



Diocesan Convention Schedule

Friday, November 6, 2009

10:30 AM– 3:00 PM	Registration
11:00–12:35	<i>Traces of the Trade</i> , Hilton Hotel
1:00–1:45	Convention 101
1:00–3:00	Choir Rehearsal
1:45–3:15	Open Hearings on budget, canons and resolutions
3:30–4:30	Forum with the Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston
5:15–6:00	Evensong
6:15–7:00	Social Hour (Hilton) and Friends of Bill Meeting (Cathedral)
7:00–9:00	Dinner, Hilton – Guest Speaker: The Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston
9:15–10:50	<i>Traces of the Trade</i> , Hilton Hotel

Saturday, November 7, 2008

8:00–10:00	Registration
8:30–9:45	Eucharist – Preacher, The Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston
10:00–12:30	Convention Business, beginning with Bishop Ely's annual address
12:30–1:00	Lunch
1:00–3:30	Convention Business
3:30	Expected adjournment

Notes on Convention

All are welcome to attend part or all of the Diocesan Convention. Seating for the Forum and Convention worship services is open. While the Convention is in session, only delegates and clergy are to be seated on the floor. A special seating area will be available for visitors.

Exhibit areas in the Cathedral's Parish Hall will be open Friday afternoon and Saturday morning.

Convention 101 is a short course on the workings of Convention for new and seasoned delegates alike.

The hearings on proposed resolutions, canon changes, and the diocesan budget provide a condensed forum for delegates to discuss briefly the issues that will come to the floor of Convention.

Parking is available at conveniently located city parking garages. Limited parking is at the Cathedral lot, and there is metered parking on nearby streets.

Lodging: Special rates have been negotiated at the Hilton, the University Inn and the Comfort Inn. Contact information is on the Convention Schedule and General Information page on the Web site.

2009 Diocesan Convention: "Formed for Ministry—Transforming Our Culture"

November 6-7, 2009
Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Burlington, Vermont

Candidates for Convention Offices

Diocesan Council

(Four at-large members to serve to 2011)

Robert Bowler is administrative assistant and member at Immanuel, Bellows Falls. He also serves on the Stone Church Arts program staff, the worship committee, and as a preacher, acolyte, and adult education leader. He was part of the diocesan Companions Program in 2007-2009. He says, "My experiences at Immanuel and as a diocesan Companion have reinforced my love of baptismal ministry," which he understands to be "a primary mission in the diocese and as the future of the Episcopal Church." One of his main concerns is financial, "the need to cut the budget while maintaining staffing and service levels."

Barbara Hoar, a retired teacher, currently serves as senior warden at St. Peter's, Bennington, and is a member of the Diocesan Convention Nominating Committee. She served on Diocesan Council from 2002-2005, and she has been on the Bishop Booth Conference Center Board. She is interested in "encouraging and fostering parishes to use their assets for the people of their communities and surrounding areas to promote the work that the Lord has given us." She is concerned about the future of Rock Point and says, "I feel that this property belongs to us as stewards of this part of the world."

Alan Kittelson has been rector at St. Paul's, Vergennes, since 2008. Prior to being called to St. Paul's, he served congregations in Maine (10 years) and Western Massachusetts (10 years). He believes his experience in these

dioceses with a "largely rural flavor... may translate as some insight into the Diocese of Vermont. He says, "One of my particular interests is the role of the arts in the formation and expression of faith."

Judith McManis, a liturgical artist and calligrapher, is a member of St. Paul's Cathedral, Burlington. She has served on St. Paul's vestry and as junior and senior warden at a congregation in Connecticut. She wants to "contribute to the building up of something I value greatly." A good listener, she says, "Our beloved church is in the unique position to serve all who come to us. Our job is to be ready for that service."

(Two members age 16-20 to serve to 2010)

Cheyenne Garland is a member of St. James', Essex Junction, who attended the Episcopal Youth Event in 2008, and the 2007 Diocesan Convention. Of the latter, she says, "I found the whole process fascinating and would like to be further involved." She notes that issues addressed by Convention and Council, such as the environment, gay marriage and equality/human rights, will directly affect those of her generation, "so I feel drawn to get involved and share my feelings and thoughts on these subjects." She is concerned about the dwindling attendance by youth at church-related functions and at Rock Point Summer Camp and says, "It saddens me that apparently my peers have found something 'better' to do."

Standing Committee

(One clergy and one lay member to serve to 2013)

Lee Alison Crawford, priest-in-partnership at Trinity, Rutland, is a member of the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church, a deputy to the last 5 General Conventions, a deputy to Provincial Synod, and chair of the diocesan Global Reconciliation Committee. She has served previously on the Standing Committee, Diocesan Council and as member and chair of the Commission on Ministry. She says her current work in the wider church and her 15 years of service in the diocese will bring a sense of history and experience to the committee. She says, "More important is being part of this body during a time of change in the church on many levels. As the bishop's council of advice, Standing Committee can listen to dreams and challenges and advise where possible. I look forward to being part of these discussions."

Robert Wertz, senior warden at St. Thomas & Grace, Brandon, has seen the congregation through a recent transition in clergy leadership. He has held a variety of management positions in the healthcare and hospitality fields. He is currently filling an unexpired term on Standing Committee and is a member of the Committee on the Environment. Prior to joining The Episcopal Church 30 years ago, he was an ordained Methodist minister. He is a strong supporter of issues relating to environmental sustainability, a proponent of localvore causes, and a member of an energy co-op. He says, "I strongly support all efforts within The Episcopal Church at both the diocesan and national levels to create liturgies to celebrate and honor marriage equality."

(One lay member to fill a term to 2010)

Duncan Tingle, a member of St. John's in the Mountains, Stowe, and a retired educator, is filling an unexpired term on the Standing Committee. He is a former member of the Commission on Ministry Committee on Discernment

and the Rock Point Summer Camp Committee. Having served three years, he says filling a one-year position would allow him to serve a full term. "I am interested," he says, "in providing advice to the bishop when asked and in what is happening in The Episcopal Church outside of our own diocese," as well as in those discerning for holy orders.

Trustee of the Diocese

(One member to serve to 2016)

Ronald Calise, a member of St. Paul's, Vergennes, is a self-employed investor. He is a current trustee and member of the Investment Committee. He says his extensive educational and professional background in finance, economics and accounting enables him to assist with the fiscal affairs of the diocese. And he says, "In a period of financial turmoil, it is particularly challenging to protect the assets of the Diocesan Unit Fund. Further, the Fund must be positioned to benefit from any improving economic environment."

Oversight and Audit Committee

(One clergy and one lay member
to serve to 2012)

Gary Eley, a member and former rector at All Saints', South Burlington, is president of Eley Financial Management. He says his financial background and previous service on the committee qualify him to serve.

Carolyn Fouts, senior warden at St. Luke's, St. Albans, is current president of the Trustees of the Diocese and a member of the Insurance Committee. She is a former member of the Commission on Ministry and trustee of Rock Point School. She says she feels qualified because, "professionally, I was an auditor for over two years and have prepared for corporate audits annually since 1995."

Candidates for Convention Offices (continued)

Ecclesiastical Court

(One clergy member to serve to 2013)

George Moyser, chair of the political science department at UVM, is currently serving as interim Sunday supply priest at St. Luke's, St. Albans. He was previously rector at Calvary, Underhill. He says, "I have had lengthy experience in a managerial position that involves dealing with at times sensitive personnel issues."

(One clergy alternate to serve to 2013)

Alfred Stefanik is a retired priest who has served congregations in Vermont, Long Island, Hawai'i and Massachusetts. He has served as supply priest during the transition period for St. John the Baptist, Hardwick, and is chaplain to the retired clergy and their spouses and partners. He says he has the "ability to listen and discern and to discuss and, when necessary, to make a judgment."

Rock Point Board

(Three members to serve to 2012)

Alice Daley, a member and former senior warden at St. Andrew's, Colchester, is completing her first term on the Rock Point Board, which she serves as secretary. A school nurse, she also served as nurse for the Rock Point Summer Camp and says she is "passionate about preserving RPSC and trying to build up enrollment."

Iris Darling, a member of All Saints', South Burlington, where she serves as treasurer, is currently vice-president of the Rock Point Board. She says, "I have a good knowledge of the Board's current work and future challenges. I would like to continue to be a part of the Board's work."

John King, parking manager for the Burlington Police Department, is a member of St. Andrew's, Colchester. He is a current member of the Rock Point Board and the Bishop Booth Conference Center Program Committee as well as coordinator for the diocese's two annual silent retreats. He is concerned to "ensure the continued success of the BBCC."

(One member to serve until 2011)

Beth Garland, a member of St. James', Essex Junction, works for Paydata Payroll Services. She chairs the Martha Society at St. James' and is a eucharistic minister. She is a

past senior warden/vestry member and served four years as president of the Women of St. James'. As a mother of teenagers, she is motivated "to keep this inspirational option operating at its full potential for their generation as well as that of their future children.. She says, "It is imperative that we keep Rock Point vital so we may share the presence of the Holy Spirit, which is so evident in this place."

Rock Point School Trustees

(Four members to be elected to 2012)

Frances Farnsworth works at Middlebury College and is a member of St. Thomas & Grace, Brandon, where she serves on the vestry. She is a current member of the RPS Board. Her son is a RPS graduate, and she says, "During my two years as a Rock Point parent, I came to know what an important ministry the diocese has in this school and the role the school has in changing lives of young people." She has "learned the ropes" in her first term on the Board and welcomes the opportunity to serve a second term. She says, "I believe that all schools should be structured so that the students who have different learning styles can succeed; until that day comes, there will be a need for Rock Point School."

Margaret Mathauer, a long-time professional educator, is deacon at All Saints', South Burlington. Two of her adopted children were RPS students, and she has continued to keep up with the school. She says she would like to "make myself visible in the school, offer assistance in curriculum planning and perhaps be a resource for special interest groups of students." She adds, "I look forward to learning more and giving back to Rock Point School!"

Barton Merle-Smith works for NRG Systems and lives in North Ferrisburg.

Lisa Simon is an administrative assistant who lives in Charlotte. She is a current member of the Board and says, "I am committed to ensuring that Rock Point School can maintain the community in which students thrive as full human beings now and prepare for their lives as adults in the future." She sees RPS as a "model of education and community from which other schools can learn. We must," she says, "keep focused on both preserving the values of this model while we go through the dynamic changes ahead."

Brookhaven Trustees

(Three members to serve to 2012)

James Kennedy is a member of St. Mary's, Northfield. He currently serves as president of the Brookhaven Board and wishes to continue to serve the school community as a board member.

Linda Runnion is a member of St. John's, Randolph, where she has been active in fundraising and many other parish activities. She is assistant to the academic dean at Vermont Technical College, former chair of the Brookfield School Board and assistant town clerk and treasurer in Brookfield. She says she has been impressed with the work at Brookhaven and by the commitment of the staff. She says, "I believe that all children can learn, and that every child must be given that opportunity, whether it be in a traditional school setting or in a setting that can better serve that child."

David Shuffelburg, a member of St. Mark's, Springfield, has served as a Brookhaven trustee since October 2007. He is a former member of Diocesan Council and its Communications Committee, and he served on the 175th Anniversary Committee. He is active in prison ministry at the Springfield Correctional Facility and notes that "many inmates have been 'short-changed' early in their lives." He says, "I feel that Brookhaven has a 'forward thinking view' when dealing with its youth. I see many children today in the wider world that could benefit from the love and compassion provided by Brookhaven."

(One unexpired term to 2010 to be filled)

Vermont Ecumenical Council and Bible Society Trustee

(One member to serve to 2012)

Peg Hamlin, a member of St. James', Essex Junction, is a current VEC trustee and a member of its Faith and Order Committee. She is also associate ecumenical officer of the Diocese of Vermont and has been active for many years in ecumenical activities in Vermont and New England. She says she supports "The Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion priorities for the work of ecumenism and visible Christian unity, including engaging the Lund Principle."

Proposed Resolutions

1 A Resolution to Endorse the Earth Charter

RESOLVED, That the 177th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont concur with the 76th General Convention in endorsing The Earth Charter, including its Preamble, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the 177th Convention encourage parishes, agencies and individual members to seek understanding of and inspiration from The Earth Charter, and to take actions consonant with The Earth Charter.

Proposer: Earth Care Ministry at Cathedral Church of St. Paul
Sylvia Knight, Coordinator
(sknight@gmavt.net, 802-425-2068)

Explanation:

The theme of our 176th Diocesan Convention was Earth stewardship, demonstrating sustainable practices, and developing intentions to continue practicing stewardship at all levels of our communal life. To deepen and extend that stewardship, we now have support from the wider church in its endorsement of The Earth Charter.

Endorsed by towns, cities, nations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) all over the world, the Earth Charter sets out a vision of Earth Community in which human beings commit themselves to realigning their relationship with the Earth and all living things, so that life on Earth may continue for all and for future generations.

To quote from the Explanation for Resolution C064 of General Convention:

"The Earth Charter is a declaration of fundamental ethical principles for building a just, sustainable and peaceful global society in the 21st century (www.earthcharter.org). It developed from the grass roots, not the U.N. or NGOs and is the result of the most inclusive and participatory worldwide process ever associated with the drafting of an international declaration. The Earth Charter seeks to inspire in all people a new sense of global interdependence and shared responsibility for the well-being of the whole human family, the greater community of life and future generations. It is a blueprint for local and global ministry, a vision of hope and a call to action...

"Now is a critical moment in the history of God's creation, a time when we must choose our future. Our common destiny calls us to seek a new beginning, a fundamental change of heart and mind, a clear recognition of global interdependence and universal responsibility. We must act now to achieve sustainability, justice and peace."

The Earth Charter can be found at www.earthcharter-naction.org/content/pages/Read-the-Charter.html

2 A Resolution on Diocesan Strategic Planning

RESOLVED, That the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont at its 177th Convention acknowledge and celebrate the

work throughout the diocese as we birthed and nurtured all elements of our Strategic Plan for Growth and Ministry, which was adopted at our 172nd Convention in 2004 for a five-year period, 2005-2010; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the 177th Convention request Diocesan Council to bring to the 178th Convention recommendations for a continuing diocesan strategic plan.

Proposer: Diocesan Council

Explanation:

Over the last 18 months, Diocesan Council has been systematically reviewing each of the Key Ministry Areas identified by the 2005-2010 Strategic Plan for Growth and Ministry. The review began with a look at all the goals listed in each area of the plan with the following questions as a lens: What have we achieved? Where have we made progress? What do we see as priority for the coming year; our highest priority? What's missing that should be here? Presentations from diocesan leaders with ministry areas identified in the plan were also part of the review process.

When Council initiated this review process, it did so with the intention that it would be an on-going process, with each Key Ministry Area being discussed and reviewed in a regular cycle – further evidence of Council's resolve to keep our Strategic Plan for Growth and Ministry a "living document".

As the five-year timeframe of our adopted plan is drawing to a close, Council members are looking to build on

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