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**MINUTES OF 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 St. Luke's Church, 3424 Forest Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa on December 1, 2006, pursuant to a written Waiver of Notice signed by all directors in attendance.

The Rt. Rev. Alan Scarfe, president, presided

The following directors were present:

The Rev. Wendy Abrahamson

Ms. Rita Baker

The Rev. Sue Eades

The Rev. Artis Ferrel

Mr. John Gardner

Ms. Kathy Halverson-Rigatuso

The Rev. Linda Hughes

Ms. Phyllis Melton

Canon Ronald Osborne

The Rev. William Pugliese

The Rev. Patricia Roberts

Ms. Marrie Williams

Canon Tom Carpenter, *ex officio*

Mr. William Smith, *ex officio*

The Rev. Pat Genereux, *ex officio*

Also present: Mr. Robert Joy, Assistant Treasurer; Ms. Nancy Morton, Assistant Secretary, and The Rev. Thomas Gehlsen.

Absent were: Mr. Brad Bateman, Ms. Elinor Kornhauser, The Rev. Dian Ong, The Rev. Anne Williams and Mr. William Smith, *ex officio*.

Ms. Rita Baker opened the meeting a meditation. She has agreed to serve as chaplain for 2007.

The minutes of the September 29 meeting of the Board of Directors were approved.

Election of Officers

President: The board affirmed The Rt. Rev. Alan Scarfe as president.

Vice President: The President called for nominations for Vice President. Ms. Phyllis Melton nominated The Rev. William Pugliese. The nomination was seconded.

Nominations were closed and a unanimous ballot cast.

Election of Secretary

The President called for nominations for Secretary. Ms. Rita Baker nominated Ms. Phyllis Melton. The nomination was seconded. Nominations were closed and a unanimous ballot cast.

Assistant Treasurer:

The board requested that Mr. Robert Joy continue as Assistant Treasurer.

Assistant Secretary: The board requested that Ms. Nancy Morton continue as Assistant Secretary.

Board Meeting dates for 2007

Bishop Scarfe announced meeting dates. Locations for the year will be posted before the first meeting:

February 2

March 30

May 18

July 20 (6 hours Anti-racism training in Grinnell)

September 14

November 16

Bishop's Report

In many ways we are entering into a new period as a Church. The investiture of our new Presiding Bishop was a glorious and exciting occasion, with heartfelt cheers and joy, which indicates the hopes and delight of those present to her ministry, and especially evidenced by the abundant presence of younger generations. We have begun to hear new things from her such as the phrase "deed-based evangelism," musings over bishop term limits, and a sense that this is a new time. I doubt that few women Episcopalians have ever made *Glamour* magazine's Woman of the Year, but there was our Presiding Bishop this month. One of her real tests is of course the Primates' meeting in February, and perhaps even after that how she responds to whatever is thrown her way there.

I attended The Episcopal Church's equivalent to an All Commissions' Day last week in Chicago, and again the accessibility of the Presiding Bishop was very noticeable. I was there as part of the Ecumenical Commission, which was able to map out a solid direction for the next three years. As much for my own intellectual salvation as perhaps anything else, I have offered to be on the writing team for a statement on Christian foundations for inter-faith dialogue. My interest will be on a section covering Mission, Christology and Soteriology (theology of salvation).

We, too, as a Diocese are in new times. The Standing Committee has been the same for my first three and a half years, and new faces are appearing. I hope this will continue to be a safe place as a council of advice. Others have hinted that I might want to expand that council, as I did as a priest in creating Council of Wardens.

We have new faces on this Board, plus a shift of emphasis from Diocesan-wide elections to an increase of regionally representative appointments by local Chapters. Convention confirmed the new Asking formula, now known as the Stewardship Share, and challenged the Board to find ways of increasing congregational participation through incentives and not penalties.

The Task Force on Strategic Planning has identified its four major areas of emphasis for what I assume will be the mid-years of my episcopate, and you will be getting a complete report in the early February meeting before it goes out for study by the congregations at their Chapter meetings. We have received a request to bring into the diocese a new community of faith in Orange City, and one of our retired clergy has arrived on the south side of Des Moines determined to scout the area for a potential new church start.

Finally, we have discovered that one of our new transitional deacons to be ordained in a couple of weeks is fluent in Spanish and has already agreed to begin work with Mary Jane Oakland in Marshalltown in approaching the Spanish-speaking community there who use the church as a day care for their children.

God, it seems, is moving ahead of us as usual. Last weekend I had four conversations with priests about retirement plans or transition. One of which is St. Paul's Indian Mission. David has set May 1st as his retirement date, and we have much work to do in securing his good ministry for the next generation. I will be at St. Paul's, Sioux City this weekend. After eighteen years, this is a major ministry transition for us all. David and Charlene have put more than their heart and soul in to that community. I have asked David for a full expense reporting because I suspect that he has put a lot of his own money into the place, beyond what comes from the Diocese.

Diocesan Convention is hard to assess when you are chairing it, but the evaluations overwhelmingly praised the event. There were a number of statements about the spiritual atmosphere, and even witness to some changed lives and attitudes. I think a resolution of thanks from this Board to Barbara Schlachter, Lynn Carver, Cathy Bascom, Liane Nichols and Esther Walters would be in order. Warren, Anne, and Beth were the principal staff members working behind the scenes. Next year's theme is "The Great Turning: caring for God's planet and people". We will be bringing Mike Kinman back for Friday evening. I suspect a number of congregations will already have engaged in ecological ministry by the time we next meet.

The presence of the women from Swaziland was amazing. I did not know how well the interaction between our keynoter, Gayle Harris, and the African women would occur. But I think that helped the sense of upbeat spirit in the place. The planned liturgies during Convention were another positive. Issues raised in the evaluations, of course, concerned the resolutions and where we place them in the schedule and how we give them just consideration and debate. I am aware that we do not seem use to debating according to Robert's Rules, and that would help speed things along as well as offer studied debate.

Since we last met, in my travels I have made visitations to or held confirmations at Christ Church, Burlington, St. Stephen's, Newton; St. Paul's, Grinnell; St. Paul's, Creston; St. Michael's, Mt. Pleasant; St. Paul's, Harlan; Grace, Boone; St. John's, Mason City and Grace, Decorah. I have also met with clergy clusters from the Metro area, and North and South Cedar Valley, and visited the vestry at St. John's Keokuk as they engage in serious conversation and planning for their future. I participated in the tabulation of commendations for the priestly, diaconal and administrative roles of ministry team members at New Song, Coralville, installed a new rector at St. Paul's, Marshalltown, and a new Dean at Trinity Cathedral, Davenport, officiated at the annual Metro Thanksgiving service at the Cathedral in Des Moines, and celebrated with several churches in their significant anniversaries: St. Luke's, Des Moines' 100th, St Paul's, Council Bluffs' 150th and All Saints', Storm Lake's 50th celebrations. I also called in on Church of the Saviour, Clermont, after my trip to Decorah to look over their exciting plans for a building project this coming year, which was featured at Convention. We have also had a Deacons' Day on the deacon as advocate at which I was delighted to see a number of priest-deacon teams.

The Commission on Ministry has completed its work on diaconal formation and ordination process. It met with the Chancellor to discuss canonical implications of our ministry-development team procedures. Work on priestly formation and the ordering of the ordination process will be finished by this coming spring.

I am eager to see Parochial reports for 2006. I hear so many accounts of increased growth in congregations, with priests reporting new people searching out the Episcopal Church. We still have stories of struggling congregations especially in our smaller towns where demographics work against them, but even those are spotted among brighter accounts. I expect this to begin to show itself in our Diocesan report. God reprimanded King David for counting, but it is hard not to do. Congregational growth whether in spirit and vitality and imagination of ministry, as well as in numbers, has to remain a focus for us all. That is certainly a priority of staff in our learnings and conversation.

This coming year's Synagogy will bring eight churches together of mid-to-larger size for Iowa to share their ways of blessing and their issues. Ultimately it will be fire on fire that will create a larger Gospel blaze. I have met with Cursillo leaders in the Diocese to see how we might revive that movement. As the new national Cursillo Bishop liaison I have every opportunity to study the movement at its best. For Iowa we will be concentrating on developing the community of those who have done a Cursillo weekend in this coming year before we begin inviting others to experience the weekend. Cursillo is about day-to-day friendship as disciples, and we need to reestablish that before moving forward. Yesterday I was at Iowa City with a clergy cluster and heard of exciting ministries in Iowa City and Cedar Rapids. God is enlivening God's people and we need to learn from one another and spread the wealth.

At Convention I taught a brief workshop on vestry leadership. It is something I would like to offer at greater length in the course of the coming year. I find that few vestries spend the time developing relationships on a spiritual and emotional level before they

plough into planning and action. These are holy relationships for holy time and holy work and never business sessions. We fail to understand that at our loss, and often the loss is the underdevelopment or under-release of spiritual gifts and imagination on the part of the whole body of Christ. I already have 2008 Convention theme set: "A dedicated life." It is important to honor the time given by vestry members to our congregations by offering us all a time to encounter Christ in one another and in ourselves. Business meetings we can all get at any PTA or Rotary meeting, or even at our other work. But where else can we get through committee work and come away refreshed by the presence of Christ among us?

I had this experience just a few days ago. I participated in a Press Conference to announce an ecumenical prayer service for Peace to be held weekly during Advent in downtown Des Moines. The bishops from the Roman Catholic Church, Lutheran Synod, United Methodist Church, Episcopal Church and the judicatories from UCC and Disciples of Christ were present. We all were asked to make statements. I remarked how the Roman Catholic Bishop had quoted the Pope, the Lutheran read from the Bible and I was referring to my Prayer Book. I anticipated a song from the Methodist Bishop (and we actually got one, recited at least!). But then along came the UCC leader with a reasoned argument for a Just Peace theory, and finally an address by the Disciples of Christ leader who set everything in the context of our piety of love for Jesus Christ. Each tradition offered its finest emphasis, and what was a public duty became an experience of grace.

The gift of this age is that even if the Church grows more rigid in its call for conformity, it calls for us all to look deeply into our own souls as to why we really follow Jesus and what our following in community then has to present to a broken world that mere rules will not fix but the spirit of Jesus can.

On a motion from The Rev. Linda Hughes, duly seconded, the following resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. I

Thank you to Women's Ordination Celebration Committee

BE IT RESOLVED, that, the Board of Directors expresses its appreciation to The Revs. Barbara Schlachter, Lynn Carver, Cathleen Bascom, Liane Nichols and Ms. Esther Walter who planned the Celebration of the 30th Anniversary of Ordination of Women at the Diocesan Convention, November 10 –11, 2006. The board requests a letter be sent to thank them for the success of the event.

The board approved the following for membership on commissions:

Commission on Clergy Wellness

Ms. Joan Farstad, Waverly

Commission on Congregational Life

The Rev. Georgia Humphrey, Des Moines

Ms. Susan McCoy, Davenport

Mr. Charlie Rodriguez, Davenport
The Rev. Mitch Smith, Waterloo

Commission on Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation

Ms. Louise Patterson, Mason City
Ms. Sandy Seabold, Keokuk
Mr. Craig Stark, Clive

Commission on One World, One Church

The Rev. Bruce Blois, Keokuk
Ms. Susan Bradley, Creston
The Rev. Judith Jones, Waverly

Multi-Cultural Commission

Ms. Sally Klinkefus, Marshalltown
Ms. Melinda Murphy, Waverly
Ms. Ann Woodrick, Cedar Falls

Financial Report

Mr. Robert Joy reported that income from pledges at the end of October was about one month behind. It is not unusual to have a month's float at this time of year but congregations do catch up at the end of the year. The Financial Office and Ways and Means Committee are in contact with these congregations.

When asked about the outlook for 2006, Mr. Joy identified an issue that will influence the outcome. Since E-Seminary did not totally fund itself, a shortfall of \$30,000 to \$35,000 is possible. Expenses are expected to finish the year close to budget. Congregational pledges will be slightly under budget.

He reported that Ways and Means plans to pay special attention to making it easier for congregations to complete annual audits.

On a motion from Canon Ronald Osborne, duly seconded, the following allowance for clergy housing was approved:

RESOLUTION NO. II

2007 Housing Allowances

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| Easley, Julia | \$18,000.00 |
| Frelund, Warren | 18,762.00 |
| Gehlsen, Thomas | 36,500.00 |
| Goodfellow, Willa | 18,000.00 |
| Scarfe, Alan | 39,000.00 |
| Titus. F. David | 20,000.00 |
| Vann, Tim | 30,000.00 |
| Wacome, Karen | 15,544.00 |

Diocesan Convention Resolutions

The board reviewed the resolutions passed at Diocesan Convention and assigned commissions, committees and/or individuals to follow up on the action requested.

Resolution 154-A – Affirming Support for a Public Policy on Tobacco. (JPIC)

Resolution 154-B – Mandate Training in Domestic and Intimate Partner Abuse (Not assigned)

Resolution 154-C – Education about the Stigma of HIV/AIDS. (JPIC)

Resolution 154-D – Evolution and Christian Faith (The Rev. Alice Haugen)

Resolution 154-E – Forgiveness (Bishop Scarfe)

Resolution 154-F – Liturgy and Music Committee (Dean James Harris)

Resolution 154-J – Episcopal Church’s Complicity in the Institution of Slavery (Multicultural Commission)

Resolution 154-K – Summer Camps for Children of Person in Prison (JPIC)

Resolution 154-L – Formula for Funding for Congregational Askings (Board)

Resolution 154-M – Format for Stewardship Share (Referred to Board)

Resolution 154-N – Mission Chapters (Convention voted to change the canons so that each chapter would be represented on the Board of Directors every year. The Rev. William Pugliese accepted the task of devising a plan to accommodate this action.)

Resolution 154-O – Global Warming and Iowa Interfaith Power and Light (The Rev. Ben Webb)

Resolution 154-Q – United Methodist – Episcopal Dialogue (One World One Church)

Resolution 154-S – Millennium Development Goals (One World One Church)

Resolution 154-T – Funding for General Convention Deputies to Attend Orientation (Ways and Means Committee)

Resolution 154-U – Chaplain to Retired Clergy, Spouses and Surviving Spouses (Bishop Scarfe)

Resolution 154-V – College and University Episcopal Presence (not assigned)

Resolution 154-W – Healthy Role of Money (not assigned)

Diocesan Ministry Development Report – The Rev. Tom Gehlsen updated the board on courses and participation in E-Seminary. This is the Iowa School for Life-Long Theological Education distributed via the Iowa fiber-optic network. He also called attention to Theological Education Sunday, February 4, and the diocesan—wide mailing to households that will precede it.

Commissions Reports /Liaisons

Bishop Scarfe announced that All Commissions Day is scheduled for Saturday, January 27 at St. Timothy's in West Des Moines.

No reports from commissions

The following board members agreed to serve as liaisons to commissions:

Congregational Life – The Rev. Sue Eades

JPIC – The Rev. Anne Williams

One World One Church – Ms. Marrie Williams

Multicultural Commission – The Rev. Linda Hughes

Clergy Wellness – The Revs. William Pugliese and Pat Genereux

YMDT – Ms. Sue Genereux and Ms. Diane Bjorklund

The meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

The next meeting is February 2 at
St. Mark's Church, 3120 E 24th St., Des Moines IA

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