Episcopal Diocese of Rochester

Minutes
of the
94th Convention

Saturday, October 25, 2025

Hobart & William Smith Colleges
Geneva, New York

Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
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Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Scandling Center, Vandervort Room

Business Session I began at 9am.

The Rev. Annie Jones read a land acknowledgement.

Bishop Kara welcomed Convention and thanked the delegates for their presence.

Bishop Kara recognized The Rev. Nita Byrd, Chaplain at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. Rev. Nita offered a warm word of welcome.

The Bishop Kara welcomed The Rev. Jesse Zink and The Rev. Luke Fodor and Ms. Elisabeth Brauza- Hughes, members from Diocese of Western New York's Standing Committee.

Bishop Kara thanked the Bishop's staff, John Clinton-Bradley, who is assisting with A/V, and the worship team- the Revs. Columba Salamony, Keisha Stokes, Kevin Gore, and Michael Hopkins.

Bishop Kara announced that the convention offering is being divided between the Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East for their work in Gaza and the Convocation of Churches in Europe for their work with refugees.

Rev. Annie Jones, Director of Formation, provided other housekeeping notes.

Bishop officially called the 94th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester to order at 9: 21.

The Rev. Keisha Stokes, Secretary to Convention, established the Quorum:
Number of clergy present: 59
Number of lay delegates: 110
Number of churches present: 42
Totally number of delegates: 169

Bishop Kara recognized Mr. F. Paul Greene as Parliamentarian. Mr. Greene addressed the convention to review who is eligible to vote and parliamentary procedure.

Bishop Kara announced that the appointments and standing committees of this Convention can be found on the Convention 94 webpage.

Bishop Kara thanked the Rev. David Hefling for his service as Diocesan Archivist. The Rev. Don Schranz has been appointed as the new Archivist.

Bishop Kara thanked Lyn Omphroy for her faithful service as Diocesan Treasurer. Lyn's term is concluding at this Convention. The Diocese is still looking for someone to serve as the next Diocesan Treasurer.

Bishop Kara announced the following appointments:

-Sarah Herzog as Diocesan Registrar

-The Rev. Ken Pepin and Tom Marullo are serving as Dispatch of Business.

-The Rev. Roch Whitman is the timekeeper. He provided instructions regarding time keeping

Chancellor F. Paul Greene presented the **Consent Agenda**.

The following procedural motions put forth by Committees are in the Consent Agenda for delegates to consider:

- *Waive the reading of the minutes*
- *Accept Minutes as presented on the website*
- *Courtesy of seat, voice and vote resolution*
- *Convention Agenda*
- *Rules of Debate*
- *Official Reports*

The Consent Agenda was accepted using a voice vote.

Convention continued with the **Bishop's Address.**

Business Session I Continued

Convention recognized those laypeople who are at Convention for the first time. The Convention also recognized:

- Clergy who have retired since our last Convention
- The Rev. Virginia Tyler Smith and thanked her for her service as Director of Ministry
- Clergy who have started new positions
- Clergy who are newly ordained
- Seminarians
- Welcomed Rev. Julianne Buenting who begins as Acting Director of Ministry on November 1, 2025

Bishop Kara shared the results of the test ballot.

Bishop Kara recognized Chief Teller, The Rev. Shanna Hawks, who went through the electronic voting procedures.

Bishop Kara shared that a resolution from Diocesan Council necessitates an amendment to the traditional order of elections and resolutions. She asked the Convention to amend the agenda. Moved, seconded, sustained. Convention continued with resolutions and then proceeded to elections.

Bishop Kara requested a motion to consider a resolution from the floor. Moved, seconded, sustained.

Patti Campbell, vice-chair-elect of Diocesan Council moved **Resolution A94: Establishment of Convocations:**

> *Amend Canons and Rule of Order to Establish Convocations Resolved, that, it being in the Dioceses' best interest to simplify its current five-District structure and replace it with three Convocations, Canons 3, 6 and 16 and Rule of Order 21 are hereby amended as shown in the attached Exhibit.*

The Chancellor noted a typographical error in the amendments to Canon 6. Canon 6.2.f: references to paragraphs B1 and B2. Because paragraphs B1 and B2 are being combined, the correct wording is "for the purpose of balloting under subparagraph B."

There was no discussion regarding this resolution.

Bishop Kara reminded the Convention that because this is addressing a canonical change, this resolution must be voted on using a vote by orders and must pass by a 2/3 majority in both the Lay Order and the Clergy Order.

The Chief Teller shared SimplyVoting instructions.

Resolution A94 was considered using SimplyVoting.

Steve Richards shared videos from Pride Parades in Corning and Rochester.

Results of Resolution A94:

> **Passed by 2/3 majority in both orders. The canonical change is effective and Convocations are officially established.**

Bishop Kara asked if there were any further resolutions from the floor.

The Rev. Columba Salomony requested that Convention consider **Resolution B94: Advocating a Better Understanding of and Solidarity with LGBTQIA+ Neighbors**

> *Resolved, that the 94th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester affirms the call in our baptismal covenant to respect the dignity of every human being to include people across the gender and sexuality spectra, and especially, in times of conflict, our trans siblings. As followers of Jesus' way of love, we commit to meeting our LGBTQIA+ human family, especially our trans siblings, with love and compassion, by word, presence, and action; and be it further*
>
> *Resolved, that the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester's leadership encourages our diocesan bodies, clergy, and lay members to affirm this diocesan calling by communicating through advocacy with local, state, and federal lawmakers that our baptismal promise to respect the dignity of every human being extends to our LGBTQIA+ siblings, who have an equal share in reflecting God's image in and to the world.*

Bishop Kara asked Convention if it would like to consider this resolution. Convention agreed to consider the resolution.

The Rev. Columba Salamony moved Resolution B94. The motion was seconded. There was discussion.

Bishop Kara reminded the Convention that we are deciding whether this resolution represents the mind of this Convention.

Bishop Kara called on Chief Teller to facilitate the electronic vote on Resolution B94. There was a prayer and singing following the closing of the ballot.

Results of Resolution B94

Total Ballots Received: 163 Needed to pass: 83
Yes: 157 No: 2 Abstain: 4
Resolution B94 is carried.

Bishop recognized Rev. Columba Salamony who moved **Resolution C94: Advocating for Aid, Relief, and Sustainable Peace in Gaza**

Resolved, the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester is relieved by the declaration of a ceasefire in Gaza but remains deeply concerned that its implementation is flawed and already failing. Specifically, like so many people of goodwill, we believe that first and foremost the free and fair flow of aid, including food, medicine, heavy equipment to clear the bombed buildings and infrastructure, and material to rebuild, is a mandatory step toward sustainable peace following the horrific genocide and devastation of Gaza. Freedom of movement and assembly for Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank must also be assured, as assaults on the Occupied Territory/West Bank should stop. We further urge the cessation of all military aid and assistance to the State of Israel. This statement seeks to hold all parties accountable to deeply-cherished religious convictions and to the fundamental principles of international law.

The voice vote whether to consider Resolution C94 was sustained. The Rev. Columba Salamony presented Resolution C94.

Following discussion, the Bishop called on the Chief Teller to facilitate an electronic vote on Resolution C94.

Bishop recognized The Rev. Columba Salamony who moved **Resolution D94: Concerns about Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)**

Resolved, The Episcopal Diocese of Rochester shares the concerns of other Episcopalians throughout the church, our siblings in other Christian communities, and many others regarding the current actions of the federal government on immigration. We deplore the current model of operations of "ICE" that seems more at home in a totalitarian state than a democracy. The dehumanization (especially by those who self-identify as Christian) of people from different lands is repugnant to the clear sense of Scripture.

Resolved, Our congregations are encouraged to endorse the full text of Leviticus 19:33-34 by placing it in their bulletins or in common spaces in their buildings: "When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. The alien who resides with

you shall be to you as the native-born among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God."

Resolved, We will continue to minister to whoever comes, make no record of citizenship, and work to love our neighbors as ourselves, both inside our congregations and in our communities.

The voice vote whether to consider Resolution D94 was sustained. Rev. Columba Salamony presented Resolution D94.

Rev. Mary Ann Brody from St. John's, Sodus moved an amendment.

Following discussion of the proposed amendment, the voice vote to accept the substitution was sustained.

Discussion on the amended resolution continued.

Rev. Deborah Duguid-May proposed an amendment of the second Resolved statement: to replace "alien" with "stranger" in the Bible verse

Following discussion of the proposed amendment, the voice vote to accept the amendment was not sustained.

Rev. Eric Thompson proposed an amendment: substitution of Bible verse translation in the resolution to use the Common English Bible translation instead.

Following discussion of the proposed amendment, the voice vote to accept the amendment was sustained.

Following discussion of the amended resolution, the Bishop called on the Chief teller to facilitate an electronic vote on Resolution D94. The amended resolution is as follows:

Resolved, the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester shares the concerns of other Episcopalians throughout the church, our siblings in other Christian communities, and many others regarding the current actions of the federal government on immigration. We deplore the current actions of ICE including, arresting people without warrants, detaining people without informing families where their loved one will be held, detaining US citizens, using excessive force, wearing masks that provoke fear, arresting people as they are arriving for required court appearances and immigration check-ins and at worksites. These dehumanizing actions promote fear, division and hate, all antithetical to our Christian values.

Resolved, guided by Leviticus 19:33-34 "When immigrants live in your land with you, you must not cheat them. Any immigrant who lives with you must be treated as if they were one of your citizens. You must love them as yourself, because you were immigrants in the land of Egypt; I am the LORD your God." (Common English Bible) All congregations are invited to post the text in their bulletins and in common places.

Resolved, we will continue to minister to all people, make and post "private spaces" in are buildings as sanctuaries for immigrants, make no record of citizenship, and work to love our neighbors as ourselves, both inside our congregations and in our communities.

Following the closing of the ballot, **The Rev. Jesse Zink began his Convention Address.**

Convention Adjourned for lunch at 12:25.

Business Session II convened at 1:34pm.

Bishop Kara thanked the Convention for the way the body handled the resolutions.

Convention thanked delegates whose terms are ending.

The results of Resolution C94 and D94 were presented.

Resolution C94

Total Ballots Cast: 167		Needed to pass: 85
Yes: 161	No: 2	Abstain: 4

Resolution C94 is carried.

Resolution D94

Total Ballots Cast: 164		Needed to pass: 83
Yes: 159	No: 3	Abstain: 3

Resolution D94 is carried.

Elections

The names of the members of Diocesan Council who have one year left in their term, as well as those who were elected to Diocesan Council by their Convocation were shared. Report on those who have 1 more year on Diocesan Council and those newly elected by Convocation

Rev. Troy Preston, chair of the Nominations Committee, reviewed procedures for voting and procedures for receiving nominations from the floor. Rev. Troy presented nominations to the various offices by title.

There were two nominations from the floor received for Ballot 7: Standing Committee-Clergy:

The Rev. Jim Trimble
The Rev. Keisha Stokes

Rev. Troy moved to close nominations and accept the slate as presented. Motion sustained.

Following the closing of nominations, a prayer, and a song, Ballot 1 was considered using SimplyVoting.

Bishop Kara recognized Lyn Omphroy, Diocesan Treasurer, to present the 2024 Diocesan Audit and Financial Report.

Lyn moved the **2024 Diocesan Audit and Financial Report Resolution**:

That the 94rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester accepts the 2023 Audit and Financial Report, as prepared by the firm of Mengel Metzger Barr & Co., LLC, presented by our Diocesan Treasurers and accepted by the Diocesan Trustees.

There was no discussion. **The resolution was carried using a voice vote**.

Bishop Kara recognized the Chief Teller to share the **Results of Ballot 1**:

BALLOT 1 RESULTS Total Ballots Cast: 165 Needed to Elect: 84	**Name**	**# of votes received**	**Elected**
Commission on Ministry- Clergy: Elect 3	**The Rev. Kenneth Pepin**	117	yes
	The Rev. Richard Krapf	105	no
	The Rev. Rich Towers	112	yes
	The Rev. Roch Whitman	139	yes
Commission on Ministry- Lay Elect 3	Kim Schaff	104	no
	Mary Ann Chiella	124	yes
	Cathy Neally Hubbard	110	yes
	Nicholas Abdallah	128	yes
Disciplinary Board- Clergy: Elect 2	**The Rev. David Hanselman**	156	yes
	The Rev. Gretchen Ratterree	163	yes
Disciplinary Board- Lay: Elect 1	**Steve Kellly**	163	yes
Deputy to General Convention- Clergy: Elect 4	The Rev. Greg Kremer	79	no

	The Rev. Troy Preston	106	yes
	The Rev. Leslie Burkardt	125	yes
	The Rev. Keith Patterson	71	no
	The Rev. Jim Trimble	64	no
	The Rev. Columba Salamony	74	no
	The Rev. Mary Ann Brody	130	yes
Deputy to General Convention- Lay: Elect 4	**Erin Glanton**	156	yes
	Carolyn Mok	162	yes
	Mary White	157	yes
	Anne Galvin	159	yes
Standing Committee- Clergy: Elect 2	**The Rev. Kevin Gore**	142	yes
	The Rev. Keisha Stokes	94	yes
	The Rev. Jim Trimble	59	no
The Rev. Kevin Gore will serve a four-year term on Standing Committee. The Rev. Keisha Stokes will serve a one-year term on Standing Committee.			
Standing Committee- Lay: Elect 1	**Stacy Taylor**	160	yes
Trustees- Clergy or Lay: Elect 3	**Jim Garner**	160	yes
	Les Kernan	160	yes

	Stan Jones	159	yes

A second ballot will be needed in order to elect Clergy Deputies for General Convention.

The Rev. Keith Patterson is withdrew this name from the slate for Clergy Deputies to General Convention.

Ballot 2 was considered using SimplyVoting: Elect 1- Clergy Deputy to General Convention.

Bishop Kara recognized Will Ingle, Diocesan Director of Finance and Administration to present the 2026 Proposed Budget and Diocesan Apportionment. There were no questions for Will following his presentation.

Bishop Kara recognized The Rev. Ginny Mazzarella, Chair of the Diocesan Council Budget Committee, to present the 2026 Diocesan Operation Budget and Apportionment Resolution.

Resolved, that the 94rd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester adopts the 2026 Diocesan Operating Budget of $2,042,187; including approving apportionment of $962,544, as recommended by Diocesan Council; with thanks to the Committees for their work and to all our churches through whom mission and ministry are undertaken.

Bishop Kara recognized the Chief Teller to share the **Results of Ballot 2**:
Total Ballots Cast: 160 Needed to elect: 81

The Rev. Greg Kremer: 63
The Rev. Jim Trimble: 34
The Rev. Columba Salmony: 58

There is no election. The priest with the most votes on Ballot 3 will be elected.

Ballot 3 was considered using SimplyVoting: Elect 1- Clergy Deputy to General Convention.

Business Session II concluded at 2:45.

Convention Eucharist began at 3:05. Courtesy resolutions were presented during Eucharist.

At the conclusion of the Eucharist, Bishop Kara recognized the Chief Teller to share the **Results of Ballot 3:**
Total Ballots Cast: 163 Needed to Elect: 83

The Rev. Greg Kremer: 83
The Rev. Jim Trimble: 21
The Rev. Columba Salamony: 58

The Rev. Greg Kremer is elected.

Convention 94 of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester was adjourned at 4:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Keisha Stokes
Secretary to Convention