

The Minutes of the One Hundred Eleventh Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Indiana

*St Thomas' Church, Plymouth, Indiana
24 October 2009*

Opening Mass

The Convention began at 0900 with a votive Mass for mission at St Thomas' Parish Church, in Plymouth. The congregation was led in singing by the parish choir under the direction of Mrs Mary Pat Glaub, with assistance of choristers from St Paul's Church, Mishawaka. Dr Victor Weber played the organ, assisted by Latino musicians, Sr Armando Suarez and Sra Rita Martinez for the Spanish songs, with the special help of guest oboist Ms Jennet Ingle. The Right Reverend Todd McGregor, Bishop of Tulear, Madagascar, was the preacher (and also chaplain of the convention). The Right Reverend Edward S Little, II, Bishop of the Diocese, was the celebrant, assisted by The Reverend Canon SuzeAnne Silla, Canon to the Ordinary, and The Venerable George Douglass, Deacon of the Mass, and the Reverend Canon John E Schramm, Rector of the Parish and Secretary of Convention.

Call to Order

After the Mass, the lay delegates and clergy moved to Christo's Banquet Center, some six blocks from the Church for the business part of the convention. Bishop Little made several announcements and led in the opening prayers at 1055. The Secretary then called the roll of lay delegates and clergy authorized to be seated and the Bishop declared a quorum present and convention opened and organized for business.

Welcome

The Bishop called upon John E. Schramm, Rector of St. Thomas' Church, to welcome the convention to Plymouth. He played a short video about the Latino congregation that has been started in the parish and then introduced the pages: Sra Heydi Banegas, Sr Samy Guerrero, Srta Elsy Martinez, Srta Maribel Sosa and Srta Cindy Mencias. He also thanked Mrs Patty Moberly and her arrangements committee for all their hard work.

Certification of the Minutes of the 110th Convention

Convention was notified that the minutes of the last convention were certified by a committee, although there was a mistake regarding the title of a deanery representative: Mrs Lee Gast.

Election and Appointment of Convention Officers

The Bishop proposed John Schramm for Secretary of the Convention and Mrs. Sharon Katona for Diocesan Treasurer. Convention approved his recommendations.

The Bishop then introduced The Right Reverend Todd and The Reverend Patsy McGregor—visiting from Madagascar—both long term missionaries in Africa. The acquaintance between the Bishop of Northern Indiana and the Bishop of Tular goes back to the Lambeth Conference.

Then Bishop Little mentioned the members elected newly or continuing on Diocesan Council:

Elkhart Deanery

Clerical – The Reverend Larry Biller, All Saints, Syracuse & St. James, Goshen

Lay – Ms Cynthia Keck, St. John of the Cross, Bristol

Michigan City Deanery

Clerical –The Reverend Andy Hanyzewski, St. Francis, Chesterton & St. Andrew’s-by-the-Lake, Michigan City

Lay – Mr Kevin Warren, Trinity, Michigan City

Wabash Valley Deanery

Clerical – The Reverend Richard Lightsey, St. Andrew’s, Kokomo

Lay – Mr Bill Munn, Gethsemane, Marion

Those continuing on the council from previous elections are:

Calumet Deanery

Clerical – The Reverend David Hyndman, St. Augustine’s, Gary

Lay – Mrs Marianita Porterfield, St. Augustine’s, Gary

Fort Wayne Deanery

Clerical – The Reverend Daniel Layden, St. Alban’s, Fort Wayne

Lay – Mrs Lee Gast, St. Anne’s, Warsaw

South Bend Deanery

Clerical – The Reverend Susan Haynes, St. Paul’s, Mishawaka

Lay – Mrs Janis Ross, Cathedral of St. James, South Bend

The Bishop then introduced persons at the head table.

Mr Joe Weaver, Parliamentarian; John Schramm, Secretary; Sharon Katona, Treasurer; SuzeAnne Silla, Canon to the Ordinary; and Mr Jon Adamson, Secretary to the Bishop. (The Honorable Dan Pfeifer, Chancellor, was unable to be present.)

Introduction of New Clergy

The Bishop then introduced clergy new to the diocese since last convention:

The Reverend Michael Cover, Transitional Deacon, St. Paul's, Mishawaka, and his wife, Susanna; The Reverend Matthew Cowden, Rector, St. Michael & All Angels, South Bend, and his wife, Melissa; The Reverend Andrew Hanyzewski, Priest-in-Charge, St. Francis, Chesterton & St. Andrew's-by-the-Lake, Michigan City. And his wife, Aimee; The Reverend Nicholas Myers, Transitional Deacon, Christ Church, Alexandria, VA; The Reverend Daniel Repp, Rector, St. John the Evangelist, Elkhart and his wife, Miranda; The Reverend Craig Uffman, Transitional Deacon, St. Anne's, Warsaw, and his wife, Claudia. (Not all persons mentioned were present.) It was also noted that The Reverend Dolores Wiens, St Barnabas', Gary, though present last year, had just become an official member of the Diocese. The Reverend Spencer Thiel, St. Christopher's, Crown Point, was seated with voice, since he is a member of the Diocese of Chicago. Mr Tom Haynes, pastoral leader of St Elizabeth's, Culver, was also allowed to sit with the parish delegation.

The Reverend Henry Randolph, rector of St. David's, Elkhart, who serves as the Director of Vocations, was then introduced and mention made of all the persons in the process of preparing for ordination: at Berkeley Divinity School at Yale University, Ms Terri Bays, Trinity, Michigan City; in the Anglican Studies program at Duke Divinity School: Mr Dusty Fecht, Gethsemane, Marion; and at the University of the South: Mr Greg Wilde, St. Paul's, Mishawaka. Persons preparing for Holy Orders within the diocese are: Mr Richard Beach, St. Andrew's, Valparaiso; Ms Kathleen Christensen, Trinity, Fort Wayne; Mr Paul Greve, Trinity, Fort Wayne; Tom Haynes, St. Thomas', Plymouth; Mr Clark Miller, Trinity, Logansport; Ms Michelle Walker, St. Andrew's, Michigan City; and Ms Anne Wietstock, Cathedral of St. James, South Bend.

Next, mention was made of clergy who have moved to other dioceses within the past year: The Reverend Jesse Abell, Diocese of Indianapolis; The Reverend Aaron & Mrs Rachael Evans, Diocese of Western Michigan; The Reverend Kristine Graunke, Diocese of West Texas; The Reverend Aune Strom, Diocese of Missouri; and The Reverend Margaret Shaw, Diocese of Albany.

Faithful Departed

Bishop Little led the convention in prayer for the departed members of the clergy and their spouses who died during the last year: Mrs. Amy Watkins Barnard, widow; The Reverend John E. Meyer, St. Francis', Chesterton; and The Reverend Canon Sarah S. Tracy, St. David's, Elkhart.

Elections

The Bishop then introduced nominees for the two elections required:

Standing Committee

One Clerical Nominee for a three-year term: The Reverend Dan Martins, St. Anne's, Warsaw. There being no further nominations, Dan Martins was elected by acclamation.

One nomination in the lay order for a three-year term: Ms Pam Harris, St. Andrew's, Valparaiso. There being no further nominations, Pam Harris was elected by acclamation.

Ecclesiastical Trial Court

One nominee to complete a term on the Ecclesiastical Trial Court left vacant when Jack Meyer, St. Francis', Chesterton, passed away this summer: The Reverend Thomas Hansen, Trinity, Fort Wayne. There being no further nominations, Tom Hansen was elected by acclamation.

One nominee for a three-year term on the Trial Court: Mr David Stewart, Trinity, Fort Wayne. There being no further nominations, David Stewart was elected by acclamation.

The Foundation

The Foundation has elected Tom Hansen and Mr Doug Kroll each to a three-year term. According to the by-laws of the Foundation a person may be elected to two successive terms before being prevented from running again.

The Cathedral Chapter

The Cathedral Chapter has nominated the Reverend Corinne Hodges and Mr Ted Kimball to the Greater Cathedral Chapter.

It was moved and seconded to accept these elections from the organizations listed.

Bishop's Address

Bishop Little then delivered to convention his annual address, beginning at 1144 and ending at 1234. The text of this address is available at www.ednin.org.

Commissioning of the Newly Elected

Before breaking for lunch, the Bishop commissioned those who were just elected or were continuing in some diocesan office—especially members of Council and of the Standing Committee, but also including the members of the Commission on Ministry present. At 1240 convention recessed for lunch.

Meditation

Upon recommencement of the convention after lunch at 1337, there was a meditation by Bishop McGregor (with help from his wife).

Resolutions

1. Boy Scouts commending the organization on its centennial year.

This was the only pre-filed resolution. It was moved by the author, seconded and passed without discussion.

2. To reconsider mission strategy in the diocese

Not being pre-filed, convention was asked to allow its consideration. A two thirds vote was necessary, but there was no dissent. It was then moved and seconded for adoption. After some debate, it was amended to add the word "equally" in reference to the numbers of lay and clerical members. Thus amended it passed unanimously.

3.To change the canons to allow three deaneries

Again convention approved the consideration of this resolution unanimously. It was then moved and seconded and passed unanimously.

The texts of these resolutions are also available on the diocesan web site.

Treasurer's Report

Sharon Katona was present to receive questions on the audited report from 2008 and the year to date report for 2009. There were none.

2010 Budget

The Reverend Canon Richard Kallenberg presented the 2010 budget, following a video presentation on the parishes of the diocese prepared by The Reverend Ben Jones and a power-point presentation showing graphically the break-down of the budget by category.

There were no questions asked and the budget passed without objection.

Investment Trust

Dick Kallenberg continued briefly to report on the state of the diocesan long term investments, noting that the funds are doing well. The losses incurred from Lehman have been made up under Merrill Lynch management.

The Bishop then presented Dick with a plaque commemorating his service on the finance committee since 1987—he has now retired from parish ministry and is retiring as of this convention from the finance committee. The Bishop reported that Mr Doug Kroll from St Michael's is the new chair of finance.

The Bishop then offered some observations on recent international ecclesiastical news.

Presentation on the Holy Land Pilgrimage

The Rev. Daniel Martins then shared a slide show of the Holy Land taken when he and SuzeAnne Silla and Susan Haynes took an exploratory trip last winter, looking forward to February 2011 Diocesan Pilgrimage.

Presentation on Camp New Happenings

Mrs Charlotte Strowhorn spoke about the camp for children of prisoners and showed an extensive series of pictures from the camp. The Reverend Mose Carter, the director, was present again to share in the report.

Charlotte also spoke about the diocesan ECW—the triennial and grants made during the year. She honored Mrs Gwen Black for her long association and work with the diocesan ECW and presented a check of \$500 from the diocesan ECW for the Bishop's Discretionary Fund.

Presentation on Diocesan Summer Camp

Mrs Tamisyn Grantz spoke very briefly about the summer camping program and referred convention to a video to be found on the diocesan website. The next camp will be on June 13-19, 2010.

Presentation on the Honduras Mission Trip – Compañeros en Cristo

The Reverend Dan Layden showed pictures of the mission trip that he went on last winter with the diocesan team and advocated for greater involvement.

Announcements before Adjournment

Ms Pat Kincaid St Paul's Munster announced the St Nicholas ingathering from 30Nov-6Dec, and referred convention to www.saintnicholascenter.org.

The Standing Committee was reminded of a brief meeting immediately after adjournment.

The Bishop announced that the next convention will be held October 23rd at St Paul's Church, Munster.

It was also announced that the convention of 2011 will be a two-day convention at which Northern Indiana will host our Presiding Bishop.

Closing Prayers and Adjournment

The Bishop closed convention with prayer at 1616.

Respectfully submitted,

The Reverend Canon John E. Schramm
Secretary to Convention