

**Minutes of the 215<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention  
of the Episcopal Church of New Hampshire  
November 4, 2017**

The 215<sup>th</sup> annual Convention of the Episcopal Church of New Hampshire at St. Paul's Church in Concord began with a greeting to delegates and guests by the Rt. Rev. A. Robert Hirschfeld, Bishop of the Diocese of New Hampshire.

He introduced Judith Esmay, president of the Standing Committee, who called the Convention to order. She recognized the Rev. Elsa Worth and the Rev. Colin Chapman of the Credentials Committee, who reported there were present one bishop, 67 priests and deacons, 124 lay delegates and three officers of Convention, for a total of 195, which constituted a quorum.

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Following worship, which included the Bishop's Convention Address, the United Thank Offering ingathering and an offering to benefit Episcopal Relief and Development's Disaster Relief efforts, Judith Esmay called to Convention back to order for nominations and elections.

She recognized Joyce McGuire (Church of Our Saviour, Milford) who nominated Elizabeth Rotch as Secretary of the Convention. The nomination was seconded and, with no other nominations, Ms. Esmay called for a vote. Ms. Rotch was elected.

Ms. Esmay recognized Rob Thompson (St. Andrew's, Hopkinton) who nominated Robert Wells for Chancellor of the Convention. The nomination was seconded, the vote was taken. Mr. Wells was elected.

Ms. Esmay introduced Bishop Hirschfeld, President of the Convention, who appointed the Rev. Canon Hannah Anderson to serve as chaplain to convention, and introduced Susanna Babione as scribe.

He called for approval of the Convention Rules of Order as published in the 2017 Pre-Convention Journal. The motion was made, seconded, and voted in the affirmative.

The Rev. Alanna Van Antwerpen (Good Shepherd, Nashua) moved acceptance by title of all reports (committee and commission reports, convocation reports, summary of 2016 Parochial Reports, 2016 Seasonal Chapels Report, Trustees Annual Report 2016, 2016 Audit Reports for the Diocese of New Hampshire, the Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in New Hampshire, and the Trustees of the PEC in New Hampshire) as published online in the Pre-Convention Journal. The motion was seconded, and voted in the affirmative.

The Bishop mentioned that several people have been granted courtesy seats, with voice but no vote during the proceedings, including members of the diocesan staff whom he named and thanked.

The Bishop's appointments for 2018 were distributed online and are posted on the diocesan website. He noted new commissions to reflect our place in the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement, including Mission Resources, Reconciliation, and Creation Care.

|                                    |                              |                                |                           |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Joint Title IV Board               | 1 <sup>st</sup> term, 3 yrs. | The Rev. Mark Pendleton        | Christ, Exeter            |
| Adviser to Title IV                | 1 <sup>st</sup> term, 3 yrs. | The Rev. Anne Webb             | St. Francis, Marlborough  |
| Title IV Intake Officer            | 1 <sup>st</sup> term, 3 yrs. | The Rev. Miriam Acevedo        | St. Stephen's, Pittsfield |
| Comm. on Ministry                  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> term, 3 yrs. | The Rev. Mark Pendleton        | Christ Church, Exeter     |
|                                    | 2 <sup>nd</sup> term, 3 yrs. | The Rev. Ray Bonin             | Transfiguration, Derry    |
|                                    | 2 <sup>nd</sup> term, 3 yrs. | The Rev. Richard Greenleaf     | St. Paul's School         |
|                                    | 1 <sup>st</sup> term, 3 yrs. | The Rev. Anne Williamson       | St. John's, Portsmouth    |
| Constitution &<br>Canons Committee | 2 <sup>nd</sup> term, 3 yrs. | The Rev. Dan Ferry             | Grace, Manchester         |
|                                    | 1 <sup>st</sup> term, 3 yrs. | The Rev. Kelly Sundberg Seaman | New London/Newport        |
| Disaster Relief Coord.             | 1 <sup>st</sup> term, 3 yrs. | Dan Andrus                     | St. John's, Dunbarton     |
| Resolutions<br>Committee           | 1 <sup>st</sup> term, 3 yrs. | The Rev. Jason Wells           |                           |
|                                    | 1 <sup>st</sup> term, 3 yrs. | Mike LaFond                    | St. Paul's, Concord       |
| Nominations                        | 2 <sup>nd</sup> term, 3 yrs. | The Rev. Michael Bradley       | St. George's, Durham      |

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| Committee                      | 2 <sup>nd</sup> term, 3 yrs.   | Susan Sielke  | St. James', Keene   |
| Credentials Committee          | 1 <sup>st</sup> term, 2 yrs.<br>1 <sup>st</sup> term, 2 yrs.<br>1 <sup>st</sup> term, 2 yrs.<br>1 <sup>st</sup> term, 2 yrs.   | The Rev. Sandi Albom<br>The Rev. Charlie Nichols<br>The Rev. Shawn LaFrance<br>The Rev. Kate Siberine                       | All Saints, Peterborough<br>St. John's, Portsmouth<br>St. Paul's, Concord<br>Good Shepherd, Nashua  |
| Human Resources Committee      | 1 <sup>st</sup> term, 3 yrs.<br>1 <sup>st</sup> term, 3 yrs.<br>1 <sup>st</sup> term, 3 yrs.<br>1 <sup>st</sup> term, 3 yrs.   | Sarah Ambrogi<br>The Rev. Winnie Skeates<br>Alice Claflin<br>Julie Green  | St. Matthew's, Goffstown<br><br>All Saints, Littleton<br>St. James, Keene   |
| Mission Resources Commission   | 1 <sup>st</sup> term, 3 yrs.<br><br>2 <sup>nd</sup> term, 3 yrs.<br>1 <sup>st</sup> term, 3 yrs.   | The Rev. Colin Chapman<br>Joan Alayne Stevens<br>The Rev. Jim Ransom<br>Fred Chisolm  | St. Peter's, Londonderry<br>St. Matthew's, Goffstown<br>St. Andrew's, N. London<br>All Saints, Littleton  |
| Our Kids Commission            | 2 <sup>nd</sup> term, 3 yrs.<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> term, 3 yrs.<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> term, 3 yrs.<br>1 <sup>st</sup> term, 3 yrs.<br>Unexpired 1 yr.<br>Unexpired 1 yr.<br>Unexpired 2 yrs. | Ed Doyle<br>Tenley Callaghan<br>Dian McCarthy<br>Kirsten Gowdy<br><i>Vacant</i><br>Yvonne Jenkins<br>The Rev. Kate Siberine | Grace, Manchester<br>St. Paul's, Concord<br>St. Matthew's, Goffstown<br>St. John's, Sanbornville<br><br>St. Barnabas, Berlin<br>Good Shepherd, Nashua |
| Reconciliation Commission      | 1 <sup>st</sup> term, 3 yrs.<br>1 <sup>st</sup> term, 3 yrs.<br>1 <sup>st</sup> term, 3 yrs.   | Susan Lassen<br><i>Vacant</i><br>James McKim  | St. John's, Portsmouth<br><br>St. Matthew's, Goffstown  |
| Creation Care Commission       | 1 <sup>st</sup> term, 3 yrs.<br>1 <sup>st</sup> term, 2 yrs.   | The Rev. Carolyn Stevenson<br>The Rev. Steve Blackmer   | St. David's, Salem<br>Church of the Woods,<br>Canterbury  |
| Clergy Formation Committee     | 2 <sup>nd</sup> term, 3 yrs.<br>1 <sup>st</sup> term, 3 yrs.<br>1 <sup>st</sup> term, 3 yrs.   | The Rev. Janet Lombardo<br>The Rev. Sandi Albom<br>Drew Courtright  | Trinity, Claremont<br>All Saints, Peterborough<br>St. Paul's, Concord   |
| Clergy Continuing Ed Committee | 2 <sup>nd</sup> term, 3 yrs.<br>1 <sup>st</sup> term, 3 yrs.   | The Rev. Richard Davenport<br>The Rev. Susan Kershaw  | Berlin/Colebrook<br>St. John's, Walpole   |

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Bishop Hirschfeld recognized changes in clergy status since the last convention:

**Ordinations:** The Rev. Sandi Albom, the Rev. Charles Nichols; the Rev. Shawn LaFrance, the Rev. Nathan Bourne, and coming soon, Drew Courtright and Elizabeth Hess.

**Clergy newly transferred to the diocese:** The Rev. Colin Chapman (December 2016) and the Rev. Kate Harmon Siberine (October 2017).

**Newly licensed clergy:** The Rev. Nathan Bourne, the Rev. Zachary Harmon, the Rev. Jane Hague, the Rev. Joshua Hill, and the Rev. Rosalie Richards.

**Recently retired clergy:** The Rev. Miriam Acevedo (St. Christopher's, Hampstead), and the Rev. Robert "Odie" Odierna (Good Shepherd, Nashua).

**Clergy who have moved, but not transferred:** the Rev. Susan Eibner.

**Celebration of new ministry:** The Rev. Colin Chapman (St. Peter's, Londonderry) in December 2016; and coming up: Dan Andrus, lay pastoral leader (St. John's, Dunbarton), the Rev. Reed Loy (St. Andrew's, Hopkinton), and the Rev. Zachary Harmon (St. Christopher's, Hampstead).

The Bishop introduced the Rev. Canon Hannah Anderson to present new ministries:

The Rev. Reed Loy, from Maine to rector of St. Andrew's, Hopkinton  
 The Rev. Kate Harmon Siberine, from Oregon to curate at Good Shepherd, Nashua  
 The Rev. Zachary Harmon, from Oregon to vicar of St. Christopher's, Hampstead  
 The Rev. Nathan Bourne, from Western North Carolina to curate at St. John's, Portsmouth  
 The Rev. Jane Hague, from Maryland to associate to the rector of St. Thomas, Hanover  
 The Rev. Joshua Hill from Eastern Tennessee to chaplain at Holderness School  
 The Rev. Jason Wells, from Grace, East Concord, to executive director of the NH Council of Churches  
 The Rev. Miriam Acevedo to St. Stephen's, Pittsfield  
 The Rev. Joanna Young, Deacon, to St. John's, Walpole  
 The Rev. Maryan Davis, Deacon, to Holy Spirit, Plymouth, and St. Mark's, Ashland  
 The Rev. Charlie Nichols, Deacon, to Christ Church, Exeter  
 The Rev. Shawn LaFrance, Deacon, to Grace, East Concord  
 The Rev. Sandi Albom, Deacon, to All Saints', Peterborough.

Bishop Hirschfeld introduced persons in the process toward ordination:

- Ordinand for priesthood/transitional deacon:** Sandi Albom
- Candidates for priesthood:** Drew Courtright and Elizabeth Hess
- Postulants for priesthood:** Leah Torrey, Gregory Baker, Fred Chisholm, Steven Eckerberg
- Postulants for vocational diaconate:** Michael Andres and Derek Scalia

**Congregations celebrating significant anniversaries this year:** St. Matthew's, Goffstown, 150 years; St. Paul's, Concord, wrapping up a year-long celebration of its 200 years; St. Peter's, Londonderry, 30 years; Christ Church, North Conway, 150 years; Trinity, Meredith, 70 years; and Faith, Merrimack, 40 years.

The chaplain led a prayer for those who had died in the last year, including the Rev. Gordon Allen, the Rev. Peg Custer, Sister Helen Lovell, and the Rt. Rev. Arthur Walmsley.

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The Bishop introduced two guests, both familiar to Convention, but serving in new roles: the Rev. Jason Wells, most recently the rector of Grace, East Concord, now serving as the executive director of the New Hampshire Council of Churches; and the Rev. Geof Smith, who had served as a deacon at St. James', Keene, and is now the COO of the Episcopal Church, headquartered in New York.

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Following their remarks, Bishop Hirschfeld introduced nominees whose names appear on the ballot:

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| <i>Treasurer for Convention</i>            | Chris Porter (St. Stephen's, Pittsfield)       |
| <i>Standing Committee (clerical order)</i> | The Rev. Guy Collins (St. Thomas, Hanover)     |
| <i>Standing Committee (lay order)</i>      | Margaret Porter (St. Stephen's, Pittsfield)    |
|  | Joan Alayne Stevens (St. Matthew's, Goffstown) |
| <i>Diocesan Finance Committee</i>          | Jack Lewis (All Saints', Peterborough)         |

The Rev. Randy Dales (St. Mark's, Ashland, and Holy Spirit, Plymouth), after pointing out that he and the Rev. Dan Ferry were attending their 48<sup>th</sup> consecutive New Hampshire Diocesan Convention, moved that nominations be accepted and closed, and that the Secretary cast one vote for the uncontested positions. The motion was seconded and affirmed by a vote of the Convention.

Delegates were instructed to mark their ballots for the Standing Committee, lay order. As diocesan staff collected the ballots, the delegates joined in singing a hymn, and Hannah Anderson offered a prayer for those who will serve.

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After explaining the procedure for presenting resolutions, Bishop Hirschfeld recognized Chris Porter to move and Jack Lewis to second

**Resolution #1: The 2018 Proposed Diocesan Budget.**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the 215th Convention of the Diocese of New Hampshire approve the 2018 Proposed Diocesan Budget as recommended by Diocesan Council.

The Rev. Canon Kevin Nichols explained how the budget was compiled by the Finance Committee in April, built upon the four mission priorities -- Congregational and Mission Vitality; Investing in Leadership; Support of Ministry to Children, Youth, Families and Young Adults; and Advocacy for Upholding the Dignity of Every Human Being and Care for the Creation -- then adopted by Diocesan Council in May, and taken to convocations for delegates' feedback.

He described highlights of the budget: Revenue/expense of about \$1.9 million, a 5 percent reduction from 2017; a reduction of the Fair Share asking from 16.5 percent to 15.9 percent; sources of funding he called "normal" except for about \$22,000 transferred from cash reserves. On the expense side, support for the Wider Church has been reduced in 2018 to 15 percent; there has been an increase in support for Youth and Young Adult ministry and Reconciliation Commission; salary increases for diocesan staff have been budgeted at 3 percent, except for the Bishop, who requested he not receive an increase. Due to a shift in the status of the North Country missionary, the position will not be funded through the diocesan budget.

There was no further discussion. **Resolution #1 passed.**

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Bishop Hirschfeld called upon the Rev. Winnie Skeates to move and the Rev. Sue Poulin to second

**Resolution #2: Clergy Compensation.**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Two Hundred Fifteenth Convention of the Diocese of New Hampshire approve revisions to Canon 4, Section 4.1 Section 4.4. The Human Resources Committee will provide oversight of and updates to compensation and benefits standards on an ongoing basis, and will serve as a resource to the diocese for other policy issues related to human resources. Adoption of the proposed change will eliminate the need for updating of the grid and manual at each Diocesan Convention, because this update will be replaced by ongoing updates provided as needed by the Human Resource Committee.

**Proposed Canon 4, Section 4.1-4.4:**

**Section 4. Clergy and Lay Employee Compensation and Benefits**

**4.1 ~~Minimum annual~~ Compensation and Benefits**

(a) The diocese and ~~e~~Every congregation of the diocese shall provide its clergy and lay employees ~~with at least the minimum annual~~ with compensation and benefits as outlined in the Compensation & Benefits Manual and accompanying Compensation Framework. ~~due them according to the terms of a resolution to be passed at each annual session of Convention of the diocese, such compensation to become effective at the beginning of the following calendar year.~~ (b) Such "minimum annual compensation" shall include all the components used by the church pension fund to determine pension assessments.

(b) The Human Resource Committee of the Diocese of New Hampshire shall update from time to time, but at least annually, the Compensation & Benefits Manual and the Compensation & Benefits Framework, ~~throughout the calendar year~~ based on changes or revisions from Church Pension Group (CPG), State or Federal law or other modifications deemed necessary by the committee. Any substantive changes shall be presented to Diocesan Council for approval prior to their enactment.

(c) ~~Additionally,~~ Upon approval, these changes will be communicated to all congregations of the diocese through electronic communications provided to clergy, wardens, treasurers, and delegates to Diocesan Convention, and by means of presentations made to regional Convocation meetings by the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the diocese, or his/her designee.

(ed) Unless otherwise determined by letter of agreement, for purposes of this canon, fulltime employment shall be considered to be ~~at least~~ forty hours per week.

(de) Where ~~the employment of the member of the clergy is defined by letter of agreement~~ as being less than full-time, the vestry or bishop's committee shall determine and provide at least the appropriate pro-rated level of ~~minimum annual~~ compensation and benefits.

**4.2 Application of resolution.** ~~The clergy compensation resolution shall apply to all clergy serving congregations in salaried positions and to clergy who may be employed by the diocese in extra-parochial capacities.~~

4.2 Letters of agreement for Clergy and Lay Employees. Compliance with the “~~Constitution~~ Compensation and Benefits Manual” will be stipulated in the Letter of Agreement for all clergy and lay employees. ~~Compliance with the clergy compensation resolution shall be so stipulated in the letter of agreement with each member of the clergy to whom the clergy compensation regulation applies.~~ A copy of the all Letters of Agreement shall be on file with the office of the bishop.

4.3 Congregations to Report. As part of its annual parochial report and as prescribed by the bishop, each congregation shall report to the bishop by March 1 of each year on the compensation and benefits of its clergy and lay employees. ~~The report shall be recorded in the next pre-convention journal.~~ Comparative information on compensation and benefits is available from the Bishop’s Office.

The sponsors of the resolution immediately offered two amendments. The first would strike the words “at least” in Section 4.1.d, so the section would read “*Unless otherwise determined by letter of agreement, for purposes of this canon, fulltime employment shall be considered to be forty hours per week.*”

The second amendment would correct a typographical error, so that in Section 4.2, the reference would be to the *Compensation (not Constitution) and Benefits Manual*.

The changes were approved by Convention as a single amendment.

The Rev. Canon Kevin Nichols offered an overview of the amended resolution, reminding listeners that a compensation and benefits team was formed in 2014, and he recognized members of the original team. The results of their work are threefold: the newly drafted Compensation and Benefits Manual for clergy and lay employees; the compensation framework; and the resolution under consideration, which was designed to allow for structured and consistent compensation across the diocese, and to create a standing Human Resources Committee.

Sarah Ambrogi, who served as chair of the Clergy Compensation team, described highlights of the resolution, particularly the creation of a Human Resources Committee, the members of which will be appointed, not elected, with the hope and expectation that they will be people with expertise in the human resources. She noted that four people have been appointed so far, and encouraged delegates to suggest names of those they believe qualified to serve.

The resolution was designed to modernize compensation guidelines and the manual, and to make the process more flexible. Updates provided through convocations and online can be made available across the diocese quickly and consistently, as changes from Church Pension Group or the IRS, for example, go into effect, eliminating the need for upgrading the manual and the framework at every Convention.

Connie Morton-Eubank, Transfiguration, Derry, concerned about “substantive changes” being presented to Diocesan Council and not to Convention, proposed an amendment, to reinstate the wording that had been struck in Section 4.4.1.a. It was seconded.

Kevin Nichols suggested that if the changes need to go to Convention, “I’m not sure we’ve made much progress in the work that we’ve done,” and that it is not necessary, given the provisions of the resolution.

Sarah Ambrogi’s concern is that the amendment creates a sentence that does not make sense, but more, that the framework is the heart of the compensation team’s work. It has been widely presented and discussed, and has met with positive reactions. She believes the resolution provides sufficient oversight and reporting to the diocese, and she urged passage of the resolution as presented.

Jason Wells called the question. The Bishop called for a vote on the proposed amendment by red and green cards; it was defeated.

The bishop then called for a vote on the original motion (with its friendly amendment) and declared that **Resolution #2 was approved.**

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The Bishop recognized the Rev. Johanna Young, who moved Resolution #3. The Rev. Hays Junkin seconded the motion:

**Resolution #3: Becoming Beloved Community Long Term.**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Two Hundred Fifteenth Convention of the Diocese of New Hampshire encourage all parishes and missions to take up the Presiding Officer’s invitation as described in “Becoming Beloved

Community: The Episcopal Church's Long-Term Commitment to Racial Healing, Reconciliation and Justice" by entering into the Holy Season of Lent with an openness to listen, to wait, to pray, and to open our ears so our eyes can fulfill our baptismal vow of promoting justice, peace and love

**Be it further resolved** that we commit to learning about the history of slavery as it took place in New Hampshire and to becoming more familiar with the stories of our Black countrymen and women through a partnership with The Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire, encouraging the sharing of these stories within and outside our communities of faith.

The Rev. Gail Avery spoke about how, in New England cities and towns, white minorities and people of other origins live separate lives, and experience an ever-widening opportunity gap. She referenced Martin Luther King's two Americas, and said it is the work of the church to bring them together. The work of racial reconciliation is about listening and sharing; it is about God.

During Lent, the Reconciliation Commission is inviting congregations across the state to commit to learn more about the history of slavery in New Hampshire. The resolution provides a foundation upon which positive, fruitful action can be taken as we work together toward dismantling racism and discovering what beloved community looks like.

The Rev. Teresa Gocha spoke of how her children – two Black and one Black-Asian – experienced racism and were reluctant to tell their parents, believing them powerless to fix the situation.

As long as we are shielded from the truth about the ways racism is insinuated into our daily lives, our laws, our policies, and the assumptions that guide our decisions and even our gut reactions, we all are participating in keeping my children and others in a place of oppression, she said. She urged delegates to vote for the resolution, to vote *and* follow through.

James McKim spoke in support of the resolution based on what he has seen as an African-American, a member of the diocesan Reconciliation Commission, and chairman of the multi-racial Episcopal Church Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism, which helped define the General Convention resolutions upon which this resolution is based.

The resolution as a position statement and a call to action in a local context, how we will tell the truth by learning about our history of slavery as it took place in New Hampshire, how we will share stories of racial reconciliation work. It is precisely the kind of resolution, he said, that the Executive Council Committee on Anti-Racism wants to see in dioceses across the church.

Voting for the resolution can create the cognitive dissonance necessary to move us toward justice in today's world.

Rita McCauslan (Faith, Merrimack) believes that the narrow focus of the resolution is not appropriate, especially in New Hampshire, where discrimination against African-Americans is not the only, or in some cases, not the primary, form of discrimination. Attaching Beloved Community to racial discrimination denies others in communities facing possibly even more discrimination.

Judith Esmay offered the unanimous and enthusiastic support of Resolution #3 by members of the Standing Committee.

The Bishop thanked people for their comments, and called for the vote. **Resolution #3 passed.**

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Four courtesy resolutions were presented to the convention. Margaret Porter read the first:

**A Resolution of Greeting to the Right Rev. V. Gene Robinson**

**Whereas** the Right Rev. Gene Robinson has throughout his life and ministry espoused social justice, radical inclusion, and human dignity in matters of church and state;

**And whereas** Bishop Robinson answers God's call in a variety of ministries in his retirement years, using his prophetic voice in sermons and speeches, in churches and secular settings;

**Therefore be it resolved** that the 215<sup>th</sup> session of Convention of the Diocese of New Hampshire expresses its love and gratitude to the Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson for the years of his ministry to and among us, and for his expansive message of God's love for all people.

The Rev. Kate Atkinson read a resolution for the Presiding Bishop:

**A Resolution of Greeting to the Most Rev. Michael Bruce Curry**

**Whereas** the Most Rev. Michael Curry was called to the ministry of shepherd and spiritual leader as the 27<sup>th</sup> Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church;

**And whereas** Bishop Michael engages us in the Jesus Movement with evangelical fervor, prophetic power, rich language, and enlivening humor throughout our Church, within our diocese, and throughout the world;

**And whereas** Bishop Michael models and fosters servant leadership founded on institutional transparency, regular communication, and a spirit of reconciliation, holding up for us the vision of the Beloved Community;

**Therefore be it resolved** that the 215<sup>th</sup> session of Convention of the Diocese of New Hampshire rejoices in the ministry and witness of the Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, and commits to joining him in vigorously proclaiming Christ's message of healing, unity, mercy, and justice.

Teresa Gocha offered a resolution for Sue Theuner:

**A Resolution of Greeting to Sue Theuner**

**Whereas** Sue Theuner has long been and continues to be a fount of blessing and inspiration within the Episcopal Church of New Hampshire;

**And whereas** Sue continues her active involvement with diocesan ministries devoted to the incarcerated;

**And whereas** Sue generously shares with her fellow parishioners and our wider diocese her experience, her gifts, her time;

**And whereas** Sue's love and friendship energize all who come into her life;

**Therefore be it resolved** that the 215<sup>th</sup> session of Convention of the Diocese of New Hampshire sends love and prayers for good health and joyful living to Sue Theuner as she assists us in tending the vine.

The final courtesy resolution was presented by Ellie McLaughlin:

**A Resolution of Greeting to Roberta Walmsley**

**Whereas** Roberta Walmsley is a valued and beloved presence in the Episcopal Church in New Hampshire;

**And whereas** Roberta's giving spirit, graciousness, and musical gifts have been thankfully received by so many within the church in New Hampshire and beyond;

**And whereas** Roberta's long years as supportive partner in ministry to an eminent bishop, namely Arthur Walmsley, Roberta has served and enriched the wider church;

**Therefore be it resolved** that the 215<sup>th</sup> session of Convention of the Diocese of New Hampshire sends prayers of comfort and love and for good health to Roberta Walmsley in gratitude for her gifts and service to the church in this diocese and many others.

The four resolutions were voted on together, and all passed.

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Bishop Hirschfeld announced that Margaret Porter had been elected to another term as lay member of the Standing Committee.

He invited all to Hannah Anderson's retirement party on Jan. 20 at the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center in Concord.

The 216<sup>th</sup> session of Convention will be Saturday, Nov. 3, 2018, at Christ Church in Exeter.

After reminding delegates to turn their clocks back as Daylight Saving Time ends, and asking delegates to leave voting cards and nametags, the Bishop accepted a motion to adjourn, and Hannah Anderson offered a closing prayer.

Elizabeth Rotch  
Secretary of Convention