

185th Convention
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MISSOURI
The Double Tree Hotel, Chesterfield, MO
November 15-16, 2024

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2024

Plenary Session I

Call to Order – Bishop Johnson

Having been informed of a quorum present, the Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson called the first Plenary Session of the 185th Convention of the Diocese of Missouri to order at 10:02 A.M. with an opening prayer and words of welcome.

Reminder to Register – Bishop Johnson

Bishop Johnson reminded any Clergy and Lay Delegates present who did not sign in at the Registration Desk to do so as soon as possible in order to receive their voting materials, as there would be voting on matters of substance that morning. He also instructed those addressing the Meeting of Convention, when stepping up to a microphone, to first state their name and their congregation's name and city.

Appointment of a Secretary – Bishop Johnson

Bishop Johnson appointed Ms. Betty Bowersox, a member of Grace Church, Kirkwood, as the Secretary of Convention, and Ms. Susan Rehkopf as Assistant Secretary and Secretary Pro Tem during any period of the Secretary's absence from the proceedings. The Bishop instructed that written copies of all addresses, reports, resolutions, and amendments presented either from the podium or from the floor of Convention be given to the Secretary of Convention by hand and via electronic mail at the communications email address provided.

Appointment of a Parliamentary Advisor to the Presiding Officer – Bishop Johnson

Bishop Johnson appointed Mr. Harold R. Burroughs, Chancellor of the Diocese, as Parliamentary Advisor to the Presiding Officer.

Report of the Committee on Lay Credentials and Admission of New Parishes – Secretary Bowersox

Secretary Bowersox moved to grant seat and voice to the Rt. Rev. Michael Bruce Curry, 27th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church.

The motion was seconded and with no discussion offered, it was approved unanimously.

Adoption of the Rules of Order – Secretary Bowersox

Secretary Bowersox moved the adoption of the Rules of Order as posted on the Convention website as the Rules of Order for the 185th Convention.

The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Report of the Committee on Dispatch of Business – Chancellor Burroughs

Chancellor Burroughs moved that the Convention Schedule, as proposed by the Dispatch of Business Committee and posted on the Convention website and made available via the Convention App, be adopted as the 185th Convention's Order of Business.

The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Welcoming Message from Trinity Episcopal Church, St. Charles

The Bishop recognized the Rev. Tamsen Whistler, Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in St. Charles, hosts for the 185th Convention, who warmly welcomed the Convention delegates, alternates, and guests.

Recognition of the 185th Convention Committees – Bishop Johnson

The Bishop recognized those individuals appointed last year to the Committees serving the 185th Convention.

Lay Credentials and Admission of New Parishes

- Ms. Betty Bowersox, Chair
- Mr. Harold R. Burroughs

Dispatch of Business

- Mr. Harold R. Burroughs, Chair
- Ms. Betty Bowersox
- The Rev. Canon Doris Westfall, *ex officio*

Constitution and Canons

- The Hon. Jean C. Hamilton, Chair
- Mr. Harold R. Burroughs
- Mr. Joe Adams
- The Rev. Josh Huber
- Mr. Jay Kloecker
- The Rev. Susan Skinner
- Dr. Jamieson Spencer
- Ms. Susan Rehkopf, *ex officio*
- The Rev. Canon Doris Westfall, *ex officio*

Resolutions

- Dr. Michael Booker, Chair
- Mr. Michael Fowlkes
- Ms. Betty Bowersox
- The Rev. Earl Mahan
- The Rev. Jessica Wachter

Introduction of New Clergy and Clergy in New Cures and Acknowledgement of Clergy Who Have Died – Bishop Johnson

- The Rev. Deacon Justin Martin was ordained to the Diaconate on December 9, 2023 and is serving with Christ Church Cathedral.
- The Rev. Aaron Rogers was ordained to the Priesthood on December 9, 2023 and is serving with the Diocese of Missouri and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Ferguson
- The Rev. Deacon Bethann Rohlfing was ordained to the Diaconate on December 9, 2023 and is serving with St. John's, St. Louis.
- The Rev. Jared Moore was ordained to the Priesthood on June 1, 2024 and is serving with Hope Episcopal Church, Town & Country.

- The Rev. Valerie Patton was ordained to the Diaconate on June 1, 2024 and is serving with The Church of All Saints and Ascension, Northwoods.
- The Rev. Parker Williams was ordained to the Transitional Diaconate on June 1, 2024
- The Rev. Zachary Rugenstone was ordained to the Priesthood on August 28, 2024 and is serving with St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Ladue.

New to the Diocese

- The Rev. Dr. Lisa Corry is now canonically resident in the Diocese of Missouri and is serving with Grace Episcopal Church, Kirkwood.
- The Rev. Deacon Diana Wheeler is now canonically resident in the Diocese of Missouri.

New Cures (in the Diocese of Missouri)

- The Rev. Carrol Davenport is now serving with Trinity Episcopal Church, Kirksville.
- The Rev. Dr. Maria Evans ended her service with Trinity Episcopal Church, Hannibal and is now serving with Trinity Episcopal Church, Kirksville.
- The Rev. Deacon Loretta Go ended her service with both St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Ellisville and Church of All Saints and Ascension, Northwoods and is now serving with St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Ferguson and as the Bishop's Chaplain.
- The Rev. Jeff Goldone ended his service with Christ Episcopal Church, Cape Girardeau and is now serving with Trinity Episcopal Church, St. Louis.
- The Rev. Earl Mahan ended his service with Hope Episcopal Church, Town & Country and is now serving with Church of the Holy Communion, University City.
- The Rev. Ryan Missel ended his service with Johns Hopkins and is now serving with Christ Episcopal Church, Cape Girardeau.
- The Rev. Deacon Susan Naylor ended her service with Christ Church Cathedral and is now serving with St. Barnabus' Episcopal Church in Florissant.
- The Rev. Susan Nanny is now serving with Trinity Episcopal Church, Hannibal.
- The Rev. Schelly Reid-Levy is now canonically resident in the Diocese of Missouri and is serving with Church of St. John & St. James, Sullivan.

New Cures (out of the Diocese of Missouri)

- The Rev. Garron Daniels ended his service with St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Creve Coeur and is now canonically resident in the Diocese of Springfield.
- The Rev. Amy Fallon ended her service with Trinity Episcopal Church, Kirksville and is canonically resident in in the Diocese of Colorado.
- The Rev. Deacon Rebecca S. Barger is now canonically resident in the Diocese of Ohio
- The Rev. Annette Joseph is now canonically resident in the Diocese of Maine.

Other Transitions

- The Rev. Mtipe Koggani ended his service with Christ Church Cathedral and is now fully with Grace African Christian Connection.
- The Rev. Dr. Mary Korte ended her service with Trinity Episcopal Church, St. Louis.
- The Rev. Deacon Angela Ferree ended her service with Hope Episcopal Church, Town & Country.

Retirements

- The Rev. Lindy Cornelius Hardwick (October 2024)
- The Rev. Dr. Mary Korte (October 2024)

Clergy Who Have Died

- The Rev. Kenneth Yerkes (December 2023)
- The Rev. Nathaniel Pyron (July 2024)

Convention paused for a moment of prayer – Bishop Johnson

Nomination and election of a Trustee for the University of the South – Bishop Johnson

A motion was made nominating The Rev. Canon Doris Westfall, Canon to the Ordinary of the Diocese of MO, as a Trustee for the University of the South, to serve a three-year term which expires with the 188th Convention.

The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Other Trustees

- Jack Laules (Term expires with the 186th Convention)
- Chris Sturgeon (Term expires with the 187th Convention)
- The Rt. Rev. Deon Johnson, *ex officio*

Report of the Committee on Nominations and Election Procedure: Introduction of Candidates – The Rev. Tamsen Whistler

The following individuals were nominated by the Committee on Nominations and Election Procedure:

Cathedral Chapter (1 lay member from outside St. Louis City or County and 1 clergy member from inside St. Louis City or County, for 3-year term terms)

Lay

- Ms. Darlene Hillier-Kaczkofsky, Calvary, Columbia

Clergy

- The Rev. Deacon Bethann Rohlfing, St. John's, Tower Grove (St. Louis)

Diocesan Council (2 lay members for 3-year term)

- Mr. Tim Anderson, Holy Communion, University City
- Ms. Ruth Ezell, The Church of St. Michael & St. George, Clayton
- Ms. Elizabeth Hines, Holy Communion, University City
- Mr. Earl Naylor, Christ Church Cathedral, St. Louis

Disciplinary Board (3 clergy for 3-year term)

- The Rev. Jerre Birdsong, Emmanuel, Webster Groves and St Mark's, St. Louis
- The Rev. William Nesbit, Grace, Jefferson City

Standing Committee (2 clergy and 1 lay for 4-year terms)

Clergy

- The Rev. Jeffrey Goldone, Trinity, Central West End, St. Louis
- The Rev. Deacon Justin Martin, Christ Church Cathedral, St. Louis
- The Rev. Heather M. McCain, Calvary, Columbia

Lay

- Mr. James Ammon, St. Paul's, Carondelet
- Ms. Tammy O'Donnell, Trinity, Central West End, St. Louis

Bishop Johnson reported that the following nomination had been received by petition with the appropriate supporting documentation and as such would be added to the ballot:

Disciplinary Board:

- The Rev. Peter Speropulos, The Church of St. Michael & St. George, Clayton

Report from the Gathering Space Feasibility Task Force – The Rev. Kevin McGrane and Ms. Betty Bowersox

The report summarized the three-year journey and work of this task force, their conclusions, and their recommendations. The consensus is that there is a desire and readiness on the part of the Diocese to have a gathering space, and a willingness to show up. While there is no perfect candidate for a centralized facility in the Diocese to partner with as a shared gathering space, the task force recommends partnering with the UCC's Camp MoVal in Union, MO for long term camp facilities and explore building our own adult retreat center (which possibly could be on current Camp MoVal land if they'd be willing to sell some.) A recommendation was also offered to sunset the Gathering Space Feasibility Task Force, with the leadership of the diocese moving forward to decide on next steps.

Report from Diocesan Council and New Ventures for Community Ministries Grants – Ms. Joyce La Fontain, Vice President

Joyce La Fontain referenced their Annual Report to fully review the work and achievements of Diocesan Council, which conducts the work of Convention when Convention is not in session, including development and oversight of the budget and interpretation of the diocese's policies. Exercising Christ's compassion and Christ's concern for the safety of his flock, during the past year Council reviewed the New Letter of Covenant and Agreement for conditional attendance for congregations to implement should a Registered sex offender desire to become a member of a given congregation.

She also announced the twelve grants for New Ventures for Community Ministries that have been awarded through the Diocesan Outreach Endowment Fund by the Council for 2025:

- Calvary Episcopal Church, Columbia: Brews & Hymns, bringing the members together in vocal and spiritual harmony.
- Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Webster Groves: Light to the Nations - to attend to the needs of the parish's International students at Webster University and St. Louis University.
- Episcopal City Mission: Words of Wisdom Talk Cafes, serving the spiritual and mental wellness needs of youth in custody at the STL City Detention Center.
- Grace African Christian Connections, St. Louis: GACC Food Ministry, geared toward international students attending Washington University, St. Louis University, Webster University and the University of Missouri, St. Louis.
- Holy Communion, University City: Congregational Sensory Room, creating a nourishing space for the congregation's neurodiverse members.
- Faith Christian Church of India, Ballwin: Life Coaching to Drive, to assist community members in obtaining greater independence by learning to drive and obtaining a driver's license.

- St. John's Tower Grove: Youth Group Support, to bring folks from the area together in fellowship and formation.
- St. Stephen's and the Vine, Ferguson: Music on the Vine – facilitate music lessons for neighbors.
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Carondelet: The Kickback at St. Paul's, to provide after school programming and a safe place to gather for area school kids.
- The Happening: The Happening – helping to support a missional community to facilitate services for spiritual, but not necessarily religious, Christian youth and young adults.
- Trinity, Kirksville: Creating Community, to help combat loneliness by hosting community meals.
- Trinity, Hannibal: Back Alley Car Care, inviting neighbors to tune up their cars and gather over shared automotive interests.

Diocesan Rule of Life -Third Order of the Society of St. Francis – Ms. Adrienne Dillon, All Saints & Ascension and Third Order of the Society of St. Francis

Adrienne Dillon gave a presentation regarding a Diocesan Rule of Life, a means by which parishes and members of each parish may participate in the Mission of the Diocese. The committee charged by the Bishop to develop a rule of life for the diocese is represented by five religious orders that are active in our diocese: Anamchara Fellowship, Anglican Order of Preachers (Dominican), Rivendell Community, Order of Saint Francis, and Third Order, Society of Saint Francis. This presentation focused on what a Rule of Life is – a commitment to routines and actions that deepen our discipleship. Individual parishes will be hearing from members of this committee beginning in early 2025.

Healing in the Heartland – The Rev. Aaron Rogers

Bishop Johnson introduced a video of the Rev. Aaron Rogers who summarized a March 16th diocesan event attended in person by nearly 200 people and another 30+ via livestream, designed to begin a discussion of how we, as Christians, can begin to heal the many divides in our society today.

The people gathered at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Creve Coeur, MO, for this one-day event. They began with a celebration of the Holy Eucharist, which included readings in English, Swahili, Kiswahili, Tamil, and Chinese (some of the languages spoken in our diocese). The worship service also included healing ministers who were available for laying on of hands and special prayers. The Rev. Nontombi Naomi Tutu, daughter of the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, served as the preacher and the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's office presided at the eucharist.

Following the worship service, four guest speakers shared stories related to the topic of division and healing and after sharing their individual stories, they came together for a panel discussion led by Bishop Johnson. The speakers and their topic were as follows:

- **The Rev. Naomi Tutu** - Episcopal priest, activist, and daughter of the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa. *"Love is more than just saying I love you. It's about showing God's love in the world."*
- **The Rev. Traci Blackmon** - Ordained UCC minister in St. Louis who became a well-known activist following the murder of Michael Brown in Ferguson 10 years ago. *"There are stories we have not fully told. Seeing the truth is the beginning of healing."*
- **The Rev. John (Jack) Danforth** - Episcopal priest, former Missouri Attorney General, U.S. Senator, and U.N. Ambassador, and author of several books. *"This is a time for empathy. This is the time for building bridges."*

- **The Rev. Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas** - Episcopal priest and the Interim President of the Episcopal Divinity School. *"Don't withhold from another that which you would not withhold from yourself."*

A break was called at 10:48 until 11:00. The session continued at 11:07.

Grace African Christians Connection – The Rev. Mtipe Koggani (video)

Bishop Johnson directed attention to the video screens for a presentation regarding Grace African Christians Connection. Worship continues to grow. Among other things, they have offered scholarships for students to help cover the cost of books, etc.

Presentation of 2025 Diocesan Budget – Mr. Al Ludwig, Emmanuel, Webster Groves

Al Ludwig, Treasurer of the Diocese of Missouri, stated that we've again been fortunate to see the market remain fundamentally stable. We have benefited from the continued positive trend in the market, as well as the steady hands of the many stewards who oversee our resources, especially Assistant Treasurer of the Diocese and CPA Elizabeth Yount, and those from the diocesan staff. We were reminded how the activities of the Diocese are funded, and the various sources of that funding on which the Diocese relies. He spoke of the benefit we've had from trusts established in the 1940's and 50's that provide substantial Diocesan investment assets, for which we are grateful for and continue to care for, and went on to explain about these trusts in more detail. Mr. Ludwig presented the 2025 General Operating (balanced) Budget which, after having undergone multiple levels of review and input from across the Diocese as defined in Canon 3.7 and that started in July, will be voted on tomorrow. Agreement is that we are on the right path.

Report of the General Convention Deputation – Ms. Betty Bowersox and the Very Rev. Kathie Adams-Shepherd, Co-Chairs.

On behalf of the Diocese of Missouri Deputation, the Very Rev. Kathie Adams-Shepherd and Betty Bowersox reported on the 81st General Convention of the Episcopal Church, held in Louisville, KY June 22-28, 2024. Please see their ministry report not only for their experiences at, and the details of, the 81st General Convention, but to also get an idea of the expectations for a GC Deputy, as elections for Deputies for the 2027 82nd General Convention will be held in November 2025.

Summaries of the following Resolutions proposed at GC81 that alter the Book of Common Prayer or the Constitution of TEC were read, with the location of the full text on the Diocese of Missouri's website identified.

- A043 Amend Constitution Article VIII regarding Clergy in Local Ecumenical Partnerships
- A116 Marriage Rites for Inclusion in the Book of Common Prayer
- A224 Amend Article X with clarifying amendments (post 2024-A072)
- D049 Increase by one the possible number of bishops suffragans in a Diocese

Jubilee Ministry – The Rev. Deacon Barbi Click, Missioner for Jubilee Ministries

The Rev. Deacon Barbi Click spoke about the Just Food Truck, an idea that began in 2021, came to fruition in late 2023, and achieved successful deployment in March 2024. She states that it is a Joy-filled and Life-giving ministry, one that provides free hot & cold food and beverages, prayer, and the dignity of making choices. Over 1000 people have been served. This is a mutual-ministry of the diocese; the time, talent and treasure of many make it successful, and they can always use more help.

Report of the Standing Committee – The Rev. Sally S. Weaver

The Rev. Sally Weaver made the Annual Report on the work of the Standing Committee during the past year, referring to the Standing Committee Ministry Report for all the details. Those on this committee of twelve, six ordained and six laity, serve as the Bishop's council of advice. They approve ordinations, concur (or not) with Bishop elections, and review parish bylaw changes and contracts/property agreements. Standing Committee also has purview over the spending policy for grants from the Kelvin White Trust Fund. The Rev. Weaver described other duties and responsibilities of the Standing Committee.

Report of the Bishop Kemper School for Ministry (BKSM) – The Very Rev. Casey Rohleder

The Very Rev. Casey Rohleder, Interim Assisting Dean for Formation and Pastoral Care at BKSM, provided an update on that ministry and partnership. The Diocese of Missouri is one of six dioceses that share this ministry. BKSM's tagline is "Theological Education for all People." They offer programs of study for those who seek to become Priests, Deacons or lay leaders and also offer very affordable courses for personal enrichment. Dean Rohleder was excited about and grateful for the impact our diocese has had in BKSM in just two years of participation in the partnership.

First Report of the Resolutions Committee – Mr. Michael Fowlkes, Member of the Resolutions Committee

Mike Fowlkes presented the following courtesy resolutions recognizing clergy anniversaries in the Diocese of Missouri.

Richard Baker

WHEREAS the Rev. Richard Baker earned his MDiv in 1964 and has served as Rector in numerous parishes in the Diocese of Missouri, and

WHEREAS Rev. Baker served as a Sub-Dean at Christ Church Cathedral from 1989-1991, and

WHEREAS Rev. Baker, from 1995 to 2006, held the position of Interim Rector at The Church of the Transfiguration, St. Martin's, Holy Communion, and Good Shepherd parishes,

BE IT RESOLVED that this 185th Convention of the Diocese of Missouri extends its prayers and thanksgiving for Richard's ministry as he celebrates 60 years of ordained ministry.

C. Richard Cadigan

WHEREAS the Rev. C. Richard Cadigan was ordained Transitional Deacon on June 20, 1962, by the Rt. Rev. Robert Hatch in the Diocese of Western Massachusetts, and Priest on December 15, 1962, by the Rt. Rev. George Cadigan, his uncle, in the Diocese of Missouri;

WHEREAS Richard served as Associate Priest at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Webster, from 1966 through 1967; and

WHEREAS Richard went on to serve the church in settings ranging from schools to parishes, in South Africa, Connecticut, and Texas;

BE IT RESOLVED that this 183rd Convention of the Diocese of Missouri extends its prayers and thanksgiving for Richard's ministry as he celebrates 62 years of ordained ministry. He has thus achieved the distinction of being canonically resident in the Diocese of Missouri longer than any other clergy person.

For recognition of a special church anniversary in the Diocese of Missouri:

Grace Church (Jefferson City)

WHEREAS Grace Church (Jefferson City), began as a mission in 1836, where worship services were held in the Cole County Courthouse, and

WHEREAS in 1840 that mission became the parish Grace Church and within two years, their very first church building was constructed, and

WHEREAS Grace Church served as a hospital during both the cholera epidemic of the mid-1850s and again during the Civil War, and

WHEREAS Grace Church was a leader in the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and 1960s in mid-Missouri,

BE IT RESOLVED that this 185th Convention of the Diocese of Missouri extends congratulations to Grace Church (Jefferson City) on its 185th anniversary and looks forward to celebrating its many ministries, well into the future.

Following a second, these resolutions were approved with applause.

Announcements – Chancellor Burroughs

Announcements were given by the Chancellor, including that seating for lunch would be by Convocation so that they could each hold a meeting, and that a Budget Hearing and Open Resolution Committees meetings would follow lunch, prior to the start of the second plenary session.

Close of Plenary Session I – Bishop Johnson

Bishop Johnson led the Convention in singing the Doxology as the blessing before lunch, then concluded the first Plenary Session of the 185th Meeting of Convention at 12:04 P.M., announcing that Convention would stand in recess until 2:30 in the afternoon.

Working Lunch by Convocation

Plenary Session II

Call to Order – Bishop Johnson

Having been informed of a quorum present, the Rt. Rev. Deon Johnson called the second Plenary Session of the 185th Convention of the Diocese of Missouri to order at 2:32 P.M. Before beginning reports, Bishop Johnson directed people to the screens to watch the new Episcopal Diocese of Missouri Welcome Video.

Report from the Diocesan Mission for Gun Violence Prevention Advocacy – Mr. Jeff Wunrow (sub-missioner for Advocacy), Trinity Church, St. Louis

The Diocese of Missouri's Ministry of Gun Violence Prevention seeks to equip members of the Diocese to advocate for policies that promote gun safety on the local and state level while offering opportunities for formation and education on the impact of gun violence on communities. The challenges tend to be overcoming the idea that this is merely a political problem. While policy is a part of what this ministry strives to change, every member of the Diocese is encouraged to reflect upon what they are doing to "beat swords into plowshares" and promote Christ's message of non-violence. Prayer and education walk hand-in-hand with voting, especially in an election year. This year's actions included: an Ecumenical Service of Lament held at Trinity Episcopal in the City; the BeSMART presentation given to 19 parishes in the Diocese, educating members in safe storage practices to protect children from guns; members at 14 parishes sent letters to the Speaker of the Missouri House and President of the Missouri Senate regarding gun-safety legislation; promotional and liturgical materials were provided to parishes in support of a diocesan-wide "Wear Orange" Sunday, recognizing victims of gun violence; recruiting members at 19 parishes to serve as representatives to the Gun Violence Prevention Mission Team; and developing informational and educational materials in a "Vote Faithfully" effort. This group often teams up with the Episcopal Diocese of Western MO when issues affect the State of Missouri.

Faith Christian Church of India - The Rev. Clive Samson

Bishop Johnson directed attention to the video screens for a video report from the Faith Christian Church of India. This faith community is in its seventh year and continues its growth and outreach.

Second Report of Resolutions Committee – Dr. Michael Booker, St. Francis' Church, Eureka and Chair of the Resolutions Committee

Dr. Michael Booker presented the following courtesy resolutions honoring former bishops of the Diocese of Missouri.

The Rt. Rev. Hays H. Rockwell

WHEREAS the Diocese of Missouri has been led by dedicated and faithful bishops; and

WHEREAS the Rt. Rev. Hays Hamilton Rockwell was elected Bishop Coadjutor in 1990 and became the 9th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri in 1992, retiring in 2002, and

WHEREAS during Bishop Rockwell's service in Missouri the Episcopal School for Ministry was established to provide formation for congregational leaders,

BE IT RESOLVED that this 185th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri sends warm greetings and well wishes to the Rt. Rev. Hays and Linda Rockwell, wishing them continued health and happiness in retirement.

The Rt. Rev. George Wayne Smith

WHEREAS the Rt. Rev. George Wayne Smith served as the 10th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri from 2002 until his retirement in June 2020, and

WHEREAS Bishop Smith supported the growth of the Community of Deacons within the Diocese during his years in the Diocese of Missouri, and

WHEREAS when beginning service as an assisting bishop in Dallas in 2019, the local Bishop described Bishop Smith as “a person of humor, intelligence, wisdom and faith”, and

WHEREAS after retirement The Rt. Rev. George Wayne Smith served as the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio’s Bishop Provisional from 2021 to 2024,

BE IT RESOLVED that this 185th Convention of the Diocese of Missouri sends its warm greetings to the Rt. Rev. Wayne and Debbie Smith and gives thanks for their generous, gracious, and continuing service to the people of The Episcopal Church.

Sending greetings to the newly installed Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church.

The Most Rev. Sean Rowe

WHEREAS the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church met in June of 2024 and prayerfully considered who might be called by God to serve as the 28th Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church; and

WHEREAS the House of Bishops elected and the House of Deputies concurred the election of the Most Rev. Sean Rowe; and

WHEREAS he was the youngest Episcopal priest in the U.S. when he was ordained in 2000 at age 24, and he was the youngest member of the House of Bishops when he was ordained and consecrated at age 32; and

WHEREAS he enters this sacred role in a time of challenge, transition, and opportunity for The Episcopal Church;

BE IT RESOLVED that this 185th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri sends warm greetings and well wishes to the Most Rev. Sean Rowe, his wife Carly, and their daughter Lauren, wishing them all God’s grace and blessings.

Following a second, these resolutions were approved with applause.

Announcements – Chancellor Burroughs

Announcements by the Chancellor included that tomorrow’s morning prayer at 9:00 was NOT optional, and that our Keynote speaker after dinner would be the Rt. Rev. Michael Bruce Curry, 27th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church.

Close of Plenary Session II – Bishop Johnson

Bishop Johnson announced that the Convention Eucharist would begin at 4:00 with dinner and evening activities starting at 6:30. He directed attention to the screens for a video regarding the Ferguson Uprising before concluding the Second Plenary Session of the 185th Meeting of Convention at 2:54 PM, announcing that Convention would stand in recess until 9:30 A.M. on Saturday, November 16, 2024.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2024

Plenary Session III

Call to Order – Bishop Johnson

Having been informed of a quorum present, the Rt. Rev. Deon Johnson called the third Plenary Session of the 185th Convention of the Diocese of Missouri to order at 9:15 A.M.

Explanation of the Single Transferable Vote Balloting System - The Rev. Tamsen Whistler

The Rev. Tamsen Whistler, Chair of the Committee on Nominations and Election Procedures, introduced a video explaining Single Transferable Vote balloting and the instructions on the use of the electronic balloting system.

Balloting for Members of Cathedral Chapter, Diocesan Council, Disciplinary Board, and Standing Committee.

Time was allowed for the elections by preferential ballot with voting members voting as one body.

Young Adult Ministry - The Rev. Aaron Rogers

Trying to answer the question of how to connect Young Adults (YAs) to Church, the Rev. Aaron Rogers said to make them partners in Mission. They are not the church of the future, they are the Church of today, right now. Sustainable YA ministry is less about programming, it's about developing disciples who can engage the world around them alongside the faith of others. The Rev. Rogers then provided examples and events that demonstrated these partners in mission, collaborating with other parts of the diocese to make wonderful things happen. One example was the Office of Young Adult Ministry, in collaboration with the Diocesan Dismantling Racism Commission, bringing famed author Cole Arthur Riley into town for a discussion about emerging spirituality and to sign her recent books. Another was the launch of "The Happening," a new alternative worship experience for YAs; it makes spirituality accessible for YAs that might need an onramp to spiritual life. The Rev. Rogers also encouraged our congregations to invest in those that do YA ministry in our church, most of whom are not paid and not ordained – they are usually just Young Adult ministry practitioners themselves, interested in gathering other YAs together.

Deaconess Anne House (DAH) has a new Advisory Council, and they are discussing shifts that will provide a model that expands its ministry beyond the St. Louis metro area in hopes of creating a truly diocesan-wide ministry. A special development team has also been structured to design the next iteration of the Deaconess Anne House Ministry. More will be presented at the next Convention, when they expect to be able to announce the re-launch of the DAH.

Campus Ministry at Rockwell House - The Rev. Hope Jernagan

The Rev. Hope Wells Jernagan is the Chaplain for Rockwell House Episcopal Campus Ministry in St. Louis, and unofficial coordinator of campus ministry across the Diocese. There are many parishes in the Diocese that are involved with, or attempting to get started with, a campus ministry. The tenants of Campus Ministry are the same for all - worship, fellowship, and hospitality, for students who are in transition – constantly. Faith, fun, and food, but it's more than free food. Chaplain Jernagan has been in many school cafeterias where everyone is together, but they are all alone in their own little world. At Rockwell House during a meal the students have put down their phones and are in community: sharing, checking-in with each other, helping problem solve, and praying for one another. They are offered a sanctuary, a community that fights back against times of loneliness. Two students joined Chaplain Jernagan and shared their perspective of campus ministry at Rockwell House.

Chaplain Jernagan also mentioned how important it has been to be funded in good part by the Diocese, so the majority of her time can be spent with the students and not with fund raising. She also noted that campus ministries supported by our diocese are often the only religious groups on campus that are affirming of the LGBTQ+ community, which is deeply important especially for young adults who are away from home for the first time.

Camp Phoenix and Children & Youth Ministry - The Rev. Erin Pickersgill

Bishop Johnson started by requesting that everyone direct their attention to the screens for a video presentation update regarding a good session in July at Camp Phoenix, and other child and youth ministries in the Diocese. The Rev. Erin Pickersgill, Diocesan Ministry Developer for Children and Youth, provided dates, times and location for the inaugural 2025 Camp Firebird experience, asking all parishes to commit to sending at least one child. The Rev Pickersgill shared that she had the amazing privilege to attend the Children's Defense Fund Summit this summer, and provided a quote that is her deep theology when it comes to children and youth: *"The standard of your faith is how you regard children. To receive them is to regard them, to respect them, to correct them, to protect them. They are of the ultimate value in the reign of God."* She says we need children and youth in our churches because we don't know who Jesus is yet unless we have them worshiping alongside of us. She spoke about two other programs; "This Young Church Project", where the Rev. Pickersgill is working with four churches to support their own ministry goals with children and youth, (next year the application process for this will open in May) and "Everyone is called by God", looking with young people at how we are called by God in the church and the wider world to serve our purpose for being on earth, with grounding in the story of the young Samuel, whom God called to in the night.

Latinx Missioner Report – video – The Rev. Dr. Valori Mulvey Sherer

Bishop Johnson directed attention to the video screens for a report on the Hispanic/Latinx Ministry of the Diocese. Relationship-building with our companion Diocese of Puerto Rico has been Dr. Sherer's priority this year. In October 2023 she attended the annual convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Puerto Rico, representing our diocese to them while making many connections and discerning the varied ministries and collaborative opportunities available to us in our companion relationship. She recently attended the Latino Ministry Conference in the Diocese of San Joaquin (CA) led by their Latinx Missioner, which provided practical steps we can take in our Diocese as we plan for a projected steep rise in Latinx population over the next 10 years, a rise we are already seeing happen. Dr. Sherer is now ready to renew her efforts to build a Latinx Ministry Development Team comprised of interested persons from across the Diocese. The Latinx Mission webpage contains ways every church can begin to prepare to welcome our Latinx siblings in Christ including ways to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month, the middle of September to the middle of October each year. Included are menus and suggested Christian formation class information. She also encourages every Sunday presider/officiant to learn to say something in the liturgy in Spanish - the Offertory Sentence, the Peace, a blessing - as a means of extending hospitality to the growing number of Latinx visitors we will begin to see.

Reports Received by Title - Bishop Johnson

Bishop Johnson accepted the following reports by title:

- **81st General Convention Deputation:** Betty Bowersox and the Very Rev. Kathie Adams Shepherd
- **Archivist and registrar:** Susan Rehkopf
- **Bishop Kemper School:** The Venerable Monte Giddings, the Very Rev Casey Rohleder, the Rev. Fran Wheeler
- **Christ Church, Cape Girardeau:** The Rev Ryan Missel and vestry of Christ Episcopal Church, Cape Girardeau
- **Commission on Dismantling Racism:** The Rev Aaron Rogers

- **Commission on Ministry:** The Rev Ann Dieterle
- **Community of Deacons:** The Venerable Harry Leip
- **Companion Diocese Committee:** The Rev, Dr. Deborah Goldfeder
- **Creation Care:** The Rev, Kevin McGrane, Sr.
- **Diocesan Council:** Joyce Lafontain
- **Elizabeth Dyer Convocation:** Kent Miller
- **Emery Washington Convocation:** Adrienne Dillon, TSSF
- **Episcopal City Mission:** Nathan Ivy
- **Episcopal Recovery Ministries:** The Reverend Loretta Go
- **Gathering Space Feasibility Task Force:** Betty Bowersox, The Rev. Kevin McGrane, Sr.
- **Grace Hill Task Force:** The Rev. Deacon Valerie Patton, Clark S. Davis
- **Grace, African Christian Connections:** The Rev Mtipe Koggani
- **Jane Dey Convocation:** Dean Beth Simpson and Warden Darlene Hiller Kachskovsky
- **Journey Church Ministry:** The Rev. Jessica Wachter
- **Jubilee Ministry:** The Rev. Deacon Barbie Click
- **Latinx missionary:** The Rev. Dr. Valori Mulvey Sherer
- **LGBTQIA plus ministry and engagement:** Dwayne Trainer
- **Ministry Developer for Children and Youth:** The Reverend Erin Pickersgill
- **Ministry of Gun Violence Prevention:** The Rev. Megan Ryan, Jeff Wunrow, Janet Hyde
- **Missioner for Racial Reconciliation and Social Justice:** The Reverend Shug Goodlow
- **Province V Executive Board:** Betty Bowersox
- **Public advocacy:** The Rev Dr. Teresa Danieleley and Jeff Wunrow
- **Rockwell House:** The Rev. Hope Jernigan
- **Senior Staff Report:** The Rev. Canon Doris Westfall
- **Sewanee the University of the South**
- **St. Luke's Episcopal Presbyterian Hospitals Mission Impact Report:** Julie Knight, CAP St. Luke's
- **Standing Committee:** The Rev. Sally S. Weaver
- **Task force on Hunger:** Scott Ferguson
- **Trinity Church, Hannibal:** The Rev. Dr. Maria Evans
- **Trinity Church, Kirksville:** The Rev. Dr. Maria Evans
- **Young Adult Ministry Developer Report:** The Rev. Aaron Rogers

Presiding Bishop Installation Roll Call Video – Bishop Johnson

Bishop Johnson directed Convention's attention to the screens for the Diocese of Missouri's 30-second Roll Call video from the Investiture of the Most Rev. Sean Rowe, the 28th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. He thanked interim communications director AhSa-Ti Tyehimba-Ford for putting that video together.

An 11-minute break was called at 10:10. The session continued at 10:26.

Report of the Committee on Constitution and Canons: Consideration of Resolutions K-185 – Mr. Harold R. Burroughs, St. Peter's - Ladue

Mr. Burroughs moved Resolution K-185 for Preliminary Approval (since this is an amendment to the Constitution, it will require a second reading at the next Convention to be Approved).

K-185 – A Resolution to amend Section 1 of Article III.9 of the Constitution of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Missouri - Submitted by the Committee on Constitution and Canons.

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Missouri provides for the election of lay and clergy deputies at the last or next to last meeting of Convention preceding the triennial meeting of General Convention; and

WHEREAS, it is preferable to have such elections at the next to the last meeting of Convention in order for the deputation from this Diocese to be eligible for legislative committees of the General Convention.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Missouri be amended as follows:

SECTION 1. At ~~the last or~~ the next to the last meeting of Convention preceding the triennial meeting of General Convention, Convention shall elect four Clerical and four Lay Deputies, or such other number as General Convention may specify, to represent the Diocese in the next General Convention, together with a like number of Provisional Deputies in each Order. **If for any reason Convention is unable to hold the requisite election for Deputies at the next to the last meeting of Convention preceding a triennial meeting of General Convention, the election for General Convention Deputies and Provisional Deputies in each order shall be held at the last meeting of Convention preceding the triennial meeting of General Convention.**

Rationale

Enables elected Deputies to be eligible for Legislative Committees of the General Convention and preserves flexibility of existing Constitutional provision.

As there was no discussion brought to the floor, Bishop Johnson called for the vote. Resolution K-185 was unanimously passed for preliminary approval.

Resolution L-185 addresses a discrepancy in the use of titles in the re-imagined Convocation structure by changing references in the Constitution and Canons to President and Chair to Dean and Warden. Since it was not provided to Convention for consideration early enough, this resolution may only come to the Convention floor by consent of two-thirds of Convention.

Mr. Burroughs **made a motion** to consider the proposed Resolution L-185 regarding Convocation officer titles.

Hearing no discussion, Bishop Johnson called for a vote and the motion to hear Resolution L-185 was approved unanimously.

Mr. Burroughs moved the adoption of the Canonical portions of Resolution L-185 changes for Approval and the Constitutional portions of the L-185 changes for Preliminary Approval.

L-185 – A Resolution Regarding Convocations - Submitted by the Committee on Constitution and Canons.

WHEREAS, the Bishop, with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, has divided the Diocese into a number of Convocation Districts; and

WHEREAS, in revitalizing the mission and operation of the Convocations, the Bishop and Standing Committee have proposed to supplant the roles previously discharged by the President or Chair of a Convocation by the election of Deans and Wardens of such Convocations; and

WHEREAS, the references in the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese need to be updated accordingly.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this 185th Convention of the Diocese of Missouri amend Article III.6 of the Constitution of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Missouri by amending and restating Section 8 thereof to read as follows:

SECTION 8. No person may serve simultaneously in more than one of the following positions: voting member of the Diocesan Council, voting member of the Standing Committee, or Dean or Warden of a Convocation.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this 185th Convention of the Diocese of Missouri amend Canon III.4 of the Canons of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Missouri by amending and restating Section 3 thereof to read as follows:

Resolutions other than those amending the Constitution or Canons shall be effective until the next meeting of Convention only, unless stated to extend beyond that time. Such resolutions so stated may nonetheless be amended or rescinded at any subsequent meeting of Convention. Promptly following the close of a meeting of Convention, the Diocesan Office shall provide to Diocesan Council, the Standing Committee, the Dean and Warden of each Convocation and all Rectors and Vicars copies of all resolutions adopted by Convention.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this 185th Convention of the Diocese of Missouri amend Canon III.19 of the Canons of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Missouri by amending and restating Section 5 thereof to read as follows:

SEC. 5. The Convocation Deans and Wardens shall meet together regularly between meetings of Convention to coordinate the work of the Convocations.

Rationale: The only edit is to delete references to “President” or “Chair” of a Convocation and replacing such terms with “Dean” or “Warden.” Each Convocation still determines its own structure and elects officers as needed. The terminology in the Constitution and Canons will now match that used by the Bishop and the Standing Committee in re-visioning the Convocation Districts.

Hearing no discussion from the floor, Bishop Johnson called for a vote and Resolution L-185 was unanimously approved for the canon changes and given preliminary approval for the Constitutional changes.

Bishop Johnson thanked the members of the Committee on Constitution and Canons and acknowledged Judge Hamilton’s many years of service as the Chair of that Committee (and expressed appreciation for her continued presence on the Committee). He also thanked Jamie Spencer and Jay Kloecker for their long tenure as well, as they step off the Committee.

Third Report of Resolutions Committee – Dr. Michael Booker, Chair of the Resolutions Committee

Dr. Booker presented Resolution A-185

A-185 CLERGY COMPENSATION - Submitted by Diocesan Council

1. BE IT RESOLVED that this 185th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri set the annual standard base compensation for full-time clergy in 2025 as follows:

CASH SALARY & HOUSING ALLOWANCE TABLE FOR FULL-TIME CLERGY

Years of Service	Average Sunday Attendance		
	Under 75	75-175	176 or greater
0	\$72,100	\$75,341	\$79,037
5	\$75,341	\$79,037	\$82,915
10	\$79,037	\$82,915	\$87,061
15	\$82,915	\$87,061	\$91,414
20	\$87,061	\$91,414	\$95,985
25	\$91,414	\$95,985	\$100,784

* Table outlines a standard base for full-time solo or senior clergy. Full-time associate compensation should follow the left column. This resolution establishes a standard base compensation for clergy. Congregations are urged and invited to compensate clergy beyond the standard. It is understood that under individual circumstances and conditions internal adjustments in the compensation package may be negotiated.

CASH SALARY & HOUSING ALLOWANCE TABLE FOR PART-TIME CLERGY

Years of Service	Part Time		
	1/4 Time	Half Time	3/4 Time
0	\$18,025	\$36,050	\$54,075
5	\$18,835	\$37,670	\$56,506
10	\$19,759	\$39,519	\$59,278
15	\$20,729	\$41,458	\$62,186
20	\$21,765	\$43,530	\$65,296
25	\$22,853	\$45,707	\$68,560

2. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Church Pension Fund assessment will be paid by the congregation;

3. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that \$50,000 group life will be paid by the congregation;

4. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the medical coverage for clergy comply with Diocesan Resolution A-172;

5. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a standard of ten days per calendar year and \$500 will be provided for continuing education;

6. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the standard auto allowance will be \$2,000 per year;

7. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all parishes and missions encourage their full-time clergy to set aside the equivalent of two days each week for personal time, 24 hours of which must be consecutive;

8. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all parishes and missions be strongly encouraged to provide dental insurance for clergy and eligible dependents, or be assured they already have such coverage;

9. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clergy in Charge shall accrue two weeks of sabbatical time for each year of service; and

10. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all parishes and missions be encouraged to reimburse deacons and non-stipendiary clergy for reasonable expenses incurred in connection with continuing education and diocesan clergy retreats, including mileage, professional memberships and publications. (See also requirement in Title III Canon III.2 Sec 4 of the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Missouri) and

11. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all active vocational deacons shall receive compensation from the congregation and/or diocese in an amount sufficient to enable them to participate in programs offered by the Church Pension Fund.

RATIONALE

The recommendation for 2025 reflects a 1.5% increase. Churches are encouraged to approve increases in the range of 1.5-2.0%. The Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index-Midwest Urban Consumers, reflects a Cost-of-Living Increase of 2.7%.

Current Salary Range for Full-Time Solo or Senior Clergy in the Diocese of Missouri

ASA	Low	Median	High	Average	Average Years
0-75	\$40,000	\$77,869	\$92,346	\$74,425	12
76-175	\$96,295	\$108,657	\$113,000	\$106,488	17
176+	\$178,080	\$179,858	\$239,565	\$199,168	35

Diocesan Resolution **A-172, Implementation of Health Plan Submitted by Diocesan Council** (referenced above in **FURTHER RESOLVED #4**) is reprinted here for reference:

1. BE IT RESOLVED that this 172nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri require Congregations within the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri and the Offices of the Bishop to pay 100% of the cost of individual health insurance coverage (selected from the offerings included in the Denominational Health Plan and administered by the Episcopal Church Medical Trust) for all lay and ordained employees working 1,500 or more hours annually, in accordance with Title I, Canon 8 of the Episcopal Church and to be implemented no later than January 1, 2013;

2. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Lay and ordained employees of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri and the Offices of the Bishop eligible for required individual health insurance coverage under Section 1 of this resolution may elect not to participate in the Denominational Health Plan if they have access to coverage through other approved sources, e.g. Medicare, Tricare, a former employer, or a spouse's or domestic partner's health insurance plan;

3. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congregations within the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri and the Offices of the Bishop shall not reduce existing coverage or increase the cost of existing coverage to employees to comply with A177 or this resolution;

4. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that benefit design and premium support parity is required within each congregation of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri and the Offices of the Bishop in the provision of health insurance coverage for lay and ordained employees;

5. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED each congregation and the Offices of the Bishop may impose a monthly premium surcharge or incentive to lay and ordained employees who elect coverage for a spouse, domestic partner, or dependent who is eligible for comparable employer-sponsored health insurance (other than the Denominational Health Plan) through an alternate source;

6. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congregations within the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri and the Offices of the Bishop are encouraged, if financially possible, to exceed the minimum standard of health insurance coverage for their lay and ordained employees; and

7. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that schools, day care facilities and other congregational and diocesan institutions, regardless of the independence of their incorporation or tax status, are encouraged to adopt the principles articulated in this resolution.

Resolution A-185 was moved by Dr. Booker and was seconded and approved unanimously.

Dr. Booker presented Resolution B-185

B-185 Church Pension Fund Benefits for Vocational Deacons – Submitted by The Community of Deacons

WHEREAS, vocational deacons historically have been serving in non-stipendiary (unpaid) roles and are not eligible to participate in the Church Pension Fund and receive its program benefits;

BE IT RESOLVED that this 185th Convention of the Diocese of Missouri declares it will be the policy of this diocese that all active vocational deacons shall be paid an amount sufficient to enable them to participate in programs offered by the Church Pension Fund from the congregation and/or diocese, and

BE IT RESOLVED that eligible deacons may decline the compensation for a variety of reasons (e.g. a theological, situational, or financial - possible impact on other retirement benefits being received).

RATIONALE: Our diocese joins 20+ other Episcopal Dioceses that have approved similar resolutions and also fulfills Resolution A135 (Compensation for Non-stipendiary Clergy) adopted at the 2024 General Convention. This proposed resolution requires congregations and/or the diocese to make a nominal payment of \$25 (or more) a month to their deacon(s), as well as a monthly assessment of 18% (\$4.50 for \$25) to the Church Pension Fund, to enable deacons to participate in the programs and benefits available through the Church Pension Fund. The total financial impact for congregations or the diocese per deacon in 2025, is \$354. However, per the rules of the Church Pension Group, retirement contributions cannot be made for clergy aged 72 years or older. While we recognize this resolution does not put diaconal compensation on par with the other orders of ministry (namely presbyters and the episcopate), it does give deacons access to beneficial Church Pension Fund resources.

Example of CPF Benefits: Outlined below are some of the benefits provided to eligible clergy.

The example shown is based on a cleric having Total Assessable Compensation (TAC) of \$300 per year (\$25 per month), with 10 years of earned Credited Service (CS) at the time of retirement. The assumed Highest Average Compensation (HAC) is \$300 (\$25 a month). The total assessments paid over the cleric's career is \$540.

- While Active, life insurance benefit (6 x TAC): \$1,800
- When Retired, life insurance benefit (6 x HAC): \$1,800
- Annual pension benefit (2.75% x HAC x CS): \$82.50

- Annual Christmas benefit (\$25 x CS): \$250
- Resettlement benefit (one-time payment at the time of retirement equal to 12 times the monthly retirement benefit with a minimum of \$2,000): \$2,000
- Invitation to CREDO and Planning for Wellness Conferences

Vocational Deacons in the Episcopal Church, including the Diocese of Missouri, serve at the behest of their Bishop Diocesan in parishes and diocesan positions usually without remuneration. As the Episcopal Church began to study the compensation between deacons and other clergy, it became clear that this was an issue of fairness and economic justice. In our diocese, we have deacons who give freely of their time - totaling hundreds of hours a month - while being unable to participate in any Clergy Pension Fund services/activities.

This continued sacrificial life, although commendable, does come at a cost when said deacons are without retirement resources, advice, and the means to live into a health ministry/life balance. The Church Pension Fund (CPF) provides resources for paid clergy and lay employees in Episcopal congregations who participate in the CPF pension plan. One of the resources the Church Pension Fund offers is the opportunity to participate in CREDO, a conference that helps active and retired clergy by presenting a holistic approach to wellness for mind, body, spirit, and heart. Participants examine and evaluate their health and wellness from spiritual, vocational, physical, emotional, and financial points of view. The Church Pension Fund also provides pension and retirement savings plans, health benefits, and educational services.

Resolution B-185 was moved by Dr. Booker, was seconded, and approved unanimously.

Dr. Booker presented Resolution C-185.

C-185: Commemoration of Elizabeth Huntington Dyer in the Church Calendar. Submitted by the Diocese of Missouri's GC81 Deputation

BE IT RESOLVED that this 185th Convention of the Diocese of Missouri directs the Secretary of the 187th Convention (in 2026) to forward a copy of this resolution to the Resolutions Committee of Province V for consideration by the next Provincial Synod; and
{expected to be in 2027}

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the 187th Convention of the Diocese of Missouri be directed to assure the following Resolution and Explanation (italicized below) is forwarded to the Resolutions Committee of the 82nd General Convention of The Episcopal Church {incorporating any improvements from the 2027 Provincial Synod if they pass the Resolution};

RESOLVED, the House of _____ concurring,
that the 82nd General Convention of The Episcopal Church hereby directs the inclusion on the Calendar of the Church Year of Elizabeth Huntington Dyer, the first woman to serve as Lay Deputy to General Convention, and authorize for trial use for the triennium 2027-2030 to be observed annually on September 10.

EXPLANATION:

Elizabeth Huntington Dyer was the first woman from any diocese to serve as Lay Deputy to General Convention. At Diocesan Convention in 1946, "Mrs. Randolph Dyer" was elected as lay deputy to represent the Diocese of Missouri at the 55th General Convention of The Episcopal Church in Philadelphia PA that fall (September 10-20, 1946). She presented her credentials to the Secretary of the House of Deputies, but when the House was called to order, question was raised about the meaning and interpretation of the word "layman." The interpretation was

made that the term meant both men and women, and Mrs. Dyer was seated with voice and vote and served as chief of Missouri's lay deputies.

In 1949, Missouri elected and sent Alice Cowdry to the 56th General Convention. Two other dioceses and one missionary district also sent women as lay deputies. This time, Convention chose to pass a resolution 321 to 242, stating that under the Constitution, women were not eligible to serve.

It would be 20 years before the House of Deputies would again include women. In October 1970, when the 63rd General Convention met, the final barrier was removed with final approval of Section 4 of Article I of the Constitution, substituting "lay person" for layman, with the House of Bishops concurring. Twenty-eight women were seated.

Elizabeth Huntington Dyer remains as the first woman to serve as Lay Deputy to the General Convention of The Episcopal Church. (See article Women Delegates: Early Attempts in The Archives of the Episcopal Church, in [Episcopalarchives.org](http://episcopalarchives.org), [Women Delegates: Early Attempts | The Archives of the Episcopal Church \(episcopalarchives.org\)](http://episcopalarchives.org))

Resolution C -184 was moved by Dr. Booker, seconded and unanimously approved.

Dr. Booker presented Resolution D-185

D-185: Practical Guidance for Episcopal-Jewish Relation - Submitted by the Diocese of MO's GC81 Deputation

The following has been forwarded to Dioceses per Resolution 2024-A039 of the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church.

Resolved, That the Diocese of Missouri, its parishes, and other Episcopal communities in the Diocese utilize "[Christian-Jewish Relations: Theological and Practical Guidance for The Episcopal Church](#)", which the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church adopted as a resource, as they develop and maintain healthy and respectful relationships through conversation, collaboration, or other joint service or ministry initiatives with their Jewish neighbors.

Explanation:

General Convention Resolution 2024-A039 Text as **Concurred** (passed by the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops) is as follows:

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church adopt "[Christian-Jewish Relations: Theological and Practical Guidance for The Episcopal Church](#)" as a resource for use by dioceses, parishes, and other Episcopal communities as they develop and maintain healthy and respectful relationships through conversation, collaboration, or other joint service or ministry initiatives with their Jewish neighbors.

Resolution D-185 was moved by Dr. Booker and was seconded and approved unanimously.

Dr. Booker presented Resolution E-185

E-185: Mental Health Awareness Sunday - Submitted by the Diocese of Missouri's GC81 Deputation

The following has been forwarded to Dioceses per Resolution 2024-A079 of the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church.

Resolved, That the Diocese of Missouri designate as Mental Health Awareness Sunday a Sunday close to October 10th, which is World Mental Health Day; and be it further

Resolved, That the common objective is to raise awareness of the impact that stigma has on preventing open dialogue about mental health and mental illness with our families, our Church, and our communities; and be it further

Resolved, That the Diocese of Missouri encourage the education of its clergy and laity on how to support individuals with mental illness and their caregivers; and be it further

Resolved, That the Diocese of Missouri post a reminder through their primary communication channels to encourage participation in Mental Health Awareness Sunday; and be it further

Resolved, That we add our voices and prayers with those around the world seeking care and attention to treat mental illness.

Explanation:

General Convention Resolution 2024-A079 Text as ***Concurred*** (passed by the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops) is as follows:

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention of the Episcopal Church designate as Mental Health Awareness Sunday the Sunday closest to October 10th, which is World Mental Health Day; and be it further

Resolved, That the common objective is to raise awareness of the impact that stigma has on preventing open dialogue about mental health and mental illness with our families, our Church, and our communities; and be it further

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church encourage the education of its clergy and laity on how to support individuals with mental illness and their caregivers; and be it further

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention of the Episcopal Church send this resolution to each Diocese of the Episcopal Church to post a reminder through their primary communication channels to encourage participation in Mental Health Awareness Sunday; and be it further

Resolved, That we add our voices and prayers with those around the world seeking care and attention to treat mental illness.

Resolution E-185 was moved by Dr. Booker and seconded from the floor.

The Rev. Ryan Missel rose to support this Resolution, speaking from his heart that this recognition will be very important, especially for those in the LGBTQIA+ family and community, and those that suffer in isolation.

As there was no further discussion, the Bishop called for the vote. Resolution E-185 passed unanimously.

Dr. Booker presented Resolution F-185

F-185: Join The Communion Forest Initiative - Submitted by the Diocese of Missouri's GC81 Deputation

The following has been forwarded to Dioceses per Resolution 2024-A084 of the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church.

Resolved, That the Diocese of Missouri commends the 81st General Convention's endorsement of the Anglican Consultative Council's Communion Forest resolution, number 5.c., passed at ACC 18 in Ghana in February 2023, the text of which reads:

The Anglican Consultative Council:

1. recognizes that the integrity of creation is under threat and at risk of collapse; and there is urgent need to reduce our carbon footprint and protect biodiversity;
2. affirms the potential of the Communion Forest initiative launched as a legacy of the 2022 Lambeth Conference;
3. invites Churches of the Communion to join in this initiative to be ambitious in using their God-given assets; to weave creation care into the spiritual and liturgical life of the Church; and
4. commends the collaboration of the Anglican Alliance and Anglican Communion Environmental Network, and encourages Churches of the Communion to share with them information about their existing and new activities. And be it further

Resolved, That the Diocese of Missouri and its Congregations and other institutions as well as individual members of The Episcopal Church (TEC) in the Diocese, undertake appropriate projects in support of the Communion Forest initiative, efforts that may include:

Placement of conservation easements on land, forests, wetlands, and waters to protect biodiversity and to prevent additional emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane;

Planting and protection of trees to conserve soil, improve biodiversity, and sequester carbon;

Protect marginal and Indigenous communities from exploitation and displacement arising from resource extraction projects;

Join with other TEC institutions and with other faith communities in these efforts;

And such other efforts to reduce emissions, protect biodiversity, and protect people whose homes, health, and livelihoods may be threatened by unwise resource extraction projects, as may best fit the circumstances.

Explanation:

General Convention Resolution 2024-A084 Text as ***Concurred*** (passed by the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops) is as follows:

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention, endorse the Anglican Consultative Council's Communion Forest resolution, number 5.c., passed at ACC 18 in Ghana in February 2023, the text of which reads:

The Anglican Consultative Council:

- 1. recognizes that the integrity of creation is under threat and at risk of collapse; and there is urgent need to reduce our carbon footprint and protect biodiversity;*
- 2. affirms the potential of the Communion Forest initiative launched as a legacy of the 2022 Lambeth Conference;*
- 3. invites Churches of the Communion to join in this initiative to be ambitious in using their God-given assets; to weave creation care into the spiritual and liturgical life of the Church; and*
- 4. commends the collaboration of the Anglican Alliance and Anglican Communion Environmental Network, and encourages Churches of the Communion to share with them information about their existing and new activities.*

And be it further

Resolved, That General Convention urge its Provinces, Dioceses, Congregations, and other institutions of The Episcopal Church (TEC), as well as members of TEC, to undertake appropriate projects in support of the Communion Forest initiative, efforts that may include:

Placement of conservation easements on land, forests, wetlands, and waters to protect biodiversity and to prevent additional emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane;

Planting and protection of trees to conserve soil, improve biodiversity, and sequester carbon;

Protect marginal and Indigenous communities from exploitation and displacement arising from resource extraction projects;

Join with other TEC institutions and with other faith communities in these efforts;

And such other efforts to reduce emissions, protect biodiversity, and protect people whose homes, health, and livelihoods may be threatened by unwise resource extraction projects, as may best fit the circumstances.

What is the Anglican Communion (<https://www.anglicancommunion.org>)?

The Anglican Communion is one of the world's largest Christian communities. It has tens of millions of members in more than 165 countries around the globe.

Anglicanism is one of the traditions or expressions of Christian faith. Others include Roman Catholicism, Eastern Orthodox, Lutheran, and Baptist.

The Communion is organized into a series of provinces and extra-provincial areas. The provinces are subdivided into dioceses, and the dioceses into parishes.

All of the provinces are guided by recommendations from the four Instruments: the [Archbishop of Canterbury](#), the [Lambeth Conference](#), the [Primates' Meeting](#) and the [Anglican Consultative Council](#).

Anglican Consultative Council (ACC)

The role of the ACC is to facilitate the co-operative work of the [churches of the Anglican Communion](#), exchange information between the provinces and churches, and help to co-ordinate common action. It advises on the organization and structures of the Communion, and seeks to develop common policies with respect to the world mission of the Church, including ecumenical matters.

The ACC has bylaws and a [constitution](#) and through its networks and programs seeks to serve the needs of member churches. There is a chair, vice-chair and standing committee elected by the members. The current chair is Canon Maggie Swinson. The Vice-chair is Archbishop Hosam Naoum of Jerusalem. The Archbishop of Canterbury is the President of the ACC.

The ACC can be seen as the most representative body of gathered Anglicans among the Instruments of Communion. It includes members of the laity, archbishops, bishops, priests, and deacons. Provinces send two or three representatives and select them in different ways. For the first time, at ACC-17, there were youth delegates from the regions.

Meetings are held around the world approximately every three years. The most recent plenary meeting ([ACC-18](#)) was held in Accra, Ghana, in February 2023.

Resolution F -185 was moved by Dr. Booker and seconded.

The Rev. Kevin McGrane, Missioner for Creation Care, spoke about our earth losing its habitat, hourly, and the climate that has been noticeably negatively affected (i.e., so much rain). It is very important to reclaim Habitat, and we can all help— it's as simple as replanting trees. He stated that we should all participate in this program.

With no further discussion, Bishop Johnson called for the vote and the resolution was approved unanimously.

Dr. Booker presented Resolution G-185.

G-185: Commending Safe Gun Storage - Submitted by the Diocese of Missouri's GC81 Deputation

The following has been forwarded to Dioceses per Resolution 2024-B004 of the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church.

Resolved, That the Diocese of Missouri commend safe gun storage practices and support safety counseling that can prevent suicides, homicides, and unintentional gun deaths and firearm injuries; and be it further

Resolved, That the Diocese of Missouri and its congregations be encouraged to distribute to members of their congregations and communities information and materials that promote the safe storage of all firearms; and be it further

Resolved, That the Diocese of Missouri urge federal, state, and local officials to support Ethan's Law and other legislation and policies that would create federal, state, and local incentives and requirements for safe gun storage; and be it further

Resolved, That the Diocese of Missouri urge federal, state, and local officials to support legislation and policies that prevent children from having access to guns and impose penalties on adults who allow unsecured guns to be accessed by children; and be it further

Resolved, That the Diocese of Missouri commend legislation and policies that offer gun owners a secure place to store firearms in times of crisis; and be it further

Resolved, That the Diocese of Missouri, its congregations, and individual Episcopalians be encouraged to advocate for increased education and funding for safe storage practices, legislation, and policies.

Explanation:

General Convention Resolution 2024-B004 Text as ***Concurred*** (passed by the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops) is as follows:

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention commend safe gun storage practices and support lethal means safety counseling that can prevent suicides, homicides, and unintentional gun deaths and firearm injuries; and be it further

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention urge dioceses and congregations to distribute to members of their congregations and communities information and materials that promote the safe storage of all firearms; and be it further

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention urge federal, state, and local officials to support Ethan's Law and other legislation and policies that would create federal, state, and local incentives and requirements for safe gun storage; and be it further

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention urge federal, state, and local officials to support legislation and policies that prevent children's access to guns and impose penalties on adults who allow unsecured guns to be accessed by children; and be it further

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention commend legislation and policies that offer gun owners a secure place to store firearms in times of crisis; and be it further

Resolved, That the Office of Government Relations, Episcopal Public Policy Network, dioceses, congregations, and individual Episcopalians be encouraged to advocate for increased education and funding for safe storage practices, legislation, and policies.

Resolution G-185 was moved by Dr. Booker, was seconded, and approved unanimously.

Dr. Booker presented Resolution H-185.

H-185: End the Practice of Labor Trafficking of Migrant Youth - Submitted by the Diocese of Missouri's GC81 Deputation

The following has been forwarded to Dioceses per Resolution 2024-C035 of the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church.

Resolved, That the Diocese of Missouri call upon all members of the diocese to become informed about the injustices of labor trafficking, particularly how it affects migrant youth; and be it further

Resolved, That the Diocese of Missouri encourage its congregations to engage in educational campaigns that raise awareness about labor trafficking, its signs, and prevention methods; and be it further

Resolved, That the Diocese of Missouri advocate for comprehensive and enforceable policies at local, state, and national levels aimed at eradicating labor trafficking and protecting migrant youth.

Explanation:

General Convention Resolution 2024-C035 Text as was **Concurred** (passed by the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops) is as follows:

Resolved, That this 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church call upon all members of the Church to become informed about the injustices of labor trafficking, particularly how it affects migrant youth; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church encourage its dioceses and congregations to engage in educational campaigns that raise awareness about labor trafficking, its signs, and prevention methods; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church advocate for comprehensive and enforceable policies at local, state, and national levels aimed at eradicating labor trafficking and protecting migrant youth; and be it further

Resolved, That the Office of Government Relations communicate this resolution to the appropriate legislative bodies, urging them to take decisive action against the exploitation of migrant youth.

Resolution H -185 was moved by Dr. Booker and was seconded and approved unanimously.

Dr. Booker presented Resolution I-185.

I-185: Support for the Association for Episcopal Deacons - Submitted by the Diocese of MO's GC81 Deputation

The following has been forwarded to Dioceses per Resolution 2024-D023 of the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church.

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention be commended for celebrating and supporting the ministry of the Association for Episcopal Deacons (AED) which for the past 50 years, has served as the primary network to encourage and grow the diaconate, an order of ministry in The Episcopal Church, and provide resources and guidelines for its continuing development; and be it further

Resolved, That the Diocese of Missouri, their congregations, and any associated seminaries, be encouraged to support the work of AED by becoming members, participating in its conferences and activities, and engaging the work of diakonia (ie, the call to serve the poor and oppressed) in their own contexts; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention looks forward to the day when The Episcopal Church engages more fully in resourcing and supporting the order of the diaconate.

Explanation:

General Convention Resolution 2024-D023 Text as was **Concurred** (passed by the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops) is as follows:

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention celebrate and support the ministry of the Association for Episcopal Deacons (AED) which for the past 50 years, has served as the primary network to encourage and grow the diaconate, an order of ministry in The Episcopal Church, and provide resources and guidelines for its continuing development; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention encourage individuals, congregations, seminaries, dioceses, and jurisdictions to support the work of AED by becoming members, participating in its conferences and activities, and engaging the work of diakonia in their own contexts; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention looks forward to the day when The Episcopal Church engages more fully in resourcing and supporting the order of the diaconate; and be it further

Resolved, That in the meantime, this Convention requests the Executive Council's Joint Standing Committee on Finance to consider a one-time, \$200,000 allocation to the Association for Episcopal Deacons to support the ministry of the over 3,400 deacons in The Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, That this funding also be used for the AED to engage with Executive Council in creating a working group to support the development of a long-term plan for the ongoing support of the diaconate in The Episcopal Church, and to present it to the 82nd General Convention.

Resolution I -185 was moved by Dr. Booker and was seconded and approved unanimously.

Dr. Booker presented Resolution J-185.

J-185: Condemning Censorship - Submitted by the Diocese of Missouri's GC81 Deputation

The following has been forwarded to Dioceses per Resolution 2024-D039 of the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church.

Resolved, That the Diocese of Missouri condemn harmful and oppressive book bans which undermine the Beloved Community; and be it further

Resolved, That the Diocese of Missouri and local parishes be encouraged to work more broadly to support the reading of and access to these affirming materials through initiatives such as:

- storing affirming books and materials in church libraries
- archiving affirming material about LGBTQ+ and POC Christian experiences
- facilitating connection and affirmation of oppressed individuals.

Explanation:

General Convention Resolution 2024-D039 Text as was **Concurred** (passed by the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops) is as follows:

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention condemn harmful and oppressive book bans which undermine the Beloved Community; and be it further

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention direct the Office of Government Relations to advocate for access to material affirming of LGBTQIA+, racial minority, and other marginalized experiences in schools and libraries; and be it further

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention encourage dioceses and local parishes to work more broadly to support the reading of and access to these affirming materials through initiatives such as:

- storing affirming books and materials in church libraries
- archiving affirming material about LGBTQ+ and POC Christian experiences
- facilitating connection and affirmation of oppressed individuals;

and be it further

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention request grant making bodies affiliated with The Episcopal Church to consider directing funds to support these aims.

Resolution J-185 was moved by Dr. Booker and seconded from the floor.

The Rev. Dr. Teresa Danieleley, Diocesan Missioner for Public Advocacy, asked for clarification of this resolution as it relates to Missouri legislation's continual banning of certain books and materials that they feel are offensive /dangerous (i.e., books about our siblings in Christ who are LGBTQIA+, etc.) – If passed, does this mean that ministries in the Diocese can continue to store and lend these materials with the Diocese's permission and support? Bishop Johnson confirmed that yes, and, we do.

The Rev. Leslie Scoopmire spoke in favor of the resolution and noted that her church currently has these books in their library, including many of the books being targeted right now, and they are available for borrowing. She stated that we need to make sure that our young people continue to grow up being exposed to the enhancement and the growth of empathy, which is what the church is about.

As there was no additional discussion, Bishop Johnson called for a vote, and it was approved unanimously.

Fourth Report of the Resolutions Committee – The Rev. Earl Mahan, Interim Pastor, Holy Communion, University City and a member of the Resolutions Committee

The Rev. Earl Mahan presented the following courtesy resolutions honoring the lives of those clergy we have lost in the past year.

The Rev. Kenneth Yerkes

WHEREAS the Rev. Kenneth Yerkes was ordained Transitional Deacon on June 15th, 1985, and Priest on October 8, 1985, by Bishop William Jones; and

WHEREAS Kenneth served as a Chaplain at St. Luke's Hospital and as rector at Trinity Episcopal Church in Kirksville, and also as an interim at four churches in the Diocese of Missouri; and

WHEREAS he retired in 2001; and

WHEREAS he died on December 2, 2023, at the age of 83;

BE IT RESOLVED that the 185th Convention of the Diocese of Missouri gives thanks to God for the life and ministry of Kenneth Yerkes, beloved friend and colleague.

The Rev. Wilson Nathaniel Pyron, Jr.

WHEREAS the Rev. Wilson Nathaniel Pyron Jr was ordained Transitional Deacon on June 25th, 1973, and Priest on March 23, 1974, by Bishop Christoph Keller Jr in the Diocese of Arkansas and after leading several smaller churches in Arkansas was Received into the Diocese of Missouri in September 1996; and

WHEREAS Nathaniel served parishes in Sikeston and Caruthersville before becoming Rector of St. Matthews-Warson Woods in 1999 through 2005, then was Associate/Assistant at Emmanuel-Webster Groves, Church of the Advent-Crestwood, and St. Timothy's-Creve Coeur; and

WHEREAS on July 30, 2024, Nathaniel died at the age of 81;

BE IT RESOLVED that the 185th Convention of the Diocese of Missouri gives thanks to God for the life and ministry of Nathaniel Pyron, beloved friend and colleague.

These resolutions were all seconded and approved by applause, and Bishop Johnson provided a prayer for the souls of the faithful.

Announcements – Chancellor Burroughs

Chancellor Burroughs noted that the hotel checkout was at 11:00 – just a few minutes away.

Close of Plenary Session III – Bishop Johnson

Bishop Johnson noted that since the meeting was running ahead of schedule, that we would take a brief break now for those that needed to check out. He invited people to grab their lunches and bring them back into the meeting room, sitting and eating with our Companion Communities. We will listen to his address and do a few other pieces of business while eating, and then finish the Convention about an hour and a half early. With that, Bishop Johnson put a soft close to Plenary Session III at 11:08 by calling for a break until 11:30.

Plenary Session IV

Call to Order – Bishop Johnson

Having been informed of a quorum present, the Rt. Rev. Deon Johnson reconvened the 185th Convention of the Diocese of Missouri, calling the fourth Plenary Session to order at 11:42 A.M.

Report of the Canon to the Ordinary - The Rev. Canon Doris Westfall

The Rev. Canon Doris Westfall, Canon to the Ordinary, began her report by saying that 2024 has been a year of excitement and change for the clergy and people of the Diocese. She recapped some notable events; welcoming three new clergy, saying goodbye to four; one parish starting a rector search with another wrapping theirs up. Canon Doris joyfully reported all the facility audits were completed, and that every church building has been inspected and recommendations made for repairs and ongoing maintenance. She gave thanks for the hard work, dedication and integrity of Emmanuel's Rick & MJ Kuhn and Kuhn Construction, saying words were inadequate for what their partnership in this multi-year endeavor has meant to the diocese and to her. Changes ahead as the young adult Service Corp Redesign team, headed by the Rev. Aaron Rogers, moves ahead with the usage of the Grace Hill property potentially shifting in a year as that task force decides the best use for the property. The Requiem or Renaissance program is going well, with two cohorts completed and the third one starting soon; 15 other dioceses have asked Canon Whitney to help with the program in their dioceses; Canon Doris shared her thanks to all the Shepherds who have helped guide the parishes through the process. Healing in the Heartland attracted over 200 people in March and launched Beautiful Bridges, bringing churches in the Diocese together in prayer and ministry. She spoke about General Convention in Louisville and the hard work of our deputies; Spring and Fall clergy retreats with wonderful speakers, and it goes on. In closing, Canon Doris confirmed that 2024 has demonstrated that the life of this branch of the Jesus movement in Missouri is alive and well – It Is Never Dull!

Bishop's Address – The Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson

We are the heirs of Leah and Elizabeth, Bishop Johnson said. He had read that Leah, wife of the DioMO Bishop Scarlett, was indignant there were no women on the floor at the 1943 General Convention (GC). So, in 1946 the Diocese of MO elected Elizabeth Dyer as a Deputy; she became the first woman with voice and vote at the GC of TEC. It would be 24 years before the next women were allowed this privilege. Persistence, Dignity, and Insistence was a theme within the Bishop's Address. That legacy is continued as we fire up to be the Good News of Jesus in our communities and neighborhoods. We are serving together to work towards a world transformed by God's love, justice and peace, and several examples of that within the Diocese were noted. In the coming year we will prioritize deepening **formation**, expanding **collaboration** and cooperation, and engaging **evangelism**.

Bishop Johnson reported that our 5-year strategic vision plan for mission, which began in 2022, is 90% complete. He clarified that resuscitation brings back what has been, but what the church needs is resurrection, which requires transformation. The church at its best honors and protects the rights and wishes of women, people of color, our LGBTQIA+ siblings, and supports the refugee, the immigrant, the stranger and the foreigner in a strange land. Let us be the best of the church as followers of Jesus Christ; be the church that walks as one in unity for the liberation of all God's people. They will know we are Christians by our love, by our love. . .

Appointment of Committees for the 186th Convention - Bishop Johnson

Lay Credentials and Admission of New Parishes

- Ms. Betty Bowersox, Chair
- Mr. Harold R. Burroughs

Dispatch of Business

- Mr. Harold R. Burroughs, Chair
- Ms. Betty Bowersox
- The Rev. Canon Doris Westfall, *ex officio*

Constitution and Canons

- The Rev. Josh Huber, Chair
- Mr. Joseph Adams
- The Rev. Susan Skinner
- The Hon. Jean C. Hamilton
- Mr. Harold R. Burroughs, *ex officio*
- Ms. Susan Rehkopf, *ex officio*
- The Rev. Canon Doris Westfall, *ex officio*

Resolutions

- Dr. Michael Booker, Chair
- Ms. Betty Bowersox
- Mr. Michael Fowlkes
- The Rev. Earl Mahan
- The Very Rev. Kathie Adams-Shepherd

Affirmation of Bishop's Appointments to the Diocesan Commission on Ministry – Bishop Johnson

Bishop Johnson nominated his appointments of the following to serve 4-year terms on the Diocesan Commission on Ministry.

- The Rev. Deacon Schelly Reid-Levy, St. John & St. James, Sullivan (Term expires 2028)
- The Rev. Nathan Haydon, St. Peter's Ladue (Term expires 2028)
- The Rev. Zack Rugenstone, St. Peter's Ladue (Term expires 2028)
- Ms. Angela Breeher, St. Paul's Carondelet (Term expires 2028)

Continuing members are:

- The Rev. Ann Dieterle, Calvary Church, Columbia (Term expires 2025)
- The Rev. Dr. Paula Kindrick Hartsfield, Grace Church, Jefferson City (Term to expire 2026)
- Ms. Alisa Williams, Holy Communion, University City (Term to expire 2026)
- Ms. Debbie Nelson Linck, Christ Church Cathedral, St. Louis (Term to expire 2026)
- Ms. Judy Hodge, Trinity, St. Charles (Term to expire 2026)
- The Rev. Renee Fenner, All Saints and Ascension, Northwoods (Term expires 2027)
- Ms. Rose Hayden Calvary, Columbia (Term expires 2027)
- Ms. Doris Lucy-Goodlow, Christ Church Cathedral, St. Louis (Term expires 2027)

A motion to accept these nominations was received, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Bishop's Appointments to the Diocesan Commission on Church Architecture and Allied Arts – Secretary's note

There were no new appointments to the Diocesan Commission on Church Architecture and Allied Arts to be confirmed.

Continuing members appointed in 2021 are:

- The Rev. Deacon Betty Bowen, Trinity, St. Charles
- Mr. Clark Davis, St. Peter's, Ladue – Chair
- Ms. Mary Drastal, St. Martin's, Ellisville
- Mr. Rick Kuhn, Emmanuel, Webster Groves
- The Rev. Rebecca Ragland, St. Paul's, Carondelet
- Ms. Susan Rehkopf, *ex officio*
- The Rev. Canon Doris Westfall, *ex officio*

Convention Consent to Bishop's Appointments to the Committee on Nominations and Election Procedures – Bishop Johnson

Bishop Johnson made the appointments of the following to serve 3-year terms on the Committee on Nominations and Election Procedures to be confirmed.

- The Rev. Dave Malek, St. Barnabas, Florissant (Term expires 2027)
- The Rev. Dr. Teresa Danieleley, St. Mark's, St. Louis (Term expires 2027)
- The Rev. Dr. Marie Evans, Trinity, Hannibal (Term expires 2027)
- Ms. Theresa Luebcke, Calvary, Columbia (Term expires 2027)

Continuing members are:

- Mr. Michael Fowlkes, Holy Communion, University City (Term expires 2025) - Chair
- Ms. Vicki Myers, Grace Church, Jefferson City, (Term expires 2025)

A motion to accept these nominations was received, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Adoption of the Diocesan 2025 Operating Budget – Mr. Al Ludwig

Mr. Al Ludwig, Treasurer and Vice Chancellor of the Diocese, moved approval of the 2025 Operating Budget for the Diocese.

The motion was seconded from the floor.

Ms. Pamela Sturkey from Church of the Advent stood to acknowledge the hard work and valuable expertise that has gone into the development of this budget by Staff (Canon Desiree Brattin) as well as Al Ludwig and Assistant Treasurer Liz Yount, stating that we all owe them a huge debt of gratitude. Al accepted her thanks and restated how Canon Desiree was really to be thanked. The Convention showed their sincere thanks to Canon Desiree with a warm round of applause.

The budget was then voted on and approved unanimously.

Final Report of the Committee on Resolutions – Mr. Mike Fowlkes, Trinity St. Louis and member of the Resolutions Committee

Mr. Mike Fowlkes presented the following courtesy resolutions that offer thanks to those we owe a debt of gratitude.

The Rt. Reverend Michael Bruce Curry

WHEREAS the Rt. Reverend Michael Bruce Curry has this year concluded nine years as the 27th Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church; and

WHEREAS he has inspired the people of God to boldly witness to the world The Way of Love as the “Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement; and

WHEREAS he has graced this Diocesan Convention with his presence, his effervescent spirit, and his profound words;

BE IT RESOLVED that this 185th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri send its greetings, prayers, and grateful well wishes to Bishop Curry and his wife, Sharon. May God’s People join in saying, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

The Rt. Reverend Deon Kevin Johnson

WHEREAS The Rt. Rev. Deon Kevin Johnson was consecrated the 11th Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri on Saturday, June 13, 2020; and

WHEREAS Bishop Johnson has daily challenged this Diocese to live into the holy words of its Baptismal Covenant; and

WHEREAS he has served The Episcopal Church by acting as chair of the Investiture Planning Team for the recent Investiture of the Most Reverend Sean Rowe, 28th Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church;

BE IT RESOLVED that this 185th Convention of the Diocese of Missouri expresses its profound affection and gratitude for the ministries of Bishop Johnson and his husband, Jhovanny Osorio, and offers them its prayers for many years of leadership in this Diocese.

The Very Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux

WHEREAS the Very Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux was elected Bishop of the Diocese of West Missouri on November 9th, 2024 on the first ballot; and

WHEREAS she has served as Dean and Rector of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Little Rock, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS she will be ordained and consecrated on May 3, 2025;

BE IT RESOLVED that this 185th Convention of the Diocese of Missouri sends its warmest greetings to Dean Meaux and her husband Jared, wishing them joy in their new lives in the Diocese of West Missouri, and looking forward to fruitful collaboration between our Dioceses.

The Very Rev. Casey Rohleder

WHEREAS the Very Rev. Casey Rohleder, Interim Dean for Formation and Pastoral Care for the Bishop Kemper School for Ministry, has shared her presence with this 185th Convention of the Diocese of Missouri; and

WHEREAS, the Bishop Kemper School for Ministry is sponsored by the Diocese of Iowa, the Diocese of Kansas, the Diocese of Western Kansas, the Diocese of Nebraska, the Diocese of Missouri and the Diocese of West Missouri; and

WHEREAS its motto and mission are, “Theological Formation for All People;”

BE IT RESOLVED that this 185th Convention of the Diocese of Missouri gives thanks to God for the Bishop Kemper School for Ministry and rejoices in the education it provides, both for members of this Diocese and for the greater Episcopal Church.

Trinity Episcopal Church in St. Charles

WHEREAS the congregation of Trinity Episcopal Church in St. Charles with their clergy, the Rev. Tamsen Whistler and the Rev. Deacon Betty Bowen, are serving as our 185th Convention hosts this year; and

WHEREAS volunteers from both Trinity and St. Timothy’s have helped exemplify the invitation to ‘join and gather as the One Body in Christ’ by welcoming us to convention with their friendly smiles wearing their bright red aprons, and helping with guest registration, directing us to meals, enriching our worship and assisting us to find our way around the building.

BE IT RESOLVED that this 185th Convention of the Diocese of Missouri extends its gratitude to all those who have worked behind the scenes to make this convention run smoothly.

The Diocese of Missouri Staff

WHEREAS the entire staff of the Diocese of Missouri has dedicated many hours in preparation of the 185th Convention, and

WHEREAS they worked around Noah’s Ark – like, record breaking rainfall in the St. Louis area a couple weeks prior to convention and are still waiting for a dove with a freshly plucked olive leaf to show up at the Bishop Tuttle Memorial Building,

BE IT RESOLVED that this 185th Convention of the Diocese of Missouri extends its heartfelt gratitude, thanks - and an olive leaf - for the hard work and faithful service of the Diocesan Office staff.

These resolutions were all seconded and approved by applause.

Further Report from the Committee on Nominations and Election Procedures: Election Results - The Rev. Tamsen Whistler.

The Rev. Tamsen Whistler thanked the committee and all those who volunteered to stand for office, announcing that the balloting process had been completed. Election results were provided to Bishop Johnson to announce.

Cathedral Chapter (1 lay member from outside St. Louis City or County and 1 clergy member from inside St. Louis City, both for 3-year terms.)

The Rev. Deacon Bethann Rohlfing, Emmanuel, Webster Groves (C)
Ms. Darlene Hillier-Kaczkofsky, Calvary, Columbia (L)

Diocesan Council (2 lay members for 3-year terms)

Mr. Tim Anderson, Holy Communion, University City (L)
Ms. Elizabeth Hines, Holy Communion, University City (L)

Disciplinary Board (3 clergy for 3-year term)

The Rev. Jerre Birdsong, Emmanuel, Webster Groves / St. Mark's, St. Louis (C)
The Rev. William Nesbit, Grace, Jefferson City (C)
The Rev Peter Speropulos, St. Michael & St. George, Clayton (C)

Standing Committee (2 clergy and 1 lay for 4-year terms)

The Rev. Jeffrey Goldone, Trinity, St. Louis (C)
The Rev. Deacon Justin Martin, Christ Church Cathedral, St. Louis (C)
Ms. Tammy O'Donnell, Trinity, St. Louis (L)

Bishop Johnson encouraged all those at Convention to consider service to this diocese and this Church through participation in the election process and an elected office.

Awarding of Bishop's Medals – Bishop Johnson

Bishop Johnson recognized the following with Bishop's Medals during dinner on Friday evening.

- ❖ *Ms. Tracy Grigsby (Diocese of MO Staff)*
- ❖ *Mr. Michael Reiser (Christ Church Cathedral, St. Louis)*
- ❖ *Ms. Rita Podolsky (St. Timothy's, Creve Coeur)*
- ❖ *The Rev. Dr. Maria Evans (Trinity, Kirksville)*
- ❖ *Ms. Beth Simpson (Calvary, Columbia)*
- ❖ *Ms. Donna Bernert (St. Francis', Eureka)*
- ❖ *Ms. Dauphine Bonham, Ms. Cam Boudria, and Ms. Jane Fordyce (St. John & St. James, Sullivan)*
- ❖ *The Rt. Rev. Michael Curry (27th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church)*
- ❖ *Bishop's Award - Red Door Ministry (Christ Church, Cape Girardeau)*

Selection of the Site for the 187th Convention - Bishop Johnson

The 186th Convention will be held on November 14-15, 2025 in metropolitan St. Louis, Missouri. The theme will be "Woven Together."

A motion was made to set November 13-14, 2026 as the date with the St. Louis Metropolitan area as the site for the 187th Convention.

The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Announcements – Chancellor Burroughs [and Bishop Johnson]

- Chancellor Burroughs called attention to a QR Code on the screens, on the Convention App, and in the Convention booklet on each table, to be used for a Convention Feedback Survey.
- Standing Committee and the Disciplinary Boards were to meet immediately after Convention adjournment (in front corners of the room.)
- After Convention adjournment the Just Food Truck would be in the hotel parking lot.

Special Announcement – Bishop Johnson.

Honorary Canons: Asking the Reverend Tamsen Whistler and Ms. Susan Rehkopf to join him at the podium, Bishop Johnson noted that both of them would be retiring in 2025 and made a special announcement recognizing these two remarkable individuals for their dedicated service to the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri. Bishop Johnson declared that on January 26, 2025, Sue Rehkopf and The Rev. Tamsen Whistler will be installed as honorary canons, a title that reflects their exceptional contributions to the church and its mission.

Following the announcements Bishop Johnson asked if there was any other business to come before the meeting of Convention.

Ms. Adrienne Fly from Trinity, Central West End spoke and offered a motion to show our appreciation to the staff of this hotel for making people feel welcome, for preparing delicious food and making things at the venue go very smoothly. Bishop Johnson ruled the motion in order, received a second from the floor, and requested approval by applause.

Call for Adjournment – Bishop Johnson

As there was no further business to come before the meeting of Convention, Bishop Johnson declared that the 185th Meeting of Convention of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Missouri would be adjourned early, *after* noon-day prayer.

All Missioners were asked to join Bishop Johnson at the front, and he directed everyone's attention to the noonday prayer on the video screens. Bishop Johnson led the prayers.

Included was a short service of Installation of the new Diocesan Missioners (or those not installed before), with the previously installed missioners acting as Presenters:

- The Rev. Dn. Loretta Go, Missioner for Recovery Ministries
- The Rev. Dn. Valerie Patten, Missioner for Community and Economic Development
- Mr. DeWayne Trainer, Missioner for LGBTQIA+ Engagement
- The Rev. Clive Sampson, Missioner for Asian Ministries

All of the Time Capsule Boxes from each parish were then blessed. They will be returned to their communities in 15 years, in 2039, which will be the 200th anniversary of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri.

Convention was then adjourned at 12:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty L. Bowersox, Secretary
Susan Rehkopf, Assistant Secretary