

44th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana
God's Church for God's World
Pineville, LA

Saturday, February 25, 2023

7:30 a.m. Resolutions Committee
8:30 a.m. Registration
10:00 a.m. Convention Assembles

1. Call to Order: The Rt. Rev. Jacob Owensby called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

The Very Rev. Dawnell Stodghill, President of the Standing Committee, opened the meeting with prayer.

2. Verification of Quorum: The Rev. Canon John Bedingfield, Chair of Credentials and Privileges, reported that 29 congregations of the 42 eligible congregations are represented; 37 clergy of the 51 eligible clergy are present; 91 lay delegates of 135 eligible lay delegates are present at Convention. The Convention has the necessary representation in each category for a quorum.

Bishop Owensby and Canon Bedingfield commented on the necessity of having a two-thirds quorum to vote to change any resolutions involving constitution or canon.

3. Election of Convention Secretary: Karen Hayward was nominated as Secretary by Bishop Owensby. The Rev. Garrett Boyte seconded. The Convention approved.

Bishop Owensby appointed The Rev. Whit Stodghill as Assistant Secretary.

4. Adoption of Rules of Order: The Rev. Michael Bordelon moved to adopt the Rules of Order as printed. The Rev. Laurent De Prins seconded. The Convention approved.

5. Report from the Committee on Dispatch of Business: The Rev. Michael Bordelon moved to adopt the agenda as sent to us electronically and presented with no changes. The Convention approved.

6. Appointment of a Parliamentarian: Bishop Owensby appointed Chancellor Kyle McInnis as Parliamentarian.

7. Introductions and Courtesies by the Bishop:

A. Clergy resident since the last convention:

Fr. Reinel Castro is canonically resident.

B. Members of the Standing Committee and the Diocesan Council:

Standing Committee Terms Ending

The Very Rev. Dawnell Stodghill

Sarah Hamm

Diocesan Council Terms Ending

Tom Jones, Acadiana

Bill Wolfenbarger, Alexandria

The Rev. Meg Lovejoy, Lake Charles

The Rev. Rita Jefferson, Monroe
The Rev. Thomas Nsubuga, Shreveport
Diocesan Council Newly Elected Members
The Rev. Rob Harkness, Monroe
The Rev. Garrett Boyte, Shreveport

C. Missioner for Racial Reconciliation:

The Rev. John Henson, Church for the Highlands in Shreveport

8. Minutes of the 43rd Diocesan Convention: The Rev. Garrett Boyte moved, and The Rev. Boo Kay seconded a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to accept them as presented. Motion passed.

9. Table Introductions: Bishop Owensby instructed delegates to share their names, the time they have been in their present congregation, and the ministries that makes them feel most alive in Christ.

10. Elections: The Very Rev. Dawnell Stodghill, Chair of the Elections Committee, presented a motion that the convention accept by acclamation the slate for Standing Committee, Disciplinary Board, and the University of the South. Motion passed.

Elected to the Standing Committee:

The Rev. Michael Cannon, Shreveport
Karen Hayward, Monroe

Elected to the Disciplinary Board:

Jill Bordelon, Abbeville
Martha Hoskins, Lake Charles
Daniel Manuel, Alexandria
Bess Maxwell, Shreveport
Roy Rosenthal, Alexandria

Elected as Trustee to the University of the South:

Marian Keator, Natchitoches

11. Appointments by Bishop Owensby:

A. Convention Committees: as listed in Convention materials

B. Treasurer: Will Harp

C. Other Appointments:

Deans of the Convocations:

Acadiana: The Very Rev. Annie Etheredge (2025)

Alexandria: The Very Rev. Rich Snow (2025)

Lake Charles: The Very Rev. Paul White (2025)

Monroe: The Very Rev. Rita Jefferson (2026)

Shreveport: The Very Rev. Mary Richards (2025)

Diocesan Council:

The Rev. Whit Stodghill, Vice President

The Rev. Deacon Brian Warner

Marian Keator

Bishop Owensby acknowledged the work of the Board of Trustees.

The Rev. Deacon Bette J. Kauffman, on behalf of the Care of Creation diocesan group, announced that receptacles have been placed in convention areas for recycling empty plastic bottles, empty aluminum cans, and clean paper.

10-minute break

12. Bishop's Convention Address:

This year's Diocesan Convention—God's Church for God's World—echoes that of the 15th Lambeth Conference. That's because the Design Team intended for the work of the Lambeth Conference to continue in our local dioceses.

To do that, we need to consider the following questions:

- What is the Lambeth Conference?
- What does the theme "God's Church for God's World" mean?
- How might this theme inform our ministry here?
- How have we anticipated the Lambeth theme in Western Louisiana?

So, let's turn now to our first question:

What is the Lambeth Conference?

The Lambeth Conference plays an essential role in the governance of the Worldwide Anglican Communion. To explain, let's be clear about what the Anglican Communion is.

The Anglican Communion exists in more than 165 countries. It includes 41 Provinces (like The Episcopal Church and The Church of England) and five extra-Provincial areas. There are over 80 million people in the Communion speaking more than 2000 languages. Provinces are at once autonomous—we govern ourselves—and interdependent (united by worship, theological tradition, and bonds of affection).

The Lambeth Conference is more than just a meeting. It is one of the four Instruments of Communion (or Unity). Those Instruments are:

The Archbishop of Canterbury
The Lambeth Conference
The Anglican Consultative Council
The Primates' Meeting

Given our time constraints, I'm not going to explain each of these. The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion websites offer more detailed information. My point is to indicate that the Lambeth Conference serves to weave the Communion together and to set its general direction until the next Lambeth Conference. And that brings us to our next question:

What does the theme "God's Church for God's World" mean?

God has a mission: the healing, redemption, and reconciliation of the world. And God has a church to carry out that mission. If you're ever wondering what your congregation is all about, just remember this theme: God's Church for God's World. You exist to carry out God's mission in your local community. Naturally, that will take many forms in accordance with the needs and challenges of your specific context.

Our work in England was organized around a number of Calls. To be honest, I had no idea what a Call was before beginning the process. Think about them this way. A Call is a report from the Lambeth Conference on the conversations the bishops have had on what we take to be the central challenges facing the Church in today's world. The places where God is calling us to act together to accomplish God's mission.

During our time together we considered and reported on our insights on the following matters:

- Mission and Evangelism
- Reconciliation

- Safe Church
- Environment and Sustainable Development
- Christian Unity
- Interfaith Relations
- Anglican Identity
- Human Dignity
- Discipleship

You can find information about the Lambeth Calls at the Lambeth Conference Website. In this context, I'm going to focus on just one of the calls: Discipleship. I'll use this single call to suggest how the Lambeth theme God's Church for God's World can inform our ministry in Western Louisiana. And that brings us to our third question:

How might the theme inform our ministry here?

In a keynote address Archbishop of York Stephen Cottrell asked us, "What is the church all about?" "McDonalds make(s) hamburgers. Cadburys make(s) chocolate. Starbucks make(s) coffee... [The] Church of Jesus Christ makes disciples." Let me put that in local terms. The Church in Western Louisiana makes disciples.

We don't make disciples like Cadburys makes chocolate. That's a mechanical process. Making disciples is organic and relational. Chocolate bars don't make chocolate bars. But only a disciple can make disciples.

So, to make disciples, we must be disciples first. The Baptismal Covenant in the Book of Common Prayer tells us in outline what a disciple is.

In this context we don't have time to review it all. Instead, let's look at the starting point for following Jesus. Let's look at conversion.

We are Anglicans. Our Tradition is rich and beautiful. St. Benedict's view of the spiritual life lies at the heart of that Tradition. The monks make three basic vows. The first is obedience. The second is stability or sticking with a specific community of people in all their beauty and cussedness.

But the vow that concerns us in this context is *conversatio morum*. You'll often see that phrase translated as "fidelity." What it means is a promise to pursue a daily pattern of living that leads us closer and closer to God. The third vow is a commitment to lifelong conversion.

Discipleship is rooted in conversion. And yet I hesitate to say that it begins with conversion. My hesitation comes from how I suspect some will hear the word "begin." It may sound to you like a before-and-after point in time. A sort of starting line or that moment when a switch has been switched once and for all.

Instead, I urge you to consider conversion as the daily starting point to which we return and from which we emerge. You might say that the Christian way is always one day at a time. That's not to say that we make no progress in the spiritual life.

On the contrary, many talk about the Christian path as resembling a spiral staircase. We return again and again to the same place except from a new standpoint. When things are going well, that new place is a higher plane. Sometimes we've taken some steps back.

Sacramentally, the Christian life begins with Baptism. But think with me about the Baptismal Rite in our Book of Common Prayer. Whether they are infants or old enough to speak for themselves, baptismal candidates are presented by members of the community. This points to the crucial role of the community in conversion. We'll have to leave that discussion for another day. What comes next—before moving to the Sacrament itself—is a recitation of the crucial moments in the conversion process. The candidates (or the godparents on behalf of infants) commit to do

the following: to Renounce; to Turn; to Trust; to Promise. To be more precise, we Christians commit to repeat these spiritual movements one day at a time.

We renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces that rebel against God, the evil powers of this world, and our sinful desires. We turn away from them. Not just once. But day by day in mostly small but sometimes large ways.

Next, we turn to Jesus and accept him as our Savior. In our can-do, achievement-oriented world it's no small thing to admit that we need a Savior. That we cannot accomplish on our own the most important, defining thing of our entire existence. The goal of human existence is union with our Creator. And this union comes to us always only as a gift. Never as our own accomplishment.

Once we've admitted our need for a Savior, we learn to trust. To trust that Jesus' grace and his mercy and his love will accomplish for us what we cannot achieve by our moral rigor or our sincerest piety.

Finally, we promise to obey and follow Jesus as Lord. We admit that he knows what we do not know. He embodies the very wisdom of God. The insight and the understanding needed to navigate the complexities of life. To love God and to love neighbor in all the particular, messy circumstances of real life.

Our discipleship is rooted in conversion. And conversion happens, with God's help, one day at a time. We each need a rule of life that includes corporate worship, personal prayer, study, works of mercy, and promotion of justice.

Now I'm pleased to say that the ministries of this Diocese have already anticipated the Lambeth Conference's theme in many ways. We already understand ourselves as instruments of God's mission. And I would like to highlight just a few of the ways that this has been happening from Lake Charles to Lake Providence, from New Iberia to Shreveport. And that brings us to our final question: How have we anticipated the Lambeth theme in Western Louisiana?

The examples are too many provide a complete list. So, I'm going to outline a representative few: In response to natural disasters we have helped to repair or reroof 164 homes in at least 9 parishes throughout central and southwest Louisiana and in so doing touched the lives of over 400 people.

We have also built partnerships with a wide array of organizations. They include Catholic Charities, The Rapides Foundation, Office of Public Health, Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Chamber of Commerce, Lasalle Parish School Board, and Christus St. Francis Cabrini.

I want to thank the leaders of our Disaster Relief Team for all the work they have done and continue to do: Joy Owensby for Central Louisiana, Archdeacon Lois Maberry for Northern Louisiana, and Cindy Robertson for Southwest Louisiana.

And here are a few examples parish-based mission:

St. James in Alexandria hosts a monthly breakfast for their distressed surrounding neighborhood. In addition to providing a sit-down, warm, nutritious meal, the Breakfast Crew has partnered with the NSU School of Nursing. Fifteen to twenty nursing students not only help cook and serve food but offer health assessments. Montgomery Animal Hospital provides free pet health assessments, vaccinations, and nail clipping. Stanley's Men's Parlor gives free men's haircuts. And the Office of Public Health has given Covid-19 and flu vaccines.

Moving to the south, St. Andrew's, Moss Bluff, responded to hurricane devastation by sponsoring three annual Planting Hope Seedling Tree Giveaways. St. Michael and All Angels in Lake Charles has fully renovated its Recovery House, a resource for the whole area in response to the disease of addiction.

In the Monroe Convocation, St. Thomas has rebranded itself as St. Thomas by the Bayou, thus offering the natural beauty of its setting as a spiritual resource for the surrounding community. Grace has transformed its educational mission in response to changing demographics. Narrowing their scope to nursery and pre-school, what was once a situation of declining enrollments now boasts a growing waiting list.

These ministries are all adapting to the real, changing circumstances around them under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. I regret that I cannot mention everyone. But I know the Diocese joins me in applauding you all.

And while I'm highlighting our local mission, let me encourage everyone to take note of the funding available from the Diocese. Our Treasurer will be reminding us of the Grant and Interest Free Loan Program brought to us by the wisdom of the Diocesan Council. Please, please be creative and take advantage of this program.

In closing, I want to thank my staff. Kathy Richey, Holly Davis, Thomas Stodghill, John Bedingfield, and Joy Owensby. And I want to thank all of you for the privilege of serving as your bishop. It is both a joy and an honor to follow Jesus with you. I love you. You are all a cherished part of my life. May God bless us all as we do the good work of Jesus Christ in our corner of God's Creation.

13. Table Talk: "How is Jesus saving you now? Or, what is a time that you experienced Jesus' saving power in your life?"

14. Acknowledgements for Ministry and Service:

Claire and Daryl Robichaud (daughter of The Rev. Ken Cooper and Martha Cooper) are present and representing St. Luke's Mobile Medical Ministry in Shreveport. Claire has gathered sermons from her father's files and published them in a book entitled *Folks on the Fringes: Ministering to the Marginalized*. Copies are for sale at convention. All proceeds will be donated to the work of St. Luke's Mobile Medical Ministry.

Bishop Owensby recognized Holly Davis and Joy Owensby for their ten years of service in the diocesan office.

Recess for lunch (noon to 12:45 PM)

12:45 PM Convention Resumes: Bishop Owensby called the Convention to order at 12:46 PM.

15. Dispatch of Business: The Rev. Michael Bordelon moves to adopt the afternoon agenda as presented. No second needed. Motion passed.

16. Review of 2023 Budget: Treasurer Will Harp presented the budget with visuals to explain both revenues and expenses expected in 2023. Will then focused his explanation to details of changes from 2022 to 2023. The diocese has accepted its full General Convention apportionment for 2023 which shows an increase based mostly on the outstanding performance of our

investments. Treasurer Harp thanked Joy Owensby for her technological skills in helping with the screen presentation.

Rose Bordelon addressed the need for congregations to understand the ministry grant and zero-interest loan opportunity. Will explained that the first million dollars had been increased to \$1.5 million to help congregations expand ministry and fund facility and grounds improvements. This is split evenly between the grant fund and zero-interest loan fund. He encouraged all congregations to apply for these funds. The Finance Committee is looking for reasons to say “yes” to applications. Treasurer Harp addressed additional questions from convention delegates. Representing the Finance Committee, Chancellor Kyle McInnis moved that the convention accept the 2023 budget as presented. No second was necessary. Motion passed.

17. Report from the Committee on Resolutions: Chair Mary Shaddock Jones explained the work of reviewing the original Diocesan Constitution from 1979 which has resulted in two resolutions which seek (1) to broaden the definition of clergy and (2) to clarify which members of the clergy vote at Diocesan Convention.

A. Review of General Convention resolutions: These resolutions can be found on the diocesan website. No action is required other than to publish them for diocesan convention.

B. Proposed constitutional amendments for diocesan constitution: The Committee on Constitution and Canons is charged with overseeing the review of the Diocesan Constitution.

Chairwoman Jones moved to pass the constitutional amendments. Coming from committee, no second is needed.

Resolution NO. CC-44-001: “To Amend the Diocesan Constitution relating to Article VIII ‘Permanent Organization and Convention’ to specifically outline which Clergy are considered within the voting membership of the Convention.

“It is hereby Resolved,

ARTICLE VIII

PERMANENT ORGANIZATION AND CONVENTION

Section 5: The voting membership of the Convention in both its annual and its special meeting shall consist of the following clergy and lay delegates:

- (a) The Bishop, and if there be such, the Bishop Coadjutor and Bishop Suffragan;
- (b) Clergy canonically and physically resident in the Diocese, provided such Clergy is
 - (i) regularly serving a parish or mission or Diocesan institution acknowledged by the Bishop, if there is one, and the Standing Committee,
 - (ii) holds a cure within the Diocese,
 - (iii) holds office in an ecclesiastical body organized under the General Convention of the Episcopal Church, or,
 - (iv) serving under the supervision of the Bishop of the Armed Services as Chaplain in the Armed Services of the United States of America or at a Veterans Administration Institution.
- (c) A member of the Clergy under ecclesiastical discipline or suspension shall not be entitled to membership, seat and vote, nor to any voice in the Convention.”

Discussion ensued. Bishop Owensby discussed the difficulties of quorum requirements impacting convention business. Lessons from past circumstances can help us avoid negative situations.

Fr. Laurent De Prins called for the question.

Motion passed with four dissenting votes.

Resolution NO. CC-44-002: “To amend the Diocesan Constitution relating to Article XIII Amendments to adopt Section 3 allowing for grammatical, spelling and/or punctuation changes which do not fundamentally change the meaning of a Constitutional Article or Canon to be made by the Constitution and Canons Committee and approved by the Bishop and the Diocesan Council without approval of the Convention.

It is hereby Resolved,

ARTICLE XIII AMENDMENT

Section 1: The Articles of Incorporation and Constitution may be amended, taken from added to or the Corporation dissolved as follows:

- (a) By presenting a resolution in writing setting forth in full the proposed amendment or act of dissolution, and adopted by a two-thirds (2/3rds) vote at two (2) consecutive annual meetings of the Convention;
- (b) The second of such meetings shall be a quorum present composed of two-thirds (2/3rds) of the clergy entitled to membership and vote and two-thirds (2/3rds) of the lay members entitled to membership and vote, and provided that two-thirds (2/3rds) of the parishes in union with the Convention shall be represented by lay members.

Section 2: The same vote provided in Section 1 shall be required for the division of the Diocese or creation of a new Diocese, or creation of a new Diocese out of the existing Diocese, or merger with any other Diocese.

Section 3: Grammatical, spelling and/or punctuation changes which do not fundamentally change the meaning of a Constitutional Article or Canon may be made by the Constitution and Canons Committee, with the approval of the Bishop and Diocesan Council, without the approval of the Convention. Such changes shall be included in the next version of the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Western Louisiana when subsequently published.

Motion passed with one dissenting vote.

18. Table Talk: “Talk about an experience you have had being the Church for God’s world.”

19. Camp Hardtner Report: Director Daniel Chapman

“Good afternoon and hello, I am Daniel Chapman, the director of Camp Hardtner.

I hope you’ve all had a chance to stop by our booth to say hello and learn about us. But if you’re not familiar with Camp Hardtner, we are the Episcopal church’s summer camp ministry in Louisiana. We are owned by this diocese, and we also consider the Diocese of Louisiana to be ours, too. In fact, it’s about a 50/50 split in terms of where our campers come from between the two dioceses.

I stood before this body last year and shared with you our strategic choice to restructure in 2022 and operate as a camp only—no longer serving as a year-round host facility/retreat center. Many of you will remember this was the outcome of a multi-year, deep discernment and strategic process by a Task Force, the Hardtner Board of Trustees, the Bishop, and myself.

Going into 2022, we began a 3-year revitalization phase to try our best to live into the Bishop’s commission to us to adapt to a complex and changing landscape.

We’ve set before us a mission to reshape, redefine, and revitalize Camp Hardtner by being boldly and smartly experimental in ways that are true to its core and within its capacity, in order to strengthen its missional capacity and sustainability by the end of 2024.

That’s a long sentence and no small task! So how is that going a year in?

Well, for one, we are encouraged that we are on the right path.

Firstly, we're building our financial stability: We brought in 20% more revenue through summer camp enrollment than we budgeted. Forty-three percent more than the previous year. We also brought in 102% more revenue through fundraising than we budgeted. An increase of 560% from 5 years ago.

And while money is a great metric, even more encouraging are our number of campers. The actual youth and adolescents that are being formed and transformed by our ministry: We had 265 campers this past summer—a 33% increase from the summer before. For summer 2023, we are currently on track with pre-pandemic registration levels, and so we are optimistic to be in the 350 camper range this summer.

The other indicator that I find most encouraging of all is our young adult engagement—the 18-25ish ages. For one: many other camps are struggling to find staff for the summer, we're not. And the people we've had on staff the last couple of years are engaging with Camp, with the Church, and with their faith lives in a way that I haven't seen in quite a while. So we're trying to lean into that and experiment.

One of our experiments has been the internship position we started. Young adults' lives have been non-stop pressure to make good grades, get into a great college, figure it all out, and prepare for the "real world," and then you throw the pandemic on top of that! The thought was "what does camp Hardtner have to offer to that group?" Easy: space, time, and support.

So we put our unused housing to use, and we now have two young adults figuring out their next steps in life with the grounding and foundation and support of this diocese. We pay them a little bit, give them a place to live, and a flexible and supportive working environment to try new things, fail, build new personal and professional skills. They get ongoing formation, connection with the broader Episcopal Church, personal and professional growth. Isn't that what Camp is all about? We're just doing it in a new way.

You know, I talk to people all the time who say, "We love Camp Hardtner, but we don't have any youth at the church to send." Anybody agree with that statement?

I want to change the way we're thinking about this.

You saw earlier that the Diocesan budget invests \$165,000/year in Camp Hardtner (THANK YOU!). That money comes from the 40 or so parishes across the Diocese. So if we have 350 campers this summer, each parish is supporting about 8 young people. How many of you would be over the moon to have a youth group with eight young people?

I really don't mean this as a word trick. But seriously. When the campers are in the pews at Camp, they are in your pews. When they are at the communion rail, they are in communion with you. Camp Hardtner is your proxy, is your partner. Together, our Church—with a capital C—is investing in relationships with young people, bringing them up and encouraging them in the faith, and giving them a foundation in God that will serve them for life and equip them to impact their communities and the world.

In another news, I want say a special thanks to Deacon Bette Jo for getting us designated on the Louisiana Natural Areas Registry. This means that the State of Louisiana has recognized Camp Hardtner's property for having:

- 1) Habitat for native plants or animals with rare or declining populations in Louisiana
- 2) Plant communities characteristic of the native vegetation of Louisiana
- 3) Outstanding natural features

Thank you for your years of work on that and for helping us to see and appreciate God's creation in a new way.

So that's Camp Hardtner right now. We made a hard change last year in the face of challenging circumstances. We're attuned to some really positive fruits of that change. And we continue to try to faithfully listen for and respond to God's Spirit leading us forward.

So, good work yall! And thank you.

And on a personal note, thank you. Many of you know that I grew up in the Diocese—shout out Epiphany New Iberia—and I was gifted something life changing through Camp Hardtner. I've been the director now for 5 years (which in pandemic time is like 15 years) and it continues to be life changing and the best thing ever. I love doing this with y'all."

(Last, the drawing for the Camp Hardtner ice chest was a hit!)

20. Report from Committee on Courtesy Resolutions: The Very Rev. Annie Etheredge, Chair, along with The Rev. Deacon Michael Parham and Sherl Picchioni presented the convention's courtesy resolutions:

Resolution 1: WHEREAS Justin Portal Welby has faithfully served the diverse needs of the Anglican Communion as the 105th Archbishop of Canterbury for more than nine years, And WHEREAS Archbishop Welby has a passion for reconciliation of all persons and is committed to the pursuit of peace throughout the whole world at a time when peace is at a premium, And WHEREAS Archbishop Justin is committed to the spreading of the gospel through our particular expression of faith, And WHEREAS Archbishop Justin calls us to the freedom of extraordinary, Christ-liberated courage... BE IT RESOLVED: that the 44th annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana extend to Archbishop Welby our greetings and warmest wishes. I so move.

Resolution 2: WHEREAS The Most Reverend Michael Bruce Curry has faithfully served the worldwide Episcopal Church as our levels of inclusion as our first P-B of color; And WHEREAS Bishop Curry's contagiously enthusiastic love for our Lord Jesus Christ has prompted us all to join and celebrate the Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement; and WHEREAS Bishop Curry is approaching his final year of an exceptionally joyful ministry as our most-selfied Most Reverend; therefore, BE IT RESOLVED the 44th annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana extend to Bishop Curry and his spouse and partner in hope Sharon, our greetings and warmest wishes. I so move.

Resolution 3: WHEREAS the Right Reverend Jacob W. Owensby, bishop of the Diocese of Western Louisiana, leader of Episcopalians is approaching his twelfth—TWELFTH!--year of ministry in this most august office; And WHEREAS Bishop Jake, who shepherded his sometimes willing flock of cats through the challenges and changes of COVID; and WHEREAS Bishop Jake, whose new hairstyle can only be explained by his recent election as Chancellor of the University of the South and its necessary gravitas; And WHEREAS Bishop Jake had the good grace to choose as his partners in life, love, and ministry his most beloved Joy Owensby AND Diocesan First Canine Gracie; and WHEREAS Bishop Jake has woven all of this into a career marked by energetic leadership for God's Church in God's World; BE IT RESOLVED the 44th annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana extend to Bishop Owensby our heartfelt thanks and admiration by raising the roof on his behalf. I so move.

Resolution # 4: WHEREAS The Rt. Rev. David Bruce McPherson was the third bishop of The Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana; and WHEREAS Bishop McPherson has passed from this life, therefore; BE IT BE IT RESOLVED that this 44th Convention of The Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana extend warm wishes, prayers, and abiding affection to his widow Susan. I so move.

WHEREAS The Rt. Rev. Robert J. Hargrove was the second bishop of The Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana; and WHEREAS Bishop Hargrove has passed from this life, therefore; BE IT BE IT RESOLVED that this 44th Convention of The Episcopal Diocese of

Western Louisiana extend warm wishes, prayers, and abiding affection to his widow Linda. I so move.

Resolution #6: WHEREAS The Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana has long enjoyed a relationship with the Diocese of The Dominican Republic; and WHEREAS members of this diocese have found opportunities for ministry and friendship while visiting the Dominican Republic; and WHEREAS Bishop Moises Quezada Mota is now in the fourth year of his episcopate, therefore; BE IT BE IT RESOLVED that this 44th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana send greetings and our kindest regards to Bishop Moises and the clergy and people of the Diocese of The Dominican Republic; I so move.

Resolution #7: WHEREAS, Missioner Joy Bruce Owensby has been partnered with her beloved Jake for 40 years and has traveled the world with him through children, career changes, and a shared commitment to Christ, and WHEREAS Joy has served the diocese as missioner for Formation and Community Engagement for a full decade through hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, Covid and plagues of frogs (oh wait, that hasn't happened yet, but Joy will handle it when it does); and WHEREAS Joy does all the aforementioned with characteristic kindness, good humor and—yes—Joy: therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that this 44th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Louisiana show our love and admiration for Joy with a show of our affection; I so move.

Resolution #8 WHEREAS, Holly Davis Windham lives out her Christian witness for the last ten years in a vocation of which no child dreams, as executive assistant to the Bishop; and WHEREAS Holly pulls together the threads of scheduling, managing, arranging, rearranging, communicating, rearranging, accommodating, and more rearranging the minute and myriad details of the hot mess that is the life of a busy, busy bishop; and WHEREAS Holly had to fall ill to give herself a rest from her dedication to this craziness: therefore , BE IT RESOLVED, that this 44th Convention of the Diocese of Western Louisiana send to Holly our warmest prayers for restored health and

Resolution #9 WHEREAS, they had to schedule this convention of disciples of the King of Kings with the knowledge that resources may be stretched thin by the needs of the Convention of the King of Rock and Roll at a nearby venue therefore; BE IT RESOLVED, that this 44th convention of the Diocese of Western Louisiana extend to Holly (long may she reign) Kathy, Joy, and the Diocesan staff deepest regards with a rousing round of applause. I so move.

21. Commissioning of Diocesan Leadership: Bishop Owensby invited all the newly elected and appointed diocesan leaders to rise for commissioning and prayer.

22. Other Business of Convention: none

23. Closing prayers, blessing, and adjournment: Bishop Owensby invited the Convention to stand for prayer and asked Archdeacon Lois Maberry to dismiss the Convention.

The Convention was adjourned at 2:52 PM.

The Standing Committee met briefly following the Convention.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen C. Hayward
Diocesan Secretary