



The Episcopal Diocese of Northern Indiana

The Right Reverend Edward S. Little II, Bishop

August 16, 2010

Dear brothers and sisters,

Acts 15 describes in some detail the first church convention. Leaders gathered in Jerusalem to ponder the church's future, and to decide a crucially important matter: namely, how Christians from very different backgrounds (Jewish and Gentile, in this case) could follow Jesus together. Paul and Barnabas – cutting edge missionaries – had extended the Gospel to Gentiles, and the council in Jerusalem pondered what to do next. The key moment came when the “whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them” (Acts 15:13). In that moment of holy listening, the Spirit spoke and unfolded his plan for the church.

While the 112th Convention of the Diocese of Northern Indiana will not, I imagine, deal with matters as momentous as the Council of Jerusalem, the process is the same: we listen to one another, and in that listening we ask the Spirit to unfold his plan for us. Our diocese, no less than that first community of Christians, seeks the heart of Jesus for the next steps in our ministry. With all of the business that Convention conducts – resolutions, canonical changes, elections, a budget – the common purpose is to open ourselves to Jesus' call.

The people of St. Paul's, Munster, are eager to welcome us and to provide a splendid setting for our convention. I'm deeply grateful to the Rev. Ben Jones, rector of St. Paul's, and to Kim Frank and her committee for the detailed and careful planning that they have undertaken. We will begin on Friday with a celebration of the Holy Eucharist, followed by a dinner in the Cloister at St. Paul's. On Saturday, we are re-arranging the agenda to make for a smooth and helpful flow of events. Come to Convention with a joyful and open heart! Together we will “ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest” (Luke 10:2) – and we will make ourselves available to the Lord, as his ambassadors and ministers of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:20). I look forward to seeing you in Munster. With blessings and best wishes I am

Yours in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Edward S. Little II
Bishop of Northern Indiana