

EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN NAVAJOLAND
48TH ANNUAL CONVOCATION
June 15, 2024
9am – 12pm Mountain Time
All Saints, Farmington, New Mexico

MINUTES

Call to Order at 9:15am and opening prayer by Bishop Barry Beisner.

Quorum established with reading of 17 delegate names authorized to vote. Barry Beisner, Cornelia Eaton, Michael Sells, Cathlena Plummer Leon Sampson, Jack Chase, Paula Henson, Rebecca Dick, Maggie Brown, Gloria Gordy, Georgia Buck, Evelyn Kaniatobe, Anna Fowler, Marianita Chee, Cheryl Mason, Alice Mason, Gilbert Velarde.

Adoption of Agenda: Motion by Leon Sampson; seconded by Anna Fowler; all in favor.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Rebecca Dick; seconded by Alice Mason; all in favor approving the minutes of the 47th Convocation and Special Meeting of 48th Convocation in January 2024.

Appointments:

Bishop Barry Beisner

- Parliamentarian of Convocation and Chancellor - Steven Hutchinson.
- ECN Canon Theologian: Jerry Drino.
- Standing Committee – Current members to continue except Carol Tookey (see list on agenda).
- Commission on Ministry – Current members to continue, except Janet Pinto (see list on agenda).
- Hogan Learning Circle- Current members to continue (see list on agenda).
- Election of Treasurer – Motion by Bishop Beisner; seconded by Anna Fowler; all in favor for Margaret Putnam to serve as treasurer for another year.
- Election of Secretary - Motion by Leon Sampson; seconded by Anna Fowler; all in favor for Shirley McKinley to serve as secretary for another year.

When ECN becomes a Missionary Diocese, Standing Committee members will be elected, not appointed by Bishops.

Treasurer's Report

The report includes Council-approved 2024 Budget and financials as of April 30, 2024. The delegates are the only ones who received 21-page report, highlighted as follows.

Seventeen (17) people will be flying to the General Convention. The resolutions and the proposed budget are included. Meetings with Nancy Cohen and Cornelia Eaton were held to make crucial decisions regarding fulltime and halftime positions, buildings upkeep, and additional funding. There was a need for an emergency budget request for \$125K for health insurance, which was followed by another request for \$150K to add to the annual budget. Another \$75K will be requested to cover medical insurance. The \$400K not put into proposed budget will be addressed after General Convention. ECN must find a way to conserve spending since we are one of nine churches to use million. In 2021, ECN received a generous donation of \$200K into a trust fund that we have drawn from twice this year. In the area of fundraising, ECN was blessed with EDC funds that helped us. Our goal is to rebuild funds to \$200K.

Standing Committee

Members were acknowledged and gratitude was expressed to Bishop Beisner helping ECN move forward. Resolution was passed at General Convention to begin process of perceiving how to get our next bishop. The structure government met with the council to discern what it would mean to be a Missionary Diocese. A Special Convocation was held and vote passed to become a Missionary Diocese, which was a big turning point. The resolution was submitted to the General Convention in Feb/2024 which will be addressed at the General Convention followed by revision of ECN's Mission Statement that will be reflected in the Canon. The goal is to operate within the realm of the Mission Statement.

[*Texts of resolutions need to be included.*] Four Resolutions were presented: 1) A courtesy resolution to honor Steven Hutchinson who served as Chancellor for GSM for years following his announcement of his retirement. Motion by Cornelia Eaton; seconded by Leon Sampson; all in favor. Retired Bishop David Bailey will present it. 2) Translate the Book of Common Prayer into the Navajo language at a cost of \$25K. Motion by Cornelia Eaton; seconded by Barry Beisner; all in favor. 3) Reflect the ministry to all people in the Dine Beauty Way. Motion by Cornelia Eaton; seconded by Alice Mason; all in favor. 4) New resolution to express ECN's love to Presiding Bishop Michael Curry advocating for racial reconciliation and justice for nine years. Motion by Cornelia Eaton; seconded by Alice Mason; all in favor.

Commission on Ministry

The commission functions to assist the bishop in the ministry of the diocese. Future plans include reorganizing meetings according to the Canon, which includes reviews and updates of the Holy Order as we understand it as Dine. Lay ministry leaders are needed to lead morning and evening prayers and safeguarding church programs.

Hogan Learning Circle

The reassignment of leadership is challenging. Translating Navajo beliefs into English is complicated. All the teachings about what Navajo medicine men pray and sing about is very difficult to interpret. In spite of internet problems, missionaries talk about the importance of youth learning, Lilly Henderson keeps teaching HLC at St. John the Baptizer. Carol is very helpful with typing.

Bishop's Report

Bishop Beisner acknowledged the following visitors who were presented with Navajo made cedar beads symbolic of protection and safety.

- Canon Martha Korienek from the Diocese of El Camino Rael.
- Rev. Monica Whittaker, representing Bishop Jennifer Reddall and Debbie Royal, from the Diocese of AZ.
- Rev. David Chalk from the Diocese of West Texas.
- Rev. Jamie Galbasmi, Rev. James Atkins, and Sam Burns from the Diocese of Colorado.
- Amy Roy and Mark Alvino from Trinity Church in New York.
- Rev. Phillip and Page Jackson from Trinity Church in New York.
- Joe Swimmer from the Episcopal Parish Network brought greetings in the Cherokee language from St. Paul's Church in Washington, DC.
- Peggy Parker and Kate Sondreggo from St. Mary's church in Virginia. Peggy spoke to the painting she will present to ECN.
- Lydia and Brandon Bucklin from the Diocese of No. Michigan.
- Archbishop Don Tamihere from the Moari Te Pihopatanla o Aoteroa Church from New Zealand is here and we are incredibly honored with his presence as tonight's speaker. He speaks his language and feels that his Moari people have journeyed in some ways that the Dine do.
- John and Toni Grate from the Christ Church Cathedral, Diocese of Cincinnati. John is President of EDC, a working group with goals to start enterprises which Shima is an example of. Their theme is mobilizing sustainability projects for the future through partnerships, finances, fundraising, jobs, hospitality, and property, which affects needed relationships as we move forward.
- Dave Thomson is co-chair of EDC and makes vital connections between the non-native and Navajo world.
- Jack Ely and Patty Ely from St. Julian Church in Austin, TX.
- Rev. Jerry Drino is ECN Canon Theologian from the Diocese of El Camino Rael and has ministered among several indigenous groups in the U.S. and internationally.
- Presiding Bishop Michael Curry spoke on zoom stating that "I have discerned for healing and know that God is with you. I recall having a great time during my visit to ECN and God bless you for the work you're doing at ECN."

- Bishop Beisner read his message. “Welcome everyone to the Convocation and thank you for your trust for which I am deeply appreciative. My ministry is part-time and I enjoyed my time to support ECN’s development in lay mutual ministry and building up of the church. As you transition from an Area Mission to a Missionary Diocese and the process that follows, ‘God is placing your feet in a very large room.’ Focus on your mission and keep moving forward with God’s help.”
- David and Ann Bailey sent their message that they are “Holding ECN in prayers and blessings for Convocation and General Convention with appreciation for clergy leadership giving of yourselves to get where we are.”

SE Region Report

The pantry storage building needs a lot of work and repairs. A family cleaned it out and keeping up with distribution. The hope is families come out and plant their own food in the garden.

San Juan Region Report

Thank you to Gilbert Velarde, Inez Velarde, and Priscilla Mason for their support in ministry, and electrical, and plumbing services, and Carol Tookey as supply priest.

Utah Region Report

The good news this week is laying electrical line for tiny houses.

Reports of ECN Council Program Areas:

Food Pantry

\$132K worth of commodity food was distributed to Regions. Food boxes were delivered in communities. Other services were distribution of clothes, wood, and fresh food items. People are encouraged to participate in the upkeep of the garden, greenhouse, and raised garden beds. The intent is to teach classes.

ECW

Raina Brown, President of ECW, reported that Madeline Sampson will be installed as President of Province 8 at the General Convention.

Communications/Cheii

Brief update about communications was provided.

Recovery Ministry

No report.

Shima

Soap making continues. An oil company from the west coast was located from which economical oil was purchased. Twenty garden beds will be built with support from Christ Church Cathedral in Cincinnati. Shima would like to have people learn how to plant (see report).

Buildings and Grounds

There is a continuous need for repairs on buildings. Funds are sought to cover the costs of equipment and staffing.

Children and Youth

A brief report was provided.

Other Reports:Vision/Mission Process

Canon Lee Curtis completed visits to the three Regions and will continue with the statement at a meeting in August.

Hozho Center

Healing and sharing on inter-generational historical trauma from the Long Walk is the focus. Locating leaders is a challenge. The outdoor garden offers healing practices with nature. Gardening takes us to our original way of life and restoration to Hozho. Creation stories involving planting and cultivating plants for food and medicine brought aid in healing rituals. Shared stories have healed grief and trauma. Some of you might be called to help rebuild advisory committees and facilitate meetings i.e. AA, Al-Anon, healing garden, and poetry writing to reflect on.

Other Business:

Special gratitude and appreciation were expressed to Bishop Beisner, Margaret Putnam, Ryan Sam, Kristie Marcy, Gerlene Gordy, and Visitors.

The meeting adjourned at 12:33pm.

Closing Prayer by Bishop Barry Beisner.

Calendar/Next meetings:

August 10, 2024 & October 12, 2024 & December 14, 2024

Shirley McKinley, Secretary

Standing Committee:

Rev. Canon Cornelia Eaton
Rev. Leon Sampson
Rev. Carol Tookey (Adjunct)
Anna Fowler
Maggie Brown
Margaret Benally

Commission on Ministry

Rev. Canon Cathlena Plummer
Rev. Michael Sells
Gerlene Gordy
Janet Pinto
Diane Benn

Hogan Learning Circle:

Rev. Canon Cathlena Plummer
Rev. Paula Henson
Gerlene Gordy
Lucy Bekise
Evelyn Kaniatobe