At 11:07 am, the Rt. Reverend Dr. Audrey Scanlan, Bishop of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, opened the 147th Annual Convention with a prayer. The Secretary confirmed that a quorum was present. The Bishop introduced Diocesan officers Chuck Banks, Esq., Chancellor, Tyrone Powell, Esq., Secretary and Bonnie Chambers, Diocesan Treasurer. The Bishop then introduced the following Diocesan staff:

Chad Linder, Canon for Finance and Operations;
Robyn Szoke-Coolidge, Dean, Stevenson School for Ministry;
Alexis Guszick, Canon for Diocesan Events & Communications;
Dan Morrow, Canon for Congregational Life and Mission;
Carolyn Joy Patterson, Bishop’s Assistant and Human Resources Administrator;
Debbie Robelen, Receptionist and Diocesan Archivist & Registrar; and
Barbara McLemore, Esq. and Thomas Schmidt, Esq., Vice-Chancellor.

The Bishop welcomed members of the Diocesan Youth Presence delegation and any youth attending as elected Parish Delegates. The Bishop acknowledged Diocesan youth committee leadership led by Mr. & Mrs. Bob and Mary Ellen Kilp, Mrs. Theda Tallman and Mr. Timothy Hanner.

The Bishop acknowledged the following Convocation Convenors and Assistant Convenors:
Altoona: The Rev. Gene Tucker & Ms. Marion Schwartz;  
Harrisburg: The Rev. Rebecca Myers & Mr. Anthony Alexander;  
Northern Tier: The Rev. Janis Yskamp & Mr. Lewis Russell;  
Southern: The Rev. Herb Sprouse & Ms. Carolyn Foust;  
Susquehanna: The Rev. Howie Sasser & Mr. Ken Altenbach; and  
West Branch: The Rev. Veronica Chappell & Mr. Kyle Murphy.


The Convention Agenda and the Ballot for open positions on the Council of Trustees, the Standing Committee and the Disciplinary Board were adopted by the Convention Delegates.

Convention Delegates elected the following persons to serve as canonical officers of Convention until the next annual Convention of the Diocese and until their respective successors are elected:

Chancellor – Chuck Banks, Esq.  
Treasurer – Bonnie Chambers  
Secretary – Tyrone Powell, Esq.  
Registrar - Ms. Debbie Robelen.
The Chancellor appointed Barbara McLemore, Esq. and Thomas Schmidt, Esq. to serve as Vice Chancellors.

The Secretary moved for the adoption of the following resolution for claims of clergy entitled to voice and vote:


**THEREFORE IT IS MOVED**; the previously-named priests be granted seat in the 147TH Convention of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania with the privilege of voice and vote. The resolution was adopted by Convention Delegates.

The Bishop introduced the following new clergy to the Diocese:

The Rev. Carlton Kelley, Interim, St. John’s Bellefonte;  
The Rev. Adam Kradel, Rector, St. John’s, Carlisle;  
The Rev. Jeffrey Packard, Rector, St. Andrew’s, State College;  
The Rev. Elizabeth Simmons, Interim, All Saints, Hanover;  
The Rev. Amy Welin, Acting Dean, St. Stephen’s Cathedral, Harrisburg;  
The Rev. Greg Welin, Priest in Charge, Mount Calvary, Camp Hill; and  

The Bishop announced the following clergy moves within the Diocese:

The Rev. Gina Barrett, St. John’s, Marietta;
The Rev. David Bateman, St. Andrew’s, York;
The Rev. Veronica Chappell, Christ Church, Williamsport;
The Rev. Douglas Dailey, St. John’s, York;
The Rev. Jennifer Mattson, St. Thomas, Lancaster;
The Rev. James Strader-Sasser, Interim, Christ Memorial Danville; and
The Rev. Sarah Weedon, St. Andrew’s, Lewisburg.

The Bishop announced the retirements of the Rev. Doug Smith, the Very Rev.
Churchill Pinder, the Rev. Peter Harer, the Rev. Charlene Leigh-Koser, the
Rev. Canon David Lovelace and the Rev. Canon David Robson.

The Bishop introduced the following postulants and candidates:

Postulants:
Stacey Catigano (Diaconate, St. John’s Marietta);
Asa Coulson, (Priesthood, St. James, Lancaster, Bexley Seabury);
Martha Harris (Priesthood, St. James, Lancaster, CDSP);
Megan McDermott (Priesthood, All Saints, Selinsgrove, Yale Divinity);
Susan Sanders, (Priesthood, St. Andrew’s, Shippensburg, Sewanee Divinity); and
Shayna Watson, (Priesthood, St. James, Lancaster, Virginia Theological
Seminary).

Candidates:
Kyle Murphy (Priesthood, Trinity, Williamsport, SSFM & assigned to Christ
Church, Williamsport;
Eric Henry (Diaconate, St. John’s, Carlisle); and
Michael Nailor (Diaconate, St. Matthew’s, Sunbury).
Ordinands:
The Rev. Katie Pearson, ordination to Priesthood Dec 8, 2017 (going to Diocese of Colorado); and
The Rev. John Shirley, ordination to Priesthood Nov 18, 2017 (going to Diocese of Long Island).

The Chancellor read an excerpt from the Convention Rules governing debate on resolutions brought to the floor of the Convention.

The Secretary identified Tellers and provided voting instructions.

Reverend Hank Morrow provided the report of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee unanimously submitted the following names for nomination at the 147th Convention of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania for the Diocesan positions, boards and/or committees indicated, to hold office for the period set forth in the Canons and until their respective successors are elected and qualify:

**Standing Committee** Elect 2 Clergy / 2 Laypersons

*Clergy candidates*

The Rev. Patrick Pierce, St. James, Bedford
The Rev. James Strader-Sasser, Christ Memorial, Danville

*Lay candidates*

Mr. Anthony Alexander, St. Stephen’s Cathedral, Harrisburg
Mr. Drew Dorgan, St. John’s, Lancaster

**Council of Trustees** Elect 1 Clergy / 1 Layperson

*Clergy candidates*

The Rev. Jennifer Mattson, St. Thomas, Lancaster
The Rev. Sarah Weedon, St. Andrew’s, Lewisburg

_Lay candidates_

Ms. Linda Hoover, St. Andrew’s, State College
Ms. Brenda Scott, St. Paul’s, Harrisburg

**Disciplinary Board** Elect 1 Clergy / 2 Laypersons

_Clergy candidates_

The Rev. Peter Gdula, Trinity, Chambersburg
The Rev. Lisa Schoonmaker, Diocesan Supply
The Rev. David Peck, St. James, Lancaster
The Rev. Jack Hoffer, Deacon, Trinity, Tyrone

_Lay candidates_

Mr. Sanford Schwartz, St. Andrew’s, State College
Ms. Karen Love, St. Paul’s, Harrisburg

The Bishop appointed the Rev. Nelson Baliira, the Rev. Gene Tucker, Ms. Sarah McKeag Reid and Mr. Bruce Johnson to the Commission on Ministry.

The Secretary presented a motion to accept the Annual Reports of Program Ministries of the Council of Trustees, as posted on the Diocesan website and to be published in Journal of Convention. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Motion was adopted by Convention delegates.

Dan Morrow, Canon for Congregational Life and Mission, presented a report recommending the closure of Trinity, Renovo, Holy Trinity, Mount Carmel and St. Stephen’s Shamokin and presented resolutions 1, 2 and 3 in that regard. Upon motion duly made and seconded, Convention Delegates unanimously adopted Resolution 1 and also adopted Resolutions 2 and 3 (See Resolutions 1, 2 and 3 attached).
After noonday prayers, the Bishop adjourned the Convention for lunch.

After the Bishop reconvened the Convention, the Chancellor, on behalf of the Constitution and Canons Committee, presented a resolution for the ratification of the adoption of the Diocesan Constitution, provisionally adopted at the 146th Annual Convention in 2016 (See Resolution #4 attached.)

Upon motion duly made and seconded, Resolution #4 was unanimously adopted by Convention Delegates.

Robyn Szoek-Coolidge, Dean of the Stevenson School for Ministry and Rev. Cannon David Lovelace jointly presented a report regarding the Stevenson School for Ministry. A video presentation followed. Their written report is attached as an exhibit.

The Bishop presented her address to the Convention. The complete text of the Bishop’s address immediately follows.

From our Book of Common Prayer:

Heavenly Father, in you we live and move and have our being: We humbly pray you so to guide and govern us by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life, we may not forget you, but may remember that we are ever walking in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen. *(Book of Common Prayer pg. 100)*

I am humbled to be here with you at our Diocesan Convention- excited to talk with you about our life and ministry here in the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania and how, as disciples of Jesus Christ, we are striving, each day, to love God, love neighbor and change the world. Before we get too far, I want to call attention to the Collect for Guidance that we just prayed. Essential to me, is the understanding that **everything that we do**- in the business of the Church, in our home parishes, and in our individual walks as disciples- **all of this** is done for
and to the Glory of God. Maybe that goes without saying, but the deeper I get into this business of being bishop, the more I hang onto beginning my days in prayer, faithfully studying Scripture, and remembering that I am blessed by and rooted in God, and that in God is my salvation.

In an homage to my early 1970s coming of age, let me quote from a 1977 folk song: “All my life’s a circle/ sunrise and sundown/ moon rolls thru the nighttime/ ‘til the daybreak comes around.”

I was never a huge Harry Chapin fan, but this song, (which I suspect many of you remember) captures some of what I want to share with you today.

Yes, life is a circle. Harry Chapin didn’t patent that (nor did the Disney Corporation in “The Circle of Life”) - this idea of life as a circle is as old as the ages.

Indeed, back at the dawn of Creation (as we read about it in the book of Genesis), God created the heavens and the earth from the formless void. God kept expanding this Creation, day by day, increasing its diversity and complexity until, on Day 6 (the last “working day” of creation,) God set up a system of self-perpetuation through procreation: “Be fruitful and multiply…” was God’s direction. “Don’t stop here, go on, keep growing.” In Genesis 12, God chooses Abram (and Sarai) to be joined in a covenantal relationship with God and to become the “Father (and Mother) of many nations…” signaling growth and life. This on-going development of God’s creation could be seen as linear… one long, long line of descendants, but I think it’s more like a circle- if we are attentive to repeating patterns, re-development of ideas and trends.

Circles are signs of wholeness. I also like, for the Church, the image of a tree, that marks its continued growth in circles. Dendro-chronologists are the scientists who figure out how environmental conditions affect the growth of trees and are shown in the growth rings of the tree... It’s not just one circle that we keep coming back to, but lots and lots of circles, expanding, ever-widening, like the circumference of a tree, as we grow and change.

In the past two years we’ve been working to get to know each other in this diocese. We’ve spent good time together in worship, at parish events, in hikes, coffee dates, potlucks and meetings. Remember my three-year plan, starting out: The first year of Discovery (me learning about you, and you getting to know me), the second year focused on Discipleship (exploring the intersection of our stories with God’s Story, especially as Jesus calls us to “follow him”) and now, the third year of Direction. The idea is that, now, as we’ve come to know each other a bit, and
have a refreshed understanding of who we are in all of this… that we are ready to
decide, together, where we want to go, what work we want to do (for a season)
and how that work will continue to shape our identity in this diocese and serve
the mission of God.

1. Where do we want to go?
2. What do we want to do?
3. Can we do it, together, as One Body in Christ?

Listen to this: “We in the church must decide together what Christ’s mission is for
His church at this time, in this place and then live that mission individually and
corporately…in this segment of God’s world. What is the Diocese of Central
Pennsylvania called to do now, and in the days ahead? How can we build together
the case which is to release more of our resources… for Christ’s mission in the
world?” (The Centennial History of The Diocese of Central Pennsylvania,
2004/2017)

These words were spoken by Bishop Dean T. Stevenson at a diocesan convention
46 years ago. Circles.

At this convention, we have given to each parish a gift of the most recent diocesan
history. This Centennial History of Central Pennsylvania was originally authored
by The Rev. Canon Robert Pursel and recently completed and published by Anne
Yellot and The Rev. Canon Mark Scheneman. (It’s where I discovered the Bishop
Stevenson quote). This diocesan history book is a project that I am happy found its
way to completion. It is a treasure, outlining the rich history that we have in this
place and how we have been faithful to God’s call to grow and serve. I commend
its reading to you. See what circles, or rings of growth, you can find in it for
yourself.

And so - here we are. Year Three. A new growth ring, ready to begin.

The work that we did at our Pre-Convention meetings helped to give an awareness
of where we stand today- as individual parishes, as a diocese, as members of
Province III, and in relation to the wider Church. The exercise that we completed
at our tables last night was about naming our individual passions, seeing our parish
participation in mission and the hopes that we have to grow in serving God in our
local contexts. We drew green lines, lines of growth, to connect the places where
we saw possibilities for collaboration. The results of these exercises will be	abulated in the days and weeks to come and shared with all of you.

This is the beginning of our identification of mission priorities. We’re doing this
work at Convention for two reasons: First, to share and discover how God is
blessing the world through our work- not to glorify the work of our own hands, but to find patterns, projects, and possibilities for doing even more - for building up the mission of God. And to assist diocesan leadership as we allocate our common resources for the work of our hearts. Second, we do this to create an understanding of us as One Body in Christ, connected to each other. Our diocese is diverse, we are far flung, but we are One. Hopefully, some of the green lines that you drew on the sheets last night showed signs of connection between us.

The plan for our exercise last night and the efforts of discerning our missional priorities has been- and will continue to be- overseen by a diocesan Design Team, made up of individuals from the Standing Committee, the Council of Trustees, and the Diocesan Staff. You can expect future communications from them about their developing insights and plans.

Let me talk a little bit about what’s been happening recently:

In this past year we have worked on projects that are well-established in this diocese, some that are brand new, and some that – in the way that circles work- have come around again, for re-development.

The Episcopal Home, begun as a personal care home in 1927 in Shippensburg next door to St. Andrew’s, has been a much loved and effective outlet for mission in this diocese for ninety years. These days the Home faces competition in a market that is savvy to the needs of the increasing population of elderly (that’s us- Baby boomers!). The competitors in the field provide many amenities to their prospective clients. With a maximum census of 32 and limited room for physical re-development, the Episcopal Home Board is looking at its future and how it can capitalize on offering quality care for the whole person- Body, Mind and Spirit- in a setting that, as its motto says, “is small enough to care.” The Board is committed to its mission of offering measures of benevolent care for financially unstable residents and they are working hard and joyfully, with the help of financial and marketing consultants, towards a continued and sustainable future.

The Stevenson School for Ministry is a project in its second year of a three-year re-development plan, as you have heard. The task of educating individuals locally for ordination has never been more critical as we continue in 2/3rds of our parishes to offer half-time or less than half-time parish jobs to clergy. The need for adult formation and coordinated children and youth programming in a diocese of small churches is also salient. Partnerships with other dioceses, the recruiting of premiere faculty and developments to connect with accredited seminaries is another part of the growth circle for the School.
Mission Work in our diocese that reaches out to vulnerable populations has been growing. The Diocesan Refugee Resource Committee has included several drives for goods to assist refugee families, individual parishes are connecting with refugee families, and there is conversation about how to open a resource center in one of our churches in a neighborhood where there is a high number of refugees.

The Pool of Bethesda, the diocesan group that supports our LGBTQ brothers and sisters is growing, and there is an Integrity chapter forming in Harrisburg. This group had a presence at the Pride festival in Harrisburg this summer.

And this year’s diocesan budget includes a substantial amount of money to support anti-racism training in our diocese. One of the three missional directives of The Episcopal Church is Racial Reconciliation in the Jesus Movement. The need for this in our country has never been greater; I am proud that we will support this work through the Eliminating Racism team training and with coursework at the SSFM in “Becoming the Beloved Community.” This is critical to God’s mission.

Last year, I talked about the formation of Mission Resource Teams to offer local support for our parishes. We continue to recruit members, are developing a curriculum for training these regional leaders and plan on launching the first Beta test in one convocation in the early months of next year. This, along with the new Academy for Missional Formation overseen by Canon Dan Morrow and Dean Robyn Szoike-Coolidge, is another way that we want to assist congregations. And, our staff is hitting the road this year - we will be “in residence” as a whole group in each Convocation, spending time with you in worship, Bible Study, conversation, and individual consultation. Be sure to check the calendar for when we will be coming to your area! (There’s a flyer in your packets)

Also, under “New Initiatives,” I have asked our cathedral, St. Stephen’s, to undertake a study this year to explore the role of a cathedral in our diocese today. Cathedrals are special places that can be centers of diocesan unity, platforms for offering vision and hope to the wider world, places to make connection and to offer hospitality, places of intersection for the community of the arts, the academy and more. We are blessed to have both a cathedral and a pro-cathedral in this diocese. I look forward to engaging a wide group of people in this good work of discovery, discernment and empowerment.

And finally - you voted just this morning on resolutions to close three parishes in the diocese: Trinity, Renovo; Holy Trinity, Shamokin; and St. Stephen’s, Mount Carmel. As Canon Morrow reminded us in the process, our Convention affirms the votes already taken by each parish to complete their terms as parochial organizations. These “ends,” though they join a long list of parishes in our diocese that have come to similar ends through the years- Paradise, Nickel Mines, Lykens,
Antrim, Elizabethtown, Centralia, Catawissa, Enola, Galetton, Steelon and others—these **closings do not signal the end of God’s presence in those regions**. We will, as Convocations, as neighboring parishes, and the faithful, discover ways to continue join in God’s mission in these areas. Of this I am certain. We have been working on an exciting plan to form a new mission (Mission of the Resurrection) in the Coal region that will embrace the members of St. Stephen’s and Holy Trinity and give new life to God’s work there. I am excited for the Council of Trustees to affirm this development and for the Mission to begin its work.

Well. That’s a lot.

I am grateful to our diocesan staff, to the Convenors and Assistant Convenors of each Convocation, to members of our boards, committees, and councils and to each of you. We are getting a lot done.

But even as we mark our growth, like the circles of rings on a tree, it is only with and through God, that any of this is possible. The center of us is the One in whom we live and move and have our being. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8) and so—while we may grow and change and shift, let us with confidence, praise God, the source of life and light, our rock and our redeemer. Amen.

The Secretary reported the following election results:

**Disciplinary Board:**

Clergy: The Rev. Pete Gdula, Trinity, Chambersburg
[1st Alternate] The Rev. David Peck, St. James, Lancaster

Lay: Sanford Schwartz, St. Andrew’s, State College
Karen Love, S. Paul’s, Harrisburg

**Council of Trustees:**

Clergy: The Rev. Jennifer Mattson, St. Thomas, Lancaster
Lay: Ms. Linda Hoover, St. Andrews, State College

Standing Committee:

Clergy: The Rev. Patrick Pierce, Clergy, St. James, Bedford
      The Rev. Jim Strader-Sasser, Christ Memorial, Danville

Lay: Anthony Alexander, St. Stephen’s, Harrisburg
      Drew Dorgan, St. John’s, Lancaster

The Treasurer presented the report of the Finance Committee which includes the Diocesan Budget and a statement regarding the Clergy Compensation taskforce. After motion duly made and seconded, the Budget was approved by Convention Delegates.

The Rev. Veronica Chappell presented the report of the Resolutions Committee and asked for adopted of Resolution #5 (Resolution #5 is attached to these minutes.) After motion duly made and seconded, Convention delegates adopted Resolution #5.

The Reverend Gene Tucker presented a resolution calling for the implementation of the recommendations set forth in the Bishop’s Address to Convention as follows:

WHEREAS, in her address to this 147th Convention of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, Bishop Scanlan has reminded us that God’s design for life is one of recurring circles, circles of growth,

AND WHEREAS, as each cycle of renewed life comes into being, the promise of God’s continuing governance of the world is affirmed,

AND WHEREAS, as we, in the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, seek to be guided and governed by the power of the Holy Spirit, may we see more clearly the
path of faith we have already walked together, continue to grow as Disciples of Jesus, and look for ways in which our common life can strengthen us for mission.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, serving under the banner of Christ, commit ourselves to seek and serve the least of those among us, respect the dignity of every human being, and trust that the renewing power of our Lord and Savior will be known in our time and place, even as it has been known in the past.

The Committee on the Bishop’s Address respectfully request that this 147th Convention accept and adopt these resolutions in response to our Bishop’s Address.

After motion duly made and seconded, Convention delegates approved the resolution.

Reverend Canon Gregory P. Hinton reported on the Courtesy Resolutions set forth in the Convention packet. After motion duly made and seconded, Convention delegates adopted the Courtesy Resolutions.

The Secretary announced that the next Annual Convention is scheduled for October 19-20, 2018, at Farrington Place in Williamsport Pennsylvania. The Secretary call for a motion to destroy the ballots. After motion duly made and seconded, Convention delegates approved the motion to destroy the ballots. After a closing prayer, the Bishop adjourned the Convention.

[RESOLUTIONS #1 THROUGH #5 FOLLOW]
RESOLUTION #1 - Resolution Ratifying Dissolution of Trinity/Renovo

RESOLVED, that the dissolution of the parish of Trinity Church, Renovo, Pennsylvania, as recommended by The Rev. Canon Daniel Morrow, Diocesan Canon for Congregational Life and Mission, and as approved by a vote of at least 2/3 of the parish members, subject to confirmation by resolution of this 147th Convention, be and it hereby is ratified and approved.

RESOLUTION #2 - Resolution Ratifying Dissolution of Trinity/Shamokin

RESOLVED, that the dissolution of the parish of Trinity Church, Shamokin, Pennsylvania, as recommended by The Rev. Canon Daniel Morrow, Diocesan Canon for Congregational Life and Mission, and as approved by a vote of at least 2/3 of the parish members, subject to confirmation by resolution of this 147th Convention, be and it hereby is ratified and approved.

RESOLUTION #3 - Resolution Ratifying Dissolution of St. Stephen’s/Mount Carmel

RESOLVED, that the dissolution of the parish of St. Stephen’s Church, Mount Carmel, Pennsylvania, as recommended by The Rev. Canon Daniel Morrow, Diocesan Canon for Congregational Life and Mission, and as approved by a vote of at least 2/3 of the parish members, subject to confirmation by resolution of this 147th Convention, be and it hereby is approved.

RESOLUTION #4 - Resolution Ratifying Adoption of Constitution

RESOLVED, that the Constitution of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, as provisionally adopted by the 146th Convention of this Diocese on October 15, 2016, subject to confirmation by resolution of this 147th Convention, and in the form appearing on the Diocesan website, be and it hereby is hereby fully adopted, ratified and confirmed as the Constitution of this Diocese, and further

RESOLVED, that the Constitution as fully adopted, ratified and confirmed shall be published to the Diocese on the Diocesan website, indicating its full and unconditional adoption and ratification.

RESOLUTION #5 - RESPONSE TO THE REFUGEE CRISIS

BE IT RESOLVED that the 147th Convention of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, responding to actions taken by General Convention 2015, calls upon our Diocese, convocations and congregations within our Diocese to develop productive ways to respond to the Refugee crisis through action, education, and prayer, and be it further

RESOLVED that the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania continue to support and grow efforts to welcome refugees to our area in tangible ways, and be it further
RESOLVED that the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania consider ways to allocate funding for grants to groups on a diocesan, convocation and congregational level to address the needs of refugees through a variety of ministries; and be it further
RESOLVED that the Committee on Social Justice continue to provide the umbrella for networking and information for these ministries; and be it further
RESOLVED that the Committee on Social Justice report back to the 148th Convention of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania with narratives of ways in which the Diocese, convocations, and congregations have responded to the refugee crisis through action, education and prayer, including a reporting of the use of grants.