Minutes of the Convention of the Diocese of Northern Indiana

25 October 2003

Conventual Mass and Banquet

The 105th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Northern Indiana began on Friday Evening, 24 October, with the Conventual Mass at St Paul's Church, Munster. The Right Reverend Edward S. Little, II, Bishop of Northern Indiana, celebrated and preached. The Reverend Ben Jones, Rector of St Paul's, hosted the excellent convention banquet which followed in the newly built parish house. Entertainment was provided by a Christian band from Indianapolis, "Five One O."

Call to Order and Introductory Matters

The business session began at 0903 at St Paul's parish house with opening prayers by Bishop Little and a meditation by The Reverend Canon David Hyndman, convention chaplain and dean of the Calumet Deanery.

The report of the credentials committee was then received. Dcn Gloria Taylor reported that 88 lay delegates were registered and 72 were present; of 42 clergy eligible to vote 42 were present. The convention was declared organized for business. The pages of the convention were then introduced, made up of teens from the Calumet Churches.

The minutes of the 104th convention were then certified and the rules of order adopted.

Now Bishop Little appointed officers who were duly approved by the convention: Mrs Sharon Katona, as treasurer; The Reverend Canon John E. Schramm as secretary.

Bishop Little then announced the results of elections in the deaneries to the Diocesan Council (for which, see the Directory). Mr Daniel Pfeiffer, Chancellor, Mr Joseph Weaver, Parliamentarian, The Reverend Canon David Seger, Canon to the Ordinary, Sharon Katona, Treasurer, John Schramm, Secretary, Penny Bergeson, Secretary to the Bishop, and Jason Beshinsky, Diocesan Youth Director, who were all sitting at the high table, were then introduced.

Now the Bishop introduced to convention those clergy new to the diocese since the last convention: Priests: Jim Warnock, Gethsemane, Marion; Barb Schmitz, Grace, Ft Wayne; and Deacon George Douglas, assisting at Howe. Seminarians were then introduced: at Seabury: Rebecca Crise, David Heady, Jeff Wilhelm, Jane Schmoetzer; and Dcn Carol Fleming; at Sewanee: Marcus Cunningham; four others are preparing for ordination locally: Margie Shaw; Susan Haynes, Larry Biller, and Steve Crain.

There was one death in the clerical order in the last year: The Reverend Eugene Douglass, for whom prayers were offered.

The Elections.

The following ballots were taken. In every case, except noted, nominations were accepted from the floor and when they had ceased, the voting was called for.

Ballot #1—Standing Committee: one lay person and one clergy to be elected for a full term. Nominees: Clergy: Ben Jones; Eugene Kohlbecker (nominated from the floor). Lay: Cynthia Guzzo, Pamela Barnes Harris.

Ballot #2: Standing Committee: one lay person to be elected to serve two years of an unexpired term. Nominee: Tim Gray. A motion was made for a unanimous ballot to be cast for Tim Gray. This succeeded and Timothy Gray was elected.

Ballot #3: Delegates to Provincial Synod: Richard Miller was nominated in the clerical order. It was moved to elect him by a unanimous ballot. This succeeded. In the lay order, Anne Donnelly and Sean Meade were nominated.

Ballot #4: Ecclesiastical Trial Court: one lay person to be elected. Nominees: David Stewart; Randy Powers (nominated from the floor).

The Bishop then presented officers of the Cathedral Chapter and the Foundation who were elected by their respective bodies but need to be confirmed by Convention. The Foundation: The Reverend Richard Kallenberg and Mr Al Harker. Cathedral Chapter: David Hyndman and Nancy Moody.

The Bishop's Address

Now the Bishop presented his annual address (for text, see index). This was followed by a short break and convention reconvened at 1106 with a report from the tellers on the first ballots.

Election Results

Standing Committee: Clergy: Ben Jones; Lay: Cynthia Guzzo

Provincial Synod: Anne Donnelly, delegate; Sean Meade, alternate

Ecclesiastical Trial Court: David Stewart

The Reverend David Ottsen rose to a point of personal privilege—he directed thanks to Bishop for his address, especially by allowing for and welcoming difference of opinions. He also referred to the sense of isolation Bishop Little mentioned and offered the idea of prayer discipline as a solution.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was now presented by Sharon Katona. She called for questions, but there were none and the report was accepted as printed.

The Presentation of the 2004 Budget.

Ben Jones presented the budget by means of a power-point presentation, incorporating the rationale of the budget as aiming at its mission purpose, and including many pictures of diocesan and parish functions and ministries.

For the Finance Committee and Council, The Reverend Dick Kallenberg came to move the budget and answer questions about it. Dick pointed out two matters: the investment trust is still producing net income in the 4.7% range, which is not bad in the present environment. The canons of the Church require that there be an annual audit for all congregations. Finally, he spoke about a few budget details: how the deficit presented by assessment reductions was handled: namely, that council divided the remaining amount between the CR&D budget and the national church assessment. He also said that the staff was given a cost of living adjustment, and it was the bishop's turn for a merit raise. He then presented the budget and moved its acceptance.

Budget Amendment Resolution

The Bishop now told convention that council referred to convention an amendment to the budget allowing for a local option in support of the national budget. (for text, see index.) John Schramm moved the adoption of the original amendment and immediately Brian Grantz introduced a substitute amendment. (For text, see index).

Debate now began. Convention recessed for lunch after noon day prayers and the commissioning of newly elected officials at 1220.

Convention reconvened at 1300 with prayer and a meditation by David Hyndman.

At 1310 debate resumed until 1347. Before the vote there was silence for prayer.

Results: Total Vote: 128 votes cast; 65 no; 63 yes

The substitute failed and so did the original council amendment. Now the vote was taken on the budget.

Patrick Ormos suggested a sense of the house motion that in case of a lack of funds at the diocesan level during the year 2004, funds will be directed towards local ministry before the national church. This motion passed.

Now the budget passed.

Ministry Presentations

Jason Beschinski then offered a presentation on the diocesan youth ministry.

Charlotte Strowhorn made a presentation on behalf of the Diocesan ECW, referring a UTO contribution to St Margaret's House and a check to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund.

Sean Meade had a brief word on the Diocesan Web Site.

The next convention is due for the last weekend of October, 2004, at a site still to be determined.

Convention adjourned at 1437.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev'd Canon John E. Schramm

Secretary to Convention