

88th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Eau Claire
Church of St. Alban-the-Martyr, Superior, Wisconsin - Host Congregation
November 11th-12th, 2016

FRIDAY, November 11

4:00 -- 6:00 pm Registration and Check-in – Barker’s Island Inn
300 Marina Drive, Superior, WI 54880

6:00 - 6:30 Plenary Session

1. Call to Order in Ontario Ballroom

Convention called to order by The Very Rev. H. Scott Kirby, Dispatch of Business. The Rt. Rev. James Adams opened with a Prayer for the Convention followed by brief opening remarks by the Rt. Rev. William Jay Lambert, 6th Bishop of the Diocese of Eau Claire, calling for the recognition of all current and retired military personnel.

2. Election of Secretary

MOTION by The Rev. James Lorenze to nominate The Rev. Canon Aaron Zook as Secretary of the Convention. **Second. Carried by acclamation without dissent. So moved.**

3. The Secretary appointed Rev. Kathy Charles as Assistant Secretary.

4. Credentials Committee Report: Ms. Elaine Ellenson, CC Cathedral. 41 clergy are eligible to vote, 22 present. Laity: 47 deputies are allowed and eligible to vote, there are 27 deputies present. A majority of laity and clergy are present. In a Vote by Orders: Clergy needs a vote of 12 or greater, Laity: 14 or greater.

5. Welcome by St. Alban-the-Martyr:

The Rev. Steven Burns, welcomed Convention to Superior. The parish is honored to have Convention in Eau Superior for the first time in more than 40 years and is thankful for the opportunity to serve the clergy, deputies and guests of the Diocese of Eau Claire.

6. Appointments:

- a. Dispatch of Business: The Rt. Rev. William Jay Lambert **Proposed the Very Rev. Scott Kirby to Convention. Response: Yes.**
- b. Parliamentarian: The Rt. Rev. William Jay Lambert **Proposed Mr. Jim Pelish to Convention. Response: Yes.**
- c. Council of Advice: The Rt. Rev. William Jay Lambert **Proposed Mr. Jim Pelish and the President of the Standing Committee and the Vice President of the Executive Council. Response: Yes**

7. Rules of Order, Acceptance of Agenda:

The Very Rev. Scott Kirby presented the Rules of Order as well as the convention Agenda.

Mr. Gregg Westigard MOVED to accept the Rules of Order. Ms. Crista Becker Second. Unanimous “Yes” voice vote. So moved.

Ms. Deb Lorenze MOVED to accept the Agenda. Mr. Ron Hall Second. Unanimous “Yes” voice vote. So moved.

8. Minutes of the 87th Diocesan Convention:

The Very Rev. Scott Kirby Presented the Minutes of the 87th Diocesan Convention.
Mr. Ron Hall MOVED to accept the Minutes as presented. Ms. Crista Becker Second. Unanimous “Yes” voice vote. So moved.

9. Special Reports:

I-Reading of General Convention Resolutions:

The Rt. Rev. Jim Adams MOVED to accept reading. Mr. Tim Donahue Second. Unanimous “Yes” voice vote. So moved.

II-Presentation from Canon Mary Larson:

The Canon Mary Larson presented plans for a program to create a digital network for music ministry in the Diocese.

10. Convention Recesses:

Convention adjourned at 6:19 pm (social hour) to 9:30 a.m., Saturday, November 12th, 2015, the Ontario Ballroom of Barker’s Island Inn, Superior.
Following the Dinner, the Rev. Canon Ernie Bennet, retired Canon to the Ordinary of the Diocese Central Florida.

Diocesan Theme Presentation: “”

The Rev. Canon Ernie Bennet:

Canon Bennet began by stating that he intended to address the group by being “informal” but not “casual,” further stating that he takes the Gospel of Christ very seriously, but not himself. He introduced the group to the Jewish concept of “Dayenu,” which loosely translates to the phrase “it would have been enough.” He noted the importance of always looking ahead while occasionally stealing a glance at our history in order to honor the past while paying the most attention to those things that God has placed in our midst at this moment.

Canon Bennet shared that he is very excited and optimistic about the shape of the Church today. He admitted that sometimes we see the worst in people at the most difficult times of their lives. Those moments, he said, are the kind of “obstacles that hinder our witness.” He stated that one common obstacle is the tendency to see or hear a speaker or leader and wish that we could emulate their manner of evangelism. What we miss with that approach is that we weren’t created to be copies of those individuals, but rather to be very great version of

ourselves. He suggested the book “The Wounded Healer: Ministry in Contemporary Society,” by Henri Nouwen and especially the portion of that text that states “Open wounds don’t heal, they only stink and fester.” This is an important aspect of ministry: to understand that we are flawed, broken, and even “stinky.” It is in our understanding of our own flaws and brokenness that allows us to show the world how God can love wounded and broken people and bring sweetness into the world through them.

He stated that the story of Jacob and Esau, and that of Jacob and Laban is a perfect example of the necessity of woundedness to preach the Gospel. Jacob can do so many things including tricking his father and his brother many times over, but after being repeatedly tricked by Laban, he returns home and after his struggles on his return, he is given a new name, Israel. He stated that it is important to note that from that point on, Jacob has a limp. He further stated that the scriptures tell us here and elsewhere that we cannot engage in ministry with God and not come away with scars, bumps and bruises. Why, he asked, do you think that Jesus always began by showing people his wounds?

“The way we treat one another speaks volumes compared to the words we use to describe ourselves and others.” This is the “wrangling over words” warned against in 2 Timothy. What is it that hinders our witness to Jesus Christ? It isn’t woundedness. It is our resistance to healing ourselves and creating divisions around ourselves that hinder that witness. We will be wounded. The important thing is that our wounds are recognized and that we accept his means of healing so that others can watch his healing as it is performed on us and, by extension, through us.

Canon Bennet concluded for the evening by stating that he would address correlates in the second session of his presentation of that healing power and how we can be present and display that healing for those who need the most and who, in turn, can be even stronger witnesses to that healing power.

SATURDAY, November 12th

7:00-8:00 a.m., Registration Continues at the Barker's Island Inn.

Diocesan Theme Presentation: “”

The Rev. Canon Ernie Bennet:

Canon Bennet began by stating that several people had asked him for a manuscript of the previous evening's presentation, which he attributes to a sincere drive for engaging in healthy ministry and being an inviting church. People fight because they care, because they love the Church. We need boldness in the Gospel. He noted that after 46 of credited service as a priest, he is “failing retirement” because of his own drive to engage in ministry.

He told the story of a parish he worked with that tried to solve a financial issue by addressing symptoms by spending more money rather than addressing the underlying problem. He noted that he helped them to retire a \$1.6 million debt. When pushed for an explanation of how, he noted that they foundation was when the parish learned how to trust each other, rather than blame each other for the shortcomings of the system. He noted that it grew from “liking” each other rather than just “loving” each other in an abstract way. He quoted a speaker from his time in Central Florida who said “Christian Love is both replicating and channeling God's Love for us. Love devoid of affection, of affection for others, is less than we are called to do, even if sometimes it is the best we can offer in the moment.” He noted that “liking” is not about having an affinity with a person, but for growing in affection for those who don't have shared interests is more in keeping with God's redeeming love, because we begin to resemble God's Love, even for those for whom there is little that we might instinctively like. Canon Bennet shared several stories from his own ministry in which he had to actively work to not just love, but to authentically “like” people whose personalities or behaviors were irritating and difficult to reconcile with his own. He noted that this process sometimes begins by understanding that it is never “my church,” but rather, God's Church, but “I've been placed here to do something on his behalf.

He noted that a fight between personalities, especially in a small parish, can be devastating. He said that often these struggles stem from the fact that a parish loves each other, but does not know how to behave with anyone else. They don't know how to be an “Inviting church” that engages as a community of outreach, working to include everyone at the table, whether they be family, friend, or stranger. “No church can claim to be followers of Jesus if it refuses to look beyond itself.” It cannot be as simple as creating an intentional community of like-minded people. It must move beyond that as a rule. Canon Bennet told the story of his encounter with a parish of 30 in New Hampshire that continually looked for suffering in the world and found ways to address them as ministry, including sending nearly their entire parish to a small town in Florida to help with hurricane clean-up. He noted that if a parish lives from that model and keeps their focus narrowed to those things they can effectively address will not only succeed, they will thrive in their faith.

Canon Bennet further noted that effectively dealing with conflict is absolutely necessary to the life of the church. He shared several stories of churches embedded in conflict and shared how, in each case, there was a deep level of distrust between members of the parish, both lay and ordained and especially between the vestry and the

congregation. He noted that the only reason people fight in churches is because they care. There are no “bad guys,” he said, but rather people who care so deeply for their vision of the parish that they cannot imagine the parish straying into a new creation, even if it might be a better one.

Canon Bennet said that what all this adds up to is the final “mark” of a healthy parish: a boldness for the Gospel. He noted that the intuitive response to a world that denies the Gospel, is to hide our love for God so that the world does not deny us as well. He suggested that, like the lamp under the bushel basket, we must be bold to show others that living in a community of love with God and the Church makes it worth the risk of being denied by this world. If we have that confidence in our hearts, it makes all the rest of our ministry possible. He quoted St. Peter in saying that “We must always be prepared to give an account of the Hope that is in us.”

Canon Bennet thanked the Convention for the invitation to speak and to make new friends in the Diocese of Eau Claire and asked that God bless us to live ever closer to Him that we might minister in the world for him as people of conviction and faith.

9:29 AM Convention Reconvenes at Barker’s Island Inn.

The Rt. Rev. Jim Adams opened with prayer.

10. Seat and Eligibility Report by Credentials Committee:

Ms. Patricia Lull, St. Alban-the-Martyr. 42 clergy are eligible to vote, 28 present. Laity: 47 deputies are allowed and eligible to vote, there are 39 deputies present. A majority of laity and clergy are present. In a Vote by Orders: Clergy needs a vote of 15 or greater, Laity: 20 or greater.

Roll Call:

Clergy Present at Call to Order: Rev. Patrick Augustine, Rev. Peter Augustine, Rev. Irene McDaniel, Rev. Georgia Agner, Rev. Kathleen Charles, Rev. William Radant, Very Rev. Scott Kirby, Rev. Tony Ring, Rev. Eleanor Michaud, Rev. Guy Usher, Rev. Art Hancock, Rev. Canon Aaron Zook, Rev. Mark Ricker, Rev. Steven Burns, Rev. David Bauer, Rev. James Lorenze, Rev. Jackie Broughton, Very Rev. Michael Greene, Ven. Jo Glasser, Rev. Robert Hoekstra, Rev. Marlene Hogue, Rev. Michael Newago, Rev. Mary Rezin, Rev. Rose Ruthy.

Bishops Present: The Rt. Rev. William Jay Lambert, The Rt. Rev. James Adams.

Laity Present: Art Carpenter, Claire Fliess, Irma Oster, Crista Becker, Bonita Aude, Sandra Ricker, Gregg Westigard, Evelyn Usher, Diane Bilderback, Debra Lorenze, Ron Hall, Sarah Letke, Monte Lewis, C. R. Hackworthy, David Schultz, James Glasser, Garrett Conover, Tim Donahue, Lee Donahue, Carla Corbin, Lora Stefanski, Merrie Jo Chamberlain, Ken Johnson, Martha Brandley, Dick Rueckl, , Diane Anders, Liz Archibald, Suzanne Funck, Jim Pelish, Jen Love, Jan Isensee, Carol Rohde, Dan Durand, Jean Neste, Ron Neste, Nancy Sanoski, Cynthia Martz, Darrel Sanders, Sherry Koel.

Rev. Tony Ring MOVED to accept the Report as presented. Rev. Ellie Michaud Second. Unanimous “Yes” voice vote. So moved.

11. Elections for Diocesan Leadership Positions:

For all positions that had only one nominee, Convention voted in favor of election for each by Voice Vote. All individuals who ran unopposed were unanimously elected.

Carol Rohde MOVED to elect all nominees for unopposed election. Second. Unanimous “Yes” voice vote. So moved.

The Very Rev. Scott Kirby announced the results of the elections for Diocesan Leadership Positions as follows:

Standing Committee:

Clergy: Rev. Peter Augustine

Lay: Ms. Joan Smalstig

Executive Council:

Clergy: Rev. Patrick Augustine

Lay 3 year term: Ms. Jenö Love, Mr. Tim Donahue

Lay 1 year term: Ms. Claire Fliess

COM:

Clergy: Dn. Charles Farrell

Lay: Ms. Debbie Conover

Treasurer:

Bob Weathers

Trustees:

C.R. Hackworthy

Drew Lorenz

Ecclesiastical Disciplinary Board:

Clergy: Rev. Robert Hoekstra, Rev. Ellie Michaud

Lay: Ron Hall

General Convention Deputies:

Clergy: Rev. Kathy Charles, Very Rev. Michael Greene,
Rev. Guy Usher, Deacon Marlene Hogue

Lay: Debra Lorenze, Tim Donahue, Cynthia Hackworthy, Gregg Westigard

1st Alternates: Deacon James Lorenze, Eileen Yeakley

12. Trustees of the Diocese of Eau Claire:

Presentation of 2016 Financial Reports and 2017 Budget- Bob Weathers presented the report. All clergy and deputies received this report and the accompanying Budget Proposal in Advance. The Budget for 2017 is based on apportionment asking of 10%. Mr. Weathers pointed particularly to the budgetary implications of late Parochial Reports and the importance of making Apportionment payments in a timely manner.

Mr. Garret Connover MOVED ACCEPTANCE of the 2017 budget. Mr. Jim Glasser Second. Unanimous “Yes” voice vote. So moved.

13. Bishop Lambert’s Address:

The Bishop’s Address was disseminated after which Bp. Lambert read the address to the Convention, which was met with a loud ovation. Convention broke into small groups to discuss the content and message of the Address. The floor was opened for comments and responses to the questions raised within Bishop Lambert’s Address. Bp. Lambert and Dean Peay responded to specific comments and questions from delegates and visitors.

14. Resolutions:

None.

15. Advance Reports:

Advance Reports Received by Title

- i. The Haiti Project
- ii. Commission on Ministry
- iii. Standing Committee
- iv. Executive Council

16. 2015 Clergy Changes

- The **Reverend Kathy Charles** resigned as Priest in Charge of St. Mary’s, Tomah on **May 29th, 2016**.
- The **Reverend Catherine Kuschel** transferred her Letters Dimissory for the Diocese of Nebraska to the Diocese of Eau Claire on **August 30th, 2016**.
- Mr. **Michael Newago** was ordained as a Transitional Deacon at Christ Church Cathedral, Eau Claire on Saturday, **October 29th, 2016**.
- Ms. **Rose Ruthy** was ordained as a Vocational Deacon at Christ Church Cathedral, Eau Claire on Saturday, **October 29th, 2016**.
- Mr. **Steven Russell** was ordained as a Vocational Deacon at Christ Church Cathedral, Eau Claire on Saturday, **October 29th, 2016**.

- Mr. **Robert Rosolowski** was ordained as a Vocational Deacon at Christ Church Cathedral, Eau Claire on Saturday, **October 29th, 2016**.
- The **Reverend Michael Newago** was named Deacon in Charge at Christ Church, Bayfield on Tuesday, **November 1st, 2016**.

17. Bishop's Appointments

COM:

Clergy:

Ven. Jo Glasser

Lay:

Dr. Paul Chase

Ms. Mary Ellen Filkins

Ms. Evelyn Usher

Assisting Bishop

The Rt. Rev. James Adams

Bishop's Council of Advice

President of the Standing Committee

Vice-President of the Executive Council

Camps & Conferences

Mr. Chuck Carter

Ms. Alex Lorenz

Chancellor

Mr. Jim Pelish

Constitution & Canons/Resolutions

The Bishop (ex officio)

Mr. Jim Pelish, Chancellor (ex officio)

The Rev. Guy Usher

The Rev. Canon Aaron Zook

Mr. Bill Smith

The Rt. Rev. James Adams

Cursillo Secretariat

Ms. Cinders Pogalz, Convener

Ms. Ellen Allison

Ms. Alice Brown

Ms. Jany Chumas

Mr. Ron Hall

Ecumenical Relations

The Rev. Mark Ricker

Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD)

Ms. Alice Brown

Historiographer

Ms. Heather Kirby

Examining Chaplains

The Very Rev. H. Scott Kirby

The Very Rev. Michael Greene

The Rev. Canon Bruce N. Gardner

Liturgy & Worship

The Very Rev. H. Scott Kirby

The Rev. Canon Bruce N. Gardner

The Very Rev. Michael Greene

The Rev. Canon Aaron Zook

Nominating Committee

President of Standing Committee

Vice-President of Executive Council

Diocesan Administrator

Peace & Justice; Anti-racism

The Rev. Michael Newago

The Rev. Peter Augustine

United Thank Offering (UTO)

Ms. Anita Olds

Wisconsin Council of Churches

The Bishop

The Rev. Aaron Zook

Ms. Carla Corbin

18. Advance Reports

Dispatch of Business Called attention to the Advanced Reports with no call for approval.

19. Resolutions of Courtesy

Presented by The Very Rev. H. Scott Kirby

RESOLUTIONS of COURTESY

November 12, 2016

Be it resolved, that the 88th Convention of the Diocese of Eau Claire extend our appreciation to the members and clergy of St. Albans, Superior, Wisconsin whose

singular efforts and diligence provided for the worship and meeting space and dining arrangements for this Convention:

Be it further resolved, that this 88th Convention recognize The Reverend Canon Aaron Zook, and Mr. Robert Weathers whose time and efforts provided the detailed materials dispersed to the delegates of this Convention:

Be it further resolved, that this 88th Convention express our grateful thanks to all those who have served on diocesan committees and commissions and all others who have served the diocese in this past year.

Be it further resolved, that this 88th Convention send our greetings and best wishes to the Rt. Reverend William and Mrs. Jan Wantland, the Rt. Reverend Keith and Mrs. Suzie Whitmore, The Rt. Reverend Edwin and Mrs. Ira Leidel, and to all the retired clergy, spouses, and widows of clergy who have served this diocese.

Be it further resolved, that this 88th Convention send our prayers and greetings to those clergy and delegates who were unable to attend this Convention;

Be it further resolved, that this 88th Convention send greetings to the Most Reverend Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop, and The Reverend Gay Jennings, President of the House of Deputies;

Be it further resolved that this 88th Convention express our thanks to the Reverend Canon Ernie Bennett for his presence and teaching at this convention, and the Reverend Robert Hoekstra for his sermon at the convention Eucharist.

Be it further resolved, that this 88th Convention send our greetings and best wishes to the bishops and people of the Diocese of Fond du Lac and Milwaukee wishing them God's richest blessings in this coming year.

And be it further resolved, that the Bishop Lambert's Pastoral Address to this 88th Convention be published or read in all the congregations of the Diocese of Eau Claire.

Respectfully Submitted by:
The Very Reverend H. Scott Kirby

Dispatch of Business for the 88th Convention of the Diocese of Eau Claire
Dean Emeritus, Christ Church Cathedral

The Resolutions of Courtesy were Unanimously accepted by Voice Vote. So Moved.

20. Invitation to 2017 Convention

2017 Convention invitation extended by The Very Rev. Michael Greene, Dean of Christ Church Cathedral. Date to be determined. 2018 invitation extended by the Very Rev. Scott Kirby on behalf of the people of Grace Church, Rice Lake.

Invitation accepted.

11:21 AM Rt. Rev. Jay Lambert announced the completion of Convention business and asked for a motion to adjourn the 88th Convention of the Diocese of Eau Claire.

Deb Lorenze MOVED to close Convention. Second. Voice Vote. Unanimous. So Moved.

Bishop Adams gave a final blessing and dismissed the 88th Convention of the Diocese of Eau Claire.

The Holy Eucharist followed at 12:00 PM at the Church of St. Alban-the-Martyr, Superior. The Rev. Robert Hoekstra of the Chippewa Manor preached. The Rt. Rev. William Jay Lambert and celebrated and Ven. Jo Glasser served as Deacon. The Offering from the service was given to the Haiti Project.

Following the Eucharist, lunch was served at the Church of St. Alban-the-Martyr, Superior.

**Respectfully Submitted,
The Rev. Canon Aaron Zook
Secretary of the 88th Convention of the Diocese of Eau Claire**

**Minutes Reviewed by:
The Rev. Kathy Charles
The Rt. Rev. William Jay Lambert**