

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

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Episcopal Corporation of the Diocese of Iowa was held at 10:30 am at St. Luke's Church, 2434 Forest Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa on January 7, 2011, pursuant to the annual meeting, November 13, 2010.

Ms. Margaret Tinsman, vice president, presided

The following directors were present.

Ms. Diane Bjorklund	The Rev. John Horn	Canon Tom Carpenter, <i>ex officio</i>
Ms. Cheryl Crandell	The Rev. Suzanne Palmer	Mr. William Smith, <i>ex officio</i>
Mr. Raymond Gaebler	The Rev. Martha Rogers	
Mr. John Gardner	Ms. Kate Rose	

Also present: Mr. Robert Joy, Assistant Treasurer; Ms. Nancy Morton, Assistant Secretary, Ms. Julianne Allaway, and The Rt. Rev. C. Christopher Epting

Absent were: The Rev. Sean Burke, Mr. Charles Cox, The Rev. Artis Ferrel, The Rev. Dian Ong, The Rev. Canon Ronald Osborne, Dr. Terry Shively, The Rev. John Thorpe, and The Rt. Rev. Alan Scarfe.

Bishop Epting opened the meeting with prayer.

The minutes of the November 13 meeting were approved as corrected with the addition of Ms. Margaret Tinsman as a board liaison to the Commission on Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation.

On a motion by Ms. Cheryl Crandell, duly seconded, the following resolution was adopted:

**RESOLUTION NO. I
Change September Meeting Date**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the date of the September meeting be changed from Saturday, September 10 to Friday, September 9.

Bishop Alan Scarfe's Report

It had been my original intention to frame my sabbatical leaving and return with liturgies at The Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Des Moines. As the date dropped back one month, a different liturgical farewell presented itself. Coupled with the travel limits imposed by the blizzard in the second week of December, my final two weeks of visitations were combined and offered a symbolic glimpse of the work of the past seven and a half years.

Last weekend began at Grace Decorah where I commissioned and ordained members of the Ministry Development Team, and then went on to Church of the Saviour in Clermont to

celebrate their 140th anniversary, and their facility expansion. The additions mark also the renewed strength and growth of the congregation and its outward looking sense of mission. With heat indoor plumbing, kitchen, elegant dining room, and new organ, it was a marked contrast to the early days when we were three or four persons and you could see your breath during the liturgy! The next day I traveled locally from Des Moines to Indianola, to the new mission station of All Saints which is currently in a store front off the main road into town, and just a hundred yards or so from upperclassmen housing for Simpson College. I believe we will be receiving this new community of faith as a new congregation in the course of this coming year.

This new start, the revitalized congregation and the new congregational ministry model are symbols of the work we continue to do together. When a dozen congregations met at St. Andrew's in Des Moines to listen to the representative from the Episcopal Church Building Fund speak of expanding vision for facility use, they were expressing their eagerness to hear of new ways of being Church. The enthusiasm of the people gathered at St. Luke's in Cedar Falls to celebrate new ministry with their new Rector, Elizabeth Popplewell, demonstrated the same. While the people of St. Paul's, Grinnell, who gathered to honor their longest serving members at a special heritage dinner which I attended, reminded us of the importance of honoring the faithfulness of our congregations' pioneers while we can all enjoy it.

We are called to honor a long catholic tradition as Anglican Episcopalians, but also to refine and recharge who we are in the Spirit of God with the current and next generations. Among activities since we last met, Ellen Bruckner and I began conversation with a couple of rectors who were interested in exploring the Ministry Development model as a process for developing their local leadership within their own pastorate. I shared too with the marvelous work being done with inmates at the Anamosa State Prison through the Education For Ministry program weekly by Anne Williams and Melody Rockwell. There are four years in progress at once, and we discussed everything from the various legal codes of the Old Testament to the works of Kahler and Bultmann, the search for the historical Jesus, and rounded things out with a look at early Medieval Church expansion at the time of the Goths and Visi-goths as well as during the difficult year between the two World Wars. Students read 59 chapters of the Old Testament in one week, and most augmented their readings with library findings. If you want to know what to do with your theological library when it gets overgrown, consider a gift to the Chapel of the Penitent Thief at Anamosa State Prison. It was one of those occasions when, as a bishop, you wish you could bring the whole Diocese with you to see the Spirit of God at work.

Bad weather and difficult circumstances brought me to St. Luke's, Des Moines, two more times over recent weeks, as we set up a new interim arrangement by which Ben Webb will be serving the congregation during the balance of Martha Kester's deployment. I have appreciated the opportunity to become more familiar with the congregation and am glad for their flexibility in receiving Ben's ministry. Because Ben still lives in Cedar Falls, his ministry agreement provides for four days full time, and then an eight hour stretch of time for study and preparation over three days which can be taken at home. I find this a healthy arrangement for any circumstance of a formal ministry agreement, and think it worth considering as a Diocesan norm for full-time callings.

Christ Church, Clinton, joins St. Luke's in a transitional situation as Sue Eades left on December 15th. I attended a leave-taking service and spoke of the transition period over Thanksgiving weekend. Official visitations for the period since my last report were local: St. Mark's, Des Moines, being added to the visits mentioned: to the Cathedral, St. Luke's and Indianola. Before leaving the subject of congregations, Calvary, Sioux City, successfully negotiated their Ministry Development Team exams and, pending receipt of the appropriate canonical consents from the Commission on Ministry and Standing Committee, I have asked Bishop Epting to arrange to ordain their transitional deacon sometime before Ash Wednesday.

The balance of my time has been taken up with sabbatical preparation and staff reviews. We meet as a staff annually for retreat sometime after Convention, and my one-on-one reviews with staff take place generally in the early months of the New Year. This year we held a communal review as part of the retreat, and brought the individual ones up to December. Work being done for a Living Stones presentation in February which will include Ellen Bruckner, Bishop Epting and Susanne Watson Epting has reminded us of the emphasis on baptismal ministry that has been consciously part of the Diocese since 1986 at least. It also includes retracing of the steps leading up to the present Episcopal call, which has been a helpful resource to take with me on sabbatical. The staff has committed to re-reading the *Mission Shaped Church* in its officially published format (we first read it in parts in its draft form), and the *Speed of Trust*.

At an individual level I have met with the Vice-President of the Board, Maggie Tinsman, Bishop Epting and Glenn Rankin, the Chair of the Standing Committee. I also asked Richard Graves to convene the Task Force on Strategic Planning, and joined the Commission on Ministry at their orientation of new members session which was part of their presence at the All Commissions Day. If this year's All Commissions Day was anything to go by, we may need a two-day event plan for next year.

We had a surprise visit from Bishop Peni of the Diocese of Nzara. He was able to use his visa after all by God's providence, to represent the Episcopal Church of the Sudan at a Sudanese Leadership Summit in Phoenix hosted by the Episcopal Church. Friends of the Bishop from St. Timothy's, West Des Moines, brought him to Iowa for a couple of days before he had to return to prepare for Christmas and the referendum which is now only two days away from this January Board meeting. **A resolution for ongoing prayer would be an appropriate act of this Board, meeting as we are at this time.**

On a different level of engagement, I have concerns about how we approach the ongoing efforts to support the new Diocese. Convention called for an Exploratory Committee which I have since identified and set in motion. I was concerned to learn that Bob North of the Nzara Diocese who spoke to Convention has been corresponding directly in fund-raising efforts to congregations across the Diocese of Iowa. If we are to let the Committee do its work of discernment on our behalf, I think we need to let our work with and for Nzara develop from their explorations. I have asked Bob to help us in this, and to channel communication appropriately. Bishop Peni and I also were able to talk about the importance of bishop-to-bishop liaison if any Companionship is to work in a fuller sense. Much depends on the outcome of the referendum and its implications, and we need to be picking up Bishop Peni's challenge for "urgent prayer". It is a delicate

balance between personalized ministry built on friendships and the more formal companionship which we seek. If done correctly, the latter will only increase the former.

Coincidentally, on January 9th, we also celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Call to Common Mission with the ELCA. We are marking the occasion initially with a joint education event. Each year during the third week of January, Trinity-Wall Street hosts the Trinity Institute. Over the years this has become available through modern technology to downlink sites across the country. We are hosting three such sites for the Institute at St. Thomas,' Sioux City, St. Peter's, Bettendorf and St John's Lutheran in Des Moines. Lutheran and Episcopal congregations and leaders are being invited to attend in a joint educational effort.

Also, in this coming year, the Western Iowa Synod of the ELCA and our Diocese will be bringing together the three congregations of St. Paul's Episcopal and Calvary Episcopal, Sioux City, with St. Luke's Lutheran, Sioux City, in a series of conversations about becoming one partnered parish with three mission locations. Bishop Last has developed this model for several ecumenical partnerships in rural areas, but St. Luke's approached him to invite us to consider this partnership in Sioux City. I have asked Bishop Last to set this procedural conversation in motion while I am away, and the Episcopal congregations involved are very interested in seeing what might develop. With a new Ministry Development Team at Calvary, and a search process soon to be underway in St Paul's and at Luke's, this is one of those timing situations which we do well to consider.

It leaves me to offer God's blessing on our sabbatical walk together, and to give thanks for your ongoing leadership.

Financial Report

Mr. Robert Joy reported that since congregational pledge payments for 2010 were still being received, annual financial reports wouldn't be completed until the end of January. The information would be forwarded to board members at that time. He noted that 2011 pledges were coming in about as expected. The Ways and Means Committee will be meeting January 27 to review the year-end reports and look ahead to 2011.

On a motion by Mr. John Gardner, duly seconded, the clergy housing allowances for 2011 were approved. The Rev. John Horn abstained.

RESOLUTION NO. II **Housing allowances**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following clergy housing allowances be designated for 2011:

Maureen Doherty	\$ 6,000
Thomas Gehlsen	\$26,000
Jan Horn	\$ 9,000
Alan Scarfe	\$42,000
Anne Scissons	\$20,400

Current Events – Anglican-Episcopal Perspective

Report from Bishop C. Christopher Epting

I was asked to say a few words about “the state of the Communion” as I see it. This, to set the context for our discussion about our Anglican-Episcopal Identity in this diocese as it relates to the Strategic Plan: As always, our perspectives on the health of the Anglican Communion sort of depends on whether you are viewing it from ‘missional’ eyes or more ‘institutional’ eyes.

From a missional perspective, our Communion continues to grow in numbers and impact around the world (if not always here in “the West”). The Primates (Archbishops and Presiding Bishops of the 38 Provinces) are preparing to gather for their regular meeting January 25-31 in Dublin. There has been some talk about small groups of “like minded” Primates gathering earlier for mutual encouragement and support. I’m not sure what the state of that is right now (or even whether it’s a good idea) but I have heard some talk about it.

The entire Communion is focusing its attention on the upcoming referendum in the Sudan and how that might effect, not only the Episcopal Church there, but the safety and security of all those living in the South. In the strange calculus of church life, Archbishop Daniel Deng of the Sudan has been among the most vocal critics of our Province and the Anglican Church of Canada, but more than encouraging of Companion Diocese and parish relationships such as our Diocese is considering with Nzara, and had a lengthy visit to our Church Center and with our Presiding Bishop in New York during his recent visit to the States to encourage support for his struggling nation. Both the Archbishop of Canterbury and our Presiding Bishop have called the Communion to prayer about this as the January 9 referendum vote approaches.

The Communion continues to stand with us in the rebuilding efforts of our largest Diocese - Haiti after the magnitude 7 earthquake just about a year ago. Our Executive Council has challenged the church to raise some 10 million dollars to continue to assist in the rebuilding efforts especially the Cathedral complex which was totally destroyed. In addition to what we’ve already done, contributions have come in from as far away as Australia and France.

As we celebrate our 10th Anniversary of full communion with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America this week, similar agreements have been reached in Europe, Canada, Australia, and movements in this direction in various parts of Africa. There is an Anglican-Lutheran Commission worldwide seeking to standardize these agreements and make them interchangeable as the worldwide convergence of Lutherans and Anglicans in mission continues.

Just the mention of that, though, reminds me that we can’t get away from the stresses and strains on the Communion these days. Our Episcopal church members, as well as some from African dioceses, have been reduced to “observer” status on some of these international ecumenical commissions upon which I served happily over the last 10 years. The Secretary General of the Anglican Communion’s feeling being that Provinces who have not fully cooperated with the Windsor Report’s recommendations concerning the ordination of gay and lesbian persons to the episcopate, the blessing of their unions, or the crossing of diocesan boundaries to create so-called “parallel jurisdictions” cannot adequately represent the entire Anglican Communion in such sensitive talks.

As you all know, the Archbishop of Canterbury has invested a lot of his time and energy in the hopes that the proposed “Anglican Covenant” will provide a framework for living together as Anglicans in a time of tremendous diversity, rapid change, and instant communication - all of which have come together in an era of “less-than-civility” causing impairment in Communion in various places around the world.

The proposed text of the Covenant has undergone three major revisions and is now before the Provinces for study and consideration. The Church in Mexico has approved it. The Anglican Province of Southern Africa has approved it on a first reading, but will need further study before final approval and the Church of England recently took that same action. It is before their parishes and dioceses (as it has been in the Episcopal Church since 2009) for study and discussion before coming to a final vote in the next year or so. The Nippon Sei Ko Kei (the Anglican Province in Japan) which once said they would have no part of this agreement, have recently been asked by their Archbishop to reconsider that position, but no decision on that has been made.

The Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON) conveyed their dissatisfaction with the Covenant just before the Church of England’s last General Synod and indicated that they would not be signing because they consider the document ‘fatally flawed’ in some way. At this point, it’s hard to see how the document will help hold us together when some, whose concerns the Covenant was supposed to address, will not sign on.

Frankly, I don’t see much support for it at this point across The Episcopal Church either. I do think we owe the Communion and the process our best attention and hope for a well-informed, thoughtful, and sensitive conversation about it at the next General Convention which could, I suppose, either adopt it, reject it out of hand, pass it on a first reading and encourage further discussion before a second vote in 2015...or come up with some other “creative option” I’m not smart enough to suggest!

So, it’s a mixed bag out there, but that’s sort of ‘where we are’ as I see it these days. It should be an interesting Primates’ meeting later this month, and it might be good to keep that gathering in our prayers.

We can talk about all this more, if you like, in the discussion on our Anglican-Episcopal identity which will follow.

At the conclusion of the Bishop’s remarks the board divided into four small groups for a conversation on Anglican-Episcopal Identity based on questions in the Strategic Plan. Notes taken during the conversation will be reviewed at the board’s March meeting.

The Rev. John Horn reviewed information about the upcoming referendum scheduled for Sudan and requested prayers for the people.

On a motion by The Rev. Martha Rodgers, duly seconded, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. III
Sudan Referendum

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa

supports the people of Sudan in their desire for peace and self-determination, praying especially for a fair and peaceful referendum on January 9 to 15, 2011. As a diocese, we hold Archbishop Daniel Deng Bul, Bishop Samuel Peni, the people of Nzara and all of Southern Sudan in prayer that they may continue to be witnesses of faith and reconciliation and the justice and peace may prevail. With the people of Sudan, we pray this prayer adapted from Archbishop Desmond Tutu that has been used in the days before the referendum:

Lord Jesus, you who said to us: "I leave you peace, My peace I give you." Look upon your sisters and brothers in Sudan as they face this moment referendum. Send your Spirit to guide them. Give them the wisdom they need to choose their future where they will know your true peace. You call us out of slavery, oppression, and persecution so that we may have life in abundance. Grant us peace with one another. Give peace among ethnic groups. Help all to work together for the good of all. We ask this in your name, Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mr. Robert Joy on behalf of Ms. Lydia Bucklin, editor of *Iowa Connections*, presented a policy-change resolution regarding the printing partnership of *Iowa Connections*. Due to budget cuts at the Episcopal Church Center, *Episcopal Life* has ceased publication. The change is to replace it with the new *Episcopal Journal*. The board amended the last sentence to read "is to be distributed" to replace "should be distributed."

On a motion by Ms. Diane Bjorklund, duly seconded, the following policy change as amended was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. IV
***Iowa Connections* Policy Change**

BE IT RESOLVED that *Iowa Connections* is the newspaper published by the Diocese of Iowa, Printed and distributed with *Episcopal Journal*, a national newspaper prepared by Episcopal Publications. *Iowa Connections* and *Episcopal Journal* complement each other by providing a unique prospective on the church across the Diocese of Iowa and throughout the Episcopal Church.

Iowa Connections with *Episcopal Journal* is to be used as a teaching and ministry resource by clergy and laity.

Iowa Connections is to be distributed to every family in each congregation in the Diocese and the costs are to be included in the local church budget.

Mr. Raymond Gaebler requested that when planning begins on the 2012 budget, the Ways and Means Committee consider including the costs for *Iowa Connections* and *Episcopal Journal* in the Stewardship Share for each congregation.

Appointments

The board approved the following:

Ms. Cheryl Crandell as board liaison to the Multicultural Commission
The Rev. Kathleen Milligan (Examining Chaplain) to Lifelong Christian Education Oversight
Committee

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Morton
Assistant Secretary

APPROVED:

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

ATTEST:

Ms. Margaret Tinsman, Vice President
of the Episcopal Corporation
of the Diocese of Iowa