

Minutes of the 138th Convention of the Episcopal Church in Colorado

Pre-Convention

On Saturday 4 October, there was a pre-Convention Day of workshops and a hearing on the proposed budget, held online via multiple Zoom sessions.

Opening Eucharist & Land Acknowledgment

On Thursday 9 October, the Convention gathered at First United Methodist Church, Pueblo, for the Opening Eucharist. The Right Reverend Kimberly Lucas was the Celebrant and The Most Reverend Michael Curry preached. Bishop Kym acknowledged on the Convention's behalf that the land on which we live and gather is the traditional territory of the Arapaho, Cheyenne, Ute, and other Nations. We recognize the Indigenous people who once lived on this land and support the resilience and strength of their descendants living among us today.

We also acknowledge our complicity in the egregious acts of colonization, boarding schools, and genocide that have caused lasting intergenerational trauma. We commit, through our actions, to the work of repairing our relationship with our Indigenous kin and with the earth. We further commit to learning the truth about the past and present, to reckoning with our role in the harms caused, and to standing in solidarity with our Indigenous siblings as we seek an equitable and just future together.

A reception followed the Eucharist.

First Day of Business: General Session #1

On Friday 10 October, the Convention gathered at the Pueblo Convention Center. After breakfast served on site, the Convention began at 10:00am.

Morning Prayer was led by new clergy: The Rev. Dr. Boyd Evans, The Rev. Beth Taylor, and The Rev. Mike Kornelsen

Keynote Speaker

Bishop Kym reintroduced The Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, 27th Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, our Keynote Speaker. Bishop Curry gave a talk on our theme, *We Have a Witness Yet To Make*.

Call to Order & Organization for Business

At 10:39am Bishop Kym called the Convention to order. She appointed the following persons to various offices:

Br. Scott Michael Pomerenk BSG	Secretary
Mr. Lawrence R. Hitt II (Larry)	Parliamentarian
The Rev. Deacon Jack Karn	Assistant Secretary
Mr. Dave Kinnear	Committee to Approve Minutes
The Rev. Deacon Hailey McKeefry Delmas	Committee to Approve Minutes

Canon Mike Orr
The Rev. Mary Kate Rejouis

The Rev. Deacon Robert Franken

Sharon Caulfield
Chancellor Larry Hitt

Consultant, Committee to Approve Minutes
Chair, Committee for the Conduct of Nominations
Chair, Committee for the Conduct of Elections
Vice-Chair, Committee for the Conduct of Nominations
Vice-Chair, Committee for the Conduct of Elections
Interim Chair, Committee for Legislation and Resolutions
Consultant, Committee for Legislation and Resolutions

Declaration of a Quorum

After a short delay (during which Bishop Kym noted that the delegation from Meeker had driven the farthest to Convention: 334 miles), Secretary Br. Scott Michael declared that a quorum was present.

Report on the Adoption of the Rules of Convention

Chancellor Larry Hitt reported on the proposed Rules of Convention, highlighting certain rules.

The Convention voted to adopt the rules.

Report on the Agenda for Convention

Br. Scott Michael moved that the Convention accept the Agenda as provided. The Convention did not object, and Bishop Kym ordered it so.

Report on the Certification of Minutes for the 137th Convention

Br. Scott Michael reported that the Committee on the Certification of Minutes had reviewed and accepted last year's minutes. He submitted the minutes, and asked that the Bishop receive them, which she did.

Declaration that Convention is organized for business

Bishop Kym declared that the 138th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado was organized for business.

Report of Conduct of Nominations & Conduct of Elections

The Rev. Mary-Kate Rejouis introduced the voting process, and reported on the test vote for favorite cookie.

Second Reading of Constitutional Change: Amended Diocesan Constitution Article V & Vote

Chancellor Hitt announced the Second Reading of a change to Article V of the Diocesan Constitution. Br. Scott Michael read to the Convention the Amended Article as proposed:

Whereas: The election of Clergy and Lay Deputies to General Convention “concurrently by order” utilizing rank-choice and electronic voting, is impractical at best and likely impossible;

and ensuring that clergy under discipline should not represent this diocese, clarify that elected clergy and lay deputies will represent the diocese at Provincial Synods the year of General Convention, and clarify that the Ecclesiastical Authority may appoint additional Alternate deputies to General Convention in the event there are insufficient elected or alternate deputies

Be it Resolved: That, upon the recommendation of the Diocesan Election Committee, the 137th Convention of Episcopal Diocese of Colorado adopt and replace in The Constitution of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Colorado the following revised Article V (Deputies to the General Convention and to the Provincial Synod) in its entirety:

ARTICLE V: Deputies to the General Convention and to the Provincial Synod

Section 1. At the Diocesan Convention held ~~two years~~ **no later than 12 months** preceding the ~~year in which the~~ **opening date of the** next ~~regular session of the~~ General Convention ~~is to be held~~, there shall be elected by a ~~concurrent~~ vote **by the members of the Diocesan Convention four clergy Deputies and four lay Deputies** ~~by clergy and lay orders, clergy Deputies and lay Deputies~~ who shall represent this Diocese in the meetings of the General Convention and who shall continue in office until their successors are elected. The Clergy Deputies shall be clergy canonically and actually resident in this Diocese at the time of their election and throughout their period of service **and not under discipline** and the lay Deputies shall be communicants in good standing of a Parish or Mission of this Diocese at the time of their election and throughout their period of service.

Section 2. A majority of all votes cast shall be necessary to elect each Clergy and each Lay Deputy and the Deputies shall be ranked in the order of election. Following the election of the full number of Clergy and Lay Deputies, a ballot shall be taken for a like number of Clergy and Lay Alternate Deputies. A majority of all votes cast shall be necessary to elect Alternate Clergy Deputy and each Alternate Lay Deputy and the Alternate Deputies shall be ranked in the order of election.

Section 3. The Ecclesiastical Authority may at any time appoint additional Alternate Deputies to represent the Diocese in the General Convention in the event neither the elected deputies nor the elected alternate deputies are able to attend.

Section 4. Each year, except for any year in which the General Convention is to be held, the ~~Bishop~~ **Ecclesiastical Authority** shall appoint clergy Deputies and lay Deputies to represent this Diocese in the Synod of ~~the Sixth Province~~ **VI. If there is a Provincial Synod in the year that General Convention is to be held, the elected Clergy and Lay Deputies to that General Convention shall be the deputies to represent this Diocese in that Synod.**

And be it further resolved: That upon adoption on second reading at the 138th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado in October 2025, this constitutional change will take effect immediately upon passage.

Some technical difficulties with people logging into the VPOLL system extended the time needed for the vote.

Cathedral Ridge Video

A video from Cathedral Ridge was shown, after which Bishop Kym thanked The Rev. John Hill, Executive Director of Cathedral Ridge, and the camp's staff for their work.

Standing Committee Election

Rev. Mary Kate introduced the nominees for Regional Representatives to the Standing Committee:

The Rev. Melissa Adzima, Clergy Representative, to the Front Range Region, to a term ending 2028

The Rev. Deacon Linda Brown, Clergy Representative, to the Sangre de Cristo Region, to a term ending 2028

Donna Colville, Lay Representative, to the Front Range Region - to a term ending 2028

Karla Schapansky, Lay Representative, to the Northwest Region, to a term ending 2028

Kate Dykstra, Lay Representative, to the High Plains Region, to a term ending 2028

The Convention voted to elect all the nominees.

Second Reading of Constitutional Change: Amended Diocesan Constitution Article V RESULTS

Rev. Mary Kate announced the results of the Constitutional Amendment vote: the amendment was adopted.

Lunch/Regional Gatherings

The Convention took a lunch break, meeting in Regional Gatherings led by the Regional Missioners.

General Session #2

A video about Beloved Community was shown as people returned from lunch. Bishop Kym prayed the Prayer for the Human Family (Book of Common Prayer [BCP], pg 815)

Introductions & New Appointments Commissions and Committee Appointments

Bishop Kym introduced the following new members of the Commission on Ministry:

The Rev. Doug Bleyle, Front Range Region, to a term ending 2029

Susan Garsoe, Sangre de Cristo Region, to a term ending 2029

The Rev. Deacon Hailey McKeefry Delmas, High Plains Region, to a term ending 2029

She also thanked Jesse Brown, from the Sangre de Cristo Region, who has completed his term of service, and expressed thanks for all current members of the Commission.

Bishop Kym thanked The Rev. Wayne Ewing, who has completed his service on The Board of Examining Chaplains. There are no new appointments to the BOEC this year.

Bishop Kym announced the appointment of The Rev. Deacon Elizabeth (Wib) Garfield to the Diaconal Council. She thanked The Rev. Deacon Teri Shecter, who has completed her service this year.

Bishop Kym announced the renewed appointment (third term) to The Provincial Council for Province VI of The Rev. David Dill, Chapel of Our Saviour, Colorado Springs, Clergy Representative. She also noted that The Rev. Brian Winter, Christ's Church, Castle Rock, has been appointed Vice President of the Provincial Council.

Disciplinary Board Election

Rev. Mary Kate announced the nominees for a full term on the Disciplinary Board to expire December 31, 2028 (3 yrs. Canon 7A):

The Rev. Beth Blunt, St. John the Baptist, Breckenridge (resigned and subsequently named Intake Officer)

The Rev. Kim Seidman, St. Timothy, Centennial
Amy Evans, St. John the Baptist, Breckenridge
Scott Wallace, St. Mark's, Durango

The Convention elected all the nominees. Bishop Kym thanked the following members of the Disciplinary Board who had completed their service:

The Rev. George Berlin
The Rev. Gary Brower
Andy Folkerth as Chair, continuing on the Board
(The Rev. Wendy Huber is the new Chair of the board)

Proposed Amendment to Diocesan Canon 14

Sharon Caulfield, interim Chair of the Legislation and Resolutions Committee, introduced the Study Group that was appointed as a result of the passage of a 2024 resolution regarding affiliate membership to present its report recommending the amendment of Diocesan Canon 14. She presented its proposed amendment and talked about the reasoning behind it:

Proposed Amendment to Canon 14, Section 3:

Every parish in this diocese shall be governed by a vestry which shall act as the board of directors of the non-profit corporation. The rector of the parish shall be an officer thereof. The members of such corporation shall be the "Communicants in Good Standing" of the parish as defined under the Constitutions and Canons of The Episcopal Church.

For Purposes of membership in a Colorado diocesan parish corporation, the term "member" also includes an "affiliate member," defined as (i) a Communicant in Good Standing in the parish, 2 (ii) who also qualifies as a Communicant in Good Standing in another parish of The Episcopal Church, (iii) who has requested affiliate membership in this parish and (iv) has been accepted for such affiliate membership by the rector of the affiliated parish.

Affiliate members of the parish corporation shall have the privileges of voice and vote at the annual meeting of the parish corporation and shall be counted for purposes of the annual meeting quorum by attending in person, or by electronic means or proxy in the

form allowed by parish bylaws (if any). A person shall not be an affiliate member in more than one parish.

Each vestry shall consist of the rector of the parish, two (2) wardens, and no fewer than three (3) and no more than fifteen (15) members who are adult Communicants in Good Standing of the parish. The wardens and members of the vestry shall be elected at the annual meeting. The senior warden may be nominated by the rector. Each vestry shall elect a treasurer and clerk from the Communicants in Good Standing of the parish.

Terms of wardens, vestry members, and the treasurer and clerk shall be set forth in the bylaws of the parish. If authorized in the bylaws of the parish and consistent with this canon, affiliate members may serve on the parish vestry, as wardens, on committees of the parish, and in other fiduciary capacities. Affiliate members may serve as delegates to the annual diocesan convention, but shall not act as a diocesan convention delegate on behalf of more than one parish in this diocese or any other diocese in the same calendar year. Nor shall an affiliate member act as a delegate from the affiliated parish to the General Convention of The Episcopal Church.

Proposed amendment to Canon 14, Section 5:

Each parish in this diocese shall:...(b) hold an annual meeting at which, among other matters to be discussed and decided, the annual budget of the parish shall be presented to the ~~members of the parish in attendance~~; and...

(g) [M]aintain a register. The register must be preserved as part of the records of the congregation, and must be freely available for examination at each Episcopal visitation and at all reasonable times be freely available for inspection by Wardens, members of the Vestry, the Bishop, or any person designated by the Bishop.

The register must contain all of the following items: (i) a record of all baptism, confirmations, receptions, marriages, and burials solemnized in the Congregation, ~~and~~ including a list of persons confirmed in the parish; the names and dates of birth of the persons baptized together with the names of parents and sponsors or witnesses; and the names of persons married or buried, and the date of every such rite performed; ~~and~~ (ii) the names of all ~~members communicants~~ with the date of their reception, death, transfer or removal; ~~and~~ (iii) the names of all affiliate members as defined in Section 3 above with the date of their rector acceptance, death, transfer or removal.

Discussion followed, during which Chuck Theobald, President of Standing Committee (Grace & St. Stephen's, Colorado Springs), proposed an amendment to the amendment:

Every parish in this diocese shall be governed by a vestry which shall act as the board of directors of the non-profit corporation. The rector of the parish shall be an officer thereof. The members of such corporation shall be the "Communicants in Good Standing" of the parish as defined under the Constitutions and Canons of The Episcopal Church.

To the extent allowed by the Constitutions and Canons of The Episcopal Church, for Purposes of membership in a Colorado diocesan parish corporation, the term "member" also includes an "affiliate member," defined as (i) a Communicant in Good

Standing in the parish, 2 (ii) who also qualifies as a Communicant in Good Standing in another parish of The Episcopal Church, (iii) who has requested affiliate membership in this parish and (iv) has been accepted for such affiliate membership by the rector of the affiliated parish.

Affiliate members of the parish corporation shall have the privileges of voice and vote at the annual meeting of the parish corporation and shall be counted for purposes of the annual meeting quorum by attending in person, or by electronic means or proxy in the form allowed by parish bylaws (if any). A person shall not be an affiliate member in more than one parish.

Each vestry shall consist of the rector of the parish, two (2) wardens, and no fewer than three (3) and no more than fifteen (15) members who are adult Communicants in Good Standing of the parish. The wardens and members of the vestry shall be elected at the annual meeting. The senior warden may be nominated by the rector. Each vestry shall elect a treasurer and clerk from the Communicants in Good Standing of the parish.

Terms of wardens, vestry members, and the treasurer and clerk shall be set forth in the bylaws of the parish. If authorized in the bylaws of the parish and consistent with this canon, affiliate members may serve on the parish vestry, as wardens, on committees of the parish, and in other fiduciary capacities. Affiliate members may serve as delegates to the annual diocesan convention, but shall not act as a diocesan convention delegate on behalf of more than one parish in this diocese or any other diocese in the same calendar year. A Colorado affiliate member may serve as a lay deputy to the General Convention of The Episcopal Church from this diocese only if they have registered their membership in a Colorado diocesan parish pursuant to Canon 17, Section 4 of The Canons of The Episcopal Church.

Proposed amendment to Canon 14, Section 4:

Each parish in this diocese shall:...(b) hold an annual meeting at which, among other matters to be discussed and decided, the annual budget of the parish shall be presented to the ~~members of the parish-in attendance~~; and...

(g) [M]aintain a register. The register must be preserved as part of the records of the congregation, and must be freely available for examination at each Episcopal visitation and at all reasonable times be freely available for inspection by Wardens, members of the Vestry, the Bishop, or any person designated by the Bishop.

The register must contain all of the following items: (i) a record of all baptism, confirmations, receptions, marriages, and burials solemnized in the Congregation, ~~and~~ including a list of persons confirmed in the parish; the names and dates of birth of the persons baptized together with the names of parents and sponsors or witnesses; and the names of persons married or buried, and the date of every such rite performed; ~~and~~ (ii) the names of all ~~members~~ ~~communicants~~ with the date of their reception, death, transfer or removal; and (iii) the names of all affiliate members as defined in Section 3 above with the date of their rector acceptance, death, transfer or removal.

[Renumbering of existing Sections 4 through 9 to conform to numerical consistency]

There was some clarifying discussion, and then a vote. Mr. Theobald's amendment was adopted.

There was further discussion of the amended amendment.

Rev. Mary Kate facilitated a vote by orders. The Amendment was adopted.

General Convention Nominees Introduction & Votes

Rev. Mary Kate introduced the nominees for General Convention Deputy:

6 Clergy Nominees (in alphabetical order):

Boyd Evans
Michael Kornelson
Tory Moir
Nadine Pope
Debbie Shew
Brian Winter

7 Lay Nominees (in alphabetical order):

Sharon Caulfield
Zoe Cole
Lawrence Hitt II
Erica Pomerenk
Scott Michael Pomerenk
Karla Schapansky
Chuck Theobald

Rev. Mary Kate explained the voting process, reminding the Convention of changes mandated by the Constitutional Amendment adopted that morning. The vote began.

There was an election on first ballot:

Lay Deputies:

1. Lawrence Hitt II
2. Chuck Theobald
3. Sharon Caulfield
4. Karla Schapansky

Clergy Deputies:

1. Brian Winter
2. Nadine Pope
3. Debbie Shew
4. Tory Moir

On a second ballot, a clergy alternate was elected (and another by default). There was no election in the lay order:

Clergy Alternate:

5. Boyd Evans
6. Michael Kornelsen

On the third ballot, a lay alternate was elected:

- Lay Alternate:
5. Zoe Cole

On the fourth (and final) ballot, another lay alternate was elected (and the third alternate by default):

- Lay Alternates:
6. Erica Pomerenk
 7. Scott Michael Pomerenk

The Convention took a break for ice cream.

General Session #3

Welcome of Holy Companion as Special Congregation

Bishop Kym welcomed Holy Companion as a Special Congregation in The Episcopal Church in Colorado. The Rev. Brian Winter, Regional Missioner of the High Plains Region, spoke about how Holy Comforter had come to be. He invited The Rev. Lauren Grubaugh Thomas, Vicar, and members of the congregation to stand and be recognized.

Changes Across the Diocese

Bishop Kym acknowledged that, in addition to joyful changes like welcoming Holy Companion, the Diocese had experienced other changes, some of them painful:

The Vestries of both St. Andrew's, Manitou Springs, and St. James, Lake City, decided to close their doors, and we are in a period of discernment about next steps for those buildings. St. Andrew's is now working with St. Michael's Colorado Springs for the vision of a community center in Manitou Springs.

The Church of the Ascension in Salida has relocated from the Sangre de Cristo Region to the Southwest Region.

The Church of the Nativity in Grand Junction has also relocated from the Southwest Region to the Northwest Region.

Gun Safety and Violence Prevention

A video on Gun Safety and Violence Prevention was shown.

Evening Devotion

Evening Devotion was led by new clergy: The Rev. Deacon Wendy McAllister, The Rev. Christopher Gregorio, and The Rev. Deacon Meredith Rogers

Bishop Kym closed the day's work with a prayer. Convention members departed at 4:27pm for dinner on their own.

General Session #4

Members of the Sangre de Cristo Region led Morning Prayer, with musicians Amalia Dobbins and Daniel Foster of St. Michael the Archangel, Colorado Springs.

Bishop Kym gave her address, continuing the theme *We Have a Witness Yet To Make*.

A video on Creation Care was played, after which Bishop Kym prayed the Prayer for Knowledge of God's Creation, (BCP page 827)

The Daughters of The King gave Bishop Kym a gift of artwork one of them had created, a mixed-media depiction of cowboy boots.

The Youth Council of the Diocese gave its report.

A video was played thanking people for their support of the mission and ministries of The Episcopal Church in Colorado.

Treasurer's Report and 2026 Diocesan Budget

Nancy Jones, Treasurer, gave her report to Convention, presenting the Proposed Budget for 2026.

After some discussion, an electronic vote was held for the 2026 Budget.

While that vote was tallied, Nancy Jones was reelected to second term as Diocesan Treasurer.

The Budget passed.

Additional Commission and Committee Election and Appointment

Rev. Mary Kate facilitated a vote by acclamation for The Rev. Amy Lythgoe, St. Luke's Denver, to the Disciplinary Board for a Full Term to expire December 31, 2028; her election had been omitted from the list elected to the Disciplinary Board the previous day. The Rev. Lythgoe was elected.

Bishop Kym announced the appointment of The Rev. Krista Dias, Front Range Region, as Chair of the Commission on Ministry, to a term ending 2026.

Awarding the Bishop's Cross and Honorary Canons

Bishop Kym presented the Bishop's Cross to Chuck Theobald (in person) and Nancy Severin (by prerecorded video), for their faithful witness, sacrificial love, and tireless devotion to the work of Christ in the world.

Bishop Kym named The Rev. Canon Lucy Amerman and The Rev. Canon Deacon Robert Antonin Franken as Honorary Diocesan Canons.

Commissioning of Those Appointed or Elected

In a brief liturgy, Bishop Kym commissioned those newly appointed or elected to offices, committees, and commissions.

Thank You

Bishop Kym thanks all who had served the Diocese in the past year, including:

The Standing Committee
The Staff of the Office of the Bishop
 particularly Dianne Draper, retiring after 11 years of service
 and welcoming Janey Griggs Salazar, new Administrative Assistant & Benefits Coordinator

Retired Clergy

Bishop Kym thanked Clergy who had retired in the past year:

The Rev. Cynthia Espeseth
The Rev. Jackson Haas
The Rev. Nancy Malloy

Deceased Clergy

Bishop Kym remembered with gratitude clergy who had died within the past year, and asked for a moment of silence in their memory:

The Rev. Cal Gray, priest
The Rev. Art LeClair, priest
The Rev. Richard Von Grabow, deacon
The Rev. Donald Warner, priest
The Rev. Jamie C. Wilson, priest

Clergy New to Colorado/New Calls

Bishop Kym recognized and gave thanks for clergy in new calls and/or new to Colorado:

New Calls:
The Rev. Canon Lucy Amerman, Interim Canon
The Rev. Douglas Bleyle, Priest-in-Charge, St. Joseph, Lakewood & St. John Chrysostom, Golden
The Rev. Amy Feins, Associate Rector, St. John's, Boulder

The Rev. Broderick Greer, Interim Rector, Holy Comforter, Broomfield
The Rev. Jed Holdorph, Interim Rector, Trinity, Greeley
The Rev. Anna Horen, Vicar, St. Philip & St. James, Denver
The Rev. Michael Kornelsen, Curate, St. Stephen's, Longmont
The Rev. Jeremy Lucas, Rector, St. Paul's, Steamboat Springs
The Rev. Rob Rose, Priest-in-Charge, St. John's, Ouray
The Rev. Robin Tems, Priest-in-Charge, Transfiguration, Evergreen

New to Colorado:

The Rev. Dr. Robert Black, Rector, Grace & St. Stephen's, Colorado Springs
The Rev. Beth Blunt, Rector, St. John's, Breckenridge
The Rev. J. Clarkson, Rector, All Saint's, Loveland
The Rev. Boyd Evans, Rector, St. Andrew's, Denver
The Rev. Chris Gregorio, Rector, St. Laurence, Conifer
The Rev. Paul Keene, Canon for Parish Life, St. John's Cathedral, Denver
The Rev. Meredith Rogers, Deacon-in-Charge, St. Barnabas, Denver
The Rev. Beth Taylor, St. Mary Magdalene, Boulder

Newly Ordained Clergy

Bishop Kym recognized and gave thanks for clergy newly ordained within the past year:

The Rev. Jonah Heiser, priest
The Rev. Michael Kornelsen, priest
The Rev. Wendy McAllister, deacon
The Rev. Christina Salzer, deacon

Postulants and Candidates

Bishop Kym gave thanks for postulants and candidates for ordination:

Candidate for the Vocational Diaconate:
Nicole Inman Campbell

Candidates for the Transitional Diaconate:
Cate Colburn Smith
Kevin Criley

Postulants to the Priesthood:
Jackie Delafosse
Elizabeth Wolfert
Suzanne Foster Porter
Seth Wise Buck
Susie Halsey
Kathleen Schmidt
Owen Copps
Angela Hummel
Bradley Jackson
Jennifer Lewis

Christopher Muha
Daniel Pitts
John Thexton

Postulant to the Vocational Diaconate:
Lu Walters

Courtesy Resolutions

In a prerecorded video, Sharon Caulfield, Interim Chair of the Legislation & Resolutions Committee, presented Courtesy Resolutions.

Blessing and Adjournment

Bishop Kym gave a benediction and blessing. The Convention was adjourned at 12:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Br. Scott Michael Pomerenk BSG