The Minutes of the One-Hundred Seventh
Annual Convention of the Diocese of Northern Indiana
Saint Michael and All Angels, South Bend, October 29, 2005

The Convention began the Eucharist at 9 AM, celebrated by The Rt. Rev'd Edward S. Little, assisted by his chaplain and canon, The Rev'd David Seger. The Bishop's sermon incorporated his annual address to the Convention [*see the full text*]. The Rev'd Randall Melton, rector of St Michael's was the host pastor and assisted at the Eucharist with The Rev'd David Ottsen, The Very Rev'd Martin Yabroff, and The Rev'd Dcn Cindy van Parys.

The convention was officially called to order at 11:01, with an opening Prayer by Bishop Little.

Roll Call and Organization of the Convention.

After a few preliminary remarks and announcements by the Bishop, the secretary proceeded to call the roll. The results were as follows:

Clergy Registered: 48; Present: 43

Laity Registered: 99; Present: 96

Certification of the Minutes

The Bishop announced that the minutes of the 106th Annual Convention have been certified as correct.

Adoption of the Rules of Order

The rules of order were now adopted by motion, second, and vote. (See posting elsewhere on this site.)

Election and Appointment of Convention Officers

At the Bishop's nomination, The Rev'd Canon John Schramm as approved to continue as the Secretary of Convention and Mrs. Sharon Katona to continue as the Diocesan Treasurer.

Diocesan Council

The Bishop called attention to those council members who were newly elected at the deanery meetings this year.

Wabash Valley Deanery:	The Rev'd Margaret Harker
	Clark Miller, Trinity, Logansport
Elkhart Deanery:	Richard Kallenberg, St John, Elkhart
	Paul Parrow, St John, Bristol
Michigan City Deanery:	The Rev'd James Jones, St Paul, LaPorte
	Peggy Guardiola, St Francis, Chesterton
Fort Wayne Deanery:	The Rev'd Barb Schmitz, Grace, Fort Wayne to an unexpired term

Introductions

The Bishop then introduced those sitting at the high table: John Schramm, Secretary; Daniel Pfeifer, Chancellor; Joe Weaver, Parliamentarian; David Seger, Canon to the Ordinary; and Sharon Katona, Treasurer. In addition Penney Bergeson, the bishop's secretary, and Jason Beschinski, the diocesan youth minister, were introduced.

Next were introduced those clergy who were new to the diocese since the last convention: The Very Rev'd Martin Yabroff, Cathedral, South Bend, and his wife, Eve; The Rev'd Susan Haynes, Cathedral, South Bend, and her husband, Tom; The Rev'd Jane Schmoetzer, St Andrew, Michigan City, and husband, Bruce. Mention was made of new clergy who were not present: The Rev'd Jeff Wilhelm to be ordained priest in the Diocese of Los Angeles in November and The Rev'd Rebecca Crise to be ordained priest in the Diocese of Chicago in November.

Courtesy Seating for Non-Resident Clergy Serving Congregations:

Permission was now asked and granted for licensed clergy to sit with their congregations on the floor of convention: The Rev'd Judith Culpepper, S Paul, Gas City; The Rev'd Robert Askren, Trinity, Fort Wayne; and The Rev'd Spencer Thiel, St Christopher, Crown Point.

More Introductions

The Bishop then introduced The Rev'd Henry Randolph, Vocations Director, who keeps track of those preparing for ordination and supervises their education and announced the names of Seminarians and Persons in Ordination Track, some who were present at convention.

University of the South Contingent: Marcus Cunningham, Sr., St John the Evangelist, Elkhart; Jason Shelby, Middler, St Anne, Warsaw ; Jesse Abell, Middler, St Andrew, Kokomo ; Aaron and Rachel Evans, Jrs., St John the Evangelist, Elkhart ; Sean Maloney, Jr., Cathedral, South Bend ; Julie Handschumacher, Jr., Gethsemane, Marion. At Duke University: Jonathan Melton, Middler. Persons Preparing in the Diocese: Margie Shaw, St Thomas, Plymouth; Larry Biller, All Saints, Syracuse; Marion Carpenter, St Anne, Warsaw; Michael Thompson, St Paul, Mishawaka; Michael Fulk, St Alban, Fort Wayne.

Bishop Little called attention to one priest who had left during the preceding year: The Rev'd Errol Montgomery from St. James, Goshen to the Diocese of Western Louisiana; then recalled three long-time clergy of the diocese who died in the past year and offered prayers for them:

The Rt Rev'd William C.R. Sheridan, who died in September of this year and began his work in the diocese in 1947, elected Bishop in 1972; The Rev'd Wilbur B. Dexter, who died on 25 August and served in the diocese from 1949-1975; and The Rev'd Deacon Anne Dorgan long time member of St Anne's, Warsaw, recently retired to Florida.

Report on Nominations

Standing Committee

Clerical: The Rev'd Brian Grantz, St Anne, Warsaw

A unanimous ballot was cast for Brian Grantz, since there were no other nominations.

Laity: Richard Beach, S Andrew, Valparaiso

Timothy Gray, S James, South Bend (When the results of the ballot were returned, Timothy Gray was declared elected.)

Pamela Harris, S Andrew, Valparaiso

Presbyterial Member of Ecclesiastical Trial Court

The Rev'd Henry Randolph, S David, Elkhart.

Since there were no other nominations, the Bishop declared him elected.

The Bishop, hearing no objection, announced the lawful election of the following persons by the board which they will serve.

Ratification of Foundation Directors

The Rev'd Lloyd Johnson, S Alban, Fort Wayne
Richard Beach, S Andrew, Valparaiso

Ratification of Greater Cathedral Chapter

The Rev'd Richard Lightsey
Larry Biller, All Saints', Syracuse

Welcome by the Reverend M. Randall Melton.

The Rector of St Michael and All Angels welcomed the convention to the parish.

"Whatever It Takes Task Force"

A presentation made on behalf of the task force, which has been studying the conditions of the diocese in terms of money and attendance, since last year's convention. Presenters were The Very Rev'd Martin Yabroff and Mr Dale Guckenberger. Patterns which have emerged: attendance is dropping—all either holding their own or in decline. Financial: more than half of the congregations of the diocese cannot afford full-time clergy. Of the other group, half of them are stressed in trying to maintain full-time clergy. The issue identified was mission, not so much organization or structure.

The Reconciliation Team

The Rev'd James Warnock and Ms Nola Wegman made a presentation on behalf of the Reconciliation Team which was involved in a large four-diocese meeting in Massachusetts several months ago. The Rev'd Brian Cox, Christ the King, Santa Barbara, CA, directed the group in reconciliation methodology. The purpose was not to change minds but to change the culture of the Episcopal Church, to move away from controversy and focus on Christ. Since the large meeting the reconciliation team has met twice with each other and is attending the Windsor study days as well.

Ecumenical Greeter

The Rev'd Tina Velthuizen introduced The Rev'd Stephanie King, newly ordained in the ministry of the Presbyterian Church in South Bend, who brought greetings from the Presbyterian Church and best wishes for the convention.

Greetings from The Anglican Communion

Bishop Little welcomed The Rt. Rev'd Ernest M. Shalita, retired bishop of Muhabura, Uganda, who brought greetings from Uganda and his diocese—named after the mountain Muhabura. The burden of his greeting was the importance of maintaining the integrity of the Anglican Communion. He is in the United States partly to visit St Michael's Church which has been engaging in a ministry of aid for poor children there.

Convention now undertook to break for lunch at 1230 and planned to resume at 1310. Bishop Little prayed a blessing on the food and gave thanks for our rootedness in the wider church and for former leaders in the diocese.

Response to the Bishop's Address

When convention resumed at 1325, the Bishop allowed some time for those present to respond to the challenges the Bishop's address outlines. One suggestion was for deanery meetings to be arranged for discussions of the issues raised. Another concern: how can these things be taken to the parish level? What about social justice issues? Don't forget world missions, said another—the millennium project, for example. Another point of view: there is no Biblical warrant for leaving each other over issues. We also need parish training on basic evangelism. Another idea: to be ecumenically aware—especially being conscious of those other churches are nearest us. Another pointed out the need for our "graying members" to have more of a sense of meaning. Another response: we need our full time canon to the ordinary.

Consideration of Resolutions

Only one resolution was filed—number 1—regarding the reallocation of money from the Committee on Parish Revitalization and Development to the Diocesan Operating Budget, when the chapel at Wawasee is finally paid for. There was debate and a suggested amendment which was withdrawn. Finally, the vote was taken on this resolution: "Resolved that Resolution #3 adopted by the 93rd Annual Diocesan Convention meeting on November 2, 1991, be amended to designate five percent of the annual budget of the diocese for congregational revitalization and development and five per cent to the operating budget of the diocese until rescinded by a subsequent convention." See full text for the explanations. The resolution passed on a voice vote.

Treasurer's Report

There were no questions of Sharon Katona, diocesan treasurer, and the treasurer's report was approved as printed.

Budget

The Rev'd Ben Jones offered a video presentation on the ministry of the diocese using pictures submitted by parishes. Then he presented a visual graphical presentation of the budget for 2006. The Rev'd Richard Kallenberg now was available to answer questions on the budget as chair of the finance committee. As an interruption to the process of budget debate there was a mind of the house resolution presented by The Rev'd Patrick Ormos as follows: "Resolved, That as a guideline to Diocesan Council, the sense of the House is that any shortfall in the 2006 budget be balanced by

transferring funds from the national church's request." This motion passed as then did the motion to approve the 2006 budget. Dick Kallenberg then talked about the transferring of Diocesan Investment Funds to a different fund manager. Details are available elsewhere. The Bishop also talked about how the various funds raised during "Forward in Faith" could be used for missional purposes in a more intentional way.

Episcopal Church Women

Mrs Charlotte Strowhorn, chair of the Diocesan ECW came forward to present to Bishop Little a check from the ECW for his discretionary fund in the sum of $1650. In addition she announced that the ECW will be sponsoring three retreats in the spring: April 1: for South Bend and Elkhart deaneries; April 8: Calumet and Michigan City deaneries; April 29: Ft Wayne and Wabash Valley deaneries. The retreat leader will be Mrs Kitty Clark.

Diocesan Youth Work

Mr Jason Beschinski now came to talk about diocesan youth work—his last presentation in his diocesan position. He also highlighted the importance of the many volunteers who had worked with him in various youth efforts this past year. In conclusion he also offered a video presentation of highlights from last year's program.

Special Presentation

Sylvia Little came to talk about ways in which we can offer our assistance to the victims of the hurricanes in the south, in this case, dealing with emotional/psychological problems. If people know of those with special skills who could be involved in such a way, please contact: the diocesan office, which can contact her. This is a short-term commitment, only a week or so.

Closing Prayers and Adjournment

The Bishop offered concluding thanks to Ben Jones and Sean Meade for audiovisual help. On a special point of personal privilege, Patrick Ormos called upon the house to offer special thanks to David Seger for his faithful and hard work for the diocese. This was done with a long round of applause. The Bishop said that the 2006 Convention will be October 28-29 at a site to be chosen.

There being no further business, convention adjourned with the bishop's blessing at 1505.

Respectfully submitted,

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