or contact info for your local congregation is part of the key in sharing it, as well as a bookmark or similar that says directs the peruser to prayers they may find helpful in time of need.

Our growth has a plan, there are steps to it, there are structures we can see and structures we can't see that are guiding us to grow individually in our relationship with Christ and one another, and to fulfill the great commission, in our community and beyond, in West Virginia.

Think about it. Think about baptism. Take courage to tell your story and share your baptized life with others. Work as if it all depends on you, pray and listen because it all really depends on God.

Then in ten years, when we look back over the way that we have come, when we have grown more than we ever thought possible, discovered new life in our relationship with Jesus Christ and with one another, met difficulties and yet still doubled in our number of Baptized Episcopalians, when we write the book together about what God has been doing in West Virginia and among us as Episcopal Christians, when they ask us, “How did you grow in your faith and how did you grow the Church when the rest of the mainline churches are just trying to get our footing?” When in ten years they ask if we knew how to walk this path and who showed us the secret way to get there; when they ask us where the secret stones are that are just beneath the surface which must have supported us in our faith and practice to produce such a great miracle, then we will turn with a quizzical and yet holy look on our faces and simply reply, “What stones?”

## ADDENDUM B

### **“Growing in Christ”**

**Address to the Convention of  
The Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia  
Archbishop Thabo Makgoba of Cape Town  
Metropolitan of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa**

**October 27, 2023**

Bishop Matthew,  
Delegates and Office-holders of the Convention,  
Sisters and Brothers in Christ,  
Friends:

I bring you warm greetings from your sisters and brothers in the Anglican Church of Southern Africa where we're moving into summer after the coldest winter we have experienced in a very long time. On Lungi and my behalf, thank you, Bishop and Mrs Cowden, your staff and your teams for your great hospitality. Thank you Revd Tim, Karen and Nonhla for driving us, and Tim, especially for the time we spent together seeing some of the countryside. Thank you all so much for your ministry of welcome and inclusion.

I've been asked to speak on growing the church and, by doing so, bringing hope and joy to the lives of people at a time when, across the world, and right now especially in the Holy Land, we face a mountain of adversities. Of course I speak from my experience as a South African, and we can't speak of evangelizing without looking to the context within which we seek to bring people to Christ. So allow me to introduce my remarks by sketching the context from which I come.

In 1966, Robert F. Kennedy came to speak in South Africa at the invitation of students who were opposed to apartheid. Beginning his keynote speech in Cape Town, his opening words struck a chord with South Africans as a razor-sharp diagnosis of our history and its challenges. He said, and I quote:

*“I come here because of my deep interest and affection for a land settled by the Dutch in the mid-seventeenth century, then taken over by the British, and at last independent; a land in which the native inhabitants were at first subdued, but relations with whom remain a problem to this day; a land which defined itself on a hostile frontier; a land which has tamed rich natural resources through the energetic application of modern technology; a land which was once the importer of slaves, and now must struggle to wipe out the last traces of that former bondage.”* End of quote.

Then came the surprise, when he continued: “*I refer, of course, to the United States of America.*” Such are the parallels you can find in the histories of our two countries.

Nearly sixty years later, both our nations are very different from the way they were then. Although we still have a way to go – a long way in some respects – in the areas of racial justice, the treatment of women and the rights of the LGBTQI community, we are nevertheless better countries than we were in the mid-1960s. But we also face significant challenges if we are to realise what Jesus promised us, as recorded in John 10, verse 10, when he said: “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

I cannot speak with any knowledge or expertise on your country or the State of West Virginia. But in South Africa our single biggest challenge is the yawning gap between rich and poor. The World Bank publishes data on something called the Gini Coefficient, named after an Italian statistician, which measures how income is distributed across the population of a country. The latest figures show that South Africa has the highest income inequality in the world. Even more worrying, it has increased rather than decreased since the end of apartheid, and while some black South Africans have improved their lives, the excessively rich are still mostly white and the debilitatingly poor are still mostly black.<sup>1</sup> Of our population of sixty million, nearly 13 million earn less than \$2.15 a day.<sup>2</sup>

One of our major challenges is in mining, an industry for which I have a particular passion and to which I will return a little later. Gold and diamonds were the main driving force in the growth of our economy into the biggest in Africa, and at its peak in the 1980s the mining industry employed 760,000 people and contributed one-fifth of our gross domestic product. But its role has since declined, now employing just under 450,000 people and contributing only eight percent of GDP. Within the mining sector, the picture is mixed – we are now only 11th in the world in gold production, but first in platinum, chromium and manganese. Our coal industry feels very uncertain about its future right now: employment has dropped from 135,000 at its peak in the 1980s to 90,000 now and while coal generates about 70 percent of our energy, the industry feels threatened by the growth of renewable energy sources.

These challenges – the frightening gap between rich and poor, and the unemployment that arises from the decline of older industries – are among many which threaten to tear South Africa apart. We saw this two years ago when a former president of our country was jailed for contempt of court after refusing to appear

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1 <https://www.wits.ac.za/news/latest-news/opinion/2023/2023-09/south-africa-cant-crack-the-inequality-curse-why-and-what-can-be-done.html>

2 <https://www.statista.com/outlook/co/socioeconomic-indicators/economic-inequality/south-africa>



before a commission of inquiry investigating corruption in his administration. In an orgy of violence and looting, more than 350 people died and five-and-a-half thousand were arrested before calm was restored.

So that is the context in which we South Africans were – and still are – called, as we say in our part of the world, “to do church”. For us, the shining example of evangelization was provided during the apartheid years by our beloved Archbishop Desmond Tutu, affectionately known throughout the country as “The Arch” after a priest gave him a T-shirt which said, “Just call me Arch”. He showed us that the way to draw people to Christ was to read and interpret our situation honestly and concretely, and then to preach a Gospel which spoke to the lives of those we sought to draw to Christ – a Gospel which addressed their lived experience and their needs. Scholars who have explored lessons to be learned from the legacy of Desmond Tutu speak of him as someone who filled vacuums in our witness in the public domain at a time when there was a credibility deficit in many areas, ranging from how we expressed and lived out our faith to the way in which we allowed old prejudices to play out in our political choices. It was this which made him a prophetic character.

He also had a style of preaching and ministering which attracted all. In the words of his friend of 45 years, the now retired Bishop of Missouri, Hays Rockwell, “Just when you think you’re going to characterise him as this, that or the other, ideologically or in terms of churchmanship, he escapes such categories. He’s a deeply Catholic man in the sense that he’s inclusive, encompassing of the faith... but he never would make that his primary way of addressing the church. He is able to proclaim the Gospel with such energy because he believes in the evangelical mandate—not as an ideological thing but because that’s what his faith requires of him. He reaches into individual lives in a way that’s transformative.”

At home in South Africa, he was widely recognized for his ability to speak truth to power, to point to where he believed God was leading his church, so becoming one of the church leaders who could stand on the biblical Mount Nebo and point the way to the Promised Land. At a time of suffering, as we struggled to liberate our country from institutionalised racism, and then as we began to build our democracy, Desmond Tutu's advocacy of a new society, a society of compassion and caring, enhanced the credibility of the Gospel.

Returning to Robert Kennedy: the words of that 1966 speech which have lived on and inspired people ever since speak to the power of the individual in society. Kennedy said, and I quote again:

*‘Few will have the greatness to bend history; but each of us can work to change a small portion of the events, and in the total of all these acts will be written the history of this generation... Each time [someone] stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, [they] send forth a tiny ripple of hope, and, crossing each*

*other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.”*

Desmond Tutu sent out his own ripples of hope with his emphasis on enhancing the agency of what he called “so-called ordinary people”, so-called, he used to say, because in his theology, nobody is ordinary, every individual is special because you and I, and every single person, are created in the image of God. He used to say: “Do your little bit of good where you are. It's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.” For him, it was the agency of the anonymous people of goodwill that is a key driver for change.

For me, hope and the joy to which it gives rise – a joy to which Desmond Tutu gave voice in cackles of laughter, even in situations of tension and stress – is epitomised in one of his simplest and most direct assertions. Set aside all his thousands, probably millions of words preached and spoken over the half century of his active ministry; set aside all his exegesis and his best-known quotable quotes. His most fundamental assertion was expressed in just three words. Desmond Tutu used to tell us, over and over, that actually, at its root, he had only one sermon. That sermon was: “God loves you.” That was it: “God loves you.” Three little words. Sometimes he added a fourth: “God loves you. Full-stop.”

Paul's letter to the Romans helps us take another step in understanding how God's love enables us to live in hope, when he writes that “suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” (Romans 5:3-5) And that is why Desmond Tutu could say, in one of his most extensively-quoted sayings that: “Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.”

So for myself, when I speak of hope I am not speaking of a nebulous concept. I am not speaking of hope as an anaesthetic to distract us from the harsh realities of the world, or to kill the pain of its suffering. One of our finest theologians in South Africa, Denise Ackermann, expresses it beautifully. Hope, Denise says, “is not that blithe sense that all will end well... because human progress is guaranteed.” No, it means being determined to identify our problems and our differences, precisely in order to mobilize people to overcome them. As Denise adds: “To live out my hope is to try to make that which I hope for come about – sooner rather than later.” It is “never to surrender our power to imagine a better world”.

For me, hope is the conviction that we are called or invited by God to participate in God's mission in the world, and that it is a call to which we respond because we believe in the love of God declared in Jesus Christ.

As I speak here today, I hold images in my heart of some of the most devastating wars and violence, of the attack on Israel, of the violence on the

Occupied West Bank of the Jordan, of the awful obliteration of the Gaza Strip, of Russia's assault on Ukraine, and of the more than 40 other places in the world where conflict and deep-seated violence is destroying any form of the common good and even levels of minimal decency. The injustices and aggression which characterize the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians tear me apart, forcing me into quiet contemplation of the horrors we are seeing, wanting to cry out for ceasefires and humanitarian corridors, but almost despairing of whether it will make the slightest difference.

Against this, Desmond Tutu's words are a source of constant reassurance. He told us that in the end, people naturally incline towards goodness not evil, and the differences between them are not intended to separate, to alienate. "We are different precisely in order to realize our need of one another," he said. This was at the heart of the anthropology that shaped his understanding of humanity, dignity and human potential.

Quoting John 12 verse 32 – "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself" – he would appropriate them to powerful effect. "We are made to tell the world that there are no outsiders," he would say. "All are welcome; black or white, red, yellow, rich, poor, educated, not educated, male, female, gay or straight, all, all, all." Repeating the phrase over and over again, he told us, "We belong to this family, this human family, God's family." For him, this challenge, extending this sense of welcome and belonging, is at the heart of our evangelism and the very key to our public witness.

He also understood that in a world dominated by ideology, by rigidity, we need a space to listen to the still quiet voice of God, to listen to each other, to create the lifegiving spaces without which we will flounder. He understood in his very bones the enlivening spirit and power of prayer. Extremely disciplined in his spiritual life, he was an early riser who observed hours of silent prayer, rigid observance of Morning and Evening Prayer, the daily celebration of the Eucharist, regular quiet days, his annual retreat, the ministry of a spiritual director, he knew deeply and categorically what it was to strengthen the relationship with God which was his favorite definition of prayer.

Let me finish with a story which, for me, speaks of hope in action. You heard me say earlier that I have a particular interest in mining. It dates back to my youth, when my father was a salesman who travelled from gold mine to gold mine every month, selling clothing and other goods to migrant mineworkers living in the huge single-sex hostels on the mines. Later, as a psychologist and a priest, over a period of five years I counselled about 400 miners whose spines had been injured in underground rock bursts, many of them paraplegics on account of their spinal cords being crushed. So although I was on the edges of the industry, I felt an affinity with those mineworkers, and especially those whose jobs took them down the deepest

mines in the world, up to two-and-a-half miles deep where temperatures can reach 150 degrees Fahrenheit unless ice is pumped in to cool the air.

As a result it has been a source of great joy for me to have been part of an international initiative, called Courageous Conversations, which brings together mining bosses, unions, religious leaders, civil society and government agencies to work together on the challenges facing the industry. We looked issues such as: How can a mining company help develop its surrounding community during the life of a mine so that it remains sustainable when the minerals have all been extracted and the mine closes? When that day comes, who is responsible for rehabilitating the environment? Among the most satisfying experiences were bringing hope to the remote rural areas from which miners came by helping build ablution blocks for their schools, by building houses for the widows of men killed in violent strikes and by simply coming alongside people in a ministry of presence.

It is such initiatives in the world which help me translate my Christian hope into action, and give me confidence in the future, knowing that victory has already been attained through the passion, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus.

God loves us all, Americans, South Africans, Palestinians, Israelis, Ukrainians, Russians. God loves the whole of humanity, as well as God's whole creation. May we fulfill God's desire that we preserve and protect all God's children, and all God's creation, for our children and grandchildren to come. God bless you, God bless South Africa, and God bless America.

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## ADDENDUM C

### Minutes of the 146<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia

October 26-28, 2023

Trinity Episcopal Church and Holiday Inn, Martinsburg, WV

#### Thursday, October 26, 2023

The Rt. Rev. Matthew D. Cowden, 8th Bishop of the Diocese of West Virginia, called to order the opening session of the 146th Convention of the Diocese of West Virginia at 5:40 p.m. on Thursday, October 26, 2023, at Trinity Episcopal Church in Martinsburg, WV.

Bishop Cowden led the convention in an Opening Prayer.

Bishop Cowden then secured from Ms. Karen Klein, Diocesan Chancellor and Parliamentarian, confirmation that a quorum of at least 10 Clergy and 10 Lay Persons representing at least 20 congregations, as required by the Canons, were present and that the Convention could proceed.

Bishop Cowden announced that Mr. John Canfield had retired after serving seven years as Secretary of Convention. Bishop Cowden then nominated Ms. Linda S. Comins as candidate for Secretary of the 146th Convention. A motion to elect Ms. Linda S. Comins as Secretary of the 146th Convention was moved from the floor, seconded and approved. The Bishop then appointed the following persons to various Convention positions and committees:

#### Parliamentarian

Ms. Karen Klein

#### Clergy Seating Committee

The Very Rev. Susan Claytor, the Very Rev. Kim Webster, the Rev. Marie Mulford

#### Lay Seating Committee

Mr. Bill Saviers, Ms. Sue Owen, Ms. Vicki Iber

#### Resolution Committee

Mr. Lee Javins, Ms. Beth Marquart, the Rev. Greg Pennington, the Very Rev. Dean Lawrence

#### Constitution & Canons Committee

Mr. Tim Brown, Mr. Chuck Andrus, the Rev. Maggie Blanchard

#### Budget Committee

Mr. Tom Farnsworth, Mr. Jim Sutherland, the Very Rev. Bobby Shives, Mr. Jim Shaver, the Very Rev. Susan Claytor, Ms. Susanne Pulse

#### Head Teller

Ms. Barbara Lutz

#### Board of Tellers

Mr. Benjamin Slater, Ms. Emma Slater, Mr. Andy Brown, Mr. Elliott Brown

#### Courtesy Resolution Committee

The Rev. Canon Chad Slater, Mr. Ray Lowther, the Rev. Gina Griffith

A motion was moved and seconded from the floor for approval of the above-listed Convention board and committee appointments. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Bishop Cowden asked for approval of the proposed Convention Agenda, as printed in the Digest. A motion was made and seconded from the floor for approval of Agenda. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Bishop Cowden then asked for a courtesy resolution to grant seat and voice to the Rev. Don Davidson, the Rev. Charles Wilson, the Rev. Louis B. Hays, the Rev. Randy Nairn, the Rev. John Unger, the Rev. Tim Knauf and the Most Rev. Dr. Thabo Makgoba. A motion was moved and seconded from the floor to grant seat and voice to the above-listed clergy. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Ms. Beth Marquart presented two resolutions that, because of their timeliness, could not have been introduced 45 days prior to the start of Convention:

Resolution II -- Resolved, that this 146th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia urges all member Episcopalians to work toward and pray for a peaceful resolution to the current conflict in the Middle East which directly affects the safety of innocent Israelis and Palestinians.

Resolution III -- Resolved, that this 146th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia urges all member Episcopalians to pray for all victims of gun violence, including those in Lewiston, ME and those to come.

By voice vote, Resolution II and Resolution III were referred to the Resolution Committee.

The Bishop introduced the Rev. Canon Chad Slater, Canon to the Ordinary, and Canon Catherine Saxe, Canon for Mission and Ministry. The Bishop said the Rev. Canon Jordan Trumble, Canon for Communications and Congregational Development, was not present because of a family commitment, but would arrive Friday, October 27, 2023.

Bishop Cowden announced that the Ven. David Johnston is serving as Archdeacon for campus ministry at Marshall University.

Resolution 1 was referred to the Resolution Committee. The resolution states: Resolved, That this 146th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia requests that Bishop Matthew Cowden establish and appoint members from across the Diocese, in both lay and ordained orders, to a task force to review the current diocesan Deanery structure and to make recommendations to the Bishop and the 147th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia for how the Diocese can more effectively serve its member churches and people.

Bishop Cowden announced that the Budget Committee and the Resolution Committee would conduct hearings later in the evening.

At 6 p.m. Thursday, October 26, 2023, upon a motion from the floor, the general session of the Diocesan Convention adjourned until 9 a.m. Friday, October 27, 2023, at the Holiday Inn, Martinsburg. A service of Evening Prayer then continued at Trinity Church. A reception and dinner were held at 7:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn.

After Morning Prayer led by Archbishop Thabo Makgoba at the Holiday Inn, the Convention business session reconvened at 9:10 a.m. Friday, October 27, 2023, with Bishop Cowden delivering his Convention Address.

A motion was made and seconded from the floor for approval of the Convention Agenda. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

A motion was made and seconded from the floor for approval of the minutes of the 145<sup>th</sup> Convention. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Minutes of the Diocesan Council meetings and minutes of the Standing Committee meetings were published.

Bishop Cowden recognized clergy who are new to the Diocese or are newly ordained since the last convention: the Rev. Gina Griffith (diaconate), the Rev. Timothy Allen (diaconate), the Rev. Christopher Scott (diaconate), the Rev. Paul Barker (priesthood), the Rev. Nancy Martin (priesthood), the Rev. Michael Delk (rector of St. Thomas à Becket, Morgantown), the Very Rev. David Johnston (rector of Trinity Church, Huntington), the Very Rev. Bobby Shives (rector of Trinity Church, Martinsburg) and the Rev. Greg Pennington (rector of St. John's, Huntington).

Bishop Cowden also recognized clergy who have retired since the last convention: the Rev. Jim Morgan (Trinity Church, Huntington), the Rev. John Valentine St. Paul's, Weston, and Transfiguration, Buckhannon), the Rev. Cheryl Winter (St. Timothy's-in-the-Valley, Hurricane) and the Rev. Maggie Blanchard (New River Episcopal Ministries).

Bishop Cowden recognized two churches that have closed: Prince of Peace, Salem, and St. John's, Harpers Ferry.

Bishop Cowden submitted to the Convention Secretary his Canonical papers for the prior year for the Archives of the Diocese.

These include:

- Bishop's Travel Diaries
- Summary of Bishop's Official Acts
- Consents of Election of Bishops
- Ordinations to the Diaconate
- Ordinations to the Presbyterate
- Clergy deceased
- Postulants and Candidates for Holy Orders
- Letters Dimissory – Issued
- Letters Dimissory – Received
- List of Canonically Resident Clergy
- List of Clergy Licensed to Officiate

Bishop Cowden then called upon the Rev. Canon Chad Slater for the presentation of the following Courtesy Resolutions:

Courtesy Resolution I: *Be it resolved that the 146th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia sends warm and heartfelt greetings to the Rt. Rev. William Michie Klusmeyer, and to his wife, Mrs. Marsha Klusmeyer. We express our deep gratitude for their life and ministry in our midst.*

Courtesy Resolution II: *Be it resolved that this 146th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia sends warm and heartfelt greetings to Mrs. Victoria Smith, widow of the Rt. Rev. John H. Smith, former Bishop Diocesan of West Virginia. We express to her our deep and sincere gratitude for her life and ministry in our midst.*

Courtesy Resolution III: *Be it resolved that this 146th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia sends warm and heartfelt greetings to Mrs. Lena Carr, widow of the Rt. Rev. Frank Carr,*



*former Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of West Virginia. We express to her our deep and sincere gratitude for her life and ministry in our midst.*

Courtesy Resolution IV: *Be it resolved that this 146th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia sends warm and heartfelt greetings to the Rev. Henry M. "Mac" MacLeod, widowed husband of the Rt. Rev. Mary Adelia MacLeod, former priest at St John's in Charleston, former Bishop of the Diocese of Vermont and the first female bishop diocesan in The Episcopal Church. We express to him our deep and sincere gratitude for his life and ministry in our midst.*

Courtesy Resolution V: *Be it resolved that this 146th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia sends warm and heartfelt greetings to the West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, to their Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Matthew Riegel, and to their clergy and congregations.*

Courtesy Resolution VI: *Be it resolved that this 146th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia thanks the people of Trinity Church, Martinsburg, for hosting this year's convention, and the people of the churches of the Eastern Deanery, for their assistance and support of this undertaking.*

Courtesy Resolution VII: *Be it resolved that this 146th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia thanks the Most Rev. Dr. Thabo Makgoba and his wife, Mrs. Lungelwa Makgoba, for honoring us with their presence, encouragement, wisdom, and prayers.*

Convention recessed at 10:42 a.m. Friday, October 27, 2023. Convention participants then traveled to Christ Church (Morgan's Chapel) at Bunker Hill for Noonday Prayer and Confirmation, followed by a picnic on the church grounds.

The Convention business session reconvened at 2:35 p.m. Friday, October 27, 2023, at the Holiday Inn.

Head Trustee Tom Gilpin presented the Diocesan Trustees' Report.

Diocesan Treasurer Tom Farnsworth, Chief Financial Officer Cecelia Annette Combs and the Rev. Canon Chad Slater gave the Budget presentation. They presented the 2023 Financial Report and the proposed Diocesan Budget for 2024. Mr. Farnsworth advised that the proposed 2024 Budget had been reviewed and approved by the Budget Committee, with a recommendation that the budget be approved. As the 2024 Budget came from a committee, no second was required. Following a brief discussion on the floor, the 2024 Budget was approved on a unanimous voice vote.

Elections were held for various Diocesan positions. The candidates for each position were published in the Convention Digest. The following persons were elected by voice vote from the convention floor:

Diocesan Trustee (5-year term – expiring in 2028):

Mr. Gat Caperton

Sandscrest Board (3-year terms – expiring in 2026)

Mr. William H. Grow, Jr.

Mr. Charles McFadden

Ms. Laura Mull

Mr. Donald Rebich

Ms. Erin Denise Rothenbuehler

The following persons were elected via individual written ballot:

Standing Committee (4-year terms – expiring in 2027)

The Rev. Zach Drennen

Mr. William H. Grow, Jr.

Reports were given by the Rev. Paul Barker, Highland Educational Project Director; Mr. Jim Cormack, Peterkin Camp and Conference Center Director; and Ms. Cheryl Harshman, Sandscrest Retreat and Conference Center Director.

Bishop Cowden called for the approval of three Consents to Diocesan Convention:

Consent I: That this 146th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia consents to change the geographical boundaries of the Ohio Valley Deanery and of the Southwestern Deanery to place St. John's Episcopal Church, Ripley, and Grace Episcopal Church, Ravenswood, into the Ohio Valley Deanery as requested by the Rt. Rev. Matthew Cowden, Bishop of West Virginia.

A motion was made and seconded from the floor for approval of Consent I. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Consent II: That this 146th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia consents to the election or appointment of the following to Diocesan Council: the Rev. Dean Lawrence, as Dean of the Monongahela Deanery, and the Rev. Dr. Susan Claytor, as Dean of the New Southern Deanery.

A motion was made and seconded from the floor for approval of Consent II. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Consent III: That this 146th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia consents to the appointment of the Very Rev. Susan Claytor as Intake Officer for this Diocese in accordance with Title IV of the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church relating to the Discipline of Clergy.

A motion was made and seconded from the floor for approval of Consent III. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Vice Chancellor Lee Javins then presented the various resolutions which were considered by the Resolutions Committee.

The first resolution considered was **Resolution #1 -- "Establishment of Task Force to Review Current Diocesan Deanery Structure and to Make Recommendations"** -- which was submitted by the Very Rev. David Johnston, the Very Rev. Bobby Shives, the Rev. Josh Saxe, the Very Rev. Dean Lawrence, the Very Rev. Kim Webster, and the Very Rev. Susan Claytor. The Resolutions Committee recommended the approval of Resolution #1. Resolution #1 was approved on a voice vote.

The next resolution considered was **Resolution #2 -- "Peaceful Resolution the Current Conflict in the Middle East"** -- which was submitted by Ms. Beth Marquart. The Resolutions Committee recommended the approval of Resolution #2. Resolution #2 was approved on a voice vote.

The final resolution considered was **Resolution #3 -- "Prayer for Victims of Gun Violence"** -- which was submitted by Ms. Beth Marquart. Resolution #3 was amended by the Resolutions Committee during the previous day's committee hearing and the Committee recommended the approval of Resolution #3 as amended. During discussion on the convention floor, an additional amendment was offered to change the reference of "Lewiston, ME" to "Lewiston, Maine." The floor amendment was approved on a voice vote. Subsequently, Resolution #3, as amended by the Resolutions Committee and later amended on the convention floor, was approved on a voice vote.

Bishop Cowden noted that three resolutions from the 80<sup>th</sup> General Convention have been received. Ms. Karen Klein, lead deputy, said the resolutions from the 80<sup>th</sup> General Convention have been made available to Diocesan Convention with printed copies on site and electronic copies on the diocesan website.

Bishop Cowden announced that archivists are being sought to look at the diocesan history in preparation for the Diocese's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2027. Names also are being sought for potential membership on a Property and Loan Committee.

Bishop Cowden announced that the Standing Committee would meet immediately following the adjournment of the convention.

The Bishop also announced that the 2024 Diocesan Convention will be held at Stonewall Resort on November 1-2, 2024, with Christ Church, Clarksburg, and St. Barnabas Chapel, Bridgeport, as hosts. [note: the dates of the 2024 convention are Nov. 15-16, 2024]

With no further business to conduct, and pursuant to a Motion and a Second from the floor, the 146<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia adjourned upon a unanimous voice vote. Bishop Cowden offered a closing prayer and Convention attendees sang the Doxology. The Convention adjourned at 4:41 p.m. Friday, October 27, 2023.

Convention Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

*Linda S. Comins*

Convention Secretary 2023

## **ADDENDUM D**

### **Resolutions Passed at the 146th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia October 26-28, 2023 Martinsburg, West Virginia**

Resolution I Submitted by the Very Rev. David Johnston, the Very Rev. Bobby Shives, the Rev. Josh Saxe, the Very Rev. Dean Lawrence, the Very Rev. Kim Webster, and the Very Rev. Susan Claytor Resolved, That this 146th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia requests that Bishop Matthew Cowden establish and appoint members from across the Diocese, in both lay and ordained orders, to a task force to review the current diocesan Deanery structure and to make recommendations to the Bishop and the 147th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia for how the Diocese can more effectively serve its member churches and people.

Resolution No. II Resolved, That this 146th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia urge all member Episcopalians to work toward and pray for a peaceful resolution to the current conflict in the Middle East which directly affects the safety of innocent Israelis and Palestinians.

Resolution No. III Resolved, That this 146th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia urge all member Episcopalians to pray for all victims of gun violence, including those in Lewiston, Maine, and those to come.

