



Diocesan Convention 2019 was held last Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Nov 7-9, at the McClellan Conference Center in Sacramento. Delegations from most of our churches gathered for three days of worship, fellowship and business in this important annual event in the governance of our diocese.

Day 1: Blessings, arrival and eucharist



As one came into the convention space, there was a font of water placed to remind us of our baptism and our baptismal ministry. Bishop Megan blessed the water that, in turn, would bless so many as they passed and touched it upon entering the floor of convention. Choir and liturgy rehearsals came to an end just as a reception got underway to welcome all as they arrived at convention.



The highlight of the evening was our opening Eucharist. The hall was set in the round so that we could see each other as we worshipped. The procession was led by our banners, carried by members of the churches they represented. During the service, an offering was taken to benefit the Youth Camp Scholarship fund. A total of \$3,948 was given. Thank you for your generosity.



Day 2: Business, vision casting, evangelism and food



Friday began with the delegates and visitors arriving in time for Morning Prayer. Once we finished praying, Bishop Megan called her first convention to order with the rap of the gavel. Business of

the day started with nominations and then, the first ballot of our elections. During the course of the day we elected members of the Board of Trustees, members of the Standing Committee and two of our General Convention Deputies. ([Click here to see final results](#))



Bishop Megan gave her address to the diocese entitled *Deep Roots: New Fruit*. In it she shared stories of what God is doing throughout the diocese and cast vision for our future. You can watch the bishop's address in the [2019 Convention Media Center](#) or by [clicking here](#). Bishop Megan also led us in a commemoration of the Camp Fire and mentioned other fires that have had such a profound effect on our diocese. We paused at 11:08 am for 86 seconds of silence to remember the lives of the 86 who died one year ago in Paradise and the surrounding area.



The rest of our day was filled with: resolutions, continued balloting, and reports from The Episcopal Foundation of Northern California and Episcopal Community Services. Mary Parmer, creator of the *Invite*Welcome*Connect* ministry, also shared with us ways to help us increase evangelism into our communities in two sessions throughout the day. Jim Quinney made the final presentation, representing *Rise Against Hunger*. He challenged us to look at ending food

insecurity and world hunger by 2030. His challenge was backed up by an invitation to pack meals for children struggling with hunger across the globe. Following Bishop Megan into the fully set packing space, we packaged 75 boxes of food, one meal at a time. That's 16,200 meals!



A Convention Banquet ended the evening with food and fellowship around tables and across the room. Bishop Megan thanked the Transition Committee and then gave The Bishop's Cross to Canon Charles Mack, Chancellor, for his years of service to the diocese. Ending our time together, Bishop Megan introduced: *Crossing Bridges: Bishop Megan's Episcopal Expedition*. She shared stories from her first "crossing" to the Sierra Mountain region, and promised future expeditions into other areas around Northern California.





CROSSING BRIDGES

Bishop Megan's Episcopal Expedition

Day 3: New digs, youth and mission, and a deputation.



Saturday proved to be an exciting day. During the final business session on Friday, the Office of the Bishop announced that, for reasons out of their control, there would be a change of venue for the next day. We joined together and made it into an exercise in *Inviting* and *Welcoming*. Maps were passed out, addresses were communicated, and signs were placed. Our wonderful LEVN volunteers helped guide us to our new meeting place. We all arrived safely at the new venue and started our day in Morning Prayer. We conducted more business around resolutions, courtesy resolutions and of course, three more ballots. ([Click here to see final results](#))



Hearing from The Center at St. Matthew's, The Belfry/LEVN, Camp Living Waters and Pathways was filled with joy. Our ministries are indeed one of a kind; and their good work, given to the people to whom they minister, is growing every time we hear from them: St. Matthew's is supplying food to the hungry more often than they did last year at this time; Camp Living Water hosted campers from Honduras this summer as result of the sponsorship of churches across our diocese; and our ministry to youth and young adults continues to grow as we release them into experiences that promote spiritual formation and give them agency to do the work to which they are called.



Near the end of our time together, Bishop Megan thanked The Ven. Gary Brown, Archdeacon, for his years of service to the diocese, as he prepares to step down from his post mid-year. And, when we had elected the final deputy in our deputation to General Convention, Bishop Megan led our thanksgiving with prayer and a commissioning of all members of the Board of Trustees, the Standing Committee and the deputation to General Convention 2021. Convention came to a close and was adjourned.



Thank you to all who volunteered, attended and made this years Diocesan Convention so much fun. We'll see you next year! #NorCalDC20