

JOURNAL  
TO THE  
SPECIAL CONVENTION  
OF THE EPISCOPAL  
DIOCESE OF DALLAS  
FOR THE ELECTION OF  
THE VII BISHOP DIOCESAN



SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2015  
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL OF DALLAS  
DALLAS, TEXAS

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SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2015  
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL OF DALLAS**

The Rt. Rev. Paul E. Lambert, Bishop Suffragan and Bishop Pro Tem, served as Chair. He welcomed the attendees and opened the special convention with a prayer.

As soon as registration closed at 8:30 am, Bishop Lambert made opening remarks and introduced the chaplain for the convention, The Rev. Leslie Stewart, the newest priest in the Diocese of Dallas. She began the program with a special Litany.

The bishop explained that the previously expressed requirement to not text, tweet, or email had been lifted since the entire event was being live-streamed. In fact, the event had its own hash-tag: #EDODbishop.

Bishop Lambert announced that Bishop James Monte Stanton was at the convention, news that was met with applause. He added that Bishop Ed Salmon would be preaching at the Eucharist. He gave instructions that as soon as the meeting was organized, the convention would move to the chapel for Eucharist.

Bishop Lambert thanked the Episcopal School of Dallas for hosting the event. He thanked the pages from the DDYC and asked them to stand as the convention thanked them with applause. He reminded the convention body that after the election, the convention would not be adjourned until every delegate signed the certification indicating that they were present and had voted. This is a canonical requirement.

He added that another rule of the convention is that any clergy who needed to leave prior to the convention's conclusion, needed to get permission from him.

Mr. Robby Gerber, Chair of the Credential Committee, gave the first credentials report:

**CLERGY**

191 canonically resident  
64 required for a quorum  
133 registered to vote

**LAY**

66 parishes and missions are in the diocese  
22 must be present for a quorum  
183 registered lay delegates are registered  
representing 60 parishes and missions

Adoption of the report was signified by voice vote. The Bishop announced that the Credentials Report was adopted and the special quorum for Episcopal Elections had been satisfied, namely that two-thirds of the clergy entitled to vote, who have their principal residence within the Diocese and whose attendance at the Convention had not been excused were present and Lay Delegates from two-thirds of the Parishes and Missions entitled to representation at the Convention were present, permitting the election of the VII Bishop to be by concurrent majority vote of the lay and clergy orders.

The Chair called on The Rev. Michael Gilton to present the report from the Committee on Dispatch of Business on the Rules of this Convention. He presented the following rules:

**RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR SPECIAL CONVENTION  
FOR ELECTION OF VII BISHOP**

**Presiding Officer**

1. The Bishop pro tem shall be the President of the Convention and preside at its meetings. He may call to the Chair any qualified person to relieve him temporarily. The Bishop shall have full power and authority to take such action (consistent with the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese) as he deems necessary to expedite the orderly disposition of the business of the Convention.

2. After the Convention is called to order by the Presiding Officer, an opening prayer shall be offered by the Bishop or someone designated by him.
3. The Bishop shall have the authority to appoint a parliamentarian of his own choice to advise him on parliamentary questions arising during the Convention.
4. Any person addressing the Chair or desiring recognition of the Chair while the Convention is in session shall address the Chair as "Right Reverend Sir" if the Bishop is in the Chair. If some other person is in the Chair, he shall be addressed as "Mr. President."

#### **Organization of Convention and Order of Business**

5. The Convention shall be organized and the order of business shall be established in accordance with Canon 4. In accordance with Canon 4, the organization of the Convention shall include a report from the Credentials Committee on the number of clergy and lay delegates present, establishing the order of business for the Convention and adoption of rules of the Convention. Following these reports, the Convention shall be considered organized.
6. The Bishop shall have the authority, within his discretion, to deviate from such Order of Business adopted as the exigencies of the occasion may require. Any item of business of the Convention may be set as a special order of business or taken up out of its regular order at any time by the concurring majority vote of the delegates of both orders.
7. An Assistant Secretary to serve at the Convention shall be elected, if needed.

#### **Conduct of Business**

8. A delegate desiring recognition of the Chair shall give his/her name and the name of the church he/she represents.
9. A question having been decided shall not be reconsidered at the same Annual Convention without the consent of a majority vote of the delegates of both orders, nor without a motion for that purpose being made by one of the majority on the prior decision. No question shall be reconsidered more than once and only on the same day.
10. When required by the Presiding Officer, motions shall be reduced to writing.

#### **Nomination and Election of a Bishop**

11. The Bishop Search Committee, formed in accordance with Canon 26, shall report to the Convention the names of those persons whom the Committee deems qualified.
12. The Standing Committee shall report to the Convention the names of those persons, if any, validly nominated pursuant to the petition process in accordance with Canon 26.
13. In accordance with Canon 26, no nomination shall be made from the floor.
14. The election shall be conducted in accordance with Article 16 of the Constitution. Each ballot shall be preceded by a period of silent prayer. No endorsement of candidates or electioneering shall be permitted on the floor of the Convention.
15. Doors shall be closed during voting and entry to the Convention floor shall be denied while voting is taking place.

#### **Voting Procedures**

16. Voting will be conducted by written ballots, in accordance with procedures established by the Chair or as delegated by the Chair to the Elections Committee.

#### **Miscellaneous**

17. Only members of the convention and personnel authorized by the Chair may be seated on the Convention floor. Identification badges issued by the Credentials Committee shall be worn at all times. Identification badges may not be transferred without proper action by the Credentials Committee.

18. The Presiding Officer, or such person as he may designate, shall be in charge of the admission of all media personnel to the Convention floor, and no TV or video cameras shall be permitted on the floor without the permission of the Presiding Officer. No literature shall be distributed at the Convention, on the floor or on the premises, without prior approval of the Presiding Officer.

19. The audible use of cell phones and other personal accessories shall not be permitted during sessions of the Convention.

20. The proceedings of the Convention shall be tape recorded and permanently filed.

21. Any of these rules may be suspended by a two-thirds majority vote of the delegates. These rules may be amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the delegates, provided such amendments are not in violation of the Constitution or Canons of the Diocese.

The adoption of the Rules of Convention required a 2/3 vote. All of those in favor of the adoption of the Rules of Convention as proposed stood signifying a 2/3 majority, and the rules were adopted.

The Chair asked that Fr. Gilton present the Order of Business. Adoption of the Order of Business required a majority. He explained that the only business of the special convention is to elect a Diocesan Bishop and that that business is the only business canonically allowed. He moved acceptance of the order of business as published on page 4 of the convention booklet. The motion carried unanimously.

With the adoption of these three reports – credentials, rules, and order of business – the bishop announced that the Convention was duly convened and ready for the transaction of business.

Bishop Lambert stated that the elected Secretary of Convention, Mr. Richard D’Antonio, was out of the country and had nominated Mr. Ronald Brown of St. Michael and All Angels as an Assistant Secretary and to act as Secretary of this Convention in his (Mr. D’Antoni’s) absence. The convention delegates approved unanimously the election of Mr. Ronald Brown as an Assistant Secretary and to serve as Secretary of this Special Convention.

The chair announced that he appointed Ms. Kay Crews as Parliamentarian for the Convention. The Chair introduced Mr. Timothy Mack, the Chancellor of the Diocese, and The Rev. David Houk, President of the Standing Committee of the Diocese, both of whom were also at the dais. He continued by stating that Mr. Scott Matheson, Good Shepherd, Dallas, was Chair of the Elections Committee. Assisting Mr. Matheson was Mr. Don Mills and Mrs. Ticoy Young. The chair appointed Mr. Chris Rodgers, Mr. Chris Ayres, Mr. Tom McKee, and Mr. David Gibbs as Sergeants-at-arms.

He appointed the youth pages. He then called upon The Rev. Robert Johnston to give the report of the Bishop Search Committee. Fr. Johnston reflected on the inception of the search committee and how decisions had been made beginning in May 2014. He thanked those involved especially Mr. Don Winspear, Crescent Research, who helped the committee develop the diocesan-wide survey. He also acknowledged Mr. Tim Mack, Chancellor, for the volumes of work he does day in and day out for the diocese. Fr. Johnston detailed how far and wide the search was extended and in what manner the committee concluded their work with the final four candidates. The Bishop asked that all persons present who served on the Bishops Search Committee to stand and they were greeted with applause.

The Chair called upon The Rev. David Houk to report on the petition process. He explained that the process by which petitions to the slate were allowed stem from the necessity of vetting all candidates thoroughly before allowing any to sit in nomination, thus precluding nominations from the floor of the electing convention. Fr. Houk reported that process was closed on February 26, 2014, having received no petitions at all. Therefore, the four final candidate names were read:

The Rev. Michael W. Michie  
The Rev. David G. Read  
The Rev. R. Leigh Spruill  
The Rev. Canon George R. Sumner

The Chair announced that the convention stand in recess so that all may attend the celebration of the Eucharist at the school chapel. At the Eucharist, the Celebrant was The Rt. Rev. Paul Emil Lambert and the preacher was The Rt. Rev. Edward Salmon.

Registration re-opened for 15 minutes after the Eucharist and before the resumption of the convention. Bishop Lambert welcomed delegates back to the convention floor and thanked Bishop Salmon, the worship committee, the choir, and organist for the beautiful service.

The Chair declared the Convention reconvened, and then called for Mr. Matheson to go over voting procedures. Mr. Matheson described voting procedures and announced that only those individuals with voting credentials should be in the convention hall. The bishop referred delegates to the convention booklet where the numbers were assigned to the candidates.

Bishop Lambert continued by calling upon Mr. Gerber for the purpose of giving an updated Credentials Report.

**CLERGY**

191 canonically resident  
64 required for a quorum  
141 registered to vote

**LAY**

66 parishes and missions are in the diocese  
22 must be present for a quorum  
195 registered lay delegates are registered:  
representing 60 parishes and missions

Motion was made by Fr. Ed Monk and seconded by Fr. Bob Johnston to accept the credentials report. Approved by voice vote. Bishop Lambert called upon the sergeants-at-arms to close the doors to the hall.

The chaplain gave the devotional prayer before the first ballot and then the pages passed out cards for first ballot. As the ballots were tabulated, the people sang the hymn, *Jesus Christ is risen today*. The chair called for all delegates to take their seats. The bishop asked for silent prayer as the candidates were called and notified of the results of the first ballot. This action was done before the ballot information was brought to the floor.

The chair reported on the procedure in the instance of a candidate desiring to remove his name. The President of the Standing Committee would talk with that candidate by phone and report the wishes of each.

Scott Matheson gave the first report on first ballot. There was not an election. (Tellers' Reports are found on p. 5.)

The chair asked the chaplain of convention to offer another prayer for the second ballot. Then the pages passed out cards for the second ballot. The delegates sang together, *Be Thou My Vision*. The chaplain led the Service for Noonday.

At about noon, the credentials changed: in the clergy order, those registered increased to 142. There being no objection, the report was adopted.

Mr. Matheson reported on the results of the first report of the second ballot, and there was no election.

The Chair called for the Chaplain to offer the devotional. The pages distributed cards for the third ballot.

Fr. Will Brown approached the procedural microphone to make a comment about a slide with an inaccurate number recorded. Bishop Lambert acknowledged the correction. And then asked Fr. Brown to pray over the meal. The delegates were served boxed lunches in the convention hall.

Mr. Matheson reported on the third ballot. There was no election. The Chair announced that Rev. David Read had removed his name from consideration.

The Chair called for the Chaplain to offer the devotional as the pages prepared to pass out cards. Pages distributed cards for the fourth ballot. The Bishop called for another hymn: *Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!*

Bishop Lambert explained once again the procedures for an election. He explained that Clergy and Lay Delegates are required to sign a Testimonial of Election following the election of a Bishop. The election is not valid unless a

constitutional majority sign the Testimonial. He asked that no one leave until this document has been signed [Title III, Canon 11, sec. 4(a) of the Canons of the Episcopal Church]. He explained that the tellers would deliver a testimonial to each table.

Mr. Matheson reported on the fourth ballot. There was the announcement that there had been an election which was met with enthusiastic applause from the delegates.

**SUMMARY REPORT  
OF THE ELECTION COMMITTEE**

<i>Ballot Number</i> <i>Clergy (C) / Lay (L)</i> <i>Votes cast</i> <i>Votes necessary to elect</i>	<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>		<b>3</b>		<b>4</b>	
	<b>C</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>L</b>
	140	194	140	195	140	195	138	193
	71	98	71	98	71	98	70	97
1. The Rev. Mike Michie	31	47	32	38	28	34	9	14
2. The Rev. David G. Read	30	39	19	29	3	6	-	-
3. The Rev. R. Leigh Spruill	33	40	35	45	45	62	52	72
4. The Rev. Canon George R. Sumner	45	68	54	83	64	93	77	107

Fr. Houk spoke on the phone with the bishop-elect. At the conclusion of the conversation, Bishop Lambert announced that Canon George E. Sumner had accepted the call to serve as Bishop Diocesan:

I declare the Reverend George R. Sumner to have been elected as Bishop-elect by a constitutional majority of this Convention in accordance with the Constitution and Canons of this Diocese and the General Convention. Your applause is now permitted.

The Chair asked the delegates to stand and sing the Doxology.

He reminded everyone to remain in place as the Testimonials of Election are being circulated.

The Chair recognized the Secretary, Mr. Brown, to offer Courtesy Resolutions.

*A. Gratitude and Best Wishes to the Nominees*

**RESOLVED** that this Special Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas does hereby extend its heartfelt gratitude to each of the nominees for election as the VII Bishop of Dallas for their willingness to be nominated, their prayerful participation in the discernment process and the faithful witness to our Lord and Savior that their lives and ministry represent; and further

**RESOLVED** that this Special Convention does hereby convey its best wishes to each of the nominees for the continuation of their highly successful and effective ministries in service to our Lord; and further

**RESOLVED** that the Secretary of the Convention be and he is hereby instructed to communicate in writing the gratitude of the Convention to these nominees.

*B. Welcome to the Bishop-Elect's Family*

**RESOLVED** that this Special Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas does hereby extend a jubilant welcome to the members of the Bishop-elect's family [name them] and look forward to embracing them as integral members of our Diocesan family; and further

**RESOLVED** that the Secretary of the Convention be and he is hereby instructed to communicate in writing the Convention's welcome to the Bishop-elect's family.

*C. Thanks to the Search Committee*

**RESOLVED** that this Special Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas does hereby extend its profound thanks to The Rev. Bob Johnston, Chair, and each of the other members of the Search Committee for the VII Bishop of Dallas for their diligent work and faithful service to the Diocese in identifying, screening and assisting in the discernment of candidates, including the four excellent nominees presented to this Convention; and further

**RESOLVED** that the Secretary of the Convention be and he is hereby instructed to communicate in writing the gratitude of the Convention to the members of the Search Committee.

*D. Thanks to the Transition Committee*

**RESOLVED** that this Special Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas does hereby extend its profound thanks to Mr. Tony Briggie, Chair, and each of the other members of the Transition Committee for their hard work and faithful service to the Diocese in organizing the Walk-abouts and this Special Convention and effective pastoral care of the nominees throughout the nomination process and for their continuing efforts in planning the consecration of the Bishop-elect and assisting in a smooth transition in Episcopal leadership for the Diocese; and further

**RESOLVED** that the Secretary of the Convention be and he is hereby instructed to communicate in writing the gratitude of the Convention to the members of the Transition Committee.

*E. Thanks to Consultant*

**RESOLVED** that this Special Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas does hereby extend its gratitude to The Very Rev. Ronald Clingenpeel for his invaluable service as consultant to the Search Committee and Transition Committees; and further

**RESOLVED** that the Secretary of the Convention be and he is hereby instructed to communicate in writing the gratitude of the Convention to Dean Clingenpeel.

*F. Thanks to the Bishop Pro Tem*

**RESOLVED** that this Special Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas does hereby extend its heartfelt gratitude for the ministry of The Rt. Rev. Paul E. Lambert and his wife Sally, particularly during Bishop Lambert's recent service as Bishop Pro Tem of the Diocese, providing capable Episcopal leadership during this time of transition; and further

**RESOLVED** that the Secretary of the Convention be and he is hereby instructed to communicate in writing the gratitude of the Convention to Bishop Lambert and his wife.

*G. Thanks to Bishop Ed Salmon*

**RESOLVED** that this Special Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas does hereby extend its sincere gratitude to The Rt. Rev. Edward L. Salmon, Jr., resigned Bishop of South Carolina and retired Chairman, President and Dean of Nashotah House Episcopal Seminary for his eloquent and thought provoking sermon on the office and work of a Bishop at today's Convention Eucharist.

**RESOLVED** that the Secretary of the Convention be and he is hereby instructed to communicate in writing the gratitude of the Convention to Bishop Salmon.

*H. Thanks to ESD*

**RESOLVED** that this Special Convention does hereby extend its gratitude to the Episcopal School of Dallas and its headmaster, Ms. Meredyth Moredock Cole, for their gracious hospitality in hosting this Special Convention and their ministry in educating the youth of this Diocese; and further

**RESOLVED** that the Secretary of the Convention be and he is hereby instructed to communicate in writing the gratitude of the Convention to ESD.

The Chair moved adoption, motion was seconded; all courtesy resolutions were accepted by acclamation.

Bishop Lambert asked if all delegates had signed the testimonials. Seeing that they had, the Bishop prayed in conclusion. Motion was made to adjourn, motion was seconded, voted by voice vote to approve. Meeting was adjourned.