

Synod 2023 Minutes - Diocese of the Central States
Held via Zoom
October 16, 2023

1. The Synod was called to order by our Bishop Ordinary. The Rev. Archdeacon Scott Thompson led us in an opening service of Morning Prayer.
2. Based on e-mail registrations and confirmation of those registrants in attendance via Zoom, a quorum was declared by the secretary, Fr. Keith Boettner.
3. Minutes from the 2022 Synod in Lynchburg, VA had been posted on the Diocesan Website. A motion was made to approve the minutes without oral reading, seconded, and approved.
4. Committee reports began with Fr. Paul Edgerton, chair of the Nominations Committee. Nominations presented for consideration and vote of the Synod of four class-of-2026 diocesan positions include: Lay Trustee, Clergy Trustee, Lay Member of the Standing Committee, and Clergy Member of the Standing Committee. A motion was made to accept the entire slate of nominees by group acclamation. The motion was seconded and approved by clergy and clergy delegates present.
Report on file:
<https://rec-dcs.org/documents/synod/synod2024/NominationsCommittee.pdf>
5. Bishop Ordinary Report. Archdeacon Thompson was given the chair for the meeting while Bp. Peter Manto gave his report. Once again, the Bishop greeted and warmly welcomed the Zoom assembly of clergy and delegates to the 16th Synod of the Diocese of the Central States. He mentioned that it was his fifth year in service as our Bishop Ordinary. He is thankful for our partnership with him in the gospel. He asked that we always remember to pray for him and his wife Janice. At the conclusion of his report, a motion was made to accept the report, seconded, and approved. The presiding chair of the Synod was given back to the bishop by Fr. Thompson at that point.
Report on file:
<https://rec-dcs.org/documents/synod/synod2023/OrdinaryReport2023.pdf>
<https://rec-dcs.org/documents/synod/synod2023/OrdinaryActivities2023.pdf>
<https://rec-dcs.org/documents/synod/synod2023/ConfirmationsOrdinationsMore2023.pdf>
6. Treasurer's Report was given by Diocesan Treasurer, Fr. Ken Mills. The report was joyfully received. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the report
Report on file:
https://rec-dcs.org/documents/synod/synod2023/FormA_GivingByParish2022.pdf
https://rec-dcs.org/documents/synod/synod2023/FormA_GivingByParishThruSep2023.pdf
https://rec-dcs.org/documents/synod/synod2023/FormB_SpendingMetrics2022.pdf

https://rec-dcs.org/documents/synod/synod2023/FormC_SOA2022.pdf
https://rec-dcs.org/documents/synod/synod2023/FormC_SOATO20230925Unaudited.pdf
https://rec-dcs.org/documents/synod/synod2023/FormD_SOP2022.pdf
https://rec-dcs.org/documents/synod/synod2023/FormD_SOP20230930Q3est.pdf
<https://rec-dcs.org/documents/synod/synod2023/ProposedBudget2024.pdf>

7. Canon Missioner's Report was given by Archdeacon Scott Thompson. Motion was made to accept, seconded, and approved. Report on file:
<https://rec-dcs.org/documents/synod/synod2023/CanonMissioner2023.pdf>
8. Trustees' Report was given by Fr. Ken Mills. Fr. Ken summarized all pertinent info for Trustees in his various reports previously. The proposed budget posted above was presented for approval by the Synod. Motion was made, seconded, and the budget for 2024 was approved.
Report on file:
<https://rec-dcs.org/documents/synod/synod2023/ProposedBudget2024.pdf>
9. Standing Committee report was given by its President, Fr. Josiah Jones. Motion was made, second, and approved to accept. Report and various documents on file:
<https://rec-dcs.org/documents/synod/synod2023/StandingCommittee2023.pdf>
<https://rec-dcs.org/documents/BishopNominationElectionProcess.pdf>
<https://rec-dcs.org/documents/ModelParishBylawsDCS2023.pdf>
10. The Examining Chaplains report was given by Fr. Paul Edgerton. Motion was made to accept, seconded, and approved. Report on file:
<https://rec-dcs.org/documents/synod/synod2023/BoardOfExaminingChaplains2023.pdf>
11. Report from Constitution and Canons Committee. Motion made to accept, seconded, and approved. Report on file:
<https://rec-dcs.org/documents/synod/synod2023/ConstitutionAndCanonsCommittee2023.pdf>
12. Other items:
BFM information:
<https://rec-dcs.org/documents/synod/synod2023/BFMFallAppeal2023.pdf>

A brief Women of the Church (WOC) report was given by Mary Jane Thompson. The women continue to be active with mission projects especially in Cuba, encouragement, luncheons for women in various regions, and the annual devotional.

Dcn. Barto reminded us that the child/vulnerable adult policy must be followed.
Remember...

- Rule of Two - no adult is ever alone with a child; have at least two adults
- Rule of Three - OR - one adult and two youth

- Just because it's hard doesn't mean you are exempt. Must follow.
- Clergy are mandatory reporters of reported or suspected abuse. Know and follow your state guidelines for reporting.
- Background checks on all volunteers or staff working with children and vulnerable adults.

Special Guest - Presiding Bishop Ray Sutton. After a short break we returned to our screens for a session of encouragement and updates from our Presiding Bishop who was just back from a visit of the faithful in Croatia and Latvia. In the Trinity season we are reminded from the beginning that the love of God guides and propels our lives and ministries forward in Christ. We preach the gospel of Christ's forgiveness and new life in Him. As we go about our ministry remember that God is raising up a holy remnant in every denomination. The REC and ACNA recognizes and is participating in a new ecumenism occurring among various Christian groups flourishing in the historic Christian faith across the world.

After Bishop Sutton's teaching, the Synod for 2023 was closed in prayer and the bishop gave us his blessing. Synod next year in October in Mason, OH.

Respectfully submitted,
Fr. Keith Boettner, Secretary