

Minutes from the 2024 September 7th
SW Region Convocation
9:00 AM

The first hour of the meeting was a combined Convocation chaired by The Rev. Canon Jon Anderson who led the opening prayer. There were 149 participants from around the Episcopal Church in Colorado.

The Bishop's Address: The Rt. Rev. Kym Lucas began her address with a reading from Colossians. She shared that instead of “her vision” for the Episcopal Church in Colorado, we should look to see God's vision. What does that vision look like? Lay led and clergy supported. All around the Diocese churches large and small are exhibiting this vision. All are called to ministry serving the world in Christ's name. The same goes for Congregational led and Diocesan supported ministries. This is a commitment to Gospel work and Baptismal Covenant. We need to be Church in new ways. Align our structures with mission. We belong to one another.

Bishop Kym is thrilled with the first and second classes of our new Pastoral Leaders and their commitment and excitement in their new ministries. She is excited about the new priests being ordained, as well. She spoke of being a Bishop with the best commute ever. She gets to travel gorgeous mountain passes and beautiful country roads on her visitations. There are 104,000 square miles in this Diocese and it presents a challenge. Other states have found that they need to consolidate their multi-dioceses because the smaller dioceses are no longer sustainable but that creates the challenge of larger regions for the Diocesan Bishop to travel.

Bishop Kym shared that she is looking forward to Convention and seeing everyone in Ft. Collins. She thanked the Regional Missioners, Regional Executive Committees, and the Laity for their faithful service.

Canon Jon introduced Nancy Jones, Treasurer of the Diocese who presented highlights of the 2025 Proposed Budget. She said that if anyone was interested in the nuts-and-bolts of the budget, they should join the pre-convention hearing on September 28th. She also shared the link to both the budget spreadsheet and narrative budget on the Diocesan Website. The main point is that even though this is a deficit budget of (\$101,400) there is room for late grants and other sources of income to cover this deficit.

The next presentations were videos prepared by the Rev. John Hill for Cathedral Ridge outlining the results of the Summer Camp Season, and the Rev. Brian Winter, High Plains Region Missioner, for YES Colorado Youth Mission outlining their mission trip to Albuquerque New Mexico.

The Rev. Wendy Huber, Northwest Region Missioner, presented the Resolutions that will be on the ballot at the 137th Convention. There are two Resolutions, 1) a Resolution on Reducing and Preventing Gun Violence, and 2) a Resolution to Study amendments to the Canons of the Diocese of Colorado to facilitate associate memberships of Laity in more than one Congregation. The third item is a Proposed Constitutional Change 1-2024 Amended Diocesan Constitution Article V. These proposed resolutions are on the Diocesan Website under the 137th Convention heading.

The meeting of all the regions closed with prayer led by the Rev. Canon Jon Anderson who also thanked the Standing Committee for all they have done.

The meeting of the Southwest Region opened at 10:00 AM with the Rev. Doug Bleyle, Adam Rowan, Chip Page, Dee Allen, the Rev. Debbie Shew, the Rev. Rob Rose, Chris, Wendy McAllister, the Rev. Wren Blessing, Hazel Price, AliceMarie Slaven-Emond, the Rev. Canon Vanessa Stickler Glass, Canon for Transition & Wellness, and Missi Stone, SW Region Administrator present. The Rev. Teri Shecter, SW Region Missioner was absent since she was on Pilgrimage on the Camino de Santiago in Spain.

The Rev. Debbie Shew, St. Mark's Durango, led the group in the opening prayer. Mr. Chip Page, Lay Representative to Standing Committee, chaired the meeting.

The Minutes from Convocation 2023 were presented by Missi Stone, SW Region Administrator. The Rev. Debbie Shew moved that they be accepted as presented. The Rev. Rob Rose seconded. The motion carried.

The Proposed Budget for 2025 was also presented by Missi Stone. There were no new surprises for the upcoming year. The budget comes in with an income of \$42,861 with a total of proposed expenses of \$39,690.25 for a net income of \$3,170.75. The Checking and two CEF Funds total \$143,945.04 and the finite resource of the SW Region Scholarship Fund (to be used only at Cathedral Ridge) is \$29,793.50. Chip entertained a motion to accept the 2025 Proposed Budget. AliceMarie Slaven-Emond, St. Luke's Delta, so moved. The Rev. Debbie Shew seconded. The motion carried.

Elections: Since there were no contested seats, elections were made by acclamation. Chip introduced the candidates. Courtney Ashmore, St. Mark's Durango, for a three-year term ending in 2027 Lay Member to the Executive Committee, Chip Page, St. Matthew's Grand Junction, Lay Representative to Standing Committee and Executive Committee for a three-year term ending in 2027, and Sue Emerson, St. Matthew's, replacing Gretchen Davis and finishing her two years ending in 2026. Hazel Price moved to accept this slate of nominees. AliceMarie Slaven-Emond seconded. The motion carried.

The Southwest Region 2024 Grant Reports received before this meeting were posted on the Diocesan Website. Missi Stone, Southwest Region Administrator, shared that the two videos presented in the earlier meeting constituted grant reports for YES Colorado and Cathedral Ridge. Also, the Rev. Teri Shecter's Visiting Deacons Report was shared by Missi. All reports will continue to be posted on the website for people to read.

The Rev. Teri Shecter via Chip Page, thanks outgoing Executive Committee Members Jack Schuenemeyer and Gretchen Davis for their faithful service.

In other business, the Rev. Debbie Shew, Rector St. Mark's Durango, spoke that she tried to get a Resolution about Federal Indian Boarding Schools and the Episcopal Church's role in that system for this Convention but missed the deadline. She asked the delegates to consider attending the pre-convention workshop: Dismantling Our Past to Live Our Future Differently: Respecting Our Indigenous Neighbors.

The Elections Committee came on to speak about the elections process. The Rev. Mary Kate Rejouis and the Rev. Rhoads Hollowell shared that there was an embarrassing low turnout of registered delegates Diocesan-wide this year. Since there were no contested elections, a pre-Convocation mock election took place. Delegates were to vote using the new online voting system on their favorite season in the Church year. Church wide, Advent came out first with 83 Lay and 34 Clergy voting. The Southwest Region had 33 Delegates registered for Convention but only 9 were able to vote since they registered before the August 19 deadline. Out of those votes, Christmas came in first.

During the question and answer period, AliceMarie Slaven-Emond, St. Luke's Delta, asked that at Convention, there can be help for people to get their phones set up to use the voting system. Janet Choyce guaranteed that there will be people to help with that. More information can be found at vote@episcopalcolorado.org.

As there was no more business, Chip Page led in the Closing Prayer.

There was a motion to adjourn by AliceMarie. Hazel Price seconded. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Missi Stone, Southwest Region Administrator