

**Minutes of the Proceedings of the
Episcopal Electing Convention
Trinity Cathedral, Trenton, New Jersey
January 28, 2023**

A Special Convention, called by notice by the Rt. Rev. William H. Stokes, XII Bishop of New Jersey, in the Election Booklet on December 29, 2022, for the purpose of electing the Thirteenth Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey, was held in person and by Zoom meeting on Saturday, January 28, 2023, at Trinity Cathedral, 801 West State Street, Trenton, New Jersey, at 10:00 a.m., following a 9:00 celebration of Morning Prayer by Bishop Stokes.

At 10:00 a.m., Bishop Stokes as Chair welcomed clergy, lay deputies, and the press. He gave opening announcements and then introduced the Chancellor of the Diocese and Secretary of Convention, Canon Paul Ambos, Esq. and the Recording Secretary, Canon Mary Ann Rhoads.

Canon Ambos, as Secretary of Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey, reported that one-fifth of the canonically resident clergy and one-fourth of the congregations of the diocese were represented, and he declared that there was a quorum. At 10:12 a.m., Bishop Stokes called to order the Electing Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey and gave opening announcements.

Bishop Stokes thanked the members of the Bishop Search and Nomination Election Committee and asked them to stand for recognition: from Atlantic Convocation, Ms. Alice Vasser and the Rev. Allison Burns-LaGreca; from Burlington Convocation, Ms. Valaida Wynn, Chair of the Committee, and the Very Rev. James Matthew Tucker, Vice-Chair; from Camden Convocation, the Rev. Naomi Cressman, Dcn., and Ms. Linda Macklin; from Monmouth Convocation, the Rev. Dr. Maria Sanzo and Canon Annette Buchanan; from Northern Convocation, the Rev. Canon Andy J. Moore and Ms. Katherine Young; from Trenton Convocation, the Rev. Trisha Thorne, Dcn., and Mr. Martin Nelson; from Watchung Convocation, the Rev. Susanna Cates and Canon Wendy Blackman; from Woodbury Convocation, the Rev. Sharon Patterson and Ms. Ashley Maddison; and the Members at Large: Mr. Donaldo Vidal, Talbot B. Kramer, Jr., Esq., the Rev. N. Chase Danford, the Rev. Micah Cronin, the Rev. Jorge Liriano Martinez, and the Rev. Allen Wakabayashi.

Ms. Valaida Wynn, Chair of the Bishop Search and Nomination Committee, thanked the Very Rev. Matthew Tucker as Vice-Chair and the Rev. Dr. Maria Sanzo, for her guidance and spiritual help in serving as Chaplain to the Committee. She expressed gratitude to the Very Rev. Ronald H. Clingenpeel, Consultant to the Committee, and Holy Cow! Consulting for their assistance.

Mr. Corbin Cogswell, Chair of the Committee on Credentials of Lay Deputies, certified that all parochial reports had been submitted as required by canon and all credentials of lay deputies were in order. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the report of the Committee on Credentials of Lay Deputies.

Canon Paul Ambos, Esq., Chair of the Committee on Dispatch of Business, Rules of Order, and Agenda, on behalf of the Committee moved the adoption of the proposed Rules of Order for the Episcopal Electing Convention provided to the Clergy and Lay Deputies and appearing on pages 4 through 6 of the Election Booklet, and the motion was passed. He then moved on behalf of the Committee the adoption of the Agenda for the Electing Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey as provided to the Clergy and Lay Deputies in their Electing Convention Booklet, page 8. The motion was passed.

Bishop Stokes announced the following appointments, some previously in effect, for this Convention:

Parliamentarian: Canon Paul Ambos, Esq., Chancellor of the Diocese.

Chaplain: The Rev. Maria Sanzo.

Committee on Rules of Order and Dispatch of Business: Canon Paul Ambos, Esq., Chair, the Rev. Genevieve Bishop, Paul De Sarno, Esq.; Mrs. Marth Lawless, and the Rev. Ronald N. Pollock.

Committee on Credentials of Lay Deputies: The Rev. Canon Dr. Francis Hubbard, Chair, and Mr. Corbin Cogswell.

Balloting Committee: The Rev. Leslie G. Mazzacano, Dcn., Chair, Mrs. Martha Lawless, and the Rev. Joseph Luzardo, Jr., Dcn.

On behalf of the Bishop Search and Nomination Committee, Ms. Valaida Wynn, Chair, placed the following persons in nomination for the office of Bishop of the Diocese of New Jersey:

The Rev. Canon Dr. Dena Cleaver-Bartholomew, Canon to the Ordinary, Diocese of Rhode Island
The Rev. Canon Dr. Sally French, Canon for Regional Ministry and Collaborative Innovation,
Diocese of North Carolina
The Very Rev. Troy Mendez, Dean, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Phoenix, Arizona
The Rev. Janine Schenone, Rector, Good Samaritan Episcopal Church, San Diego, California
The Rev. Dr. Mauricio Jose Wilson, Rector, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Oakland, California

Ms. Wynn noted that the order of the names on each ballot will be randomized by Data On The Spot.

Bishop Stokes called upon Deacon Leslie Mazzacano, Chair of the Balloting Committee, to give voting directions on the Data On The Spot website.

Bishop Stokes called upon Chaplain Sanzo for a prayer, the Convention sang Hymn 516 in *The Hymnal 1982* – Come Down, O Love Divine, and the First Ballot was cast beginning at 10:28. He reminded attendees to return to their seats when the Cathedral bells were played and an organ fanfare announced the impendency of the ballot results.

Bishop Stokes recognized the Rt. Rev. Joe Morris Doss, Retired Tenth Bishop of New Jersey, who was unable to be with us today.

Bishop Stokes acknowledged members of the Cathedral staff: The Very Rev. René Rory John, Dean; Deacons the Rev. Carol B. Gilbert and the Rev. Christopher Cox; Priest Associates the Rev. Canon Dr. Noel Amadi, the Rev. Dr. Peter J. Bridge, the Rev. Canon Bruce Montgomery, and the Rev. Dr. John Luttrell; Cathedral Administrator Ms. Patrice D'Angelo; Associate Music Minister/Choir Director/Organist Dr. Kerry Heimann; Associate Director of Music Ms. Fay Manicke; and Sextons Al Shaw and Michael (PJ) Pettyjohn.

The Rev. Trisha Thorne, Dcn., Executive Director of Episcopal Community Services of the Diocese of New Jersey, described the work of ECS and announced planning for the Farewell Gala for Bishop Stokes, and honoring Canon Ann Notte and Canon Mary Ann Rhoads, to be held May 21, 2023 at the Doubletree Hilton in Cherry Hill. This will be a fundraiser for ECS.

Bishop Stokes acknowledged the members of the Transition Committee: The Rev. Jeffrey Roy, Chair, Mrs. Brenda Leonard, the Rev. Canon Valerie Balling, Mr. Jack Daugherty, Mx. Connor Crafton-Tempel, Mr. Joseph Walker, and the Very Rev. Dr. Caroline Carson.

The Rev. Jeffrey Roy gave a report. He recognized and thanked the members of the Transition Committee for their work on transition and also noted the work of this committee still to be done.

Bishop Stokes then acknowledged the members of the Diocesan House staff for all of their hard work in preparing for the Electing Convention: The Rev. Canon Joanne Izzo, Canon Phyllis Jones, the Rev. Canon Rob Droste, Canon Mary Ann Rhoads, Mr. Gary Kamath, Ms. Tanya Rainey, Mr. Ramez Beshay, Canon Ann Notte, Mrs. Mary Anne Clisham, Canon Steve Welch, Ms. Patricia Hawkins, Mr. John Conte, the Rev. Canon Ramon Ubiera, the Rev. Canon Clive Sang, Dcn., the Rev. Canon Richard Wrede, Mrs. Clare Gutwein, and Mr. Joseph Rodriguez.

The Convention sang Hymn 488 in *The Hymnal 1982* – Be Thou My Vision, and Hymn 487 – Come My Way.

Deacon Mazzacano reported the results of the First Ballot:

Election of Thirteenth Bishop - Ballot 1
Vote by Orders – One to be elected

Total Ballots Cast: 541
Clergy Ballots Cast: 205
Lay Ballots Cast: 336

Clergy Votes Necessary for an Election: 103
Lay Votes Necessary for an Election: 169

	Clergy Votes	Lay Votes
The Rev. Canon Dr. Dena Cleaver-Bartholomew	25	65
The Rev. Canon Dr. Sally French	89	87
The Very Rev. Troy Mendez	14	33
The Rev. Janine Schenone	28	42
The Rev. Dr. Mauricio Jose Wilson	49	109

Bishop Stokes announced that there was no election and asked if there were any candidates who wished to withdraw. Shepherd Canon Wendy Blackman announced that The Rev. Canon Dr. Dena Cleaver-Bartholomew withdrew, and the Chair accepted her withdrawal, with thanks for her candidacy.

Deacon Mazzacano gave instructions for the Second Ballot. Chaplain Sanzo led a prayer, and the Convention sang Hymn 518 in *The Hymnal 1982* – Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation. The Second Ballot was cast beginning at 11:14.

As voting was concluding, Bishop Stokes noted that Mahalia Jackson had died 51 years ago as of yesterday and asked the Convention to sing Hymn 106 from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* – Precious Lord, Take My Hand and Hymn 711 in *The Hymnal 1982* – Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God.

Deacon Mazzacano reported the results of the Second Ballot:

Election of Thirteenth Bishop - Ballot 2
Vote by Orders – One to be elected

Total Ballots Cast: 543	
Clergy Ballots Cast: 204	Clergy Votes Necessary for an Election: 103
Lay Ballots Cast: 339	Lay Votes Necessary for an Election: 170

	Clergy Votes	Lay Votes
The Rev. Canon Dr. Sally French	112	140
The Very Rev. Troy Mendez	7	26
The Rev. Janine Schenone	21	38
The Rev. Dr. Mauricio Jose Wilson	64	135

Bishop Stokes announced that there was no election and asked if there were any candidates who wished to withdraw. Shepherd the Rev. Susanna Cates announced that The Rev. Janine Schenone withdrew, and the Chair accepted her withdrawal, with thanks for her candidacy.

Bishop Stokes called on Chaplain Sanzo for a prayer, and the Convention sang Hymn 581 in *The Hymnal 1982* – Where Charity and Love Prevail. Deacon Mazzacano gave instructions, and Bishop Stokes directed that the third ballot be cast at 11:40. While balloting was in progress, he directed that after casting votes the attendees present should take their lunch break and resume the session at 12:15.

The Convention reconvened at 12:15 with the singing of Hymn 594 in *The Hymnal 1982* – God of Grace and God of Glory and Hymn 1 from *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* – Lift Every Voice and Sing.

Deacon Mazzacano reported the results of the Third Ballot:

Election of Thirteenth Bishop - Ballot 3
Vote by Orders – One to be elected

Total Ballots Cast: 537	
Clergy Ballots Cast: 202	Clergy Votes Necessary for an Election: 102
Lay Ballots Cast: 335	Lay Votes Necessary for an Election: 168

	Clergy Votes	Lay Votes
The Rev. Canon Dr. Sally French	137	189
The Very Rev. Troy Mendez	5	8
The Rev. Dr. Mauricio Jose Wilson	60	138

Bishop Stokes declared the Rev. Canon Dr. Sally French elected as the XIII Bishop of New Jersey and that she has accepted the election. The bells of Trinity Cathedral were rung, and a *Te Deum* was sung (Hymn 366 in *The Hymnal 1982*).

The Bishop-elect addressed the Convention via Zoom.

Bishop Stokes offered blessings on Canon French and prayed for in thanks those who had offered themselves for election in this Diocese.

Bishop Stokes thanked the volunteers who helped in the preparation for and carrying out of the Electing Convention. He thanked the Convention's members for their part in the process. He thanked DOTS for their work in managing the voting process and presenting the election results and AVA for their audio-visual assistance. He reminded all clergy and deputies that they must sign electronically the Testimonial of Election form required under the Canons of The Episcopal Church before they leave the convention floor.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed, and the Electing Convention stood adjourned at 12:49 p.m.

Bishop Stokes gave his blessing and the Convention concluded with Hymn 521 in *The Hymnal 1982* – Put Forth, O God, Thy Spirit's Might.

Respectfully submitted,

Canon Mary Ann Rhoads
Recording Secretary

Canon Paul Ambros
Secretary of Convention