

The Burlington Convocation of the Diocese of New Jersey
Minutes of the Autumn Meeting (Zoom and In-Person)
Wednesday, October 26, 2022

At 7:10 pm, the Very Reverend J. Matthew Tucker, Dean, welcomed all present and thanked the Rev. Emily Mellott for hosting the meeting and Ryan Paetzold for arranging for and handling Zoom. He then acknowledged and thanked Bishop Stokes and his staff for their presence and invited Mother Mellott to open the meeting by leading all present in the reading of Evening Prayer.

Attendance:

St. Stephen's, Beverly: 2 lay
Christ Church, Bordentown: 2 clergy, 1 lay
St. Mary's, Burlington: 1 clergy, 3 lay
Saints Stephen and Barnabas, Florence: 2 clergy, 3 lay
St. Martin-in-the Fields, Lumberton: 1 clergy (shared with Pemberton), 1 lay
St. Peter's, Medford: 4 clergy, 3 lay
Trinity, Moorestown: 2 clergy, 2 lay
St. Andrew's, Mount Holly: 1 clergy, 3 lay
Christ Church, Palmyra: 2 clergy, 3 lay
Grace Church, Pemberton: 1 clergy (shared with Lumberton), 3 lay
St. Stephen's, Riverside: 1 clergy, 2 lay
Christ Church, Riverton: 2 clergy
Trinity, Vincentown: 1 clergy, unsure of total laypersons attending via Zoom
Christ the King, Willingboro: 2 lay

New Business:

After acknowledging the success of both "the Phillies and the Eagles," Bishop Stokes thanked all church leaders for their work during Covid, noting that although our context as changed, our mission as the Church has remained the same: to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. (BCP, p. 855)

The Rev. Canon Valerie L. Balling then presented an update on the transition process as we move towards the election of the 13th Bishop of New Jersey. She highlighted the following:

- The slate of candidates is to be announced early next week.
- The Transition Committee is already at work and will continue to work through the Consecration.
- Diocesan Meet & Greets (a/k/a Walk-Abouts) will be held from January 9-13, 2023.
- The Hybrid Electing Convention will be held on January 28, 2023. Canon Balling stressed the importance of registering for the Convention no later than January 7, 2023.
- Also by January 7, 2023: Any changes to delegates registered to attend the Electing Convention must be made by contacting Ann Notte or Mary Anne Clisham.
- In order to vote, participant in the Electing Convention participants should bring their own electronic devices. (Laptop, Tablet, iPhone)

The meeting was then turned over to the Right Rev. Chip Stokes, Bishop, who highlighted the mission and work of our diocesan Reparations Task Force. To learn more about or participate in the Reparations Task Force, contact either Canon Annette Buchanan at annbuc200v@verizon.net or Canon Barbie Bach at bobach1024@aol.com. (Canons Buchanan and Bach are Co-Chairs of the Reparations Task Force).

At the Bishop's invitation, Mother Emily Mellott, Chair of "Discerning Our Common Call" then urged all present to complete the My Way of Love Spiritual Inventory no later than Sunday, October 30, 2022.

Speakers from the staff of the Diocese of New Jersey included:

Canon Phyllis Jones, Chief Operating Officer, who highlighted the work of Episcopal Community Services-New Jersey and invited all present to mark their calendars for a Gala to be held in honor of Bishop Stokes on Sunday, May 21, 2023. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry will be the guest speaker of the event, sponsored by Episcopal Community Services, New Jersey. To learn more about how to support the work of Episcopal Community Services-NJ (ECS-NJ), go to info@ecs.org, dioceseofnj.org/ecs and/or donate.ecs-nj.org.

Later in the meeting, Canon Jones also spoke about Project Resource, our diocesan source for all things related to stewardship of both money and people. Please go to <https://dioceseofnj.org/project-resource/> to see all of the resources provided by this organization. In a related comment, Bishop Stokes highlighted the importance of developing congregation Legacy Societies.

The Rev. Canon Rob Droste, Canon for Congregational Development and Mission, who highlighted and described the Way of St. Paul Season IV Launch on January 6 & 7, 2023 This event and all related offerings are free and will be offered both in-person and virtually. Go to [Bit.ly/WOSPInfo](https://bit.ly/WOSPInfo) for more information.

Participants then viewed a video presented by our diocesan Anti-Racism Commission and heard from Deacon Helen Orlando, who spoke about the availability of Global Goals Matching Grants. Applications are due no later than November 15, 2022. For more information, go to <https://dioceseofnj.org/globalgoals/>

After Canon Phyllis Jones thanked all congregations for providing a consistent level of funding to the Diocese of New Jersey, Bishop Stokes made himself available for any questions (there were none) and publicly thanked Doane Tucker for designing the Invitation for the ECS-NJ-sponsored Farewell Gala for Bishop Stokes. The Gala will be held on Monday, May 21, 2023 at the Double Tree by Hilton in Cherry Hill. The Most Rev. Michael Curry will be the keynote speaker.

There being no other business for consideration, the meeting adjourned at 7:28pm with a blessing from Bishop Stokes and the Dismissal.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Helen M Orlando, Deacon
Secretary of Burlington Convocation