

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

**MINUTES OF THE 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. Anne's by the Field, 2110 West First Street, Ankeny, Iowa on August 4, 2006 at 10:30 a.m. pursuant to the annual meeting held on December 2, 2005.

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

The following directors were present:

The Rev. Wendy Abrahamson

The Rev. Alexander Aiton

Ms. Rita Baker

The Rev. Artis Ferrel

Ms. Elinor Kornhauser

Ms. Phyllis Melton

The Rev. Dian Ong

The Rev. Patricia Roberts

Ms. Marrie Williams

Canon Tom Carpenter, *ex officio*

Also present: Mr. Robert Joy Assistant Treasurer; Ms. Nancy Morton, Assistant Secretary; The Rev. Sue Eades, The Rev. Warren Frelund, and Ms. Julianne Allaway.

Absent were: The Rev. Cathleen Bascom, Mr. Bill Early, Ms. Kim McIrvin, The Rev. Melvin Schlachter, The Rev. Donald Payer, The Rev. Anne Williams, Mr. William Smith and Canon Paul J. Meginnis, II, *ex officio*.

Ms. Rita Baker opened the meeting with a meditation and a psalm.

The minutes of the May 19 meeting were approved.

**Bishop's Report**

Since we last met, I have traveled 175 miles on foot across the Diocese, raising \$45,000 thus far; our Church has passed through another General Convention at which history was made once more in the election of Katherine Jefferts Schori as our new Presiding Bishop; and we have said farewell to two long-term priests in this Diocese, Ron Osborne and Steve Hall, while welcoming four new priests and one new Dean. Jim Harris from Jacksonville, Florida was called to be the Dean of Trinity Cathedral in Davenport and has accepted with a September 5th starting date with only the background check pending. He brings experience as a Diocesan Youth Missioner and a Diocesan Chair of Liturgy and Music, and a commitment to evangelism. There are three new priests, all Iowa raised - Mitch Smith (Trinity, Waterloo), Brian McVey (St. Alban's, Davenport) and Carl Mann

(St. Alban's, Spirit Lake) - and one transitional deacon, Martha Kester from Florida (St. Luke's, Des, Moines).

Mitch, Brian and Carl together with their congregations are part of a Mentoring Program, which will be led by Bill Pugliese, Lynne Carver and Curt Moermond. Congregations with their new priests will undergo five sessions, which are adapted from the interim process. Mitch, Brian and Carl will meet regularly with Bill, Lynne and Curt respectively over the next two years, both in a mentoring relationship and more formally after the New Year in a program for clergy in transition called Fresh Start. Other clergy in transition like Martha and Jim will join them in Fresh Start.

At General Convention one of the many changes to the Ministry Canons was the requirement that new clergy receive an official mentor. Other Ministry Canons, which were revised, included the procedure for bringing clergy in from other denominations, the canons governing bishops and their life and work, and an effort to make the deacon and priest process similar in stages and timeline. The Standing Committee was reintroduced as an essential part of candidacy interviewing.

While the media picked up only on the responses to the Windsor report, the Convention passed many resolutions relating to our everyday lives and our mission for Christ. The central excitement was around our response to the incredible needs of the poor and infirm especially in Africa. The UN Millenium Development Goals - something we have promoted and donated to for several years now - were highlighted as key parts of the Christian mission. Creating a development office for promoting large gifts for new starts and new campus ministries across the Church was another new initiative, as was the support for evangelistic strategy in the Diocese of Louisiana where many congregations have to start from scratch with an unknown demographic. Youth continued to be a priority, especially ministry to children at one end and creating vocational opportunities for young adults at the other. The Diocese of Iowa has already engaged in many of these new ministries through the forward-looking work of our Commissions.

What General Convention reminds us, however, is how diverse we are as a Christian body. This is something we do not notice in Iowa, though there are people waiting to help us create ministries to Hispanics and Native peoples. We recently received a small grant for work in developing leadership among Native American Episcopalians.

I have not faced many questions about the Windsor Report response, which as many of you know, faced obstruction from both sides of the spectrum. An unusual call for a Joint session of Convention by the Presiding Bishop broke an impasse on obtaining any response on the Report's recommended moratoriums. We must wait to see how the Primates feel we did at their February meeting in 2007. In Iowa I was invited to have conversation with members of New Song in Coralville where people were disappointed that I had voted for the Presiding Bishop's joint resolution which asked us not to consent to any election of a bishop whose "manner of life was a challenge to the wider Church." Some were upset that we did not stipulate homosexuality, others felt that it was aimed only at homosexuality and that was discriminatory. Most of us seek to keep the

conversation going and to find inclusion at the table for our new Presiding Bishop, whose very manner of life as female is a challenge to a number of Primates.

In our own parishes where the Church's direction has been an issue, I was concerned to read a call by the senior Warden of St. Luke's, Des Moines to join the Network, but have been assured by their rector that he speaks only for himself. At St. Paul's, Durant they continue to seek their place in the Diocese and have turned away from seeking alternative oversight, which I think was an option they have considered. I have been encouraged by the openness of clergy in both places to engage in conversation and to build positive relationships with the Diocese.

Our relationships together apart from General Convention have been reflected in the survey returns gathered by the Task Force on Strategic Planning. We will hear a full report from them as well as consider a proposed Asking formula, which is inspired by the survey's findings. The Task Force is one of three groups pulling things together in recent weeks. The Bishop's Advisory Group on Stewardship held a daylong retreat last month to create a series of sessions for sharing with congregations. In the fall they will attend chapter meetings and provide an overview of their presentation, and will be inviting six congregations to sign up first-come first-served for the full treatment. The third group is the Commission on Ministry, which is doing fine work on deacon formation process, and on working the Ministry Team Development process into line with the canons on ministry. The COM will have visited for postulancy conversation each of the six ministry teams by the time we next meet.

I was overwhelmed by the response to my Ministries Retreat class on exploring the diaconate. Sixteen people attended for the weekend and it was clear from their final summations on what they were discerning, the Holy Spirit had been very much at work among us. Some coming in and thinking the diaconate might be their calling returned home considering the priesthood. Others confirmed their diaconal call. I would not be surprised to see a class of twelve deacon candidates form over the next couple of years. Warren Frelund can best outline the formation process as we now have developed it. The E-Seminary will play a large part in their formation over the next two years.

The rhythm of visitations continued despite the exciting distractions of the past few weeks. I have been to St. Timothy's, West Des Moines; Trinity, Iowa City; St. Paul's Cathedral, Des Moines; St. Martin's Perry for their 50th anniversary; All Angels, Red Oak; Trinity, Emmetsburg; St. Andrew's, Des Moines and St. Andrew's, Waverly. I would say that each congregation showed signs of vitality and were concerned for increased growth and outreach. Emmetsburg and Algona are concerned about the retirement of their rector at the end of the year and it is clear that they will only be able to afford a half-time to two-third time replacement. All Angels Red Oak were inquiring about youth work and challenged us about not having an approach for rural congregations. St Andrew's Waverly have outgrown their facilities and having replaced a back wall to the Church now need to think about an education and office wing that can

double as a parish hall. As we will hear Christ Church, Clinton is having difficulty holding their recently united parish together as they face the hard decision of relinquishing one of their buildings.

An unexpected surprise in the fall will be the visit of the Bishop of Brechin for most of the month of September. He will speak to the clergy at Clergy Conference, but also wants to travel among congregations to learn about our life. He faces difficult issues of promoting faith in an increasingly secular society in Scotland and very much comes among us seeking support and encouragement. I will meet him in Los Angeles at the final week of my vacation and introduce him to the south-west as we drive back to Des Moines via Las Vegas, Grand Canyon, Monument Valley and all points eastward. We hope to be in St. Paul's, Sioux City by Labor Day weekend. At his synod meeting earlier this year the Diocese of Brechin ratified our companionship with them for the next five years. It would be good for us to offer him a formal assurance of our ongoing commitment to our three-way partnership.

With only one preaching appointment at St. John's, Ames on Sunday before vacation I can be excused for an occasional vacant look. I not only return with the Bishop of Brechin, but to the run up to Diocesan Convention, the consecration of the new Presiding Bishop in Washington DC and the final unveiling of the work of the Task Force on Strategic Planning. As the visioning process begins I hope we will become bold in seeking to place our mark on the future of our state, and that we will not be afraid to take risks and dare new ventures for the Gospel. As conflicts continue to surround us abroad and in our churches, we need to be ambassadors of reconciliation at every level open to us, and especially where it can really begin and that is, as the old hymn favorite says "with us (me)".

In his report Bishop Scarfe announced that the Bishop of Brechin in Scotland will be in the United States during the month of September and plans to spend part of it in Iowa.

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

**RESOLUTION NO. I**

Reaffirm partnership with Brechin

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That, the Board of Directors welcomes the Bishop of Brechin with gladness for his visit to Iowa and with affection; and

We reaffirm our partnership with the Diocese of Brechin for five more years.

The Rev. Wendy Abrahamson reported on the work of the Strategic Planning Task Force. Early in their task they divided into two groups; one to gather information and the other to look at the asking/assessment process. She described the excellent response to the survey sent to clergy, lay leaders, vestry members and a random sample of households

receiving *Iowa Connections/Episcopal Life*. Questions were asked about values and concerns. The top concern was having a priest. The next was the church building. The Task Force also surveyed line-item budgets to identify what it really costs to maintain a church. Worship headed the most-valued list.

The Task Force is proposing a new formula for determining the asking for each congregation and has prepared a resolution in draft form for discussion at meetings of the Mission Chapters in September. The feedback will be considered at the September 29 meeting.

***Proposed Resolution:*** *The annual Asking of each congregation in the Diocese of Iowa will be determined thus:*

*From the Total Operating Income of the previous fiscal year according to the annual parochial report, \$65,000 will be allowed as a deduction for congregations supporting a full-time clergy person. This deduction will be pro-rated for congregations that support a clergy person less than full-time.*

*The Asking shall then be 20% of the Total Operating Income of the previous year, after the clergy deduction is taken.*

*No congregation will have an increase in their Asking of more than 12.5% from one fiscal year to the next.*

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

## **RESOLUTION NO. II**

Proposed Resolution re Askings

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That, the Board receives the resolution in principle and asks that it be shared as a draft in Chapter meetings. The Board will make a formal resolution in September to be presented at Diocesan Convention.

## **Financial Report**

Mr. Robert Joy distributed file copies of the audit reviewed at the May 19 meeting. He stated that income and expenses for 2006 were on budget. Pledge income is about 2/3 of a month behind which is not usual for this time of the year.

Only four congregations have not filed a parochial report. The improved response across the diocese has occurred because congregations could and did file electronically.

The proposed budget for 2007 has been sent to clergy, wardens, commission chairs and deanery representatives for review and discussion at chapter meetings in September. The mailing also included a letter from Bishop Scarfe, a narrative budget, pledge information and several charts detailing receipts and disbursements. Feedback will be brought to the

Ways and Means Committee and the Board of Directors meeting on September 29. At that time the final budget will be sent to Diocesan Convention for action.

Mr. Joy reported that to date seven churches have not yet pledged to the 2007 Asking. They have been contacted. He expects that even though not all congregations pledged the amount of their asking, the budgeted figure of \$883,500 is attainable.

He also requested authority to update signatories on banking and investment accounts. On a motion by Ms. Phyllis Melton, duly seconded, the following resolution was adopted:

### **RESOLUTION NO. III**

Authorized signatories

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That, the following individuals be authorized as signatories on banking and investment accounts of the Episcopal Corporation of the Diocese of Iowa:

The Rt. Rev. Alan Scarfe – President  
 Mr. Paul Meginnis, II – Co-Treasurer  
 Mr. William Smith, Jr. – Co-Treasurer  
 Ms. Nancy A. Morton – Assistant Secretary

Mr. Joy reported that clergy, wardens and churches have received copies of a flyer introducing the stewardship-training program developed by the Bishop's Advisory Group on Stewardship. BAGS members will be attending the September chapter meetings to explain how to participate. The group will work with six locations in 2007 on a first come, first served basis.

### **Diocesan Convention**

The Rev. Warren Frelund reviewed plans for Diocesan Convention November 10-11 at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Des Moines. Convention theme is "Celebrating the New Creation." The ministry of ordained women in the diocese will be honored. The Rt. Rev. Gayle Harris, suffragan of the Diocese of Massachusetts, will attend. The meditations at intervals during the plenary sessions were well received at last year's Convention and are planned again. They will be presented by six women, lay and ordained.

Pre-convention workshops will be offered from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Friday. They are open to anyone whether registered for convention or not. There is no charge for the workshop. Rooms have been reserved at the convention rate for those wishing to come to Des Moines Thursday night. Convention rate is available for the Saturday-night stay also. The reception after the Friday Evensong will be at the hotel as will the continental breakfast that opens at 7 a.m. on Saturday. The time for the Convention Eucharist at St. Paul's Cathedral has been changed to 9 a.m. on Saturday.

Letters to potential exhibitors have been sent. The cost for an exhibit this year is \$25 per skirted table. Any special electronic services requested will incur charges from the hotel.

### **Deacons**

The Rev. Warren Frelund reported on the growing interest in pursuing calls to the diaconate and touched briefly on the work of the Council on Deacons.

### **Mission Chapters**

Mr. Thomas Carpenter, Chancellor of the Diocese, discussed the changes necessary to Canon 15 in organization of Mission Chapters. One of them was board representation. As established there are twelve chapters, from which six representatives serve on the Board of Directors. The board responsibilities will rotate so that each chapter will have representation on the board at least one year in every three years.

Mr. Carpenter also reported on the status of the deed to the property of St. Anne's in Ankeny. He asked the board to approve the legal action necessary.

On a motion by the Rev. Wendy Abrahamson, duly seconded, the following resolution was adopted:

### **RESOLUTION NO. IV**

Deed to Ankeny property

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That, the President of the Corporation be authorized to sign the deed to the Ankeny property to St. Anne's by the Fields of Ankeny, Iowa and that the deed be delivered at the closing of the new loan transaction when the Corporation is released from the prior mortgage.

### **Christ Church, Clinton**

The Rev. Sue Eades, rector of Christ Church in Clinton, reviewed the demographics and history of the merger of Grace Church and St. John's. To date they have been using both buildings. On August 20 the vestry has called for a vote to choose which building to use as Christ Church's location.

### **Future meeting locations**

Sept 29            St. Mark's, 3120 East 24th St., Des Moines  
Dec. 1             St. Luke's, 3424 Forest Ave, Des Moines annual meeting

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy A. Morton, Assistant Secretary

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Ms. Phyllis Melton  
Secretary of the Episcopal Corporation  
of the Diocese of Iowa

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