

Minutes of the 110th Convention of the Diocese of Northern Indiana

25 October 2008
Trinity Church, Ft Wayne, Indiana

The Conventual Mass of the 110th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Northern Indiana opened at Trinity Church, Ft Wayne, at 0845, Saturday, October 25th, with The Rt Rev'd Edward S. Little II celebrating and preaching, assisted by The Rev'd Thomas Hansen, Rector of Trinity Church, and the The Rev'd Canon SuzeAnne Silla, Canon to the Ordinary.

The Bishop's Conventual Sermon focused on the Baptismal Life, corresponding with the Mass itself, a votive Mass for all baptized Christians. His meditation involved the ideas of belonging, empowerment and transformation.

The offering at the Eucharist was received jointly for flood relief in northwest Indiana, distributed through St Paul's Church, Munster, and Camp New Happenings. Music was provided by the parish choir under the direction of Janet Piercy and organist Wayne Peterson.

The **business session of the Convention** was called to order at 1023 with prayer by Bishop Little, remembering those clergy who were prevented by illness from attending: Priests Ben Jones, David Hyndman, and Robert Center, and Deacon Joe Illes.

After some housekeeping details, the roll was called. There were found to be 82 lay delegates registered and 34 clergy. The Bishop determined that there was a quorum present and the Convention prepared to do business.

Then The Rev'd Kathryn Thomas, Rector of Grace Church, Ft. Wayne, introduced young people from that parish who were serving as pages.

The Rev'd Thomas Hansen, rector of Trinity Church, was introduced to welcome the Convention to the parish and introduce the planning committee from the congregation. He also introduced the other rectors from the Ft Wayne area: The Rev'd Dan Layden and The Rev'd Kathy Thomas.

The **Minutes of the 109th Convention** were noted as certified and space was given for corrections, of which two were noted: The Rev'd John Meyer should have been listed as a clerical member of the trial court, and Bennett Jones' name was to be spelled as here printed.

Three deaneries elected members to diocesan council this fall: Calumet: The Rev'd David Hyndman, clerical; Ms. Marianita Porterfield, lay. Ft Wayne: The Rev'd Dan Layden, clerical; Mrs. Lee Gast, lay. South Bend: The Rev'd Susan Haynes, clerical; Ms. Janis Ross, lay.

Other continuing council members were noted: Elkhart: The Rev'd Larry Biller, clerical; Ms. Katherine Craig, lay. Michigan City: The Rev'd Aune Strom, clerical; Ms. Peggy Guardiola, lay. Wabash: The Rev'd Richard Lightsey, clerical; Mr. Bill Munn, lay.

Introductions were now made of those seated at the head table: Mr. Joe Weaver, parliamentarian; Mr. Dan Pfeifer, Chancellor; The Rev'd Canon John Schramm, secretary; Mrs. Sharon Katona, treasurer; The Rev'd Canon SuzeAnne Silla, Canon to the Ordinary; and Mr. Jon Adamson, secretary to the Bishop.

Introductions were then made of Clergy new to the Diocese since last convention: The Rev'd Tony Clavier, rector, St Paul's, LaPorte; The Rev'd Michael Fulk, priest-in-charge, Holy Family, Angola; The Very Rev'd Brian Grantz, dean of the cathedral; The Rev'd Corinne Hodges, priest-in-charge, St John's, Bristol; and The Rev'd Kathryn Thomas, rector, Grace Church. Not present but canonically resident in the diocese are: The Rev'd Marion Carpenter, deacon, St Anne's. Mentioned also were The Rev'd Sean Maloney, The Rev'd Julie Anna Johnson, and The Rev'ds Aaron and Rachael Evans, all of whom are serving away from the diocese. The Rev'd Delores Wiens, priest-in-charge at St Barnabas' and The Rev'd Sally Weaver, interim at St John's, Elkhart, not canonically resident, were also introduced. Mention was also made of seminarians: Nick Meyers, studying at Yale, and Greg Wilde, studying at Sewanee.

The Bishop then asked Convention to give voice and seat to The Rev'd Delores Wiens, The Rev'd ally Weaver, and The Rev'd Spencer Thiel, (St Christopher's).

The Rev'd Henry Randolph, rector of St David's, and Director of Vocations, was introduced, and mention made of the persons who are preparing for holy orders under his direction: Terry Bays, Richard Beach, Thomas Hayes, Kathleen Christensen, Clark Miller, and Michelle Walker.

The Bishop also noted that several clergy have moved in the last year to other dioceses: Jonathan Melton, Linda Hutton, Randy Melton, David Ottsen, Rebecca Crise, Barbara Schmitz, and Jason Shelby.

Prayers for the departed were now offered, especially for widows of clergy, Rodney Cooper and Wendy Gibson, and also for Deacon Frank McKee.

Report on Nominations

The sole elections required were for members of the Standing Committee and of the Ecclesiastical Trial Court.

Regarding Standing Committee, the nominees for the one presbyteral member to be elected were: The Very Rev'd Brian Grantz and The Rev'd Daniel Martins. In the lay order, the nominee was Mr. Jim Stanley. The Bishop called for other nominations, but there were none, in either order. Therefore a ballot was called for the clerical election, but Jim Stanley was declared elected in the lay order.

Regarding the Trial Court, there was one nominee in the presbyteral order: The Rev'd Henry Randolph. The Bishop asked for other nominees, but there were none. The Bishop then declared Henry Randolph to be elected.

With regard to the Foundation Members and Cathedral Chapter members, their own members elected successors and convention was asked to ratify the choices. This year the Foundation elected The Rev'd Richard Miller and Mr. Dick Beach each to a three-year term, and Mr Thomas Cassidy to an unexpired two-year term of Ms. Nancy Noecker. The Cathedral Chapter elected The Rev'd Carolyn Jones and Mr. Fred Heasley.

Convention ratified these choices.

The Secretary now called attention of convention to the titles of the resolutions, canonical and otherwise, referred to Convention by the General Convention. These were duly noted as available on the diocesan web site.

The Bishop next delivered his **Convention Address**.

After the Address, the Bishop announced election results: Brian Grantz was elected to the Standing Committee.

There were no pre-filed resolutions, nor were there any offered *de novo*.

Those who were recently elected to offices mentioned above, were now instituted by the Bishop, with prayers for their ministry.

At 1215 convention was recessed for lunch, resuming its business at 1320.

The first order of business after lunch was an **Ecumenical Greeting** brought by The Rev'd Ben Sterneke of Christ Community Church, for which Trinity is making space to get started in its building. Tom Hansen introduced him. He is from an evangelical-charismatic background working toward a liturgically-influenced worship.

Also in an ecumenical vein, there will be a second Anglican-Roman Catholic event held on the Annunciation, 2009, having to do with and agreed ARCIC statement regarding the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Upcoming **dates for youth work** were announced: Summer Camp: June 14-20, 2009; Youth Retreat: (for teens 7-12 grade) Dec 12-14 at Wawasee; Camp Timothy (for Sr High students) July 12-18, 2009 at Camp Mack.

The Rev'd Henry Randolph now came to speak about Diocesan Vocations. The vision of the bishop about six years ago was of a customized program for residential preparation for orders within the diocese. This has resulted in the Northern Indiana School of Theology (NISOT). The workings of this process were explained and attention called to the surprising number of those who are following the call to ordination through this plan. The candidates "apply their hearts to wisdom and he counts their days."

Now Canon SuzeAnne Silla came to speak about **Congregational Development**. She presented the plan for next year's CDI and read testimonials from this year's participants

Next Mrs Sharon Katona came to present the **Treasurer's Report**. There were no questions and it was approved as printed.

2009 Budget. A video presentation made by The Rev'd Ben Jones was shown, having to do with diocesan ministries—a reminder that the dollars in the budget have to do with people—and then The Rev'd Richard Kallenberg presented the budget on behalf of the finance committee, moving the budget for discussion purposes. It was seconded and then passed without audible dissent.

After the budget was presented Dick Kallenberg went on to talk about the Diocesan Investment Trust. The most recent information on our two trusts is that through 2009 the returns will be fairly steady but then 2010 looks difficult on the income fund. The growth fund has suffered a considerable loss in the current market troubles.

Now Mrs Charlotte Strowhorn came to speak about the **ECW**, noting information included in the printed report, and to make a presentation to the Bishop for his discretionary fund on behalf of the ECW. She also introduced the **President of the Provincial ECW** and president of the Diocese of Chicago ECW, Joanna Gesicki, who spoke about the work of the ECW in the parishes and at diocesan and national Church levels.

After a visual presentation, Charlotte introduced The Rev'd Mose Carter of **Camp New Happenings**. The first camp was held the past summer. Next year it will be held July 21 through August 1 at Camp

Mack. Charlotte also introduced the board of directors and those who worked at the camp itself.

Mose Carter spoke about people incarcerated and the effect on their families, and how important it was to reach the children of these families. He also spoke of the way the children who participated were changed during the summer experience.

Mr. Tim Skimina came to say a word about the mission trip to Honduras in January. He also asked for contact people in parishes.

Next year's convention will be held at St Thomas, Plymouth, on October 24th—John Schramm welcomed convention on behalf of the parish.

There being no further business, it was moved that convention adjourn, which it did with prayer by the bishop at 1455.

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