

## 172nd Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of California

October 23, 2021

Our founding Episcopal diocese in the state encompassed all of California. Today the Diocese of California is comprised of just Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, and part of Santa Clara Counties.

There were over 70 represented Episcopal churches in our diocese that attended the 172nd all on zoom. Bishop Mark went to extensive efforts to make sure each delegate could vote or speak on the issues live and on line.

There was one delegate representing St. Paul's this year, leaving three seats vacant. If you are interested in becoming a delegate, seek out St. Paul's Nominating Committee and ask to be a considered. Delegates are encouraged to attend our local Deanery meetings. (There are about four a year.) The first year, a nominated delegate acts as an alternate in case of a vacancy. Year two, they are a primary voting delegate. Delegates learn about our Diocese; the work of the Bishop and the team of people who aid him; the many Diocesan committees, efforts, and concerns; the rules that each church must follow; and the budget of the Diocese, as well as the previous year's successes and failures. The Diocese is financially supported by each church's diocesan assessment. You will also learn a little about all the other churches in our Diocese. This is really the meat on the bones that makes the body of our church what it is. Talk to any Vestry member about participating.

- Resolutions

One of the main functions of the diocesan convention is to approve and pass resolutions that may be submitted to the national General Convention to be held July 7 to 14, 2022 in Baltimore, Maryland. Ten resolutions were presented at our local 172 Convention, seven were approved. The Committee on Resolutions will determine which of the seven resolutions (up to five) will be submitted for General Convention's consideration. See Resolution Summary below.

- Budget

The proposed Diocesan budget for 2022 is \$4.4 Million. See the 2021 Narrative Budget at <https://diocal.org/sites/default/files/media/PDF%20Docs/2021-Proposed-Diocesan-Budget.pdf>

### Additional Convention Actions

In addition to the election of officers, there was also a Consent Calendar of minor issues which was approved. See: [https://diocal.org/sites/default/files/consent\\_calendar\\_171.pdf](https://diocal.org/sites/default/files/consent_calendar_171.pdf). Adjustments and updates are continually being made to our Diocesan Canons. To read

more about the convention, resolutions, nominees, changes in canon law, and history go to: <https://diocal.org/172nd-convention-diocese-california>.

### **Summary of Convention Resolutions:**

Resolution #1 - **Nominal Payments to Nonstipendiary Deacons.** Vocational deacons in the Diocese of California usually serve in their parish and diocesan positions as volunteer clergy without remuneration. This resolution asks that congregations make such a nominal payment of \$25 per month to vocational deacons, as well as a payment of 18% (\$4.50) to the Church Pension Fund, to enable them to participate in the programs and services available through the Church Pension Fund. The resolution is not in any way intended to suggest that the proposed payments adequately compensate deacons for the work they do. The whole point is to give deacons access to Church Pension Fund resources. **PASSED**

Resolution #3: **Carbon Sequestration** – The 172nd Convention of the Diocese of California affirms its Farm Church Ministry and exploration into sustainable agricultural practices including regenerative farming and permaculture. Also requests the 80<sup>th</sup> National Convention to create, and implement a positive investment strategy that will fund methods of capturing and storing greenhouse gases through sustainable nature-based, land management solutions such as afforestation and regenerative agricultural practices, and create a church wide pilot project. This would continue a proposal passed by the 79<sup>th</sup> General Convention in 2018. **PASSED**

Resolution #4: **Racial Justice & Reconciliation Memorial.** Resolved, That the 172nd Convention of the Diocese of California affirms its Statement of Solidarity “with all who are oppressed, we deplore the hatred and violence shown historically and in the present to Indigenous people, African Americans, African Caribbean, Asian and Asian Americans, LatinX, Pacific Islanders, and all other oppressed persons. We will continually seek to dismantle the racism that threatens us all as human being” Also proposes legislation on the following themes as a Memorial, to the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church for its consideration:

- Commemoration of Bishop Barbara Clementine Harris;
- Celebration of Juneteeth as a Feast Day;
- Support for the Emmett Till Anti-Lynching Act;
- Support for national legislation fighting Voter Suppression;
- Calling for stronger Hate Crime legislation; and
- Advocacy for new transformative Asian American /Pacific Islander policies.

**PASSED**

Resolution #5: **Addressing Voter Suppression** -- The 172 Convention supports and encourages reforms that would expand voter registration, increase voter eligibility, and make voting processes more accessible. This calls for the elimination of all statewide Voter ID legislation that has been adopted since the 2013 Supreme Court decision (Shelby County v. Holder), which invalidated “preclearance” criteria requiring federal approval. Also urges the Bishop, working with our General Convention Deputation at the coming 80th General Convention to support the passage of resolutions protecting voter rights. Furthermore this Convention directs its Secretary to forward this resolution to the Governor of the State of California and our elected officials with the recommendation that the State of California enact legislation that will protect and expand voters’ rights as outlined in this resolution. **PASSED**

Resolution #6: **Sabbatical Leave Policy for Clergy**. - That the Diocese shall provide up to three months of Sabbatical Leave of religious and professional advancement for Intentional Interim Rectors in the amount of 3 weeks for each year worked in the Diocese, prorated for partial years and less than full time work. Also That each congregation, while it employs an Intentional Interim Rector, shall contribute, on a prorated basis, funding to the Diocesan sabbatical reserve for the Interim; the contribution rate shall be set annually in the schedule of clergy mandatory minimum compensation as reviewed and approved by the Convention. Also That Intentional Interim Rectors will become eligible to apply for taking sabbatical leave after completing a minimum of four calendar years’ interim ministry in the Diocese following January 1, 2022. **PASSED**

Resolution #8: **Affirming Non-Binary and Transgender Identities** - That the 172nd Convention of the Diocese of California calls upon the Diocese and all its institutions and congregations to fully embrace, respect and uphold transgender and non-binary people in all facets of its life, particularly by facilitating access to health care and insurance for employees that wholly affirm the gender identities of non-binary as well as binary-identified people; respecting and using individuals’ pronouns including “they/them”; avoiding using exclusionary binary language; and supporting non-binary and/or transgender youth and their families. **PASSED**

Resolution #9: **Spanish Language-Latine/Hispanic Centered Day of Discernment** - The Convention recognizes that despite repeated efforts at racial justice and racial reconciliation initiatives, the Diocese does not provide formal discernment events, workshops, or materials focused on the specific cultural and linguistic needs of Latine/Hispanic Spanish speaking Communities. Also That this Convention requests the Office of Vocations to sponsor a Day of Discernment for the Latine/Hispanic Communities of the Diocese to be held concurrently with all planned Days of Discernment. **PASSED**

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Resolution #2: **Adding Mary Oliver, to Lesser Feasts and Fasts**, to the Episcopal calendar. In her famous poem “The Summer Day,” Mary Oliver posed the question “Tell me, what is it you plan to do/with your one wild and precious life?” See more poems and writings from this Pulitzer Prize winning author who was a member of All Saints Church in San Leandro. Mary Oliver passes away in October of 2021. This resolution failed. It was felt the normal waiting period of two generations after a individuals death should be observed before posting on the Episcopal calendar . **NOT PASSED**

Resolution #7: **Standardized Templates for Key Common Personnel and Administrative Documents** -- Requests that in accord with the Diocese’s commitment to Collaboration and Transparent and Accountable Leadership, requests Executive Committee to establish a program to provide standardized templates, or the functional equivalent, for certain documents commonly needed by parishes and missions. **NOT PASSED**

Resolution #10: **Disability Sensitivity and Anti-Ableism Training** – The Diocese shall develop a training program on disability sensitivity and anti-ableism, with the intent that when complete it shall be provided and periodically required for all Diocesan and congregational hiring personnel, and make a request for the 80<sup>th</sup> General Convention to do the same. **NOT PASSED**