



The Episcopal
Diocese *of* Vermont

2024 Pre-Convention Journal

Reports from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

**191st Annual Convention
November 9th and 14th, 2024**

Table of Contents

Annual Report of Official Acts of the Rt. Rev. Dr. Shannon MacVean-Brown	2
Treasurer’s Report	5
Brookhaven Treatment and Learning Center	6
Cathedral Church of St. Paul	11
Canons Committee	13
Committee on Ministry	14
Commission on Finance Financial Oversight and Audit Committee	16
Committee on Congregational Development and Formation	17
Ecumenical and Interreligious Officer.....	18
Executive Council.....	20
Global Mission Advocate	21
Green Mountain Witness	22
Liturgical Commission Report	23
Mission Farm Annual Report 2024	25
Rock Point Commons Board Annual Report	26
Rock Point Commons	28
Racial Justice and Healing Committee	30
Standing Committee	31
The Trustees of the Diocese of Vermont.....	34
Rock Point School	36
Province 1	38
Secretary of Convention Reporting on 81 st General Convention Proposed Changes to the Constitution and Book of Common Prayer.....	40
General Convention Deputation	44

Annual Report of Official Acts
The Right Reverend Dr. Shannon MacVean-Brown, Eleventh Bishop of Vermont

This report covers the time period from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024, 17 visits (total) were made to congregations in Vermont, including 1 visit to New Hampshire and 1 visit to Maine.

08/06/2023	St. Thomas & Grace, Brandon
09/10/2023	St. James, Arlington
09/17/2023	St. Paul's, Windsor
10/08/2023	St. Paul's, White River Junction
10/15/2023	St. Mary's, Falmouth, ME
11/19/2023	St. Thomas, Hanover, NH
12/17/2023	St. John's, Randolph
01/14/2024	St. Luke's, Chester
02/11/2024	St. Dunstan's, Waitsfield
02/18/2024	St. Luke's, Fair Haven
02/25/2024	Good Shepherd, Barre
04/18/2024	St. Peter's - Lyndonville
04/21/2024	St. Paul's, Wells
05/05/2024	Trinity Church, Shelburne
05/19/2024	St. John's in the Mountains, Stowe
05/26/2024	Zion, Manchester
06/02/2024	Grace, Sheldon

During these visits, 23 people were confirmed, 14 people were received, and 6 people were baptized.

During this 12-month period, Bishop MacVean-Brown consented to 6 Episcopal elections, 2 requests for permission to officiate and 0 requests for permission for marriage after divorce.

On February 14, 2024 Susan McMillan was ordained Deacon at the Cathedral of St. Paul, Burlington.

On February 15, 2024 The Rev. John Spainhour was released to the Diocese of South Carolina.

On February 22, 2024 The Rev. Nancy Ludwig was received from the Diocese of Maine.

On March 27, 2024 The Rev. Kevin Sparrow was released to the Diocese of South Carolina.

On April 26, 2024 Bishop MacVean-Brown presided over the deconsecration of St. Paul's, Canaan.

The following canonically resident clergy died during this time:

The Rev. Jane Garrett died on October 12, 2023

The following non-canonically resident clergy also died during this time:

The Rt. Rev. Stewart R. Wood died on July 30, 2023

The Rev. David Glendinning died on September 30, 2023

The Rev. Dr. Nancy Bloomer died on April 3, 2024

The following official activities occurred from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024:

On Sundays, Wednesdays, and on Good Friday Bishop MacVean-Brown acted as the officiant for the Green Mountain Online Abbey.

June to July of 2023, Bishop MacVean-Brown was on medical leave.

In July of 2023, Bishop MacVean-Brown facilitated conversations with Visions Inc.

In September of 2023, Bishop MacVean-Brown participated in interviews for the Mission Leadership Review.

From November 10-12, the Cathedral Church of St. Paul celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the building's consecration.

From January to March of 2024, Fierce Conversations training was held for Diocesan Leaders monthly.

From January 22 to 26, Bishop MacVean-Brown attended the Bishop's Summit hosted by the College for Congregational Development.

From February 1 to 5, Bishop MacVean-Brown attended a Racial Healing Pilgrimage to Alabama with Rock Point School.

On February 17, March 9, and March 10, the Rev. Gay Clark Jennings led Town Halls about the findings of the Mission Leadership Review.

On March 16, the Truth and Reconciliation Eucharist was facilitated by the Kaleidoscope Institute and held at Trinity, Rutland.

From April 8 to 11, Bishop MacVean-Brown attended the African Descent Ministries, Bi-Annual Black Clergy Conference.

From May 14 to 16, Bishop MacVean-Brown attended the Church Pension Group Client Council.

On May 19, Bishop MacVean-Brown held a Diocesan Household Meeting for Pentecost.

During the time period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, Bishop MacVean-Brown made her annual visits to the Cathedral of St. Paul for:

- Christmas Eve
- Maundy Thursday
- Easter Vigil
- Easter
- Juneteenth

During the time period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, Bishop MacVean-Brown participated in and served on the following Episcopal Church bodies:

- She attended two annual meetings of the House of Bishops and as well as a special meeting to prepare for the election of a new Presiding Bishop.
- House of Bishops Theology Committee
- General Convention Committee on Social Justice and US Policy as a member and secretary for the House of Bishops.
- Annual Province 1 Bishops Retreat.
- Province 1 synod meetings.
- Union of Black Episcopalians, Honorary Board Chair attending monthly and annual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shannon MacVean-Brown".

The Right Reverend Dr. Shannon MacVean-Brown
Eleventh Bishop of Vermont

Treasurer's Report

No Report Submitted

Brookhaven Treatment and Learning Center

Overview

Brookhaven Treatment and Learning Center was established in 1952 in historic Chelsea, Vermont on over 120 acres of beautiful land and woods. At Brookhaven, we are committed to providing quality clinical and educational programming for youth ages 6 - 14 with emotional/behavioral disturbances and learning difficulties. Trauma-informed services offered at Brookhaven include therapeutic residential care; individual, group, and family therapy; case management services; psychopharmacological support; and specialized education.

Brookhaven's campus is made up of a main building, learning center, family retreat, sports pavilion, and a number of outdoor areas that include playgrounds as well as options for hiking and swimming. The main building houses both administrative and clinical offices, kitchen and cafeteria, a dormitory that accommodates up to 8 youth, staff quarters, and a day room for TV watching, staff training, and other group activity. The Learning Center contains multiple rooms for classes, sensory activities, and individual quiet time and serves the educational needs of both residents and day students. The Family Retreat provides an opportunity for parents of residents to have overnight and extended visits with their child in a home-like environment as well as to receive education and guided practice in building parenting skills. Brookhaven is committed to providing the services and support needed to help children and families achieve success both during and after treatment.

Residential Program

As a Vermont licensed residential treatment center, Brookhaven specializes in providing therapeutic residential based services for eligible youth ages 6 - 14. This level of care is intensive and is often the result of chronic difficulty that has created impairment for the child and prevented success within the home, at school, and in the community. Most children who enter Brookhaven present with significant mental health issues and behavioral concerns for which placement into congregate care and clinical services becomes essential.

At Brookhaven, residents are provided with a comprehensive, collaborative, and clinically-informed opportunity to heal and correct patterns that have hampered their progress elsewhere. Over an average one-year stay, they receive constant supervision, structure, and support within a dormitory milieu. Direct Care staff are the front-line team members who assist Brookhaven youth with therapeutic programming, individual goals, and daily activities from wake-up to tuck-in. Brookhaven counselors conduct therapy with youth and their families, facilitate group therapy sessions, and closely monitor each child's progress through the program. In addition to regular counseling, Brookhaven youth meet with a child psychiatrist monthly for ongoing evaluation and pharmacotherapy if needed. The full-time case manager helps maintain continuity between all services, including providing psychoeducational groups, coordinating visits between youth and families, transporting residents to outside appointments, and overseeing the proper packaging and administering of any medications. Finally, Brookhaven administrators and leadership provide program oversight ensuring compliance with all standards of care, quality of services,

staff supervision, and that the needs are being met of the children, families, and community partners being served.

Educational Program

The Brookhaven Learning Center is a Vermont Approved Independent Therapeutic School providing both general and special education services to attending students. In addition to the youth residing at Brookhaven, students from surrounding school districts are also accepted to attend Brookhaven's co-educational classes when identified as needing an alternative education placement. Brookhaven's team of classroom teachers, aides, and behavioral support staff are highly skilled at designing and delivering curriculum to meet the special needs of students who are typically unsuccessful in more conventional settings. Under the guidance of the Special Education Coordinator, teaching staff utilize therapeutic, creative, and highly experiential approaches to individualize instruction and motivate learning. As students' progress through the program, plans are coordinated to help them transition back to regular ed classrooms, receive appropriate supports, and achieve long term school success.

The Year in Review

Brookhaven experienced a season of challenges and change over this reporting period. From surging rivers to shifting patterns in new hires and referrals, it has been a time to both reimagine and rebuild. Fortunately, the combined efforts of our staff, trustees, as well as church and community partners have helped us put our programs back together and prevail.

Last summer's unprecedented flooding obviously devastated communities statewide and the Brookhaven campus was no exception. Among numerous damages suffered, the most significant was the complete loss of our gymnasium. This building was home to a basketball court, volleyball court, climbing wall, and other indoor recreational activities vital to our program. The process of the gymnasium's restoration has been fraught with obstacles that range from difficulty with obtaining permits to delays in securing federal funding. Although hard to predict, it seems as though we have worked through most of these barriers and can soon begin work on recovering this much-missed resource. Again, we are grateful to our staff who have created alternative activities for our youth and the donations we have received to help open new options.

Once again, staff shortages and a lack of steady applicants continue to impact residential programs throughout Vermont. All facilities have struggled to keep shifts fully covered and effectively process new referrals, admissions, and enrollment. Brookhaven continues to be very active and intentional in our recruitment and retention efforts to help mediate these conditions. Likewise, we remain ever-grateful for more than a few core members of our team who have been with us many years and continue to go above-and-beyond to help fill these gaps and maintain quality of care.

Among the changes that I am happier to report is that for the first time in Brookhaven history we are now able to accept females into our residential program. This addition to the population we are licensed to serve has been long contemplated and in certain ways long overdue. It also now

aligns with our co-educational status in our school program. While we retain our origins of being a “Home for Boys,” it is exciting that our services can now be more expansive and inclusive. Ultimately, it enables Brookhaven to respond to the growing needs of our community and outreach to a greater number of families and youth.

In other program news over the period, Brookhaven maintained its successful relationship with the local public schools in Chelsea and Tunbridge. This partnership continues to allow eligible Brookhaven youth to travel to these nearby schools several times a week to participate in lunches, classes, and certain extracurriculars. Again, this opportunity has helped our youth gain more mainstream educational experience and social practice, especially as they prepare for discharge from our program. Additionally, Brookhaven has continued to make our clinicians available to offer school-based counseling to Chelsea-Tunbridge identified students. Again, we are pleased that this arrangement has helped to support the increasing number of children in need of mental health services.

As always, our most important resource at Brookhaven continues to be the people who make the program work with their unwavering dedication to helping our kids. We are fortunate indeed to be able to highlight some of those staff who have remained at Brookhaven and been mentioned across multiple annual reports.

We are pleased to report that Samantha Greer completed a successful school year as Brookhaven’s Special Education Coordinator in our Learning Center. This was her first year serving independently in this role and effectively supporting the staff and students in our school. Elsewhere in our Learning Center, we are happy that Forrest Teullane continues as Brookhaven’s lead classroom teacher. Again, Forrest has become a popular presence in the classroom and exceptional at forming meaningful relationships with students and making learning fun. Rounding out the school team is long-timer Scott Hoyt. As Student Support Specialist, Scott is highly skilled at responding to rapidly emerging student needs throughout the school day. Scott has also enjoyed chaperoning our eligible students to the aforementioned local public school several days a week to offer them a greater range of activities and experiences.

In the cafeteria, Madelyn Hood continued keeping kids and crew well-nourished as our Kitchen Manager. Maddie has been especially creative at catering amazing meals for our special occasions. From individual birthday requests by our kids to our annual Christmas gathering with the Board of Directors, we have all enjoyed her culinary talents.

In our clinical program, Abby Jarvis continues as our highly experienced and effective lead clinician at Brookhaven. In this role she not only provides treatment to youth on her caseload and their families, but also processes residential referrals and admissions. Additionally, she continues to work closely with the Executive Director in implementing policies, monitoring treatment, and ensuring quality of services. At the same time, Abby continues to meet a local community need by devoting at least one day a week to providing Brookhaven’s school-based and outpatient counseling services. Elsewhere on the clinical team, Kent Kilpatrick remains very busy as Brookhaven’s Case Manager. He covers much ground in his daily duties including running psychoeducational groups, transporting youth to activities, communicating with stakeholders, and supervising visits between residents and significant others both remotely and on campus.

Kent also oversees the important task of making sure prescriptions for Brookhaven youth are correctly filled, shipped, and distributed.

Administratively, Brenda Salomaa will soon be celebrating a remarkable 23 years of reliable service as Administrative Assistant at Brookhaven. From her front office position, she not only greets callers and offers visitors a warm reception but also remains an invaluable and always-accessible resource to staff and leadership on all things Brookhaven. Residential Coordinator Jessica Allen continues her decade-long record of effectively providing around-the-clock care of youth residing at Brookhaven. In this role, she trains and schedules Direct Care staff, supervises the food and maintenance programs, and plans the daily activities of the residents. With the ongoing challenges of maintaining a full staff, Jessica is recognized for both the endless attention and endless hours she devotes to the program. Angela Bisson continued in her long reign as Brookhaven's Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI) Coordinator. In this vital role, Angie remains responsible for ensuring that all staff working directly with Brookhaven youth stay current and competent in their skills of managing crisis situations. She also completes all purchases for client personal needs such as seasonal clothing and birthday wish-lists...and of course partners with Santa each year to help make Christmas special for our youth. Accompanied by her kid-favorite therapy dog, "Charlie," Angie carries out her duties with abundant energy and enthusiasm.

Rounding out the above team members and leaders are the many other support staff who maintain their strong commitment and hard work every day to help Brookhaven youth succeed. Newly hired Head of Maintenance Jacob Ockington is learning his massive job of keeping everything on Brookhaven's campus looking good and working well. Much has certainly been added to the maintenance to-do list over this period of considerable recovery and repair. Last but not least, the Direct Care team are the frontline faithful who nurture and guide our youth daily through the program. These youth care workers cover all shifts including weekends and holidays and count among them staff with multiple years of service. Some notables are Jason Waterman (22 years and counting), Maria Genega (16 years), and Robin Skiffington (5 years). Again, we are fortunate to have this core group of workers and such continuity in this demanding position. Their strong commitment to meeting an urgent need and making a difference does not go unnoticed.

A Message on Behalf of the Executive Director

Rocky Spino will soon be marking 5 eventful years as Executive Director at Brookhaven. Although infinitely fulfilled in his work, Rocky joins his team in their hopes and wishes for a next 5 years that are a little more ordinary. Despite the intrusion of pandemics and floods, Brookhaven continues to move forward with its mission intact and its tireless team who show up to serve our children and families. Ultimately, we remain very blessed to have such a devoted group who inspire positive change and embody Brookhaven's tradition of help and healing.

Footnotes and a Final Word

Once again, none of the essential work that Brookhaven accomplishes could exist without the outstanding service and support of our valued Board of Trustees. At this writing, their present

roster includes Brett Murphy, Nancy Wuttke, Julie Jones-Susmann, Lucas Krueger, Elizabeth Kooperkamp, Martha Roberts, Sally Garmon, Teresa Voorhees, and Judith Castonguay. Many thanks go out to these Board officers and members for their strong and steady backing of Brookhaven in good times and bad!

In closing, it is our pleasure to present this summary of another year's worth of activity at Brookhaven and to profile some of our work with the attendees of the Diocesan Convention. On behalf of the children and staff, we offer our heartfelt gratitude to the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont for their ongoing generosity and support.

Respectfully submitted,

Rocky Spino
Brookhaven Leadership, and Staff
Brookhaven Treatment and Learning Center

Cathedral Church of St. Paul

To the People of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont:

We look forward to welcoming all of you to the Cathedral for our in-person Convention gathering on November 9th! For those who cannot attend on that day in person, we will be streaming from the Nave to the Cathedral's YouTube channel for the duration of our gathering.

Since our last report we have completed equipment renovations in our main kitchen and are renting it to a local entrepreneur, That Cake Stand, full-time. This is a wonderful way for us to realize some additional income and for Erinn Simon, the owner of That Cake Stand to move from her home kitchen enterprise to something larger and eventually perhaps to her own bricks and mortar store. (Also, delicious cakes and cupcakes!) We also completed much-needed repairs in the office wing balcony with fixes to leaks, new insulation, new soffits, and new lighting. Unfortunately, we still have unresolved issues with water in our elevator shaft that pours out into the lower level during heavy rainfall. The cost of even exploring the problem is prohibitive.

The most significant change for us in the past year was the loss of our long-time Music Director, Mark Howe. Mark retired on December 1, 2023, and we still miss him. We launched a national search in January of 2024, had an incredible response to the posting, and hired Peter Stoltzfus Berton as our new Director of Music and Cathedral Arts. Peter began his ministry with us on July 6. This marks the first time that Cathedral Arts will be led and managed by a staff member and it's already making a huge difference! Check out that section of our website to learn more about the great season we have coming up! Peter and our youth choristers are enjoying a collaboration with St. Stephen's, Middlebury and Vermont Choral Union in presenting Faure's Requiem this fall.

Our congregation is vibrant and growing with many young adults and families finding their way into our common life. We have changed our service schedule to begin this fall, offering only one service on Sunday mornings, combining our youth and adult choirs (yet still offering RSCM training and opportunities to the youth choir), and enabling more folks to attend the weekly adult forum. We also added additional Sunday School teachers for grades 5-7.

We continue to host Diocesan events and provide emergency evacuation space for Three Cathedral Square and Burlington High School. We host a business interest group every Wednesday and a mental health support group every Thursday. Unfortunately, like many in downtown Burlington and across the state, we sometimes have folks camping on our property. We try to work with them to ensure they are receiving services, have food to eat, and the like, but often have to move them off our property for safety reasons. We are, happily, able to help folks leave Vermont if that is what they are seeking, sending them by bus or train to their final destination.

I serve on and chair the Commission on Finance, serve on the Diocesan Executive Council, serve as President of the Joint Disciplinary Board for the Dioceses of VT, NH, and ME, and have worked diligently with diocesan office staff to assist in the building and roll-out of their new software, Realm.

Archdeacon Stan Baker has worked with the Bishop's office to update the manual for discernment for deacons and has convened several gatherings of our diocesan deacons providing opportunities for education, support, and fellowship. He also convenes a diaconate discernment group for those thinking about pursuing ordination in that order and is newly-appointed to serve as Chaplain to the Retired Clergy and Spouses.

As Dean I strive to make myself available to all of you and continue to try to reach out and drive out to see each church and active clergyperson; a delightful task that I wish I had more time for (Brattleboro--I'm coming soon!).

Your Cathedral is thriving, and we are deeply thankful for your prayers.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greta Getlein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

The Very Revd. Greta Getlein (she/her)

Dean & Rector

Canons Committee

No Report Submitted

Committee on Ministry

Major emphases of the Committee on Ministry over the past year have included discernment with individuals in the ordination process, a painstaking revision of the Priesthood Discernment Handbook (now titled the Handbook of the Ordination Process for Persons Discerning a Call to the Priesthood), continued clarification of procedures and communications with diocesan staff, and substantive conversations among ourselves and with the leadership of the Committee on Congregational Development and Formation--our “sister” committee—about ways we might be able to identify and support folks in Vermont’s parishes who may be in the earliest stages of exploring a call to Holy Orders.

Discernment conversations with individuals who feel called to ordained ministry are the heart of the committee’s work; we have had one such conversation over the past year. That conversation took place in November of 2023, when we affirmed Susan McMillan of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul as a Candidate for the Diaconate. Susan was ordained as a vocational deacon at the Cathedral on December 9, 2023.

It was in part the dearth of people in the process of discernment that prompted the Committee to undertake a substantial revision of the Priesthood Discernment Handbook. It was important, we believed, to make the path to ordination as clear as possible. The final revised draft of the Handbook of the Ordination Process for Persons Discerning a Call to the Priesthood, ratified by the Bishop in the winter of 2024, and subsequently made available on the diocese’s website, does accomplish what we set out to do.

But that was just the beginning. The work we did during that revision process—most of it led thoughtfully and with great care by the former Chair of the COM, the Rev. Titus Pressler--catalyzed numerous discussions about the need in the diocese for more folks to consider discerning for ordination. Making the path to Holy Orders clearer is important, but it assumes that there will be people who feel called to embark on that path. So, the question becomes: how can we encourage people to explore the possibility of a call to the priesthood or the vocational diaconate?

That work begins at home – literally. But also, at the parish level. So, our present work is focused on strengthening support at that level. We are embarking on a full revision of the Parish Discernment Handbook, have begun conversations with the Committee on Congregational Development and Formation, started to envision diocesan-wide information sessions for possible inquirers to learn more about the path to Holy Orders and ask questions about the process, and possibly planning a weekend retreat for those discerning a call, including folks presently in the process.

We are pleased, in the meantime, to say that we currently have two people who are in the process of applying for Postulancy and two others who are beginning their parish discernment processes. We look forward to beginning our relationships with these folks in the coming months.

Strong committee membership has facilitated the work of the COM tremendously. We are grateful for the wise and pastoral leadership of the Rev. Dr. Titus Pressler, who rotated off the

COM in 2023 and whose work as a member and then as Chair of the COM was as close to indispensable as anything can be. We are also grateful for the counsel of Ms. Bev Barton of St. Paul's, White River Junction; Rev. David Hamilton, formerly of St. Andrew's, South Burlington; and Ms. Candace Vandouris, formerly of St. James, Woodstock, who have rotated off the COM. Current members are the Rev. Amy Spagna of St. James Woodstock, who also serves as Vice Chair of the COM, the Rev. Jeremy Means-Koss, who serves as our Clerk, the Rev. Scott Neal, of St Paul's, White River Junction and St. Martin's in Fairlee, Dr. Jay Parini of St. Stephen's, Middlebury; Dr. Carolyn Taylor-Olson of St. Michael's, Brattleboro, the Rev. Fran Stanford of Holy Trinity, Swanton, and Dr. Noma Anderson of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul. We are also grateful for the continued wisdom of The Venerable Stannard Baker, member of the Standing Committee and ex officio on the COM, and the ex officio presence of the Rev. Canon Susan Ohlidal, Canon to the Ordinary for Missional Vitality.

Dr. Lisa Schnell
Chair

**Commission on Finance
Financial Oversight and Audit Committee**

The Commission on Finance, established by an act of Convention in 2022, meets monthly to review diocesan financial statements, review applications for grants and loans, assist in the preparation of the diocesan budget, review parish audits and parochial reports, and provide guidance to parishes in matters of finance and in the completion of parish audits and parochial reports.

Since June of last year, the committee has awarded \$122,480 in grants and \$90,000 in loans. We reviewed and provided feedback on submitted parochial reports and audits and began collecting useful data from the same.

We have begun to work on resources to make available to parishes concerning HR and Financial Practices. We hope to eventually have a robust library of useful resources concerning parish finances available on the diocesan website.

Members of the Commission on Finance:

Greta Getlein, Chair

Beth Davis

Collins Sennett

Bob Wilson

Chad Wohlers

Becca Boucher

Melanie Combs

Ex Officio:

Mike Shapiro,

Interim CFO

Paul Horn,

Treasurer

Bishop Shannon MacVean-Brown

Committee on Congregational Development and Formation

No Report Submitted

Ecumenical and Interreligious Officer

As Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officer, I represent The Episcopal Diocese of Vermont in the National Workshop on Christian Unity (NWCU), the Annual Meeting of Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers (EDEIO), and quarterly meetings of EDEIO. I serve as President of the Vermont Ecumenical Council (VEC) – including the Vermont Bible Society – and as Moderator of the VEC’s Executive Committee. I also serve as Coordinator of Province 1 Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers.

In February 2024 I met as a member of the Executive Board of Episcopal Diocesan Ecumenical and Interreligious Officers (EDEIO), representing Province 1. The EDEIO Board helps sustain the ecumenical work of The Episcopal Church and contributes to annual planning for the National Workshop on Christian Unity (NWCU). The NWCU gathers ecumenical representatives from Roman Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox, and Evangelical Christian bodies each year around issues of theological and social justice concern and seeks to foster deeper working relationships as well as articulate grounds for common understandings. While the NWCU was originally established around “Faith and Order” concerns, contemporary Workshops also encompass matters of “Life and Works.” The 2024 NWCU will be a hybrid event Nov. 18-21 in Chicago and on the Whova online platform. The NWCU has been following a more streamlined format in recent years in an effort to reduce expenses over earlier Workshops. This year’s gathering will focus on “practical ecumenism” – networking across judicatories and other church bodies to address common mission goals. In addition to Episcopal Church ecumenical and interreligious officers, the NWCU includes Roman Catholic, Lutheran (ELCA), United Methodist, Presbyterian, United Church of Christ, Moravian, Greek Orthodox, and Evangelical/Pentecostal representatives, members of several ecumenical advocacy organizations, and interfaith observers.

The Vermont Ecumenical Council’s observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2024 took place on the Day of Pentecost as an expression of the record in Acts that on that day the followers of Jesus were “all together in one place.” Although the traditional dates for observing the Week are January 18-25, between the Feasts of the Confession of St. Peter and the Conversion of St. Paul, as coordinated by the Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute (the Week’s official sponsor), our experience in Vermont has been that spring-time observances bring greater participation. Our VEC service was hybrid and held at Trinity Episcopal Church in Shelburne with an ecumenical supper following.

The Vermont Ecumenical Council’s General Coordinating Committee meets online three times a year. All members of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont are considered members of the VEC by virtue of our Diocesan membership and are welcome to participate. The Executive Committee meets between general meetings to carry on the VEC’s work. The VEC’s website (www.vecncc.org) is maintained with postings of articles and events of ecumenical interest across many Vermont Christian traditions. As a “Network for Christian Cooperation” (its organizing principle), the VEC seeks ways for Christians and Christian churches of many backgrounds to come together around matters of common interest and concern. In the spirit of the World Council of Church’s “Lund Principle,” which affirms that “churches should act together in all matters except those in which deep differences of conviction compel them to act

separately,” the VEC seeks ways for Christians in Vermont to cooperate in as many areas as possible. In addition to our Diocese, the Vermont District of the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church, the Society of Saint Edmund, the Sisters of Providence, Vermont Justice for All, the Burlington Religious Society of Friends, and more than forty additional Christian organizations and individual members comprise the VEC. Membership is open to all Vermont Christians and Christian organizations.

An important partner organization within the VEC is the Vermont Bible Society. The Bible Society is generously endowed through regular disbursements from the Greenleaf Fund and provides Bibles upon request at no charge to churches and Christian ministries throughout Vermont. Episcopal parishes are encouraged to take advantage of this resource when considering their needs for Bibles for worship spaces, study groups, classes, and other ministries. Information about procuring Bibles can be found on the VEC’s website, <https://vecncc.org>.

I am grateful for our Diocese’s ongoing support of ecumenical and interreligious ministry, particularly our faithful payment of modest annual EDEIO dues (\$350) as requested by the Presiding Bishop, annual support of the VEC, and the opportunity to represent the Diocese at the NWCU and meetings of EDEIO. I am most grateful for the many untold ecumenical and interreligious ministries that happen each week throughout our Diocese through local parishes. By building these relationships the most fruitful ecumenical and interreligious work is often done. I am happy to offer teaching, resources, and other support and information as desired to any congregation seeking deeper ecumenical and interreligious relationships. Please be in touch.

Respectfully submitted September 17, 2024.

Fred Moser

The Rev. Dr. Frederick P. Moser
Priest-in-Charge, Trinity Episcopal Church, Shelburne
Ecumenical and Interreligious Officer
Episcopal Diocese of Vermont
fredmoser@trinityshelburne.org

Executive Council

Diocesan Convention 2023 as part of “Revise Canons to Amend Certain 2022 Canon Amendments” established the Executive Council (Canon 6). Convened for the first time in January 2024, the Executive Council comprises lay and clergy leaders from diocesan governing bodies and commissions. The Council undertakes activities on behalf of God’s mission in the diocese and is charged with oversight of the diocesan budget to support the ministry of the diocese. Canon 6 also reads in part: “... the Council shall exercise the executive powers of the Diocese between sessions of the annual Convention and shall be responsible for the promotion of the Mission of God in the Church and the programs of the Diocese. To that end, the Executive Council may take such actions, organize, supervise, and coordinate such departments, commissions, task forces, and committees as it may deem necessary.”

Members:

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Shannon MacVean-Brown, Bishop and President of Executive Council
The Very Rev. Greta Getlein, Recording Secretary and Commission on Finance Chairperson
Sarah Cowan, President of the Board of Trustees
Becca Boucher, Commission on Finance
The Rev. Sarah Ginolfi, President of Standing Committee
Jenny Knowles, Standing Committee
The Rev. Earl Kooperkamp, Committee on Congregational Development and Formation
The Rev. Scott Neal, Bishop’s Appointment
Lisa Schnell, Chairperson of Committee on Ministry
Collins Sennett, Commission on Finance
The Rev. Amy Spagna, Committee on Ministry
C.J. Spirito, Advisory Commission on Diocesan Organizations
The Rev. Titus Presler, Bishop’s Appointment

ex officio:

The Rev. Canon Susan Ohlidal, Canon to the Ordinary for Missional Vitality
Paul Horn, Diocesan Treasurer

Executive Council met five times, January—May 2024. Actions of Council in addition to acceptance of Meeting Minutes:

- agreed on a set of group norms for use at each meeting;
- engaged with the Truth & Reconciliation process and its aftermath and co-authored with Standing Committee a letter to the diocese supporting the Bishop;
- formed a task force to review status of vitality in congregations;
- revised the *Policy for Distribution of Funds from Sale of Diocesan-Owned Property and Closed Churches*;
- and formed a Subcommittee for Disposition of Funds from Real Estate Sales.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Canon Susan Ohlidal

Global Mission Advocate

As the Global Mission Advocate appointed by Bp. Shannon, my role is to catalyze interest and involvement in global mission among the congregations of the Diocese of Vermont. To this role I bring mission experience in India, Zimbabwe and Pakistan, scholarship and publications in missiology, and my role as executive director of the Global Episcopal Mission Network.

GEMN brings together dioceses, congregations, mission agencies, seminaries, religious orders and individuals to gather, inspire and equip people to participate in God's global mission. Its core values are humility, inclusion and companionship. One avenue of participation is Mission Thursdays, periodic webinars devoted to missional themes that are open to people from around the Episcopal Church. Others are the annual Mission Formation Program and Missio, the annual global mission conference, and these opportunities are advertised in "The Mountain." The 2025 Missio will be held at Catedral El Buen Pastor in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, April 29-May 2.

Key for the coming year in the Diocese of Vermont is a roundtable online gathering of people interested in global mission. Do you have a link with a congregation, diocese or missionary in another part of the world? Do you have international experience in your profession – such as education, medicine or commerce – with which you'd like to explore linking up with the church in a particular part of the world? Or do you have simply a vague but nagging interest in global mission? Whatever, keep alert for notices in "The Mountain" about an online meeting.

"Mission in Tension Times" was the theme of this year's Missio, the annual global mission conference attended by several Vermonters and held online in March. Many dioceses, mission organizations, congregations and religious orders are courageously engaged in mission companionships with people in places of civil unrest, violence and sometimes war. Attendees learned from international companions in Sudan, Haiti, Pakistan, Mozambique and Israel/Palestine.

The Rev. Walter Brownridge, now of Christ Church in Montpelier, is on the 12-member the GEMN Board and is also enrolled in GEMN's Mission Formation Program. Other Board members hail from the dioceses of Iowa, Lexington, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Newark, Texas, Southwest Florida and Virginia. GEMN's president is the Rev. Paul Rajan, originally from India. As of this year, Sister Sarah Margaret of the Society of St. Margaret, which has longstanding mission work in Haiti, is the first member of a religious order to serve on the Board.

The 2022 General Convention asked each bishop to appoint a Global Mission Advocate for their diocese to link the diocese with the Office of Global Partnerships and publicize the Guiding Principles for World Mission framed by the Standing Commission on World Mission. The advocates meet via Zoom once a month, and an in-person meeting was held in April 2024 at Camp Allen in the Diocese of Texas.

The Rev. Canon Titus Presler, Th.D.
Global Mission Advocate

Green Mountain Witness

Green Mountain Witness is the evangelism initiative of the Diocese of Vermont. Its inaugural event was the 2018 diocesan convention, which had the theme “Go Tell It On the Mountains – Evangelism Vermont-Style,” and it was keynoted by Stephanie Spellers, canon to the presiding bishop for evangelism, reconciliation and creation care.

Pushy and disrespectful examples of evangelism in the wider world naturally make many Episcopalians wary of evangelism. But the Episcopal Church has a very appealing definition: “Evangelism is the spiritual practice of seeking, naming and celebrating Jesus’ loving presence in the lives of other people – and then inviting them to more.”

In this understanding Christian witness begins with listening, not telling; honoring, not dismissing; exploring, not presuming. What is shared is not dogma, but the story of what God in Christ has done in one’s own life. As another Episcopalian has said, “Evangelism is telling one’s own story in light of God’s story.”

The focus of Green Mountain Witness has been to catalyze conversation about evangelism in congregations around the diocese, and a number of talks and workshops have taken place as team members took individual responsibility for being in touch with specific congregations. Activity slowed to a crawl during the pandemic, however, for it was difficult for people to explore this dimension of Christian witness with congregations struggling simply to maintain worship and community in pandemic conditions. It has not been easy to get reenergized since then, but the coming year is an opportunity to refocus.

We are grateful for Bishop Shannon’s continuing affirmation of the importance of evangelism, in whatever form, in Vermont, the least religiously affiliated state in the country.

The Green Mountain Witness team includes Mr. Joe Fortner of St. Mary’s, Wilmington; Ms. Lindsey Huddle of St. James, Essex; the Rev. Linda Moore; Ms. Jennifer Ogelby of St. James, Essex; Ms. Katie Runde; and Ms. Michelle Thomas of St. Andrew’s, Colchester.

Clergy and lay leaders, please stay tuned for the team being in touch during the current ministry year. Notices in “The Mountain” will highlight evangelism resources. Do reflect on how you can encourage evangelism in your congregation. I invite you to be in touch: 802-326-3157, tituspresler@post.harvard.edu.

The Rev. Canon Dr. Titus Presler
Convener

Liturgical Commission Report

Liturgical Training

The diocese has continued to offer courses through Backstory Preaching and a 4-session Morning Prayer course to train lay people to lead services of Morning Prayer. We are grateful for those stepping into these leadership roles. This spring's Morning Prayer course was led by The Rev. Dr. Fred Moser, The Rev. Deacon Lucy Pelligini, and myself.

Good Friday Resources

In March, resources for use on Good Friday were approved by Bishop Shannon. The texts were developed in the Diocese of Texas by the Rev. Dr. Dan Joslyn-Siemiatkoski, an Episcopal priest who is now the director of the [Center for Christian-Jewish Learning at Boston College](#). Approved by General Convention as [Resolution 2022-D058](#), the alternative texts are currently under review by the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music. The goal of the texts is “to provide a theologically positive accounting of the Jewish people in the Good Friday liturgy.”

Season of Creation Resources

Bishop Shannon authorized use of the 2024 edition of Season of Creation, Year B liturgies. The national church website says this about these resources: “The Season of Creation, September 1st through October 4th, is celebrated by Christians around the world as a time for renewing, repairing and restoring our relationship to God, one another, and all of creation. The Episcopal Church joins this international effort for prayer and action for climate justice and an end to environmental racism and ecological destruction.”

Music That Makes Community Conference

Planned over the summer for October, this is a cross-diocesan clergy conference with training by facilitators of Music That Makes Community (MMC). It is to take place in New Hampshire and is a collaboration with the Dioceses of Maine and New Hampshire. Over the three-day retreat, participants are to engage in community singing, formation, worship, and fellowship with clergy from Northern New England and the Bishops of the three dioceses.

Heartberry Hollow

The Rev. Rachel Field reports that this has been a “mellow year” but there was a Spirit Dinner Closing Bonfire rite in Roxbury, VT, offered as a final gathering for the Spirit Dinner community. It took place around the firepit where the community began two years prior and involved nine individuals.

Green Mountain Online Abbey

The Abbey continues to offer regular services of Morning Prayer Monday through Saturday, Compline Monday through Saturday, and Evening Prayer on Sunday. Services are online.

I offer my gratitude to all in our diocese who are working to offer creative, engaging and enlivening liturgies in their respective communities and to those who contributed to the writing of this report.

The Rev. Kim Hardy
Chair, Liturgical Commission

Mission Farm Annual Report 2024

In 2024, the unwavering dedication of our community members has brought forth a year of gratitude and connection, reaffirming our shared vision for Mission Farm.

This year, we proudly received grants that recognize and support our endeavors, including:

- New Episcopal Community Grant: fostering connections between our justice and economic development initiatives and spiritual community.
- Vermont Arts Council Grant: aiding in completing the Odeon, a visionary community space brought to life by the talented stone wall artist Dan Snow.
- Vermont Food Bank Grant: This grant enabled the completion of The Kitchen at Mission Farm, a commercial kitchen that champions local food makers and shares their culinary creations.
- Rockefeller Grant: facilitating the creation of engaging signage for public outreach.

Accomplishments:

- Restoration of the Orchard and the Church Bell Tower from flood damage.
- Development of accessibility paths.
- Completion of the community Amphitheater (Odeon).
- Establishment of The Kitchen at Mission Farm, a hub for community engagement, entrepreneur support, and the creation and sharing of food.

Program Highlights:

- Weekly yoga sessions
- Spring Community Picnic
- Downing Choir Liturgy Festival (in collaboration with St. James, Woodstock)
- Workshop with Ursula Goodenough and The Cosmic Walk
- Second Annual Meadows and Mountains Festival
- Pop-up Bakery Coffeehouse Events
- Series of Outdoor Movies at the Odeon
- Grief Retreats

Upcoming Events:

- Finalizing Strategic Narrative
- Initiating a Feasibility Study on a Sustainable Future

Lisa Ransom, Executive Director

Advisory Council Members:

Laura Kent (President), Sarah Cowan, Andy Palach, Kim French, Nancy Daigle

Rock Point Commons Board Annual Report

Background

Rock Point is a 130-acre property of conserved land on the shores of Lake Champlain in Burlington, Vermont, offering public access to a uniquely preserved wilderness within the city. The property features hiking trails, a conference center, lodging in rustic cabins, spiritual gathering spaces, community micro-agriculture, the Bishop's residence and other private residences, and the offices of the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont. It is also home to the independently managed Rock Point School, a private school serving both residential and day students. In 2024, Rock Point also became home to the Burlington School District's alternative high school program, Eagle Bay Academy. Owned by the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont, Rock Point is managed by Rock Point Commons, a non-denominational board overseeing a small staff responsible for daily operations, strategic development, and programs.

The mission of Rock Point Commons is to cultivate an inclusive, place-based community for education, spirituality, and environmental stewardship. To this end, we partner with groups and individuals who embody these values by providing access to land, facilities, and resources at Rock Point. Rock Point's residential partners provide a source of revenue for the property, which is used to support managed public access and conservation of the land. Equally important, our partnerships with diverse, mission-aligned community organizations help support the following four pillars of our mission:

- Education: To foster and promote learning opportunities for diverse communities at Rock Point.
- Environmental Stewardship: To encourage community members to understand, care for, and protect the rich ecosystems at Rock Point and beyond.
- Spirituality: To make space for people with diverse beliefs and interpretations of spirituality to connect to the earth, self, and others; refreshing the spirit through the quiet beauty and majesty of nature.
- Sustainable Micro-Agriculture: To welcome small-scale agricultural projects that center connection and stewardship.

Leadership and Management

The duties and responsibilities of the Rock Point Commons board are elaborated in Canon 29C. The current Rock Point Commons Board members are:

- The Rt. Rev. Shannon MacVean-Brown, Board Chair, ex officio
- C.J. Spirito, Head of Rock Point School, Vice-Chair, ex officio
- Betsy Ferries
- Sam Jackson
- Wallace Good Jr.
- Matt Sommerville
- Frank Guillot
- Walter Poleman
- Aleksah Visco
- Michael Green
- The Rev. Margaret Mathauer
- The Rev. Charlie Nichols
- Ann Guillot, Trustee's representative, ex officio

- Kelly Kimball,
Executive Director,
ex officio

Rock Point Commons

Rock Point Commons is managed by Executive Director Kelly Kimball (full-time), who in turn oversees a small staff team, including Property Manager Chuck Courcy (full-time), Bookkeeper Karen Robinson (half-time), and Program Coordinator and Land Steward Tyler Pastorok (half-time).

Fiscal Year 2024 Overview

As noted in last year's report to Convention, a key goal for Rock Point Commons for 2024 was to achieve a balanced budget by further diversifying our revenue sources and reducing our reliance on the Episcopal Diocese of Vermont. We made great strides in this effort in the current year, including by leveraging more than \$4.5 million in public funds to renovate the conference center. In January 2024, Rock Point Commons finalized the negotiation of a long-term lease agreement with the Burlington School District. From January through August, renovations were made to the conference center to meet the needs of the tenant and to address long-standing deferred maintenance needs, and the new school opened its doors to 65 students in September. This public-private partnership has helped to stabilize the organization's finances by funding overdue deferred maintenance to the conference center and securing a long-term, substantial revenue stream for the center.

In the medium and long-term, the impacts of this partnership will support the financial sustainability of Rock Point Commons. In the current year, a loss of facility rental revenue during the construction period and costs associated with urgent building repairs have meant that expenses this year exceed revenue. The forecasted annual revenue for Rock Point Commons is \$418,441, and forecasted expenses are \$459,758, for a forecasted funds balance in 2024 of (\$41,318).

Programs and Partnership

Through diverse partnerships and innovative programs, Rock Point Commons is shaping a model of shared stewardship that benefits both the land and the local community. Among our key partnerships is the [Greater Burlington YMCA](#), which hosts a children's summer camp at Rock Point, and [Burlington Parks and Recreation](#), which manages community gardens on the property. The Burlington School District leads an alternative high school program, [Eagle Bay Academy](#), at Rock Point's conference center complex. We collaborate closely with local colleges and universities, such as [UVM's Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources](#), to provide place-based educational experiences. Additionally, we work with several smaller nonprofits, including [Vermont Master Naturalist](#), [Crow's Path](#), [Spoonful Herbals](#), and [Other Ways of Being](#), to enrich the community through nature-based programming.

Our staff leads a variety of initiatives that build community through education, spirituality, and environmental stewardship. These include natural history courses, such as "[Reading Rock Point](#)," which deepen participants' understanding of the landscape. Our [Community Homestead](#) program invites public involvement in sustainable practices like maple sugaring, beekeeping, and cider making, fostering stronger connections to the land. The harvest from these efforts is shared with

volunteers and distributed through local mutual aid networks to support a community pantry. Recently, we introduced livestock to the property, using sheep to graze the land while demonstrating sustainable agriculture practices. This addition, along with our other programs, continues to strengthen the bond between people and the environment, creating a vibrant model of stewardship and sustainability.

Through its ongoing efforts in education, environmental stewardship, spirituality, and sustainable agriculture, Rock Point Commons continues to foster a deep connection between people, the land, and their spiritual well-being. Our partnerships and programs not only benefit the environment but also nurture a sense of purpose, reflection, and community among those who visit. As we look to the future, Rock Point Commons remains dedicated to cultivating this unique blend of environmental and spiritual stewardship, ensuring the property continues to be a place of reflection, growth, and sustainability for generations to come.

Kelly Kimball,
Executive Director

Racial Justice and Healing Committee

The Racial Justice and Healing Committee helps create opportunities for people within the Diocese to learn about and grapple with aspects of our cultural racial oppression, white privilege, and what we can do about it.

The main foci of our efforts have included supporting and promoting Sacred Ground Circles, reaching out to parishes to understand what learning is happening within each parish participating in our own personal learning, and being available for future workshops and education.

Sacred Ground Circles are powerful 11-week-long experiences of 2-hour Zoom gatherings led by white people for white people to do our learning, reflection, and growing. Meg Fitch and Denise Noble have been leaders, working with others in our diocese and dioceses in other states to keep the continuation energetic and effective. We encourage everyone in the Diocese of Vermont to participate in a Sacred Ground Circle. It is a big commitment of time and energy but well worth it.

We have been working on contacting people in as many parishes as possible. Some of our information is outdated, so this effort has been slow. We feel that it is very important people know what others are doing in different parishes. Learning about the initiatives of other people can catalyze our work, connect us, and make us grow as a diocese.

To learn and train ourselves, the members of the Racial Justice and Healing Committee have been participating in Sacred Ground Circles and participated in a day-long training through the Absalom Jones Episcopal Center for Racial Healing.

Bp. Shannon and Cn. Susan secured a grant to be able to offer training by the Racial Equity Institute for people in our Diocese. We look forward to promoting these training sessions, participating in them, and growing alongside everyone willing to attend.

If you have any questions about any of these initiatives and/or would like to participate in these offerings, please contact C.J. Spirito.

C.J. Spirito, Committee Chair

cspirito@rockpoint.org

(802) 863-1104 x126

(802) 578-9846

Committee members:

Meg Fitch, Denise Noble, Elizabeth Parker, Rev. Earl Kooperkamp, Marty Roberts, Bishop Shannon MacVean-Brown, Canon Susan Ohlidal, Rev. Zarina O'Hagin

Standing Committee

The Standing Committee, a body elected by Diocesan Convention, is comprised of four laypersons and four clergy persons. The team meets via Zoom or in-person monthly and as needed. This body works with the Board of Trustees regarding diocesan property matters and with the Bishop and the Diocesan Committee on Ministry with persons seeking Candidacy and Ordination to the Diaconate and Priesthood. The body also consents to episcopal elections throughout The Episcopal Church, and it serves as a council of advice to the Bishop.

At the 2022 Diocesan Convention, the canons were changed to create an “Expanded” Standing Committee, a gathering of the core eight members of the Standing Committee as well as other representatives from the following entities: the Commission on Finance, the Trustees of the Diocese of Vermont, Inc., the Commission on Diocesan Organizations, and the Commission on Missional Vitality. The chairs of each of the Diocesan entities served as *ex-officio* advisors on the Standing Committee with seat and voice, but no vote. Canon changes at the 2023 Diocesan Convention eliminated the expanded Standing Committee and instead formed The Executive Council (which would include two members of the Standing Committee: one lay person and one clergy person).

The Standing Committee met to conduct business on these dates between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024: August 8th, 2023; Sept 7th, 2023 (Expanded Standing Committee); September 12th, 2023; October 10th, 2023; October 18th, 2023; November 7th, 2023; November 14th, 2023; December 5th, 2023 (Joint meeting with the Trustees); December 12th, 2023; January 9th, 2023; March 12, 2024; April 22nd, 2024; and May 20th, 2024.

Standing Committee members for 2023-2024 were: (Clergy) The Rev. Sarah Ginolfi (President, 2025), The Rev. Paul Olsson (2026), and The Ven. Stannard Baker (2024), and The Rev. Rachel Field (2027). (Lay members) Judith Rogers (2025), Jennifer Knowles (2026), Cathie Merrihew (2024), and Nanci Gordon (2027).

The Standing Committee acted on the following items between July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024:

Property Matters

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 7/11/23 | Consent for St. Michael’s, Brattleboro to enter a lease for the placement of a solar power electrical system on the roof of the church. |
| 10/24/23 | Gave consent for the sale of Rectory at St. James, Randolph, VT |
| 11/17/23 | Quitclaim approvals for property: 26 Prescott St, Essex, VT; 1362 Pond Rd, Fletcher, VT; and 326 West Rd, Manchester, VT |

- 12/5/23 Consented to the proposed Lease between The Trustees of the Diocese of Vermont, Inc., and the Burlington School District
- Authorized the President of The Trustees of the Diocese of Vermont, Inc., to complete and approve a construction contract between The Trustees of the Diocese of Vermont, Inc., and Farrington Construction Company, Inc.
- 12/12/23 Consented to Christ Church, Montpelier's SBA disaster loan
- Quitclaim approval for property: A parcel on Forest Dale Road, Brandon, VT
- 12/16/23 Quitclaim approval for property: 1416 Marshall Avenue in Williston, VT
- 2/7/24 Quitclaim approval for property: 16 Damon Drive in the town of Essex, VT
- 2/8/24 Quitclaim approval for property: lots 173 & 174 on the 1799 Orwell Lotting Plan of Orwell, VT
- 6/10/24 Quitclaim approval for property: 529 Stonefence Road, Richmond, VT
- 6/17/24 Quitclaim approval for property: a parcel in Greensboro, Orleans County, VT
- 8/10/24 Quitclaim approval for property: 1118 Ryegate Road, Ryegate, VT

Ordination Consents

- 11/7/23 Approved Susan McMillan to be ordained to the Diaconate

Episcopal Elections

- Gave consent to the election of The Rev. John T.W. Harmon as Bishop Diocesan of Arkansas
- Gave consent to the election of The Rev. Kristin Uffelman White as Bishop Diocesan of Southern Ohio
- Gave consent to the election of The Rev. Jeremiah Williamson as Bishop Diocesan of Albany
- Gave consent to the election of The Rev. Austin Keith Rios as Bishop Coadjutor of California
- Gave consent to the election of The Rev. Dorothy Sanders Wells as Bishop Diocesan of Mississippi
- Gave consent to the election of The Rev. Kara Wagner Sherer as Bishop Diocesan of Rochester
- Gave consent to the request for the Consent for election of a Bishop Suffragan for the Diocese of West Texas.

- Gave consent to the election of The Rev. Phil N. LaBelle as Bishop Diocesan of Olympia
- Gave consent to the election of The Rev. Julia Whitworth as Bishop Diocesan of Massachusetts

Other Actions

- Elected the Rev. Sarah Ginolfi as President
- Elected the Ven. Stannard Baker as Secretary
- Elected Jennifer Knowles to serve with the President on the Executive Council
- Gave consent for Paul Olsson and/or Sarah Ginolfi to serve as representatives of Standing Committee to approve routine property matters (Quit Claims)

12/12/23 Passed Resolution for Housing Allowance for Diocesan Employees

03/16/24 Consented to the Proposal from Kaleidoscope Inc. to facilitate a Truth and Reconciliation Eucharist

The President is grateful to the team and our bishop for the hard work, commitment, and support of this governing body. Throughout the year, the Standing Committee worked with the bishop and other diocesan bodies on the priority directive in the Mission Leadership Review compiled by the Rev. Gay Jennings to seek reconciliation following a series of significant conflicts with our bishop in 2023. The Standing Committee was proactive during Town Hall meetings to discuss the findings of the Mission Leadership Review, attended Fierce Conversations trainings in early 2024, participated in the Truth and Reconciliation Eucharist in March, and lived into a more transparent relationship with the bishop and the diocese in and around meetings. The committee recognizes that this work will continue in the coming months and years, and we are hopeful that God will further strengthen and equip us for vibrant ministry throughout our brave little state.

+Submitted in faith,
Sarah Ginolfi

The Trustees of the Diocese of Vermont

The Board of The Trustees of the Diocese of Vermont, Inc. operates according to Canon 11 of the Constitutions and Canons of the Diocese of Vermont. The Trustees meet quarterly with additional special meetings called when certain actions must be acted upon between regularly scheduled meetings. In the 2023- 2024 period covered by this report meetings were held on December 5, 2023 (Special meeting of the Trustees and Standing Committee); December 11, 2023 (Annual and Regular Meeting of the Trustees); March 11 (Regular Meeting of the Trustees); June 10 (Regular Meeting of the Trustees); and September 9, 2024 (Regular meeting of the Trustees.). Certain other actions were taken by unanimous consent via email.

Report of the Real Estate Committee:

According to Canon 10.1(b), title to real property of the Diocese shall be held by the Trustees, except otherwise directed by the Bishop and Standing Committee. The Real Estate Committee oversees all matters related to such property that are to come before the Trustees.

- Quitclaim deeds were approved for a total of 12 properties in the Trustee year, 2023/2024, collecting \$6825.38 in release fees.
- Various matters relating to the following properties were also addressed by the Committee during the year:
 - Activities regarding the oversight of property at Gethsemane Church, Proctorsville, VT due to severe flooding.
 - Approval of the sale of the Rectory at St. James, Randolph, VT.
 - Approval and authorization to enter into a long-term Lease with Burlington, Vermont School District at Rock Point Commons, including
 - \$4.43 Million construction contract for accessibility improvements, additional classroom spaces, parking and improved road access. Also, approval of a construction loan from Bank of Burlington in the amount of
 - \$4,000,000 to be repaid through additional rent payments by the Burlington, Vermont School District.
 - Approval of a \$1 million US SBA Disaster Loan to Christ Church, Montpelier.
 - Release of remaining interest in lands formerly of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Brandon VT.
 - Approval of boundary line adjustment between St. Paul's Vergennes and the City of Vergennes, VT.
 - Review of Forest Management Plan report, Brookhaven School for Boys.
 - Other activities and discussions continue related to oversight of church property at St. John's, East Poultney.

Report of the Investment Committee:

According to Canon 10.2(b), all funds other than operating funds unless otherwise directed shall be invested in the Diocesan Unit Trust Fund (DUT). The Investment Committee of the Trustees oversees the management of the Unit Fund, which includes accounts of the Diocese and many of its congregations, and amounted to \$39,218,639 as of June 30, 2023, a 20.60% gain in value over

the prior year reported on June 30, 2023. The Committee meets with its professional investment management advisors from Advisors in Financial Planning, Inc every quarter. Fund performance continues to follow the revised socially responsive (ESG) Investment Policy which was adopted in the spring of 2016.

- Various matters relating to the following properties were also addressed by the Committee during the year:
 - Comprehensive investment management review: As stewards of the Diocesan Unit Trust, the Trustees conducted a full review of our investment management process and third-party managers, Advisors in Financial Planning, Inc., an affiliate of Hickok & Boardman Capital Management. The review was presented to the full board of Trustees at the March 11, 2024, meeting with the conclusion that we continue our relationship.
 - Development of a Diocesan Unit Trust Investment Fund Overview to be provided to all DUT stakeholders as well as prospective parish investors. Distribution of the Overview is anticipated in September 2024, to be sent with stakeholder unit fund quarterly statements. It will also be included on the Diocesan Website.
- In 2023-2024, the Trustees approved quarterly distributions from the DUT to investors at the most recent rate of 1.644% based on the annual rate of 5% of the average unit values over the past 12 quarters. Each distribution has increased in value since March 2020. Although the fund value experienced market decline in 2022, the 12-quarter average provides stability to the distribution amount. The distribution payment dates are the 20th day of the last month in each calendar quarter of the year.
- Additional Activities of the Trustees included approval of an amendment to The Trustees of the Diocese of Vermont, Inc bylaws at its meeting on 9/09/2024. This is the first amendment of bylaws since a major revision in June 2022 and allows Trustees who were elected under 7-year terms to serve up to a total of 9 years if elected to a second term.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Cowan

President of The Trustees of the Diocese of Vermont, Inc.

Trustees of the Diocese of Vermont 2023-2024 Roster:

Dr. Noma Anderson; David Bullock; Christopher Chapman; Sarah Cowan (President and Chair, Real Estate Committee); Rev. David Frederickson; Dr. Ann Guillot (Chair, Investment Committee); Dana Peterson (Secretary/Clerk); ex officio: Bishop Shannon MacVean-Brown; Non-voting ex officio: Paul Horn, Treasurer; Kathy Torrisi, Assistant Secretary (resigned 8/30/2024)

Rock Point School

In this report you will find an overview and notes about last year and this current school year.
Submitted by C.J. Spirito, Head of School.

Overview:

Rock Point School is a boarding and day high school, located on the Rock Point property in Burlington. We serve 9th through 12th grade students, and occasionally post-grad students who could benefit from an additional supportive school year before college or another next step in their life.

Students we serve are bright, creative, curious, and unafraid to be true to themselves. Often their challenges have been due to their living within a system, school, or family that does not understand or accept them. Our student's unwillingness to pretend to be someone else tends to cause them conflict and stress. We greatly admire the tenacity of our students, as well as their willingness to keep moving forward despite their setbacks. We have many artistic students, as evidenced by the paintings, stained glass, and sketches that spill out of the art room and onto the walls of our building. They are sensitive and passionate, and they do not accept easy answers. They are also courageous and willing to accept support to move their lives forward in healthy directions.

Many of our students have not succeeded in a larger, more traditional school setting due to academic challenges. These include slower processing, ADHD, executive functioning struggles, high functioning Autism Spectrum Disorder or Non-verbal Learning Disorders, math and/or language-based disorders, large discrepancies between high and low scores in their cognitive testing, and more. Many of our students with academic challenges have never found success in the classroom and instead have built habits around avoiding schoolwork or assuming they can't do it. They have not regularly practiced strategies for breaking down their work into more manageable pieces, have never learned how to study, and have rarely been comfortable asking for help from teachers. Often, previous teachers have misunderstood these students because the students are bright and seem very capable and the way that their learning challenges manifest can look like opposition or refusal.

Families choose the school for our program which focuses on helping students who have struggled grow into their best selves. We believe that young people want to do well, want to engage in the world and respond well to positive feedback and encouragement. We also believe they must be challenged to build new habits, stretch their abilities, and broaden their comfort zones. This combination of caring support and firm boundaries often results in a trajectory of growth for our students. This blend of structure and nurturing care is at the heart of all our programming, from the classroom to the sports program, from lunch table conversations to weekend activities.

This year:

Currently, we have 24 students enrolled: 20 boarding and 4 day students. This year students are coming from a variety of places they call home, ranging from as close as Burlington, around

Vermont and the continental U.S., and as far as Bermuda. We enrolled more local boarders than we have in the past - in addition to the 4 day students, 6 students from Vermont are with us this year. This sunny, warm September weather has helped us start off well! We focus on building meaningful relationships with which we address our students' challenges, such as low self-esteem, depression, suicidal ideation, social anxiety, generalized anxiety, and academic differences (both working on the learning issue, as well as understanding how to approach and own one's learning styles), to name some. Spirits are upbeat, making progress already!

Our numbers are lower than we had hoped, but we are in full swing marketing the school and have interest in students joining later, which will give more girth to the student body and boost our budget which we need to run successfully to keep providing this life-changing opportunity for youth and their families. Our fundraising is improving, which we are using to increase scholarships and do those needed capital projects to take care of the buildings we use. We are hoping to raise enough money to make significant improvements to our buildings and continue stewarding the buildings and property that the Diocese generously allows us to use to run our school.

In February 2024 we provided another opportunity for students to go to Alabama as part of a Racial Healing Pilgrimage. This year's trip will be our third annual trip to Montgomery and Selma. We foresee this venture going on for many years ahead! It is an amazingly powerful experience that we hope every student from RPS will be able to have before they graduate from here. Bishop MacVean-Brown inspired the initial pilgrimage, which we did in collaboration with Canon Walter Brownridge. Several students have been able to access funds from the Bishop Tom and Ann Ely Scholarship to be able to attend. We are eternally grateful for this support from all three leaders as we continue our journey forward learning about our history and current times in light of biases and racism. These experiences, in conjunction with ongoing work at the school, have led to meaningful challenges and growth.

We hope to have at least one event this year and welcome folks from around the Diocese to visit although I would love to see you here whenever you might like to visit. Be well and stay in touch!

Thoughts/questions? Please contact

C.J. Spirito

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Our mission: Rock Point School provides a close-knit, supportive educational community, where high school and postgraduate students who have experienced challenges can become successful academically, build self-confidence, and develop skills for their future. Rock Point School offers academic, cultural, recreational, and spiritual opportunities that support intellectual growth and help students become their best selves.

Province 1

The Episcopal Province of New England is the smallest of the nine provinces in The Episcopal Church, comprised of the Dioceses of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Western Massachusetts. The Province is a means through which to coordinate and collaborate, to leverage ideas, resources, and relationships, both lay and clergy, around New England.

Most provincial work is done by ministry networks—groups of Episcopalians in two or more dioceses of New England engaged in shared mission, or collaborations of staff from multiple dioceses. The Province offers administrative and communications support, as well as grant funding for these collaborative efforts.

Province 1 ministry networks include the Becoming Beloved Community Ministry Network, the Formation Network, the Indigenous People’s Justice Network, the Recently Ordained Part-Time Clergy Network, and the Young Adult and Campus Ministry Network. All ministry networks (including startups) are eligible to apply for Sowing Seeds of Mission Grants to support their work and meetings.

Provincial work is governed by Provincial Ordinances (Canons), which guide the decision-making of our Provincial Executive Committee as we respond to the mandates of General Convention. Denise Noble of St. James, Essex Junction was elected to serve on the Provincial Executive Committee at our 2023 Diocesan Convention.

The Province 1 School for Deacons offers a 24-month program focusing primarily on the academic aspect of formation with practical application for the Diaconate in keeping with The Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church and the Association for Episcopal Deacons Competencies. Bishops, Archdeacons, or Canons for Formation refer students to the school from their diocesan discernment processes. The school administration and curriculum are overseen by the Province 1 Executive Committee and guided by an Advisory Council of members of six collaborating dioceses. (The Diocese of Massachusetts does not participate.)

On the third Thursday of most months, the Province 1 Formation Network presents “Conversations with Noted Speakers”—a resource intended for all, held over Zoom. The 2023-2024 topics included “Engaging Elders with Dementia in Bible Stories”, “Small Church Formation: Using Our Strengths”, “Growing in Faith and Connecting with Our Neighbors”, “Outofthebox: Playing with Stories to Bring Well-Being”, and “Helping Hands Across Ages: Intergenerational Service Projects as a Monthly Ministry Model”.

Beginning September 17, 2023, the Becoming Beloved Community Network presented “Continuing the Conversation: Reparations and Racial Justice in New England”, a Zoom conversation about reparations work in Episcopal context across the seven dioceses of Province One. The BBCN meets quarterly via Zoom.

The Indigenous People’s Justice Network organized a series of book discussions of “The Gatherings: Reimagining Indigenous-Settler Relationships”; “This Land is Their Land: The Wampanoag Indians, Plymouth Colony, and the Troubled History of Thanksgiving”, “Our

Beloved Kin: A New History of King Philip’s War, and “Path Lit by Lightning: The Life of Jim Thorpe”.

Province 1 Conferences were held on December 14, 2023 (Conference including discussion and passage of the 2024 Province 1 budget) and May 29, 2024 (Conference including an address by President of the House of Deputies Julia Ayala Harris, and election of The Venerable Stan Baker of Vermont as Clergy representative to the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church).

Respectfully submitted,
Nanci Gordon

**Secretary of Convention Reporting on 81st General Convention
Proposed Changes to the Constitution and Book of Common Prayer**

It is a requirement of Canon I.1.1.e that the diocesan Secretary of Convention report out to each diocesan convention all General Convention resolutions which propose alterations to the Book of Common Prayer or of the Constitution. The 81st General Convention proposed three resolutions with changes to the Constitution and one to the Book of Common Prayer. The following are the proposed actions taken:

**A043 Amend Constitution Article VIII regarding Clergy in Local Ecumenical Partnerships
- [First Reading] Final Status: Concurred as Amended**

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention amend Article VIII of the Constitution by adding the following paragraph at the end of the existing article:

Of Clergy in Local Ecumenical Partnerships

Local Ecumenical Partnerships (LEPs) are ministries that may be formed between Episcopal dioceses and their parallels in other Christian denominations in order to provide shared pastoral leadership.

An ordained minister in good standing of one of the constituent denominations identified in the canons may be appointed by the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese to serve in this Church on a temporary basis as part of a Local Ecumenical Partnership as governed by the relevant canons.

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**A116 Marriage Rites for Inclusion in the Book of Common Prayer (First Reading) Final Status:
Concurred as Substituted**

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention authorize for trial use under Article X.b the following revisions to the Book of Common Prayer 1979:

BCP pp. 349 and 381: Following the Preface of Marriage, add the rubric “or this”, followed by Preface of Marriage, Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music (SCLM) Blue Book report p. 39

BCP p. 423: Revise the title to read “The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage I”

BCP p. 433: Revise the title to read “The Blessing of a Civil Marriage I”

BCP p. 435: Revise the title to read “An Order for Marriage I”

Following BCP p. 438, add The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage, SCLM Blue Book report pp. 28-36; The Blessing of Civil Marriage, SCLM Blue Book report pp. 36-37; An Order of Marriage, SCLM Blue Book report pp. 37-38; and Additional Directions, SCLM Blue Book Report, pp. 38-39; with the following revisions:

SCLM Blue Book Report p. 28: Revise the first paragraph Concerning the Service as follows: “At least one of the parties must be a baptized Christian; the ceremony must be attested by at least two witnesses; and the marriage must conform to the laws of the State and the canons of this Church.”

SCLM Blue Book Report p. 29: Revise the title to read “The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage II”

SCLM Blue Book Report p. 35: Replace “Preface of the Season” with “Preface of Marriage, or of the Season”

SCLM Blue Book Report p. 36: Revise the title to read “The Blessing of a Civil Marriage II”

SCLM Blue Book Report p. 37: Revise the title to read “An Order for Marriage II”

SCLM Blue Book Report p. 37: Replace the first paragraph of An Order of Marriage with the following text: “If it is desired to celebrate a marriage otherwise than as provided in the Book of Common Prayer or any authorized alternative thereto, this Order is used.”

SCLM Blue Book Report p. 37: Revise paragraph 3 of An Order of Marriage as follows: “The laws of the State and the canons of this Church having been complied with, the couple, together with their witnesses, families, and friends assemble in the church or in some other convenient place.”

Blue Book Report p. 37: Revise #1 of An Order of Marriage as follows: “The teaching of the Church concerning Holy Matrimony, as it is declared in the formularies and canons of this Church, is briefly stated.”

And be it further

Resolved, That these liturgies authorized for trial use be made available electronically at no cost; and be it further

Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music be directed to engage a dynamic equivalence translation of these texts into the Spanish, French, and Kreyol languages; and be it further

Resolved, That the liturgies The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage, The Blessing of a Civil Marriage, and An Order for Marriage as authorized in The Book of Common Prayer 1979 continue to be authorized for use in all dioceses of The Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request the Executive Council Budget Committee to allocate \$12,000 for translation.

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A224 Amend Article X with clarifying amendments (post 2024-A072) [First Reading] Final Status: Concurred as Amended

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention of The Episcopal Church repeal Article X, Sections 1 and 2, and replace with the following:

Article X: Of The Book of Common Prayer

Sec. 1. The Book of Common Prayer is those liturgical forms, communal and devotional prayers, and other content authorized by the General Convention in accordance with this article and shall be enriched by our church’s cultural, geographical, and linguistic contexts.

The Book of Common Prayer, as now established or hereafter amended by the General Convention shall be in use in all the Dioceses and other jurisdictions of this Church.

Any Book of Common Prayer, or portions thereof, memorialized by the General Convention, is authorized for use at any service in all the Dioceses and other jurisdictions of this Church.

Sec. 2. No alteration thereof or addition thereto shall be made unless the General Convention approve the same on first reading in one regular meeting of the General Convention and, by resolve so directing, be sent by the Secretary of the General Convention to the Secretary of the Convention of every Diocese and other jurisdictions, to be made known to the Diocesan Convention at its next regular meeting, and be adopted on second reading without alteration by the General Convention at its next succeeding regular meeting by a majority of all Bishops, excluding retired Bishops not present, of the whole number of Bishops entitled to vote in the House of Bishops, and by an affirmative vote by orders in the House of Deputies in accordance with Art. I, Sec. 5 of this Constitution, except that concurrence in the affirmative by the orders shall require the affirmative vote in each order by a majority of the Dioceses and other jurisdictions entitled to representation in the House of Deputies.

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D049 Increase by one the possible number of bishops suffragans in a Diocese [First Reading] Final Status: Concurred

Resolved, That Article II of the Constitution is amended as follows:

Article II: Of Bishops

Sec. 4. It shall be lawful for a Diocese, at the request of the Bishop of that Diocese, to elect not more than three Bishops Suffragan, without right of succession, and with seat and vote in the House of Bishops. A Bishop Suffragan shall be consecrated and hold office under such conditions and limitations other than those provided in this Article as may be provided by

Canons of the General Convention. A Bishop Suffragan shall be eligible for election as Bishop Diocesan or Bishop Coadjutor of a Diocese, or as a Bishop Suffragan in another Diocese.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Paul V. Olsson
Secretary of Convention

General Convention Deputation

The Brave Little State had an outsized presence at the 81st General Convention held in Louisville, KY from June 23 to June 28 of this year. ¹The deputation sat center in the front row, as Tom Little served in the role of Deputy Parliamentarian and helped keep the flow of business running in an orderly and efficient manner. Yet, it is not for this alone that Vermont stood tall among the many deputations. Our deputies distinguished themselves in their deft handling of crafting, shepherding to the floor, and arguing for resolutions on the Israel-Palestine conflict and same sex marriage; speaking on the floor in support or refutation of resolutions; and our deputies stood for election, with one being elected to the Executive Council. To say the least, Vermont distinguished itself and did the Episcopalians of Vermont proud.

Over the six days (plus a day of orientation and final legislative committee meetings) the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops handled 391 resolutions and their various amendments. Most importantly, however, the 81st Convention's highlight was the election of the Right Reverend Bishop Sean Rowe (Western New York and Northwestern Pennsylvania) to succeed the Most Reverend Michael Curry as the Presiding Bishop. Bishop Rowe was elected on *the first ballot*. When he made his first visit to the House of Deputies his presence was greeted with thunderous applause. He offered an articulate vision for the church saying, "It is time to reorient our church...to support dioceses and churches on the ground, where ministry happens." (Much of his vision echoes our Diocese's THRIVE subcommittee's report on Missional Vitality.) He will begin his nine-year term as Presiding Bishop in November of 2024.

The House of Deputies also participated in a rare event when they re-elected Julia Ayala Harris (Oklahoma) as president of the House of Deputies. This was only the second time in the modern history of the House of Deputies where an incumbent president faced challengers. Ayala Harris won decisively on the first ballot. The Rev. Steve Pankey (Kentucky) was elected as vice president.

Both houses approved a 143 million dollar budget with a mandated 3.6 million dollar reduction to be implemented over the next three years. Debate over the budget was civil and without much dispute as the Rev. Patty Downing, Chair of Executive Council's Joint Budget Committee, and treasurer Kurt Barnes deftly presented and answered questions regarding the budget. There was concern that creation care ministries were in need of more money, but in budget reconciliation meetings the churchwide Executive Council is expected to allocate more funding for this ministry.

In two of the most anticipated arenas of resolution debate, Vermont played pivotal roles in the resolutions concerning Israel and Palestine, and in making the Book of Common Prayer more adaptive and nimble to church needs.

Regarding the latter, the Venerable Stan Baker chaired Legislative Committee 10, Prayer Book, Liturgy, and Music. His committee's work created a new constitutional definition for the Book of Common Prayer, "Those liturgical forms and other texts authorized by the General Convention per this article and the Canons of the Church." In furthering this work, in a moment of profundity, the Convention authorized, no longer on a trial basis, services for same sex couples; and in our catechism we now recognize marriage as being between "two people." Deacon Baker has spent a good deal of his life fighting for marriage equality and for him to see this work in our church come into reality (because of his tireless efforts) proved to be an emotionally powerful moment for him and all of the Vermont deputation.

¹ The General Convention is the governing body of The Episcopal Church. Every three years it meets as a bicameral legislature that includes the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops, composed of deputies and bishops from each diocese.

The debate over resolutions regarding the Israel-Palestine conflict was tense, yet respectful. Resolutions came from legislative committee 06, Social Justice and International Policy, on which Vermont deputy, Anne Brown, served as convenor of two Israel-Palestine subcommittees. Debate revealed significant differences between the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops regarding the language of one key resolution. Tom Little served on the House of Deputies conference committee that worked with its House of Bishops counterpart. With some good drafting, and thoughtful listening on both sides, a compromise resolution was adopted by both Houses. Deputy Luke Krueger took to the convention floor and spoke in favor of the compromise resolution; his remarks were quoted in an article in *The Living Church*. On many levels, the work of Vermont's deputation helped our church speak out and state its position on this deepening tragedy.

It is worth taking a pause here to recognize the work of our deputies in all their committee work. The Rev. Lee Crawford chaired legislative committee 04, World Mission. This committee's resolutions all passed as part of the votes on the consent calendar. These resolutions encompassed matters such as: Creating a Task Force on Countering the Colonial Mindset (A080), Enable Episcopal Migration Ministries to More Fully Live Out its Mission (D026, in terms of ministering to TPS immigrants and refugees). The Rev. Lisa Ransom served on legislative committee 15, Care of Creation and Environmental Stewardship, where she chaired the subcommittee for Nature-based Resolutions. Tom Little as noted served as the Deputy Parliamentarian, Vice Chair of the House of Deputies Rules of Order Committee, member of the Standing Commission on Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons, and he was appointed to the Board of Directors for the Episcopal Coalition for Racial Equity and Justice. Anne Brown served on legislative committee 06: Social Justice and International Policy. The Venerable Stan Baker, as noted above chaired legislative committee 10: Prayer Book, Liturgy, and Music.

Two of our deputies stood for election to office. The Venerable Stan Baker ran and was elected to the Executive Council, a very prestigious honor. The Executive Council administers the program and policies adopted by the General Convention, i.e., they ensure that what we voted on is implemented. Luke Krueger ran for a lay position on the Disciplinary Board for Bishops; he did not win but for a first-time deputy he had a respectable showing.

We were also witness to three major changes in the makeup of our church. The dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan merged to create the Diocese of the Great Lakes. The dioceses of Fond du Lac, Milwaukee, and Eau Claire reunited to the Diocese of Wisconsin. In a profound moment of reconciliation, the Convention elevated the canonical and missional status of Navajo Episcopalians from area mission to missionary diocese. In doing so we heard the stories of our Navajo siblings of how they maintained their faith amidst their struggle to retain their culture and heritage. They shared with us songs and prayers rooted in their language. They now will be able to elect their own bishop.

Vermont's deputation had two first-time deputies (the Very Reverend Greta Getlein and Luke Krueger) and one deputy serving at her second convention (Jennifer Bower Knowles). Luke Krueger, as noted above, took to the floor multiple times to speak on various resolutions. Each of these new(er) deputies did marvelous work of networking and building relationships with other deputies and alternates, and they will soon learn what committees they will serve on during the next triennium.

The alternates distinguished themselves as well. They jumped at opportunities to serve in volunteer roles that contributed to the smooth functioning of the Convention. Each alternate, the Rev. Canon Dr. Walter Brownridge, the Rev. Earl Kooperkamp, the Rev. Jennie Anderson, and Lisa Leopold also spent time on the floor as voting deputies when a deputy had a conflict in schedule and could not attend a session. Needless to say, the deputation didn't miss a beat.

Without a doubt, Vermont played and continues to play an important and influential role at the General Convention. As the church evolves under the leadership of our new Presiding Bishop, our

diocese will remain front and center in leading the way for the church in the 21st century.

Respectfully Submitted,

the Deputation from Vermont for the 81st General Convention of the Episcopal Church:

Clergy Deputies

The Ven. Stan Baker

The Very Rev. Greta Getlein

The Rev. Lisa Ransom

The Rev. Canon Dr. Lee Crawford

Lay Deputies

Thomas Little

Jennifer Knowles

Anne Brown

Luke Krueger

Clergy Alternates

The Rev. Earl Kooperkamp

The Rev. Canon Dr. Walter Brownridge

The Rev. Amy Spagna

The Rev. Jennie Anderson

Lay Alternates

Lisa Leopold