

Report on the 2017 Diocese of Olympia Convention

held at the Hilton Hotel, Vancouver, WA on October 27 and 28, 2017

Link to Convention website: [2017 Diocese of Olympia Convention](#) and all documents.

Link to Diocese summary of Convention: [Wherever Bread is Broken: The 107th Convention of the Diocese of Olympia.](#)

Link to the Bishops Address: [Bishop Rickel's 2017 Convention Address.](#)

THE GRACE DELEGATION

The Grace Delegation to the Convention consisted of our Priest-in-Charge – Joan Anthony, our Grace parishioner who is a member of the Standing Committee and a Delegate-at-Large – Karen Casey, and our Grace Delegates - Carolyn Leigh, Eric Matthews, Henry Vandersluis, Liisa Peterson, Nancy Peregrine, Pam Sobeck, Paul Russell, Robert Vandersluis, Shannon Russell, Tom Leigh.



VISION STATEMENT

Select this link: [The Vision Statement](#) for the 2017 Diocese of Olympia Convention.

NOMINATIONS / ELECTIONS

Select this link: [Nominations Report](#) for the 2017 Diocese of Olympia Convention.

There were only two (2) elections to positions that had more than one person standing for election and they were:

Standing Committee Clerical Order (one four-year term & one one-year unexpired term)

The Rev. Arienne Davison was elected to the four-year term and The Rev. Steve Danzey was elected to the one-year unexpired term. The Rev. Kendall Haynes was also on the ballot.

Alternate to 2018 General Convention – Clerical Order

The Rev. Gail Wheatley was elected. The Rev. Eric Stelle was also on the ballot.

BUDGET

Select this link: [Budget Narrative for 2018](#) for the 2017 Diocese of Olympia Convention.

The 2018 Budget PASSED - Of note is that it is a balanced budget and over 50% goes to supporting programs for ministry and empowering congregations.

RESOLUTIONS

Select this link: [Revised Resolutions](#) for the 2017 Diocese of Olympia Convention.

Resolution #1 – 2019 Diocesan Assessment Rate – **PASSED** – Rate set at 15% of real-time NDI calculations. Note this is DOWN from the 2004 rate of 20%.

Resolution #2 – Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to Clergy Salary Scale for 2018 – **PASSED** – The rate of the increase was 3%.

Resolution #3 – Health Insurance Coverage – **PASSED** – Amended wording and procedures coverage for lay must be comparable to Clergy based on hours worked.

Resolution #4 - Calling on the 79th General Convention to appoint a task force

to explore the implementation of Title III, Canon 1 – **PASSED** – Basically to create wording in the Canons to encourage all Diocese's to support each person in each Diocese/church/community

to fulfill their personal calling to minister in their daily life and work to their community and the world.

Resolutions #5 and #6 AS AMENDED– Paraphrased – Provide text and sign language service to the hearing impaired – **PASSED** – These Resolutions were modified to include the visually impaired and any other special needs as well as the hearing impaired. The responsible Diocese group has been tasked to implement this prior to the Regional Meetings for Convention for 2018.

COURTESY RESOLUTIONS -

See this link: [Courtesy Resolutions](#) for the 2017 Diocese of Olympia Convention.

The Courtesy Resolutions all **PASSED**.

CONSTITUTION & CANONS COMMITTEE REPORT

See the link: [Constitution & Canons Committee Report](#) for the 2017 Diocese of Olympia Convention.

All of the minor wording changes to the Constitution & Canons were **PASSED**.

ITEMS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST TO GRACE

1. The 2018 Annual Convention will be held October 26-27, 2018, at the Double Tree by Hilton Seattle Airport. Please plan for expenses as provided to the Treasurer.
2. The Presiding Bishop of the United States, The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, will visit the Diocese of Olympia June 14-17, 2018.
3. The College for Congregational Developing is adding a "CCD Graduate Upgrade Weekend: Intercultural Competency Weekend" on 1/19/18 to 1/20/18. This weekend is for people who have already completed the full Year A and B curriculum prior to 2017, and want to experience the new unit of curriculum that is focused on Intercultural Competency Skills. [LINK HERE](#).
4. Notice of a booklet (and [VIDEO-LINK HERE](#)) by the Diocese titled "[Maybe Later](#)" The Challenges of Developing & Keeping a Maintenance Budget for Churches – This booklet is a practical guide for clergy, vestries, or bishop's committees to use in considering their obligations and plans for maintenance of their buildings and other facilities.

5. Notice of a great video on small groups by Epiphany, Seattle. [LINK HERE](#).
6. Mission to Seafarers was noted for the huge support they give to mariners who are on ships that deliver much of what we consume and use every day from overseas. Their [MISSION](#) is valuable and what the Mission to Seafarers [PROVIDES](#) is invaluable to these men and women.
7. EXERCISE – We were asked to
 - a. “Discuss the following questions at your table with members of your congregation. Have one person record responses from your discussion and return them to a Page.” “What aspects of your congregation’s culture do you value and want to share with others? Think about what is visible and what’s underneath the water line.”
 - i. We thought the aspect of TRIBES at Grace was something we would like to share with others. We thought it was great that we are broken up into 8 Tribes and that many participate on their Sunday by bringing food, setting up for coffee hour, do readings, count, greet and help clean up after the service/coffee hour.
 - b. Then we were asked “how might our group orientation towards Minimization (minimizing our differences in a group and how this may hurt some in the group) make it difficult for us to minister to and build relationships with our neighbors who aren’t already members of our congregation?”
 - i. All members of Grace are put in Tribes, as decided by Vestry, some people did NOT want to be in Tribes. Some live off-island and are not willing or able to participate. Members of our community may be put off by Tribes.
8. EXERCISE - Regarding the new Diocesan Vision –
 - a. What is alive at our place that reflects this vision?
 - i. Tribes
 - b. What do the vision and stories inspire you to explore?
 - i. Strengthening Tribe connections.
 - ii. Making connections with other parishes / churches in our area.

Submitted by

Eric Matthews

Delegate Coordinator