Minutes of the Southwest Region Convocation

September 9, 2023

9:00-10:22 a.m. via Zoom

The meeting opened with prayer led by the Rev. Teri Shecter, SW Region Missioner. There were 35 participants at the Zoom meeting representing 10 of the 14 SW Region congregations as well as the Rt. Rev. Bishop Kym Lucas and members of the Office of the Bishop.

The. Rev. Mary Kate Rejouis shared the voter set up information so delegates can get signed on in time for the voting process later in the meeting.

The Rt. Rev. Bishop Kym Lucas addressed the group by saying that she enjoyed her tour of the SW Region and thanked Teri for being her Diaconal Ambassador. She was impressed with the faithful work each congregation is doing in their corner of the SW Region. She also thanked the Elections Committee: The Rev. Mary Kate Rejouis, the Rev. Rhoades Hollowell, and the Rev. Nancey Johnson Bookstein. She shared that the Diocese was due for a visit by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry but due to his upcoming surgery, the visit will be postponed for next year.

The Minutes from the August 29, 2022 Convocation were presented by Missi. These, along with other Convocation materials were posted prior to the meeting on the Southwest Region section of the Diocesan website. Don Schneider, St. Matthew’s Grand Junction, and outgoing Executive Committee member, moved to approve the minutes as presented. The Rev. Laura Osborne, Vicar Church of the Good Samaritan Gunnison, seconded. The motion carried.

The Diocesan proposed Budget for 2024 was presented by Nancy Jones, Diocesan Treasurer. The full proposed budget is posted on the Diocesan Convention website under Convention-convention Resources & Materials-2024 Proposed Budget. There are four documents to look at. In brief, the proposed income is $3,161,183.00. The biggest change is in Youth and Children. There was a large group for EYE, YES, and Cathedral Ridge this year so an additional $20,000 has been added to the proposed budget for a deficit spending of $182,165.00. This will be offset by the surplus reserves built during 2020-2022. The proposed budget is to be voted on at Convention. Nancy invites everyone to come on September 30th to ask questions.

The outgoing members of the Southwest Region Executive Committee were thanked for their service by The Rev. Teri Shecter, SW Region Missioner. Don Schneider for his 6 years of service, The Rev. Debbie Shew also six years (she was not present due to a medical event.) AliceMarie Slaven-Emond for three years. She is running for a second three-year term.

Teri also welcomed the incoming candidates, Cathie Elliot, Good Samaritan Gunnison, Gretchen Davis, St. Mattew’s Grand Junction, The Rev. Wren Blessing St. Patrick’s Pagosa Springs, Chip Page St. Matthew’s Grand Junction, and AliceMarie Slaven-Emond St. Luke’s Delta.

While voting app bugs were being worked out, the discussion turned towards the Proposed Revised Budget for 2024 for the Southwest Region. There was a correction to the arithmetic in All Saint’s Crested Butte’s pledge totals instead of $1300 it should have been $2600. (The budget total reflected the addition of the $2600, the line item didn’t get changed.) Teri also explained that some line items had gone up due to the Missioner’s travel and raises for the Bookkeeper and Administrator. Cathie Elliot moved to accept the corrected Revised Proposed Budget. Don Schneider seconded. The motion carried.

With the voting bugs fixed, the elections for the Southwest Region started with votes for the Clergy Representative to Standing Committee and Executive Committee. The Rev. Wren Blessing received 18 votes. \*The Lay Representative to Standing Committee and Executive Committee, Chip Page, received 18 votes. The final candidates for Executive Committee were voted on next. Each candidate, AliceMarie Slaven-Emond, Cathie Elliot, and Gretchen Davis, received 17 votes apiece. At convention there will be in-person help for the voting process.

The Rev. Teri Shecter spoke on two Resolutions that will be presented at Convention. The counting of Online worship and Live Stream attendees as full members of a congregation and the Compensation of Deacons. She mentioned that there are only 21 active Deacons in the Diocese of Colorado and 18 are 60 years or older. She thanked Deacon Robert Franken who sponsored this Resolution.

The 2023 Grant Reports were posted on the Southwest Region page of the Diocesan website. Discussion included that St. Luke’s Delta requested an extension of their grant since the contractor was busy and didn’t get to their roofing project yet. The Executive Committee approved the request.

The Cathedral Ridge Scholarship Grant is open for submissions for retreats, groups, and individuals who want to attend. The form is in the same place as the SW Region Grant application. The deadlines are October 1st and April 1st. Nancy Jones spoke to how the SW Region is great with grant monies and support to Cathedral Ridge. She said that if people are planning to do individual retreats or other group activities at Cathedral Ridge that the calendar fills up fast so plan now.

In closing, Teri said that she is happy to be the Missioner for the Southwest Region and is looking forward to Convention.

The meeting ended at 10:22 a.m. with prayer led by The Rt. Rev. Kym Lucas.

Respectfully submitted by,

Missi Stone, Southwest Region Administrator

\*Addendum to these minutes. The Rev. Mary Kate Rejouis contacted me following Convocation and the election of Chip Page was a year too early. He is now considered appointed to fill Anne Shepard’s final year 2023-2024 to Standing Committee after which the delegates at Convocation 2024 will vote him in for his own term of three years 2024-2027.