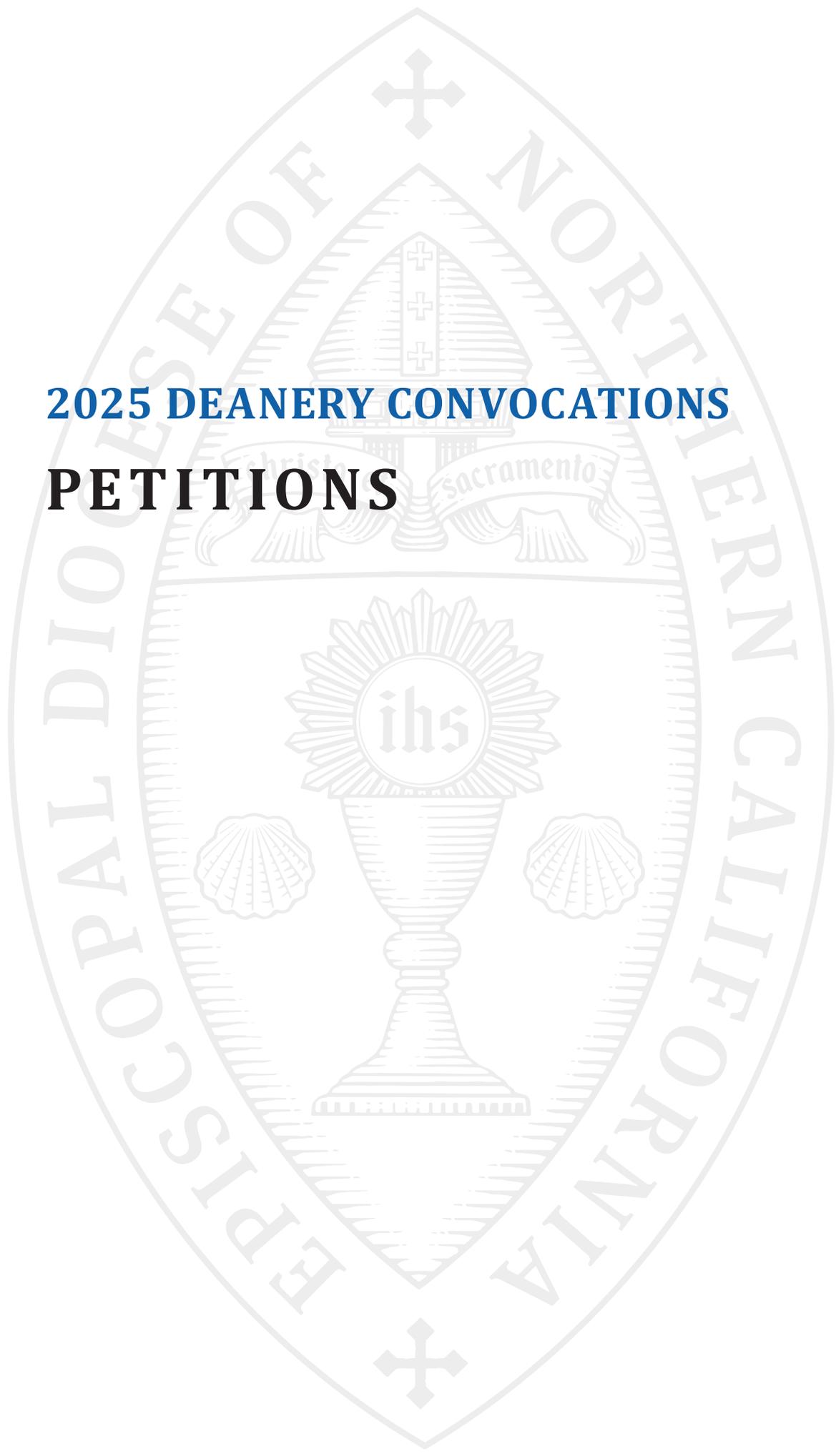




2025 DEANERY CONVOCATIONS PETITIONS



MEMORANDUM and BACKGROUND
Regarding Petitions from St. John's, Marysville

Convention of The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Northern California

Date: Friday, September 5, 2025

To: Bishop Megan Traquair, Convention of the Diocese of Northern California

From: The Rev. Canon Julie Wakelee, Canon to the Ordinary

Re: Petition of St. John's Episcopal Church, Marysville

St. John's Episcopal Church, Marysville, for the reasons set forth in the accompanying petitions, and having ceased ecclesiastical functions as of July 13, 2025, seeks change of status and dissolution.

The sole method for a parish, such as St. John's, under our current Canons, to seek dissolution is first obtaining Special Focus Parish status pursuant to Canon 32.9 and then as a Special Focus Parish petitioning for change in status to an organized mission pursuant to Canon 32.12 and as an organized mission seek dissolution pursuant to Canon 30.12.

There is no canonical path for a parish to seek dissolution directly.

In 2023, St. John's petitioned for and obtained Special Focus Parish status and, accompanied by recommendation of Bishop and Standing Committee seeks adoption of the two accompanying resolutions, one for change of status to organized mission, and one for dissolution of the mission.

The resolution for change of status may be adopted by a majority vote.

The resolution for dissolution requires a two-thirds vote by orders.

Background:

St. John's was established April 30, 1855, following a visit to Marysville in November 1854 by then-Missionary Bishop of California, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Ingraham Kip. The first meetings were held in the Marysville City Hall while the original brick church building, at the corner of Fifth and E Streets, was built.

The church building was formally consecrated on March 29, 1857. By this time, the church was one of the earliest congregations located in the new Missionary Diocese of Northern California.

In 1860, a new, larger church was built at the corner of 8th and D Streets was built, after the original lot was sold for business purposes. In 1948, the church was severely damaged by fire and rebuilt. This remained the congregation's worshipping home until their final service in July of this year.

The last full-time rector of the congregation was the Rev. Dorothy Torry, who departed in 2010 when the congregation was no longer able to pay a full-time priest. The Revs. John Mangels and Kevin Phillips, respectively, served as part-time priest-in-charge until 2022, when the church began to rely solely upon Sunday supply clergy to lead worship.

Despite declining population in Marysville and accompanying reductions church membership and attendance, the congregation is to be commended for outreach ministries that belied the size of the small congregation in its later decades. Of particular note is the “Loaves and Britches” ministry which distributed over one million meals during its impressive 55 years of operation. Members of Grace, Wheatland have now taken up the leadership mantle for this ministry of generosity, and it has found a new physical home through the local Habitat for Humanity chapter.

The Vestry has worked with diocesan staff for many years, seeking to find a way forward. In 2023, the congregation requested Special Focus Status, which was granted by the Bishop and Standing Committee. After a long period of discernment, the congregation chose to sell the property and close the congregation.

The Standing Committee and Bishop gave permission for the sale of the property on April 1, 2025, at the request of the congregation.

The congregation held their closing Sunday worship service on July 13, 2025, which concluded with a blessing and sending of remaining members. Parishioners from local Episcopal and Lutheran churches joined in the service, which was led by the Revs. Rick Laughman and Ken Erickson, with sermon by the Rev. Canon Julie Wakelee.

A local business owner purchased the property for the sum of \$650,000, the sale of which closed on July 9, 2025.

Remaining church members voted on June 25, 2025 to dissolve the congregation and distribute the proceeds of the sale between other small congregations in the deanery as follows:

- \$25,000 to St. Stephen’s, Colusa
- \$25,000 St. Timothy, Gridley
- \$50,000 to Grace, Wheatland to cover the cost of taking on leadership of St. John’s food distribution program
- \$25,000 to the Bishop Megan’s discretionary account

The remainder, after all expenses have been covered, will be divided between St. James of Jerusalem, Yuba City, and Grace, Wheatland, with no restrictions.

PETITION 1
Change of Status for St. John's, Marysville

This Petition is addressed to the following officer and bodies of The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Northern California:

Bishop
Standing Committee
Diocesan Convention

And represents the following:

1. The Petitioner, St. John's Episcopal Church, Marysville, was established as a congregation of the then-Diocese of California in 1855 and was later one of two original congregations in the Missionary Diocese of Northern California.

2. Petitioner has been without the services of a full-time rector since 2010 and has not called a rector in succeeding years. The time elapsed without calling a rector is greater than the reasonable time for doing so per Diocesan Canon 30, sec 32.9.

After a long period of discernment, with Sunday attendance averaging 13 people (as noted in the 2024 parochial report), and financial resources dwindling below sustainable levels, the congregation voted to sell the property earlier this year. That sale was approved by the Standing Committee and Bishop and was completed in July 2025.

Members distributed the physical and financial assets of the congregation to neighboring churches. Congregants have disbursed to worship at local churches.

3. On June 25, 2025, the Vestry of St. John's Episcopal Church, Marysville adopted the following Petition and authorized its execution and filing by the Senior Warden.

Petitioner prays that:

Diocesan Convention Change status of the Petitioner to an organized mission by a majority vote, pursuant to Canons 30.12 and 32.12.


Mr. Brooks Roughton, Senior Warden

Date 10/8/25


Ms. Lohelia Robinson, Treasurer

Date 10/8/25

Petition 2

Dissolution of St. John's, Marysville

This Petition is addressed to the following officer and bodies of The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Northern California:

Bishop
Standing Committee
Diocesan Convention

And represents the following:

1. On June 25, 2025, the Vestry of St. John's Episcopal Church, Marysville adopted the following Petition and authorized its execution and filing by the Senior Warden.
2. This Convention having changed the status of the congregation from parish to mission, and
3. The property having been sold, proceeds distributed among local Episcopal churches, and
4. Worship having ceased for the congregation as of July 13, 2025

Petitioner prays that:

Diocesan Convention order dissolution of the organized mission by two-thirds vote by orders pursuant to Canons 30.12 and 32.12.


Mr. Brooks Roughton, Senior Warden

Date

10/8/25


Ms. Lobelia Robinson, Treasurer

Date

10/8/25