

**MINUTES OF A THE ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF IOWA**

The Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Episcopal Corporation of the Diocese of Iowa was held at 10:30 am at St. Andrew's Church, 5720 Urbandale Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa on December 4, 2009 pursuant to a Waiver of Notice signed by all directors present.

The Rt. Rev Alan Scarfe, President, presided.

The following directors were present.

Ms. Diane Bjorklund

The Rev. Sean Burke

Mr. Stephen Carroll

The Rev. Artis Ferrel

Mr. Raymond Gaebler

The Rev. John Horn

The Rev. Dian Ong

The Rev. Catherine Quehl-Engel

Ms. Maggie Tinsman

Canon Thomas Carpenter, *ex officio*

Mr. William Smith, *ex officio*

Also present were: Mr. Robert Joy, Assistant Treasurer; Ms. Nancy Morton, Assistant Secretary; The Rev. Patrick Genreux, The Very Rev. Cathleen Bascom and Canon Paul Meginnis II

Absent were: Mr. Charles Cox, The Rev Carl Mann, Ms. Mary Neis and The Rev. Canon Ronald Osborne.

The Rev. Catherine Quehl-Engel's opening meditation included an opportunity to write cards for service personnel overseas.

The minutes of the September 18 meeting were approved.

Election of Officers

President: Canon Tom Carpenter reminded the board that by diocesan canon the Bishop is President of the Corporation.

Vice President: Ms. Maggie Tinsman was nominated by Mr. Ray Gaebler. There being no further no nominations, Tinsman was elected by acclamation.

Secretary: The Rev. Artis Ferrel was nominated by Ms. Maggie Tinsman. There being no further nominations, Ferrel was elected by acclamation.

Assistant Secretary: Ms. Nancy Morton was nominated by The Rev. Artis Ferrel. There being no further nominations, Morton was elected by acclamation.

Assistant Treasurer: Mr. Robert Joy was nominated by The Rev. John Horn. There being no further nominations, Joy was elected by acclamation.

2010 Meeting Dates

January 8

March 12

June 11

July 23 (Grinnell at Ministries Retreat)

September 10

November 20 Annual Meeting (Saturday)

Bishop's Report

With the Diocesan Convention in the rear view mirror, we move forward and turn our attention to a new year with fresh emphasis – Strengthening Congregations. Tomorrow I will challenge the various Commissions and Diocesan ministry groups to think about what their particular contribution will be to making this goal possible. Congregations are the front line of ministry, and the Diocesan structure of which we are part is intended to serve that front line. We will have an opportunity to review the Diocesan suggestions from the Strategic Plan later on today and report back to those gathered at the All Commissions' Day.

As we demonstrated at the last Board meeting, distance does not need to hinder our meeting, nor weather for that matter. We have the technology to gather through video-conferencing and the first order of business in these next few weeks will be to work out how to deploy cameras and the needed software for maximum connectivity across the Diocese. The E-Seminary has already begun to offer classes via mega meeting and it has been very successful. I hope we will make more use of these educational opportunities as we go on.

I returned from England to meet with the clergy for a special session on the topic of Marriage. I gave out my updated guidelines on Equal Marriage which basically permitted clergy to follow their consciences in handling the pastoral responses to requests for marriage from same-gender couples. The clergy follow a wide spectrum of responses from acting as agents of church and state, to separating these functions for same gender couples or even for all couples, to refusing to perform any such marriages at all or allow the use of the Church for the same. This is the kind of pastoral generosity I believe we were afforded at General Convention. The spirit of the conversation on the day was respectful and a laudable credit to the clergy in Iowa.

With financial limitations forcing us to hold one clergy conference in 2009 and next year, I think the clergy education day in the fall will become an important event. In 2010 I am not traveling around the chapters to meet with clergy but will extend an invitation to them to come to Des Moines, and bring their spouses for a Friday dinner at my home with a Saturday meeting for the clergy and their spouses hosted separately by Donna and me. There are plans also to hold a Clergy Family Camp in early June. We will be looking to Clergy Wellness to help with the plans for this. Continuing Education for clergy needs some formal attention this year.

An additional ingredient in clergy life is the initiating of mentoring for the new MDT members as they move from formation to ordination and commissioning. I am in the process of recruiting the mentors at this time from our Seminary-trained clergy. Mentors are also important for newly

installed rectors. In October I installed John Horn at Christ Church, Burlington and Martha Rogers at Christ Church, Cedar Rapids.

Financial Report

Mr. Robert Joy reported that 72% of congregational pledges had been collected through November 2009. This is about two months behind schedule. The actual shortfall, however, is from seven congregations that are from 3 to 8 months in arrears. The financial office and the ways and means committee have tracked them throughout the year as some congregations indicated they would reduce the amount of their pledges. All were contacted in November to determine what payments the diocese could expect to receive. Mr. Joy estimates an \$110,000 loss of income for 2009. A \$45,000 saving in expenses brings the estimated shortfall to \$65,000.

Joy reminded the board that the working capital supplement could absorb \$50,000 of this amount before reaching the minimum 20% reserve required by diocesan canon. The board will need to explore options for covering the balance at the January 8 meeting.

He reported that 30 of 61 pledges for 2010 have been received. He also noted that all parochial reports are in and about half of the church audits completed.

Dean Cathleen Bascom and Canon. Paul Meginnis of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Des Moines, brought board members up to date on the Ground Transformation Project. They reviewed plans for community involvement from downtown neighbors including the YWCA, the PACE for teenagers, the Principal and the City of Des Moines. They discussed present and future sources of funding and the grant requests both received and awaiting response. They asked board approval of a \$50,000 loan from the Revolving Fund and a grant of \$25, 000 toward diocesan partnership in the project.

The board learned that the cathedral's loan request has been referred to the Property Committee as the first step in approval. Loans from the Revolving Fund require that the congregation is current on their diocesan pledge. The board expects to have the report from the Property Committee for the January 8 meeting. Diocesan participation in the \$25,000 request will be discussed at that time.

On behalf of the Wellness Commission The Rev. Patrick Genereux reported that the Medical Trust increases by \$25 the monthly amount for the 2010 Premium Plan for health insurance. Current diocesan policy pays the \$110 difference between the Comprehensive Plan provided by the Church Pension Fund to upgrade to the Premium Plan. The increase would add approximately \$8,000 in expenses. The board chose to pay the increase for 2010 and review the policy so that decisions could be made in a timely manner before 2011.

On a motion by The Rev. John Horn, duly seconded, the following was adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. I

Retiree Health Insurance Subsidy

BE IT RESOLVED, that the board raise the amount of the retired clergy health insurance subsidy to match the increase for 2010. And,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the board request the Wellness Commission

to review the benefit policies for retirees, especially the subsidy toward the Medical Trust supplement.

Appointments

The board approved the following:

The Rev. Margaret Weiner, ex officio to the Commission on Ministry

The Rev. Anne Scissons to the Multicultural Commission

Disaster Relief Update

The Rev. Patrick Genereux reported the completion of the Shady Rest Project in Waverly. Even though the other projects are winding down over the winter, he is receiving requests from potential volunteers for next summer. He described how the response trailer is being outfitted. One set of tools, tents and water purification materials are geared for initial work at the time of a disaster. A second set of supplies is being assembled for use in rebuilding and mucking out stages of cleanup. Genereux will be posting a Diocesan Disaster Relief Plan on the website. He asked viewers to make suggestions for how to make the plan work locally.

Commission /Board Liaisons

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation: Ms. Maggie Tinsman

Multicultural:

One World One Church:

Property: Mr. Ray Gaebler

Stewardship: Mr. Charles Cox

Wellness: The Rev. John Horn

Youth Ministry Development Team: Ms. Diane Bjorklund

The meeting adjourned at 3 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy A. Morton,
Assistant Secretary

APPROVED:

The Rev. Artis Ferrel
of the Episcopal Corporation
of the Diocese of Iowa

ATTEST:

The Rt. Rev. Alan Scarfe, President
of the Episcopal Corporation
of the Diocese of Iowa