

- That the peoples may know of your power and the glorious splendor of your dominion.

- Oh God, those who yearn to work, to support themselves and their families cry out to you for greed and institutional wealth have deprived them of the opportunities to contribute meaningfully to society.

- Yours oh God is an everlasting reign, your dominion endures throughout all ages.

- Oh God, those who are in danger because of war, abuse, environmental catastrophe call out to you for the powerful have put themselves in your place and secured their peace at the expense of the vulnerable.

- You are faithful in all your words and merciful in all your deeds.

- Oh God, those who are sick and those who would prevent illness cry out to you for too many cannot access the healthcare they need when profit and prestige govern access to resources.

- You uphold all those who fall. You lift up those who are bowed down.

- Oh God, those who are young or sick or struggling or in need of special care, cry out to you because we have failed to see those who fall or are bowed down. The eyes of all wait upon you oh God and you give them their food and due season.

- Oh God, those who are hungry call out to you for the greedy have taken what you meant to be freely shared.

- You open wide your hand and satisfy the needs of every living creature.

- Oh God, those who have no shelter or whose homes have been destroyed by war or disaster or for whom housing costs exceed their earning ability or who've been forced out of their neighborhoods or who aren't allowed into neighborhoods cry out to you because greed has obscured neighborliness.

- You are righteous in all your ways and loving in all your works.

- Oh God, the centers of the world cry out to you for our unrighteousness and cruelty and indifference have made a mess of your world.

- You are near to those who call upon you to all who call upon you faithfully.

- Oh God, give us the grace to learn to live together as siblings and honor the inescapable network of mutuality so that every living creature can know the fullness of your intention, delight in your creation and serve your people with joy. Amen.

- [Woman] Amen.

- Amen and thank you. I think you can never thank too often the people who are working very hard and worked very hard over the summer to put these rollout meetings together as well as work on the liturgy for November first and the scheduled agenda for November seventh. They are Matt Hyde, Secretary of Convention, Sara Saavedra, Assistant Secretary, Alice Yurke, Chancellor of the Diocese of New York, Geoff Smith, Director of Technology and Nick Richardson, Director of Communication. We also were very fortunate to have working with us Lucas Thorpe who is on the staff at Church of the Heavenly Rest and does a lot of the programming there and Jillian Jameson who is the person to whom you will be writing your questions in the chat room, thank you to one and all. We've operated with four values that I will try to list just briefly each week. Transparency, trust, accessibility and agency. In the category of transparency we want people to be able to see and understand what we're doing as together we engage in the Diocese of New York's Convention. We believe that if transparency is good, it will build trust and trust is an essential element in building any community. Accessibility refers not only to the captioning and American sign language you are hopefully seeing on the screen but also to the fact that we don't anticipate that everyone will have an iPad or an up-to-date state of the art laptop computer and these instruments are necessary for one's participation in our remote Diocesan Convention. So committed to accessibility, we're asking you to let us know what you need in order to engage fully and that results in agency, we live in a time where people feel increasingly out of control and we want to make sure that you understand that your vote counts and what you do matters. So know yourself as a child of God, as a person of agency. Each week we will have a Bishop introduce the theme and tonight we have our fearless leader, our Bishop Diocesan, I like calling him fearless leader and then he gets up and he says, "I don't know about fearless." So, but Bishop Andrew Dietsche.

- Suddenly I'm feeling very afraid. It's really wonderful to be able to greet you all at this distance tonight. This is a new way for us to do Diocesan Convention but the convention is our governing body but it's also when we come together one of the ways that we reform and strengthen the community that we share across our 200 churches and this large and vast diocese. I also want to echo my thanks for all those people who have been working to make these roll-outs as successful as they are and Mary will never name herself when she identifies those folks but I know how much work she's put into this and so

I want to thank her as well. Almost exactly, I really think almost exactly to the week, eight years ago, I was on a trip to visit the Protestant Christian Church in mainland China and the Anglican Church in Hong Kong and when we were in Hong Kong, we were asked if we would like to tour the St. James settlement which is an outreach ministry in the city of Hong Kong. Absolutely, so we were taken to a tall building and we went in and began to go up floor by floor and every floor of that building was a different ministry. So on one floor, it was all a ministry to the on another floor it was ministries to children and schooling programs. There were ministries to the disabled, everything that the church can and does do was all happening in that building and I was so impressed and as I walked through that building and I thought, wow, I wish we had something like this in the Diocese of New York and my next immediate thought was, well, we do, it's just not in one building. It's scattered among our 200 churches. It is a Episcopal Charities and Episcopal Charities is the theme, the subject of our gathering tonight and the presentation that will be made. Episcopal Charities is not far right now from celebrating its quarter century of existence in the Diocese of New York. It was envisioned by Bishop Richard Grein back in the middle of the 1990s and brought into being with Cecil Ray as the first president of the board and David Schover as the first executive director. Over this quarter century, there've been four presidents. Peter Keller is the current president, you're going to hear much from him this evening and Mary Beth Sasso has been now the Executive Director for some years and over 25 years, she is only the second person to direct the operations of this ministry. She has announced her retirement and has sacrificially agreed to stay on a little longer because of COVID but the day will come before long that Mary Beth will go into her retirement and we will have occasion as a diocese to celebrate the incredibly good work that she has done in our midst and through a episcopal charities. Episcopal Charities provides the funding to support over a hundred ministries offered through our congregations and parishes to the many communities in the Diocese of New York and that money is raised in different ways. Some of it is formally through the fundraising processes that happen every fall and some of it, much of it is from the gifts of members of our congregations on Episcopal Charity Sundays and other occasions when we raise money from every church to be gathered in and then redistributed to support the grants from church to church across our diocese. We are a very, very diverse diocese and the kinds of programs that we offer include basic human needs which is food and shelter, educational programs for children and prison ministry and re-entry programs for people coming back into society. We really see the meat or the heart of Episcopal Charities when we make visits to these programs. I remember some years ago I was busy in one of our educational programs and there was a young woman who was working there but she had begun as a child, as a participant in one of the educational programs there and she talked about that and she talked about what that had meant for her having a difficult life, difficult home, she had found purpose and help and empowerment and love through this program that was supported by Episcopal Charities and the last thing that she said to me was that this program has saved my life and it reminds us that the work of the church in our communities is just profoundly important and in the Diocese of New York, that work happens and it could not happen in any other way except by the work of Episcopal Charities and providing needed support and funding for these ministries. So as Bishop of New York, I'm exceptionally proud of what happens through these programs but I am more moved and touched by the lives that are enlarged and enhanced and brought into fuller wholeness through the very, very giving hearts and hands of people in our congregations and the sustenance and funding and finance that comes to support all of that work to Episcopal Charities. There's more to be said about Episcopal Charities than that and in a minute, you are going to hear a much, much more about it. I do want to say in addition to the board of directors, which is the governance of this organization and the executive director and her

staff which is the operations, there is a third arm to Episcopal Charities and this is the advisory committee and these are the people drawn from churches all over the diocese who receive and read applications for grants and then visit all of the programs. They are the ones who make recommendations to the board for grants and without them I'm not sure that this could happen as it does. Peter Keller, our current president and John our most recent president before him both came to that office and that position out of work over some years through the advisory committee. So each of them have brought into the leadership their really deep, deep understanding of these programs and how they touch lives and what that means. If you go to any church in this diocese and you ask them how they're reaching out into the community and the difference they're making in lives, they will be able to tell you and for most of them, they will be able to tell you also of the partnership that they have with other churches and the diocese through Episcopal Charities. This is one of the crown jewels in the Diocese of New York. Tonight is a wonderful celebration of that work and so I am very pleased and honored now to invite you to watch a brief video with Peter Keller, our president that talks about Episcopal Charities, its work, and the lives that it touches.

- Good evening, I'm Peter Keller and it's my privilege to serve as the President of the Board of Episcopal Charities. It is my great pleasure to be with you to address the delegates and guests of this 244th Diocesan Convention to report on Episcopal Charities activities which have never been more important in these challenging times. I'm pleased to report that Episcopal Charities continues to operate ways that are consistent with the mission of the diocese, working in partnership with our parish affiliated outreach programs to help transform lives and strengthen our local communities, our diocese and statement on mission and outreach calls us to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God and loving our God and our neighbors, every one of them and especially those in need we are fulfilling a command. As Episcopalians we believe that no Christian life can be complete if the person living it does not obey this commandment and act on it. In the midst of pandemic and with widening income inequality and the erosion of so much of our social safety net, the work being done by the program supported by Episcopal Charities throughout our diocese has never been more needed or more important. Requests for grants keep growing, both a number and a dollar amount. This year Episcopal charities celebrates 24 years of service. In the years leading up to this point, leadership is focused on ensuring that we have the resources available to fund, support and help expand outreach programs across our diocese. We have also always had our eyes on the horizon and prepared for the unexpected. The COVID-19 pandemic aptly fits this category. Today I'm pleased to be able to tell you that our advanced preparation has enabled us to mount a comprehensive response to support outreach programs across the diocese for our many neighbors who've been so adversely affected as a result of this pandemic. We began our response in February by distilling down the recommendations that were issued from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as well as local and state health departments by creating best practice guidance for the programs that we support, this guidance allowed our programs to be prepared to continue to operate safely as nonessential businesses were ordered to close and widespread unemployment began to impact so many households, early preparation allowed our programs to be there when people needed them most as is the case with most catastrophic events, those least prepared to deal with the impact are invariably the most effected. COVID-19 has been no different in this regard. In March, the EC Board authorized the release of \$50,000 from our reserve funds to begin to provide emergency relief grants to our programs to help serve the dramatic increase in clients seeking

help during the pandemic. Following this allocation of funds, a small group of staff and board members began to meet weekly to review new requests for emergency funding. This group continues to meet regularly. This initial allocation of funds was augmented by generous contributions from many EC supporters and then dramatically expanded thanks to \$350,000 grant from Diocese of New York and Trinity Wall Street. As of September fourth, we've approved COVID-19 relief fund grants totaling over \$350,000. These are in addition to our normal grant cycles. These grants have helped us subsidize not just food, but also personal protective equipment for staff and volunteers, the cost of packaging for grab and go meals, stipends for basic needs for the growing number of incarcerated that were released early during the pandemic, software and hardware to enable summer education and arts programs to deliver services virtually and the list goes on. Episcopal Charities program staff has maintained open dialogue with the programs to understand the changing dynamics of operating during a pandemic. This has included weekly forums of program leaders to share solutions to similar challenges across the diocese, a place to connect with others doing similar outreach and a support network for leaders during this very challenging time. These forums have shortened the learning curve for many programs, enabling them to respond more rapidly as needs continue to evolve. Part of the feed back from these calls, we are embarking on a new program to begin the bulk buying of food to go to several of our food pantries. This will enable us to leverage the combined buying power of multiple programs to drive down costs and provide food in a more economical fashion to those communities where the needs are so great. Our first delivery will occur in mid-September. We've also been holding weekly Zoom calls to update our constituents with our response with a goal of providing a look at the amazing work that's going on to help those who are struggling at this time. We fully expect that programs will experience cost overruns well into 2021 and we intend to be there to help fund and partner with them. In addition to the dialysis and emergency grant, our staff has also successfully secured another major grant to support the essential work of feeding programs across the diocese. We thank you. As a followup to my comments to the convention last year, I told you that Mary Beth Sasso, our executive director was scheduled to retire this summer. The pandemic added an unforeseen wrinkle of that timeline and Mary Beth has graciously, graciously agreed to stay in place through the end of the year as our recruiting process for her replacement continues. We hope to select new leadership by year's end, we are making preparations for our annual fundraising gala, our tribute dinner, like other organizations we'll be hosting our celebration virtually and is scheduled for Thursday, November 19th at 8:00 PM. If you do not receive our emails and are not on our regular mailing list, you'll be able to find more information on how to attend or support this vital fundraiser on our website, www.episcopalcharities-newyork.org. We will be highlighting our response to the pandemic and do hope that you can join us or make a gift in support of our work. On behalf of our board I extend thanks to our bishops, the diocese and trustees, our advisory committee, the diocese and staff and all those serving in outreach communities, committees and in your parish programs. I also wish to thank the mission driven team at Episcopal Charities whose efforts and spirits are inspiring and unwavering. We have a small professional staff but they do incredible work to carry out our mission. Thank you very much. Enjoy the rest of the convention and stay safe.

- Thank you Peter Keller and Episcopal Charities, we are really honored to have three members of the Episcopal Charities community hear active and live to respond to your questions and I would just note that the question should be directed to the chat room. Some of you may have a Q and A box at the bottom of the Zoom screen. We're only using the chat room for the questions and Jillian Jameson, once

again, will field those questions and then direct them to our three panelists who are Peter Keller, whom you just heard from and Mary Beth Sasso, the executive director of Episcopal Charities and Patrick Berquist the director of programs for Episcopal Charities.

- Let me just start by thanking both bishops for their generous introductions. The things that we're doing in this crisis are really unprecedented and we're lucky to have the support from the diocese and from others that allow us to take care of needs that are beyond anything any of us ever could have imagined. So I can't tell you how inspiring it's been to watch our program staff throughout the last six months and we do weekly calls with our program directors and they're doing amazing work, they're imaginative and they are just treading new water and it's incredible to see how many people were able to stay active through the pandemic and serve people that are really on the margins and really hard pressed. So thanks for all the support out there across our diocese.

- Thank you so much Peter and thank you for that wonderful instructional video. As questions begin to come in, we're gonna start with one, we have previously recorded here about the COVID-19 pandemic. So in your report you talked about how the Episcopal Charities have been responding to the pandemic and besides giving out grants to these programs, how else have you supported parishes in their outreach work? This is for any of you to answer.

- Patrick, why don't you take this one?

- Great. Well, good evening everyone. It's so glad to be here with you all tonight. We really believe that Episcopal Charities, that financial resources to programs were going to be essential and so we started the COVID-19 relief fund, emergency relief fund and we've been getting grants out the door nearly every week but we also believed creating a sense of community for program directors was really essential. So program leaders can often feel very alone and really overwhelmed and especially in the context of a pandemic and so gathering them weekly where Mary Beth is on the call and Peter's on that call along with as many program leaders that want to, it allows them a chance to celebrate what's been great, to celebrate when they open a program back up, to commiserate when things have not gone well. The third thing we've really been able to do is really be able to make connections between programs where Episcopal Charities may not have the exact resource but we probably know someone who does and so we work really, really hard to be kind of a value added to all of our programs.

- The stresses on our programs are really just hard to even comprehend. I mean, we with 350% increases in people coming to them, we've seen summer programs, it's a really, really tough population. So we've got a great program up in Monticello. Now in the far reaches of the diocese, where had they not been able to transition to virtual learning, there are a lot of kids who simply would have not had any support through the last six months and so again, people have really rewritten a playbook on how to deal with their clients in a safe and socially distance manner and it's just, it's been very impressive to watch.

- And as Peter said, as we've heard on these weekly calls about what's going on in different programs and the needs they're seeing and what they're experiencing in their community, it also gives us an opportunity to, you know, once that call is over, we call them and say, can you put together, you know, a one page grant application and we'll review it on Friday and, you know, before we know it, the money's out to them. So it really, the communication has really been key to our response to everything that's going on in so many different ways.

- And we've learned a lot too, that the bulk buying program that we mentioned earlier is gonna benefit programs well after the pandemic has gone by, it's gonna allow our programs to feed more people for the same amount of money, higher quality food, better produce, better protein. So we're gonna come out of this as a stronger organization even as we recognize, you know, the stresses this has put on all of our a hundred programs.

- That's wonderful. I love an efficient system. It sounds like this is so, so helpful, so efficient and you're reaching so many people. In that regard, I'm gonna ask about applications for grants. We're wondering who can apply for a grant from Episcopal Charities and how do they do it?

- Patrick.

- Great, so our grants go to Episcopal parishes in the Diocese of New York that are doing outreach. So we want to help those programs that are reaching out toward those who are dealing with food insecurity or housing insecurity, doing an afterschool program for kids working with those whose immigration status is undocumented, any number of things that is taking ourselves out of ourselves, all of our programs have to be non-sectarian so that they're the most welcoming to everybody that comes through and like I said, all the funding we do is for the actual outreach program. So I'd just like to say, we think organists are awesome and great, we just can't help fund them. So, yeah, so those are the kinds of programs we fund. If you go to ec-ny.org, we're actually in the middle of a grant right now, our basic human needs grant which is our largest set of grants. We'll do several hundred thousand dollars worth of grants here, we'll be evaluating those here in the fall and winter.

- And I just would highlight we've got those two main grant cycles Patrick mentioned, BHN at youth opportunity but the cycle for the COVID emergency grants is open-ended, we look at things every single week. So if there are people that are in crisis now, we mentioned earlier that the diocesan emergency grant program awarded us \$350,000. Our goal is to get the money out into the field, out into programs, what we don't want to do is compare programs of cancer, populations in need because they're short on cash. So we keep reminding people, if you're aware of a program, a parish affiliated program that is not able to do the things it wants to do, have them contact us. We've got, as Mary Beth said, rapid

turnaround time. We do this every Friday and can get checks out quickly but we know that this need is gonna get worse probably before it gets better. As people have exhausted their resources and we're asking programs to come to us and estimate needs, you know, into 2021, because this is not going to end, you know, in the fall.

- I just put my email address in the chat. So if people have specific questions or they're trying to figure out if their particular program is able to apply for a grant, reach out to me, our staff, we meet on Zoom all the time. So please feel free to reach out to us.

- One other point, the programs have to have an affiliation with the Episcopal parish in the diocese but they can be homegrown in the parish hall, they can be an interfaith effort throughout the community, it can be a community organization that the parish has a strong relationship with. So as long as there's a parish connection and no religious content, we are, you know, we are willing to do an application and usually fund it.

- And we will actually grant more money this year than we've ever done in the history of the organization, largely because of the, we did a big step up after Sandy to help people but this is a order of magnitude bigger than what we did post-Sandy and as we mentioned, we've done 350, actually 380 as of last Friday and we've raised about \$650,000. So we're committed to helping people get through this when we finally get back to whatever normal looks like whenever that happens.

- Amazing. Thank you and thank you Patrick for putting your email in. If there is a question that you want to put in or have put in and for some reason we miss it, we will definitely keep it. We will get back to you or Patrick will get back to you with his email. No question is left behind. So switching over a little bit. We would love to ask any of you or all of you, a story from a parish program that has inspired you.

- Let me kick off and then I'll turn it over to Mary Beth then Patrick. I said, I think maybe to the chagrin of my three college graduate children that going to the annual graduation at Sing Sing for the program run by Hudson Link to give college degrees to incarcerated people. Those graduation ceremonies have been more powerful to me than my own kids' graduation ceremonies. These are people who, most of went into prison with maybe high school at best and some of them not even that and the last couple years, they do 35 to 40 people per year at Sing Sing. I think over 600 people have received college degrees and what you see in the system particularly for serious offenders, the recidivism rate in prisons is like 60 some odd percent, Hudson Link graduates, it's under 4%. So, you know, what you see is our motto is transforming lives and this really does let people reenter society when they're done and, you know, I've met people that have been incarcerated for 15 or 20 years for very violent crimes and you see the potential, this is our Christian mission for redemption, for renewal and you see people come out of prison and do just amazing work and so, you know that's one of the programs that I think of all the time.

- There's another graduation that I've been to which is the graduation at the West Side Campaign Against Hunger which comes to us through Christ and St. Stephen's Church on the upper West side and there they have a chef's training program as part of the food pantry and they teach, I think it's a six or eight week program and it's professionally run. So they not only teach the skills that people need to work in restaurant kitchens but they also place them with internships or work at the end of the program and the difference that makes in someone's life is just remarkable and you know, Hudson Link graduation is spectacular but this is also on a smaller scale. It is still changing lives and really giving people an option that they didn't have before for, you know, work that they can do for a very long time.

- Just echoing Mary Beth's thing, one those graduation ceremonies I went to, to see the families there and in the back of the room with people that maybe had never had a full time job before and suddenly their son or daughter or nephew or cousin has got a restaurant job and a skill that will take them forward. It is again, transforming lives.

- I'll just shout out one. One of the first programs I visited as director of program and I've been to 60, 70 programs I think by now, one of the first ones was up in Amenia at St. Thomas Amenia to see a congregation so radically engaged in providing food for their neighbors and in their community. This parish has been transformed because they started reaching out to go see this massive garden where they're able to get fresh produce out and really the joy is to see this congregation so excited about sharing the abundance. You know, we talked about this, Eucharistically but like the abundance and that there is enough in their community.

- And there's such a social justice element to all that we do. So many of those we serve are marginalized. They're the undocumented. Patrick mentioned Amenia and there was a situation a couple of years ago where literally ICE cars are parked in front of the church. This is what our government is doing. Mothers who are going to get food to feed their kids, have to say, gee, there's food at St. Thomas but I may not come back because ICE is parked there. So, you know, we're trying to make sure that people who really feel that there isn't hope realize that there is hope and the fact that Mary Beth said, there's no but this is modeling the behavior that will make our church, you know, grow, that we actually have a concern for people's welfare even people who feel that no one out there cares about them.

- And at St. Thomas Amenia, right before COVID this spring they doubled the size of their garden. So they could grow even more because they knew the need would be so great. So it's been remarkable to see what these congregations and what these different programs have been able to do under these dire circumstances-

- And when we think of the government support that's out there, remember how many undocumented people we, you know, you all know how broad our diocese is, going halfway to Albany, all the way to Pennsylvania, all the way to Connecticut, we have a lot of rural territory, we have a lot of farm workers who by and large are undocumented and those people are not eligible for any of the programs that Congress has funded and they're fearful of coming forward for any help for fear that it's going to be a trap for ICE. So again, some of our programs a migrant ministries up in Ulster County serve a population that it feels very much threatened by our government and if it isn't a church affiliated program, these people probably wouldn't go. The power of a collar is huge for people that are fearful of government, fearful of authority and when a priest in the diocese comes forward and says we've got a program, that's when you can connect with people.

- Oh, amazing. So amazing. We have one final question for you as our quick little wrap up here. Episcopal Charity Sunday is this week. How can parishes support you?

- There are a variety of materials that we have sent out to parishes all electronically so they can be cut into a newsletter. They can be put into a bulletin. There's a video of Peter that could be shown on a virtual service. So, and all of those have links to, there's a text to give number. We have a Venmo account. You can use a credit card on our PayPal on our website or you can mail something to the office but and this particular Sunday goes to fund feeding programs which as we all know are some of the most challenged at this time. So we certainly hope that parishes will reach down and give what they can and parishioners and we're so grateful for what anyone can do and there's also information on our website about volunteering. That's something that we have have seen have a huge impact during COVID when many, many volunteers at programs who are elderly no longer feel safe going out to the program and so we've worked, our volunteer coordinator has worked to find new volunteers for programs that, you know, needed more volunteer help. So that's another way people always can sign up to help with that, to make masks, there are so many things you can do.

- And thanks to all of you out there, you know, as Mary Beth said, these are all parish affiliated programs. If it wasn't for the leadership of the priests and the outreach committees across our diocese, we could not do what we do. The Bishop called out the advisory committee which does amazing work but really this is a collective effort across the diocese and it's something I'm certainly proud of but I think every parish in the diocese should be very proud of what we're doing in our communities to help alleviate suffering. So thank you very much.

- Thank you everyone.

- Thank you so much.

- Thank you Episcopal Charities. Thank you Peter Keller and Mary Beth Sasso and Patrick Berquist and thank you, Jillian. Great job fielding those questions. Next up is secretary of convention, Matt Hyde who is gonna to talk and I think even has a slide about voting.

- Thank you, Bishop. We do have slides. The Bishop has talked about the values which we're working through in convention this year, transparency, trust, accessibility and agency and that's how we're thinking about voting for all the offices. Over the next several weeks, we're gonna test the easiest most equitable ways that we can vote together on November seventh and we're gonna need your help to test these different ways. Now, today, we're gonna download an app that might be one of the ones we use for voting. It's not so hard but it begins to test a way in which we can work together and also hear questions or problems that you're having. Next slide. So the app we're gonna download is called CrowdCompass and if you go to the app store in your operating system and search for CrowdCompass, this is what'll come up and you can see I've downloaded it, it's free and what you can do is simply download it to your device, your iPad or your Chromebook or your phone and so you'll have it there. Next slide. So once you get the app downloaded, you'll get into the app and it'll ask you which event you're registering for and what you wanna search for is the 2020 Diocesan Convention and this is what'll pop up when you do. So you'll see the convention name and the date. So it actually started with last week's rollout meeting and goes through our convention altogether on November seventh. once you've downloaded, once you've identified the convention, it'll ask you to put in your name and email address. Now it'll recognize you. Wait to do this until you've actually registered for a convention because once you do, you can do that, we'll give you that address in just a moment but once you've registered, then it'll recognize you. It won't until you do. Make sure that you register with on this app with the same email address which you registered for convention and so that means, it'll know who you are and you'll be able to click through. Once you do that, it'll ask you a few simple questions. It'll make sure of your name and email address and parish affiliation and then you'll be set and the app will be ready. Next slide. And here's what you'll see. It'll be really familiar. The convention front page, this is what we used to see in print every single year and the theme for this year. On the left hand side of the page will be all the information that we'll need for convention and including the schedule, the calendar of business, it'll have the nominees for all the offices and this is how next week we're gonna try out voting together. So this should all be familiar as you go. One last slide. So if you have not yet registered for convention, then you can click here to sign up. You can also find this on the Diocesan website. Next week, we're gonna try a very simple voting process using this app and so by next week, if you could download it, we'll be able to do this pretty simply together. We're gonna try the kind of fun voting we've always started with convention with cartoon characters or sports teams, just a way to test it out together. The app will know which order you're voting in, whether your or clergy. You don't have to register that way. It already knows because you've registered for a convention that way. If you have questions or trouble, here's a new email address to try election@diocesenyny.org. So what we're trying together is both how we work this out, how we vote together but also when we're having trouble, how to make sure we hear you. You know, every year a convention when you have trouble, people were able to raise their hands and people come find you in the back of the cathedral or the hotel ballroom but this year we'll be all over the place. We wanna make sure that we can hear as we're testing out, not only the methods of voting but how he makes sure we can handle any problem you have on November seventh with hospitality and I think customer service. Again, our goal is the easiest, most equitable way so we can vote together on

- Thank you for that. As we have a couple of minutes, I think I just want to make a comment before I offer the final blessing. The question occasionally comes to us about Episcopal Charities as to why we will offer grants to support programs for churches working in the community but will not support programs that have a religious content which for some people seems odd as we are a church and certainly at the heart of our mission is to communicate the love of God in Christ for every person but when we offer programs of outreach and help to people in the community and we tie that to our evangelistic message, we can often create an unfortunate message that seems to suggest that we are using the opportunity to be helped as a way to coerce one into a religious behavior and we don't want to do that. Many, many years ago a man I met on this same subject said to me that Jesus was humble and he didn't have to have his name on everything and that has stayed with me and it reminds me that we are doing the work of Christ when we teach a child to read or give out food to a hungry family or embrace a person coming out of prison and we don't have to tie that to religious services and that's very much at the heart of the vision and work of Episcopal Charities. This is the, we're now finishing the second of nine pre-convention roll-outs and we will see you again next week and I look forward to that. The God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ to the great shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the everlasting covenant make you perfect in every good work to do his will. Working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight through Jesus Christ to whom be glory forever and forever and the blessing of God almighty, the father, the son and the Holy spirit be amongst you and remain with you always. Amen.

- [Man] Amen. ♪ Let your little light shine shine shine ♪ ♪ let your little light shine oh my lord ♪ ♪ 'cause there might be someone down in the valley ♪ ♪ Trying to get home ♪ ♪ It may be you or it may be me ♪ ♪ Traveling over land or the deep blue sea ♪ ♪ Yes there be someone down in the valley trying to get home ♪ ♪ They may be from near or lands afar ♪ ♪ Travel by morning sun or the evening star ♪ ♪ Yes there might be someone down in the valley ♪ ♪ Trying to get home ♪ ♪ Let your little light shine shine shine ♪ ♪ Let your little light shine oh my lord ♪ ♪ 'cause there might be someone down in the valley ♪ ♪ Trying to get home ♪ ♪ Let your little light shine shine shine ♪ ♪ Let your little light shine oh my lord ♪ ♪ Cuz there might be someone down in the valley ♪ ♪ Trying to get home ♪ ♪ Well it may be me or it may be you ♪ ♪ It might be your brother or your sister too ♪ ♪ There might be someone down in the valley ♪ ♪ Trying to get home ♪ ♪ In times of trouble or in times of woe ♪ ♪ Now don't you ever let your lamp burn low ♪ ♪ There might someone down in the valley ♪ ♪ Trying to get home ♪ ♪ Let your little light shine shine shine ♪ ♪ Let your little light shine oh my lord ♪ ♪ Cuz there might be someone down in the valley ♪ ♪ Trying to get home ♪ ♪ Let your little light shine shine shine ♪ ♪ Let your little light shine oh my lord ♪ ♪ Cuz there might be someone down in the valley ♪ ♪ Trying to get home. ♪ ♪ Yes yes there might be someone down in the valley ♪ ♪ Trying to get home ♪ ♪ One more time ♪ ♪ Cuz there might be someone down in the valley ♪ ♪ Trying to get home