

DRAFT

170th Annual Convention Minutes of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee October 14, 2017 St. John's Northwestern Military Academy, Delafield, WI

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The Proposed 2018 Budget with supporting documents, the Entity Reports, and the List of Convention delegates will be reported separately on the Diocesan website.

**170th Annual Convention Minutes
of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee, October 14, 2017
St. John's Northwestern Military Academy, Delafield,
Wisconsin**

Saturday, October 14

The theme of the 170th Annual Convention was *"Called for Such a Time as This."*

Opening Eucharist

At 9:00 a.m., the convention Eucharist-Rite II was held in the Noble Victory Chapel of St. John's Northwestern Military Academy, Delafield, Wisconsin. The Rev. Dorota Pruski, Diocesan Liturgical Coordinator, Dr. Jennifer Henery, Director of Spiritual Life and Character Development at SJNMA, many volunteers, and the diocesan staff prepared and hosted the service. The acolytes were from SJNMA. The Right Reverend Steven A. Miller's sermon, a reflection on the theme of the 170th Annual Convention, *Called for Such a Time as This*, was also his Pastoral Address to the convention and appears in total in the Appendix to these minutes as Appendix I.

During the announcements, Bishop Miller presented The Bishop's Shield Award to the Rev. Benbow Cheesman (Trinity, Wauwatosa). Along with the shield, the recipient received a proclamation letter. This letter appears in the minutes as Appendix III.

An offering was taken with the plate going to support the work of Episcopal Relief & Development in areas devastated by the hurricanes. The total collection was \$1,800.00.

The Necrology appeared in the Eucharist service bulletin, and was remembered in the Prayers of the People. It appears in the minutes as Appendix IV.

Continental Breakfast and Registration

Session I-- Business Meeting

The Rt. Rev'd Steven A. Miller, President of the Convention and Presiding Officer, convened the 170th annual convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee at 11:06 a.m. on Saturday, October 14, 2017, in Farrand Hall Gymnasium of St. John's Northwestern Military Academy, Delafield, Wisconsin.

Bishop Miller opened the session with the various collects for a Church Convention and Unity, concluding with the Lord's Prayer.

Roll Call & Determination of a Quorum

Bishop Miller inquired of the Rev'd Margaret "Marge" Kiss, Executive Secretary of the Diocese, and Secretary of the Convention, regarding the presence of a quorum and the certification of members. The Rev'd Margaret "Marge" Kiss reported that a quorum was present, and that the lay deputies for all the parishes and all clerical members had been certified.

Bishop Miller explained that "under our Constitution and Rules of Order, the Bishop is named President of the Convention. The Constitution and the Rules of Order also provide for the appointment of a

President Pro-Tempore with approval of the Convention.” It is customary to appoint the President of the Standing Committee. Bishop Miller therefore appointed the Rev’d David Simmons, St. Mathias, Waukesha, as President Pro Tempore. The appointment, requiring approval from the Convention, was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Bishop Miller declared the Convention organized for business.

Welcome by Host Community – Dr. Jennifer Henery, Director of Spiritual Life and Character Development at SJNMA

Dr. Jennifer Henery welcomed the convention to St. John’s Northwestern Military Academy on behalf of the Mr. Jack H. Albert, Jr. President. She also gave a brief history of the Academy and its plans for the future.

Introduction of Business Staff on Dais

Bishop Miller introduced:

The Rev’d David Simmons, President Pro Tempore; Mr. Clyde Bachand, Diocesan Treasurer; the Rev’d Margaret “Marge” Kiss, Executive Secretary; Mr. John Washbush -Parliamentarian; Dr. Jennifer Henery, Dispatch of Business and Mr. Stuart Parsons, Esq. Chancellor

Words Re: Taping/Interviewing of Convention – The Rev. Jonathan Melton, St. Francis House Episcopal Student Center

The Rev’d Jonathan gave a nod to the emotion “live-streaming” brings out in people. He assured all that it was simply a matter of “testifying”—speaking of God at work in our local communities at “*a time such as this.*”

Presentation of Bishop’s Appointments

The Bishop made the following appointments requiring Convention approval:

Chancellor (reappointment) Mr. Stuart Parsons, Esq.
Vice-Chancellor (reappointment) Mr. Tom Scrivner, Esq.
Historiographer (reappointment) The Rev’d Evelyn Payton
Parliamentarian (reappointment) Mr. John Washbush

Commission on Ministry

The Rev’d Jana Troutman-Miller (reappointment)
The Rev’d Dr. Esther Kramer (reappointment)
The Rev’d Ian Burch (reappointment)
Ms. Valerie McAuliffe (reappointment)
Ms. Celia Fine (reappointment)
Mr. Peter Luisi-Mills (reappointment)
Ms. Kelly Noles (reappointment)
The Rev’d. Dustin Fecht (new appointment)
The Rev’d Jonathan Melton (new appointment)

Lay appointment pending Standing Committee election

After completion of Standing Committee election -- Ms. Mary Cady-Thickens (new appointment)

A motion to accept the appointments was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote.

Approval of Minutes from the 170th Diocesan Convention

Bishop Miller asked if there was any objection to waiving the reading of the minutes. Hearing none, he asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the 169th Convention of the Episcopal

Diocese of Milwaukee. Hearing nothing further, Bishop Miller announced that the minutes were approved, as presented.

Report of the Committee on the Dispatch of Business and Review of the Convention Material

Bishop Miller called on Dr. Jennifer Henery, Dispatch of Business, for the report of the committee. She noted that the Dispatch of Business is charged with the organization and operation of the business meeting, and includes, along with the Parliamentarian, maintaining the Rules of Order. She pointed out that the Rules of Order have not changed recently and are included in the materials.

Dr. Jennifer Henery reviewed the contents of the deputy folders for the following materials: Schedule, Rules of Order, Voting Cards, Ballots, and the Reports to the Convention. She noted that lists of the nominations, the resolutions and the budget were posted on the diocesan website and sent to the individual deputies and all parishes for review, and were to be brought to today's meeting.

Bishop Miller called on The Rev'd David Simmons, President Pro Tempore

The Rev'd David Simmons, President Pro Tempore and President of the Standing Committee, gave a brief introduction to the Right Reverend Steven A. Miller, soon to begin his 15th year as the Bishop of the Diocese of Milwaukee.

Opening Address to the Convention

Bishop Miller noted that, though he gave his Pastoral Address as the sermon at the Eucharist, he felt it was important to express his gratitude to those who organized the convention and to especially speak about the items that will be brought to the business session. This address appears in total in the appendix as Appendix II.

Report of the Nominations Committee

Bishop Miller recognized Mr. John Washbush, Parliamentarian, to explain the nominations procedure, while the Rev'd Matthew Buterbaugh (St. Matthew's, Kenosha), representing the Chair of the Committee on Nominations who was out ill, came to the podium.

Mr. Washbush explained to the deputies, the rules regarding floor nominations and balloting.

The Rev'd Matthew Buterbaugh, Chair of the Committee on Nominations, announced the following positions and nominees:

Diocesan Treasurer

One person (lay or clergy) to be elected to a one-year term

Mr. Clyde Bachand (Church of the Holy Communion, Lake Geneva) was nominated for diocesan treasurer. There being no other nominations, Bishop Miller asked for any objection to declaring the election to be by Unanimous Consent. Hearing none, Bishop Miller declared that Mr. Clyde Bachand was elected by Unanimous Consent.

Title IV Disciplinary Board

Two priests to be elected to a three-year term

The Rev 'd Jason LaVann (St. Luke's, Bayview), the Very Rev'd Dave Mowers (Trinity, Baraboo/St. John the Baptist, Portage) and the Rev'd Elizabeth "Liz" Tester (St. Paul's, Watertown) were nominated for the clergy order. There being no other nominations, Bishop Miller announced that a written ballot was required.

One layperson to be elected to a three-year term

Ms. Bevra Cole (Trinity, Baraboo) and Ms. Jen Vettrus (Trinity, Wauwatosa) were nominated to the lay order. There being no other nominations, Bishop Miller announced that a written ballot was required.

Members of the Board of Trustees of Funds and Endowments, Inc.

Two people (lay or clergy) to be elected to a three-year term

The Rev'd Mindy Valentine Davis (St. James', West Bend) and the Rev'd Geoff Ward were nominated for the three-year term. There being no other nominations, Bishop Miller asked for any objection to declaring the election to be by Unanimous Consent. Hearing none, Bishop Miller declared that the Rev'd Mindy Valentine Davis and the Rev'd Geoff Ward were elected by Unanimous Consent.

Executive Council

Two clergy and two laypersons to be elected to three-year terms

For the Clerical Order:

The Rev'd Joel Prather (Christ Church, Delavan) and the Rev'd Debra Trakel (Non-parochial), were nominated for the two clerical positions. There being no other nominations, Bishop Miller asked for any objection to declaring the election to be by Unanimous Consent. Hearing none, Bishop Miller declared that the Rev'd Joel Prather and the Rev'd Debra Trakel were elected by Unanimous Consent.

For the Lay Order:

Ron Johnson (St. Mary's, Dousman) was nominated for the two lay positions.

Bishop Miller asked if there were additional nominations.

Mr. Will Friss, (St. Bartholomew's, Pewaukee) rose to nominate Ms. Kathleen "Kada" Bush (St. Bartholomew's, Pewaukee).

The Rev'd Brian Backstrand (Trinity, Mineral Point/Trinity, Platteville) rose to nominate Ms. Joann Faull (Trinity, Mineral Point).

Hearing no other nominations, Bishop Miller announced that a written ballot was required.

Standing Committee

One priest to be elected to a four-year term, one priest to be elected to a three year term and one layperson to be elected to a four-year term

For the Clerical Order:

The Very Rev'd Scott Leannah (St. Mary's, Dousman) was nominated.

Bishop Miller asked if there were additional nominations.

The Very Rev'd Kevin Carroll (All Saints Cathedral) rose to nominate the Rev'd Gary Manning (Trinity, Wauwatosa).

Hearing no other nominations, Bishop Miller announced that a written ballot was required to determine length of service.

For the Lay Order:

Ms. Mary Cady-Thickens (St. Christopher's, River Hills), Ms. Carlynn Higbie (Trinity, Wauwatosa) and Ms. Tammy Prather (Christ Church, Delavan) were nominated. Hearing no other nominations, Bishop Miller announced that a written ballot was required.

Alternate Deputy to the 2018 General Convention

Four clergy persons (priests or deacons), and four lay persons to serve at the 2018 General Convention

For the Clerical Order:

The Rev'd Miranda Hassett (St. Dunstan's, Madison); the Very Rev'd Dave Mowers (Trinity, Baraboo/St. John the Baptist, Portage); the Rev'd Dorota Pruski (St. Andrew's, Madison); the Rev'd David Simmons (St. Matthias, Waukesha) and the Rev'd Michael Tess (Non-parochial) were nominated. Hearing no other nominations, Bishop Miller announced that a written ballot was required

For the Lay Order:

Ms. Janet Finn (Holy Trinity, Prairie du Chien); Ms. Sharon Henes (St. Dunstan's, Madison); Mr. Ron Johnson (St. Francis, Menomonee Falls); Mr. Rick Lutes (Trinity, Janesville); and Ms. Tammy Prather (Christ Church, Delavan) were nominated. Hearing no other nominations, Bishop Miller announced that a written ballot was required.

Bishop Miller announced that nominations were closed and thanked the Rev'd Matthew Buterbaugh and all the members of the Committee on Nominations for their service to the Convention.

Bishop Miller appointed the Rev'd Dr. Esther Kramer (Nashotah House and St. Mary's, Dousman) as the Chair of Tellers. Bishop Miller thanked all who had volunteered to assist with this essential task.

Bishop Miller recognized Mr. John Washbush, the Parliamentarian, for an explanation of balloting procedures. Mr. John Washbush requested that the deputies remove Ballot 1 from their materials. He then instructed them on how to complete it properly. Upon its completion, Bishop Miller asked that the deputies fold the ballot in half and hold it up for a Teller.

The Tellers were called forth; the First Ballot was concluded.

Determination of the Order of Business -- A Parliamentary Moment

Bishop Miller recognized Dr. Jennifer Henery, Dispatch of Business. Dr. Jennifer Henery explained the procedures for how Old Business is taken up and how New Business would come before Convention.

Call for Additional Resolutions

Bishop Miller asked if there were any requests for additional resolutions. Hearing and receiving none, Bishop Miller recognized that no new legislation was added to the agenda, and that the order of presentation by the Resolutions Committee was fixed.

Session II -- Diomil Read – Discussion *Just Mercy*

Canon Peggy Bean opened with her personal experience, as a child, of the isolation of racism. She explained that today's program was to help create plans of action around what is happening in our communities.

The Rev'd Kevin Steward related his recent experience with a parent who's child had been killed. His advice: Listen much; Say little.

A clip from the *Just Mercy* author, Mr. Bryan Stevenson, highlighted one of the four ways to deal with racism—proximity.

Canon Peggy Bean explained the process of the book discussion.

Bishop Miller led prayer before lunch.

Session II – Business Meeting

Bishop Miller called on Ms. Heidi Ropa and Mr. Jenjenio Conserve

Haiti Today -- Ms. Heidi Ropa and Mr. Jenjenio Conserve

Ms. Heidi Ropa began with an expression of her deep appreciation for all the diocese has done to support her work in Haiti. She highlighted some of the issues Haiti still faces—contaminated water and the need for sustainable housing. To that end, she introduced Mr. Jenjenio Conserve, a country-wide educator for Gift of Water.

Mr. Jenjenio Conserve added his appreciation to Ms. Ropa. He then emphasized that “education is the key to success,” and that his goal is to empower people in three key areas—health, education and employment.

Bishop Miller reported the Results of the First Ballot

Report of the First Ballot

Bishop Miller reported the results of the first ballot:

Title IV Disciplinary Board

(Clergy) The Rev’d Jason LaVann
The Rev’d. Elizabeth “Liz” Tester
(Lay) Ms. Jen Vettrus

Standing Committee

(Clergy) The Rev’d. Scott Leannah for four years.
The Rev’d Gary Manning for three years.
(Lay) Ms. Tammy Prather

Executive Council

(Lay) Mr. Ron Johnson
Ms. Kathleen “Kada” Bush

Alternate Deputy for 2018 General Convention—in order of election

(Clergy) The Rev’d Miranda Hassett
The Rev’d Dorata Pruski
The Rev’d David Simmons
The Very Rev’d Dave Mowers
(Lay) Ms. Janet Finn
Ms. Tammy Prather
Ms. Sharon Henes
Mr. Rick Lutes

Bishop Miller announced that all positions were filled, and that no further ballots were necessary. Bishop Miller thanked all for their due diligence and their trust in those elected. He offered congratulations to all the newly elected.

Bishop Miller called on Ms. Cynthia Miller

Environmental Issues in Alaska – Ms. Cynthia Miller

Ms. Cynthia Miller, as the spouse of the Right Reverend Steve Miller, was part of the House of Bishops contingency that met in Fairbanks, Alaska for their semi-annual meeting. She spoke about the way of life there:

- the need to fly to all destinations, even if there was a road, one had to fly to reach it;
- the need to live off the land and respect it as sacred;
- the respect for food, one ate it all—no waste.

Her major emphasis was the need to protect their land in order to protect their way of life. Oil drilling is a grave concern for them and she gave us a website address *ourarticrofuge.org* in order to follow the events and express our opinions regarding them.

Consideration of Old Business

Bishop Miller stated that The 169th Convention passed a Resolution: Task Force to Review and Propose Revisions to Diocesan Canon 28 “Of Congregations.” The Resolution called for the 169th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee to create a Task Force of eight to twelve people appointed by the Bishop, in consultation with the Standing Committee, for the purpose of reviewing the existing diocesan Canon 28 “Of Congregations” and proposing revisions for consideration at the 170th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee in 2017.

Bishop Miller called on Mr. Bill Robinson and the Very Rev’d Scott Leannah for a report on this resolution.

Mr. Bill Robison and the Very Rev’d Scott Leannah noted that:

- the 12 person membership was solidified in late 2016;
- as they began their work in 2017, they realized how daunting the task was;
- the need to include feedback from the diocesan membership was imperative.

They stated that the committee was designing ways to gather feedback:

- meeting with the deans and the convocations;
- regional meetings (day or evening)
- visiting Executive Council and Standing Committee;
- establishing an electronic link;
- visiting vestries upon request;
- gathering feedback through a survey

They concluded that they plan to have as many conversations during 2017-2018 as possible in order to bring a completed resolution to the next convention. With that in mind that moved that this convention receive their report and allow them to continue the work on the resolution for one more year.

Bishop Miller said that the motion was from a committee and did not need a second. He asked if there was any discussion. Seeing no one at the microphone, he called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

2018 Diocesan Budget -A Parliamentary Moment

Bishop Miller recognized Dr. Jennifer Henery, Dispatch of Business, for the purpose of clarifying the conduct of business pertaining to the budget. Dr. Jennifer Henery explained the procedures for approving the budget and parish assessments.

Bishop Miller recognized Mr. Clyde Bachand, Treasurer of the Diocese, for the budget report. Bishop Miller reminded the convention that this portion of the report is an informal presentation of the Program and Budget.

Mr. Clyde Bachand called attention to the pie charts:

- He noted that 89% of the diocesan revenue was from parish assessments.
- He gave the breakdown percentages of the expenses.

Mr. Clyde Bachand concluded that the 2018 Diocesan Budget was a “lean, mean fighting machine.”

Bishop Miller asked if there were any questions, again noting that this was the time for questions seeking information or clarification, not for debate.

Mr. Bachand wondered if the lack of question was due to the fact he went too fast. The Rev’d Andy Jones stated that it was because the work done by Ms. Marlene Udovich was just that clear.

It was moved and seconded, to adopt the budget.

Bishop Miller asked if there was any further discussion or debate on the budget. Seeing no one at the microphone, Bishop Miller called for the vote to adopt the 2018 budget. The budget was unanimously adopted as presented.

Bishop Miller thanked Mr. Clyde Bachand for his report.

Bishop Miller called on the Rev’d Seth Raymond

The Rev’d Seth Raymond and Ms. Heidi Ropa spoke of the “mission initiative” regarding the hospitality center, Haiti and Newala—sharing the stories of “good news to the world,” reconciliation and our salvation. They hoped all would prayerfully consider their response to this appeal.

Bishop Miller called on Mr. John Washbush

Mr. John Washbush explained the history of St. James’, Milwaukee, now closing. He noted that St. Paul’s, Milwaukee established St. James’ as a mission. After time, St. James’ founded St. James’, West Bend.

He said that today was about “recognizing ancestors and progeny” and formally offering to St. Paul’s, Milwaukee the statue of St. Paul that had stood on the altar at St. James’, Milwaukee along with a painting of St. James’ church; and formally offering to St. James’, West Bend the statue of St. James’ that had also stood on the altar along with a painting of St. James’ church.

Report of the Resolutions Committee

Bishop Miller recognized Mr. Stuart Parsons, Esq. to report for the Rev’d Cathleen Milliken, Chair of the Resolutions Committee, who was not able to attend.

Mr. Stuart Parsons, Esq. reported that the Committee on Resolutions was charged with three tasks:

- Determining if resolutions submitted are fit business for the convention,
- Working with the authors and other committees to put the resolutions into appropriate form, and
- Determining the order of presentation of the resolutions.

Mr. Stuart Parsons, Esq. reported that the Committee on Resolutions had two resolutions for consideration:

- Resolution I. 2018 Clergy Minimum Compensation
- Resolution II. Resolution Regarding St. Bartholomew’s, Pewaukee

Bishop Miller thanked Mr. Stuart Parsons, Esq. and all the members of the Committee on Resolutions.

2018 Clergy Minimum Compensation

BE IT RESOLVED, that the clergy compensation levels for 2018 will be increased either by virtue of the clergy being placed in a higher range on the minimum compensation grid OR by the calculated

percent of 2.15% whichever is greater. This calculated percent is derived from a blended formula consisting of four economic indicators (see explanation).

YEARS EXPERIENCE	MINIMUM TOTAL CASH COMPENSATION*
0-2 YEARS	\$55,224
3-7 YEARS	\$60,142
8-12 YEARS	\$68,340
13-18 YEARS	\$76,538

*The Total Cash Compensation (TCC) package is defined as the sum of salary (stipend), housing and utilities allowance, and self-employment tax (SECA); part time clergy should meet these minima on a pro-rated basis.

We recognize that there may be extenuating circumstances preventing a congregation from meeting these minima. Any exceptions must be approved by the Office of the Bishop.

Bishop Miller stated that the Resolution, 2018 Clergy Minimum Compensation, had been placed before the convention and that because a Committee had brought the Resolution, it is considered moved and seconded.

Bishop Miller asked if there was any discussion on the resolution.

Mr. Scott Celsor (St. Thomas of Canterbury, Greendale) rose to speak against the resolution noting it was a matter of optics—a 2.15% increase to the clergy of parishes where members have not/do not receive those kinds of raises and placing an undue burden on individual parishes.

Ms. Irene Slyfield (St. Thomas of Canterbury, Greendale) called attention to an insurance issue in the FAQ section.

Bishop Miller noted that it was not part of the resolution but would be researched.

Bishop Miller asked if there was any further discussion on the resolution. Seeing no one else move to the microphone, Bishop Miller called for a vote.

The motion passed.

Resolution Regarding St. Bartholomew’s in Pewaukee

WHEREAS , the parish known as St. Bartholomew’s in Pewaukee has been formed with the written consent of the Bishop and the Standing Committee; and

WHEREAS, St. Bartholomew’s has been properly incorporated as provided in Canon 28.3;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that St. Bartholomew’s, Pewaukee is hereby admitted into union with the Convention of the Diocese.

Bishop Miller called on Mr. Will Friss and Ms. Janice Watter to speak of their journey. The motion was passed. The convention then gave them a standing ovation.

Report of the Committee on Privilege and Courtesy

Bishop Miller recognized Ms. Evelyn Gildrie-Voyles, for the reading of the Privilege and Courtesy Resolutions.

Ms. Evelyn Gildrie-Voyles presented the following:

**The 170th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Milwaukee
Resolutions of Courtesy and Privilege
October 14, 2017
Delafield, WI**

BE IT RESOLVED that this 170th annual Convention sends its blessings and good wishes to the Planning Committee for this Convention and particularly to Ms. Diane Brown, coordinator for volunteers and tellers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this gathering express its heartfelt thanks and gratitude in acknowledgment of the diligent work of the Bishop's staff at Nicholson House in all of its work and in the preparation for and the conduct of this event, including the volunteers who assisted in the preparation of all the Convention materials, and especially to the Rev. Marge Kiss, their coordinator and captain, as well as the indefatigable recording secretary of this body, without whose efforts our work today might be unknown to the generations ahead.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that thanks be given to our Chair of Resolutions Committee and Chancellor, Stuart Parsons, ; to the Chair of the Nominations Committee, the Rev. Martha Berger; the Treasurer , Clyde Bachand; the Parliamentarian, John Washbush; the Historiographer, the Rev. Evelyn Payson; the Head Teller, the Rev. Esther Kramer, for their assistance and leadership in many ways, visible and invisible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this gathering extend its greeting and prayers to the members and clergy of St. Alban's Church, Sussex, as they celebrate their 175th year of ministry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this gathering extend its greeting and prayers to the members and clergy of the St. Simon the Fisherman Church, Port Washington their 50th year of ministry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this gathering extend its greeting and prayers to the Rev. Benbow Cheesman, this year's Bishop's Shield recipient as he celebrates the 50th anniversary of his ordination.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Convention extend its greetings and offer the prayers of its members to the clergy and people of the Diocese of Newala, their bishop, the Rt. Rev. Oscar Steven Mnung'a, and his wife Agnes , and to Sister Helena and the sisters of the Community of St Mary of Nazareth and Calvary at their house in Newala, Tanzania.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Convention extend its greetings and offer the prayers of its members to the clergy and people of the Diocese of Haiti, their bishop, the Rt. Rev. Jean Zache Duracin as they prepare to elect a bishop co-adjutor in the coming year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Convention extends its greetings to our ecumenical partners: in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, to Rev. Paul D. Erickson who is being installed today as Bishop of the Greater Milwaukee Synod, to Rev. Mary Froiland, Bishop of the South Central Wisconsin Synod, and to Rev. Jim Arends, Bishop of the Lacrosse Area Synod, and to the people and clergy of their parishes; in the Moravian Church, to Brother Bruce Nelson, President of the Western District Synod, and to the people and clergy of its parishes; to all the other member Churches

of the Wisconsin Council of Churches, Rev. Scott Anderson, former Executive Director and Laurie Wilkinson, Interim Executive Director, and to the people and clergy of all of their parishes; and, to all other Churches, including the Roman Catholic Church, to the Most Reverend Jerome Listecky, Archbishop of the Milwaukee Archdiocese, and to the Most Reverend Robert Morlino, Bishop of the Madison Diocese; and to the people and clergy of all of these Church's parishes; that we might continue to seek unity among all Christians, and to serve the world together in the name of Christ.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Convention send its greeting and prayers to the people and clergy of the Diocese of Fond du Lac, and to their bishop, the Right Reverend Matthew Alan Gunter and his wife, Leslie.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Convention send its greeting and prayers to the people and clergy of the Diocese of Eau Claire, and to their bishop, the Right Reverend William Jay Lambert and his wife, May Ruth.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Convention send its greetings and prayers to Prudence "Pru" White, widow of the Right Reverend Roger J White, tenth bishop of the Diocese of Milwaukee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Convention affirm its affection for and gratitude to the family of our bishop, to Cindy, his wife, and to their daughters, Lauren and Haley, recognizing the support they give their husband and father, as he carries out episcopal ministry among us.

AND FINALLY, BE IT LIKEWISE RESOLVED that this 170th Convention of the Diocese of Milwaukee express its gratitude for the leadership, dedication and pastoral guidance of our bishop, the Right Reverend Steven Andrew Miller, D.D., consecrated 14 years ago on October 18, and let us recommit ourselves to pray that the Holy Spirit continues to strengthen and direct his ministry with us and among us.

Bishop Miller asked for a motion to accept the Privilege and Courtesy Resolutions as one entity. It was so moved and seconded. Bishop Miller called for a vote. The Privilege and Courtesy Resolutions passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Bishop Miller called attention to the Entity Reports of the various committees and commissions.

Blessing and Dismissal

As is the custom, the Rev'd Benbow Cheesman, as senior presbyter, moved to adjourn the 110th Convention of the Diocese of Milwaukee. It was seconded by many.

Bishop Miller noted that adjournment was not debatable and so called for a vote. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Bishop Miller offered a final prayer and his blessing; the Rev'd Margaret "Marge" Kiss dismissed the convention: *Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.*

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Reverend Margaret M. Kiss, Executive Secretary

APPENDIX I – PASTORAL ADDRESS

“Do not think that in the king’s palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father’s family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.”

Esther 4: 13–14

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

For such a time as this.

This is the theme of our convention gathering this year taken from the book of Esther and the story of God’s deliverance of his people from the persecutor Haman who had convinced the king that all the Jews should be killed. For just this time, God raised up Esther to bring about her people’s deliverance, an event now celebrated each year on the Jewish festival of Purim.

For such a time as this.

I mentioned these words to you in my sermon last year. I was struck by them at our House of Bishops Meeting in the fall of 2016 when they were spoken in our word to the church, written during a time of harsh civil rhetoric before last year’s presidential election. That rhetoric was causing division in our nation and in our world. The story of Esther and his verse of scripture has stayed with me all year. I have returned to it frequently, and each time I reflect on it I hear again the call to action as the priestly people of God.

As we gather today, what we lamented last year has grown worse. While the harsh and hateful rhetoric continues, we now see what these words produce. We have witnessed racist rallies and the increase of hate groups. This summer reflecting on the senseless violence and racist rallies in Charlottesville, a community where our younger daughter, Haley, was born, I wrote to you, “I have to admit that I find the whole thing simply unbelievable, and I keep wondering how did it come to this?”

If this were not enough, the slaughter of innocents in mass shootings and daily assassinations in our cities continues to grow. Mass shootings and the public response to them has become routine. Is there nothing we can do but say “our thoughts and prayers are with you”? We have either become numb or turned a blind eye to the daily slaughter on our city streets, while we and our leaders fail to bring about the change necessary to end this tragedy.

Moreover, we have witnessed the havoc of hurricanes, leaving many homeless and without food. We have seen wildfires destroy homes across our nation. We have watched as rescuers bring out those affected by any means necessary in order to save lives. These events, too, lead us to tears, and yet we have failed to take the steps necessary to address issues of climate change.

“Do not think that in the king’s palace you will escape any more than all the others.” God is calling his people to action for such a time as this. For such a time as this.

I can think of no time in my ministry when the public witness of the Church was more needed and more necessary, when the need for disciples to stand up for Jesus by standing up for those on the margins was more urgent.

I realize that all this can be quite daunting. In such a moment, we feel powerless, saying to ourselves what can I do, what can we do, who is going to listen to us? This feeling of powerlessness and despair is exacerbated by our present age and the widening gap between the haves and the have-nots, public officials and the public, and those on the margins and those who get a pass because of the color of their skin and their credit rating.

But God has a word for us. It is a word of empowerment, a word of God's faithfulness.

Today we celebrate the feast of Samuel Isaac Joseph Schereschewsky, Bishop of Shanghai, and founder of St. John's University, and, most importantly, biblical translator. Born a Jew in Lithuania, Schereschewsky as a young man entered rabbinical school. It was there he came across a copy of the New Testament translated into Hebrew. As a result of his reading, he began to wonder if Jesus just might be the promised Messiah. Later, while a college student at the University of Breslau, upon entering a cathedral he had a vision of the crucifix on the altar bathed in light which spoke of an unearthly glory. At the age of 23, he immigrated to America, and six months later converted to the Christian faith saying, I can no longer deny my Lord. A skilled linguist, Schereschewsky eventually entered the General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church, was ordained deacon and was sent as a missionary to China. During the five months of his sea voyage, he spent nine hours a day learning and mastering Chinese. He was ordained priest in 1860 by the Bishop of Shanghai and served faithfully as a priest and translator for 17 years. His faithfulness in his work and his zeal for the Gospel led the House of Bishops to elect him Bishop of Shanghai in 1877.

Schereschewsky was fervent in his work for the Gospel. When some of the missionaries abandoned their stations, he himself went to serve the people they had left behind. But his service was not without cost, as a result he was struck down by illness, an illness that left him paralyzed and only able to use one of the fingers on his right hand. But that did not stop his work on behalf of the Gospel. For the next eight years, sitting in a chair typing either with his one finger or by holding a stick in his fist, he completed his translation of the Bible into Chinese.

Shortly before his death while reflecting on his life to his physician, he said, "I have sat in this chair for over twenty years. It seemed hard at first. But God knew best. He kept me for the work for which I am best fitted."

His work for the Gospel lives on in the work of the Episcopal Church in Taiwan, which I had the privilege to visit three years ago, and in the work of St. John's University in Taipei.

God kept me for the work for which I am best fitted.

Think for a minute. What is the work for which you are fitted? Pray that God the Holy Spirit will reveal it to you. Think what difference will you be making for God when you engage this work. And then ask for God's grace and power to do it.

You see, I believe that God has chosen us as individuals, as congregations, and as a diocese to do his work, work for which we are fitted, endowed with the gifts of the Spirit. We are in Christ. And because we are in Christ, we are ministers of God's reconciliation—each of us has a ministry in the priesthood of Jesus Christ. And Christ is counting on us.

Moreover, I know God has given every one of us the gift of the Holy Spirit so that we may love him and serve him by serving others.

I see examples of this across our diocese.

The priest and people of St. James, West Bend used their gift of prayer to open hearts and minds through a prayer booth at the Washington County Fair.

Grace Church Madison is exploring ways it might engage with its neighbors across the street in the state legislature. In the midst of the deep divisions in our state and nation, they are engaging with legislators from across the political spectrum to see if we might find common ground on issues of concern. Their goal is to be a space where people of faith from all over the state might build relationships with legislators and work together on issues that affect all of us. As an initial opportunity, Grace will hold an open house in conjunction with the gala celebrating the State Capitol's centennial on November 8.

St. Luke's, Madison, along with ecumenical partners, has established a relationship with a neighboring school to provide food and supplies to children living in poverty who would go hungry on the weekends without their aid.

These are just a few examples of ministry in our midst, people and congregations using God's gifts for the ministry for which they are best suited. God has put us in this place and time to serve Jesus by serving others in his name.

But we need to remember in the words of the hymn in our hymnal, "Loving puts us on our knees serving as though we were slaves." True ministry in model of Jesus means setting aside our own power to do God's will.

It is this understanding that is behind our Haiti Project's examination of how to move from helpers to those who empower others. They are asking how we can end the cycle of dependency, described so well in the book *Toxic Charity*, and help our friends in Jeannette build their community. This is at the heart of our Milwaukee-Newala partnership, as demonstrated by the cow project and our support for training leaders at the Medical Clinic in Lulundi. It is for this reason that we are seeking to build relationships in the central city of Milwaukee through Collars on the Corner, an ecumenical effort with Roman Catholic deacons, led by Deacon Kevin Stewart, before starting new ministries in the central city of Milwaukee.

This past spring, Cindy and I had the privilege of participating in a conference in Chicago sponsored by Bishops United Against Gun Violence. The theme of the conference was Unholy Trinity: The Intersection of Racism Poverty and Violence. It was a powerful gathering and one which reinforced for me the need for us, from the community of white privilege, to listen and learn

from our sisters and brothers of color so that our eyes may be opened and our hearts moved by hearing and honoring the stories of others.

I was similarly moved when I read the book *Just Mercy*, our diocesan read for this year. These words from the book by Bryan Stevenson particularly spoke to me. “We have a choice. We can embrace our humanness, which means embracing our broken natures and the compassion that remains our best hope for healing. Or we can deny our brokenness, forswear compassion, and, as a result, deny our humanity.”

I believe that in baptism we have made the choice to embrace our broken natures, that is to acknowledge that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God and embrace the compassion that remains our best hope for healing.

In the waters of baptism, we acknowledge our brokenness. We confess that we need a Savior and even that knowledge is a gift of grace. As Christians, we turn to the model of compassion, the one who is compassion, the one who suffered and died for us, the one alone who can bring wholeness and healing. Jesus, who suffered and died for us, who gave his life that we might live, who shows us what living according to God’s design for humanity is, and who gives us the Spirit to make it possible for us to do.

At baptism, we are asked, “Do you promise to follow and obey Jesus as your Lord?” And we respond, “I will with God’s help.”

To say Jesus is Lord is to say the model for all human living, for truly human living, is Jesus who ate with tax collectors and sinners, who championed the poor and the marginalized, who served in his name is the example of how we are to live.

To say Jesus is Lord is to say that his way is our way. And when we discover that our way, our actions, and attitudes are incongruent with his, it is the determination to make the changes necessary to conform our life and actions to his example. If it is not right for Jesus, it is not appropriate for us.

You see, I believe that God uses all this for our sanctification. By admitting our brokenness, embracing God’s compassion, learning to live in Christ, God desires to make us as individuals and as the Church the people he is calling us to be so that the world may believe and that the words of our Lord’s prayer, “thy will be done, on earth as in heaven,” might be fulfilled.

One of the great saints of God in my life was my maternal grandfather, Alvin Frederick Steffen. He was, for me, an example of faith in action. One of those who for me God’s light shone through. Appropriately, he died on All Saints’ Day. This was his favorite hymn.

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
Thou art the potter, I am the clay.
Mold me and make me after thy will,
while I am waiting, yielded and still.

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
Search me and try me, Savior today!
Wash me just now, Lord, wash me just now,
as in thy presence humbly I bow.

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
Wounded and weary, help me I pray!
Power, all power, surely is thine!
Touch me and heal me, Savior divine!

Have thine own way, Lord! Have thine own way!
Hold o'er my being absolute sway.
Fill with thy Spirit till all shall see
Christ only, always, living in me!

That is my prayer this day. As we come to the Lord's Table this day, let us come with hearts prepared for God the potter to mold and shape us, to discover and do that for which the Lord has best fitted us.

Let us come committed to Jesus way of doing justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with our God.

APPENDIX II – CONVENTION GREETING AND ADDRESS

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I welcome you to this the 170th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee. To quote a dear departed friend known to many of you, it is good that we are here. You have already heard me speak to you in the sermon at Eucharist. Because my task there was to proclaim God's word and call us to mission, it did not seem to me that the sermon was the appropriate time to make remarks about the business before convention and to say thank you to those who make it happen.

First of all, please join me in giving thanks for our diocesan staff, Peggy Bean, Canon for Congregations, Marlene Udovich, Finance Officer, my assistants Patty Jaffke and Barbara Klauber, Sara Bitner, our Communications Officer, the Rev. Elizabeth Tester, Camp Webb Director, and Melissa Badot, who assists in our finance office. I also wish to say thanks to those who serve in this Convention, Marge Kiss, secretary, Stuart Parsons, Chancellor, John Washbush, Parliamentarian, and Jennifer Hennery, Chair of Dispatch of Business, and Esther Kramer, Head Teller. Two of our Committee Chairs are absent today, Martha Berger, of the Nominations Committee, and Kathy Milliken of the Resolutions Committee. I ask your prayers for them both.

I also want to thank those who serve on Diocesan Committees and Commissions, especially the members of Standing Committee, Executive Council, Commission on Ministry, Finance Committee, and Commission on Mission and Development. Thank you for your work on our behalf.

A word of thanks is also due to the staff of St. John's Northwestern Military Academy and to its President Jack Albert. I have the privilege of serving on the Board of the Academy and we are blessed by its presence in our diocese. I also want to share with you that next year St. John's is going co-ed. I am pleased that the great program here will now be available to young men and women.

Finally, I want ask you to join me in giving thanks to God for my wife, Cindy who is a partner and support in this ministry. I am so grateful for her.

As most of you know I am scheduled to go on sabbatical after this convention. I leave Monday for some time of study leave at the General Theological Seminary in New York. While there, I will also attend the meeting of the Seminary Board of which I am a member, preach to the faculty and students, and begin some initial work on two projects, one on pre-seminary formation and the other in ecumenical theology.

Unfortunately, my sabbatical plans for the days after my time in New York had to be postponed. Late this summer, I discovered that my right rotator cuff was torn and I am scheduled for surgery on Nov. 3. You will recall that last year I had surgery on my left rotator cuff. This year it's the right side's turn. I am glad I only have two shoulders. I ask your prayers for a successful surgery and recovery. Please know how much they meant to me last year. I am sure they were one of the reasons last year's surgery went so well.

Later today, you will hear a report from the Canon 28 Committee, act on resolutions and adopt a budget as well as elect persons to serve in a variety of capacities in our common life. All of this undergirds our work of serving the world in Jesus' name. I am so grateful for all of you and the privilege I have been given to serve as your bishop these last 14 years. I believe God has more work for us to do and I look forward to continue working with you on my return from medical leave as we seek to serve Christ in all persons.

APPENDIX III – Bishop’s Shield Award

The 170th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee



The Bishop’s Shield Award Presented to the Rev. Benbow Cheesman

For most people orange is a color or a fruit, but for the Rev. Ben Cheesman, Orange is also a county and town in Virginia, where he was born. For his significant work for justice and in honor of his 50th Anniversary of his ordination, I am pleased to present to the Rev. Benbow Palmer Cheesman with the Bishop’s Shield.

Ben is a graduate of the General Theological Seminary where he earned his Bachelor of Sacred Theology degree in 1967. During his time as a student, he served as campaign manager for the first African American student body president, Jay Walker, later Bishop of Long Island. After graduation, he was ordained to the diaconate and priesthood in the Diocese of West Virginia by the Rt. Rev. Wilburn C. Campbell. Early in his priesthood, he served parishes in West Virginia for four years before moving to Wisconsin in 1971. In the Diocese of Milwaukee, Ben served at Good Shepherd in Sun Prairie, Grace in Madison, and St. Mark’s in South Milwaukee.

Ben was an early champion of the women’s ordination, a position that was counter to the prevailing winds in the Diocese of Milwaukee at that time. This did not make his service in the diocese easy and led to his mission to pursue justice and his calling to law school. Ben attended the University of Wisconsin Law School and graduated with a law degree in 1986. From then until the end of 2005, he served as an Assistant District Attorney in Milwaukee County, assigned to the family support unit. Ben then opened a solo practice arguing criminal cases before the Wisconsin Court of Appeals. He continued to serve as a supply priest in the Diocese of Milwaukee and served on the Ecclesiastical Board, now known as the Disciplinary Board, from 2005–2011.

In retirement, Ben continues to serve the disadvantaged in a way that combines his heart for the poor and his love for fly-fishing and fly-tying as an instructor and guide for Wisconsin Trout Unlimited, an organization that takes inner-city youth on regular fishing expeditions.

Today, we celebrate his service to the Church and to the justice system and the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. For his many years of service to this diocese and its people, the Diocese of Milwaukee gives thanks to God for the ministry of the Rev. Benbow Cheesman and is pleased to recognize his committed service through the presentation of the Bishop’s Shield Award. Given under my hand and seal in the City of Milwaukee on the fourteenth day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen and in the fourteenth year of my consecration.

The Right Reverend Steven A. Miller
XI Bishop of Milwaukee