

**Diocese of New Jersey**  
**238th Annual Diocesan Convention**  
**Saturday, March 5, 2022, 10:00 a.m.**

The 238th Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey was held virtually by Zoom and by streaming on YouTube. The meeting was preceded by a service of Morning Prayer led by the Right Reverend William H. Stokes, Twelfth Bishop of New Jersey, by the Bishop's Address, and by the announcement of the following persons as Honorary Canons of the Cathedral: Bruce Montgomery, Paul Wolfgang, Sebastian Vazquez, Ann Notte, and Mary Ann Rhoads. Instructions on participation in the Zoom meeting were given by Canon Steven Welch, Diocesan Canon for Communications, and on voting by Brandon Mwendo of the firm Data on the Spot.

**Call to Order:**

Bishop Stokes opened the meeting with prayer and presented greetings to the Convention from the Most Reverend Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, the Right Reverend Carlye Hughes, Bishop of the Diocese of Newark, the Right Reverend Cristobal Leon Lorenzo, Bishop of the Diocese of Ecuador Litoral, and read greetings from the Right Reverend M. Blair Couch, Bishop of the Northern Province of the Moravian Church in America. He reminded participants of Zoom protocols, and then called on Canon Paul Ambos, Secretary of the Convention, who reported that 130 members of the clergy and 118 congregations were present online, which constituted a quorum under Article V of the Constitution of the Diocese.

The Bishop called the Convention to order at 10:37 a.m. and called on the Reverend Canon Dr. Frank A. Hubbard for a Report of the Committee on the Credentials of Lay Deputies. He reported that all parochial reports have been submitted as required by canon and all credentials of lay deputies are in order except for St. Andrew's, Allenhurst, St. Augustine's, Camden, and Holy Trinity, Spring Lake, who were not entitled to representation. On motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the Committee's report was adopted.

The Bishop called on the Reverend John V. Zamboni for the Report of the Committee on the Classification of Congregations. Fr. Zamboni on behalf of the Committee moved that since the Parish of St. John's Church, Camden no longer conducted services, it be declared extinct pursuant to New Jersey Revised Statutes section 16:12-16. The motion was carried. On behalf of the Committee, he reported that Bishop Stokes had, in accordance with Diocesan Canon 60, Section 2(a), recommended the reclassification of the Parish Congregation of Grace Church, Plainfield, to Mission status, and the Diocesan Council has concurred with this recommendation. On behalf of the Committee he moved that the Convention ratify this change, and this motion was carried. Finally, he reported that Bishop Stokes, in accordance with Diocesan Canon 60, Section 2(b), had accepted the request of the Parish Congregation of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Lumberton, to be reclassified to Mission status, and, the Standing Committee having concurred with this request, the Bishop has so reclassified it. There were no further changes of classification this year. On motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the Committee's report was adopted.

The Bishop called on Canon Ambos as Chair of the Committee on Rules of Order and Dispatch of Business, who on behalf of the Committee moved adoption of the Rules of Order for Convention 2022, Document #2 as posted on the Diocesan website, and this motion was carried. On behalf of the Committee he moved adoption of the Agenda, Document #1, and this motion was carried. He moved adoption of the Consent Calendar, Document #1-A, and asked that it be tabled to give members of the Convention an opportunity to remove specific items from the Consent Calendar for separate consideration, and the Bishop absent objection so ordered.

The Bishop called on the Reverend Michael Way, Chair of the Nominating Committee, for a report. Fr. Way on behalf of the Committee moved the nomination of all the candidates set forth in the Committee's

report, Document #16, including those presented through the Committee, those marked with an asterisk who were nominated through the Secretary of Convention pursuant to Section 5 of Canon 4, and those marked with two asterisks have had floor nominations pre-filed pursuant to Rule VI Section 2 of the Rules of Order in anticipation of their being nominated from the floor.

On motion duly made, seconded, and carried, nominations for Office A were closed without further nominations. On motion duly made, seconded, and carried, nominations for Office B were closed without further nominations. On motion duly made, seconded, and carried, nominations for Office C were closed following the nomination from the floor for the Reverend Robin Pierre, who expressed his willingness to serve if elected. On motion duly made, seconded, and carried, nominations for Office D were closed without further nominations. On motion duly made, seconded, and carried, nominations for Office E were closed without further nominations. On motion duly made, seconded, and carried, nominations for Office F were closed without further nominations. On motion duly made, seconded, and carried, nominations for Office G were closed without further nominations. On motion duly made, seconded, and carried, nominations for Office H were closed without further nominations. On motion duly made, seconded, and carried, nominations for Office I were closed without further nominations. On motion duly made, seconded, and carried, nominations for Office J were closed following the nomination from the floor for Ms. Pat Hawkins, who expressed her willingness to serve if elected. On motion duly made, seconded, and carried, nominations for Office K were closed without further nominations. On motion duly made, seconded, and carried, nominations for Office L were closed without further nominations. On motion duly made, seconded, and carried, nominations for Office M were closed without further nominations. On motion duly made, seconded, and carried, nominations for Office N were closed without further nominations. On motion duly made, seconded, and carried, nominations for Office O were closed without further nominations. On motion duly made, seconded, and carried, nominations for Office P were closed without further nominations. On motion duly made, seconded, and carried, nominations for Office Q were closed without further nominations. On motion duly made, seconded, and carried, nominations for Office R were closed without further nominations. On motion duly made, seconded, and carried, nominations for Office S were closed without further nominations. On motion duly made, seconded, and carried, nominations for Office T were closed without further nominations. On motion duly made, seconded, and carried, nominations for Office U were closed without further nominations.

The Bishop called on Deacon Leslie Mazzacano as Chair of the Balloting Committee to give voting directions. Prior to doing so, she noted that there were no contests for Offices D, G, H, I, J, K, L, N, P, Q, R, S, T, and U and moved that the nominees for these offices be declared elected by acclamation. Without objection, the Bishop so ruled and declared them elected. Thereupon, instructions were given, and voting on the First Ballot via the Data on the Spot website commenced at 11:28 and was open until 11:40.

When the Convention reconvened, Canon Ambos reported to the Chair that no items were asked to be removed from the Consent Calendar, and he moved its approval on behalf of the Committee on Rules of Order. The motion was carried, and the items on the Consent Calendar were deemed adopted or rejected as set forth in the presenting bodies' recommendations for each item.

Bishop Stokes acknowledged the Right Reverend Joe Morris Doss, Tenth Bishop of New Jersey, and the Right Reverend Herbert A. Donovan, Jr., the Right Reverend David B. Joslin, and the Right Reverend Sylvestre D. Romero, each of whom had served as Assisting Bishops in the Diocese. Canon Ambos moved that greetings be sent to the retired Bishop, Assisting Bishops who served in the Diocese of New Jersey, and members of the clergy who were unable to participate in this convention due to illness. The motion was duly seconded and carried.

The Reverend Canon Robert H. Legnani presented the Clergy Necrology Report.

Canon Annette Buchanan presented the Lay Leader Necrology Report.

At 12:03, the Reverend Allen Wakabayashi led Noonday Prayers.

Ms. Valaida Wynn Guererro, Chair for the Bishop's Search and Nominating Committee, reported on the activities of the Committee to date.

The Reverend Robert Fitzpatrick reported for Project Resource.

The Chair declared a recess for lunch. Convention resumed at 1:00, and Deacon Mazzacano reported the results of the First Ballot.

Office A – Standing Committee – Clergy

Vote by Orders – One to be elected

Total Ballots Cast:	385		
Clergy Ballots Cast:	139	Clergy Votes Necessary for an Election:	70
Lay Ballots Cast:	246	Lay Votes Necessary for an Election:	124

	Clergy Votes	Lay Votes
The Rev. Joanna P. Hollis	82	141
The Very Rev. Dr. Caroline P. Carson	57	105

The Chair declared the Reverend Joanna P. Hollis elected.

Office B – Standing Committee – Lay

Vote by Orders – One to be elected

Total Ballots Cast:	386		
Clergy Ballots Cast:	137	Clergy Votes Necessary for an Election:	69
Lay Ballots Cast:	249	Lay Votes Necessary for an Election:	125

	Clergy Votes	Lay Votes
Canon Barbara O. Bach	44	84
Canon Karen O. Moore	31	50
Canon Noreen L. Duncan	32	48
Sharon M. Cypress	6	25
Brian W. Bussey	24	42

The Chair declared there was no election. No candidates elected to withdraw for the next ballot.

Office C – Diocesan Council – Clergy

Three to be elected for a full 3-year term, two to be elected to a 2-year unexpired term

Total Ballots Cast:	380	Votes Necessary for an Election:	191
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	Votes
The Rev. Dr. William Ndishabandi	223
The Rev. H. Alan Leonard	147
The Rev. Andrew Hanyzewski	119

The Very Rev. Dr. Caroline P. Carson 243  
 The Rev. Ryan Paetzold 97  
 The Rev. Robin Pierre 206

The Chair declared the Reverend Dr. William Ndishabandi, the Very Reverend Dr. Caroline P. Carson, and the Reverend Robin Pierre elected. A further ballot would be needed to fill the unexpired terms.

Office E – General Convention Deputies – Clergy

Vote by Orders – Four to be elected

Total Ballots Cast: 381  
 Clergy Ballots Cast: 139 Clergy Votes Necessary for an Election: 70  
 Lay Ballots Cast: 242 Lay Votes Necessary for an Election: 122

	Clergy Votes	Lay Votes	Clergy %	Lay %	Combined %
The Rev. Emily Mellott	96	185	69.065%	76.446%	145.511%
The Rev. Trisha Thorme, Dcn.	92	146	66.187%	60.331%	126.518%
The Rev. Daniel Scott Russell	96	162	69.065%	66.942%	136.007%
The Very Rev. Dr. Caroline P. Carson	68	121	48.921%	50.000%	98.921%
The Rev. Canon Valerie A. Balling	105	173	75.540%	71.488%	147.027%
The Rev. Benjamin Maddison	74	131	53.237%	54.132%	107.370%

The Chair declared the Reverend Canon Valerie A. Balling elected as First Clergy Deputy, the Reverend Emily Mellott elected as Second Clergy Deputy, the Reverend Daniel Scott Russell elected as Third Clergy Deputy, and the Reverend Trisha Thorme, Dcn., elected as Fourth Clergy Deputy.

Office F – General Convention Deputies – Lay

Vote by Orders – Four to be elected

Total Ballots Cast: 386  
 Clergy Ballots Cast: 139 Clergy Votes Necessary for an Election: 70  
 Lay Ballots Cast: 247 Lay Votes Necessary for an Election: 124

	Clergy Votes	Lay Votes	Clergy %	Lay %	Combined %
Canon Annette Buchanan	98	178	70.504%	72.065%	142.568%
Canon Noreen L. Duncan	94	145	67.626%	58.704%	126.330%
Canon Barbara O. Bach	104	182	74.820%	73.684%	148.504%
Canon Paul Ambos, Esq.	112	176	80.576%	71.255%	151.831%
Joseph Walker	46	116	33.094%	46.964%	80.057%
Dr. Karen G. Bemis	64	143	46.043%	57.895%	103.938%

The Chair declared Canon Paul Ambos, Esq. elected as First Lay Deputy, Canon Barbara O. Bach elected as Second Lay Deputy, Canon Annette Buchanan elected as Third lay Deputy, and Canon Noreen Duncan elected as Fourth Lay Deputy.

Office M – Trustees of Diocesan Trust Funds – Lay

One to be elected

Total Ballots Cast: 369 Votes Necessary for an Election: 185

	Votes
David Wilson	200
Jack Daugherty	169

The Chair declared David Wilson elected.

Office O – Diocesan Investment Trust – Clergy or Lay

One to be elected to a full 4-year term and one to be elected to a 3-year unexpired term

Total Ballots Cast: 382      Votes Necessary for an Election: 192

	Votes
David Wilson	128
Canon Paul Wolfgang	254

The Chair declared Canon Paul Wolfgang elected to the full term. Since David Wilson would be unopposed on a subsequent ballot, the Chair pursuant to Rule VII Section 1 declared him elected to the 3-year unexpired term.

The Convention was at 1:13 declared in recess for voting on the Second Ballot for Offices B and C and was called back in session at 1:20.

The Chair called on the Reverend Kije Mugisha Rwamasirabo, Mr. Joe Rodriguez, the Reverend Megan Thomas, and the Reverend Beth Rauen Sciano to report on the Reparations Task Force. Bishop Stokes thanked the members of the Task Force for their work and led a service to commission the following persons as members of the Diocesan Reparations Commission: Mr. Vernon Anthony, The Reverend Susanna Page Cates, Mr. Willie Coleman, The Reverend Joanne Epply-Schmidt, Ms. Clare Gutwein, The Reverend Canon Andy J. Moore. The Reverend Canon Dr. Francisco Pozo, Mr. Joseph Rodriguez, The Reverend Daniel Scott Russell, The Reverend Kije Mugisha Rwamasirabo, The Reverend Elizabeth Rauen Sciano, The Reverend Sharon L. Sutton, The Reverend Megan E. Thomas, The Reverend Canon Clive Sang, Dcn., The Reverend John V. Zamboni, and The Very Reverend Rene R. John.

Deacon Mazzacano reported the results of the Second Ballot.

Office B – Standing Committee – Lay

Vote by Orders – One to be elected

Total Ballots Cast: 394  
 Clergy Ballots Cast: 129      Clergy Votes Necessary for an Election: 65  
 Lay Ballots Cast: 265      Lay Votes Necessary for an Election: 133

	Clergy Votes	Lay Votes
Canon Barbara O. Bach	57	115
Canon Karen O. Moore	34	52
Canon Noreen L. Duncan	24	54
Sharon M. Cypress	1	16
Brian W. Bussey	13	28

The Chair declared that there was no election. No candidates announced their withdrawal.

Office C – Diocesan Council – Clergy  
Two to be elected to a 2-year unexpired term

Total Ballots Cast: 392      Votes Necessary for an Election: 197

	Votes
The Rev. H. Alan Leonard	273
The Rev. Andrew Hanyzewski	246
The Rev. Ryan Paetzold	202

The Chair declared the Reverend H. Alan Leonard and the Reverend Andrew Hanyzewski elected to the unexpired terms. A recess for voting was held from 1:40 to 1:45.

Bishop Stokes called on the Reverend Canon Joan Pettit Mason, the Reverend David Snyder, and the Reverend Trisha Thorne to report on the Episcopal Community Services.

Deacon Mazzacano reported the results of the Third Ballot.

Office B – Standing Committee – Lay  
Vote by Orders – One to be elected

Total Ballots Cast:	396	
Clergy Ballots Cast:	130	Clergy Votes Necessary for an Election: 66
Lay Ballots Cast:	266	Lay Votes Necessary for an Election: 134

	Clergy Votes	Lay Votes
Canon Barbara O. Bach	82	161
Canon Karen O. Moore	23	42
Canon Noreen L. Duncan	15	30
Sharon M. Cypress	0	11
Brian W. Bussey	10	22

The Chair declared Canon Barbara O. Bach elected. This concluded the balloting for this Convention. The Bishop thanked the members of the Nominating Committee, the Balloting Committee, and all those who offered themselves up for election.

The Bishop called on the Reverend Canon Valerie Balling to report on the Diocesan General Convention Deputation with regard to the upcoming Province II Synod and the General Convention.

The Bishop called on the Diocesan Treasurer, Mr. Jonathan Gloster, to report for the Finance and Budget Committee and to move adoption of the 2022 Revised Budget as set forth in Financial Exhibit I as the Affirmed Diocesan Budget for 2022. The motion was carried.

Mr. Gloster moved adoption of the 2023 Preliminary Budget as set forth in Financial Exhibit I as the Preliminary Diocesan Budget for 2023. During discussion, the Reverend John V. Zamboni, St. Francis Church, Dunellen, moved to amend the budget as follows:

*Resolved*, That the 238th Diocesan Convention commit to fund a full-time Black Missioner position in the 2023 Budget.

The motion was duly seconded and debate was held. A motion to terminate debate was duly moved, seconded, and carried by the required two-thirds vote, and the resolution was thereupon carried. Ms. Leigh-Anne M. Cobb, St. Mark's, Plainfield, moved the following amendment:

*Resolved*, That the 2023 budget lower the starting salaries of new positions and limit the cost of living allowance to 2% in order to fund the position of Black Missioner as full-time.

The motion was duly seconded and debate was held. A motion to table the resolution was ruled out of order by Parliamentarian Paul Ambos, but a motion to refer it to the Finance and Budget Committee was duly made, seconded, and carried. A motion to terminate debate on the 2023 budget as amended by Fr. Zamboni's resolution was duly moved, seconded, and carried by the required two-thirds vote, and the budget as so amended was thereupon carried.

Bishop Stokes called on the Reverend Canon Richard C. Wrede, Archivist and Historiographer of the Diocese, to give a report and to move the following Celebratory Greetings:

*Whereas*, St. John's Church in Salem celebrates the 300th anniversary of its organization in 1722; and

*Whereas*, Trinity Church in Cranford, St. Barnabas' Church in Monmouth Junction, and St. James' Paulsboro celebrate the 150th anniversary of their organization in 1872; and

*Whereas*, St. Stephen's Church in Whiting celebrates the 50th anniversary of its organization in 1972;

*Be it therefore resolved*, That the 238th Annual Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey, assembled via Zoom, tender congratulations to the clergy and congregation of these churches, wishing them God's blessings in the years ahead.

and

*Whereas*, the Reverend Robert E. Sullivan, Jr. celebrates the seventieth anniversary of his ordination to the Priesthood; and

*Whereas*, the Reverend G. Richard Civalier and the Reverend Canon Martin Gutwein celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of their ordination to the Diaconate and Priesthood; and

*Whereas*, the Reverends James T. Kollin, Patricia D. Pierce, Charles Nugent Lochner, Margaret H. Raven, and Timothy S. Holder celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversaries of their ordinations to the Priesthood; and

*Whereas*, the Reverends Catherine E. Brunson, Frances M. Clark, Debra M. Clarke, John H. Hanson, and Barbara Ann D. Jensen, Deacons, celebrate their twentieth ordination anniversaries; and

*Whereas*, the Reverends Paul Frank Castellon, Peter Stuart Cornell, Richard Joseph Wisniewski, Deacons, celebrate their fifteenth ordination anniversaries; and

*Whereas*, the Reverends Henry Platt Bristol II, Janet Daniels, Carlton Willard Dunn, Jr., Theodore Archer Foley, Sally Beth Maurer, and Clive Oscar Sang, Deacons, celebrate their tenth ordination anniversaries;

*Be it therefore resolved*, That the 238th Annual Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey, assembled via Zoom, offer heartfelt congratulations and warmest thanks for their dedicated ministry to the church, this Diocese, and its people.

These resolutions were duly seconded and adopted.

Bishop Stokes acknowledged the people in the Commission on Ministry and School for Ministry processes, clergy ordained since 2021 and new clergy in the Diocese of New Jersey:

**Postulants for Ordination to the Priesthood**

Rosalie DiSimone-Weiss, St. Luke's, Metuchen

Alicia Graham, St. David's, Cranbury

Matthew McDermott, Trinity Cathedral, Trenton

Madeline Patterson, All Saints', Princeton

Jolyon Pruszinski, Trinity, Princeton

Charles Rubendall, St. Mark's, Basking Ridge

Brandon Smee, Trinity, Princeton  
Kevin Thompson, St. Augustine's, Asbury Park  
Rachel Tyler, St. George's-by-the-River, Rumson  
Jeffrey Wenzel, Christ Church, Woodbury

**Candidates for Ordination to the Priesthood**

Micah Cronin, Episcopal Church of Princeton/Trinity, Princeton  
Rachel Douglas, All Saints', Princeton  
Fernando Paiva, Holy Trinity, South River  
Ayden Petrone, St. Matthew's, Pennington

**Approved for Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate**

Frederick Galano, Calvary, Flemington

**Vocational Deacons Accepted Toward the Priesthood**

Clive Sang, St. Mark's, Plainfield

**Transitional Deacons Approved for Ordination to the Priesthood**

Eric Tuttle, Trinity, Princeton

**Postulants for Ordination to the Vocational Diaconate**

Daphne Roberts, St. Augustine's, Asbury Park  
Rocco Sherman, Trinity, Asbury Park

**Postulant (Priesthood)**

Kevin Thompson, St. Augustine's, Asbury Park;

**Students who have completed at least one year of formation, have been interviewed twice by the Commission on Ministry, and have been referred to the Committee on the Diaconate:**

Jane Carol Wilson, Church of the Advent, Cape May;  
Charlene Snyder, Christ Church, Somers Point

**Students working with the Commission on Ministry:**

Karen Hunte, St. Peter's, Perth Amboy  
Steve Alexander, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Lumberton  
Tiffany Campbell, St. Mary's, Haddon Heights  
Mark Hernandez, St. John's, Somerville

**Other students in the School for Ministry (some are completing the Initial Application Toward Holy Orders and will be interviewed by the Commission on Ministry; others are confirmed Lay Leaders):**

Art Lobdell, St. John's Church, Elizabeth  
David Gooding, St. Elizabeth's Church, Elizabeth  
Ellen Wanser, Trinity Cathedral, Trenton  
Jermaine Smith, Christ the King, Willingboro  
Julie Bathke, Trinity, Moorestown  
Kimme Carlos, Trinity Cathedral, Trenton  
John Carlson, St. Mark & All Saints, Galloway  
Meg Holland, Trinity, Princeton  
Paul Lawless, St. John's, Maple Shade  
Robert Litsinger, Trinity, Moorestown  
Steve Welch, St. Barnabas, Monmouth Junction



Of special note: Bob McGonigle, of St. Martin-in-the-Field, Lumberton, and of Christ Church, Millville, was part of the School for Ministry from its earliest days in August 2017 until his death a few weeks ago. We remember him today as an integral member of the School for Ministry community and as a faithful servant in the communities of St. Martin-in-the-Field and Christ Church.

**Vocational Deacons that were ordained on August 21, 2021**

The Rev. Bruce Cecchini, Dcn.  
The Rev. Nicole Kurkowski, Dcn.  
The Rev. Jean Marcucci, Dcn.  
The Rev. Carol Ellen Rodgers, Dcn.  
The Rev. Vasu Subramani, Dcn.  
The Rev. Geraldine Welch, Dcn.

**Clergy New to the Diocese of New Jersey since Convention 2021:**

The Rev. Kathryn King, All Saints, Bay Head  
The Rev. Christopher Decatur, St Paul's, Westfield

**New Calls since Convention 2021:**

The Rev. Carmen Viola, Holy Family, Laurel Springs  
The Rev. Amy Cornell, St. David's, Cranbury  
The Rev. Lisa Hoffman, Christ Church, Toms River  
The Rev. Angela Cipolla, Trinity Church, Moorestown  
The Rev. Michael Panzarella, Grace St. Paul's, Mercerville  
The Rev. Dr. Marcel Tabone, St Barnabas, Villas  
The Rev. Tammy Young, St John's, Little Silver  
The Rev. Paul Chalakani, St. James, Bradley Beach & Church of St. Michael the Archangel, Wall  
The Rev. Don Caron, Christ Church, Riverton  
The Rev. Heath Dewrell, Trinity Church, Matawan & Christ Church, South Amboy

Bishop Stokes thanked all those who did preparation, set up and managed the equipment, and participated to make this meeting possible, as well as Cathedral Staff for their hospitality. He acknowledged Diocesan House Staff for their ongoing work year-round.

He called for a motion to receive by title those reports posted on the Diocesan website that have not been presented to the Convention orally, which was duly moved, seconded, and carried.

Bishop Stokes announced that a Special Electing Convention to elect the 13th Bishop of New Jersey would be held on Saturday, January 28, 2023, and that the 239th Annual Convention of the Diocese of New Jersey would be held on Saturday, March 4, 2023, both at Trinity Cathedral.

On motion duly made, seconded, and carried, the 238th Annual Convention was adjourned with prayer and an Episcopal blessing at 4:09 p.m. and dismissed by Deacon Peter S. Cornell.

Respectfully submitted,

Canon Paul Ambos  
Secretary of Convention