

Minutes of the 112th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Indiana

Convention Mass

The Diocesan Convention began 22 October 2010 at St Paul's Episcopal Church, Munster, at 6 PM CDT, with the Eucharist. A departure from the single day conventions of recent years, the festive Mass, celebrated by The Right Reverend Edward S. Little, II, Bishop of Northern Indiana, took place amid a blended musical repertoire of modern praise music and traditional hymns and service music. The Rector of the parish, the Reverend Bennett G. Jones II, was the Master of Ceremonies; the Reverend Canon SuzeAnne Silla, Canon to the Ordinary, was the Bishop's Chaplain. Musicians from the parish of St Paul were assisted by others from St Michael and All Angels, South Bend, as well as St Andrew's, Valparaiso. The Bishop was also assisted by The Reverend Andrew Hanyzewski, of St Francis, Chesterton and St Andrew's, Michigan City, and the Reverend Roger Bower, of St Andrew's, Valparaiso. After the Eucharist, the company re-gathered in the splendid parish house for the convention banquet. The Bishop introduced members of the planning committee of the parish, some of whom were serving and cooking the banquet meal.

Business Session: Opening

The business session of the convention got underway at St Paul's parish hall on Saturday morning, 23 October. Bishop Little called the convention to order at 1003 with an opening prayer. The Bishop first called attention to housekeeping matters, such as the order of the business of the day. Then the Bishop called upon The Rev'd Ben Jones to welcome the company and introduce the pages. Mrs Kim Frank was introduced as the chair of the committee which planned the convention locally, including cooking the banquet food.

The secretary reported that out of a possible 74 clergy able to vote, 40 were present; out of a possible 101 possible lay delegates, 93 were present. Hearing this, the Bishop declared a quorum and the convention organized for business.

The rules of order were then affirmed without attempt to modify or rescind them. The Bishop then introduced members of the high table. First, Mr Joe Weaver, Parliamentarian; The Rev'd Canon John Schramm, Secretary; The Rev'd Jim Warnock, who is to take over the position of secretary; Canon Sharon Katona, Treasurer; and The Rev'd Canon SuzeAnne Silla, Canon to the Ordinary. Finally, Mr Jon Adamson was introduced, who is the secretary to the bishop. The Chancellor of the Diocese was absent because of previous obligations.

The Bishop then recognized the Rev'd Canon John Schramm for 26 years of secretarial work for the Convention and Council and made a presentation of a plaque and an heirloom lamp in honor of his work, as he retired from the position. Then the Bishop recognized Canon Sharon Katona, also retiring from her treasurer's position, with a plaque memorializing her long work of 23 years and an heirloom chair. Both lamp and chair were emblazoned with the diocesan seal.

The Bishop then asked the convention to re-elect Canon Sharon Katona as Treasurer to the end of the current year, when other arrangements will be made by council, and the Rev'd Dr Jim Warnock as Secretary to Convention. These nominations of the Bishop were moved and seconded and passed.

The Bishop directed the attention of the convention to the Minutes of the 111th Convention, contained in the delegates' packets, and that they had been certified.

The Bishop then welcomed clergy new to the Diocese since last convention: The Rev'd Roger Bower, Rector, St. Andrew's, Valparaiso [wife: Barbara], The Rev'd Ralph Patston, Retired (formerly of our diocese and moved back from Western Michigan [wife: Nancy], The Rev'd Daniel Repp, Rector, St. John the Evangelist, Elkhart [wife: Miranda], The Rev'd Clark Miller, Priest-in-Charge, Trinity, Logansport [wife: Deb], and the Rev'd Dcn Thomas Haynes, Deacon-in-Charge, St. Elizabeth's, Culver [wife: Susan].

The Bishop also announced the departure of The Rev'd Dan Martins, who has been elected Bishop of Springfield, The Rev'd Steve Schunemann who has been elected to a parish in Chicago, The Rev'd Ben Jones and The Rev'd Carolyn Jones who have been elected to serve a parish in Massachusetts, and The Rev'd David Yaw who has been elected as rector of a parish in Alaska. The Bishop then asked that The Rev'd Spencer Thiel, St. Christopher, Crown Point, The Rev'd Wally Griesmeyer, assisting, Good Shepherd, East Chicago, and The Rev'd Michael Cover, assisting, St. Paul's, Mishawaka, be seated with the delegations of parishes where they serve with voice but not vote, since they are not canonically resident in the diocese.

The Bishop's Address

At 0930 the Bishop proceeded to his annual address. This year he announced plans to publish the full script but presented in its place a version of it based on notes.

A brief recess was ordered at 1025. Convention resumed at 1040.

Resolutions

The Secretary called attention to the fact that the National Canons and Constitution of the Church were in the process of revision: the details are on the Diocesan Website.

Consideration was now given to the revision of Canon 12, in order to conform it to the revisions in Title IV of the national canons. [See Resolution #1: Amend Canon 12] The Rev'd Canon SuzeAnne Silla moved the adoption of the resolution. It was seconded as well. Discussion followed. Ms Pat Smith moved an amendment to the resolution: "We propose that we charge our delegates to the General Convention 2012 to investigate Title IV and the National Canons as revised for possible amendments relating to issues of due process: including 1. The disciplinary board and committee structures 2. The admission of hearsay evidence and 3. The lack of documentation required in the informal conference panel." After parliamentary consultation, it was ruled that the resolution would function better as a separate resolution than an amendment to this resolution, and so out of order. The chair was willing to reconsider it later. A further time of discussion and questions took place. The resolution passed unanimously. And now Ms Pat Smith was invited to resubmit her resolution [See Resolution #2: Investigate Title IV

For Possible Amendment]. For permission to consider this resolution, the bishop asked for a vote, which was unanimous. Now discussion ensued regarding the resolution, especially with regard to the resources needed to implement it. The Bishop advised that there is a growing body of such information and that the Canon to the Ordinary and the Chancellor would be available. When the time for voting came, the resolution passed without dissent.

Elections

Now convention turned to the balloting for the following offices:

Ecclesiastical Trial Court (temporary until June 2011). There being no further nominations, Mr David Wright was declared elected. **The Disciplinary Board.** In the clerical order, The Rev'd Dr Thomas Hansen and The Rev'd Henry Randolph were nominated, with two to be elected. There being no further nominations, the two were declared elected. In the lay order, Mr Stephen Drendall and Mr David Wright were nominated and since there were no further nominations, they were declared elected.

Standing Committee. The Rev'd Matthew Cowden was the sole nominee and so declared elected. In the lay order Mrs Cynthia Guzzo was the sole nominee and declared elected.

General Convention Deputies. To the list of clerical nominees—The Rev'd Anthony Clavier, The Very Rev'd Brian Grantz, The Rev'd Susan Haynes, The Rev'd Richard Lightsey, The Rev'd Henry Randolph, and The Rev'd Dr James Warnock—was nominated the Rev'd Dcn Gloria Taylor. To the list of lay nominees—Mrs Pam Harris, Mrs Celeste Hilliard, Mr Ted Kimball, Mr Tim Skimina, Mr Jim Stanley, Mrs Charlotte Strowhorn, and Mr Scott Wright—were added Mrs Pat Kinkaid, and Mr Bill Munn.

Before the balloting, the Bishop took the opportunity to thank Ms Lorrie Morris from St. Andrew's, Valparaiso. This is the 20th convention in which she has served as head teller.

The Bishop also noted that by canon, the election of directors of the Foundation and members of the Greater Cathedral Chapter are done by those two bodies with ratification by the annual diocesan convention. The Foundation has elected the Rev'd Canon SuzeAnne Silla and Mr Tom Cassidy. The Cathedral Chapter has elected the the Rev'd Larry Biller and Mr William Wandland. Convention concurred in the election of these persons without dissent.

The Bishop also noted that by canon, the Ecclesiastical Authority appoints members to the Finance Committee which are confirmed by the annual diocesan convention. The Bishop appointed the following people to serve on the Finance Committee: Mr Doug Kroll (as its Chairman), Mr Ted Mullett, Mr Harley Snyder, the Rev'd Daniel Martins, and Canon Sharon Katona. Convention unanimously approved these appointments.

Resolutions

Convention found itself ahead of schedule and moved on to further resolutions, #3 and #4. Resolution #3 was submitted by council, dealing with the inability to cover medicare supplements for any new clergy coming into the diocese. It passed unanimously. Resolution #4 came from the Eastern Deanery and dealt with the time frame for submitting resolutions. There was not enough time for resolutions to be presented given the required time frame for

pre-convention deanery meetings. The new resolution date would be September 1. The also passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Canon Sharon Katona presented the report for 2009 (audited) and up to the end of the third quarter 2010 (unaudited). The investment reports were also included.

Budget

The budget for 2011 was now presented by the chair of the Finance Committee, Mr Doug Kroll. After his presentation, he moved the budget and convention approved it without dissent.

Noon Day Prayers

Since the newly elected officers were not completely determined, their commissioning was ordered to take place later. For now, prayers were offered and convention recessed at 1150 for lunch, reconvening at 1230.

Ballot

Preliminary ballot results were announced: General Convention Deputies, clerical order: elected in this order: the Very Rev'd Brian Grantz, the Rev'd Susan Haynes, the Rev'd Dr Jim Warnock, and the Rev'd Henry Randolph, deputies; the Rev'd Tony Clavier, the Rev'd Richard Lightsey, and the Rev'd Dcn Gloria Taylor, alternates. In the lay order: Mr Bill Munn was removed as lowest vote-getter, and a second ballot was taken. [These results were reported later in the afternoon, but are inserted here to maintain ease of reference. Elected in the Lay Order and in this order: Mrs Charlotte Strowhorn , Mrs Celeste Hilliard, Mr Ted Kimball, and Mr Tim Skimina, deputies; Mrs Pam Harris, Mr Scott Wright, Mr Jim Stanley, and Mrs Pat Kinkaid, alternates.

Reports

The Very Rev'd Brian Grantz reported from the **Ministry Models Task Group**. In the midst of reports of distress coming in from all sides, the basis for this task force was the desire to be proactive towards these forces. Three lay members—Ms Linda Buskirk, Dr Tom Gresik, Mrs Michelle Walker—and three clergy—the Rev'd Andy Hanyziewski, the Rev'd Canon John Schramm, the Rev'd Kathy Thomas—along with the Very Rev'd Grantz as chair and diocesan staff, including the Bishop, have been meeting for the last year. Can we figure out a way to do creative ministry in days of scarcer resources so that it energizes our parishes and missions? [The full text of the report is included in the Web Site Journal.]

The Rev'd Canon SuzeAnne Silla reported on the **Holy Land Pilgrimage and the Legacy Planning Group**. There is a new brochure which outlines the work of the planned giving committee of the diocese and offers information about how local parishes can take advantage of its work. With regard to the pilgrimage, the deadline for registration is 31 October. Only a few seats are left for the trip.

Mrs Charlotte Strowhorn came to make a presentation about the **Diocesan ECW**. She also presented the annual contribution to the Bishop's discretionary fund.

A video presentation was offered about **Camp New Happenings**, which was also honored as a Jubilee Site by the National Church Executive Council. The Director of the Camp was introduced and spoke for a while about the camp.

There was then an announcement from Ms Ruth Wivell from Holy Trinity, South Bend, in regard to the development of the community garden at the church three years ago—**the Garden of St Therese**—a local community outreach—which has begun to have a real impact.

Mr Tim Skimina came to talk about the Companion Diocese Committee. It was a good year for outreach to Honduras. By combining with Virginia over \$20,000 was raised for the water purification plant in Delicias del Norte. He talked about the stoves and cisterns and latrines that were also built—with more still to be built. He also talked about the Millennium Development Goals and encouraged parish giving towards these efforts to eliminating extreme poverty. The goal is 0.7% of income for these goals.

As convention business drew to a close, the Bishop announced that our Presiding Bishop, the Most Rev'd Katherine Jefferts Schori, will be our guest at Convention on October 14th and 15th, next year. The business meeting of the convention will be on Friday afternoon, so that the Saturday can be free for meeting with her.

After some concluding remarks and thanks to the host parish, the Bishop adjourned the convention with prayer and his blessing at 1350, after having commissioned the newly elected officers of the diocese.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev'd Canon John E Schramm
Secretary to Convention