



The Episcopal Diocese of New York

Transcript of the September 23, 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 good people of the Episcopal Diocese of New York, I welcome you to this, the third of eight rollout meetings for our 244th Annual Diocesan Convention. These meetings are recorded and posted after the fact, usually on the Friday after the Wednesday evening, for people who are unable to join us during the five to six time period on Wednesday evenings to view after the fact and I invite you to do so. I also invite all of those of you who are engaged at this point at any time during the course of the meeting, to utilize the chat room and let us know who you are and where you're from. Jillian Jameson of the staff of Church of Heavenly Rest is monitoring that chat room and it'd be fun for us to know who's on the call right now. Without further words from me, let's have an opening prayer 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 ♪

- Come Holy Spirit, renew the face of the Earth.

- [Both] Come Holy Spirit, renew the face of the Earth.

- We pray thee for congregations in Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan and Ulster Counties.

- [Both] Come Holy Spirit, renew the face of the Earth.

- We pray for congregations in Westchester County.

- [Both] Come Holy Spirit, renew the face of the Earth.

- We pray for congregations in the Bronx.

- [Both] Come Holy Spirit, renew the face of the Earth.

- We pray for congregations in Manhattan.
- [Both] Come Holy Spirit, renew the face of the Earth.
- We pray for congregations in Staten Island.
- [Both] Come Holy Spirit, renew the face of the Earth.
- We confess, oh God, that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

- [Both] Come Holy Spirit, renew the face of the Earth.
- Come Holy spirit.
- [Both] Help us face whatever separates us from others, from you, from ourselves.
- Come Holy spirit.
- [Both] Help us face our privilege.
- Come Holy spirit.
- [Both] Help us face our exploitation of the planet.
- Come Holy Spirit.
- [Both] Help us face our exploitation of others.
- Come Holy Spirit.
- [Both] Help us face our systems of oppression.
- Come Holy Spirit.
- [Both] Help us face our fears. Come Holy Spirit, renew the face of the Earth.

- It being the third of eight rollout meetings, I've finally decided that we should run the credits at the beginning of the program. And so I want to thank the following people who have worked all summer and back from the spring, the small executive committee on planning convention, Matt Hyde, the Secretary of Convention, Sara Saavedra, the Assistant Secretary, Alice Yurke, the Chancellor of the Diocese of New York, Geoff Smith, Director of Technology, Nick Richardson, Director of Communications. We also have on loan to us and are very fortunate to have on loan to us, Lucas Thorpe, Jillian Jameson, and Lucy Breidenthal all on the staff of the Church of the Heavenly Rest who are helping us out. And in the technological division, we have Tom Haggerty, Joey Wares, and Marty Cole. Doing the American Sign Language interpretation is Dori Griffiths, and our captioner is Randy Friedman. Thanks to all of you, one and all, for making all of this possible. We've been working with the four core values of

transparency, trust, accessibility, and agency. And we continue to use those to guide the work we are doing as we roll out Diocesan Convention, this 244th convention of the Diocese of New York. Tonight's themes are leadership development and congregational development. And to introduce those themes formerly I turn the microphone over to my brother in Christ, Bishop Allen Shin.

- Hi, I'm Allen Shin, Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of New York and it is my privilege to introduce to you the themes for today's convention rollout. And they are leaders with development and congregational development. But first I would like to thank the planning team for their excellent, excellent work of these roll-out sessions, which have been just fantastic. And especially to Bishop Glasspool for her vision and leadership in organizing these convention roll-outs. The church is foremost the people. And the church needs people to carry out its mission and ministries, and to help organize and guide the mission and ministries. We need leaders, both lay and ordained. The Leadership Development Commission has worked intentionally and diligently to solicit nominations for various leadership roles of the commissions and committees of the Dioceses, and to ensure the equitable representation, regional representation from around the Diocese. And you can see the list of the nominees on your convention app. The commission has also made sure that every nominee has completed the antiracism training in accordance with the canon of the Diocese. So in the video presentation, you will hear from the Mother Susan Fortunato, who is the chair of the commission, the Rector of Christ Church Poughkeepsie, and other members of the commission. And she will be joined by Earl Francis at the Q&A session following. In our congregational life, we have been facing an unprecedented time and circumstance for the missionary ministries of our churches. The Congregational Development Commission chaired by Wendy Canas, lay leader of Saint Anne's in the Bronx and is overseen by Canon Victor Conrado. This year, during the months of pandemic, the commission has focused on four themes, adaptability, collaboration, hybrid community building, both online and on site and lay leadership formation. And Canon Conrado has worked tirelessly during this time of pandemic to provide a number of online sessions every week. In today's the video presentation you will hear from Canon Conrado. and the Reverends Vicki Sirota, Steven Lee and Gina Gore. And we now turn to the presentation by the Leadership Development Commission followed by the Congregational Development Commission. ♪ Sometimes I'm right ♪ ♪ But I can be wrong ♪ ♪ My own beliefs are in my song ♪ ♪ A butcher, a baker, a drummer and then ♪ ♪ Makes no difference what group I'm in ♪ ♪ I'm everyday people ♪

- [Susan] Hi, I'm Susan Fortunato and I'm the chair of the Leadership Development Committee. Our committee is tasked with finding candidates to run for elections at Diocesan Convention. Because of the size and diversity of the Diocese of New York, our committee tries to balance each slate of candidates, making sure that there are candidates from each of the three regions of the Diocese. The Diocese of New York is divided into three regions. The first is the Mid Hudson, which is comprised of Orange, Sullivan, Ulster and Dutchess counties. Region two includes Westchester, Rockland and Putnam. And the city, which includes the Bronx, Manhattan and Staten Island. In addition, we work to make sure that we have both small and large churches, rural, suburban, and urban. And we also work to make sure that each election has a relatively equal number of men and women. But of course, we know that in the Diocese of New York that just begins to touch on our diversity. ♪ We've got to live together ♪

- [Male] People of color
- [Female] People representing the different ethnic backgrounds of the Diocese.
- [Male] Gay, bi and trans people
- [Male] New leadership and more speaking leaders.

- [Susan] I work with a committee of lay and ordained people throughout the year to make sure that we continue to recruit talented members of churches, encourage those who have taken on diocesan responsibilities and continue to make sure that we're recruiting men and women who can represent the ever changing membership of the Diocese of New York.

- [Male] We have developed a nomination form and encourage everyone in the Diocese to fill out an interest form if you're willing to serve in a leadership position.

- [Female] These forms act as the basis of our pool of candidates. Nominations that cannot be placed on the ballot are passed onto commissions and committees of the Diocese for membership.

- [Female] Some elections, such as standing committee, are run regionally. That's to ensure that there will be equal representation of all parts of the Diocese on that body at any given time.

- [Male] This year's clergy election for standing committee will be for region two. The lay election will be for the city. Next year's clergy election will be for the Mid Hudson and the lay election will be for region two.

- [Female] This year for the first time everyone running for election to a Diocesan office has been required to complete anti-racism training. This was a resolution passed at last year's diocesan convention. During the pandemic, we worked closely with the Anti-racism Committee to ensure that there are opportunities for candidates that every person who wants to participate has ample opportunity.

- [Female] The Leadership Development Committee is always looking for new membership and to broaden the pool of candidates for Diocesan elections.

- [Male] Don't forget to fill out a nomination form.

- [Male] And when we call you or email you asking you to consider running for an office, please consider saying yes.

- [Susan] The Diocese of New York has a long tradition of leadership, both in our local communities, as well as our state, and also more broadly in the national church. Please consider being a part of that tradition and adding your voice to our conversations. God bless you. ♪ There is a blue one who can't accept the green one ♪ ♪ For living with a fat one, trying to be a skinny one ♪ ♪ Different strokes for different folks ♪ ♪ And so on and so on and Scooby dooby doo-bee ♪ ♪ We've got to live together ♪ ♪ I am no better and neither are you ♪ ♪ We are the same whatever we do ♪ ♪ You love me, you hate me, you know me and then ♪ ♪ You can't figure out the bag I'm in ♪ ♪ I am everyday people ♪ ♪ There is a long hair that doesn't like the short hair ♪ ♪ For being such a rich one ♪ ♪ That does not help the poor one ♪ ♪ Different strokes for different folks ♪ ♪ And so on and so on and Scooby dooby doo-bee ♪ ♪ Oh, sha sha, we got to live together ♪

- We welcome questions into the chat at this time, Reverend Fortunato, thank you so much for that impressive video. As the questions come in, I have a few questions of my own to start us off. The first is how does someone get on the diocesan ballot or the ballot?

- Sure and that's a great question, Lucy. There are a lot of ways to get on the ballot. We traditionally have asked the priests of the parishes of the Diocese and also the wardens for their nominations, but our committee has developed a nomination form that's available on the Diocesan website. And so anyone can send in a nomination and let us know why they think they'd be great for Diocesan leadership. I also just have to do a quick shout out to Sam Owen, a priest in the Diocese and a member of our committee. Sam actually saw an article by a lay person in another part of the Diocese and was so impressed that he actually reached out and invited them to be a candidate for Diocesan election. So basically we're everywhere looking for you and Lucy, I think your name will be on next time. So there you go.

- My, my, my, how exciting. Having said that, what happens or why might some people be on the, who have been nominated not be on the ballot? So a person sends in a nomination, how do they not end up on the ballot?

- Sure, again, a very, very hot question this year. Partly I think because of the pandemic, we were inundated with self nominations, particularly from Manhattan, which is wonderful, and we're so excited about that, but the problem is that we have to balance all of our slates geographically. So for every

candidate from Manhattan, we need to have equal numbers of candidates from Westchester, Rockland, Orange, and also Dutchess and the region that I live in. And because of that, and because we try and balance every ballot, both geographically and also by gender and all these different qualifications, not everybody makes it on to every ballot.

- Got it, that makes sense. We have a question asking if you could talk about how and why we're looking for new leaders in Diocesan positions, and particularly younger people.

- Sure. Well, as Bishop Shin said, developing leadership within the church is actually the key, not only to making sure that your own parish is healthy, but it's also the key to making sure that the Diocese of New York remains a healthy and vibrant Diocese. And as I mentioned in the video, we also have traditionally provided leadership for the national church. So we're interested in making sure that every voice is heard and that every group is represented. And we also know that that churches, Dioceses and the national church are complex organizations. And so the longer you are able to serve in Diocesan leadership, the more opportunity you have to develop a broad based vision of what the Diocese is. At the same time, because of the pandemic, because of some of the issues that are going on in the church, we want to make sure that we have people from small churches, large churches, urban areas, rural areas, who are all there to talk about and bring the unique perspectives of their home congregations.

- Thank you. A simple but important question, where can we get a nomination form?

- Great question. You can get a nomination form from the Diocesan website. And we also, thanks to the wonderful staff, the technological staff and Nick Richardson, he has mailed out those nomination forms through the priest lists and the wardens list. So if for some reason you can't find one, either ask one of the wardens at your churches or your priest and they should be able to find one for you pretty soon.

- Wonderful. And one more question, what are the Diocesan positions? How does this work?

- So there's some positions that are elected every year at our convention. And those positions vary to some degree from year to year, but basically those are standing committee, diocesan council, also representatives to General convention. Some years we have physicians that are available for individual things, like the committee to elect a bishop. So they're all sorts of both small and large time commitments that are required for these various committees. In addition to those though, I just want to throw in one thing, that there are a lot of organizations within the Diocese that don't require an election. And so for all those people that weren't able to be placed on the ballot this year, our committee this year has begun trying to place those other people onto Diocesan commissions that don't require elections. So we can't guarantee that, but what we can guarantee is that we're going to bring that pool of candidates forward for leadership positions.

- Wonderful, thank you. We do have maybe time for one quick question, final question, which is is there a listing of qualifications for each position so that the nominator knows if the person is qualified?

- Sure. So the qualifications really are available and they're actually found probably in your convention booklets. There are also descriptions that are available of each position that are on different websites. But let me tell you that the major qualification that you have for all of these positions is that you're an active and involved member of your local parish and you care deeply, not only about your parish, but about the parishes around you. After that, we can take all of your life skills, your energy, enthusiasm, and we can find a place that it would make sense for you to serve. So I just want to say on behalf of the whole leadership development team, that we are really, really encouraging everybody to just find a way to make a difference and nominate yourself and just see where that journey goes.

- Wonderful. Reverend Fortunato thank you so much.

- Thank you, Lucy.

- [Male] You probably have heard this 1,000 times by now, We live in unprecedented times. We are in a uncharted territory. As we look to the future, no one will be an expert on where we are going, but we can look back and analyze the recent trends that now have began to accelerate and make some informed assumptions on where ministry is heading. The Congregational Vitality and Formation Office and the Congregational Development Commission believe that congregational development is the development of congregations of all sizes, locations, and conditions into more faithful, healthy, and effective communities of faith, no matter the time we might be in. We learned that important trends of these developments include communications that are centered on and faithful to their unique region of being. Congregations that are connected to and expressive of their unique ecclesial tradition, ethos, and character, congregations that are self renewing and responsive to the challenges and opportunities before them, congregations that are sustainable or working toward greater sustainability, congregations that are fostering a culture of transparency, courage, flexibility, collaboration, and forgiveness. Let us now listen to members of the CDC leadership team on how they at their congregations adapted, collaborated, for these unprecedented times.

- [Female] Early on in this pandemic, as we clergy and lay leaders began to realize that we were struggling with tremendous grief and a sense of loss, we contacted Reverend Minks Ross, a psychotherapist who also works at Union, who did a wonderful job, led a great session, reminding us that there's no wrong way to grieve, but also helping us through all the losses we were feeling, including the loss of meeting together and hugging, the loss of ritual and liturgy, the loss of Holy week and Easter.

- [Female] Revelation Chapter 21, Verse Five said, "And he who was seated on the throne said, "I am making all things new."" This pandemic is teaching us to praise our Lord Jesus Christ in a new way. The Congregation Development Commission during this time of pandemic, make a serious commitment to train lay leaders around the Diocese of New York in important topics such as stewardship. Also, every Wednesday, Latinos lay leaders, were given the opportunity to participate in meetings. In these meetings, we will have the opportunity to share about our success and the struggles that we were facing in our community. This was a space for us to learn from each other and to support each other and to understand that we were not facing this pandemic alone.

- [Female] March through every church a curve ball in how to deal with children, youth, and family ministries in the pandemic. A lot has happened since then. And some are brought some really creative ideas to our Diocese, everything from VBS on Zoom, teen Bible studies, music, art, movement, card making for the elderly, family game night and more. Please know this, a lot is happening in our Diocese and our committee is here to help support that vitality and to connect you with others in those ministries. And now I would like to introduce you to one very special teen in our Diocese to share her story.

- [Chelsea] Hello, my name is Chelsea and I have been a member at St. George's Church in Newburg, New York since age two. In COVID, being invited to participate in our live online services have been very important to me, not only to maintain my faith, but to also stay connected to a church that I have grown up in and learned to love. I've been involved in audio recording the Psalm of the Day and sharing my illustration of the Psalm for Sunday service. I've also participated in writing prayers of the people and assisting in Zoom children's activities for our parish. I've even enjoyed helping my neighbor, who is only 11 years old, to record and illustrate the Psalms too. Her parents don't typically come to church, so she comes with our family when we go. I am also a part of my church's communications committee to ensure that my church stay connected during these distant times. I just started college, but I'm still living at home and participating in online church. I look forward to reopening, but in the meantime, I really appreciated being involved in our prayer services during this pandemic. Thank you to all of you who are committed to finding new and creative ways to keep us younger people connected. We really appreciate it.

- [Male] It's fair to say that a lot of people in the episcopal church have strong opinions about liturgy. And so the Congregation Development Commission, as we were thinking about how to help churches answer questions about liturgy in this time of pandemic, realized a list of do's and don'ts wouldn't be helpful or really appropriate for our body to issue. What would be helpful is what ended up happening, which is we got a liturgical expert, Canon Patrick Malloy, from the Cathedral and Subdean and Canon for Liturgy, a recognized expert in the Episcopal church, to come and speak to groups of clergy and lay people, again, not to say, this is what I, the expert, think you should do, but rather here are some questions and issues you might consider. And then he opened it up for a dialogue. And it was a dialogue that I think was really helpful and fruitful to a lot of people. And it's online and I would encourage you to take a look at it. And so this video and this answering this question of how do the liturgy during the

pandemic, I think shows one of the real strengths of working in a Diocesan structure, working in a tradition that can group churches together and working with a body like the Congregation Development Commission.

- [Female] As warden, and as a lay leader for St. John's Church on Staten Island, this pandemic has really challenged and pushed us to figure out ways for us to be creative in our ministry and in support of each other. Especially considering that as of now, we are still a parish without clergy. And so one of the ways that has really helped me has been attending some of the Friday formation sessions that were conducted by the CDC. And so listening to other clergy and especially how we support liturgy during this pandemic really allowed us to be creative, to offer services, morning prayer and evening prayer. The three platforms, whether it was Zoom or live on Facebook or by conference call for those who did not have access to some other medium. In addition, speaking with other wardens during those formation Fridays allowed me to also get some feedback and assess some of the things that I could implement at St. John's Church. And so being a part of the CDC and having that support and drawing on those resources, I think has really helped us to continue to move ministry forward, to continue to support each other, and also to take time for ourselves when we need to.

- [Male] There is no doubt that COVID-19 and racism are pandemics that challenged us to adapt, collaborate, and become learning communities. We can see with clarity what was previously obscured for those of us who had the privilege not to see, or to look away. The Congregational Vitality and Formation Office, and the Congregational Development Commission are here to support you and your congregations to navigate these uncharted territories. Together, we can find what God is calling us to be and to do. Let us journey together. Thank you for your ministry. Thank you for your leadership. God bless you.

- Canon Conrado, thank you so much for that informative video. As I listened, I was thinking about what I might have learned or might be able to learn if I were part of some of those conversations. So I wonder, are you still planning to do those lay and clergy formation conversations on Zoom?

- Lucy, thank you for that question. Yes, we are planning to continue offering this in our Diocese, especially these conversations that we have found fruitful and engaging among lay leaders and clergy. And something that we learned throughout this pandemic is the need to reinforce, I think the mentality of always jumping in and being adaptive in ministry and collaboration and learning communities. It's something that we have again and again encountered in different conversations that we've had. And something I believe that continues to be actual and real for many of us is the need to listen and to learn. I think something that came back again and again during those meetings. So that is what we are planning to offer. And some of the topics that may be of interest to some of you that are here today, one of them will be differentiated leadership, is one of them that is coming up. The other one is something that we offered in the past is stewardship resources, online stewardship resources. So now we're in the midst of this new reality where we need to learn how to be engaging people online. And

another one that I believe we are going to enjoy having conversations around is how to help congregations use their unused spaces, how we can help them find some out there, like nonprofits or any other organizations that they may be in need of a space to use. So keep tuned. Next month, October, we'll continue offering those conversations for clergy and lay leaders as well.

- Wonderful, thank you. One question we have is what are the things that we as parish members can do to encourage and support further parish vitality? So what can members of the congregation do?

- Okay, so great question. And yes, there is something that I think comes back to the basics, and it's to again, meet those ones who are with you, they're in your context, if you're a clergy person, encourage meeting again with a vestry, again, to encounter them where they are and invite them to go deeper, as well as members of congregations, just to, again, re-encounter where are you and where are you and what is your mission, what is your vision? At this moment, we are going back to those basic questions and how we can engage them. I've been working around with Vestry members around the Diocese and something that again, comes back to us again is to ask those basic questions. What are we here in this neighborhood? Who are the people that are around us? Something that we have encountered again and again is the reality that many of us don't know our neighborhoods anymore. Some of our congregations are what they are called, destination churches. So people drive in to those places and they drive back to their houses and they are not connecting to the reality around them and those churches. So something that we want to invite again and again is that re-engaging your contacts. And that is where we are finding vitality and I believe, you know, some new energy around congregations as well.

- Canon Conrado, thank you so much. We have one more question. How can we maintain involvement by congregation members when many have decided to stay away from in-person contact for the indefinite future?

- That's a very actual question. I answer in the way that I've been experiencing that through these, and is some lay leaders, some clergy, have been offering online opportunities. Some of them have been offering texting to those members. Some of them have been calling them. And I think there have been a way to let them know that we are here. We are here. We haven't gone away. We are still in this reality. We are still in this context. And as we are going to see that more and more is that some people are going to decide not to come back until they feel safe to come back to our worship spaces. So we need to take the initiative to reengage them and to connect with them and to ask questions of them. So that is a way that I think at this time we need to have some intentionality on reconnecting with that. It's not going to be easy. People are now telling us I don't like anything dealing with Zoom, I don't like Facebook, I don't like all of it, but then there are other ways that we can reconnect with them, to let them know that we haven't gone away, we are here for them, for them and for the community around and as well.

- Wonderful. Thank you so much Canon Conrado. I'm going to turn it over to Reverend Matt Heyd, who will help us understand our voting.

- Thank you.

- Thank you, Lucy and thank you, Bishop Glasspool. As we walk through these weeks together, I want to start by saying thank you to Sara Saavedra, who has done such remarkable work for convention over these last years and continues in this new experience, in this new year together. So we are working with the values the Bishop described, transparency, trust, accessibility, and agency, and we're testing the easiest most equitable way that we will vote together at convention on November 7th. Last week, we looked at the Crowd Compass website app, we'll look at that again. Today, we're gonna vote. We're gonna try voting on something fun, actually, two things fun. As we do this, we are testing two things. First, we're testing both a voting method and voting support. And today we're gonna see if we can report the results to you in real time. Sara is working to do that. So let's start with where we've come thus far. We're testing out Crowd Compass as a way to manage convention. That's everything, all the information, all the background, including the voting. Here's the web link. You got it in your email that Sara sent today, and we give it to you again. This is what we used last week. Now some of you have downloaded and some of you will be downloading now. As you download it, what you'll see is it'll ask you for information, your name and your email. Now this will work only if you're already registered for convention as a delegate to conventions, clergy or lay. If you need to look for it, you'll be looking for 2020 Diocesan Convention. This is an app which manages many different gatherings, and this is the gathering that we're gonna be part of together. When you log in, use the email you used to register for convention. Many of us have a number of email addresses, but you're gonna want to use the one that was used to register there. Then it'll recognize you. Once you're in, here's what you'll see. The front page to convention, and then on the left hand side of the screen, you have links to all the things we'll need, our agenda, our schedule, the nominees, and today's voting. We're gonna look today at the ones that are the test voting. They're right under activity feed, if you look on the left hand side of your screen, once you're in the app and we're gonna try two different ways to vote. One for what eventually be a candidate, a nominee, and one eventually it'll be for resolution. Both this time will be fun, in a time honored tradition of the Diocese we're gonna vote for sports teams, and then we're gonna vote for whether winter continues. And we'll try that in just a moment. Now, if you're still downloading your app, all fine. Let us know if you're having trouble. If you can't do it today, we're not doing anything today that we're not gonna do again. So this is just a test vote to try it out together, and we're gonna try it again in future weeks. So if you're not quite there, that's just fine. You can watch today and we'll work together in future weeks. So click on that top voting link, and I'm gonna do the same thing, and you'll get, I think this, the different New York sports teams of past and present, and what you'll do is you'll vote for one. Vote for one, the Mets, the Dodgers, the Giants, or the Yankees, vote for one. And I'm going to do that now. And it'll ask you to finish and to exit poll. Now I'm gonna give you a minute to do this, and then we'll come back. And I'll let you know, as we do at convention, when the ballot's gonna close. Give you 30 more seconds, and then we'll close the ballot. Voting is closing, voting closed. So we're next gonna vote, go to the next one down, which looks like to me, a game control, or at least on my screen. And you should see this a resolution to approve snow in spring time and on resolutions, we're gonna have three

options, yes, no, or abstain. So now I'm gonna invite you to vote on yes, no, or abstain. And once you vote, you'll be asked to click finish and then exit poll, just as you did before. So I'll give you a moment to do that and then we'll close the ballot. Ballot closing in 30 seconds. Voting is closing. Voting is closed. So one of the things we're trying to do is to get feedback from you about how we do this better. And last week we heard you wanted to make sure you saw, again, all the information. So each week as we close, we'll make sure you have, again, the key information. Crowd Compass is the web app that we're using. Here again is the link that you can use from any web browser. And you'll need to be registered for convention to use the web app or link. And if you need to, you're looking for 2020 Diocesan Convention. Now, again, what we're testing is if you had trouble today, either downloading the app or getting to vote, let us know. Election@dioceseny is the email address we created for this and so last week we had two questions, we answered them both. Every week, if you have a question, we'll be able to respond to you. Very grateful to Geoff Smith, who directs IT for doing this with me. And so we want to hear your questions, your problems, what's been happening. And I think actually Sara sent me results. And so in a moment, we'll be able to have a results for this. So send any questions or comments you have, we want to know. We also, Bishop Glasspool has been really working hard to make sure everyone has access to the devices. We want to make sure that as we do this, that everyone has the devices they need, because we'll be doing this virtually together. And so we want to know what you need. And so if you need them, she's talked to the deans about this, and so we want to know. So I think we'll do the full results next time as we figure out how to sum this up. Math was not my subject in seminary. But Sara's got them and we'll be able to do them together next time. We got that you voted and that's great. So we'll continue to work on this as we go. Thank you for trying it out this time and Bishop, thank you very much.

- Thank you, Mr. Secretary of Convention. This is absolutely the most challenging piece of trying to put together a remote convention. And so please, if you weren't, I wasn't able to get on tonight and I did last night at the rehearsals. So we're really, that's why we're doing this. We're gonna practice voting and test out different scenarios at each of these rollout meetings, so that by the time November 7th rolls around, everyone has access and people feel comfortable and we can work out the kinks. So we need your help, we ask and invite your patience, and I also want to thank Matt Heyd, who's infinitely cooler than I am in these kinds of situations. Thanks everybody. Well, probably it's a good segway into inviting your prayers for the Diocese. We'd like to spend a few moments of silence and invite you to pray via the chat room. These will be prayers of record, and we invite your intersessions petitions, Thanksgivings, praise, pleas, anything you'd like to commend to the community, either silently or in writing in the chat room. And we will take it up in prayer. ♪ 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 ♪

- [Nell] Spirit of energy and change, in whose power Jesus was anointed to be the hope of the nations, be poured out also upon us without reserve or distinction, that we may have confidence and strength to plant your justice on the Earth through Jesus Christ, amen.

- Many, many thanks to Susan Fortunato and the members of the Leadership Development Commission and to Canon Victor Conrado, the members of the Congregational Development Commission, and to all of you for your participation online. Now the final blessing, may the Lord bless you and keep you, may the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord lift his countenance upon you and give you peace. The blessing of God almighty, the father, the son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you now and forever. Amen. ♪ Over my head ♪ ♪ I hear singing ♪ ♪ In the air ♪ ♪ Over my head ♪ ♪ I hear singing in the air ♪ ♪ Over my ♪ ♪ My God somewhere ♪