

**St. Timothy's Delegation Report**  
**168<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of California**  
**October 27-28, 2017**

**1. Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to inform and inspire the St. Timothy's congregation regarding the recent Diocesan Convention proceedings. The Convention is the highest governing body of The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of California. It is our intent to convey brief highlights and direct you to further information sources for follow-up on these topics.

The main report has several sections: St. Timothy Delegates, Resolutions, Nominees Elected, Treasurer's Report, Spiritual Celebrations, and Episcopal Impact Fund. There are online links to – the Diocese web site, videos of the Bishop's compelling messages, and a relevant "WORD on FIRE" blog article.

We hope this helps in furthering your understanding of the important work done by your Episcopal Diocese of California

**2. Parish Delegates & Clergy**

1. Betty Davis
2. Mary Louise Gotthold
3. Mike Oliver
4. Frances Stephenson
5. Jerry L. Vallery
6. Rev. Todd Bryant
7. Rev. Susan Geissler-O'Neil

**3. Resolutions**

The convention considered and voted upon nine resolutions expressing the will of the Diocese of California. The diocese will submit the following approved resolutions 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9 to the 79<sup>th</sup> General Convention (GC) of the Episcopal Church in 2018.

The nine resolutions/voting results: (See DioBytes: Oct. 31 or [diocal.org](http://diocal.org))

1. Repeal of Mandatory Retirement Age for Priests and Deacons – Rejected
  - Prevailing argument is that mandatory retirement helps "renew" the clergy, so retain current policy. Clergy mostly opposed the repeal.
  - Counter view is the current policy is outdated and age discriminatory.
2. Becoming a Sanctuary Church – Adopted
3. Becoming a Sanctuary Diocese – Adopted; Resolution will not go to GC.

**St. Timothy's Delegation Report**  
**168<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of California**  
**October 27-28, 2017**

- Both Sanctuary Resolutions passed by a near unanimous vote.
  - “Sanctuary Church” applies to The Episcopal Church and goes to GC.
  - “Sanctuary Diocese” is the Diocese of California and is now policy.
4. Church-Wide Paid Family Leave Policy – Adopted
  5. Task Force on Paid Family Leave – Adopted
    - Calls for creation of a task force to research and prepare a proposal / resolution for consideration at the 169<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Convention.
    - This work is due by July 2018; Resolution will not go to GC.
  6. Climate Change, Carbon Tax – Adopted
  7. A Just Peace in the Holy Land – Adopted
  8. Supporting Transgender Access – Adopted
  9. Climate Change, Corporate Governance – Adopted.

**4. Nominees Elected & Certified by David Frangquist, Secretary of Convention**

Standing Committee - Class of 2021

Lay – Albe Larsen

Clergy – Pam Jester

Executive Council - Class of 2020

Lay – Patrick Anderson

Lay – Charlie Mader

Secretary of the Convention

David Frangquist

Treasurer of the Diocese

Robert McCaskill

**5. Treasurer's Report**

The financial books and records of the Diocesan Corporation are composed of five separate funds:

1. Operating Fund – reflects Diocesan operating income and expenses
2. Custodial Fund
3. Endowment Fund
4. Deferred Gifts Fund
5. Expanding Horizons Campaign Fund (a new fund for 2016)

**St. Timothy's Delegation Report**  
**168<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of California**  
**October 27-28, 2017**

The 2017 Operating Fund: currently expects a small loss primarily because of continuing litigation expenses relating to Episcopal Senior Communities, (ESC seeks to abrogate its status as a Diocesan Institution; the Diocese filed a lawsuit to protect its assets and the litigation is on going).

The 2018 Operating Fund (your assessment dollars at work):

- Top 3 revenues: Assessments (81%), Endowment Fund (8%), and Gifts.
- Top 3 expenses: Administration (25%), Canon to the Ordinary's Office and Congregational Ministry (18%), and National Church Support (14%).

The Program & Budget Committee and the Executive Council have recommended a 2018 Operating Fund budget that will result in a balanced budget for the year with a small surplus.

The 2018 Proposed Diocesan Budget (copy available at [diocal.org](http://diocal.org)):

- Total Revenue... \$4,108,053
- Total Expenditures... \$4,093,094
- Surplus... \$14,959

Financial Actions:

- 2018 Proposed Budget - Adopted;
- 2018 Proposed Assessment Formula - Adopted;
- 2018 Proposed Salary Resolution and Mandatory Minimum Compensation - Adopted

## **6. Spiritual Celebrations**

The Holy Eucharist was celebrated Friday night at Grace Cathedral. The large assembly gathered to participate in a beautiful and moving service from the opening "Litany of the Saints" to the closing "The Blessing and Dismissal".

Bishop Marc Andrus presided, and the homilist was Bishop Barbara Clementine Harris, retired Bishop of Massachusetts and the first female, African-American Bishop in the Anglican Communion.

**Online link - Inspirational Convention Videos for Bishop Harris and Bishop Marc**: <https://www.facebook.com/DioCalifornia/>

**St. Timothy's Delegation Report**  
**168<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of California**  
**October 27-28, 2017**

Bishop Harris preached, in keeping with the theme of celebrating women, on the mighty women surrounding Jesus and into the present time. On Saturday morning at Grace Cathedral, Stephanie Martin Taylor interviewed Bishop Harris on the theme "Women in Ministry". Bishop Harris spoke of the joy and challenges of her tenure as Bishop; and then entertained a lively period of audience Question & Answer. Bishop Harris closed with this wisdom – "The Power behind you is greater - than the task ahead of you"!

Following this session, Bishop Marc gave the Bishop's message. He told the story of "St. Francis and the Wolf of Gubbio"; where St. Francis brought redemption to the wolf and the townspeople the wolf terrorized. Bishop Marc called us to reflection on three words in connection with this story – Care, Wolf, and Yoke.

In small groups, we talked about the "wolf" in the life of our parishes, and what we must do to tame the "wolf" that is obstacle to doing God's work.

We encourage you to view Bishop Marc's video, and then read and reflect on the story of St. Francis and the Wolf of Gubbio with the blog link below. To this day, the Italian town of Gubbio in Umbria celebrates this blessed event of centuries ago.

**Online link - WORD on FIRE Blog:**

<https://www.wordonfire.org/resources/blog/st-francis-and-the-wolf-of-gubbio/4657/>

### **7. "Episcopal Impact Fund"**

The Episcopal Impact Fund (Executive Director Kathleen Piraino) is a diocese program to provide solutions to poverty. It currently addresses three areas of need – Health, Education, and Environment.

A fourth new area focuses on the Bay Area housing crisis.

In a well-attended "Housing Crisis Workshop", several parishes spoke of their own work in developing housing projects for those priced out of local housing markets. Active parishes represented were – Walnut Creek, All Souls in Berkeley, and two parishes in Marin.

**St. Timothy's Delegation Report**  
**168<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of California**  
**October 27-28, 2017**

A housing development consulting firm that works with churches was present to describe obstacles and solutions in the development process. The consultant firm of Dutra, Cerro, and Graden (DCG) is available as an expert resource on housing related issues.

The DCG Housing Workshop contact is Angelic Williams, Senior Project Manager: [awilliams@DCGrealestate.com](mailto:awilliams@DCGrealestate.com).

**8. Closing**

The Convention received many other reports and presentations: Personnel Practices, TEC Constitution Amendments, Official Youth Presence, Commission Ministry & Vocations Process, Financial Resolutions, and more.

For more Convention details and results, see [DioBytes: October 31, 2017](#).

We hope this report gives you some idea of the range of activities covered by the convention - and equally so - the rich spiritual rewards found in celebration and community.

**AMEN**