

3rd Joint Convention Episcopal Dioceses Eastern & Western Michigan 2022

October 28-29, 2022, Lansing, MI

Bishop Singh Address Crucial Highlights

Future Directions of Dioceses

WATCH, LISTEN, READ rational, reasons, and plan 2023

Video: <https://www.facebook.com/watch?v=651276556668966>

Full Text: <https://eastmich.org/convention-address-2022/>

Personal & communal challenges last 3 years (Pandemic & betrayal of trust by prior Provisional Bishop, who was suspended and then retired).

Bishop Singh “thanks everyone in our Dioceses for giving me the privilege of trust after experiencing hurt and betrayal of trust.”

Bishop Singh sees three ways we are manifesting and practicing our faith in God and each other by our:

- **Resilience**
- **Innovation**
- **Building bridges** and seeking common ground through love and a spirit of openness to engage in collaborative conversations between congregations.

We need a sense of direction & clarity of purpose.

Our Dioceses have hired a facilitator (Katie Ong) to develop a common purpose, vision, and mission as East and West Michigan dioceses. She, along with Canon Katie Forsyth and Canon Alan James, will be traveling around both Dioceses over the coming months to help us pray, dig deep, and answer some questions about where we are going. **We invite every person in your parish – including St. Jude’s -- to engage in this listening and discernment process.** The only way this will be successful is if you, as leaders, ensure that every person in your church participates. Why is this important? When

we have clarity of purpose, we can decide how to get there. Then we can exercise our muscles of faith, hope, and love to move together and build the necessary sidewalk to get there. **If you wish to help us do this listening and visioning work at the congregational level, please talk with Canon Katie Forsyth or Canon Alan James.**

Significant Initiatives Before Us:

1. Why college for congregational development?
2. Why 4 horizontal regional canons?
3. Children & Youth: They are our past and future leaders, disciples, witnesses (nearly 100 years at Camp Chickagmai). Present leaders are doing strategic visioning.
4. Build our financial resources to actualize our shared vision and mission.

CAUTIONARY

Watch out wisely for a culture of suspicion and triangulation. Focus on growth and vitality. We need wise leaders, humility, reflection, curiosity and reason. See how we walk together before we build the sidewalk (become one diocese).

GROWING EDGES

Study, experiment, and plans with Multicultural ministry with Latino emphasis. Build bridges with native communities. Michigan has 12 federally recognized reservations, 7 of which are in the Lower Peninsula. A group of Episcopalians from all 4 Dioceses is leading this work (Dismantling Racism Leaders with the “Sacred Ground” curriculum). End Gun Violence Michigan is needed. We need Academy for Vocational Leadership and Coppage Gordon School of Ministry. We need both seminary-trained and Academy-trained leaders. Neither is superior. Both are required.

Because in Christ, there is no east, west, south, or north, but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth. May God bless you and all the invisible saints among us!

3rd Joint Convention Episcopal Dioceses Eastern & Western Michigan 2022
(continued)

TABLE CONVERSATION & QUESTIONS

What is one vulnerability in your congregational life that needs help from the larger church? What bridges is your congregation building with your local or global neighborhood? What new bridges do you hope to build?

Workshop Sessions & Ministries
Exploration

Academy for Vocational Leadership Informational Session (leader Rev. Canon Dr. Tracie Little).

Baptism Forms Ministers, Holy Orders Make Symbols.

Panel Discussion on Developing New Congregational Ministries (5 churches & 8 presenters). Dave & Denise from our St. Jude's church prepared an outline of our Outreach Initiatives & Community Assistance Programs, including our most recent Basic Needs Pantry. John & Carol participated in the panel discussion and presented what Dave & Denise prepared earlier because they were unable to attend the Convention that day until after the panel discussion. We are proud of our small St. Jude's church parishioners doing big Congregational Ministries to help our local and worldwide communities.

The Order of Naucratis. Hunting, fishing, and feeding the hungry are sacred acts.

Organizing Against Gun Violence.

Worshipping God with Musical Instruments: Drumming.

Holy Hikes Great Lakes Prayer Stroll.

Reimagining What it Means to be a Small Church (leader Rev. Canon Dr. Tracie Little).

How Can We Take Action? Tips to help us think through our own giftedness. How we might engage

social justice in our own place.

See, I am Making All Things New: Stories of Newness with Plainsong Farm.

Intergenerational Formation.

A Taste of Invite, Welcome, & Connect (leader Katie Forsyth, Canon for Evangelism & Networking).

Take it to the Streets: The Diaconate in Today's Church (The Rev. Prince Singh, Bishop Provisional, The Rev. Francis Berghuis, Deacon All Saints, Saugatuck). To be a deacon in today's church means takin' it to the streets! This informational workshop explores what the diaconate is – how we discern and how we form. Participants will hear from several deacons about their ministry, what it means to them, and the community at large.

Respectfully submitted by your 2022 Diocesan Convention Delegates: John & Carol Pettipher and Dave & Denise Rayner