

Minutes of the Special Election Convention

Saturday, August 6, 2016

Business Session

Pre-Convention Activities: Following convention registration at 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m., the Special Election Convention of the Diocese of Central New York took place at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Liverpool, New York.

Convention Session: Convention opened with the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with the Right Reverend Gladstone B. Adams III, Presider and Preacher.

Call to Order: The Right Reverend Gladstone B. Adams III, Bishop of the Central New York Diocese, called the Special Convention to order at 10:30 a.m.

Quorum: Bishop Adams recognized Judy Fried, Secretary of Convention, for Certification of a Quorum. The Secretary of Convention reported, "pursuant to Canon II, Section 5, on the basis of registrations filed with me, I report that a quorum is in attendance. That is, at least 20 clerical members entitled to vote at Convention, and delegations from at least 20 parishes are present." The Convention Secretary reported that as of 9:30 a.m. that 73 clerical members entitled to vote in the convention and delegations from 79 parishes were present at the opening of Convention.

Bishop Adams declared the Convention duly organized for business.

Bishop Adams noted the difference in the name badge colors: blue name badges designate clergy delegates who have voice and vote; yellow name badges indicate lay delegates who have voice and vote; pink name badges are for those who have voice but no vote; and those with clear name badges have no voice, no vote.

Introductions: Bishop Adams recognized and introduced those seated at the head table:

Mr. Paul Curtin, Jr., Esq., Diocesan Chancellor

The Rev. Christine Day, President of the Standing Committee

Ms. Judy Fried, Secretary of Convention

Additional Introductions: Bishop Adams introduced the interpreters for the deaf:

Ms. Audrey Lunson and Ms. Trisha Schwartz

Convention Photographer: Bishop Adams introduced Ms. Sue Cenci, member of Trinity Church in Fayetteville, who served as Convention Photographer.

Credentials of Lay Delegates: Bishop Adams recognized Mr. Charles Moore, Chair of the Committee on Credentials of Lay Delegates, to present the report on Credentials of Lay Delegates:

REPORT FROM COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS OF LAY DELEGATES
Special Convention – August 6, 2016

At this time, there are 81 parishes, 1 mission parish, and 1 college chapel potentially entitled to vote in this Special Convention for the election of the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Central New York.

The Annual Parochial Report as required by Canon XXII-5 has been filed by each of those parishes.

All of those parishes are current in payments to the Church Pension Fund as required per Canon XIX-4.

All parishes, except as listed below, have satisfied the mandatory portion of the Diocesan Mission Apportionment.

St. John's, Whitesboro

Having no open action as set forth in Canon XVIII-7, this parish cannot be given voice or vote at this special convention.

Per Canon II-1, Parish Vestry certification of delegates is to be received by the Secretary of Convention as specified in Canon II-1. Three eligible parishes (**St. Paul's, Constableville; Trinity, Constantia; and Grace, Waverly**) plus **The Episcopal Chapel at Cornell** chose to submit no delegate certification.

There are also 4 Chapels entitled to voice but no vote. We welcome a representative from St. Lawrence, Alexandria Bay.

SUMMARY — Potential members	-----	83
In-eligible as indicated above	-----	1
Unrepresented by choice	-----	4

Voting bodies constituting August 2016 Special Convention: 78

Respectfully Submitted,
Charles M. Moore
Chair of Convention Committee on Credentials of Lay Delegates

**The acceptance of the report was moved by Mr. Charles Moore.
Acceptance of the report was seconded by the Rev. Joell Szachara.
Bishop Adams asked if there was any discussion.
There was no discussion.
Bishop called for a vote.
Motioned carried
Report accepted by Convention**

Rule of Order: Bishop Adams called on the Rev. Christine Day, President of the Standing Committee, to present the Rules of Order for the Special Convention.

The Rev. Day presented the Rules of Order for the Special Convention as printed and distributed to all delegates prior to Convention and included in Delegate folders.

Special Rules of Order
for the Convention to Elect
The 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Central New York
Saturday, August 6, 2016
At the Holiday Inn Convention Center, Liverpool, NY

1. The Convention will begin with the celebration of Holy Eucharist at 9 a.m.
2. Registered delegates, lay and clergy, and interpreters for the hearing impaired only will be seated in the "Voting Delegate" section. Alternate delegates, officers of the Convention, lay members of the Standing Committee and Diocesan Board, lay members of the Search and Transition Committees, lay members of the Diocesan staff, tellers, guest and press will be seated in another section. Diocesan Communication Officer and assistants may be on the floor to perform their duties.
3. Following the Eucharist, the Convention will be called to order by the 10th Bishop of the Diocese of Central New York who is the presider.
4. The Secretary of Convention will report:
 - a. The presence of a quorum: twenty (20) clerical members of Convention and delegates from at least twenty (20) parishes and the Committee of Credentials of lay delegates shall also report.
 - b. The number of eligible delegates in attendance in both the lay and clerical order and the number of votes necessary for election in each order.
 - i. No delegate will be permitted to register after the report by the Secretary of Convention is made.
 - ii. Any delegate who leaves the Convention and can be replaced by an alternate delegate in attendance must first go to the Registration Table with the alternate delegate, notify a registrar of the change and enable the alternate to become a voting delegate. The registrar will then notify the Secretary of Convention of this change which does not affect the number of eligible voters.
 - iii. Any delegate who leaves the Convention permanently and cannot be replaced by an alternate, must also first go to the Registration Table to notify a registrar that he

or she is officially leaving and return his or her method of voting. The registrar will then notify the Secretary of Convention, who then notifies the Bishop and Convention of the changes in the eligible delegates and the changes in the number of votes necessary.

5. The 10th Bishop shall appoint tellers.
6. The President of the Standing Committee will place into nomination the names of all the Candidates. The President of the Standing Committee will certify that all candidates have completed the same search or petition process and background checks. There will be no nominations from the floor.
7. Delegates and Guests are requested to put their electronic devices on silent or vibrate.
8. No campaign or other materials relating to any candidate shall be allowed at Convention except the materials supplied by Convention.
9. A Transition Committee Co-Chair and Head Teller shall announce and demonstrate the voting procedure and polling places for clergy and lay
 - a. A valid vote or ballot will only have ONE candidate voted for.
 - b. An invalid vote or ballot will have no candidate or more than one candidate or a candidate who has withdrawn voted for.
10. Prior to any vote or ballot, the Secretary of Convention shall announce the number of eligible delegates in attendance in both the lay and clerical order and the number of votes necessary for election in each order. A period of silence and listening for the Holy Spirit shall precede each vote or ballot.
11. Once the Head Teller has certified a vote or ballot's result, the Head Teller will notify the Bishop. The President of the Standing Committee and the Secretary of Convention. The Bishop will call the Convention back to order. The Head Teller will notify each Candidate's Shepherd. This should take no longer than ten (10) minutes.
 - a. Candidates can only be dropped from the voting or ballot at their own request;
 - b. If a Candidate chooses to withdraw, she or he must do so before the next voting or ballot is called for by the Bishop. To withdraw the candidate first informs his or her Shepherd of the decision to withdraw and then affirms the withdrawal to the President of the Standing Committee via cell phone and e-mail.
 - c. Once the Bishop is satisfied that the Candidates have been notified, he will instruct the President of the Standing Committee to read the result of the previous vote. The results will be posted in a manner visible to all and on Diocesan website, Facebook and Twitter showing the results of each successive votes or ballots.
12. Election will occur when there is a simple majority (50%+1) vote of the eligible votes or ballots cast in both orders, clergy and lay, in the same vote or ballot.
13. It is a canonical requirement that all electing delegates, clergy and lay, sign the Testimonial of Election Sheets, located at the polling places, before they leave the Convention
14. There will be a recess called for lunch by the Bishop if the Election has not occurred before lunch time.
15. If by 5:15 pm the Electing Convention has not elected a Bishop, the 10th Bishop will call for a vote to continue voting until 5:45 pm. If there is still no election by 5:45 pm, the 10th Bishop will declare a recess until a date within one month when the Convention will be reconvened **(Saturday, August 27, 2016 at 9 a.m. at St. Paul's Church, Syracuse.)**

Announcements: Bishop Adams recognized Judy Fried, Secretary of Convention, who made announcements. The Secretary of Convention made these announcements:

- Pointed out the Fire Exits;
- Reminded Delegates that if they had to leave the Convention, they should report to the Registrar at the Registration Table so that an accurate tally of voting delegates would be known for each round of voting;
- Alternate Delegates who replace voting delegates must report to the Registrar so the appropriate changes can be made to the eligible voters on the voting lists;
- No delegates shall be allowed to register (or change registration from Alternate Delegate to Delegate) once the Secretary of Convention announces the delegate totals for that round of voting;
- Prior to the announcement of the vote totals for each round, the Shepherd for each candidate shall come to the dais to receive the tally for the round. Shepherds will have approximately 10 minutes to contact their candidate with the result of each round of voting prior to the announcement of the vote totals;
- A part of the Election process includes a Testimonial that is to be signed by each delegate voting. This Testimonial is then sent to the Presiding Bishop's Office once there is an election. Please be sure to sign the Testimonial at your voting station;
- On the inside of your delegate folder is a sticker that indicates each delegate's voting station number.

Slate of Candidates for the 11th Bishop: Bishop Adams recognized the Rev. Day, President of the Standing Committee, to present the candidates.

The Rev. Day told the Convention that each candidate had completed the same search or petition process and background checks. Each of the candidates has been properly vetted and the Standing Committee has voted to approve these individuals as candidates for bishop-elect. The Rev. Day stated that no nominations would be received from the floor.

- **The Rev. Dena Cleaver-Bartholomew**, Rector, Christ Church in Manlius, NY
- **The Very Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe**, Rector, St. Peter's in the Woods, Fairfax Station, Virginia
- **The Rev. Noah Evans, Rector**, Grace Church, Medford, Massachusetts
- **The Rev. Canon Debra Kissinger**, Canon for Transition Ministries and Leadership Development, the Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis
- **The Rev. Nora Smith**, Rector, Church of St. Barnabas, Irvington, New York

Appointment of the Sergeants-at-Arms for the Special Election Convention:

Bishop Adams appointed:

The Rev. Joell Szachara (St. Stephen's, New Hartford)

Appointment of Election Co-Chairs: Bishop Adams appointed:

Mr. Charles Moore (Trinity, Fayetteville)
Mr. Robert Cooley (St. Stephen's, New Hartford)

Appointment of Electronic Balloting Co-Chairs: Bishop Adams appointed:

Mr. Andy Pierce (St. Mark's, Chenango Bridge)
Mr. Don Adamowsky (St. Matthew's, Liverpool)

Bishop Adams appointed the following members of Convention to serve as tellers:

Ms. Cindy DeMarmels	Zion, Windsor
Ms. Ricky Doolittle	St. David's, Barneveld
Ms. Lucia Whisenand	St. David's, DeWitt
Ms. Sabrina Coleman	Grace, Syracuse
Mr. Harmon TenWolde	St. Matthew's, South New Berlin
Ms. Cheryl TenWolde	St. Matthew's, South New Berlin
Ms. Robin Weisbrod	St. Paul's, Chittenango
The Rev. Dcn. Shelly Banner	St. Matthew's, Liverpool
The Rev. Dcn. Dorothy Pierce	St. Mark's, Chenango Bridge
The Rev. Dcn. Barbara Groves	Grace, Utica
The Rev. Kate Day	St. David's, DeWitt
The Rev. Anne Wichelns	Church of the Resurrection, Oswego & St. Andrew's, Evans Mills
The Rev. Wanda Copeland	St. Matthew's, Liverpool & Trinity, Elmira
The Rev. Gerry Beritela	Emmanuel, E. Syracuse & Savior, Syracuse

Bishop Adams recognized Mr. Charles Moore, Co-Chair of the Election, and Ms. Carol Forrester, Co-Chair of the Transition Committee, to describe the voting process and instruct delegates on the voting process and stations were located for Clergy and Lay Delegates.

Ms. Forrester told Convention that voting would be done electronically using iPads. She indicated that at the end of each round of voting, the Election Co-Chair would confer with the Electronic Election Co-Chair to verify that the number of delegates voting matched the iPad tallies.

Mr. Moore instructed Convention members that when they arrived at their voting station, a teller would first locate their name on the voting list. Each delegate would then sign the Testimonial then move to the voting station where the delegate could touch the iPad screen, or use a stylus, and vote for the candidate they desired. Mr. Moore indicated that after selecting the name of

the candidate, the voter must then touch the “Select Now” button to enter their vote. Mr. Moore indicated that after touching the “Select Now” screen, a new screen would appear displaying the message “Thank You for Voting for Bishop”; this message indicates a properly cast vote. Mr. Moore then stated that the 2nd Teller would write the name of the voter on a separate list as a double-check in the voting process. Mr. Moore also explained that the order of the names of the candidates on the voting screen would randomly change after each vote. Mr. Moore invited those delegates needing assistance with voting to bring someone with them to help them vote and that there were Youth Delegates available to help if needed.

Bishop Adams then indicated that an election shall occur when there is a simple majority (50% of votes cast plus one) achieved in each order.

Bishop Adams recognized the Secretary of Convention to report on the number of eligible delegates present and able to vote in Ballot # 1.

The Secretary reported the following number of eligible voting delegates as of 10:30 a.m.:

Delegates:	Clergy: 73	Lay: 147
Needed to Elect:	Clergy: 37	Lay: 74

After a period of silence and listening for the Holy Spirit, Bishop Adams announced the polls were open. Bishop Adams told members that the Convention would be called back to order once the voting results for this round were certified. Members of Convention sang hymns during the vote and while the vote was being certified.

Bishop Adams announced the Results of Ballot #1:

	Cleric	Lay
Ballots Cast	73	147
Ballots Required	37	74
CANDIDATES		
Dena Cleaver-Bartholomew	7	11
DeDe Duncan-Probe	26	56
Noah Evans	15	33
Debra Kissinger	15	37
Nora Smith	8	9

Bishop Adams announced that there was no election.

Bishop Adams recognized the Co-Chair of the Election, Mr. Charles Moore. Mr. Moore explained to Convention that the electronic voting had been very successful. However, Mr. Moore noted that there were 3 individuals who signed in and voted (2 clergy; 1 lay) but their votes did not register. Mr. Moore reminded delegates that a vote is not counted if the voter does not push the “Select Now” button on the voting screen. He asked all voters to be sure to press firmly when they touch the “Select Now” button and to then watch and be sure the computer

screen moved to the next page that said “Thank You for Voting”. Mr. Moore indicated to Convention that the result of the last ballot was certified because the 3 votes would not have made an election.

Bishop Adams announced to Convention that two candidates had withdrawn their names from further consideration: The Rev. Dena Cleaver-Bartholomew and the Rev. Nora Smith. Bishop Adams called for prayers of thanksgiving to the Rev. Cleaver-Bartholomew and the Rev. Smith for allowing themselves to be a part of this discernment process.

There being no election, Bishop Adams announced that Convention would proceed to a second ballot and indicated that the names of the candidates who had withdrawn would not appear as an option on the voting screens.

Bishop Adams called on the Secretary of Convention to report the number of eligible voting delegates for the second ballot.

The Secretary reported that the following number of eligible voting delegates as of 11:30 a.m.:

Delegates:	Clergy: 73	Lay: 148
Needed to elect:	Clergy: 37	Lay: 75

After a period of silence and listening for the Holy Spirit, Bishop Adams announced the polls were open. Bishop Adams told members that Convention would be called back to order once the voting results for this round were certified. Members of Convention sang hymns while the vote was being certified.

Bishop Adams announced the Results of Ballot #2 and that an election had occurred.

	Cleric	Lay
Ballots Cast	72	148
Ballots Required	37	75
CANDIDATES		
DeDe Duncan-Probe	42	87
Noah Evans	13	31
Debra Kissinger	17	30

Bishop Adams announced that the Very Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe had been elected on the second ballot. Members of Convention responded with applause and joyful thanksgiving.

Standing Committee president, the Rev. Christine Day, told Convention that prior to the announcement of that there was an election, she had spoken with the Very Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe. The Rev. Day told Convention that during that phone conversation, the Rev. Dr. Duncan-Probe accepted the call to become the next bishop of the Diocese of Central New York. The Rev. Day then attempted to call the bishop-elect using her cell phone, which she placed on

“speaker” so the bishop-elect could share her acceptance with members of Convention. After several attempts to reach the bishop-elect, the Rev. Day told Convention that the call was not connecting and apologized that we were not able to make a connection. Bishop Adams indicated to Convention that the Diocesan Communications Specialist, Ms. Meredith Sanderson, would be contacting the bishop-elect via videophone and would be posting the video of her acceptance comments on the Diocesan website and Facebook page later in the day.

Bishop Adams offered prayers of thanksgiving for Bishop-elect Duncan-Probe as well as each of the candidates who were a part of the discernment process. Bishop Adams said that the Diocese was very blessed to have such fine candidates who were willing to be a part of bishop discernment process. Bishop Adams thanked each candidate for their willingness to be a part of this Bishop Search process and asked members of Convention to keep each of them in their prayers.

Bishop Adams thanked all of the people who worked to make the election possible: the Standing Committee, the Search Committee, the Transition Committee, Shepherds, election officials, and Eucharist participants. Bishop Adams indicated that the list of people to thank was far too long to try to list each of the individuals involved.

Bishop Adams also thanked all of the members of Convention and people of the Diocese that he has worked with and shared ministry with over the past 15 years, Bishop Adams indicated that he would greatly miss the people of the Diocese Central New York. Bishop Adams told Convention that he would continue to hold the Diocese, Bishop-elect Duncan-Probe, and all of the people in Central New York in his prayers.

There being no other business, Bishop Adams adjourned Convention at 12:53 p.m. Bishop Adams reminded Convention that lunch was being served after adjournment. Bishop Adams closed Convention with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Fried
Secretary of Convention