



The Episcopal Diocese of New York

Transcript of the October 14 2020 Diocesan Convention Roll Out Meeting

- Good evening. I'm Mary Glasspool, Bishop Assistant in the Episcopal Diocese of New York. And on behalf of Andy Dietsche, Bishop Diocesan, and Allen Shin, Bishop Suffragan, and all the people of the Episcopal Diocese of New York I welcome you to this, our sixth rollout meeting for the 244th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York. These meetings are recorded and posted online at the diocesan website, usually by Friday. So if you've missed any of the first five each of which were intriguing in their own right, you can go back to the diocesan website and view them. They're each an hour long or less. Tonight, and I see that it's a really happy circumstance, people are already checking in in the chat room and that's great. You are invited to use the chat room to check in and say who you are and where you're from. And we also sent out, cause we've been testing our voting apps, the ones that we were using to select which voting app would best work for us. An email went out to all registered delegates including clergy this morning at nine o'clock. So if you haven't voted and it's an important vote although it's not a vote officially of convention, please just check your email. Look at something that came through at nine o'clock or 9:01 and vote, so that we can have an accurate tally of how many people are engaged with the voting process. The convention executive team has been working hard since last spring and it is comprised of Matt Hyde, the Secretary of Convention, Sara Saavedra, the Assistant Secretary, Alice Yurke, Chancellor of the Diocese of New York, Geoff Smith, Director of Technology, and Nick Richardson, Director of Communications. When we meet, we have in mind, or some of us do, probably all of us do, our core values, and they are transparency. We want to make sure that everybody has access to and understands what it is we're doing in your behalf and can participate as well. We believe transparency builds trust which is the second core value that we've been operating with. We are firmly committed to accessibility and we mean accessibility, not only in terms of the fact that we've had each of these rollout meetings closed captioned and interpreted by an American Sign Language Interpreter, but also access to the technology that is available and that is needed in order to fully engage with our remote convention this year. And finally, agency. In a period of time during this pandemic when many people feel out of control and as if they don't have a lot of agency, we want each of you to know as individuals that your vote counts, you count, and we want to respect your individuality and your engagement with our diocesan convention. There are other people I will thank later on, but for now I'd like to introduce Michelle DellaFave who will do the opening song, and that will be followed by an opening prayer given by Tom Walker, Allison Moore, Jeannine Otis, and Larry Marshall. ♪ Let there be peace on earth ♪ ♪ Let peace begin with me ♪ ♪ Let there be peace on earth ♪ ♪ The peace that was meant to be ♪ ♪ With God our creator ♪ ♪ Family all are we ♪ ♪ Let us walk with each other ♪ ♪ In perfect harmony ♪ ♪ Let peace begin with me ♪ ♪ Let this be the moment now ♪ ♪ With every step I take ♪ ♪ Let this be my solemn vow ♪ ♪ To take each moment and live ♪ ♪ Each moment in peace eternally ♪ ♪ Let there be peace on earth ♪ ♪ And let it begin with me ♪ ♪ To take each moment ♪



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♪ And live each moment ♪ ♪ With peace eternally ♪ ♪ Let there be peace on earth ♪ ♪ And let I begin with me ♪

- Brothers and sisters. God commands us through Jesus Christ to love one another. In baptism we promise to seek and serve Christ in all persons loving our neighbors as ourselves and to strive for justice and peace and respect the dignity of every human being. Let us now honor those vows and pray for our nation and this election season, for wise and just leaders and for the needs of others throughout our country and the world.

- We pray for continued blessings on all peacemakers, on leaders who value peace, and the on everyone who promotes nonviolent solutions to conflict. We pray for a speedy end to all violence and warfare around the world. God of peace and gentleness, hear our prayer. We pray for all nations that they may live in unity, peace, and concord, and that all people may know justice and enjoy the perfect freedom that only God can give. God of liberty and freedom.

- Hear our prayer.

- We pray that the Holy Spirit may embrace the most vulnerable members of our society. We pray also for an end to the growing disparity between the rich and the poor and for the grace encouraged to strive for economic justice. God of all gifts and blessings.

- Hear our prayer.

- We pray for the reconciliation of all people and for the church throughout the world that it may be an instrument of your healing love.

- We pray for all who have died as a result of violence, war, disease, or famine especially those who died because of human blindness, neglect, or hardness of heart. God of eternal life and resurrected love.

- Here our prayer.



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- Almighty God, you have promised to hear what we ask in the name of your son. Watch over our country now and in the days ahead, guide our leaders and all who will vote, guide them in knowledge and truth and make your ways known among all people. Amen.

- Amen.

- Amen.

- Well, playing the role of the Reverend Alison Moore was the Reverend Bill Baker from Ascension Church in Staten Island. Apologies to Bill. A number of people are to be thanked and appreciation offered for the staff members at Church of the Heavenly Rest to whom we are borrowing quite liberally. Lucas Thorpe, Jillian Jameson, and Lucy Breidenthal are all helping with their Zoom expertise. And the technical team at the diocese has been long and faithful. Tom Haggerty, Joey Weirs, Marty Cole. The American Sign Language Interpreter is Dory Griffiths and captioning is done by Randy Friedman. We're grateful to all of them for their considerable expertise and help. The first video that you will see is really a video of a PowerPoint presentation and it is done by the Anti-racism Committee which is a committee that operates under the bigger umbrella of Social Concerns Commission but is extremely active and has been for quite a while. And anyone working with anti-racism in the Episcopal Diocese of New York knows that Carla Burns the Chair of the Anti-racism Committee really needs no introduction. She is working long and hard and faithfully and will host this next video and be the point person on the Q and A following the video. So enjoy the anti-racism video.

- Wonderful presentation from the Anti-racism Committee. And in just a moment, we'll have Carla Burns join us to answer any questions that you may have. Hi, Carla. Welcome.

- Hello. Hello, everyone.

- I invite everyone, as Carla said, to put questions in the chat. I'll begin with one question that I've received, which is that in light of the current events that we are experiencing and witnessing, what is the Anti-racism Committee doing currently?

- Well, I think that we're giving the members of our diocese an opportunity to consider and attack racism on two different levels. One, a personal level because we are going to have Ibram Kendi, we've all been reading his book, How to be an Antiracist, which is a very personal, his very personal story. And it



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encouraged us to examine our own experience with racism and to become antiracist, as he tries to help us become in the book. The second is the Social Justice Committee which is a subcommittee of a new sub committee of the Social Concerns Commission. They have establishing an advocacy platform which will allow congregants to, for us to unite our voices speak out as a group, and to support legislation that is in compliance with our resolutions around social justice. So individually and corporately, we have an opportunity through the activities that we've planned.

- Wonderful, and I've just heard from the Bishop that the Ibram Kendi event and that you just mentioned is limited to a thousand people and we have 900 people registered already for it. And so there are a few more spots left but wow, what a tribute to the work that the committee has been doing. I also want to share from Mary Folk who wants to appreciate the ongoing and tireless work of the Anti-racism Committee, and most recently the reading together of the book and for the committee's ongoing efforts with younger people. So an extension of gratitude to you and the committee. One more question. What are the plans to hold a discussion of this book in Spanish and to work to build bridges between Latins and the black community, including those from Latin America?

- Well, you know, we really wanted to include Latinx congregants in our discussion, and to an extent, we have, at least two if not more Latinx congregations are participating in the group discussions. We've put together three congregations in each group. One from up here in the Mid-Hudson Region where I am, one from the city or Westchester, and one from the people of the global majority, in other words, people of color. So they are participating but the book was supposed to come out, and I think it did in September, or maybe this month in Spanish. So we definitely will have better opportunity for folks who speak only Spanish to participate.

- Wonderful. Thank you. Can anybody join the Committee on Anti-racism?

- We welcome anyone who's ready to do antiracist work. However, we always ask that at the end of our workshops. At the end of our workshop, the last thing we say is if you find that you're called to do this work we would welcome you in the committee but the first step would be to take a workshop. That would be the first step.

- Wonderful. And two more questions. Are you still collecting questions to pose to Dr. Kendi on October 22nd?



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- Yes we are. You can email them to me or if you're in a group, a group leader of your discussion group, you know, they can pass them on to me.

- Wonderful. And one more question. Is anti-racism different from anti-discrimination and how might they be different?

- Well, discrimination is kind of, works more on an individual level, like prejudice. People are prejudice against certain things. We can be prejudiced in terms of, of being for something or against something. But when you're talking about anti-racism, we're talking about dealing with racist systems, racist institutions, and as Ibram Kendi puts it so simply, racist policies. So it's on a broader spectrum that we're talking about but we all individually are participating in racist systems. And so that's why we have to examine ourselves and the systems in which we work and live.

- A very impressive, succinct response to a deep subject. Thank you. One final question, which is simply, how was the online anti-racism workshop?

- You know something? It was very well received. We find that we can have large groups. You know, we liked to have large groups, even in our face to face workshops. We tried to have no more than 30 people. And the first online workshop we gave had fewer than 30. And the response was really great. And the second one, we had 37 people and their response, the evaluation wasn't quite as good, but it was excellent it was still very good. So one thing that we've learned about the online workshop is that we should still keep it to no more than 30 people. Because people, we do a lot of breakout groups and people are speaking to one another and getting to know one another, even though we're Zooming.

- Wonderful. Well, thank you so much Carla. And I invite any more questions to be sent our way. We'll make sure that they get to the Anti-racism Committee and I'll turn it over to Reverend Matt Hyde who will instruct us in our voting for this evening.

- And thanks to Carla and Anti-racism Committee. You know, I'm going to bring up the screen. Over these last couple of weeks we've been practicing our voting together which is to find a way that we can vote. That's the end of it, let's go back to the beginning. In ways that are easy and equitable and focus on the values the Bishop mentioned, of transparency, trust, accessibility, and agency. And we're using these rollout meetings as a way to test both voting and voting support. And we want to find a way we can vote together on November 7th and the days before that week. We're using a secure service called ElectionBuddy. Now we tried an email vote last week and here's what we heard. We heard trouble with



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emails going to spam and folks checking a different email account than was on the convention registration. Also not everyone who attends the convention rollout meetings is registered to vote and not everyone who's registered for convention is eligible to vote. We have both, as y'all know, both clergy and lay delegates. We didn't hear any trouble at all with folks who received the email in voting. That's a good thing. Now, if you're having trouble, we want to know. So today's test vote began this morning at nine o'clock. You should have received an email at nine o'clock with a link to secure email ballot. If you didn't receive it, check your spam folder. It's also possible that you're not registered yet, or registered with another email address. What we're testing is a secure email ballot as we've done the last couple of weeks, which would be sent in the morning and close in the evening and give a whole day to vote and a whole day to answer questions. If you're having trouble and we put this in chat, then you can email us at election@diocesenyc.org, election@diocesenyc.org. So here's the idea. We're going to begin voting for candidates for diocesan offices on Wednesday, November 4th. An email will be sent to all registered clergy and lay delegates with a secure link to a website. The voting will begin at nine o'clock and close at five o'clock. We'll have successive ballots each day. Opening the voting in the morning and closing the afternoon. And then we'll vote live together, as we've tried it a couple of times, on Saturday for both the resolutions and for the 2021 budget. So today's vote was for favorite festival days. We had 194 folks vote of 344 eligible and here are the results. 49 votes for Christmas Eve, 33 votes for Easter morning, 67 votes for Easter vigil, 8 votes for Palm Sunday, 8 votes for Ash Wednesday, 26 votes for any Sunday that we're together, and 4 for abstain. So let me just check and see in the chat what y'all have said. Any problems, let me put it again, election@diocese.org. We're trying to send it every week from the same header which is Voting for Diocesan Convention. So we want to know. We want it to be easy and equitable, we want everyone's voice to be heard as we go forward. Thank you, Bishop, and thanks to all of you for trying this out. We're testing out the other, how we can be together and convention.

- Well, I voted for any Sunday because, as Jennifer Owens put in the check box, I just miss being in church with any and all of you. But that was interesting. I guess we have a good support for the Easter vigil too. It is my honor and privilege to introduce our next theme which is the Global Mission Commission which again is a kind of umbrella like the Social Concerns Commission that covers a number of different sub committees. The commission is chaired by the Nigel Massey and one of the subcommittees that works particularly diligently during the fall and at other times of yours as well is the Sustainable Development Goal Grants Committee chaired by Mary White. This year, because of the pandemic, the Global Mission Commission was not allowed. We decided to cancel an in person Global Mission Fair. Hopefully we'll get to do that next year. But in its stead, the Global Mission Commission is offering to us of very brief video about the Global Mission Fair which Mary White will introduce and followed by a PowerPoint presentation and the presentation of this year's Sustainable Development Goal Awards. Mary White.

- Thank you, Bishop and good evening. When the Global Mission Commission was reorganized by Bishop Dietsche nearly six years ago our first task was to develop a mission statement. It's mission is to educate,



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empower, and inspire individuals and parishes within the diocese. As we respond to God's call for engagement and mission through relationships and spiritual transformation throughout the Anglican communion we also developed certain responsibilities for the commission. For example, the Global Mission Commission will collect and share information concerning Global Mission activities and opportunities underway within the diocese of New York as well as promote best practices for global engagement. The tangible aspect of this responsibility is the Annual Mission Fair, now a regular component of the diocesan calendar. It has held at various churches throughout the diocese. Sadly, this year's fair was canceled but we can watch for the invitation to attend next October. Another responsibility of the commission is to facilitate coordination and communication among diocesan members who share mission interests in particular parts of the world. Shortly after the commission committed to this responsibility, the diocese voted to, at convention, to commit budgetary funds to support efforts that address the 2015 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Our commission was charged with finding a way to make this happen. We decided we would offer grants of between 5,000 and \$15,000 to support mission partnerships between a New York diocesan entity, such as a church, mission group, or school, and to global entity in the Episcopal Anglican Communion, so that a project in that global diocese would serve the needs of the local community and satisfy one or more of the Sustainable Development Goals. Since its inception, the diocese has consistently honored this important commitment. Although we have lost our traditional opportunity to celebrate this year's SDG grant's winners at the mission fair, I am pleased to announce the winners tonight. Right now, we are going to present a brief video and then a slideshow. The video is of the 2017 mission fair. And I hope it inspires interest in next year's fair. I will then narrate the slideshow that follows. If we can begin.

- Sisters and brothers, here we are at Christ Church Bronxville wrapping up the second annual Global Mission Fair.

- We put on an event like this because mission and doing mission is at the very heart of God. And we want people to know that there are more ways that you can get involved.

- Wow! The Global Mission starts from the pew and goes, there's like no end to it.

- Helping others helps you more than you will ever realize.

- So, you go down this hall and to the left.

- Okay, thank you. We've had workshops on many different aspects of engagement in Global Mission.



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- She's baptizing all of them, which is bringing them into this bigger family.
- Love for y'all to just take a minute, turn and talk talk to people you know, you don't know.
- We've had fantastic speakers.
- Psalm 84. And by the way, it's loved by both Christians and Muslims. It says this. Blessed are those who have set their hearts on pilgrimage.
- We have people in Cuba, we have people working in Haiti and El Salvador and in India. And so it really enlivens your own faith to get to hear the stories about what we together are doing.
- The 2017 grant recipient of the Sustainable Development Goals is to All Saints Episcopal Church Valley Cottage in the sum of \$15,000.
- I think that what's happened at this global conference, at least, and I hope will continue into the future, is an opportunity to be honest about the ways in which we as a church historically have engaged in mission.
- And we can't go to a mission partner and impose our will.
- What does motivate you?
- There's no pure motives, in my mind. And I think that's one of the beauties of God's call is that we're not called to be perfect. We're called to just be used by God.
- And that's what it's been. We've been around tables asking those hard questions.



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- It's a great privilege to have been able to spend this day with you and to end this day in prayer.

- The lesson from Matthew's gospel that we heard, I'm drawn to the verbs, make, baptize, teach, go.

- If you come to this mission conference your heart will be expanded. It will take you to deeper places in your own knowledge of God, and where you are in the world. And this is an opportunity for you. Don't miss it. Come and join us next year.

- And the 2020 awardees of the SDG Fund grants are: Holy Cross Santa Cruz Episcopal Church in Kingston New York, and de l'Eglise Anglicane du Burundi and the Diocese of Gitega. This project aims to improve and protect four existing springs in order to provide clean water to the community of 94 households. These slides demonstrate the current poor conditions of the springs. The other aspect of the project is to construct improved latrines to the 30 most needy households in the region. This project addresses SDG Three to provide good health and wellbeing and to SDG Six, to provide clean water and sanitation. And the other recipient is: All Saints Episcopal church, Valley Cottage, New York, and the Diocese of Marathwada, Church of North India. This project will focus its efforts advocating on behalf of women and children by educating women on their rights to equity and equality by promoting women's leadership in the community and by encouraging entrepreneurship to sustain women's livelihoods. For children, the project aims to improve school attendance and overall nutrition and health. This project addresses three SDGs. SDG one, end poverty, Three, health and wellbeing, and Five, gender equality. Finally, this slide and the next represent a list of the awards for SDG Fund grants since the program's inception. It is an impressive list with participation from 12 churches and our diocese partnering with seven countries and Puerto Rico and satisfying almost all of SDGs. We offer our sincere congratulations to Holy Cross Santa Cruz and to All Saints in Valley College for their outstanding applications. At next year's mission fair they will present the results of these mission projects. I want to let everyone in the diocese know that the commission welcomes applications for the SDG Fund grants and the mission partnerships that develop. Information on how to apply is on the diocesan website and the 2021 application will be available in January. We wish all of you the best in your mission partnerships. Thank you.

- Thank you, Mary. And congratulations to this year's winners. I know that we'll have perhaps some questions in the chat box and I've already received one question ahead of time, which is if a church has a relationship with a church in Puerto Rico and they would like to set up an adult literacy program should the grant application come from the church in Puerto Rico, or should it come from the parish and the diocese? And would the Global Mission Commission be able to connect the parish and the diocese with other parishes and the Episcopal Diocese of New York who might be interested in company-supporting a similar project?



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- That's a very good question, and a very important point. The application has to be presented by the diocesan entity whether it's a church or a mission group or a school and they present their partnership with a global entity. We have had several global entities present excellent projects for our consideration but they didn't have a diocesan partner. And we were frustrated with that for a while, but we have found a way to make connections. And this year we made two connections. One, a of the grant this year and the other one is applying for next year. We have been submitting the projects that they propose at both the mission fair and at convention. And we think that's how we can make these connections for the projects.

- That's very helpful. Thank you. Does the Global Mission Commission ask for accounting over how the grant is spent once it's been awarded and what kind of other oversight might the commission want to have once the grant has been awarded?

- Well, once the commission decides to present an award to a particular entity and the diocese and the funds are transmitted to the entity it is that entity's responsibility to oversee the project. They are the ones who have the partnership. So they will dispense the money as the particular project requires. They will be in continued conversation with the global entity. But what the commission requests is that at the six month point of the year long project that the diocesan entity provide an interim report about how it's going, how the project is working out. And then in the October of the following year they will present the entire year's project at mission fair.

- Wonderful. Thank you. Has the pandemic affected any relationships with partner diocese's and how?

- It really hasn't. The only circumstance that we've found related to the pandemic is that initial request for funding had to be adjusted for the inflation rate that in some countries has affected their economy. So that actually is the only thing we've noticed so far.

- We have a question. We are working on a mission project in Liberia on education. How can we contact you for help with the project?

- We are happy to help anybody's application from start to finish. So if a parish is here in the diocese, then all they need to do is reach out by way of our email sustainabilitygrants@dioceseny.org and send



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their questions. And then once the question is offered it's transmitted to our committee and we will then begin the conversation.

- Wonderful. Maybe we can put that email in the chat just to be sure that everyone has it. I think that those are all the questions that we have for now. Thank you so much, Mary.

- Thank you, Mary. And thank you Global Mission Commission. We each week have found it spiritually helpful, speaking for myself anyway, to invite us into a time of prayer, a time of corporate prayer. We use the chat room or the chat boxes. Some people call it to write our prayers of intercession petition Thanksgiving, praise, adoration, any kind of prayer you'd like. And we have a few moments of silence, even over the Zoom, electronic waves. And then we've listened to some meditative music and then join together in our closing prayer. So right now I invite you if the spirit so moves to write your prayers in the chat box and then we'll listen to some music and we move into our closing prayers and song. ♪ I am sending you light, to heal you, to hold you ♪ ♪ I am sending you light, to hold you in love ♪ ♪ I am sending you light, to heal you, to hold you ♪ ♪ I am sending you light, to hold you in love ♪ ♪ I am sending you light, to heal you, to hold you ♪ ♪ I am sending you light, to hold you in love ♪ ♪ I am sending you light, to heal you, to hold you ♪ ♪ I am sending you light, to hold you in love ♪ ♪ I am sending you light, to heal you, to hold you ♪ ♪ I am sending you light, to hold you in love ♪ ♪ I am sending you light, to heal you, to hold you ♪ ♪ I am sending you light, to hold you in love ♪ ♪ I am sending you light, to heal you, to hold you ♪ ♪ I am sending you light, to hold you in love ♪

- Creator of all people, in our amazing diversity of size, shape, color, and giftedness guide us by your grace to recognize the beauty and fitness of all whom you've made in your own image. Give us gifts of humility and generosity of spirit to recognize an all people the face of our savior Jesus, and to practice his commandment to love one another towards the end of bringing harmony and peace among persons of all colors, origins, and abilities for the sake of your kingdom. Amen.

- Friends, what a wonderful meeting. And I want to invite you to sort of stay and listen to the song, following the final blessing. Thanks to all, thanks for your engagement. Thanks for your work. Thanks for the witness that you bear to Christ's love and justice in the world. Hope to see you next week as well. The blessing of the God who creates us, redeems us, and sustains us be upon us all and remain with us this night and always. Amen. ♪ Some bright mornin' when this life is over ♪ ♪ I'll fly away ♪ ♪ To that home on God's celestial shore ♪ ♪ I'll fly away ♪ ♪ I'll fly away, oh, glory ♪ ♪ I'll fly away in the morning ♪ ♪ When I die, Hallelujah, by and by ♪ ♪ I'll fly away ♪ ♪ When the shadows of this life is over ♪ ♪ I'll fly away ♪ ♪ Like a bird from these prison walls I fly ♪ ♪ I'll fly away ♪ ♪ I'll fly away, oh, glory ♪ ♪ I'll fly away in the morning ♪ ♪ When I die, Hallelujah, by and by ♪ ♪ I'll fly away ♪ ♪ Oh how glad and happy when



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we meet ♪ ♪ I'll fly away ♪ ♪ No more cold iron shackles on my feet ♪ ♪ I'll fly away ♪ ♪ I'll fly away oh
glory ♪ ♪ I'll fly away in the morning ♪ ♪ When I die, Hallelujah, by and by ♪ ♪ I'll fly away ♪