

94th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Eau Claire

Christ Church Cathedral, Eau Claire, Wisconsin

November 12th, 2022

Friday, November 11

4:30-5:45 p.m., Registration and Check-in – Christ Church Cathedral

6:00 p.m., Evening Prayer – Christ Church Cathedral

6:15 - 9:00 p.m., “Sip, Sip, Hooray” Reception – Christ Church Cathedral

Saturday, November 12

8:00 a.m. Registration and Check-in – Christ Church Cathedral

9:00 a.m., Plenary Session, Convention Convenes

1. Call to Order

Convention opened by The Very Rev. H. Scott Kirby, Dispatch of Business. The Rt. Rev. Matthew Alan Gunter, Bishop Provisional of the Diocese of Eau Claire, led Convention with Morning Prayer. Following MP, the Rt. Rev. Matthew Alan Gunter called the 94th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Eau Claire to order. Fr. Kirby reminded the Convention that all voting for the 94th Annual will involve documents that have been disseminated before Convention, made available on the Diocesan Website, and discussed in length at the Pre-Convention Hearings. He further reminded Convention that each vote will be announced verbally and presented visually before each vote.

2. Credentials Committee Report: Cn. Aaron Zook, Convention Secretary. 35 clergy are eligible to vote, 19 present. Laity: 45 deputies are allowed and eligible to vote, there are 38 deputies present. A majority of laity and clergy are present. In a Vote by Orders: Clergy needs a vote of 10 or greater, Laity: 20 or greater. Further, 39 votes denotes a super-majority.

Roll Call:

Clergy Present at Call to Order: Rev. Peter Augustine, Rev. David Bauer, Rev. Jackie Broughton, Rev. Steven Burns, Rev. Catherine Kuschel, Rev. Canon Aaron Zook, Rev. Kathleen Charles, Rev. Phillip Morgan, Rev. Guy Usher, Very Rev. H. Scott Kirby, Ven. Dr. JoAnne Glasser, Rev. Marlene Hogue, Rev. James Lorenze, Rev. Joe McConohy, Rev. Bill Power, Rev. Mary Rezin, Rev. Steven Russell, Rev. Heather Hill, and Rev. Rose Ruthy.

Bishops Present: The Rt. Rev. Matthew Alan Gunter.

Clergy Present with No Vote: The Rev. Canon Scott Leannah (Milwaukee.)

Laity Present at Call to Order: Suzanne Funk , Jim Pelish, Dan Durand, Robin Neilson, Jean Neste, Ron Neste, Carla Corbin, Tim Donahue, Lee Donahue, Lora Stefanski, Roger Grant,

Kathie Kurshinski, Bonita Aude, Erika Gullerud, Petra Anderson, Ben Anderson, Barbara Buswell, Mary Blanchard, Helene Jensen, Garrett Conover, Mary Beth Frank, Liz Archibald, Diane Anders, Martha Brandly, Darrell Sanders, Alice Brown, Carol Morgan, Paul Davidson, Lynda Grece, Phil Grece, Terry Koporetz, Rick Herdrich, Gretchen Herdrich, Linda Georgeson, Ron Davis, Mike Carlson, Elaine Ellenson, Linda Hauert, and Matt Chromey.

Laity Present with No Vote: None.

3. Consent Agenda #1:

MOTION by The Very Rev. Scott Kirby to call a vote for Consent Agenda #1.

Consent Agenda #1: Officers of Convention

Secretary of Convention: The Rev'd Canon Aaron Zook

Dispatch of Business: The Very Rev'd H. Scott Kirby

Parliamentarian: Mr. Jim Pelish

Council of Advice: Secretary, Dispatch, Parliamentarian, The Rev'd Guy Usher,
Mr. Tim Donahue

Voice Voting Results: Unanimous. So moved.

4. Appointment of Assistant Secretary

The Secretary appointed Canon Kathy Charles as Assistant Secretary.

5. Consent Agenda #2:

MOTION by The Very Rev. Scott Kirby to call a vote for Consent Agenda #2.

Consent Agenda #2: 94th Convention Business Documents

Rules of Order

94th Convention Agenda

93rd Convention Minutes

Voice Voting Results: Unanimous. So moved.

6. Bishop Gunter's Address:

Bp. Gunter read the Bishop's Address to the Convention, which was met with several comments of appreciation and agreement. Bp. Gunter noted that despite the realities of the pandemic and our polarized society, Christianity has always been a Faith built on "Pilgrimage." He noted that movement toward our next Calling marks nearly every important moment in the story of scripture, but the travel is never isolated; we always walk beside God in these calls and frequently, almost always, walk beside an enormous Cloud of Witnesses that share our pilgrimage. He further noted that we are on a very specific Pilgrimage now, the entire Church, as we move into an unknown future. Though we may have fear and anxiety about where we are going, we find strength and courage in the knowledge that we are surrounded by those pilgrims that share our journey and

by those whose earthly journey has ended. He called us to persevere as we discern the next steps of our lives and ministry together.

7. Consent Agenda #3:

MOTION by The Very Rev. Scott Kirby to call a vote for Consent Agenda #3.

Consent Agenda #3: Leadership Elections:

General Convention:

4 clergy for three year terms

The Rev'd Dave Bauer 36 Votes - Elected as Deputy

The Rev'd Canon Kathy Charles 45 Votes - Elected as Chair

The Rev'd Dn. Marlene Hogue 29 Votes - Stands as Alternate

The Rev'd Canon Aaron Zook 36 Votes - Elected as Deputy

The Rev'd Guy Usher 33 Votes - Elected as Deputy

The Rev'd Heather Hill 25 Votes - Stands as Alternate

**The Rev'd Benjamin Thomas 24 Votes - Stands as Alternate*

**Fr. Thomas accepts a nomination from the floor made by L. Donahue.*

4 lay persons for three year terms

Mr. Lee Donahue 37 Votes - Elected as Deputy

Ms. Deb Lorenze 46 Votes - Elected as Deputy

Mr. Tim Donahue 40 Votes - Elected as Deputy

Ms. Carla Corbin 20 Votes - Stands as Alternate

Ms. Anna Zook 31 Votes - Elected as Deputy

Mr. Nick Charles 29 Votes - Stands as Alternate

Mr. Greg Parmenter 21 Votes - Stands as Alternate

8. Presentation of 2021 Financial Reports and Acceptance of 2023 Draft Budget:

MOTION by The Very Rev. Scott Kirby to call a vote for the **2022 Financial Reports and 2023 Draft Budget** as presented at the Pre-Convention Hearings.

2022 Financial Reports

2023 Draft Budget

Voice Voting Results: Unanimous. So moved.

+ Introduction of Cn. Scott Leannah:

Bp. Gunter paused Convention to introduce Cn. Scott Leach, Canon to the Ordinary for the Diocese of Milwaukee and member of the Trialogue Steering Committee. Cn. Leannah shared his thanks for the hospitality of Convention and noted his excitement to continue our fruitful discussions related to the potential reunification of the Dioceses in Wisconsin.

9. Presentation of General Convention Resolutions:

The Very Rev. Scott Kirby called the attention of Convention to a video reading of the Resolutions referred to the Diocese by General Convention. Following the video, Bp. Gunter addressed Convention about the Resolutions, particularly discussing Resolution 2022-A0127.

10. Presentation of Lay Licenses By Parish:

The Very Rev. Scott Kirby called for the presentation of Lay Licenses for individuals who have been trained and certified as Lay Readers, Lay Worship Leaders, Eucharistic Ministers, and Eucharistic Visitors over the past year. The licenses were presented by parish to the following congregations:

St.-Alban-the-Martyr, Superior
Church of the Ascension, Hayward
St. Alban's, Spooner
St. Luke's, Springbrook
St. John's, Sparta
The Church of the Chequamegon Bay, Bayfield
St. Paul's, Hudson
Christ Church, La Crosse

+ Brief Adjournment: 10:27 am:

Bp. Gunter called Convention to a brief adjournment for refreshment. The break was called for ten minutes. **Convention reconvened at 10:39 am.**

11. Presentation of "EpiscoWisco" Summer Camp Video

The Very Rev. Scott Kirby called the attention of Convention to a video promoting Camp EpiscoWisco, the shared Episcopal Summer Camp that serves members of all three Dioceses in Wisconsin. The video featured Erin Wolf, the Youth Networker/Camp Coordinator. Following the video, Bp. Gunter addressed Convention about Camp EpiscoWisco and noted the innovative approach to camp with multiple Dioceses supporting the leadership and construction of a unified summer camp experience.

12. Consent Agenda #3:

MOTION by The Very Rev. Scott Kirby to call a vote for Consent Agenda #3.

Consent Agenda #3: Leadership Unopposed Elections & Appointments

Unopposed Elections:

Standing Committee:

1 clergy for three year term

Benjamin Thomas+

1 clergy for three year term

Guy Usher+

1 lay person for three year term

Ms. Diane Bilderback

Executive Council:

1 clergy for three year term

Kathy Charles+

2 lay persons for three year terms

Mr. Ron Hall

Ms. Deb Lorenze

COM:

1 Deacon for two year term

Dn. Steven Russell

1 lay persons for two year term

Ms. Debbie Conover

Secretary:

1 person for 1one year term

Aaron Zook+

Treasurer:

1 person for 1one year term

Bob Weathers

Trustees:

2 people, clergy or lay for two year term

Mr. Tim Donahue

Mr. Garret Conover

Ecclesiastical Disciplinary Board:

2 clergy for three year term

Scott Kirby+

Dn. Bill Power

1 lay person for three year term

Mr. Ron Hall

Leadership Appointments:

Commission on Ministry

Clergy

The Reverend Rose Ruthy

Lay

Dr. Paul Chase

Ms. Mary Ellen Filkins

Ms. Evelyn Usher

Bishop's Council of Advice

President of the Standing Committee

Vice-President of the Executive Council

Camps and Conferences

Ms. Lee Donahue

Chancellor

Mr. James Pelish

Constitutions and Canons/Resolutions

Bishop (ex officio)

Chancellor (ex officio)

The Reverend Guy Usher

The Reverend Canon Aaron Zook

Mr. Bill Smith

Convention Dispatch of Business

The Very Reverend Scott Kirby

Ecumenical Officer

The Reverend Canon Aaron Zook

Episcopal Relief and Development

Ms. Alice Brown

Examining Chaplains

Bishop

The Reverend Canon Bruce Gardner

The Reverend Canon Aaron Zook

The Very Reverend Scott Kirby

Liturgy and Worship

The Reverend Canon Bruce Gardner

The Very Reverend Scott Kirby

The Reverend Canon Aaron Zook

Nominating Committee

President of the Standing Committee
Vice-President of the Executive Council
Canon to the Ordinary

United Thank Offering (UTO)

Ms. Anita Olds

Wisconsin Council of Churches

Bishop

Voice Voting Results: Unanimous. So moved.

13. Triologue Presentation

The Very Rev. Scott Kirby called the attention of Convention to a presentation by Mr. Tim Donahue, member of the Triologue Steering Committee. The presentation included an anticipated timeline for the continuation of discussion and discernment over the following year as well as the presentation of the several Task Forces, made up of individuals from each Diocese, to address specific aspects of reunion. Following the presentation, several questions were posited to convention for reflection in small groups.

Small Group Discussion: At this time, the 94th Convention was broken into Small Groups to discuss the questions presented by Mr. Donahue and the Triologue Steering Committee. The groups were led by “scribes” from each table and met for 20 minutes. Following the small group discussions, Bp. Gunter called Convention back to order and opened the floor for comments, asking each group leader to share highlights of their groups’ discussions.

14. Consent Agenda #4:

MOTION by The Very Rev. Scott Kirby to call a vote for Consent Agenda #4.

Consent Agenda #4: Advance Reports by Title

Annual Committee Reports

Clergy Changes

- *The Reverend Michael McElwee* was installed as Rector of Christ Church La Crosse on February 26th, 2022.
- *The Reverend Canon Tanya Scheff* transferred from the Diocese of Eau Claire to the Diocese of Florida on April 25th, 2022.
- *The Reverend Barbara Manzo* transferred from the Diocese of Eau Claire to the Diocese of Pittsburgh on April 14th, 2022.

- *The Reverend Lennel V Anderson, III* transferred from the Diocese of Southwest Florida to the Diocese of Eau Claire on June 1st, 2022.
- *The Reverend Guy Usher* was installed as Rector of St. Mary's Tomah on June 4th, 2022.
- *The Reverend Michael Gumulauskas* was ordained to the sacred order of Priests at Christ Church Cathedral in the Diocese of Eau Claire on June 11th, 2022.
- *The Reverend Michael McElwee* transferred to the Diocese of Eau Claire from the Diocese of Milwaukee on June 11th, 2022.
- *The Reverend Heather Hill* transferred to the Diocese of Eau Claire from the Diocese of Hawaii on July 1st, 2022.
- *The Reverend Michael Gumulauskas* transferred from the Diocese of Eau Claire to the Diocese of Georgia on July 19th, 2022.
- *The Reverend Benjamin Thomas* transferred from the Diocese of Western Kansas to the Diocese of Eau Claire on August 25th, 2022.
- *The Reverend Heather Hill* was installed as Rector of St. Paul's Hudson on September 24th, 2022.

Necrology

The Right Rev'd Edwin Leidel, Jr.; Bishop Provisional, Diocese of Eau Claire;

Mrs. Edith Louise Koporetz; St. Margaret's, Park Falls; Our Saviour's, Lugerville;

Mrs. Barbara Ann Gaynor; St. Paul's, Hudson;

The Rev'd Canon Sampson Rogers; Diocese of Eau Claire;

Mr. C. T. (Mike) Bundy; Christ Church Cathedral, Eau Claire.

Resolutions of Courtesy

Be it resolved, that the 94th Convention of the Diocese of Eau Claire extend our appreciation to 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 94th Convention express our grateful thanks to all those who have served on diocesan committees and commissions, and the many others who have served the diocese in this past year.

Be it further resolved, that this 94th Convention send our grateful thanks to Ms. Christa Cates and the many others at Christ Church Cathedral for their gracious hospitality and support extended to this 94th Convention.

Be it further resolved, that this 94th Convention send our greetings and best wishes to the Rt. Reverend William Wantland, the Rt. Reverend Keith and Mrs. Suzie Whitmore, Mrs. Ira Leidel, and to all the retired clergy, spouses, and widows of clergy who have served this diocese, but were unable to attend.

Be it further resolved, that this 94th Convention send greetings to the Most Reverend Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop, and the President of the House of Deputies.

Be it further resolved, that this 94th Convention send greetings to the bishops and people of the Dioceses of Fond du Lac and Milwaukee wishing them God's richest blessings in this coming year.

And be it further resolved, that Bishop Gunter's Pastoral Address to this 94th Convention be published or read in all congregations of the Diocese of Eau Claire.

Respectfully Submitted by,

The Very Reverend H. Scott Kirby

Dispatch of Business for the 94th Convention of the Diocese of Eau Claire
Dean Emeritus, Christ Church Cathedral

Voice Voting Results: Unanimous. So moved.

15. Invitation to 2023 Convention:

2023 Convention invitation extended by Ms. Carla Corbin of Christ Church, La Crosse. Date to be determined. The Rev'd Heather Hill extended an offer for St. Paul's Hudson to host the 2024 Convention. Date to be determined.

Invitation accepted.

13. Convention Adjourns:

11:30 a.m. The Very Rev. H. Scott Kirby announced the completion of Convention business and asked for a motion to adjourn the 94th Convention of the Diocese of Eau Claire.

Mr. Tim Donahue MOVED to close Convention. Mr. Garret Conover Second. So Moved.

The Rt. Rev. Matthew Alan Gunter gave the Convention and the Diocese a final Blessing and dismissed the 94th Convention of the Diocese of Eau Claire. Convention Eucharist Followed the close of Convention.

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