

Courtesy Resolution 1

Thanking the Rt. Rev. Shannon MacVean-Brown for her Convention Sermon and Convention Address

RESOLVED, That the 191st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont give heartfelt thanks to the Right Reverend Shannon MacVean-Brown for her focus on the critical importance of adopting a “spirit of *koinonia*,” of “being and building beloved community,” in both her sermon at the Saturday in-person Convention Eucharist and her address to clergy and delegates at the on-line Convention business session; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we acknowledge her challenges: to learn from the early church, in which a spirit of *koinonia* was compelling and contagious and in which collaboration was essential; to move to a “mature and prophetic expression of faith that is rooted in the faith practices commended to us by the apostles;” to “work together with open hearts in sustainable systems toward the future to which God is calling us;” to continue to “Do Hard Things,” engaging in conversations around the role of race in the Diocese; and to share in the work “of being the Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement in Vermont;” and be it further

RESOLVED, That we wish Bishop Shannon and Phil a restful and blessed time as they embark on a sabbatical next spring, and we look forward to their return among us, refreshed and renewed.

Courtesy Resolution 2

Thanking the Rev. Canon Kelly Brown Douglas, Ph.D. for Her Presence at Diocesan Convention and Presentations on Being the Church When “Our Very Humanity is at Stake”

RESOLVED, That the 191st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont express profound gratitude to the Rev. Canon Kelly Brown Douglas, Ph.D., for her presence among us at our Saturday session and for providing an inspiring presentation that asks us to consider with fresh eyes what it means to be the church and how to live out God’s mission to make just peace “when enmity and derision seem to be watchwords of our time;” and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont respond to her invitation to turn outward as we do God’s work, to recognize that just peacemaking begins at home, to embrace a liberative paradigm of mission based in respecting all people’s God-given dignity and potential and move away from conversion models of mission that normalize direct, structural and cultural violence, and to make the mission of the Gospel our primary purpose; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont hope that Dr. Douglas might return to call us back to God’s movement of just peace.

Courtesy Resolution 3

Thanking the Organizers of Diocesan Convention

RESOLVED, That the 191st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont thank all responsible for a successful in-person day of Convention Saturday, November 9, 2024, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Burlington, with special thanks to:

- The Very Rev. Greta Getlein, and members of the Cathedral congregation for their gracious hospitality; and
- Jenny Knowles, who arranged for the morning snacks and drinks, inspired the Communion Bread Bake-Off, and who joyfully “captured” participants throughout the day in the “We are the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont” photo frame;
- The Rev. Kim Hardy, the Rev. Lucy Pellegrini, and Cathedral Organist Peter Stoltzfus Berton, who planned and carried out a festive liturgy to wrap up the day;
- Participants in the communion bread bake-off, especially the winners from St. Luke’s, St. Albans and Grace, Sheldon; and be it further

RESOLVED, That those able to attend Saturday give thanks for the opportunity to come together as an embodied diocesan community to consider what it means to be church and to find purpose in uncertain and troubling times; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Convention also thank members of Diocesan staff and the Committee on Dispatch of Business for their overall planning efforts, particularly in organizing the November 14 Business Session: the Rev. Canon Susan Ohlidal, Sophie Kitch-Peck, Sam Sellers, Canticle Communications, the Rev. Paul Olsson, Chancellor Tom Little, Anne Brown, Jenny Knowles, the Rev. Susan McMillan, and Joshua Cheney.

Courtesy Resolution 4

Thanking Presiding Bishop Michael Curry for His Ministry as 27th Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church

RESOLVED, That this 191st Convention of The Episcopal Diocese of Vermont, express its deepest gratitude for the ministry of the Right Reverend Michael Curry as the 27th Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church; we are grateful to Bishop Curry for his nine years of courageous and joyful leadership of our Church, built upon his fifteen years of leadership in the Diocese of North Carolina and his twelve years in ministry as a deacon and priest in North Carolina, Ohio, and Maryland; we are also grateful for Bishop Curry's devotion to The Jesus Movement, and his representation of that movement and the Episcopal branch of it so widely and so well—even to the extent of peaching at a royal wedding; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we also give deepest thanks that, during a tenure marked by national divisions, a global pandemic, and personal health crises, Bishop Curry steadfastly reminded us and the world that, "If it's not about love, it's not about God;" Bishop Curry, your many friends here in Vermont pray that you and Sharon will enjoy good health and a fulfilling retirement together, and we hope you will visit the Green Mountain State soon—including The Vermont Country Store, now that you know it's a real place!

Courtesy Resolution 5
Congratulating the Most Rev. Sean Rowe on His Investiture as 28th Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church

RESOLVED, That this 191st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont offer our joyous congratulations to Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe on his installation as the 28th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, on November 1, 2024, making him the youngest Presiding Bishop in the history of the Episcopal Church; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Presiding Bishop Rowe’s vision statement, which focused on: *building “a strong, adaptive” Episcopal Church — by reorienting churchwide structures to support diocesan ministry and modernizing the church’s governance system*, resonate with leaders, clergy, and laity here in the Diocese of Vermont; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we applaud his attention to countering excess by: having his installation at the Church Center office chapel in order to decrease expenses; modeling a tidy homiletic style; and using a “casual, discursive, leadership approach,”ⁱ — aimed at making change and getting important things done effectively, without undue drama — modeling what the Episcopal Church and our country need now at this liminal time; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we look forward to Presiding Bishop Rowe visiting the Diocese of Vermont again at a Diocesan Convention, meeting, Eucharist, celebration, or any other time the Spirit moves him to join us.

ⁱ *Rowe Offers Vision of ‘Strong, Adaptive Church,’ Living Church*, November 11, 2024. Mark Michael