

**Journal of the Proceedings
of the
One Hundred Ninety-First
Annual Convention of the
Episcopal Diocese of Michigan**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2025

**5:00 P.M.
FIRST BUSINESS SESSION**

This being the day and place designated for the meeting of the One Hundred Ninety-First Annual Convention of The Episcopal Diocese of Michigan, the Chair of the Convention, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Bonnie A. Perry, Bishop Diocesan, called the Convention to order at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 24, 2025, at the Suburban Collection Showplace, in the City of Novi, Michigan, in the Trinity Deanery.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the fifth convention of the Diocese of Michigan since her consecration as Bishop Diocesan in 2020.

The Bishop described the theme of this year's convention, "Courage - Fierce Faith, Fierce Hope, Fierce Love," and how we will practice these this weekend. The opening video clip from The Lion King was played as the Bishop gave a commentary on defining fierce as not strident or combative, but real, honest, and deeply engaged.

The Bishop offered an opening prayer for the convention.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

The Chair provided a short slide-show presentation on Parliamentary Procedures.

ROLL CALL OF DEANERIES

The Chair called the Roll of Congregations by Deanery. Members of the convention and guests were asked to wave and greet the Convention when their deanery was called.

DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Based on a reported count of clergy (60) and lay (122) delegates present, the Chair determined that a quorum was present and that the Convention was prepared to proceed to organization.

PRESENTATION OF THE LIST OF CLERGY ELIGIBLE TO VOTE

Pursuant to Canon 1.1.1.1 of the Canons of the Diocese of Michigan, the Chair presented to the Secretary and laid before the Convention the list of clergy eligible to vote in this Convention. Included on this list are members of the clergy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America who serve in the Diocese of Michigan, along with the Youth Council.

Pursuant to the Constitution of the Diocese, Article 4, the chair entertained a motion to grant seat and voice to the following clergy who are active in our diocese:

The Rev. Sally Boelter
The Rev. John Connors
The Rev. Sharon Voelker
The Rev. Geoffrey Piper

It was moved and seconded. The Chair called for the vote. **The motion was adopted.**

ELECTION OF SECRETARY AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES

The Chair asked for a motion to elect the Rev. Canon Dr. W. Richard Hamlin as Secretary of Convention and the Rev. Joyce Matthews and Mrs. Brittany Estes as Assistant Secretaries of Convention. It was moved and seconded. The Chair called for the vote. **The motion was adopted.**

APPOINTMENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARIAN

The Chair introduced and appointed Mr. Maurice Henderson as Parliamentarian of the Convention and requested a motion to confirm. It was moved and seconded. The Chair called for the vote. **The motion was adopted.**

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHANCELLOR

The Chair recognized Stephen Ott, Esquire, Chancellor of the Diocese and parishioner of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, and thanked him for his good work on behalf of the diocese.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISPATCH OF BUSINESS

The Secretary presented the Report of the Committee on Dispatch of Business. The Secretary moved to adopt the Report of the Committee on Dispatch of Business, including the Agenda and General Rules of Order, available via the QR code on the back of everyone's nametag and on the screen, in an effort to go paperless as a sign of our commitment to creation care. The Chair called for the vote. **The motion was adopted.**

DECLARATION OF ORGANIZATION AND CALL TO ORDER

The Chair declared that the One Hundred Ninety-First Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan was organized and prepared to proceed to business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair called on the Secretary to provide announcements. The Secretary made a brief announcement as follows:

- Please remember to mute phones and all other electronics for all sessions of the Convention.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON QUALIFICATIONS

The Rev. Lynda Carter, Chair of the Committee on Qualifications, presented the report of the Committee. The Rev. Carter certified that all lay delegates registered at the Convention have presented the proper credentials and are duly seated as members of the Convention, with voice and vote. The Chair thanked them for their hard work.

LATE FILED RESOLUTIONS

The Chair called for the presentation of any resolutions not filed with the Secretary by September 6, 2025. No late-filed resolutions were presented for consideration.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS OF THE DIOCESE

The Chair asked for a motion that the reports of all boards, commissions, committees, and other agencies required to report to Convention be received by title and available in the virtual Convention Journal found on the diocesan website, in a link sent to email and in the Weekly Connection newsletter, and also on the QR code on the back of everyone's nametag. The motion was made and seconded. The Chair called for the vote. **The motion was adopted.**

REPORT OF EXCUSED CLERGY

The Chair reminded the convention that active clergy eligible to vote are required to write to the Bishop to request permission to be absent. The Chair expressed thanks to all in attendance.

INTRODUCTIONS OF CLERGY NEW TO THE DIOCESE AND NEW CURES

The Chair recognized the Rev. Canon Ellen Ekevag and the Rev. Susie Shaefer of the Bishop's staff to introduce clergy new to the diocese or with new positions in the diocese. Those recently retired were also recognized.

New Calls

- The Rev. Donna Lockhart, Priest in Charge, Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, Ann Arbor
- The Rev. John Conners, Interim at All Saints, Pontiac
- The Rev. Maryjane Peck, Interim at St. John's, Royal Oak
- The Rev. Andrew Armond, Rector at All Saints, East Lansing
- The Rev. Erica Benson, Rector at St. Thomas, Trenton
- The Rev. Dcn. Dan Martin, Priest In Charge, St. Andrew's, Waterford
- The Rev. Dean Aponte-Safe, Missioner for Rural and Small Church Vitality, Diocesan Staff
- The Rev. Melissa Congleton, Rector at St. Katherine's, Williamston
- The Rev. Alex Aivars, Chaplain at Canterbury, MSU

Starting in the next month

- The Rev. Bill Carrol, Senior Associate Priest at Christ Church Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills
- The Rev. Gerardo Aponte-Safe, Rector at St. Stephen's, Troy
- The Rev. Joseph Alsay, Dean-Elect at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul

Retirements

The Rev. Ronda Johnson

The Rev. Christine Humphrey

The Rev. Deacon Don Dersnah

The Rev. Deacon Linda Shafer

INTRODUCTION OF SEMINARIANS

The Chair invited the Rev. Andy Guffey, co-chair of the Commission on Ministry, to introduce those who are postulants and candidates for Holy Orders:

- Mel Carpenter, Christ Church Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills
- Carol Bennett, St. Andrew's, Ann Arbor
- Chas Kipp, Christ Church Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills
- Felicity Thompson, St. Andrew's, Ann Arbor
- Rachel Baird, St. Aidan's, Ann Arbor
- Joe LaVela, Christ Church Cranbrook
- Natalie Magnusson, St. Paul's, Jackson
- Danny Cox, Christ Church Cranbrook
- Kateri Boucher, St. Peter's, Detroit
- Meida Olliviera, St. Matthew's St. Joseph's, Detroit

RECOGNITION OF CURRENT DEANS AND COMMISSIONING OF NEW DEAN

The Chair asked Assistant Secretary Matthews to recognize the current deans:

- Detroit Deanery: The Very Rev. Barry Randolph
- Huron Valley Deanery: The Very Rev. Jeanne Hansknecht
- McGehee Deanery: The Very Rev. Chris Yaw
- Trinity Deanery: The Very Rev. Chris Fentress-Gannon
- William Lyster Deanery: The Very Rev. Deacon Cindy Corner
- Capital Deanery: The Very Rev. Dr. Gail Shafer

The Chair thanked the Very Rev. Andrea Morrow for her service as Dean of the Downriver Deanery.

The Chair commissioned the Rev. Paula Miller as Dean of the Downriver Deanery.

INTRODUCTION OF CANDIDATES FOR DIOCESAN OFFICE

The Chair called upon Mr. Greg Wortley, the Rev. Diana Walworth, and the Rev. Eric Braun, co-chairs of the Nomination Committee, for the introduction of candidates for diocesan office. The candidates were introduced as follows:

Cathedral Chapter in the Lay Order

None

Cathedral Chapter in the Clergy Order

The Rev. Dr. W. Richard Hamlin - St. Paul's, Lansing

Commission on Ministry in the Lay Order

Jacki Klein - St. Thomas, Trenton

Jessica Reinstra - St. David's, Southfield

Commission on Ministry in the Clergy Order

The Rev. Ben Adams - All.together Campus Ministry

The Very Rev. Barry Randolph - Church of the Messiah, Detroit

Deputy to General Convention in the Lay Order

Laurent Chappuis - St. James, Grosse Ile

Gwyneth Dugliss - St. James, Grosse Ile

Jennifer Dukarski - St. John's, Plymouth

Cedric A. Flounory - St. Clement's, Inkster

Stephen J. Ott - Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Detroit

Luke-Adrian Thompson - St. Andrew's, Ann Arbor

Deputy to General Convention in the Clergy Order

The Rev. Gerardi Aponte-Safe - St. Stephen's, Troy
The Very Rev. Chris Fentress-Gannon - St. John's, Plymouth
The Rev. Dr. Annie Lawson - St. Peter's, Detroit
The Rev. Dr. Phil Dinwiddie – St. James, Grosse Ile

Disciplinary Board in the Lay Order

Leslie Hall - St. Paul's, Lansing
John Weslowski - All Saints, East Lansing

Disciplinary Board in the Clergy Order

The Rev. Chip Dischinger - Trinity, Belleville
The Rev. Melissa Congleton - St. Katherine's, Williamston

Standing Committee in the Lay Order

None

Standing Committee in the Clergy Order

The Very Rev. Jeanne Hansknect - St. Paul's, Brighton

Trustee of the Diocese in the Lay Order

None

Trustee of the Diocese in the Clergy Order

The Very Rev. Chris Yaw - St. David's, Southfield

INTRODUCTION OF BISHOP'S STAFF

The Bishop expressed her gratitude to the staff for their amazing work and for the fun and community they share.

Ms. Holly Angell – Bishop's Executive Assistant

The Rev. Dr. Dean Aponte-Safe - Missioner for Rural & Small Church Vitality

Mr. Dennis Boyd – Canon of Communication

Ms. Kara Chapman – Diocesan Accountant

The Rev. Sister Veronica Dunbar – Canon for Spirituality and Race

The Venerable Dr. Tim Spannaus - Archdeacon

The Rev. Canon Ellen Ekevag – Canon to the Ordinary

Ms. Susan Mason - Diocesan Administrator

Ms. Carmen Piggins – Canon for Ministry with Young People

Ms. Crystal Ramirez – Director of Human Resources

The Rev. Canon Susie Shaefer – Canon for Transitions & Formation

Mr. Tony Perez – Diocesan Property Manager

Mr. Chris Ventura – Chief Financial Officer
Tali the Aussie – Canine to the Ordinary
Jasper, an Aussie too – Associate Shepherd

EVENING PRAYER

The Chair invited the Rev. Canon Susie Shafer to lead the body in prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair called on the Secretary to provide announcements. The Secretary made several announcements as follows:

- The Polls are now open and will close tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. I suggest voting before the 9:30 a.m. Eucharist tomorrow.
- Tonight's banquet begins at 6:45 p.m. next door, followed by a dance party
- The Convention Choir will rehearse in the main ballroom tomorrow at 8:30 a.m. All are welcome to join!
- The Exhibit area is open, so please visit our exhibitors during the pre-banquet reception, which takes place in the corridor outside of this room.
- A joint hearing of the Committee on Reference and the Committee on Constitution and Canons will take place tomorrow at 8:00 a.m. in the Emerald room.
- Holy Eucharist will be tomorrow at 9:30 a.m. in the main ballroom.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RECESS

The Chair announced that the Convention would stand in Recess until 9:30 am tomorrow, sharp, for Eucharist, and invited everyone to attend the resolution hearing tomorrow at 8:00 am in the Emerald Room.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2025

9:30 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST

The Convention Eucharist included a moving sermon by the Rt. Rev. Dr. Bonnie A. Perry on the topic of having the courage to live into our call, filled with fierce faith, fierce hope, and fierce love as we endure hard times filled with anger, violence, despair, sadness, numbness, confusion, and inequality.

The annual Necrology of the Diocese was included in the Prayers of the People. The following were remembered: The Rev. Dr. J. Christopher Berg, The Rev. Robert Bird, The Rev. David Carlson, The Rev. Ruth Clausen, Michael Cook, The Rev.

Frederick Engdahl, Jr., William F. Himelberger, The Ven. Jeffernell Howcott, The Rev. Canon Samuel T. Knight, The Rev. John Laycock, Theodore Meyers, The Rev. Jasper G. Pennington, Evelyn Reid, The Rev. William (Bill) T. Roberts, Deborah Wilson, Geraldine (Ged) Youngman

Contributions made to the Convention Eucharist offering, totaling \$3091.00, will be going to the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese in Jerusalem.

**11:30 A.M.
SECOND BUSINESS SESSION**

CONVENTION RECONVENES

The Chair called the Convention to order.

BISHOP'S ADDRESS

The Bishop spoke on the Convention theme, Courage: Fierce Faith, Fierce Hope, Fierce Love. A video featuring a clip from The Wizard of Oz was shown to remind everyone of the courage we must have to keep following Jesus Christ.

The Bishop added a brief prayer at the end.

ORIENTATION ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Chair called on the Secretary for the purpose of orientation to the Diocesan Convention Bingo rules.

REPORT BY THE SECRETARY ON THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST BALLOT

The Chair recognized the Secretary to report on the results of the first ballot.

Cathedral Chapter in the Lay Order

None

Cathedral Chapter in the Clergy Order

The Rev. Dr. W. Richard Hamlin — elected

Commission on Ministry in the Lay Order

Jessica Reinstra — elected

Commission on Ministry in the Clergy Order

The Very Rev. Barry Randolph — elected

Deputy to the General Convention in the Lay Order

Cedric A. Flounory — elected
Luke-Adrian Thompson — elected
Stephen J. Ott — elected
Jennifer Dukarski — elected
Gwyneth Dugliss — elected (alternate 1)
Laurent Chappuis — elected (alternate 2)

Deputy to the General Convention in the Clergy Order

The Rev. Dr. Phil Dinwiddie — elected
The Rev. Dr. Annie Lawson — elected
The Rev. Gerardo Aponte-Safe — elected
The Very Rev. Chris Fentress-Gannon — elected

Disciplinary Board in the Lay Order

Leslie Hall — elected

Disciplinary Board in the Clergy Order

The Rev. Melissa Congleton — elected

Standing Committee in the Lay Order

None

Standing Committee in the Clergy Order

The Very Rev. Jeanne Hansknecht — elected

Trustee of the Diocese in the Lay Order

None

Trustee of the Diocese in the Clergy Order

The Very Rev. Chris Yaw — elected

CAMPUS MINISTERS REPORT TO CONVENTION

The Chair expressed gratitude for the campus ministries at Wayne State University, Henry Ford College, the University of Michigan-Dearborn, Michigan State University, and the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. She invited the chaplains and ministry representatives to the platform to share updates. The Rev. Ben Adams (All.together Campus Ministries: Wayne State University, Henry Ford College, and the University of Michigan-Dearborn), The Rev. Alex Aivars (Canterbury, Michigan State University), and The Rev. Matthew Lukens (Canterbury House, University of Michigan) reported on their work. All thanked the Diocese for its support.

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND CANONS

The Chair invited committee chair, The Rev. Bob Alltop, to present the report from the Committee on Constitution and Canons. The Rev. Alltop moved the first proposed change to the canons as follows:

Resolution 191-1: Proposed Amendment to the Canons of the Diocese of Michigan to Clarify the Terms of Standing Committee Member

Existing Canon

2.3.3 Standing Committee.

2.3.3. 1 Duties.

The Standing Committee shall perform those duties and exercise those prerogatives described in the Canons of the General Convention and these Canons.

2.3.3. 2 Members.

The Standing Committee shall consist of eight (8) members, four (4) members of the clergy entitled to vote at Convention and four (4) laypersons who shall be confirmed adult communicants in good standing of a congregation that has been admitted as a Voting Congregation. Two members, one member of the clergy and one layperson, shall be elected at each Annual Convention.

2.3.3. 3 Term.

The term of office shall commence at a meeting of the committee called or scheduled not more than 90 days after Annual Convention (the “annual organizational meeting”), and shall continue until the annual organizational meeting held after the fourth Annual Convention following election. By majority vote, the remaining members of the Committee may fill a vacancy in its membership by appointing a person in the same order as the person whose unexpired term is to be filled to serve the balance of the unexpired term. A person shall not be eligible for reelection until the next Annual Convention following the fourth Annual Convention after election to a full term. During the period commencing on the day after the adjournment of the 173rd Convention of the Diocese and ending on the day before the commencement of the 174th Convention of the Diocese, the Committee shall fill any vacancy on the Committee which vacancy is caused by no candidate or insufficient candidates having been nominated at the 173rd Convention, by appointing an individual in the same order as the vacant position, which individual shall have the same term of office had he or she been elected at the 173rd Convention.

2.3.3. 4 Offices.

At its annual organizational meeting, the Committee shall elect from among its members a President and a Secretary. The Secretary shall be the keeper of minutes and of official records of actions of the Committee.

2.3.3. 5 Report.

The Committee shall provide to Members of Convention and to the secretary of each congregation that has been admitted as a Voting Congregation, approximately thirty (30) days prior to each Annual Convention, a written report concerning the work with which it has been charged and its activities, other than those that relate to its role as council of advice to the Bishop or to any function the Committee serves in the processes of clergy discipline.

Proposed Change: (Additions in bold/underline/red; deletions in red strikeout)

2.3.3 Standing Committee.

2.3.3. 1 Duties.

The Standing Committee shall perform those duties and exercise those prerogatives described in the Canons of the General Convention and these Canons.

2.3.3. 2 Members.

The Standing Committee shall consist of eight (8) members, four (4) members of the clergy entitled to vote at Convention and four (4) laypersons who shall be confirmed adult communicants in good standing of a congregation that has been admitted as a Voting Congregation. Two members, one member of the clergy and one layperson, shall be elected at each Annual Convention.

2.3.3. 3 Term.

The term of office shall **be four years and should** commence at a meeting of the committee called or scheduled not more than 90 days after Annual Convention (the “annual organizational meeting”), and shall continue until the annual organizational meeting held after the fourth Annual Convention following election. By majority vote, the remaining members of the Committee may fill a vacancy in its membership by appointing a person in the same order as the person whose unexpired term is to be filled to serve the balance of the unexpired term. A person shall not be eligible for reelection until **one year after the completion of a 4-year term.** ~~the next Annual~~

~~Convention following the fourth Annual Convention after election to a full term. During the period commencing on the day after the adjournment of the 173rd Convention of the Diocese and ending on the day before the commencement of the 174th Convention of the Diocese, the Committee shall fill any vacancy on the Committee which vacancy is caused by no candidate or insufficient candidates having been nominated at the 173rd Convention, by appointing an individual in the same order as the vacant position, which individual shall have the same term of office had he or she been elected at the 173rd Convention.~~

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At its annual organizational meeting, the Committee shall elect from among its members a President and a Secretary. The Secretary shall be the keeper of minutes and of official records of actions of the Committee.

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The Committee shall provide to Members of Convention and to the secretary of each congregation that has been admitted as a Voting Congregation, approximately thirty (30) days prior to each Annual Convention, a written report concerning the work with which it has been charged and its activities, other than those that relate to its role as council of advice to the Bishop or to any function the Committee serves in the processes of clergy discipline.

Rationale: To more clearly state the term of members and eliminate outdated language regarding the 173rd and 174th conventions.

There being no debate, the Chair called for a voice vote. **The motion was adopted.**

The Rev. Alltop moved the second proposed change to the canons as follows:

Resolution 191-2: Proposed Change to the Canons Regarding the Purchase of Property by Congregations

Existing Canon

3.4 Property of Congregations

All property, real and personal, owned or held by or for the benefit of any congregation or its purposes, including that held by any person or entity that is affiliated with or formed by the congregation, is held in trust for the Church and the Diocese, subject to these Canons. Property of a congregation is the responsibility of

its Governing Body. All pews in every congregation in this Diocese shall be forever free.

3.4. 1 Title to Real Property.

Title to real property is held as follows: (a) Parishes. Title to property shall be held in the name of the parish as incorporated in the State of Michigan, subject to the provisions of Canon 3.4. (b) Parochial Missions. Title to property shall be held by the founding parish in trust for the parochial mission. (c) Other Congregations. Title to all property for all other types of congregations shall be held by the Diocese, and shall be held subject to the control and direction of the Diocesan Council. If it is deemed in the best interests of the congregation, with the approval of the Bishop, the Standing Committee and the Governing Body of the congregation, title to property used by a congregation may be transferred to it. Such approval may be subject to conditions. Prior to any transfer of title to a congregation, the congregation shall be incorporated under the laws of the State of Michigan and shall provide the documentation required by these Canons.

3.4.2 Acquisition.

A congregation shall obtain the consent and approval of the Bishop and the Standing Committee prior to acquiring any interest in real property.

3.4.2. 1 Location.

Subject to the notice requirements of these Canons, the site of a new location for a congregation shall not be established, or the site of an existing congregation changed, without the prior consent of the Bishop and the Standing Committee.

3.4.2. 1.1 Notice.

Before seeking consent by the Bishop and the Standing Committee, a congregation seeking to establish a new location or change locations shall notify the members of the clergy in charge and the Governing Bodies of all congregations located within a five (5) mile radius of the proposed location, and if there are none, to each of the three congregations whose places of worship are nearest to the proposed location. Notice shall include the site of the new location and provide not less than sixty (60) days for the members of the clergy in charge and Governing Bodies of each notified congregation to respond or present objections and comments.

3.4.3 Construction, Alteration and Improvement of Congregational Facilities.

A congregation shall not begin construction of any new facility or permanent improvements to, or alteration (not including normal maintenance, remodeling and redecorating) or enlargement of any existing facility belonging to the congregation without the prior approval of the Bishop and the Standing Committee. Prior to seeking approval, the Governing Body shall obtain the approval of the congregation. Plans for construction or alteration shall be submitted to the Standing Committee or a committee designated by it for review and approval. The term "facility" includes churches, parish or other meeting halls, rectories and housing, schools, and buildings used by the congregation.

3.4.3.1 Demolition.

Congregational facilities shall not be demolished, removed, taken down or otherwise disposed of without the prior consent of the Bishop and the Standing Committee. Prior to seeking consent, the Governing Body shall obtain the approval of the congregation.

3.4.4 Encumbrance.

A congregation may not encumber its interest in real property without the prior consent of the Bishop and the Standing Committee. Prior to seeking consent, the Governing Body shall obtain the approval of the congregation.

3.4.4.1 Refinancing of Encumbrances.

A congregation may refinance an encumbrance securing indebtedness previously approved by the Bishop and the Standing Committee without the consent of the Bishop and the Standing Committee, or the congregation, if the indebtedness is not increased, the collateral is not changed, and the amount financed or the rate of interest is not increased; or the maturity date advanced to a date sooner than the refinanced encumbrance.

3.4.4.2 Statements of Account.

When a congregation encumbers property, it shall, within thirty (30) days of doing so, prepare and furnish to the Bishop and the Standing Committee copies of the lien or mortgage and any note. On or before January 31 of each year, the Governing Body shall provide to the Bishop and the Standing Committee a statement showing all terms and conditions of the encumbrance, including original principal amount, rate of interest, payment amount, maturity date of the indebtedness; the amount of principal and interest paid and the dates of all payments made during the preceding

calendar year, and the beginning and ending principal balances, together with the name and address of the lender, mortgagee or lien holder.

3.4.5 Alienation and Transfer.

A congregation shall not alienate (which includes convey, transfer legal or equitable title or a possessory interest therein, lease, sell and give) personal property with a fair market value of \$10,000.00 or more and any interest in real property without the prior consent of the Bishop and Standing Committee. Prior to seeking consent, the Governing Body shall obtain the approval of the congregation at a duly called meeting.

3.4.6 Insurance.

A congregation shall maintain adequate insurance coverage on all of its property, both real and personal, against hazards and liability in minimum amounts as may be required by Diocesan policy. An inventory of all personal property and its value shall be taken and kept current by the Governing Body of a congregation, with a copy retained off-site. Congregations that do not purchase such insurance through Church Insurance Company of Vermont, or its successor, shall provide the Diocese a copy of the declarations page from its policy by September 1st of each year, verifying that coverage meets at least the minimum amount required by Diocesan policy.

3.4.7 Management, Maintenance and Administration.

The Governing Body shall be responsible for the proper and timely management, maintenance and administration of all property of a congregation.

3.4.8 Use.

As provided by the Canons of the General Convention and these Canons, for the purposes of the office and for the full and free discharge of all functions and duties pertaining thereto, the member of the clergy in charge of the congregation shall at all times be entitled to the use and control of the property and facilities of the congregation, including all appurtenances and furnishings, and have access to all records and registers maintained by or on behalf of the congregation.

Proposed Change: (Additions in bold/underline/red; deletions in red strikeout)

3.4 Property of Congregations

All property, real and personal, owned or held by or for the benefit of any congregation or its purposes, including that held by any person or entity that is affiliated with or formed by the congregation, is held in trust for the Church and the Diocese, subject to these Canons. Property of a congregation is the responsibility of its Governing Body. All pews in every congregation in this Diocese shall be forever free.

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3.4.2 Acquisition.

A congregation shall obtain the consent and approval of the Bishop and the Standing Committee prior to acquiring any interest in real property. **Prior to seeking approval, the Governing Body of a congregation shall obtain the approval of the congregation.**

3.4.2. 1 Location.

Subject to the notice requirements of these Canons, the site of a new location for a congregation shall not be established, or the site of an existing congregation changed, without the prior consent of the Bishop and the Standing Committee.

3.4.2. 1.1 Notice.

Before seeking consent by the Bishop and the Standing Committee, a congregation seeking to establish a new location or change locations shall notify the members of the clergy in charge and the Governing Bodies of all congregations located within a five (5) mile radius of the proposed location, and if there are none, to each of the

three congregations whose places of worship are nearest to the proposed location. Notice shall include the site of the new location and provide not less than sixty (60) days for the members of the clergy in charge and Governing Bodies of each notified congregation to respond or present objections and comments.

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A congregation shall not begin construction of any new facility or permanent improvements to, or alteration (not including normal maintenance, remodeling and redecorating) or enlargement of any existing facility belonging to the congregation without the prior approval of the Bishop and the Standing Committee. Prior to seeking approval, the Governing Body ~~of~~ shall obtain the approval of the congregation. Plans for construction or alteration shall be submitted to the Standing Committee or a committee designated by it for review and approval. The term "facility" includes churches, parish or other meeting halls, rectories and housing, schools, and buildings used by the congregation.

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3.4.4.2 Statements of Account.

When a congregation encumbers property, it shall, within thirty (30) days of doing so, prepare and furnish to the Bishop and the Standing Committee copies of the lien or mortgage and any note. On or before January 31 of each year, the Governing Body shall provide to the Bishop and the Standing Committee a statement showing all terms and conditions of the encumbrance, including original principal amount, rate of interest, payment amount, maturity date of the indebtedness; the amount of principal and interest paid and the dates of all payments made during the preceding calendar year, and the beginning and ending principal balances, together with the name and address of the lender, mortgagee or lien holder.

3.4.5 Alienation and Transfer.

A congregation shall not alienate (which includes convey, transfer legal or equitable title or a possessory interest therein, lease, sell and give) personal property with a fair market value of \$10,000.00 or more and any interest in real property without the prior consent of the Bishop and Standing Committee. Prior to seeking consent, the Governing Body ~~of~~ shall obtain the approval of the congregation at a duly called meeting.

3.4.6 Insurance.

A congregation shall maintain adequate insurance coverage on all of its property, both real and personal, against hazards and liability in minimum amounts as may be required by Diocesan policy. An inventory of all personal property and its value shall be taken and kept current by the Governing Body of a congregation, with a copy retained off-site. Congregations that do not purchase such insurance through Church Insurance Company of Vermont, or its successor, shall provide the Diocese a copy of the declarations page from its policy by September 1st of each year, verifying that coverage meets at least the minimum amount required by Diocesan policy.

3.4.7 Management, Maintenance and Administration.

The Governing Body shall be responsible for the proper and timely management, maintenance and administration of all property of a congregation.

3.4.8 Use.

As provided by the Canons of the General Convention and these Canons, for the purposes of the office and for the full and free discharge of all functions and duties pertaining thereto, the member of the clergy in charge of the congregation shall at all times be entitled to the use and control of the property and facilities of the

congregation, including all appurtenances and furnishings, and have access to all records and registers maintained by or on behalf of the congregation.

Rationale: This addition to the canons is to make clear that before a congregation seeks to obtain the consent and approval of the Bishop and the Standing Committee to acquire any interest in real property, the Governing Body of the congregation shall obtain the approval of the congregation for said real property acquisition. The change also corrects typographical errors in the canon.

There being no debate, the Chair called for a voice vote. **The motion was adopted.**

The Rev. Alltop moved the third proposed change to the canons as follows:

Resolution 191-3: Proposed Adoption of An Agreement for the Joint Administration of Title IV of the Canons of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church between the Episcopal Dioceses of Michigan and the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes

An Agreement for the Joint Administration of Title IV of the Canons of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church^[1]

This Agreement is made effective October 25, 2025 by and between the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan and the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes (jointly, “the Dioceses”) which have agreed to create and maintain a Joint Diocesan Disciplinary Board (“JDDB”) for the purpose of implementing Title IV of the Canons of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church (“Title IV”) within the Dioceses. This Agreement is authorized by Canon IV.5.3.i of The Episcopal Church and is intended to comply in all respects with the requirements of Title IV.

1. THE JDDB

a. *Composition.* The JDDB shall consist of 13 members, as follows:

- i. 7 clergy members who shall be canonically and geographically resident within one of the Dioceses.
- ii. 6 lay members who shall be communicants in good standing and geographically resident within one of the Dioceses.
- iii. Members shall serve a term of three (3) years following the initial staggered terms as set forth below.

b. *Initial Appointment and Selection of Members.* To establish a system of staggered initial terms, at the time of inception of the JDDB the Dioceses shall appoint a total of thirteen (13) members, to be divided into three rotational groups, as follows:

- i. Group A Members: Each Diocese shall initially appoint or select two (2) Group A members, consisting of one (1) clergy member and one (1) lay member, who shall serve an initial term of one (1) year on the JDDB.
- ii. Group B Members: Each Diocese shall initially appoint or select two (2) Group B members, consisting of one (1) clergy member and one (1) lay member, who shall serve an initial term of two (2) years on the JDDB.
- iii. Group C Members: Each Diocese shall initially appoint or select two (2) Group C members, consisting of one (1) clergy member and one (1) lay member, who shall serve an initial term of three (3) years on the JDDB.
- iv. The 13th member of the JDDB shall be a clergy member assigned to Group B and, for the initial term, shall be appointed or selected by the Diocese of Michigan.

c. *Appointment and Selection of Members After Initial Terms.*

- i. Upon the completion of Group A, Group B (excluding the 13th member) and Group C members' initial terms, each Diocese shall thereafter annually appoint or select to the JDDB two (2) clergy members and two (2) lay members, who shall serve terms of three (3) years.
- ii. The 13th member of the JDDB, upon the expiration of his or her initial term, shall be a clergy member appointed or selected by the Diocese of the Great Lakes for a term of three (3) years. The Dioceses shall thereafter rotate the right to appoint or select the 13th member upon expiration of his or her term. The 13th member shall always be a clergy member,

d. *Procedures and Eligibility for Appointment and Selection.* Appointment and selection of all JDDB members shall

take place in accordance with the Canons of the Diocese appointing or selecting the member.

- i. All clergy and lay members of the JDDB shall satisfy all applicable requirements of Canon IV.5.3 of The Episcopal Church.
 - ii. All clergy members appointed or selected shall have been ordained for a minimum of five (5) years prior to appointment or selection.
 - iii. No current member of either Diocese's Standing Committee shall be eligible to serve on the JDDB.
- e. *Successive Terms of Membership.* There shall be no limit to the number of successive terms to which a member of the JDDB may be appointed or selected, unless specified by either of the Dioceses that are a party to this agreement.^[2] If a member's term expires after that person has been appointed to a Conference Panel or a Hearing Panel for a specific matter or case, but before the matter is finally disposed of, if not appointed or selected to continue on the JDDB that member may nonetheless continue to serve on the Panel for that matter until the final disposition thereof.
- f. *Vacancies.* Any member who, prior to the expiration of his or her term, resigns or declines to serve for reasons of death, disability rendering the member unable to act, loss of qualification for membership, or other cause shall promptly inform the President of the JDDB in writing of the same, who shall in turn promptly inform the Bishop of the Diocese which originally appointed or selected that member. That vacancy shall promptly be filled by the Diocese which selected the prior member pursuant to rules and procedures of the Diocese attendant to vacancies and by a new member of the same order as the resigning member.^[3]
- g. *Notification.* On or before December 1 of each year, the Bishop of each of the Dioceses or the Bishop's designee will notify the then President of the JDDB of the names and contact information of those persons selected by that Diocese for the ensuing year to serve as members of the JDDB.

2. OFFICERS AND DUTIES

- a. *Officers of the JDDB.* The JDDB shall have two officers: a President and a Clerk.
- b. *President.* The President of the JDDB (hereafter “the President”) shall be either a lay or clergy member of the JDDB and shall have the duties and responsibilities established by Canon IV.5 of The Episcopal Church.
 - i. The initial President shall be chosen pursuant to Canon IV.5.1 of the Episcopal Church and shall serve for a one-year term.
 - ii. Thereafter, the President shall call a meeting of the JDDB to be held as soon as practical after January 1 of the following year, but in no case more than sixty (60) days after January 1. for the purpose of electing a President for the coming year.^[4] Such meeting may be held in person, by conference call or other electronic means which allows simultaneous audio communication. At this meeting the JDDB shall elect a President to serve for the year or until a successor President is elected.^[5]
 - iii. If no President is selected by the JDDB after sixty (60) days, the then-current President shall serve until a successor is elected by a vote of the Bishops of the Dioceses.
- c. *Clerk.* The JDDB shall appoint a Clerk, who may be a member of the JDDB, who shall be the custodian of all records and files of the JDDB and who shall provide administrative services as needed for the functioning of the JDDB. The Clerk shall satisfy in all respects the requirements of Canon IV.5.3.g.
- d. *Other Title IV Officers.* Each Diocese shall make provision for its own Church Attorneys, Intake Officers, Advisors, Investigators, Conciliators, or other persons acting under Title IV as it may choose and will notify the other Diocese and the President of the name and contact information of the persons chosen or designated for those offices. All costs and expenses associated with the same shall be the responsibility of the Diocese and not the JDDB. Each Diocese shall also notify the other Diocese and the President of the name and terms of engagement of such of its Church Attorneys, Advisors,

Investigators, or Conciliators as may be available to the other Diocese for those services.

3. CONDUCT OF CASES

- a. The Diocese exercising Title IV jurisdiction over the Respondent shall be responsible for designating a Church Attorney to be assigned to the matter, and shall provide all other Title IV personnel required, excepting members of the Conference Panel and Hearing Panel.
- b. In selecting a Conference Panel and a Hearing Panel for any case, the President will first decide whether each of the panels will be two or three persons. The President will select the members of each panel by dividing those who are not disqualified into two pools, clergy and lay, and drawing one member from each of the two pools. Thereafter, the names remaining in the two pools will be mixed into a single pool, from which the President will draw by lot names to complete the two panels. All Conference Panel and Hearing Panel members may be from either of the two Dioceses.
- c. Whenever appropriate and consistent with the values expressed in Title IV, the JDDB and any of its panels may conduct proceedings using a virtual communication platform, provided that the platform enables simultaneous audio communication among all participants.
- d. For every Title IV proceeding within either Diocese, the Reference Panel shall consist of the Intake Officer of the Diocese exercising jurisdiction over the matter, the Bishop of that Diocese, and the President. In the event the Diocese exercising jurisdiction over the matter is without a Bishop, the Bishop of the other Diocese may serve as acting Bishop and exercise all authority over the matter and parties as provided by Title IV of the Canons of The Episcopal Church. The Standing Committee of the Diocese may also engage an acting Bishop as allowed by Canon IV.13.2 of The Episcopal Church.
- e. In addition to the provisions of Canon IV.19.14 of Title IV, the integrity of the JDDB shall be maintained by permitting the Church Attorney or a Respondent to challenge a member of the JDDB or Panel appointed for a proceeding on grounds of conflict of interest or undue bias. The JDDB shall determine whether a challenge is relevant and well-founded in accordance with Canon IV.19.15 of The Episcopal Church.

4. FEES AND EXPENSES

- a. Expenses of the JDDB in carrying out its duties in a proceeding shall be the responsibility of the Diocese exercising jurisdiction over the matter. All expenses of the JDDB not incident to a particular proceeding shall be borne equally by the Dioceses.
- b. Unless expressly provided otherwise in the canons of the Diocese exercising jurisdiction over a matter, all costs, expenses and fees incurred under Title IV or otherwise in the administration of matters of clergy discipline shall be the obligation of the person incurring them.

5. APPLICABILITY OF TITLE IV

- a. This Agreement establishes policies, procedures, and structures to implement Title IV in the Dioceses for the discipline of priests and deacons, who by their vows at ordination, have accepted both responsibility and accountability for the doctrine, discipline and worship of The Episcopal Church. In the event any provision of this Agreement materially conflicts with or is inconsistent with Title IV, the provisions of Title IV shall prevail.
- b. The JDDB established by this Agreement is intended to serve as the Disciplinary Board under Title IV for each of the dioceses and is responsible for carrying out all the duties of a Disciplinary Board within each of the Dioceses.

6. EFFECTIVE DATE

- a. This Agreement will become effective on Month XX, 2025 provided that this Agreement will have been ratified by any procedure provided for ratification by each of the Dioceses that are parties to this Agreement.

7. DURATION AND AMENDMENT

- a. Both dioceses shall maintain this agreement until one diocese provides written notice of no less than one year to the Bishop of the other diocese that it wishes to terminate its participation in the agreement. For any proceeding that has begun and is still ongoing as of the termination date, this Agreement shall remain in effect solely with respect to such proceeding until the final disposition thereof.

- b. Any amendment to this Agreement must be in writing and signed by the Bishop of each diocese and concurred in by each Diocesan Council and will not be effective earlier than the first day of the year following the year in which ratification of the Agreement shall have been approved by each Diocese.

Diocese of Michigan

Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes

By: _____

By: _____

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Bonnie A. Perry
President

The Rev. Molly Bosscher,

Standing Committee

Revision History:

Adopted: Month XX, 20XX

Amended: Month XX, 20XX

Rationale: The Committee on Constitution and Canons moves the approval of this agreement to more efficiently facilitate the adherence to Title IV of the General Canons of The Episcopal Church, lessening the cost of this important work for both the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan as well as the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes. The Committee notes that placeholder dates will be replaced with the actual dates that the agreement is signed.

[\[1\]](#) This agreement is adapted from an agreement for the joint administration of Title IV of the Episcopal Dioceses of Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont dated October 1, 2010; and an agreement for a Regional Disciplinary Board Compact among the Dioceses of Northwestern Pennsylvania, Ohio, Pittsburg, Southern Ohio, Western New York, and West Virginia effective in 2020.

[\[2\]](#) The canons of the Diocese of Michigan provide that their members of the Joint Board may only serve two consecutive terms.

[\[3\]](#) TEC IV.5.3(b)

[\[4\]](#) See EDOMI Canon VI.6.2.7

[\[5\]](#) See EDOM Canon VI.6.2.7

There being no debate, the Chair called for a voice vote. **The motion was adopted.**

The Rev. Alltop moved the fourth proposed change to the canons as follows:

Resolution 191-4: Proposed Amendment to the Canons of the Diocese of Michigan to Align

Canon VI with the Agreement For the Joint Administration of Title IV of the Canons of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church

VI. ECCLESIASTICAL DISCIPLINE

6.0 Title IV of General Canons. Those provisions of Title IV of the General Canons of The Episcopal Church that are applicable to the Diocese are hereby incorporated as part of this Title. To the extent, if any, that any of the provisions of this Title are in conflict or inconsistent with the provisions of Title IV of the General Canons of The Episcopal Church, the provisions of Title IV shall govern. This Title will take effect on July 1, 2011. Until that time, the terms of the prior Title VI of the Diocese of Michigan will continue in effect, and the terms of those elected or appointed to fill positions under that title will continue until June 30, 2011, or as long thereafter as may be needed to complete matters in process under the prior Title.

6.1 Diocesan Cooperation. The Episcopal Dioceses in Michigan have expressed a desire to cooperate in the ecclesiastical disciplinary process of any matter in any such Diocese, including the creation of a common Disciplinary Board and the sharing of other resources as deemed appropriate. This Title is intended to facilitate the participation of this Diocese in such cooperative efforts with those Episcopal Dioceses in Michigan that adopt similar local canons. When any General Canon of The Episcopal Church allows information be given to a Bishop, the only Bishop to whom such information may be given is the Bishop of the Diocese in which the Respondent is canonically resident. The venue of any proceedings shall be in the Diocese in which the Respondent is canonically resident.

6.2 Disciplinary Board. The Disciplinary Board shall consist of a minimum of four persons, two clergy and two lay, from each participating Diocese. In addition, the participating Dioceses will take turns selecting one additional clergy member. A member of the Standing Committee of any participating Diocese may not serve on the Disciplinary Board.

6.2.1 Selection of Members of Disciplinary Board. Members of the Disciplinary Board from this Diocese, sufficient to fill any upcoming vacancies, will be elected by the Annual Convention.

6.2.2 Terms. The terms of the initial members of the Disciplinary Board begin on July 1, 2011. At the first meeting of the Disciplinary Board after July 1, 2011, the members elected by each Diocese then participating will draw lots to determine one clergy member and one lay member elected by that Diocese who will serve until December 31, 2011. The remaining members will serve until December 31, 2012.

Thereafter, each participating Diocese will select replacements for members of that Diocese whose terms will expire at the end of the year. Members so selected will serve a two-year term, each term to begin on January 1 following selection.

6.2.3 Successive Terms. Members may serve no more than two successive terms. If a member is elected or appointed to fill a vacancy involving a member from this Diocese, the term of the replacement member will be the unexpired term of the member being replaced, and the replacement member is eligible for election to a successive term.

6.2.4 Clergy Members. The clergy members of the Disciplinary Board must be canonically and geographically resident within the Diocese from which they are selected.

6.2.5 Lay Members. The lay members of the Disciplinary Board must be adult Communicants in Good Standing of a congregation in the Diocese from which they are selected, and must be geographically resident in that Diocese.

- 6.2.6 Vacancies. Vacancies on the Disciplinary Board will be filled as follows:
- (a) Upon the determination that a vacancy exists, the President of the Disciplinary Board shall notify the Bishop of the vacating member's Diocese of the vacancy and request appointment of a replacement member of the same order as the member to be replaced.
 - (b) If the vacancy involves a member from this Diocese, the Bishop shall appoint a replacement Disciplinary Board member in consultation with the Standing Committee.
 - (c) Persons appointed to fill vacancies on the Disciplinary Board must meet the same eligibility requirements as apply to elected members of the Disciplinary Board.
 - (d) With respect to a vacancy resulting from a challenge, the replacement member will serve only for the proceedings for which the elected member is not serving as a result of the challenge.

6.2.7 President. As soon as practicable after January 1 of each year, but no longer than 60 days after January 1 of each year, the Disciplinary Board will meet and elect from its membership a President, who may be a member of the clergy or lay person, and who shall serve as President for a term of one year (until a replacement is elected).

6.2.8 Clerk. The Disciplinary Board shall appoint a Clerk to assist the Disciplinary Board with records management and administrative support. The Clerk may be a member of the Disciplinary Board.

6.2.9 Preserving Impartiality. In any proceeding under this Title, if any member of a Conference Panel or Hearing Panel of the Disciplinary Board shall become aware of a personal conflict of interest or undue bias, that member shall immediately notify the President of the Disciplinary Board and request a replacement member of the Panel. Respondent's Counsel and the Church Attorney shall have the right to challenge any member of a Panel for conflict of interest or undue bias by motion to the Panel for disqualification of the challenged member. The members of the Panel, not the subject of the challenge, shall promptly consider the motion and determine whether the challenged Panel member shall be disqualified from participating in that proceeding.

6.3 Intake Officer. An Intake Officer will be appointed from time to time by the Bishop. The Bishop may appoint one or more Intake Officers according to the needs of the Diocese. The Bishop shall publish the name(s) and contact information of the Intake Officer(s) throughout the Diocese.

6.4 Investigator. The Bishop will appoint one or more Investigator(s), as needed, in consultation with the President of the Disciplinary Board. Investigators may but need not be Members of the Church.

6.5 Church Attorney(s). The Bishops, with the consent of their Standing Committees, will appoint, as needed, one or more attorneys to serve as Church Attorney(s). The person(s) so selected must be a duly licensed attorney in the state of Michigan, but need not reside within the Diocese where the proceedings are to take place. Persons serving as a Church Attorney shall hold no other appointed or elected position provided for under this Title, and shall not include Chancellors or Vice Chancellors of either Diocese, members or employees of the same law firm, company or institution as a Chancellor or Vice Chancellor, or any person likely to be called as a witness in the proceeding. A Church Attorney may be removed for cause by the Bishop with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee.

6.6 Advisors. In each proceeding under this Title, the Bishop of the Diocese from which the proceeding arises shall appoint an Advisor for the complaining party and an Advisor for the Respondent. Persons serving as Advisors shall hold no other appointed or elected position provided for under this Title, and shall not include Chancellors or Vice Chancellors of either Diocese, members or employees of the same law firm, company or institution as a Chancellor or Vice Chancellor, or any person likely to be called as a witness in the proceeding. The complaining party and the Respondent are each free to engage an attorney at their own cost.

6.7 Costs and Expenses. The reasonable costs and expenses of the Disciplinary Board, the Intake Officer, the Investigator, the Church Attorney, the Board Clerk and the Pastoral Response Coordinator shall be the obligation of the Diocese in which the Respondent is canonically resident, unless the alleged offense took place elsewhere and the respective Bishops agree on a different cost allocation. Other costs shall be the responsibility of individual parties incurring them.

6.8 Records.

6.8.1 Record of Proceedings. Records of active proceedings before the Disciplinary Board, including the period of any pending appeal, shall be preserved and maintained in the custody of the Clerk, if there be one, otherwise by the Diocesan office in which the Respondent is canonically resident.

6.8.2 Permanent Records. The Bishops shall make provision for the permanent storage of records of all proceedings for clergy canonically resident in their respective Dioceses under this Title at the Diocese and the Archives of the Episcopal Church, as prescribed in Title IV of the General Canons of The Episcopal Church.

Proposed Change: (Additions in bold/underline/red; deletions in strikeout)

VI. ECCLESIASTICAL DISCIPLINE

6.0 Title IV of General Canons. Those provisions of Title IV of the General Canons of The Episcopal Church that are applicable to the Diocese are hereby incorporated as part of this Title. To the extent, if any, that any of the provisions of this Title are in conflict or inconsistent with the provisions of Title IV of the General Canons of The Episcopal Church, the provisions of Title IV shall govern. ~~This Title will take effect on July 1, 2011. Until that time, the terms of the prior Title VI of the Diocese of Michigan will continue in effect, and the terms of those elected or appointed to fill positions under that title will continue until June 30, 2011, or as long thereafter as may be needed to complete matters in process under the prior Title.~~

6.1 Diocesan Cooperation. The Episcopal ~~Diocese of Michigan and the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes (jointly, “the Dioceses”)~~ **have agreed to create and maintain a Joint Diocesan Disciplinary Board (JDDB) for the purpose of implementing Title IV of the Canons of the General Convention (“Title IV”) within the Dioceses through a Joint Agreement. The Joint Agreement is authorized by Canon IV.5.3.i of The Episcopal Church and is intended to comply in all respects with the requirements of Title IV. The terms of the Joint Agreement shall govern the structure, organization and**

operation of the JDDB and are incorporated here by reference, including any duly adopted amendments to the Joint Agreement. To the extent that the Joint Agreement provides for certain options for the Dioceses, this Canon addresses the options selected by the Diocese of Michigan. Dioceses in Michigan have expressed a desire to cooperate in the ecclesiastical disciplinary process of any matter in any such Diocese, including the creation of a common Disciplinary Board and the sharing of other resources as deemed appropriate. This Title is intended to facilitate the participation of this Diocese in such cooperative efforts with those Episcopal Dioceses in Michigan that adopt similar local canons. When any General Canon of The Episcopal Church allows information be given to a Bishop, the only Bishop to whom such information may be given is the Bishop of the Diocese in which the Respondent is canonically resident. The venue of any proceedings shall be in the Diocese in which the Respondent is canonically resident.

6.2 Members of the JDDB. Unless otherwise specified in this Canon, Members of the JDDB from this Diocese shall be selected by election at Convention in the numbers, from the orders and for the Terms specified in the Joint Agreement. The term of each member shall commence on January 1 of the year following the Convention at which they were elected and run until December 31 of the last year of their term.

Disciplinary Board. The Disciplinary Board shall consist of a minimum of four persons, two clergy and two lay, from each participating Diocese. In addition, the participating Dioceses will take turns selecting one additional clergy member. A member of the Standing Committee of any participating Diocese may not serve on the Disciplinary Board.

6.2.1 — Selection of Members of Disciplinary Board. Members of the Disciplinary Board from this Diocese, sufficient to fill any upcoming vacancies, will be elected by the Annual Convention.

6.2.2 — Terms. The terms of the initial members of the Disciplinary Board begin on July 1, 2011. At the first meeting of the Disciplinary Board after July 1, 2011, the members elected by each Diocese then participating will draw lots to determine one clergy member and one lay member elected by that Diocese who will serve until December 31, 2011. The remaining members will serve until December 31, 2012. Thereafter, each participating Diocese will select replacements for members of that Diocese whose terms will expire at the end of the year. Members so selected will serve a two-year term, each term to begin on January 1 following selection.

6.2.3 — Successive Terms. Members may serve no more than two successive terms. If a member is elected or appointed to fill a vacancy involving a member from

~~this Diocese, the term of the replacement member will be the unexpired term of the member being replaced, and the replacement member is eligible for election to a successive term.~~

~~—6.2.4— Clergy Members. The clergy members of the Disciplinary Board must be canonically and geographically resident within the Diocese from which they are selected.~~

~~—6.2.5— Lay Members. The lay members of the Disciplinary Board must be adult Communicants in Good Standing of a congregation in the Diocese from which they are selected, and must be geographically resident in that Diocese.~~

6.3 ~~6.2.6—~~Vacancies. **If the vacancy involves a JDDB member originally selected by this Diocese, The Bishop shall appoint a replacement JDDB member in consultation with the Standing Committee. Persons so appointed must be of the same order as the member being replaced, will serve for the remainder of the term of the member being replaced, and must meet the same eligibility requirements as the member being replaced.**

~~Vacancies on the Disciplinary Board will be filled as follows:~~

- ~~(a)— Upon the determination that a vacancy exists, the President of the Disciplinary Board shall notify the Bishop of the vacating member's Diocese of the vacancy and request appointment of a replacement member of the same order as the member to be replaced.~~
- ~~(b)— If the vacancy involves a member from this Diocese, the Bishop shall appoint a replacement Disciplinary Board member in consultation with the Standing Committee.~~
- ~~(c)— Persons appointed to fill vacancies on the Disciplinary Board must meet the same eligibility requirements as apply to elected members of the Disciplinary Board.~~
- ~~(d)— With respect to a vacancy resulting from a challenge, the replacement member will serve only for the proceedings for which the elected member is not serving as a result of the challenge.~~

~~—6.2.7— President. As soon as practicable after January 1 of each year, but no longer than 60 days after January 1 of each year, the Disciplinary Board will meet and elect from its membership a President, who may be a member of the clergy or lay person, and who shall serve as President for a term of one year (until a replacement is elected).~~

~~—6.2.8— Clerk. The Disciplinary Board shall appoint a Clerk to assist the Disciplinary Board with records management and administrative support. The Clerk may be a member of the Disciplinary Board.~~

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~~—6.2.9— Preserving Impartiality. In any proceeding under this Title, if any member of a Conference Panel or Hearing Panel of the Disciplinary Board shall become aware of a personal conflict of interest or undue bias, that member shall immediately notify the President of the Disciplinary Board and request a replacement member of the Panel. Respondent's Counsel and the Church Attorney shall have the right to challenge any member of a Panel for conflict of interest or undue bias by motion to the Panel for disqualification of the challenged member. The members of the Panel, not the subject of the challenge, shall promptly consider the motion and determine whether the challenged Panel member shall be disqualified from participating in that proceeding.~~

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~~6.3— Intake Officer. An Intake Officer will be appointed from time to time by the Bishop. The Bishop may appoint one or more Intake Officers according to the needs of the Diocese. The Bishop shall publish the name(s) and contact information of the Intake Officer(s) throughout the Diocese.~~

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~~6.4— Investigator. The Bishop will appoint one or more Investigator(s), as needed, in consultation with the President of the Disciplinary Board. Investigators may but need not be Members of the Church.~~

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~~6.5— Church Attorney(s). The Bishops, with the consent of their Standing Committees, will appoint, as needed, one or more attorneys to serve as Church Attorney(s). The person(s) so selected must be a duly licensed attorney in the state of Michigan, but need not reside within the Diocese where the proceedings are to take place. Persons serving as a Church Attorney shall hold no other appointed or elected position provided for under this Title, and shall not include Chancellors or Vice Chancellors of either Diocese, members or employees of the same law firm, company or institution as a Chancellor or Vice Chancellor, or any person likely to be called as a witness in the proceeding. A Church Attorney may be removed for cause by the Bishop with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee.~~

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~~6.6— Advisors. In each proceeding under this Title, the Bishop of the Diocese from which the proceeding arises shall appoint an Advisor for the complaining party and an Advisor for the Respondent. Persons serving as Advisors shall hold no other appointed or elected position provided for under this Title, and shall not include Chancellors or Vice Chancellors of either Diocese, members or employees of the same law firm, company or institution as a Chancellor or Vice Chancellor, or any person likely to be called as a witness in the proceeding. The complaining party and the Respondent are each free to engage an attorney at their own cost.~~

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~~6.7—Costs and Expenses. The reasonable costs and expenses of the Disciplinary Board, the Intake Officer, the Investigator, the Church Attorney, the Board Clerk and the Pastoral Response Coordinator shall be the obligation of the Diocese in which the Respondent is canonically resident, unless the alleged offense took place elsewhere and the respective Bishops agree on a different cost allocation. Other costs shall be the responsibility of individual parties incurring them.~~

~~6.8—Records.~~

~~—6.8.1—Record of Proceedings. Records of active proceedings before the Disciplinary Board, including the period of any pending appeal, shall be preserved and maintained in the custody of the Clerk, if there be one, otherwise by the Diocesan office in which the Respondent is canonically resident.~~

~~—6.8.2—Permanent Records. The Bishops shall make provision for the permanent storage of records of all proceedings for clergy canonically resident in their respective Dioceses under this Title at the Diocese and the Archives of the Episcopal Church, as prescribed in Title IV of the General Canons of The Episcopal Church.~~

Rationale: This change to the canons is to facilitate the implementation of the Agreement for the Joint Administration of Title IV of the Canons of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church.

There being no debate, the Chair called for a voice vote. **The motion was adopted.**

END GUN VIOLENCE

The Chair invited Canon Carmen Piggins to share about Ending Gun Violence in Michigan. A slideshow presentation was given on updates related to the topic, including legislation passed and congregational involvement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair called on the Secretary to provide announcements. The Secretary shared several procedural announcements as follows:

- For those who purchased lunch, it will be found in the corridor
- Reserved special lunches will be found in the Jade Room
- To find out more information about the Growth & Income Fund, please bring your lunch and join us in the Coral Room

- The Standing Committee and the Commission on Ministry will meet with people in the process in the Amethyst Room.
- Please visit, shop, and chat with our exhibitors during the lunch break
- Convention will reconvene in this room at 1:30 p.m.
-

1:30 PM
THIRD BUSINESS SESSION

CONVENTION RECONVENES

The Chair called the Convention to order and opened with a brief prayer.

REPORT ON REPARATIONS

The Chair invited the Rev. Sister Veronica Dunbar for a report and update on the Diocese's commitment to repairing the racial divide. The Rev. Sister Veronica Dunbar gave her report and updates with the slideshow presentation.

IMMIGRATION REPORT

The Chair invited the Rev. Bob Alltop and Lisa Varnier to discuss the immigration ministry. Rev. Bob Alltop and Lisa Varnier presented their report with a slideshow presentation.

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON REFERENCE

The Chair invited the Rev. Anthony Estes, Chair of the Committee on Reference, to present the Committee's report. The Rev. Estes moved the following:

Resolution 191-5: Supporting the Episcopal Church in Palestine

Supporting the Episcopal Church in Palestine

Proposed by: The Rev. Taylor Vines, St. Luke's, Ypsilanti; Martha Kern-Boprie, St. Luke's, Ypsilanti; The Rev. Halim Shukair, Christ Church & Mother of the Savior, Dearborn; Cathy Lewis St. Luke's, Ypsilanti; The Rev. Tom Ferguson, St. Aidan's, Ann Arbor; Catharine June St. Luke's, Ypsilanti; The Rev. Toby Darrah, St. Clare's, Ann Arbor; David Laurance, St. Clare's, Ann Arbor; The Rev. Anne Clarke, St. Clare's, Ann Arbor; James Paul Church of the Incarnation, Ann Arbor; The Rev. Donna Lockhart, Episcopal Church of the Incarnation; The Rev. Teresa Wakeen, The Church at Crossroads - Episcopal, Detroit; The Rev. Ian Reed Twiss, Holy Cross, Novi; Teri Landreth, Holy Cross, Novi; The Rev. Eric Braun Grace, Southgate; the Parish Vestry at Grace, Southgate voted to support.

Summary The Episcopal Diocese of Michigan affirms its solidarity with the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and commits to joining the wider Episcopal Church's call for peace, justice, and reconciliation in the Holy Land. In alignment with our Baptismal Covenant, this resolution calls the Diocese of Michigan to:

- explore a companion relationship with the Diocese of Jerusalem; and
- encourage congregations and individuals to support the Good Friday Offering, Episcopal Relief & Development, and the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, lifelines for schools, hospitals, and ministries across the region.

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Whereas, the General Convention (2022, 2024) reaffirmed opposition to the occupation of Palestinian territories, condemned escalating violence and land seizure, urged historic levels of humanitarian aid, and called for U.S. accountability in military assistance;

Whereas, the Executive Council (April 2024) lamented massive civilian deaths, urged an immediate ceasefire and unimpeded humanitarian access, condemned U.S. complicity, and reaffirmed opposition to antisemitism and Islamophobia;

Whereas, Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe (July 2025), echoing Archbishop Hosam Naoum, called for an end to bombing hospitals, lifting the siege of Gaza, release of detainees and hostages, and rejection of ethnic cleansing or forced removal;

Whereas, the Diocese of Jerusalem continues faithful witness through schools, hospitals, and ministries—including al Ahli Hospital in Gaza—sustained by the Good Friday Offering, Episcopal Relief & Development, and the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem;

Whereas, Christ Church and Mother of the Savior (both in Dearborn), already have sister-church ties with All Saints', Beirut, a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem;

Whereas, our Baptismal Covenant calls us to “strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being”;

RESOLVED, that the 191st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan explore and cultivate a companion diocese relationship with the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, guided by the Episcopal Church's Companion Relationship Guidelines, emphasizing mutuality, shared prayer, parish-to-parish exchange, and amplification of Palestinian Christian witness.

RESOLVED, that the 191st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan that the Diocese of Michigan encourage congregations and members to support humanitarian relief through the Good Friday Offering (founded in 1922), Episcopal Relief & Development, and American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, recognizing these as lifelines for hospitals, schools, and ministries across the region; and that such support be accompanied by prayer, education, interfaith

collaboration, and prophetic advocacy for an immediate ceasefire, an end to indiscriminate bombing and siege, restoration of humanitarian aid under UN supervision, and opposition to ethnic cleansing or removal of Palestinians.

There being no debate, the Chair called for a voice vote. **The motion was adopted.**

LEGACY GIVING

The Chair invited the Rev. Chris Harris to present on legacy giving. The Rev. Chris Harris gave a presentation and video regarding the Diocese's Legacy Giving Pilot Program.

THE PRESENTATION OF THE 2026 DIOCESAN BUDGET, THE 2027 DRAFT BUDGET, AND THE FORMULA FOR CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT

The Chair recognized Chris Ventura, Treasurer of the Diocese and Chief Financial Officer, and Michele Wogaman, Chair of the Mission Budget Committee, for the purpose of presenting the 2026 Proposed Diocesan Operating Budget, the 2027 Draft Budget, and the proposed formula for Congregational Support of the mission and ministry of our Diocese, including supporting slides.

Chris Ventura moved the following on behalf of the Diocesan Council:

RESOLVED, that the 2026 Operating Expense Budget of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan be in the amount of \$2,623,713.

RESOLVED, that the Diocesan Council shall have the authority to adjust the adopted budget in keeping with income assured from expected operating income, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the formula for calculating the apportionment for congregational support of the 2027 diocesan operating budget will be based on 10% of the three-year average of each congregation's normal operating income as reported in the Parochial Report and/or in a diocesan Supplemental Parochial Report for the years 2023, 2024, and 2025.

A voice vote followed the motion. **The motion was adopted.**

RESOLUTIONS OF COURTESY

The Chair recognized the Rev. Anthony Estes, Chair of the Committee on Reference, for the purpose of resolutions of courtesy.

BE IT RESOLVED that the 191st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan extend its greetings, love, support, and prayers to the Most Rev. Sean W. Rowe, Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, for his wise and compassionate leadership in this time. We are grateful for his vision, his pastoral presence, and his

steadfast commitment to guiding our church in the way of Christ's love and reconciliation, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 191st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan extends its greetings, love, and support to the lay people, staff, bishops, priests, and deacons of our sister dioceses in Michigan, Diocese of Northern Michigan and the Diocese of the Great Lakes. We also extend greetings to our Moravian siblings in Christ; and to the bishops and people of the South East Michigan Synod and the North/West Lower Michigan Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 191st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan express its appreciation and gratitude to all committees of Convention, worship leaders and planners, altar guild, volunteers, our parliamentarian, convention secretaries, and all others who offered and used their many gifts to plan and complete the arrangements of this Annual Convention, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 191st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan express its sincere gratitude and appreciation to the workers and management of the Suburban Collection Showplace, and the Hyatt Place Hotel in Novi for their gracious hospitality, service, and assistance in housing and feeding this gathering, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 191st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan extends profound thanks to our Diocesan Staff; the Rev. Canon Ellen Ekevag, Chris Ventura, Tony Perez, the Rev. Dr. Dean Aponte-Safe, the Venerable Dr. Tim Spannaus, the Rev. Canon Susie Shaefer, Kara Chapman, Crystal Ramirez, the Rev. Canon Sister Veronica Dunbar, The Susan Mason, Canon Dennis Boyd Jr., and Canon Carmen Piggins for their unwavering support, knowledge, insight, and resilience in service to our diocese, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 191st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan send its love, prayers and profound gratitude to Mark Miliotto, former Canon of Finance to the Diocese of Michigan. We give thanks for his many years of leadership and ministry among us, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 191st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan send its love, prayers, and appreciation to Mrs. Shirley Gordon, widow of a prior bishop of this diocese, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 191st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan send its love, prayers, and appreciation to the Rt. Rev. Wendell N. Gibbs, Jr. and his spouse Karlah, in this 26th year of his consecration as bishop of the Church, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 191st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan send our love, our prayers and our greetings to former clergy of our Diocese, the Rt. Rev. Shannon McVean-Brown, Bishop of Vermont, and the Rt. Rev. Deon Johnson, Bishop of Missouri, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this 191st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan express our love, support, and heartfelt prayers to our Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Dr. Bonnie A. Perry, and her spouse, the Rev. Dr. Susan Harlow, and be it further

RESOLVED, that as this 191st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan draws our time together to a close, let us carry with us the spirit that has guided this convention: Fierce Faith, Fierce Hope, Fierce Love. In a world that often tests our resolve, we are called to stand firm—not with fear or anger, but with a faith that will not yield, a hope that refuses to be extinguished, and a love that knows no boundaries, and be it further

RESOLVED, that our fierce faith anchor us in God’s promises, may our fierce hope inspire us to dream boldly for God’s kingdom, and may our fierce love bind us to one another and to all of God’s beloved children, and be it further

RESOLVED, that from this 191st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan, may we go forth from this place as witnesses of Christ’s fierce, unending love. Let us be the hands and heart of Jesus in our communities—undaunted, unafraid, and unwavering in our care for one another. For in the words of our Baptismal Covenant, we are called to “strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being.” We offer our collective prayers for your protection and Spirit-filled insight as we face the joys and challenges of serving God’s mission in the days and months ahead.

The Resolutions were adopted with enthusiastic applause.

VIDEO

The Chair showed a video clip from the movie Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe as a reminder of why courage matters: death does not have the final word for us, because the same Spirit that raised Aslan and Jesus is at work in us.

APPROVAL OF THE CALL OF THE 192nd ANNUAL CONVENTION

The Chair recognized Secretary Hamlin for the purpose of the Call of the 192nd Annual Convention. Secretary Hamlin announced: Pursuant to Article IV of the Constitution of the Diocese of Michigan, I move approval of the Call of the 192nd Annual Convention of the Diocese of Michigan to be held on October 23/24, 2026, at the Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi, Michigan. The Chair called for a second. With there being no discussion, the **motion was adopted**.

VIDEO

The Chair then showed a slide-show video tour of the Diocese from photographs submitted by congregations.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair offered the following concluding comments:

As we draw to a close, I extend my thanks to all of you, and to:

Everyone who worked on Convention Planning

The Planning Team for Worship

Participants in the liturgies

The musicians and singers

Members of the Platform

The Committee on Reference

The Committee on Constitution and Canons

The Committee on Nominations

The Mercury Sound and Lighting Team

The staff members of the Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi

The staff of the Hyatt Place, Novi,

Our dedicated volunteers

And, to my wonderful staff: Thank you!

The Chair gave a blessing.

The Chair then announced that, with there being no further business to come before the assembly, she banged the gavel and declared the **191st Convention of the Diocese of Michigan adjourned, sine die.**

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Canon W. Richard Hamlin, Ph.D.
Secretary of Convention