

This is a draft and subject to approval by the Board of Directors

**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 St. Luke's Church, 3424 Forest Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa on September 30, 2005 at 10:30 a.m. pursuant to the annual meeting held on December 10, 2004.

The Rt. Rev. Alan Scarfe, president, presided.

The following directors were present:

The Rev. Al Aiton

The Rev. Cathleen Bascom

The Rev. Julia K. Easley

Mr. Steven Kennell

The Rev. Mel Low

Ms Kim McIrvin

The Rev. Donald Payer

Canon Glenn E. Rankin

Mr. Bill Smith

The Rev. Anne M. Williams

Mr. Paul Meginnis II, *ex officio*

Mr. Thomas W. Carpenter, *ex officio*

Also present: Mr. Robert Joy, Assistant Treasurer; Ms. Nancy Morton, Assistant Secretary; and Ms. Sue Genereux, Youth Missioner.

Absent were: Mr. Bill Early, The Rev. Artis Ferrel, Ms. Elinor Kornhauser, The Rev. Dian Ong, The Rev. Mel Schlachter, Ms. Marrie Williams, The Rev. Lynne Carver, *ex officio*

The Rev. Cathleen Bascom opened the meeting with the following prayer inspired by Psalm 137 and printed in the bulletin of an ecumenical prayer service in Newton after hurricane Katrina:

By the Waters of the Levee

By the waters of the levee we sit and weep as we remembered our homes.

Having lost our accordions,
our fiddles,
our family pictures,
our journals where we recorded the stories of our lives.

Our rescuers ask us to be patient,
 help is on its way,
 sing a song to bide the time.

But how can we sing songs,
 when all we have,
 our past and our future, is buried in the deluge?

How can we play our Zydeco and our Jazz,
 when around us lie the dead and the dying?

Let our hearts sorrow...
 in time they will be healed.

We will remember our cities,
 we will honor our towns;
 we will rebuild our neighborhoods.

And one day, when the crisis has past,
 we will tell again the stories,
 and play once more the music of our city.

She played a piece from a jazz CD and asked those present to pray about resurrection of cities, of neighborhoods, people living, people who had died and the resurrection promised by Christ.

The Minutes of the August 12 meeting were approved as corrected with the notation that Canon Glenn E. Rankin had been present.

Bishop's Report

Preparation for Convention has occupied much of the time of the Diocesan staff in recent weeks. We have compiled resources on Leadership Development and are in the process of producing multiple web-site links for congregational and individual use, as well as a summary in paper form which delegates will be able to take back to their congregations. The Bishop's Advisory Group on Stewardship is planning to present one of the Ministry Previews on Saturday morning of Convention, along with presentations from the Youth Ministry Development Team members, an overview with brochure and registration sign ups for the first four courses of the E-Seminary, and an abbreviated offering of the Ministry Development Team concept for congregations by one or two of the six congregations now developing team ministry. Since we last met, I have received commendations from Grace Decorah and St John's Glenwood, which are beginning the Ministry Development process. This brings our total of such active teams to six. With the Narrative budget DVD, it promises to be another lively Convention.

I am grateful to Board members who helped facilitate the presentation of the narrative budget at the various Chapter gatherings. Perhaps next year we can have a video of our

life's ministry together. I look forward to hearing your impressions among the congregations. We have decided to cut a DVD for each congregation. This might prove a useful way of communicating for future needs.

There will be some focus at Convention on the Windsor Report. We have received a resolution asking that it be supported with its recommendations and that that support be taken to General Convention by our delegation. I will use a thirty-minute time slot on Saturday morning to give a developmental overview of the document and its arguments. Much is changing almost by the day in various parts of the Anglican Communion. Initial confusion and frustration about this, and especially the continued activities of foreign bishops receiving clergy who have been inhibited by their Diocesan Bishops for abandoning the communion of the Church in which they were ordained, marked the recent House of Bishops. I perceived however a growing resolve that Bishops who may not think alike on human sexuality are standing together as one Church and seek to lead in a common mission and ministry. This position stretches broader across the Anglican Communion than certain groups might lead us to believe.

Such ability to come together in difference of mind but unity of heart was wonderfully evidenced in my trip to Trinity School for Ministry earlier this month. I was asked to attend the gathering of Student Council representatives from our Episcopal Seminaries, both as an observer of their sessions and to offer a perspective on leadership. I think I owed the invitation to our seminarian, Brian McVey. Nine of the eleven seminaries were present, and they worked well together, speaking with more honesty and respect than we can often muster at our Bishops' meetings, I must add. Personal debt and the cost of health care were two of the more personal items discussed, and one of the students wondered how seriously the Church took the 1% promise of Seminary support. When I go to Seabury Western next weekend to ordain Tim Squier and to see the four seminarians there, I will have seen all of our residential students this month. Donna and I visited Carl and Jane Mann and Judith Dalmasso at Nashotah after my visitation to Dubuque on September 18th. I can say that they do us proud, and appreciate the care we show in financial support through the Theological Education Fund and our congregations. In the next few years, we will have to work hard at finding them a place to serve.

I feel that we are coming to the end of the initial phase of our new ministry together. I hope we spend next year in earnest conversation about our mutual accountability as was suggested at the April 22 meeting. In that discussion, I would want no stone unturned, and no protective sacred cows. We will have to look at the cost of doing business in the traditional church model, and what alternatives might look like. I expect there to be a change in the balance between the ministry developed from the center, as we are doing now, to what can happen and be resourced financially at congregational and commission or regional level. A strong central ministry source has been vital to place our vision before the congregations, but the goal has to be mutual ministry in its fullest sense. Do we continue ministry grants, or should we think of providing for congregations of larger demographic potential which in turn can take responsibility for smaller congregations in their region? Nothing is written in stone that says we must keep a staff at a given level and not be able to reduce it or shift its resources to a more regional approach after a time.

I want us to include multicultural ministry, Church growth and new starts in whatever our next phase of planning might be. There again, others closer to the points of ministry effectiveness might have different perspectives. I hope the year's asking about Asking include this kind of thorough discussion. It seems to me it is a cyclical process, but one whose time is coming upon us.

Several ministry infrastructures are being started. The Task Force on Clergy Wellness will bring a new resolution to Convention to ask that it replace the Board Commission of Clergy Compensation. The Task Force has broader concerns. As mentioned previously, the Commission on Ministry intends to complete its outline of procedures, including a comprehensive teaching on discernment, in time for Convention. We may have to think about additional program funding for these initiatives, especially in meeting the costs of communicating their productions in printed as well as electronic form.

Another new Task Force is the Crisis Relief Task Force headed up by Michael Stewart and Peggy Harris. I have asked Bob Joy to liaison for us with the Iowa agencies s part of this group. Ron and Toni Noah as our ERD representatives and Karen Nichols as our Global missioner with her experience in diocesan companionships are others I have invited to the Task Force, which has the direct work of focusing and coordinating our efforts in the aftermath of Katrina and Rita. The bishop and people of Louisiana Diocese have said that they are not ready to receive anyone right now, but the bishop of Mississippi said that they are ready to receive the full impact of the compassion of the Episcopal Church. We are being asked as Dioceses to adopt congregations. Tom Gehlsen has arranged for clergy to offer exchanges or simply give relief to colleagues in the afflicted region. ERD told us before Katrina even struck that giving from Iowa congregations had almost doubled from \$ 34,000 for all of 2004 to \$ 60,000 for the first six months in 2005. I am sure it has gone way beyond that by now.

In terms of "acts of the Bishop" I report that I ordained Catherine Quehl-Engle, chaplain of Cornell College and a former UCC pastor to the transitional diaconate in July at Trinity, Iowa City, and I received Sue Eades as the new Rector of Christ Church, Clinton. Sue comes to us highly regarded from the Diocese of Montana. The celebration of New Ministry will take place on October 22nd. Visitations have been few for this reporting period, with visits to St. John's, Glenwood; St. George's, Le Mars; and St John's, Dubuque. Instead of visitations, I was enjoying a three-week vacation traveling to Southern California to deposit our youngest child to University, as Donna and I entered the empty nest stage of life. October will also be a relatively light time for visitations, though I start today with two in one weekend at Waterloo and Bettendorf before going off to Seabury Western for Tim Squier's ordination, a visit to the Seminarians, and then a couple of days in ecumenical talks with Methodist Bishops. It is hoped that by June 2006, we will be presenting to General Convention a resolution seeking a period of Interim Communion Sharing with the Methodists. After that I travel to Scotland for the consecration of the new Bishop of Brechin, John Mantle and for talks on our ongoing companionship, as well as completing my vacation time with a few days with my family.

Finally, I have asked the Standing Committee to undertake a mutual review process as I reach the two and a half year mark. Lynn Carver will contact wardens, clergy, and staff as part of the process as well as you as Board members. It will be based on the initial document of the election profile, but will provide opportunity to make offerings for future direction. It will be helpful and timely for our broader conversation on mutual accountability.

Financial Report

Mr. Robert Joy noted the since this meeting was being held on the 30th of the month, September figures were not available and 2005 budget comparisons reflected activity through August 31. In general pledge income was running about one month behind. However, four congregations are four months behind. Ways and Means Committee and the financial office are following up with clergy, wardens or persons in charge. Expenses for the year are slightly under budget.

He reported that five of the twelve area chapters had scheduled meetings for viewing Bishop Scarfe's narrative of the 2006 budget on a DVD. Mr. Joy made the presentations at Spirit Lake, Glenwood, Cedar Rapids and Newton. Canon Glenn Rankin went to Sioux City. Response to the narrative was positive but attendance was light at all locations. Each congregation will receive a DVD. It was suggested that it be shown in churches at their annual meetings.

The board reaffirmed their intention of developing a congregation diocese listening process for funding. They discussed a resolution that would be presented at the Diocesan Convention concerning financial support. The resolution would (a) change the "Asking" to a "Stewardship Covenant," (2) use 15% as the giving formula and (3) tie the number of convention delegates to status of pledge payment. The board had several concerns. The 15% would lower "asking" from large congregations and increase amounts requested from small congregations. It also seeks to punish congregations most needed at convention. The current five-year Strategic Plan ends with 2005. The Board is committed to developing the next plan. It will include a review of the asking formula as well as looking at other stewardship issues. Board members will work with the originators of the resolution to see if it is possible to have it referred to the Board to be considered as part of the strategic planning discussion.

Mr. Joy presented the proposed budget for 2006. He indicated that the size of medical insurance premium increase of 21% was more than the 15% originally budgeted. He suggested revisions to the budget to cover this item.

On a motion by Canon Glenn Rankin, duly seconded, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. I

Approved 2006 proposed budget

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors accepts the proposed 2006 Budget as adjusted to be presented at the Diocesan Convention.

The Rev. Julia Easley reported that the Lutheran Chaplaincy, a partner with the Episcopal Chaplaincy, in Old Brick on the University of Iowa campus is making changes in their program. As their plans develop, this will have implications for Old Brick.

Diocesan Ministry Team Reports

Youth Ministry Development: Ms. Sue Genereux reported that there were 29 registrations for the J2A training Sept. 30 – Oct. 1 at St. John’s in Ames. Four participants are coming from Nebraska. She noted that the Fall Christian Formation Forum on Oct. 22 would discuss how our congregations can be ready to help persons seeking a new community of faith using the “Change Your Channel” theme from the national advertising campaign. Both Genereux and Ms. Diane Bjorklund outlined plans for the Youth Conference for 6th through 12th graders concurrent with Diocesan Convention.

Commission Reports:

One World One Church: Mr. Paul Meginnis reported that The Rev. Jean McCarthy is organizing the Iowa Day Celebration at the National Cathedral in Washington D.C. in March 2006.

He also reported that a trip to Swaziland is being planned by Christ Church in Cedar Rapids for August 2006. OWOC has authorized the following International Development Grants for projects in Swaziland: \$2,000 for school fees for orphans, \$1,000 to the Mother’s Union for their Children-to-Children project and \$2,000 toward HIV/AIDS education. The remaining \$3,400 will be awarded at their next meeting.

Jubilee: The Rev. Anne Williams described some of the needs for prison ministry both inside and outside the walls. On the outside women and children who come to visit need a place to wait, or stay. Inside Anamosa the chapel is reached only by a long flight of stairs. A group is gathering information about a chair life. The Rev. Williams was honored at the Department of Corrections Employee Recognition Ceremony as “volunteer of the year” at Anamosa State Prison.

The meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy A. Morton, Assistant Secretary

APPROVED:

The Rev. Anne M. Williams
Secretary 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