The Minutes of the 106th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Indiana

October 29-30, 2004—Kokomo, Indiana

The Convention of the Diocese began with the conventual Mass at St Andrew's Church, Kokomo, on Friday evening, October 29th. The Rt. Rev'd Edward S. Little, II, Bishop of the Diocese of Northern Indiana, celebrated, and the Rt. Rev'd Daniel W. Herzog, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Albany, preached. Following the Eucharist, the convention reassembled for the annual convention banquet, held at the Kokomo Country Club.

The business session of the convention commenced at 0905 on the morning of the 30th of October at the Kokomo Country Club, with prayer by Bishop Little. Bishop Herzog, the convention chaplain, then offered a meditation before the beginning of business. His meditation reflected on the parallel between the early church and the contemporary church. The early church had no funding, no organization, but had the power of the Holy Spirit and transformed lives. Our present culture is filled with people longing for contact with the Spirit and with transformation. We need to organize ourselves around our mission in order to reach them. There are, of course, obstacles, but we are called upon to overcome them to reach our current generation.

After the Bishop's meditation, came the roll call. There were 39 clerical and 93 lay delegates present. So the convention was declared open for business, which began by the secretary noting certain General Convention amendments that were to be voted on at the next General Convention. He also announced an Honduran work trip in January and invited interested persons to join in.

Julie Handschumacher then introduced the pages: Andrew Webb, Matthew Webb, Gabriel Doucette, Eric Lauterbach, Peter Inman, Elizabeth Kellett, Mitch Byam, and John Alexander.

The minutes of the 105th convention were then presented. One correction was noted: the name of the band which played at the banquet: One Five O.

The Rules of Order were then adopted and Sharon Katona and John Schramm nominated by the Bishop and approved by convention to continue in the positions of treasurer and secretary respectively.

The Bishop then noted that three deaneries had elected Diocesan Council representatives this year: Calumet (Carolyn Jones and Hank

Nyenhuis), South Bend (Joni Carlson and Randy Melton), and Ft Wayne (Peg Harker and Fred Heasley).

The Bishop then introduced persons seated at the head table: Joe Weaver, Parliamentarian; Dan Pfeiffer, Chancellor; John Schramm, Secretary; David Seger, Canon to the Ordinary; and Sharon Katona, Treasurer. Seated nearby were Jason Beschinski, Diocesan Youth Director; Penny Bergeson, Secretary to the Bishop; and Bishop Herzog and his wife, Carol. The Bishop also introduced other members of Diocesan Council who were present at convention.

New clergy were also introduced to convention: Dcn Lin Hutton, Curate at St Anne's; Bob Askren, priest in charge, Trinity, Ft Wayne; Richard Wineland, a Lutheran pastor who is in charge at St John of the Cross; and Carol Fleming, St Andrew's, Michigan City, who was ordained a priest since the last convention. Convention was asked, as a courtesy, to seat these clergy with voice but no vote—since, while serving in the diocese are canonically resident elsewhere: Richard Wineland, Judith Culpepper, Lin Hutton, Bob Askren, and Spencer Thiel.

Henry Randolph, diocesan vocations director, was also introduced and attention called to the persons currently studying for orders and preparing for ordination. Studying at Seabury Western are: Rebecca Crise, Jane Schmoetzer, and Jeff Wilhelm; at the University of the South are: Marcus Cunningham and Jason Shelby; Jonathan Melton is at Duke University and Jesse Abell is doing a year at Cambridge. Local ordination preparation is being undertaken by Margie Shaw, Susan Haynes (who is to be ordained a deacon on December 21st, 2004), Larry Biller, Marion Carpenter, and David Heady.

Since the last convention two beloved former priests of the diocese departed this life: Bradley McCormick and Robert Bizzaro. Requiescant in pacem.

Resolutions that affected Diocesan Canons were now presented by the chancellor. Resolution #1 called for amending the process of electing deputies to General Convention (see: Resolutions). It was passed by a majority and the voiced approval of the Bishop. Resolution #7 was then presented, which dealt with the delegates to Provincial Synod. It was passed in the same manner.

Now nominations and ballots were taken for the vacancies in canonical offices. For a three-year clerical term on the Standing Committee, James Warnock and Patrick Ormos were nominated. For a three-year lay term, Carole Gross and Pamela Harris were nominated.

John Meyer was elected unanimously to the Ecclesiastical Trial Court without opposition.

As deputies to General Convention the following were nominated: in the Clerical Order: Ben Jones, Brian Grantz, Peg Harker, and Patrick Ormos. In the Lay Order: Anne Donnelly, Nancy Moody, Charlotte Strowhorn, Christopher Wells, Pamela Harris, Sean Meade, and Kitty Clark. At 1017 the ballots were collected and convention recessed for a coffee break.

Reconvening at 1030, convention considered Bishop Little's annual address (see: Bishop's Address). Upon conclusion, Patrick Ormos requested that convention take time to consider the issues raised by the Bishop immediately. The suggestion was taken under consideration, but postponed.

Ecumenical greetings were then brought from Steve Beutler, Pastor of Grace United Methodist Church. Richard Lightsey, host rector, introduced his colleague from Kokomo.

Now came the report of election results: James Warnock and Carole Gross were elected to Standing Committee; Clerical Deputies, in order, were: Brian Grantz, Ben Jones, Peg Harker, and Patrick Ormos; Lay Deputies, in order: Charlotte Strowhorn, Nancy Moody, Christopher Wells, Anne Donnelly; alternates in order: Pamela Harris, Kitty Clark, and Sean Meade.

Convention was then called upon to ratify the elections by two diocesan bodies to renew their own memberships: The Foundation: Jamie Jones and Nancy Noecker; The Greater Cathedral Chapter: Carol Fleming and Fred Heasley.

Now a time of reflection was ordered for consideration of the Bishop's charge. At the conclusion of this time, noonday prayers were said and newly elected office-holders were commissioned. At 1210 convention recessed for lunch.

Upon reconvening, convention heard another meditation by Bishop Herzog on the importance of the church's healing ministries which can (as Jesus did for Lazarus) unbind them and let them go.

Before undertaking further business, there was a new report on delegate strength: 38 clergy present and 86 lay delegates.

Now further resolutions were considered: #2, regarding votes by oral declaration or a call for a vote by orders—passed and assented to by the Bishop; #3, regarding elections terms— passed and assented to by the Bishop; #4, regarding a change in the time required for notifying delegates of nominations—passed and assented to by the

Bishop; #5, regarding lay members of the Standing Committee having seat and voice at convention—passed and assented to by the Bishop; #6, regarding some stylistic changes in the wording of Canon 5—passed and assented to by the Bishop.

The treasurer's report was then presented and time was given for questions, of which there were none. It was approved as printed.

Then the budget for 2005 was presented in a video format by Ben Jones. After some consideration it was passed as presented. Associated with the budget was a sense of the house resolution which passed unanimously: That in case of a lack of funds at the diocesan level, the needs of the diocese ought to be cared for before the national church assessment. There was some discussion of what this might mean and Bishop Little explained it at some length.

Jason Beschinski next came forward to make a video presentation on diocesan youth work and to outline the youth program for 2005.

The diocesan ecumenical officer, Tina Velthuizen, announced an ecumenical camp for the summer of 2005 and urged our participation.

Then Charlotte Strowhorn, ECW representative, made a presentation to Bishop Little of $2250 for the use of his discretionary fund. She also announced the receipt of UTO grants by two diocesan churches: St Timothy's, Griffith, and Gethsemane, Marion.

After a few closing remarks, the Bishop adjourned convention at 1428 with prayer and his blessing, to reconvene for the 107th convention on October 28 and 29, at a site yet to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev'd Canon John E. Schramm
Secretary to Convention