

2020 Diocesan Convention Minutes

The Diocese of Churches for the Sake of Others (“C4SO” or the “Diocese”)

14 November 2020

In attendance via Zoom teleconference: 221

Bishop Todd Hunter welcomed attendees at 10:30 am CST and reviewed the meeting agenda. He explained the decision to move voting on the seven church adoptions up to the beginning of the meeting so the new churches could fully participate in the Convention.

The Rev. Canon Dr. Tony Baron offered the opening prayer.

The Rev. Ryan Boettcher explained the voting process to all Clergy and Lay Delegates. Then the Delegates voted by Zoom poll in real time to receive seven churches into C4SO.

Motions voted on the reception of:

- *All Souls Phoenix under the leadership of the Revs. Andrew Stravitz and Kimberly Deckel*
- *All Souls South Placer under the leadership of the Rev. Billy Steen*
- *Christ the King in Brooklyn under the leadership of the Rev. Matt Brown*
- *Church of the Redeemer in Highwood, IL under the leadership of the Rev. Jay Greener*
- *Cornerstone Church Tulsa under the leadership of the Rev. Jon Odom*
- *Good Shepherd Nashville under the leadership of the Rev. Austin Becton*
- *Luminous Parish in Nashville under the leadership of the Rev. Chad Jarnagin*

Vote: Motion carried.

Resolved: All seven churches were accepted.

Bishop Todd Hunter addressed the assembly with an update on the work of C4SO in 2020. C4SO now has 60 churches and counting. Our weekly attendance, with the adoption of the seven new churches, is likely to be more than 10,000 a week. With the 17 ordinations to the priesthood and diaconate this year, we now have 190 clergy. Our newly appointed ministry team is developing well. Both the Executive Leadership Team and the Finance Team have been pleased at how well our churches and C4SO have fared throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Bishop Todd expressed pride at the creative leadership of C4SO clergy, their teams and their churches.

Furthermore, he encouraged the diocese with Peter's words that they are "living stones being built into a spiritual house." He urged attendees to 1) remember their conversion and 2) remember their calling to ministry. Bishop Todd said that he sees himself as a servant to the work of God in C4SO clergy and their churches. He detailed some important logistical changes, as this spring, rapid growth necessitated the reorganization of the diocese. Bishop Todd showed an infographic to orient attendees to the life and values of C4SO and how the new team fits into them. He then introduced the Franklin hub, the Ministry Team members, the Deans, the Canon Theologians and the Volunteer Bishops. He announced Assisting Bishop TJ Johnston's recent transition into senior leadership at [Global Water Center](#), a startup organization committed to rapidly scaling the world's efforts to provide safe water to those in need. Bishop Todd described his 2020 efforts to diversify C4SO's leadership, putting persons of color in places of power, which he said would come to fruition in the last few weeks of 2020. Finally, he reminded attendees that the Diocese is still looking for a Director of Administration and asked interested parties to apply.

Bishop Todd then introduced a video that showed firsthand how God grew C4SO's leadership, churches and ministry over the past year. **On the video, attendees learned about the fruitful efforts of C4SO's:**

- **Regional Deans** who stand on the frontlines of C4SO and hold our national diocese together
- **Canon for Ordinations** [Trish Nelson](#) who oversees C4SO's ordination process
- **Canon for Church Development** [Kris McDaniel](#) who helps established churches in other denominations or spaces complete processes to discern whether C4SO would be a good home for them
- **Director of Church Planting** [Brad Swope](#) who helps potential church planters complete processes to discern calling, context and future plans
- **Newest Canon Theologian** [Emily McGowin](#) who, along with our other three Canon Theologians, lends her expertise, knowledge and discernment to the whole diocese
- **Leader of the Revelation 7:9 Task Force** [Jin Cho](#) who helps develop a culture that puts into practice the value of raising up women and men of color in ministry.
- **NextGen Leader** [Aaron Buttery](#) who leads a team that encourages local churches how to discover, develop and deploy the next generation of spiritual leaders.
- **Scholar in Residence: Arts, Media, Culture** [W. David O. Taylor](#) who curates issues and events of arts, media and culture, helping C4SO clergy make meaning of and engage more fully in these areas.

The video also highlighted:

- 2020 initiatives such as the [C4SO Podcast](#), [C4SO Reads](#) and [C4SO Together](#)—our first online Clergy Conference.
- Key provincial partnerships such as the [Telos Collective](#), the [Evergreen Project](#), the [Matthew 25 Initiative](#), and the [Antioch Clergy Initiative](#).

Then Bishop Todd provided a quick peek into 2021 and the work that is ahead of us. He will be working with C4SO's Chancellor Myron Steeves in the areas of:

- Revising and streamlining C4SO's Constitutions and Canons to fit who the diocese has become
- Protecting the vulnerable in our midst through Child and Youth Protection including churches becoming certified in MinistrySafe training / submitting an annual certificate of compliance; a new Sexual Harassment Prevention Training Program for clergy; and a Whistleblower Policy to hold accountable those in places of power.

Next, **the Very Rev. Patrick Wildman, Chair of the Finance Team**, gave a report on C4SO's financial health and presented the 2021 budget. He noted that our churches have remained strong all year. Expenses have been lower due to COVID and the diocesan reorganization, resulting in an increased cash position. He also highlighted two special gifts that C4SO was able to give to Anglican dioceses in Rwanda and Haiti. Lastly, he encouraged churches to participate in Bishop Todd's 5/5 Investment Strategy—sending 5% of their annual budget to the diocese and investing 5% in local mission of their choice.

Finally, **the Rev. Ryan Boettcher** led attendees to vote on the 2021 budget and the 2019 Minutes.

Motions voted on:

1) The approval of the 2019 Diocesan Convention Minutes.

Vote: Motion carried

Resolved: The 2019 Diocesan Convention Minutes were approved.

2) The approval of the 2021 C4SO Diocesan Budget.

Vote: Motion carried

Resolved: The 2020 C4SO Diocesan budget was approved.

Bishop Todd recognized our former Canon to the Ordinary Kimberley Pfeiler, crediting her with much of the growth that C4SO has experienced over the past several years.

The Rev. Canon Dr. Tony Baron closed in prayer.

Bishop Todd shared a few final thoughts, encouraging attendees to face future events without fear. He challenged the diocese to have confidence based on their calling and conversion that happened within the hope of the resurrection. He closed by saying that a new world is born and we are already living in that world; thus, we must stand peacefully in the faithfulness of God.

There being no further business, the Convention was adjourned at 11:45 am CST.