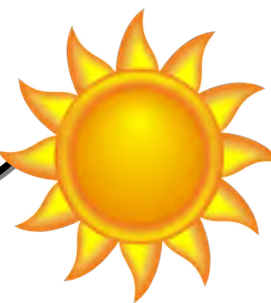


South Dakota Episcopal Church News



www.episcopalchurchsd.org

SUMMER 2020

The Thunderhead Episcopal Camp board is raffling a queen-size star quilt as a fundraiser for camp scholarships. Tickets are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00, available through any TEC board member. The drawing and announcement of the winner will be Sunday, February 7th and announced on the Diocesan Facebook page and the South Dakota Episcopalians Facebook page. The winner will be notified through the contact information provided on the ticket stub.

Contact any of these board members to get raffle tickets: Bob Mayer, Spearfish; Christopher Soukup, Sioux Falls; the Rev. Cody Maynus, Rapid City; David Wheeler, Huron; Don Metcalf, White Horse/Eagle Butte; Tamara Fonder, Wakpala; Doris White, Eagle Butte; Jan Sanford, Madison; the Rev. Mercy Hobbs, Pierre; the Rev. Portia Corbin, Lead; and Julie Gehm, Sioux Falls. They will also be for sale at Diocesan Convention.

Thank you for your support of TEC, and thank you to Grandpa Don Metcalf for donating the quilt!

QUILT RAFFLE



\$2.00
PER TICKET
OR **\$5.00**
FOR 3

QUEEN SIZED
QUILT 96" BY 100"

DRAWING WILL BE
ON SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 7TH

NEED NOT BE
PRESENT TO WIN

All proceeds benefit TEC, Thunderhead Episcopal Camp, and its ministries, specifically the TEC scholarship fund.

Contact Julie at soundslikegame@yahoo.com with any questions.

**The Diocese of
South Dakota**



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“From the Bishop’s Blotter”

Thanks to the Facebook oracle, which keeps track of all our life-events of social note, I learned this morning that it was precisely a year ago today (July 17th) that I arrived in Pierre. Before you begin to fear that this article will be a recap of the past twelve months, however, you may rest easy. It is not. Perhaps to state my purpose a bit more clearly, I see today as the first watercooler stop in our marathon of faithfulness to God’s mission. We may pause at this cooler for a bit, reflect quickly over the course we have traveled thus far, and perhaps even give ourselves a quick, sweaty pat on the back for what’s been accomplished to date. (It is a hundred degrees outside.) But we do so only for a moment. Once the water is downed, and the cup properly disposed of, we set our faces back on the road that lies ahead, we let our shoes find their rhythm, and we start heading towards the next watercooler stop.

Every race can have its obstacles. Sometimes that obstacle might be a hill – or five – that proves to be more challenging than one imagined initially. Sometimes it’s a piece of needed equipment that got left behind, or the weather, or the manifestation of an unexpected blister or leg cramp. Although these obstacles may slow a runner down, or cause a runner to stop and practice self-care, the runner eventually gets back on the road and continues the race. Coming in first, in the marathon of faith, is never the goal. The goal is the completion of the course.

Sometimes, however, an obstacle can be so severe that it can take a runner out of the running entirely – and quite literally. And as I think back through this year, and primarily through the months of the COVID-19 pandemic, I am quite grateful that none of our congregations have seen themselves as being taken out of the race altogether. To be sure, there have been obstacles that have cramped our worship styles and preferences. There have been spiritual muscles that we didn’t know we had that caused us some initial soreness when first exercised. Heck, we were over halfway through the first part of our marathon together when, all of a sudden, our entire trail map changed! But we didn’t get taken out of the running. We didn’t have to quit the race. No golf cart had to pick us up and provide us with the dreaded “ride of shame” as we passed runners who were still faithfully trekking on. We kept going – and we continue to keep going.

I credit the stamina of our congregations, their leaders, and their people to two things: an excellent, faithful, and devoted Coach – and our Coach’s solid training. Many amateur runners would love to have a professional, seasoned marathon runner as their coach. Barring that, they have to make do with programs found in magazines or online. As amateur Christians – and we

are all amateur Christians – our Coach in this marathon of faith is the best in the world. He has run this particular marathon an untold trillion number of times, running alongside each amateur athlete, pacing them, encouraging them, loving them, and nurturing them. His training manual, in fact, has sold more copies than any book each year. And best of all – his training is free. You have to commit to his program for life if you want to see real results – but his training is entirely free.

Those who finish a race will give credit to several different things. They may credit their stamina, their diets, their neon outfits, and even their DNA. But the most consistent element that a runner will credit for their success is their training – and our congregations have been trained well.

So when the obstacle of COVID-19 arrived, all of us relied and fell back on the excellent training of our Coach. His training that has gotten us through all the obstacles of our past and has yet to fail us will get us through this obstacle as well. And as Hebrews 12:1 instructs, it is with patience that we will continue running this marathon of faith – always remembering that coming in first is never the goal. The completion of the course – and navigating the obstacles safely – is all that our Coach requires.



- Leadership
- Praying with the Spirit
- Encouragement
- Pastoring Faith
- Giving
- Discernment Praying
- Administration
- Integrity
- Miracles Preaching Mercy
- Intercession
- Listening Wisdom
- Spiritual Gifts***
- Stewardship Missions
- Apostleship Service
- Evangelism Healing
- Hospitality Compassion
- Teaching

Description of positions open for election at Diocesan Convention.

It is the usual course of business for delegates to vote on nominees to fill various positions. Refer to the nomination ballot for those positions open this year.

Standing Committee—1 lay person
Standing Committee—2 clergy (priest or deacon)

Standing Committee duties:

With a Bishop in charge of the Diocese, the Standing Committee shall be the Bishop's Council of Advice. When the Diocese is without a Bishop...the Standing Committee of the diocese shall be the Ecclesiastical Authority as provided by the General Convention Constitution and Canons. The Standing Committee also plays a part in the ordination process and deals with certain property issues.

The Standing Committee consists of eight members, and election shall be made by the diocesan convention for a term of four years. Members are entitled to election for two terms. The Standing Committee meets 3-4 times a year, or as needed.

A member of Standing Committee is a voting delegate to Annual Convention. A member of Standing Committee is also a member of the Title IV Ecclesiastical Disciplinary Board.

The nomination form is posted on the diocesan website (www.episcopalchurchsd.org) and on the next page

Guidelines Resolutions to Diocesan Convention

All Resolutions are to be submitted in writing to the chair of the Committee on Resolutions. The Very Rev. Ward Simpson, 500 S. Main Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57104-6814 or dean.simpson@calvarycathedral.net.

Please submit before September 15th.

The resolutions should be clearly typed and delivered to the Diocesan Office by the Monday before convention giving time for distribution.

Resolutions should take the following form. *(Please do not begin with "where-as" but simply state the resolution, following by the explanation and rationale.)*

Submitted by: (name of individual, church or deanery).

RESOLVED, that the 136th convention of the Diocese of South Dakota (state the resolution).

RESOLVED, (Further resolves may also be stated).

EXPLANATION: (This is where informative material and rationale for the resolution is inserted. It is used in place of "whereas.")

IMPACT on Budget: (This is where an estimate of costs is placed and suggestions for funding)

According to Rules of Order, Rule number 6.1

No proposed resolution may be submitted for consideration after the close of the first plenary session. All proposed resolutions shall be referred to a Convention committee by the Chair, in consultation with the Dispatch of Business Committee. Such reference may be appealed in the same manner as a procedural decision of the chair.

There must be an opportunity for a hearing on any resolution, other than a courtesy resolution, before it will be brought before the whole body of the convention.

* Resolutions Committee

The Very Rev. Ward Simpson, Chair

**Nomination Form
2020 Annual Diocesan Convention**

DEADLINE: August 26, 2020

Name of Nominee: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Congregation/City: _____

Nominated by:

(Signature)

____ **Yes, I accept this nomination:**

(Signature)

I nominate this person for:

Standing Committee (terms expire 2024)

____ 1 Clergy (Priest or Deacon) to fill 4-year term

____ 1 Lay person to fill 4 year

2020 Convention Registration Form

Circle those that apply

Lay Delegate

Clergy Delegate

Alternate

Diocesan Council

Niobrara Council

Standing Committee

Diocesan Office

Please return completed
Form by September 4, 2020

Last name _____ First name _____

First name is prominent on nametag.

CLERGY, will you be attending the Clergy Conference & Thursday Supper? ___ **YES** ___ **NO**

If YES, including you, how many will attend the supper? _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip + 4 _____

Church _____ Location/City _____

Phone (day) _____ Phone (evening) _____

Email _____

REGISTRATION FEE: (includes meals, snacks, and materials. Saturday breakfast is on your own)

___ **\$60 for Clergy Delegates, Lay Delegates, Alternates**

PAYMENT:

___ **Payment enclosed** (make checks/money orders payable to The Diocese of South Dakota)

INSTRUCTIONS

REGISTRATION: Please use only one (1) name per form.

Return registration forms (and payment - check or money order) by September 4th to:

The Diocese of South Dakota
408 N Jefferson Ave
Pierre, SD 57501

Call (605) 494-2020, or email office@episcopalchurchsd.org if you have any questions.

You have the option to register on-line at www.episcopalchurchsd.org

You may also pay on-line using a credit card. Debit cards do not work.

Payment is a separate step. Use the Donation button at the very bottom of the page.

Payment is preferred in advance, but can be made on-site at the registration table. However, you need to send the registration form in advance.

Registrants need to check in at the Convention Registration table at the First United Methodist Church to receive their packet of materials.

Delegates (Clergy & Lay) must also check in at the Credentials table after registering.

MEALS

Registration fee for Clergy, Delegates and Alternates includes Fri Picnic, Sat Lunch, Breaks, and Materials. Breakfast is on your own.

Have you signed up to receive the latest information regarding Diocesan Convention.

Please speak with your clergy and find out what you need to do.



Only three times in its history did the Niobrara Convocation not convene: in 1876, because of Bishop Hare's poor health; in 1901, because of the danger of small-pox contagion; and 1945, because of conditions during World War II when gas and tire rationing and enforced slower speed limits made travel difficult.

— *That They May Have Life*, Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve, page 78

This year marked the fourth time that Niobrara Convocation was canceled during the past 150 years. The rarity of cancellations gives testament to the importance of Convocation to Native Episcopalians of the Niobrara Deanery.

We are aware that attendance has dropped over the years and yet I still meet Native people of all ages all over the state who have heard of our gathering and have an awareness of the historical significance, even if they have never attended one. A strong and visible symbol of that vital gathering is our Niobrara Crosses hanging on our beaded chains. They are still known as powerful cultural symbols of our independence, strength and resilience. I have presided at funerals of noted elders whose silent presence lying in their caskets at their wakes, is punctuated by the powerful presence of the Niobrara Cross lovingly placed by their descendants around their neck.

The older silver crosses are almost unknown today, since they have been buried with their owners. The few I have seen being worn were usually lost at the time of a funeral of an elder. One of their adult children or grandchildren placed their own newer cross in the casket with their parent or grandparent. We are palpably aware of our history and understand a strong connection to our ancestors that is rarely seen today in any other culture.

There are Natives today who accuse the Church as being White religion and are quick to dismiss these older Church traditions, but what they don't realize is that even though Christianity was brought to us via White People, it was given to us in the L/Dakota language and was embraced by our ancestors as a natural extension of their spirituality. They enculturated the Church as their own and even if the liturgies look like the services used in the Church in the rest of the world, the belief and theology behind those liturgies is our own. We speak of Jesus Christ as our close relative and see Him as a connecting point to all the generations living and past. As we grieve the loss of this year's Convocation, let us use this absence as inspiration to gather next year with greater devotion, observing not just our faith but the faith of our ancestors who attended the first one so long ago.

Hecetu.

The Venerable Paul Sneve

***Fundraising Project 2020** – Focus on South Dakota: Brotherhood of St. Andrew Camp.

This camp is held at St. James' Church in Enemy Swim. Children from around the Sisseton mission benefit from many different activities that stretch their physical and spiritual muscles, all while having fun in a beautiful setting. This camp has been active for decades. Please consider setting aside part of your local fundraising efforts to support this important work of our church. Checks should be written to SD ECW, with BCA Camp on the memo line, and sent to ECW Treasurer Lisa Kautz, 1412 Whitetail Drive, Sturgis, SD 57785.

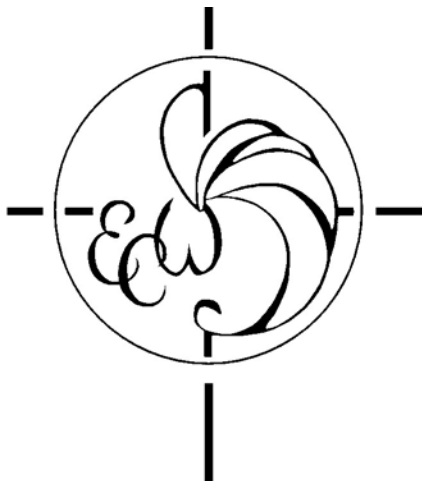
**The Brotherhood of St. Andrews camp is not a Diocesan sponsored camp.

Thank you for your help in supporting this important ministry.

Member info needed: ECW is for all women of the Episcopal Church, whether there is an organized group in your congregation or not.

NO DUES – all we need is your email or cell (texting) number. If you would like to receive information (such as the agenda for our next meeting!), please email 4sdecw@gmail.com or text your name and your church to 605/569-2618.

- Holly Moseley, Vice President



Hello, Everyone.

This has been a really hectic and trying time for me as I'm sure it is with you all.

Due to complications with technology, this report will be short and sweet and hopefully I make the deadline.

First of all, The National Board is waiting to see what happens with pandemic here in the Hills before they commit to coming here for their Retreat. Province VI said they are still planning on coming. All of this is to take place in October.

Secondly, we had our Spring ECW meeting on ZOOM June 20 and Bishop Folts was very gracious to attend and talked about his vision symbolized by five star quilts and what we as ECW can do to help.

Lastly, just to share my idea on transformation, just because the National Board and Providence VI will be here in October, I thought each church could develop something to display what they having been doing in their churches to reach out to the community. You might want to present pictures with narratives on a display board or do a power point.

We want to transform people as they come into our region rather than coming here to transform us. I know many of you are doing some great things, lets share, tell our stories, and let the ripple effect of sharing ideas from one another lift us up to higher levels of glorifying our Lord.

As always keep the faith.

Eileen



Because a friend donated these masks to use last summer, we were able to share some with the Rosebud Sioux Tribe Law Enforcement folks, both the good N95 medical masks as well as the N95 masks used for particulates. We also shared some with the court system, and with the White River Nursing Home.

The Rev. Dr. Lauren R. Stanley
 Superintending Presbyterian, Rosebud Episcopal Mission
 (West)
 605-828-3892

Dear All:

This is a picture of the new trench or “walipini” garden.

It will allow the folks in Batesland to extend their growing season by at least a month and will allow them to start earlier, and perhaps over winter the hardier plants. They are also planting a ground grade or traditional garden. All produce will be given away to anyone who comes by St. Michael's and asks.

We are hoping to have enough produce to can!! A local person (their neighbor, actually) will teach them to plant, tend, and harvest.

Ed+



From St. Mary's,
 Mitchell.
 Scavenger Hunt as part
 of outside Sunday
 School.

Please note: no physical
 distancing as kids and
 adult are part of one
 family.

Thanks, Father Daryl

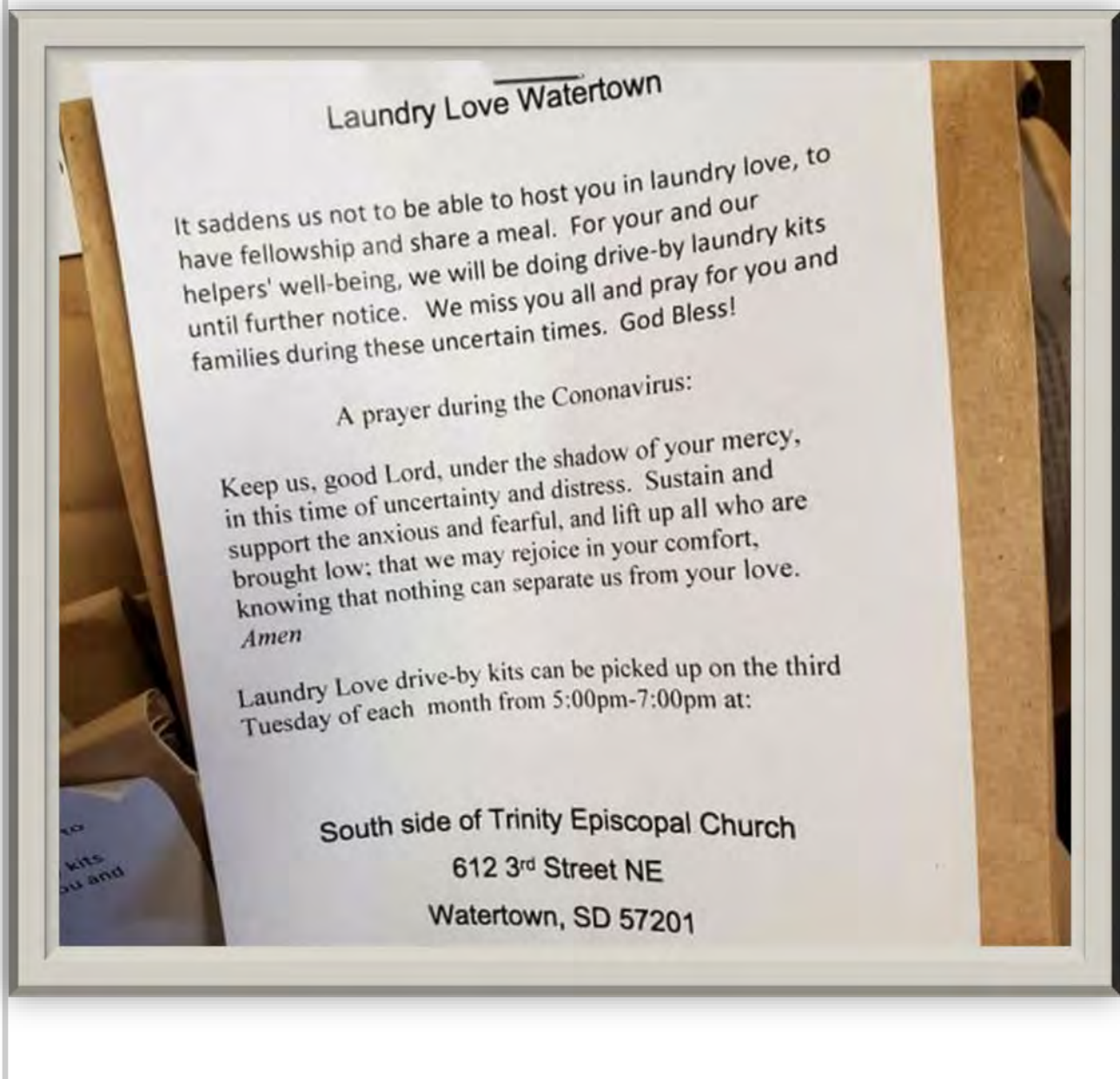


Trinity Watertown has adapted their community outreach project and made it workable during COVID.. Laundry Love has been a passion for Trinity Watertown for 2 years. Usually they meet participants at the laundromat, supply quarters for the laundry machines, detergent and dryer sheets needed for clean laundry.

Trinity also provides a meal for all who participate, along with fellowship. With the guidelines associated with COVID 19, Trinity has decided to alter the way Laundry Love is carried out.

They still supply all the necessary ingredients for clean laundry, and a meal, but now distribute outside the church. The participants drive up and they are handed a bag with quarters needed, laundry soap and dryer sheets, and a sack lunch.

Trinity Watertown is proof that just because times change, good does not have to stop.



**135th Annual Convention of the Diocese of South Dakota
First United Methodist Church, Pierre, SD**

Friday, Sept. 27, 2019

7 p.m. Plenary Session I

1. Opening prayers 7:03 p.m.
2. Call to Order and Introductions
Steven Sanford, Chancellor and Presiding Officer, calls the Convention to order (with a nice joke: "This is the only opportunity in my life to be the guy who wears purple.")
3. Bishop-elect Jonathan Folts then welcomes everyone to the 135th Convention of the Diocese of South Dakota, and thanks the Northeastern Deanery for hosting. He acknowledges that preparation time has been very short and he is very grateful for the work that has been invested. (His joke: 5'6 bishops are in short supply, and thanks Pat LeBeau for making the riser.)
4. Bishop-elect introduces the head table: Steve Sanford as President and Chancellor of the Convention. The Rev. Dr. Lauren R. Stanley is the secretary of the . The Rev. Dr. Chris Corbin serves as Dispatch of Business. Chris Corbin informs Convention how to get messages and requests for the President or Bishop-Elect. If need help, delegates are to raise their yellow card. Sergeant-at-Arms Don Metcalf will ensure someone helps you out.
5. Steve Sanford: Calls on Deacon Marty Garwood for the report of the Credentials Committee.
Marty Garwood: first asks that anyone who does not have a credential card to come see her. She reports that out of a possible 160 lay delegates, 83 are present and entitled to vote. Out of 62 clergy, 41 present and entitled to vote. Bishop-Elect pronounces that we have a quorum.
6. He then focuses on the UTO boxes on the tables. For those not aware, UTO is great blessing to us here in South Dakota. There are so many great opportunities that we have through the UTO. He thanks Linda Simmons, UTO coordinator, for her services, and asks that we only receive "quiet money."
7. Bishop-Elect announces those who cannot make it to Convention, who have left or who have retired, along with those who have died.
8. Bishop-Elect asks Diana Regan to introduce the new ECW officers, but Diana is not present this evening.
9. Bishop-Elect asks Convention to give voice and vote to those priests who are not canonically resident here, which Convention approves
10. Minutes from 2018 Convention:
 - There are two corrections: Deacon Marty Garwood is at St. Andrews, Rapid City, not Emmanuel. She also is only serving on the Standing Committee until noon tomorrow. The Rev. George Parmer moves, The Rev. Michael Johnson seconds, minutes be accepted as amended. Approved.

10C: Ward moves, Michael Mornard seconds. Approved.
11. The Agenda: Harold Walker, St. John's, moves and Joan Sutton, St. Andrew's seconds, to accept agenda. Convention approves.

12. Presentations

Dean Ward Simpson and The Rev. Clay Riley, co-chairs of the Bishop Transition Committee, present on the election process. They went to Sioux Falls, Pierre, Mission, Eagle Butte and Rapid City for walkabouts, and used Facebook Live as well. No one got hurt, no one got stranded. We also had an election. Former Bishop John Tarrant told us we could screw up anything except the election, which went amazingly well, so well we got Jonathan and Kim and the whole family. They thanks the others who ran, The Rev. Mark Story, The Rev. John Floberg, The Rev. Robert Two Bulls Jr. During the election convention, Bp. John, Pat and Jessica received gifts as they went away. The transition then moved to getting the house ready for Jonathan and his family. Dean Simpson and Fr. Clay thanked to Archdeacon Paul Sneve and especially Pat LeBeau for their hard work.

The Consecration will happen here in Pierre on Nov. 2. Please be aware of the calendar of events for Friday and Saturday. Just as a reminder, clergy are expected to be present for meeting with the Presiding Bishop on Friday morning. Please make sure you are there as clergy at 10:45. Everyone involved in the liturgy must be at the rehearsal Friday afternoon at 4:30 p.m. (except for the acolytes) Clergy should plan to be at the high school on Saturday at 10:30 a.m. Lineup begins at 11 a.m. After the liturgy, there will be heavy snacks for the reception.

Bishop-Elect makes announcements:

- * When you are making a motion or seconding one, please stand so we can identify you.
- * When you are coming up to speak, please use both the name of church and the town.
- * Invites everyone to look at the nominations for the elections on Saturday. Some of the candidates unclear for which they are running:

Don Metcalf - General Convention
 The Ven. Paul Sneve - General Convention
 John Red Bear - General Convention
 Robin Bowen, laity - Standing Committee and General Convention
 Dean Ward Simpson - Standing Committee and General Convention
 Claire Hussey - General Convention
 Richard Miner - Standing Committee laity
 Fr. Kim Fonder - General Convention
 Fr. Ed Hunt - Standing Committee
 Mother Annie Henninger - General Convention
 Richard Thompson - General Convention
 Mother Portia Corbin - General Convention
 Mother Lauren Stanley - General Convention
 Father Chris Corbin - General Convention
 Deacon Marty Garwood - Standing Committee
 Father David Hussey - General Convention
 Tamara Fonder - General Convention
 Mother Pat White Horse-Carda - Standing Committee

Bishop-Elect: I have been told and am absolutely thrilled about that we have not had this many people running for this in a long, long time. Please join me in giving thanks.

Chris Corbin makes some announcements:

- 1st, the deadline for nominations must be before the president calls us into recess
 - The tabulation committee meets after the Eucharist tonight
 - Please check out of your hotel room before coming back to convention.
- There will be no break in order to do that.

- Mary Potter showed up with wonderful Dio SD T-shirts that we had on sale, which raised \$425 for Niobrara. The T-shirts will go back on sale again. Information coming soon.
- Mary Potter: Chris Corbin designed.
- A few things about tomorrow: Budget hearing will be at 8 a.m. in this room.
Daily devotions begin in this room at 9 a.m. All are encouraged to come to this.

The second plenary session begins at 9:30.

Bishop-Elect: There will be coffee and cookies in this room from 8 a.m.

Steve Sanford: This concludes this evening. We are in recess at 7:33 p.m.

Plenary Session II: Saturday, 28 September 2019

Steve Sanford called convention to order at 9:30 a.m.

Credentials:

Deacon Marty Garwood reports that out of 160 possible laity, 98 are present and eligible to vote. Out of 62 possible clergy, 41 are present and eligible to vote. We have a quorum.

Bishop-Elect: We have announcements to share:

- * We give thanks for the birth of Kim and Tammy Fonder's great-grandchildren. Triplets were born in Bismarck, N.D., just a little while ago.
- * We give thanks to Fr. Bunker Hill for leading morning devotions.
- * We ask prayers of thanksgiving and continued healing for Ron, our organist last night and this morning. The night before, Ron's father had emergency heart surgery at midnight. His father is doing much better. May your father continue with his healing process.
- * Diana Regan is here to introduce the new ECW President and Honored Woman for 2019. Diana, the outgoing President of ECW, introduces Eileen Brunel from Pine Ridge as the new President. We had a meeting yesterday, and Eileen's list of accomplishments and things she does is long. Our incoming new Vice President is Holly Mousley. We are honored to have them, and appreciate your willingness.

Vicky Sweet, Honored Woman chair, announces Jean Lacher from St. Paul's, Brookings, is the 2019 Honored Woman.

Diana: It is an honor to be up here. Thank you for your support, and I urge your continued support.

Bishop-Elect asks for a round of applause for the outgoing officers and the time and effort they have given. He addressed them at the ECW meeting. The power emanating from that room was palpable. Chris Corbin: We have a quick presentation about the scholarships, and ask Sandy Magnavito to do the scholarships. Last year there were none. This year we gave four. Acknowledge first Claire Hussey, Trinity, Pierre, studying chemistry and biology. Rebecca Bonivan, St. Paul's, Brookings, is majoring in economics, minor in music and Human Resources. Debbie Landreau is from Fort George. And finally, Jennifer Soukup, from Good Shepherd, Sioux Falls.

Scholarship Committee: Carol Cloud Eagle announces that Lisa Kautz is the new treasurer. The good news is, if we have more than two applicants, St. Mary's School also has a scholarship program, and they can be referred there so that everyone gets a scholarship.

Chris Corbin has several announcements:

- If you are on Diocesan Council, Standing Committee, or belong to the ECW, there are directories for you.

- The 2020 calendars are in. If you ordered any, please get them. If you have not paid, you can pay first.
- Remember, when you leave: Turn your name tags in, box by door.
- Please turn in your red, green, and yellow cards as well.
- Please turn in your folders if you don't need them. They go with the cards
- Please take your belongings when we leave for workshops.
We will still have more convention to do.
- The Transition committee will be meeting on the couches on the 2nd floor.
- The Central Deanery is meeting at 12:45 in the TCC.
- The Exhibit Room is up and going down the hall. Please do visit.
- The UTO supplies and boxes in there.
- The T-shirts are back on line.
- The Standing Committee is meeting at lunch today.

Bishop-Elect: After the 10:30 break, the address will be held in church, not here. That will be at 11 a.m. in the worship space.

Steve Sanford: Report of Parliamentarian:

We have no resolutions to be presented to the body. About the only thing we are going to vote on as a body will be on the budget.

Bishop-Elect calls on Pat LeBeau.

Pat: We will be voting for the Standing Committee first.

Bishop-Elect: We are voting for two Standing Committee members in the clergy order. The top vote-getter will serve the four-year term, the second vote-getter will serve the two-year term. He announces the candidates again.

Bishop-Elect then announces the General Convention candidates, and instructs delegates to vote for four in each order

Steve Sanford reminds everyone that they must have a credential to vote.

Don Metcalf distributes the ballots.

VOTE

Bishop-Elect invites The Rev. Portia Corbin to please come forward for the Youth Presentation.

Portia Corbin:

Good morning. I always start every year by telling you how happy am to see everyone and how wonderful it is to be here. It is always good to see you all, and I am still so grateful for being here.

Wanna know about 2019 camp season? We had over 100 campers. We are staying steady. That's the good news.

The camp program we did this year: I am a big fan of believing our children are smart. And are deep ly spiritual. I don't make "kids' programs." I make good spiritually mature programs that can be accessible for our kids. That's what we did. This year we explored the rule of life, the ancient monastic traditions. Monastics wrote out a rule of life to regulate themselves. This year instituted our own rule of life. We read from rule of life at every meal, acknowledging that we were gonna mess it up and then forgive each other. The program had the kids write their own rule of life. We adapted the SSJE workbook and the kids explored their own rule of life.

It was pretty cool stuff.

We explored four different areas: Relationships with God, with ourselves, with others, and with resources. In the workbooks, one camper wrote, for the relationship with God, that they would try to pay attention in church. (Don't we all say that?)

For the relationship with self: I will start to develop a relationship with myself, because if i don't have one with myself, how am I supposed to have one with others? How can I love others if I don't love myself? How can I treat others with respect if I don't treat myself with respect.?

We explored what kinds of people we want to have relationships with. They are trying to figure out what they want to look for in life partner. One camper said, "I want to have relationships with people that I can trust, that can trust me, I want to have relationships with people that won't tease me, with people who will understand my differences, that will be honest with me, that don't get into trouble and won't get me into trouble." Don't we all?

One camper wrote, "My parents, because sometimes we don't get along and I need to change that."

If you had conversation with God, what do you hope God would say to you? Some of the responses:

1. "I hope he would say that he accepts me." Don't we all?
2. "To never give up." Don't we all want to hear that from God?
3. "I hope that God would say that I was going to be ok." Don't we all?

Today, that our camp program and our program for young people is not about age, because church isn't about age. It's about longing and belonging, and don't we all want that?

Thank you for making it possible for us to invite people of all ages, to nourish those longings. We could not do without the commitment of the Diocese and all of you.

Projects: Our new ones are going well. We have a brand-new beautiful tongue-and-groove wood ceiling in chapel, and give special thanks to Bob Mayer. Also just as of this week, we have brand new, beautiful carpet squares in chapel. We are still going to be replacing the windows in that building. I am also very excited to tell you that the flooring project in SuperTent is going to be completely finished tomorrow. It's beautiful, but also is a celebration of what happens when we put the time and money into keeping our spaces up to date; then we're more able to serve our kids and give them a place where they know they belong. Thank you for the projects and support. If you see kids who work there, thank them. They do the hard hard work. (*Standing ovation for her report and her work.*)

Bishop-Elect: Courtesy resolutions: see notes.

1. Mark Marion Aberdeen, Mary Potter Sioux Falls. Approved
2. Isaiah, Watertown, Marty Garwood, approved
3. Mary Soukup, Sioux Falls, Kate ????? Calvary, Sioux Falls approved
4. Bitsy Ceisel, moved, Kim Fonder second. approved
5. Kelly Buscher, Trinity Pierre, Jean Mornard, Huron, approved.

Chris Corbin;s announcements:

- First of all, the Standing Committee meets, during lunch, in the Wesley room.
- We have packets of flyers for our ministry weekends
- St. Mark's, Aberdeen, has prayer blankets in the exhibit room
- I ask your prayers for Dean Carda, who has bone-marrow cancer
- Bunker Hill: all clergy are expected to take continued education every year. Chris Corbin explains that all clergy or on mutual ministry ministry team, MUST do 24 hours continuing education credit per year. Individual Niobrara School for Ministry classes counts for 6 hours. The Diocese keeps track. Dakota Experience equals 12 hours. Clergy conference counts for 6 hours.

Bishop-Elect: I want to share with you what I shared with the clergy. As some of you know, I spent part of my ministry at Diocese of West Texas, they did research on this. They looked at clergy who quit being clergy. All had one thing in common: None had done any continuing education in the past 10 years. This is extraordinarily important. The learning and forming of being Christian people does not stop. We are continually being formed. Clergy need to take advantage of continuing education. Congregations need to support them financially and time-wise, so they can go off and then come back

renewed, refreshed, and better leaders. This is a national canon. It is that important. Clergy siblings and congregations, please do take advantage of these opportunities.

Chris Corbin: Anyone in the Diocese of South Dakota, lay or ordained, can come to NSM weekends.

Deacon Bitsy Ceisel: Does the clergy retreat count as well?

Bishop-Elect: Yes

Paul Sneve: So does the Dakota Experience. All employees are expected to go. If you are on a committee or commission, you must go. This is to remind ourselves of history and culture and who we are. It's lots of fun, and you learn some good stuff. And the food is usually pretty darned good.

Fr. Ed Hunt: I want to commend the Bishop-Elect for the letter to clergy asking us to make reservations now.

Mother Pat White Horse-Carda: Does CREDO count?

Chris Corbin: Yes, for the year you went to CREDO.

Marty Garwood: We can't hear the questions.

Chris Corbin: Yes, I will reiterate. CREDO is for clergy - there are four levels.

Bishop-Elect: It is 10:28. The Bishop's address in worship space, and then we will reconvene.

Steve Sanford: Be at ease for a few minutes. At 10:35, we will take our morning break.

Bishop's address

Results of the Standing Committee election:

Four-year clergy: Deacon Marty Garwood

Two-year clergy: The Rev. Pat White Horse-Carda

Lay: Richard Miner

Results of the General Convention election;

Clergy: Paul Sneve, Kim Fonder, Ward Simpson, Portia Corbin.

alternates Chris Corbin, Annie Henninger; David Hussey, and Lauren Stanley

Lay: Warren Hawk, Don Metcalf, Claire Hussey, John Red Bear;

alternates: Robin Bowen; Tammy Fonder; Richard Thompson

The workshops take place.

At 3:30 p.m., Steve Sanford reconvenes Convention and calls it back to order.

Bishop-Elect: Thank you for coming back and appreciate you returning. The offering from last night, which will be for Camp Remington and TEC, was \$647.58

Before turning the mike over to Kelly Parker, I want to thank her for time and service. She's resigning at end of November; she and her family are moving. I am saddened to see her go, because she has been an important part of this Diocese. I am grateful for her time and talents. One of the learnings was when she was hired; the Diocese tried an experiment of hiring a financial officer half-time. Based on reports I have received, that experiment did not work. We were paying for 20 hours a week, and expecting 40 hours. Between experience and degrees, the \$14,000 per year was insufficient. I am officially reporting to you that that experiment did not work. We are increasing the hours of the financial officer from half-time to three-quarters time with a salary that matches those expectations. (*Standing ovation.*)

Kelly Parker: Thank you. That was very kind. I had hoped to be here for a very long time. My heart is breaking. The Diocese is so wonderful and welcoming. I wish we didn't have to go, but we do. I get to stay until the end of November and will train the new person. I will come back for the January training session.

Insurance papers: These are now covering cyber crimes and hacks. The other paper is on the annual injured-at-work policy.

Budget presentation:

- The blue pages are the Diocesan operational budget.
- The Chapter budget is based on stock market performs. The expenses that come out of the Chapter are insurance rates, which we do not control.
- The second page of this, under personnel expenses,
 - This bishop is more expensive than the last bishop. But he's soooooo worth it! Clap for him.
 - There is a \$400-per-month increase for the mission clergy, Marlys and the transition/missioner development officer. South Dakota's clergy are paid the least in the nation. We have moved from dead last to dead last, but not as badly dead last. The Mission clergy health insurance went up 7 percent.
 - Unforeseen emergencies: Sometimes things happen.
 - The rest of operational expenses decreased. We don't have to vote on that, because we already made the changes (phones, equipment, etc).
- Outsourced expenses:
 - There are some new things, such as childcare at meetings, tech support, new software, legal (newly on its own line)
- Revenue section: The Block Grant from The Episcopal Church we are assuming will be smaller. The Endowment draw will be higher. The draw would have to be 3.825 percent, which is well below the maximum we set for ourselves.
- Also, the property repair budget is \$40,000 and we need to keep it at that level.
- We received a heads-up from Trinity, Pierre, that our water rates are going up so we will have to pay that.

Steve Sanford asks for a motion to approve the budget:

Fr. Clay Riley, Spearfish, moves, and Michael Mornard, Huron, seconds.

Any questions?

Hearing no further discussion, all in favor please say "aye." There is unanimous approval.

We have a budget.

Kelly Parker: The pay stubs are here, as well as Insurance and other paperwork.

Bishop-Elect calls for announcements:

Chris Corbin announces again on what to do with nametags and anything to be recycled, and asks for help with clean up.

Quilt auction: Father Kim Fonder ran the quilt auction.

Bishop-Elect thanks everyone who came and invested thoughts and prayers in the Convention. You honor the congregations you represent, you honor yourselves, and most importantly, you honor God by attending.

Bishop-Elect closes with prayer and blessing

Steve Sanford: The presiding officer has the power to adjourn without a vote and I just did it.

Convention adjourned at 4:04 p.m. Respectfully submitted by the Rev. Dr. Lauren Stanley

Report to 2020 Convention

Deacons- Bishop Folts and I worked with our Deacons to draft an Advocacy Letter to be sent to our legislators. This letter outlined the initial needs and issues that our Deacons had observed among their communities regarding the COVID19 pandemic.

Mission Support- Bishop Folts has also asked me to assist our Congregations that were considering re-starting in-person worship again. I have worked with several congregations to carefully consider options and precautions to ensure the safety of their congregations. I have also served as a resource to assist with our clergy and congregations to plan funerals during this pandemic.

BCP Translation- I have invited various people to sit on the Editorial Committee and that group is growing. This group will oversee their local efforts to translate specific liturgies. In addition, the Editorial Committee is establishing Vocabulary and Editorial guidelines. We are currently compiling existing work into a digital format which will be made available almost immediately. As liturgies are completed, they can be added to the digital book, with the eventual goal of having physical copies made. As things are now, we have a third to a half of the Book of Common Prayer translated, and this material is being made ready to be digitized. We are in communication with UTO and are working out how to satisfy their requirements and still extend our time to complete this important project.

Anti-Racism

Local- We have scheduled a workshop entitled “We are all related” to be tentatively held October 16-17 in Pierre. This combined with Dakota Experience will satisfy the Canonical Requirements for ongoing Anti-racism and Doctrine of Discovery Training for Church Employees. Bishop Folts has asked our clergy in particular to do “Refresher Courses” to ensure compliance as well as to work towards making our churches welcoming and safe places for everyone. Dakota Experience was taught at St. Matthew’s in Rapid City on September 13-14 as well as at Good Shepherd in Sioux Falls on November 15-16.

National- I have been serving on the Executive Council’s Committee on Anti-Racism and Reconciliation for nearly two trienniums now and we are discussing creating national policies/guidelines for consideration at General Convention over promoting diversity in leadership formation. I am also working with various individuals in writing a Native Supplement to the Anti-racism Training Framework. We have Zoom meetings once a month.

Extra-Diocesan activities

New Community Gathering: The Presiding Bishop’s Office has asked that I serve on the Design Team for the New Community Gathering which has been scheduled for October 30-31 as a Zoom Conference of this year.

BOS- I’m going to create an outline for a Historical Trauma Healing Service which hopefully will be included in the next General Convention’s Book of Occasional Services printing. We are hoping to make assignments to individuals from different tribes/regions to write distinct parts of the liturgy.

I continue to serve as the Vicar to St. Paul’s in Vermillion. I am grateful for their strong involvement in the spiritual life of this community.. This year we are trying to increase our community visibility, reaching out to the University staff and students. Calvary Cathedral has also utilized me to provide Sacramental support for the Tiospaye Wakan Congregation as well as to oversee the application to have this congregation become a Parochial Mission.

Prayerfully submitted,
The Ven. Paul Sneve

Report to 2020 Convention

This has been a year of transition for the Commission on Ministry (COM) as Bishop John retired and Bishop Jonathan began his ministry with the Diocese of South Dakota. Due to the transition, Bishop Jonathan put a hold on new persons entering the process for a while and met with COM members to discuss a draft of what the discernment process will be in our diocese.

Three individuals already in the process were ready to get recommendations to move forward in their process. Because of the pandemic, the Commission on Ministry members and Standing Committee met jointly via Zoom and conducted interviews with the three individuals. Bishop Jonathan was also present. As a result of these interviews, COM recommended one person for candidacy toward ordination to the priesthood and recommended another person for candidacy for ordination to the permanent diaconate. The third person had already been recommended for candidacy toward ordination to the priesthood by the COM, so that person needed Standing Committee recommendation only.

Current members of the Commission on Ministry are Shirley Crane, Carol Cloud Eagle, Barbee Hovelson, Michael Johnson, Jean Mornard, Christina O'Hara, Linda Simon, Barb Simpson, and Judy Flagstad. Judy Flagstad currently serves as the chair of the commission.

For the Commission on Ministry
Judy Flagstad

Property Manager's Report– Mr. Pat LeBeau

Since last year's Convention, we have had several storms and fires that have ruined some of our buildings. We have had several units damaged due to hail storms.

We are hearing from our Insurance Co. that they will NOT pay for "cosmetic" damages!! This means that those with damages that do not cause leaks within the building, will NOT get any funds. So you local churches like Sturgis will have to address your losses somehow.

On our Reservation churches, we have units and work to be done, but no workers. Remember, it is the local church members duty and responsibility to do the upkeep on your buildings, plus the upkeep of the cemeteries.

With Marlys' help, she and I have developed a system where we do the annual tax exemption reports and update rental lease agreements. We have been amazed at the amount of extra work Barney did besides his financial duties.

When Barney was deciding to retire, I agreed to act as part time Property Manager, when Bishop John asked me to help out. Due to injuries on both of my hands, I am unable to do much of any work that requires any strength, so I let Bishop Johnathan that I am "Fully" retiring at the end of the year or at Convention, his option. I also am retiring from the TEC board...I have been in some office or another since 1984, and I need time to spend with my wife and family, entirely...It has been good helping out when needed, but I stayed on this long so the new Bishop can look for my replacement.

Respectfully submitted, Mr. Pat LeBeau, Property Manager

Convention Report 2020

It's hard to believe it's been a year since our last annual convention report—of course, unlike in many years' past, this is more because it feels like so, so much more time than only a year has passed since last September. Our Diocese, and, indeed, the whole world around us, has seen some considerable changes. Despite—and indeed sometimes because of—these changes, our Diocese continues the hard and rewarding work of proclaiming the Kingdom of God and working for the reconciliation of all people and things to God through Jesus Christ.

There was certainly no shortage of work in transition ministry over the course of this last year. To begin with, I completed, in consultation with Bishop Folts, a manual to guide and assist congregations and clergy going through ministerial transitions. Emmanuel in Rapid City was the first to make use of this new resource and went through their entire search process over the course of the last year, including developing and promoting their profile, accepting names, doing interviews, and extending a call to a new rector. The result is that the Rev. John David Barnes, from Thermopolis, Alabama, began serving Emmanuel on August 1, 2020. Emmanuel's was not the only clergy change in Rapid City as St. Andrew's also received a new rector this year—the Rev. Cody Maynus, who will serve half-time as rector of St. Andrew's and half-time as program director at Thunderhead Episcopal Center, came to our Diocese in late December 2019. Finally, we are extremely excited by the fact that Cheyenne River Episcopal Mission had not one, but two, new clergy enter into ministry with the people there. The Revs. Ellen and Kurt Huber, coming to us from the Diocese of Connecticut, began a new stage in their ministry working together in Cheyenne River. They began August 15th as Priests-in-Charge of the Mission with the possibility that after three years they can be named Superintending Presbyters. Finally, Christ Church, Yankton continues to search for a part-time rector, although as of my writing this report there are several excellent leads for this position so it is entirely possible that as of your reading this there will be plans for a new rector there as well.

While COVID-19 changed some plans toward the end of the program year, Niobrara School for Ministry had an excellent array of class offerings and fantastic attendance from the people around the Diocese this last year. Topics included the intersection of liturgy and ethics from Prof. Bruce Morrill, intercultural communication from The Rev. Shaneequa Brokenleg, Seven Things Everyone Should Know about Dakota, Lakota, and Nakota People in South Dakota from Dr. Craig Howe, and a course on improving congregational singing from Michael W. Smith. Even though two of the six planned courses had to be postponed or canceled, over 50 people from around our Diocese participated in these classes. Going into the 2020-2021 Niobrara School for Ministry program year, we hope to continue this tradition of excellent course offerings, but we also will be making some slight modifications to their focus and scale. To begin with, in line with what you will see in the discussion of the discernment and formation process for ministry, Ministry Weekends will shift much more toward being for continuing education and enrichment rather than ministerial formation. We want to focus on these as opportunities for the people of our Diocese, lay and clergy alike, to continue developing their skills and knowledge for the ministries they are doing in the church right now (as an aside, I can never say too many times that Ministry Weekends are open to *everyone*, both lay and clergy alike, in our Diocese). The other change is that we will try to limit the number of offerings per program year to four: In the past few years, we attempted to do five or six classes in addition to Dakota Experience, and the result was that at least one of these courses tended to suffer considerably in terms of attendance. This led us to believe that we simply were offering too many courses too close together. While our Ministry Weekend offerings for 2020-2021 are not set in stone yet, we hope to begin with the postponed course from The Rev. Laurie Brock on preaching the Old Testament, and then offer a course on the Constitution and

Canons/Title IV, invite Dr. Howe back again, and provide training on how to better help identify people who may be called to ministry in your community.

Finally, in addition to what is going on with Niobrara School for Ministry, there are a number of important and exciting changes that have happened in the areas of diocesan ministerial discernment and training as we develop and live into our formation Star Quilt. First and foremost, the formal discernment process has been reopened, allowing those who feel they may have a call into ordained or catechetical ministry to begin exploring this possibility in a more structured and directed way. There are two big changes in this new formal process. First, those in discernment will need to get a sense from the beginning of what kind of ministry they may be called into and then attend an initial information day on that particular order or form of ministry (the priesthood, diaconate, or order of catechists). The diocesan process *cannot* proceed for someone until they have gone to this initial information day to learn from those engaged in priestly, diaconal, or catechetical ministry about how these ministries play out “on the ground.” The first such information day was held digitally on August 1, 2020 and we hope to have another sometime in the beginning of 2021. The second big change is that the Commission on Ministry will be much more involved in the formal discernment process, including an initial conversation with aspirants prior to the discernment retreat that prior to the formal postulancy interview. Moreover, everyone who goes through the formal discernment process, even if it is determined that they are not called to the priesthood, diaconate, or order of catechists, will have a chance to meet with the Commission on Ministry so that the Commission may assist them in identifying their particular lay ministry as well as steps to take to flourish in that ministry. This additional support provided by the Commission on Ministry is part of our ongoing attempt to make the formal discernment process about discovering someone’s “yes” rather than simply making it a matter of a “yes” or “no” to ordained ministry.

There are also a few changes to how formation will take place for those for whom a call to ordained ministry is discerned. Those training to become deacons will still have the option of either going through a course of study through Niobrara School for Ministry or attending a seminary/divinity school (either a distance learning or residential structure) or any other program authorized by the Office of Indigenous Ministries of the Episcopal Church. Those training for the priesthood, on the other hand, will have to attend either a seminary/divinity school (again either a residential or distance learning format will be fine) or a program authorized by the Office of Indigenous Studies. In other words, Niobrara School for Ministry will no longer offer a separate program for priestly formation. Furthermore, in any instance where a person elects to go to a seminary/divinity school for diaconal or priestly formation, they will have to demonstrate how they can do this without incurring debt during their studies. This expectation does not mean that only those with significant financial means can attend seminary: Virginia Theological Seminary offers both free tuition and housing for students and Sewanee offers free tuition. In addition several other seminaries, such as Berkeley at Yale, offer significant scholarships up to full tuition for select students. This expectation comes largely from the desire for clergy to be able to enter into ministries missionally, based on their gifts and call, rather than the need to meet some minimum salary threshold.

In the end, each of the five Star Quilts—relationships, communication, formation, transformation, and advocacy—have an impact on ministerial development, which includes training and education, diocesan publicity, fundraising, discernment, and recruitment. We will continue striving for excellence in all these things both because such striving is part of our faithfulness to God and because the people of the Diocese of South Dakota deserve nothing less than excellence in those who serve them.

Respectfully submitted by, Canon Chris Corbin

The Standing Committee is elected by the Diocesan Convention, which each year elects one layperson and one clergy person to serve four-year terms. The canons allow up to two of the clergy seats to be occupied by deacons. Currently, all four clergy persons are priests. The current membership of the Standing Committee (terms expire with the election of a successor at the Diocesan Convention in the year indicated):

2020: The Rev. Dr. Lauren R. Stanley, Joan Sutton
2021: The Rev. Pat White Horse-Carda, Tamara Fonder
2022: The Rev. David Hussey, Tally Salisbury
2023: The Rev. Deacon Marty Garwood, Richard Miner

Annually at the first meeting following the election of new members, the Standing Committee elects a President and Secretary who serve until the next Diocesan Convention. In September 2020, The Rev. David Hussey was re-elected President of the Standing Committee; The Rev. Dr. Lauren R. Stanley was re-elected Secretary.

During the year ending June 30, 2020, the Standing Committee took the following actions:

- The Standing Committee continued in its role overseeing the election of the 11th Bishop of South Dakota, the Rev. Dr. Jonathan H. Folts, who was elected Bishop-Elect on May 4, 2019;
- Handled the Consent Process for Standing Committees in The Episcopal Church to receive sufficient consents for The Rev. Dr. Jonathan H. Folts;
- Worked with the Chancellor and Bishop-Elect Folts on the final ministry agreement between the Diocese of South Dakota and the Bishop-Elect;
- Worked with the Chancellor and Bishop-Elect Folts on the preparation and holding of the 135th Annual Diocesan Convention in Pierre in September 2019;
- Oversaw the consecration of Bishop-Elect Folts as the Bishop of South Dakota, working with the Transition Committee, the Office of the Presiding Bishop, the Office of the General Convention and Bishop-Elect Folts, which took place on November 2, 2019, in Pierre.

The Standing Committee, working with Bishop-Elect Folts and the Diocesan Chancellor invited the Rt. Rev. Joe Burnette, serving as Interim Rector at Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Rapid City, to exercise Episcopal offices in the Diocese of South Dakota, limited to National Canons I.19.2(a), which is related to marital status of Episcopalians in this Diocese; Canon IV.19.25, which is related to clergy discipline; and Canon III.13.2, which is related to the exercise of Episcopal offices in the absence of a Bishop. This was to cover the time between the retirement of the 10th Bishop of South Dakota, The Rt. Rev. John Tarrant, on July 1, 2019, and the ordination and consecration of the 11th Bishop of South Dakota, The Rt. Rev. Jonathan H. Folts, on November 2, 2019.

In addition to the Search Process, the Standing Committee voted:

- To consent to the election of The Rev. Dr. Lennon Yuang-Rung Chang as Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Taiwan.
- To consent to the election of The Rev. Martha “Marty” Stebbins as Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Montana.
- To consent to the election of The Rev. Canon Frank S. Lotus as Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Georgia.
- To consent to the election of The Very Rev. Craig Loya as Bishop Diocesan of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota.
- To consent to the election of The Rev. Dr. Glenda S. Curry as Bishop Co-Adjustor of the Diocese of Alabama.
- To approve the candidacy of James Foster for ordination to the priesthood.
- To approve the candidacy of Lydia Hird Simmons for ordination to the priesthood.
- To approve the candidacy of Mark Marion for ordination to the permanent diaconate.
- To approve a diocesan loan of \$15,000 for a new roof for Grace Episcopal Church, Madison.

Respectfully submitted, The Rev. Dr. Lauren R. Stanley Secretary, Standing Committee

November 2019

- 1) Diocesan Council agreed to research advantages of switching our investments from Raymond James to the DFMS (Domestic & Foreign Missionary Society).
- 2) Diocesan convention plan was reviewed, what worked, what didn't, what could be adjusted. Some suggestions, better foot traffic for registration, placement of the exhibit tables and the method of ballot counting.
- 3) The use of a disciplinary board was discussed and members to the board were approved.
- 4) Commission on Ministry, what role they have in the diocese and who is to serve was discussed and the list of members was approved by diocesan council.
- 5) Cheyenne River Mission diocesan council was made aware that the Rev. Margaret Watson was no longer the Superintending Presbyterian of the CREM as of December 1, 2019. A severance package was discussed and approved.
- 6) Property issues were discussed in detail. The continuing theme regarding property in the diocese can be summed up in the following. A) Finding people to rent either land or buildings from the missions and keeping up on the collection of rent is always an issue. B) Financial upkeep of the properties. We have several buildings all needing some degree of repair, the majority are old and needing constant or major repairs. C) Finding congregations with members able and willing to do the upkeep repairs to their family churches. Not to mention finding the financial fund to be able to make said repairs and upkeep.
- 7) Kelly Parker has resigned and the Rev. Judy Flagstad along with the diocesan treasurer Ellen Walker will fill in until a suitable candidate has been hired.

February 2020

- 1) Much of the meeting was dedicated to the financial status of the diocese. Since November, the Rev. Judy Flagstad and Ellen Walker have been filling in as the Financial Officer. Diocesan Council was informed that this was a much larger mess to untangle and we therefore asked Mr. Randy Barnhardt to come out of retirement and help the diocese. A new corrected budget was reviewed and approved by diocesan council.
- 2) TEC finances were discussed and a sub committee was formed to discuss a fund raiser for the walk in refrigerator that must be replaced.
- 3) Mr. Mitch Honan was introduced to the council and approval was given to authorize him on all financial business.
- 4) After reviewing where the diocese has their investments, diocesan council concluded that the gain or loss of moving the funds was minimal and therefore at this time no move is suggested.
- 5) Property issues, OMMS and the rebuild of a guild hall destroyed in a fire, Incarnation, Gregory building still up for sale, and the continual repairs needed, and property needing to be leased giving mission churches an income for repairs, insurance and pledge.
- 6) The Holiday policy was updated adding in Presidents Day.
- 7) Grace Church, Huron made a request from the Centennial Chapter Fund. The first step is the Standing Committee to review then their recommendation are given to the diocesan council.
- 8) 2020 Niobrara Convocation plans are progressing, the North Dakota side of the Standing Rock Mission is hosting.

May 2020, Covid-19 hit our area in the beginning of March and diocesan council meet via Zoom.

- 1) Bishop Folts shared with council that the clergy are meeting weekly to discuss local impact of the coronavirus. Shared how to best serve their congregations, online services and or alternatives.
- 2) Rosebud Mission applied for a grant from Episcopal Relief and Development.
- 3) A letter was sent to Gov. Noem & staff sharing the struggles our Deacons have seen or experienced in their communities.
- 4) Reopening of Churches: this was discussed at great length. We will follow the CDC and WHO guidelines and suggestions. Bishop Folts asked that we remember to process and examine our fears and those of our congregations as we muddle thru this phase.
- 5) Chancellor Steve Sanford reviewed the long standing issue between the diocese and Mr. C. Montilleaux. Steve updated council on the possible sale of the church building, Incarnation, Gregory.
- 6) Mitch updated the council on where we are sitting financially and the fee for Convention was set at \$60.
- 7) Canon Chris Corbin discussed positions open in the diocese, the Niobrara School and ways to make tithing to individual churches easier for congregations.
- 8) Property issues were discussed

April 16, 2020 via Zoom

A proposal on how best to pay the salaries for two clergy to be on the CREM was presented voted & passed. Discussion was held on the how this will impact the diocesan budget in the future.

Rev. Grant Robert Two Bulls, Šúnka Bloká (He Dog).

The month of June we honored our Dad, the Rev. Robert Grant Two Bulls, for his 40-year Anniversary as a priest, ordained in June 1980 at Parmalee, Rosebud Mission.

My Dad is now retired, but still conducts Sunday services, funerals and even a wedding or two. With a smile on his face he said a priest “never really retires.”

Recently, in honor of my Dad’s 40th Anniversary I decided to write a story about his life and journey into the priesthood. After research of family archives, interviews, and my Dad's own words, it’s now turning into an illustrated book. I’m learning that the information is so valuable, that I would need to record and document his story in order to pass on to his descendants. For this article, the following is a condensed version of our Dad's life.

The Honorable Peter and Martha Two Bulls, Sr. family lived in a small log cabin on their land overlooking the Badlands. The Two Bulls tiyospaye all lived on Red Shirt Table, a long stretch of land, covering over 20 miles, on the far northwest edge of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The homestead was about 1.5 miles from where Christ Church, Red Shirt Table still stands. In fact, Dad currently has a home a few feet from where he was born.

The cabin, now long gone, was left behind when cluster homes were brought to the Red Shirt community in 1940. These homes were from the eighteen families organized as the Red Shirt Table Development Association. They adopted a constitution and bylaws that provided for livestock, subsistence gardening, and poultry enterprises —each activity to operate independently of the others.

The government also secured several tracts of land along the Cheyenne River on which the Oglalas built nine houses, three root cellars, a canning kitchen, dairy barn, schoolhouse, poultry shed, and irrigation system. The Civilian Conservation Corps - Indian Division (CCC-ID) provided most of the labor in the construction. *Eugene Clements, Red Shirt Table-A Community Working Toward Self-Support.* Around 1940, my grandparents moved to the village with their large family, into one of these houses.

On April 4, 1934, my Dad was born. Dad was the first-born son, in the family of 6 daughters and 5 sons. The story goes, as told by my grandparents, that soon after my Dad was born, three elderly men came one by one to see the new son. Because my Dad was the first-born son, it was customary to pay respects to the family. The first to come into the small room was Grant High White Man, who was Grandma Martha’s uncle. Grant High White Man, was a Presbyterian catechist, ordained in 1913. Grandpa Grant was the son of High White Man, who fought in the Battle of Little Big Horn, alongside Crazy Horse. In the 1904 US Census, Grant was listed as the son of High Whiteman. He told my grandma that the baby will be strong and healthy and be named *Grant*.

Next came Robert White Plume, Episcopal deacon, stationed at Manderson. He said the baby will have his name Robert. Next, elder Sunka Bloka came in. Sunka Bloka (He Dog) was a War Shirt Wearer and fought at the Fetterman Fight, the Battle of Little Big Horn, the Battle of Rosebud Creek, and the Battle of Slim Buttes. He grew up with Crazy Horse and was interviewed by many authors doing research about the old ways and about the Battle of Little BigHorn. Also, a judge, he died in 1936. Sunka Bloka gave the baby his name and said that the baby will have a long life like him.

This is the story of how my Dad got his name: Grant Robert Two Bulls, Sunka Bloka.

My Dad's boyhood was spent at Red Shirt Table, "the village." The Two Bulls tiyospaye was comprised of the descendants of Fred and Mary Two Bulls. From this union there were 12 children. In 1990 my grandfather, Peter Two Bulls, Sr., was the 5th born child. When he was born, his mother almost died. On what she thought was her death bed Mary gave baby Peter to her sister and brother-in-law, Nancy and James Comes Again. James Comes Again fought at the Battle of Little Big Horn. Mary later recovered and had more children. My Father told me that even though she recovered James and Nancy Comes Again would raise Peter.

My dad often speaks of his childhood filled with comical and heartwarming stories of life in a small village populated with cousins, aunties, uncles, grandparents. These were the "good old days" told to my brothers and sister, through his eyes as a young boy. Dad's grandfather, who he fondly called "gha gha Jimmy" often told stories of Crazy Horse, and all the warriors and old ways long gone. Gha Gha Jimmy was also a staunch Episcopalian and helped build the original log building that was Christ Church. He would drag logs from the river, one by one, hitched to his horse. My grandfather would walk to church trekking 4 miles, along a dirt road. It is a meaningful and sacred place for us.

Christ Church is where our Mother, Delores Two Bulls, is buried. We lost her nearly 10 years ago. When our mother passed, my parents had been married for 56 years.

Needless to say, my dear Father has never let a day pass without fondly remembering his many adventures, as well as the love he shared with my Mother. They were married after my Dad completed his stint and was honorably discharged from the Navy. Dad said he met her through his good buddy, Richard "Dick" Ten Fingers, her older brother. Uncle Dick told Dad that he wanted him to meet his little sister Delores. Dad remembers that when he saw my Mom walk toward him, he fell in love. I envision a romance novel: she walks out the door of the log cabin, he doesn't know what to expect, and when he looks up, a tall, striking young woman walks toward him with a smile on her beautiful face. Dad said he froze and forgot his name as he held out his hand. He said, soon they were talking (knowing my Dad he did all the talking). It was as if they had known each other all their lives. That night he asked her to be his girl. She accepted.

My parents were a strong example of true partnership. I tell this story, because when one enters the ministry, the life partner is an integral part of the process of working with people. I saw my parents go from working 9 to 5 jobs and raising 5 kids to going into the work of ministry full time by 1980. From then on, it was just the two of them.

My parents often told the story of when Dad was called to ministry. It was right after his dearest sister, Noreen Ann died. My Dad drove my grandparents to Rapid City to try to find a minister to conduct an Episcopal burial service. The priest answered the door and in a raised voice proclaimed "You people only darken my door when you want something!" The priest then slammed his door. My Dad vowed that day that he would give his life to his Church. When they took my Auntie to Christ Church, it was overgrown with weeds and some windows were broken. It was not maintained. In those days, the priest would come to each church usually once a month. From that day on, my parents worked tirelessly at Christ Church. Priests came and went. However, Dad said that it was Fr. Ron Campbell who was his mentor and encouraged him to become a lay reader. Through Fr. Campbell, the church thrived.

Soon after, my parents were able to work with Rev. Ron Campbell and purchase the current larger church. They had it moved from Buffalo Gap, SD, to where it stands today. The church received a UTO grant and my parents took out a personal bank loan to cover the remaining costs of the move. Dad fondly recalls that it took a whole week to move the church. Once it was on its new foundation, Bishop Walter Jones came to consecrate the new church. Symbolically, Dad was inside the church, the Bishop knocked on the door, and Dad answered.

In 2002, our church was one of the 10 that were scheduled to be deconsecrated. Thankfully, through the grace of God, our tribal council, and Bishop John Tarrant, we were able to keep Christ Church open. Thanks to my parents, Grandma Margaret Hawk family, aunts, uncles, cousin, nieces and nephews, our church is still very much going strong.

My Dad is now retired. He served on The Pine Ridge, in Rapid City, supplied briefly in Eagle Butte, served in the Diocese of Utah, and finally at Christ Church, Red Shirt Table. My Dad currently lives peacefully on his land at Red Shirt Table. My sister, Twilla takes care of him, committed to honoring our dying mother's last wish to "take care of your Dad."

Dad still rides horses and takes walks, visits with family, and reads from his large library. 86 years old Dad has retired, but a priest never really retires. He still officiates at funerals and Baptisms. God willing, Dad said, he will live like his father, who died peacefully in his sleep, after an afternoon of working and chopping wood. Dad said you couldn't ask for a better way to die, after a hard day's work.

Our Dad, our hero.



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

Thank you to the Two Bull family for sharing their father's story.

I hope other clergy will submit similar articles, sharing their life story in the Episcopal Church.

It is tough for us CC folks to get our conservation message into church activities, mostly because there aren't many church activities these days.

This memo has 5 messages:

- 1) Creation care during the pandemic – suggested summer activities.
 - 2) Creation Care during the pandemic – suggested fall activities
 - 3) Pale Green Religion – I felt defeated
 - 4) But then learned about the seed sower (Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23)
 - 5) Eco-justice Ministries closes its doors
- 1) Creation care during the pandemic-suggested summer activities: Hey, wouldn't this be the perfect time to have that "Mass in the Grass service?" This outside service would allow the congregation to gather fairly safely, if we keep our social distance and observe other precautions. We've learned from experiences with online services that it doesn't take a church building to be a church. When we have a church service in the "natural cathedral," we are away from the church buildings and property. Be mindful of the setting - the tapestry of nature in the church yard or park, and imaging our role as caretakers of God's creation.

Another out-of-doors summertime activity that has links to Creation Care is gardening. It is probably late to do much gardening now, but consider the following two ideas for next year.

Enjoy a cool harvest: <https://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/2012-cool-harvest-web.pdf>

This is from Interfaith Power and Light and is titled "The food, faith, climate connection.

<https://www.nwf.org/sacredgrounds>

This is a National Wildlife Federation project titled Sacred Grounds that is growing from regional to national in scope; an expansion of the NWF Gardening for Wildlife program. The NWF will assist churches with project planning and technical expertise to increase native plant habitats and gardens. St Paul's in Brookings is well on the way to becoming a Sacred Grounds site.

- 2) Creation care during the pandemic – suggested fall activities: Who knows what our situation will be in the fall. Our CC handbook lists a couple of times when we might wedge some CC messaging into traditional church activities. A fall-season out-of-doors activity is the Blessing of the Animals service held near St Francis Day (early October). The Episcopal Church has lots of resources for this celebration <https://episcopalchurch.org/posts/lifelongformation/planning-feast-st-francis>
- 3) Pale Green Religion: I wonder if the "greening of religion" is going to have much influence on saving Earth, our island home. Writers in professional journals are also skeptical. The greening of religion idea has been around long enough so that professionals (sociologists I suppose) can analyze the impact using scientifically valid surveys. I read survey conclusions like this one: "Christians should be good stewards of the creation was a common refrain—but this notion was put in very broad terms and without much specificity, in no small measure because such was not considered to be a religious priority."
- 4) But then I learned about the seed sower (Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23) One of the advantages of Zoom church service that I'll just bet has never been listed as a benefit is "A chance to take notes." Fr Larry Ort will be shocked that I took notes on his Zoom service as I sat at my home-desk. The service was about the parable of the seeds. The sower is called to sow God's love on all soils –

sow with abandon! The message to me was –keep sowing. Keep sowing the creation care message and don't worry about the ground. Yea, it is easy to talk Creation Care to a bunch of environmentalists, but what about those people who might be rocky or thorny ground. Keep sowing - we might make a difference.

5) Eco-justice Ministries Closes its Doors: Eco-justice Ministries has been in business for 20 years, led the whole time by Peter Sawtell. The Ministry is closing its doors when Sawtell retires. In his good-bye letter to me and thousands of others, he gave some of his favorite creation care resource options. His top recommendation in the newsletter category is titled Creation Care Network e-newsletter (<https://revivingcreation.org/>), which is written by Episcopal Priest Margaret Bullitt-Jonas. The newsletter advocates 4 points – act, learn, advocate, and pray, which is similar to our 3-step guide – education, reflection, action. Her website focuses on climate, but also includes links to CC recourses and to her sermons.

From: Chuck Berry

St. Michaels, Batesland community garden prep.



Due to COVID BCU has kept this year's summer projects close to home by painting Holy Name and St. Johns, Crow Creek, both churches are on the Mni Sose Mission. A good time was had by all. Several of the congregation's members came and helped, unfortunately they managed to know when to get out of the cameras sight. Luckily, the camera caught a few helping.



Canon of Finance and Property
Mitch Honan aka:
the new guy



Superintending Presbyter the Rev.
David Hussey & In the background
(look real close) Richard Thompson,
BCU and Diocesan Council



Pat LeBeau, Diocesan Property Manager and
BCU member



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THANK-YOU



Bishop's visit & travel dates are in bold letters.

Please remember this schedule is subject to last minute changes.

Diocesan Calendar

Due to COVID-19

All visitations are subject to last minute changes.

- August 9 **Grace, Huron**
- August 16 **Trinity, Watertown**
- August 23 **Rosebud Mission East**
- August 30 **Christ Church, Chamberlain**
- September 6 **Christ Church, Red Shirt Table/
St Johns, Oglala**
- September 13 **St. Thomas, Sturgis**
- September 20 **Christ Church, Lead**
- October 4 **St Mary's, Mitchell**
- October 11 **St. James, Belle Fourche**
- October 25 **Good Shepherd/Holy Apostles,
Sioux Falls**
- November 1 **St. Mary's & OBR, Flandreau**

DAY LIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Ends: Fall Back November 1, 2020
Begins: Spring ahead March 14, 2021

CLEAN HANDS OFTEN



- ✓ Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place
- ✓ Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

AVOID CLOSE CONTACT



- ✓ Avoid close contact with people.
- ✓ Stay at home as much as possible, except to run essential errands or to seek medical attention.
- ✓ Put distance between yourself and other people. Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread the virus.

WEAR A CLOTH FACE COVER



- ✓ Everyone should wear a cloth face cover when they have to go out in public, for example to the grocery store or to pick up other necessities.
- ✓ The cloth face cover is meant to protect other people in case you are infected.
- ✓ Do NOT use a facemask meant for a healthcare worker.
- ✓ Continue to keep about 6 feet between yourself and others. The cloth face cover is not a substitute for social distancing.



If you develop symptoms:

- Call your health care provider immediately and tell them about any recent travel or exposure.
- Individuals who are concerned that they have COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider via phone before going to a clinic or hospital to prevent spread in healthcare facilities.
- Avoid contact with other people.
- Follow the directions of your healthcare provider and public health officials.

[Symptoms and Testing Guidance](#) (CDC)
[Symptom Checker Algorithm](#)

[Is It COVID-19?](#) - Coronavirus symptoms are similar to the flu, common cold, and allergies.

This infographic will help you know the differences.

[10 Ways to Manage Respiratory Symptoms at Home](#) (CDC)

Self-Quarantine, Self-Isolation, and Self-Monitoring:

[Self-Isolation Guidance](#)
[Temperature Tracker](#)

[Taking Your Temperature](#)

[Release from Isolation Guidance](#)

[Isolation or Quarantine: What's the Difference?](#)

[COVID-19 Contact Tracing: What to expect if you've had close contact with a positive](#)

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