

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

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL 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. Andrew's Church, 5720 Urbandale Ave, Des Moines, Iowa on February 3, 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. Cathleen Bascom
The Rev. Artis Ferrel
Ms. Elinor Kornhauser
Ms. Phyllis Melton
The Rev. Donald Payer
The Rev. Patricia Roberts
The Rev. Melvin Schlachter
Mr. William Smith
The Rev. Anne Williams
Ms. Marrie Williams
Canon Tom Carpenter, *ex officio*

Also present: Mr. Robert Joy Assistant Treasurer; Ms. Nancy Morton, Assistant Secretary; Ms. Diane Bjorklund, Assistant Youth Missioner, and the Rev. Pat Genereux.

Absent were: Mr. Bill Early, The Rev. Melvin Low, Ms. Kim McIrvin, The Rev. Dian Ong and Canon Paul J. Meginnis, II, *ex officio*.

The Rev. Cathleen Bascom opened the meeting with scripture and reflection.

A correction to Resolution No. V from the December 2, 2005 meeting removes the "2005" from the text. The resolution was not intended to be limited to the year 2005. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Bishop's Report

A couple of days ago, I picked up the February edition of Iowa Connections and was thrilled to read of the many positive activities going on throughout the Diocese. Central and upfront of course was the E-Seminary. No longer a pipe dream, it is taking shape and twenty-five people are enjoying the fruits of two of our fine teaching clergy. It still needs some strong shoring up financially, especially if we want to stick to our promise of delivering classes as locally to people as possible. But registration is now going out for

the next two classes, and then for a fuller offering in the fall. Tom Gehlsen tells me that he has been sought out by Seminary Academic Deans for future conversations about using our system to deliver their material with accreditation to our baptized body. He has had direct talks with CDSP and the Berkeley Divinity School at Yale.

Along with that ministry, the newspaper described the excitement created by the Presiding Bishop at Clergy Day around Epiphany. He praised the healthiness of our clergy as a whole, and noticed their general optimism for ministry. In their own turn the Executive Council appreciated our presentation of life in the Diocese and went away very much aware of our creativity and energy. I am grateful to Tim Vann for bringing the National Church to us, and thus helping us display Christ's work among us to them.

Add to this the freshness of the All Commission Day, at which a couple of new Commissions and Diocesan groups were present: notably the Diocesan Altar Guild co-directed by Eleanor Kornhauser and Martha Hippee, the Multicultural Ministry Commission called for by our last Diocesan Convention, and the ever energetic group called BAGS. We heard of the stages we will have to follow in making a good strategic plan, and I think every Commission came away with a strong sense of direction for themselves in 2006. In some cases, I felt that the work of ministry in that particular area had moved "out of our hands" as a Diocesan Ministry Development Team, and was going to be developed at the next level. BAGS, for example, are eager to go out to congregations in chapters to mentor in stewardship, from May to September 2006. Congregational Life is also poised for direct work with regional congregations, and of course, YMDT and OWOC have been there for quite some time.

The future of the Diocese was also on display in December and January as I ordained to the transitional diaconate, Brian McVey, Carl Mann and Mitch Smith, and then ordained as priest Alice Haugen and received as a priest, Betsy Lee formerly of the ELCA. Alice is serving as an assistant at Grace, Cedar Rapids, and Betsy is currently assisting Pat at Christ Church, Burlington but I hope will become an interim elsewhere.

I have received good news of pledges being up at the congregational level from a number of places. A couple of Ministry Teams, such as St. Paul's, Creston and St. John's, Glenwood are getting ready for the first visit of the COM, and New Song, Coralville are close to a candidacy visit from the COM. Conversations about Ministry Teams have started at Grace, Charles City, and there is further interest in the Southwest cluster. I recognized Mt. Pleasant's ministry team during my visitation there in December. They were formed before I came, and feel that they have been working as a team for some time. With the presence now of Sister Mary Catherine (formerly Mary Christopher) as a priest in residence, I am willing to declare them an official Ministry Team. I hope they will consider engaging in further intentional study such as the Curriculum offers, and will choose to benefit from the possibilities of the E-Seminary offerings in the future.

Along with Mt. Pleasant, my travels took me to a number of other smaller congregations, including Clermont who are exploring Ministry Development with Kate Campbell; Charles City who are doing the same under their new regular supply priest, Judith Jones;

and Independence, who are unable to embrace the concept at this time but continue to be supplied by clergy and lay leaders from Cedar Rapids and Iowa City. I also visited Trinity, Muscatine for their annual meeting, and what I hope will be a calmer future as they come to grips with my offer of a new interim, and St. Luke's, Cedar Falls who are in the joyful throes of welcoming back their rector after a good sabbatical. In acknowledgement of their time of transition, I chose to preside at Trinity, Davenport this Christmas Eve. This year, I will be present at Trinity for Palm Sunday and Ascension Day, and at St Paul's Cathedral for Easter, Pentecost and Christmas Eve.

I may have mentioned this in advance at our last meeting, but the Diocesan Ministry Development Team has undergone changes since we last met. Tom Gehlsen and Warren Frelund have increased their days on staff, from two and three days respectively to four each. Jim Davis is no longer on staff, but continues to be a key teacher on the E-Seminary and a bible teacher for the Metro area. He is also available to the Diocese for parochial retreats and planning consultancy. Willa Goodfellow, while wintering in Costa Rica, is now available to us full time during the active months of early spring through late fall. She will lead a group of us to Living Stones in Winnipeg where we are presenting our Synagogy project as a case study. Synagogy is a gathering of the ministry teams to hear each other's stories and share their common issues. Warren and Willa held the first one during Ministries retreat in July, and intend to double this effort for 2006.

This month I will resume to gather clergy in chapter clusters, having met with clergy from South Central Iowa last month, and with the Metro clergy this month. In September I plan to gather clergy every four months in the eight regional chapter clusters.

With the hope that certain aspects of our internal ministry structure are now moving along somewhat under their own steam, I am able to concentrate a little on our ministry as a Diocese in the community at large. On December 9th I presented a charter on Iowa sustainable energy to the Lt. Governor. The Governor has also invited me to another meeting on the sex offender issue which we will consider later today. Also I want to commend the work of Ben Allaway, husband of Julianne, for his community work on creating a Native American festival later this month. We hope that our National Church office for Native ministries will send a representative out for the weekend. It is unfortunate that the dates fall just one week too early to coincide with the visit of our national coordinator for Native Ministries to Iowa at the first weekend of March.

My hope is that we begin to see the expanded work of the Commissions bear fruit in their regular reports to us, and that as congregations grow less anxious about basic ministry supply, I can concentrate on different areas of our common life. I have heard that one begins to feel more comfortable in the Episcopal role somewhere along your fourth year. As that year begins next month, I look forward to whatever that means. Among such future events or programs I include: the Youth Evangelism Mission in March, the training of leaders in Via Media in the Spring and Fall, and the start of Fresh Start mentoring of clergy in transition, as well as the Mpaka mission in Swaziland, the Cathedral to Cathedral "Run," the Iowa Day trip to DC, and the preparations to gather as many of our female priests and deacons past and present at this year's Convention in November.

Throw in a little gathering called General Convention in June and whatever that produces and I would say that we have a full year before us, with or without our Task Force on the Asking and Strategic Planning! One of their first pieces of advice might be to slow down!

Appointments

On a motion by the Rev. Mel Schlachter, duly seconded, the following appointments were approved:

Congregational Life Commission

The Rev. Cathleen Bascom
 Ms. Lisa Butler
 The Rev. Stephen Hall
 Ms. Sandy Kraschel

Multicultural Commission

Ms. Mary Lee Folkesdahl-Meehleder
 Mr. Scott King
 Ms. Carol Kramer
 The Rev. Fritz Kramer
 The Rev. Chuck Lane
 Ms. Karen Nichols

Youth Ministry Development Team

Ms. Diane Bjorklund announced that the members of the YMDT will be presented for board approval when background checks have been completed.

Financial Report

Mr. Robert Joy reported that the income and expenses for 2005 were 96% and 95% respectively of what was budgeted, leaving a surplus of \$8,617. The 2006 budget comparison reflected only one month's income and expenses and includes some once-a-year-payments. He noted that most pledges were in for 2006. He said that the Ways and Means Committee needs to clarify whether letters have been received from congregations that did not meet their asking.

He reported that the budget for the National Church was a topic of interest during the visit of the Executive Council to Des Moines. It generated conversation and a resolution from the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. Bill Smith presented the following resolution on behalf of Ways and Means Committee. It was seconded and opened for discussion.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors of the Episcopal Corporation requests of the Iowa deputies to the General Convention:

- 1) That a serious examination of the proposed Triennium Budget be undertaken by the Iowa delegation prior to its presentation at Convention;
- 2) That a serious consideration be given to the anticipated revenue increases projected for the next three years;
- 3) That a “line by line” analysis of expenses be made to determine essential priorities and eliminate or substantially reduce those that are under performing;
- 4) That the budget not be adopted until these issues are resolved; and
- 5) That the Iowa delegation propose final action on this budget not be taken until all dioceses have had an opportunity to accomplish this review.

The board discussed each of the items considering timing and possible implementation with special regard to accountability to the people in the pew. Provincial Synod was suggested as a place for conversation to begin since representatives from the Program, Budget and Finance Committee of the National Church would be attending.

On a motion by the Rev. Mel Schlachter, duly seconded, the following substitute resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. I

National Church budget

BE IT RESOLVED, That, the Board of Directors thanks the Ways and Means Committee for its concerns about the General Convention Triennial Budget and urges diocesan deputies during their consideration of this budget to work toward a higher level of accountability and to express to Convention the limitations of diocesan resources.

Mr. Joy reviewed the difficulties congregations have about completing an annual audit. There is a misconception that a full CPA audit is required. The diocese provides a simple form that can be completed by a volunteer from the congregation. It was suggested that a volunteer network might be established around the diocese for the purpose of doing audits. An audit is required by canon. No one liked the suggestion that when an audit is missing, one be completed and the congregation billed. Ways and means committee will continue to monitor the process.

Ms. Ellen Bruckner asked the board to consider paying expenses of General Convention deputies to attend the provincial synod meeting in April. The National Church budget, mission priorities, upcoming resolutions and discussions of important issues typically occur at this pre-convention meeting.

On a motion by the Rev. Anne Williams, duly seconded, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. II

General Convention deputies to Synod

BE IT RESOLVED, That deputies to General Convention be reimbursed \$55 for the registration for Provincial Synod plus up to \$250 for expenses. The board authorized the overspending of the General Convention Budget line to cover this expense.

Ms. Nancy Morton reported on the conclusion of the advertising campaign. The ads ran statewide, everywhere served by an Iowa cable network. The diocese received nearly \$22,418 from individuals in every congregation in the diocese, \$1,000 seed money from the Board of Directors and \$6,000 from the National Church. There was a 27% spike in hits to the diocesan web site during the campaign period. The “reach” of 33% and “frequency” as measured by Nielsen Media Research were right on target according the media experts who advised the diocese on the project.

Ms. Phyllis Melton presented the draft of a position paper concerning the sexual-offenders law in the State of Iowa. The board affirmed the need for taking a position and continuing conversation on the subject. Addition of a piece on education around keeping children safe was requested before Bishop Scarfe attended the next meeting of the Governor’s Task Force on re-entry into society of sexual offenders.

On a motion by the Rev. Don Payer, duly seconded, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. III

Position Statement on Sexual-Offender’s Law

BE IT RESOLVED, That, the Board of Directors of the Episcopal Corporation of the Diocese of Iowa approves the following position Statement regarding the re-entry into society of sexual offenders.

A position paper by the Board of Directors, of the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa, prepared for consideration by the Iowa Governor’s Task Force on re-entry into society of Sexual Offenders.

In 2002, the Iowa Legislature established a residency restriction for registered sex offenders whose victims were children. This law restricted these individuals from living within 2000 feet of a school or day care center. After two court challenges, the law was enforced beginning in the fall of 2005.

The Board of Directors of the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa does not support this law. It believes that it does not serve the good interest of children or society, or really assist in the safeguarding of children. In seeking only to exclude sex offenders, it creates an untenable situation, and is a limited approach, difficult to enforce and in fact creating a more dangerous situation with regard to those who are the most predatory.

First, essentially it is a law based on fear, not facts. There is no evidence that broad restrictions on the residence of sex offenders will reduce recidivism. States that have studied this issue, such as Minnesota and Colorado, have found no correlation between proximity to places where children congregate, residence of the offender, and recidivism. In fact, the correlation is between where children live and their relationship with the offender. Most studies have found that 80% to 90% of children victimized were molested in their own home by a relative or friend of the family. Creating theoretical “safe zone” through residency restrictions, therefore, will not have an impact on the majority of sex offenses involving children.

Second, these restrictions have made it more difficult, not easier, to hold sex offenders accountable for their actions through supervision, treatment and support. The law has created innumerable problems for law enforcement personnel, correction officers, treatment providers and families. When offenders cannot find appropriate lawful places to live, they have limited choices – they can be homeless, live far from places of employment and support network, lie, or abscond. None of these choices promote the concepts of accountability that are central to the management of sex offenders.

Our own churches have experienced the need to address this issue directly when known sex offenders have sought welcome in their worshiping community. The churches have chosen to place parameters on the activities of the offenders, but don't exclude, have helped integrate them within the parameters but don't say that they cannot work within the community. We seek to safeguard the children through guardianship of the offender, and the watchfulness of the community, with the offender being a known commodity. We also believe that work with parents is vital. Our process for training congregations to an awareness of the thought world of the sexual offender, through the Safeguarding God's Children training is an ongoing process. Those working close with children must also undergo background checks, as well as more intensive training.

Third, the restriction law has no relationship to the basic tenets of Old and New Testament teachings. Old Testament justice is based on proportional punishment. This law treats all sex offenders as if they are equal, regardless of the circumstances and risk for re-offense. The broad-brush approach has resulted in minors being treated in the same way as “stranger” offenders, low-risk offenders as high-risk offenders. Such an approach ends up wasting resources, needlessly disrupting the lives of families, and adding to disruption within communities. It is important to create a process which defines sexual offenders more accurately according to their actions and potential for re-offending. This affords the potential for assessment-based supervision which can be carried out within the community and not outside it.

New Testament justice is based upon the concept of redemption. Management of sex offenders using prison, structured supervision, treatment and community notification supports the concept that offenders be given the opportunity to become productive and law-abiding members of society. By placing unrealistic and non-functional restrictions on residency, we have created both an additional punishment and undermined the efforts of both the offender and the system to achieve a level of appropriate integration in the community.

We do believe that sex offenders, of any type, should be held accountable. We do believe that society can and should exact punishment for these crimes. We also note that the second highest recidivism rates in society are those of rapists of adult women, and this issue seems to be off the radar in most of our discussions on sex offenses.

As members of the Christian faith community, we also believe that laws should be based upon principles of reason, equity, balance, proportionality and redemption. There are more effective and enforceable options to the punishment and control of sex offenders than the 2000-foot residency restriction. There should also be an increased emphasis on preparing families and the community at large on what to look for in providing a safe place for our children within our own homes and familiar, social places. Churches can certainly help in being such a vehicle.

We encourage the Legislature to repeal 692A.2A and explore replacing it with laws based upon fact and available research.

Moved and seconded as a resolution of the Board of Directors, Episcopal Diocese of Iowa, February 3rd, 2006.

The Rev. Mel Schlachter, chair of the committee engaging in dialogue and reconciliation about issues raised by the Windsor Report, stated that the committee is broadly based but has yet to meet. He is working toward finding a February date.

The Rev. Pat Genereux reviewed the plans and itinerary for the Sammy Horner “Flame in My Heart” tour for young people across the diocese. It begins March 17 in Newton and ends in West Des Moines on April 2nd.

Chapter Cluster Reports:

Southeast: The Rev. Pat Genereux reported that clericus would meet in February. There will be a chapter meeting after Easter. The chapter said farewell to the Rev. Willa Goodfellow and welcomed the Rev. Betsy Lee to the clericus and the chapter. The Rev. Bruce Blois, rector of St. John’s in Keokuk, is coaching the ministry development team at St. Luke’s, Fort Madison. St. Michael’s in Mt. Pleasant is working on its own circle-of-ministries team.

Christ Church, Burlington has been receiving a number of disaffected Episcopalians transferring from Galesburg and Monmouth IL They come for the sacraments and a place to share their pains and frustrations. General Convention in June may push this issue even closer to home as others come forward as well.

Southwest: The Rev. Artis Ferrel reported that everyone in the cluster is doing Bible Study. St. John’s in Glenwood has had requests from a hospital for the bead chaplets members make. They hospital prefers white beads for their patients and pink for those with cancer.

South Cedar: The Rev Mel Schlachter reported that they do not have a meeting schedule although the clergy do meet. Christ Church, Cedar Rapids and Trinity, Iowa City are

collaborating on confirmation instruction and J2A. They will celebrate the ordination to the priesthood of Catherine Quehl-Engel at Trinity, Iowa City. She is chaplain at Cornell College where evensong is celebrated regularly.

Future meeting locations

Mar. 25	St. Mark's, 3120 East 24th St., Des Moines
May 19	St. Timothy's, 1020 24th St., West Des Moines
Aug. 4	St. Anne's, 2110 West First St., Ankeny
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 2:30 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