

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. Mark's Church, 3120 East 24th Street, Des Moines, Iowa on March 24, 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

Ms. Rita Baker

The Rev. Cathleen Bascom

Mr. Bill Early

The Rev. Artis Ferrel

The Rev. Melvin Low

Ms. Kim McIrvin

Ms. Phyllis Melton

The Rev. Donald Payer

The Rev. Patricia Roberts

The Rev. Melvin Schlachter

The Rev. Anne Williams

Ms. Marrie Williams

Canon Paul J. Meginnis, II, *ex officio*

Canon Tom Carpenter, *ex officio*

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

Absent were: The Rev. Alexander Aiton, Ms. Elinor Kornhauser, The Rev. Dian Ong and Mr. William Smith

The Rev. Cathleen Bascom led a meditation on the feeding of the 5,000 in St. John's Gospel.

The minutes of the February 3rd meeting were approved.

Bishop's Report

As I went through my usual procedure for preparing this report – a listing of people, places and planning events from my day-to-day working Calendar – I was struck by the number of Task Forces at work. The Board's Task Force on Strategy and the Asking has met twice, and began to gather church and community demographic data for review. They anticipate a random surveying of mission and ministry needs and interests at the

level of individual parishioners as the next phase of their work. This is something we aim to be reporting back to you on at the May meeting. A fuller report is on this agenda.

Warren Frelund and I met with Janine Tinsley Roe, the Episcopal Church missionary for Native ministries, who visited St. Paul's Indian Mission in Sioux City in early March. She was not only impressed with the extensive ministry among native peoples, but also saw much work to be done, and challenged us to take responsibility for assisting and engaging our people who see St. Paul's as a gathering place. Again, I hope Warren will report more fully later. The third planning Task Force was the group helping me make my Cathedral to Cathedral Pilgrimage Run a reality. With a goal of \$1,000 per mile to be raised for mission work especially among younger adults in ministries of leadership, I am pleased to say that I have had five miles "sponsored" already, and we do not release details until the first week of April. I challenge the Board to be leaders in getting their congregations to support this work.

All of this is about ministry tomorrow. I believe we are making plans for the middle years of our time together: gathering momentum and direction for 2008 onwards. Those ministries seeded in these first three years are showing strong signs of fruition – the ministry development teams (now being connected through the Synagogy event that Willa and Warren are working on); the Theological Education system which we call E-Seminary (Tom announced that more than 25 people have signed up for the next two courses being offered right now); the work of the Commission on Ministry in streamlining their process for ordination in particular and the moving along of people in the process which will result in possibly 15 ordinations from the summer of 2005 to 2007.

We need the newly ordained, and must deploy them in their new cures as priests in charge under mentorships as we also deal with an unprecedented number of open cures in the next couple of years, especially in the North West. This is going to be important work in the next two years, especially in the creating of the mentoring systems. I expect also to see the chapter configurations made canonically formal at the next Convention, and to deepen clergy relationships through increasing my meetings with clergy through chapter clustering. I plan to bring stipendiary clergy together on their own to encourage them to share their thoughts on the ministry development of all our congregations, and see what they can bring to help this be successful.

As some ministry strategies are flowering, others are being planted. The impact of the work of the Bishop's Advisory Group on Stewardship, and of the new creation of the Multicultural Ministries Commission will be seen shortly at the congregational level. At this recent House of Bishops I met with Bishops from Province IX who could be natural resources for mission work among Hispanics in Iowa. I also clarified where the Diocese of Louisiana and Mississippi are in receiving assistance, and we can expect to be invited to offer work crews shortly. Louisiana is still in the direct aid stage, whereas Mississippi is in the rebuilding phase and needs a little more specialized help. Both encouraged us to work directly with their offices through our own Disaster Response Team. Both made it very clear that they expect us to be responsible for the screening of any adults we send to

work with children or youth, including background checks. Teams planning to go down this summer will need to coordinate with the Bishop's staff on this matter immediately.

This was perhaps the best House of Bishops meeting I have attended, even though I missed two of the finer events – the report of the Special Task Force working on responses and resolutions on the Windsor Report, and the platform presentation of the candidates for Presiding Bishop. We were engaging matters of the Communion but we were not letting our energies be consumed by those who were not present or were only partially present, which I think was a decision we came to during our last House of Bishops and was led by the younger members of the House. I missed the two events mentioned above because of participation with a group of Iowans in Iowa Day at the National Cathedral in Washington DC.

Youth is another focus of the present time. As we meet, Sammy Horner is traveling with the Genereuxs on a youth evangelism tour. I was glad to stay around before Iowa Day for the first event at Newton on St Patrick's Day. I look forward to hearing further reports. I also joined forty-five others on the Youth Ski trip in Dubuque area, as well as sharing in a powerful Happening weekend in Cedar Falls earlier this month. Steve Hall made a powerful impression on the participants as he urged us all to let go of our small images of God, often tame and made in those images we can contain.

Travel and visitations since we last met include: visitations to Carroll; St. Paul's Des Moines; St. Luke's, Des Moines; St. James, Oskaloosa; Calvary, Sioux City with Trinity, Ottumwa coming up this weekend. A team of four of us went to Winnipeg to attend Living Stones and present an aspect of our ongoing experience with Ministry Development. This is a Diocesan peer consultation with other Diocese involved in Ministry Development. We shared a group with Wyoming, Vermont, Eastern Michigan and two observing Canadian Dioceses. I also traveled to Columbus, Ohio, from Winnipeg to attend the Church's Program Group on Budget and Finance. I was glad to see that many on that Committee share our questions and misgivings about the Church budget, but I also saw how a third of the budget is spent on Churches beyond The Episcopal Church, and much comes back to the poorer Dioceses of our own Church.

Prior to the Living Stones' trip, I held the one on one staff reviews for the Bishop's staff. These always bring up new insights about our working together. This year we established job descriptions for each of our positions, which is something the auditors have been asking for as long as I have been receiving their reports. In my own reviewing of time, I discovered that more than one third of my time (5/12ths) is spent in what I would call *Episkope* (Oversight) with in office administration, which could be writing reports, strategy thinking, as well as answering e-mail, mail, phone calls, one-on-one appointments etc. A further third is taken up with meetings (what I call the Councils of the Church)– conflict resolution, ministry discernment, mission planning, Commissions, staff, gatherings beyond the Diocese (House of Bishops', Ecumenical Relations) – and a fifth of my time (Teaching ministry of episcopacy) is spent on visitations, teaching sessions, speaking engagements and the preparation for the same. The final fragment of my time (about 1/20th) is taken up with spiritual refreshment and personal growth study. This is the fragment that needs some attention. All of this was taken from the first four

months of my calendar for 2006, so it is actual data. The Standing Committee is preparing a more direct evaluation through contacting a random group within the Diocese.

I finish with a conversation with a passenger on the plane flying home from the House of Bishops. This person was the postmaster of a small town in central Iowa of less than one hundred people. We spoke about day-to-day life in the town, the eccentric fire chief, and the “city” council, how small townspeople on an average probably know more about civics than most larger city dwellers because they have to, feuds among neighbors and workers whose house you had to pass by five or six times a day, community events and the importance of the community center, the expectation that the postmaster knows where everyone is at any given time, and the fact that they still met every Sunday in church – two Lutheran churches, mind you, even if the town has less than 200 people – and of course a Catholic church for the other half of town!

I thought of the Rural Ministries Conference of the Churches Center for Land and People, and I thought of our own Strategy Task Force with which I started this report. All of this is the context of our ministry and mission, and I reflected on two of the presentations of the House of Bishops.

First, I recalled the aftermath of Katrina presentation in which the Bishops of Louisiana and Mississippi spoke of reframing their sense of mission as a result of the disaster. It was not only a question of rethinking where to build churches that were destroyed, but asking if people will actually move back into a given area where a congregation once stood, but also considering the bigger question of what kind of church presence is really needed, and is a self-serving institutional congregation really the answer to people’s needs. I add to this, the presentation from the missionaries of The Episcopal Church, Jim Lemler and Charles Fulton, who said that the days when we expected Baptists to convert people for us who would then seek other ways of formation in the Episcopal Church are gone. We have to claim for ourselves the “labor of evangelism.” How do we make a Diocese of evangelists is my question, where each of the baptized is taught to find a way to fulfill the promise to share by word and deed the love of God? With Charles Fulton coming at the end of this month to begin hopefully this conversation, I think we are making a start, and I hope you at least as leaders of our Diocese are seeking to have your congregations represented.

Appointments

On a motion by The Rev. Mel Schlachter, the board approved the following appointments:

Professional Development Leave Committee

Mr. Don Wacome, St. Georges, Le Mars

Ms. Barb Shubinski, Trinity Church, Iowa City

Commission on Ministry

The Rev. B. Eric Johnson, St. John’s, Dubuque

Multicultural Commission

Ms. Helen Keefe, New Song, Coralville

Ms. Joan Norris, Christ Church, Cedar Rapids

Task Force on Strategic Planning

The Rev. Wendy Abrahamson reported that the Task Force on Strategic Planning has begun the assembling demographic information such as state/local economy and employment. Their research includes data from the church budgets for '04, '05, and '06 requested from each congregation. From this financial information they expect to better understand what it really costs to operate a church. The next step will be a random survey.

Ms. Phyllis Melton reported they had reviewed the results after the change from assessment to asking went into effect. The first year a significant number of congregations met the asking. That has not remained the case. The task force wants to learn what the churches are doing with the difference between asking and pledge.

The Rev. Donald Payer expressed the task force's desire to determine an assessment congregations will be willing to accept that would be fair and expected.

Financial Report

Mr. Robert Joy reported that income from for the first two months into the year was on track. Expenses were up slightly because of advance payments due at the beginning of the year.

Mr. Joy reported that the line item for Ministry Development Team Salary and Housing was under budgeted in the amount of \$8,000 for 2006.

He reported that as St. George's in Le Mars and the growing congregation in Orange City define their relationship, an agreement has been reached for the Orange City group to cover salary and benefits for The Rev. Karen Wacome.

On a motion by The Rev. Anne Williams, duly seconded, the following allowance for clergy housing was approved:

RESOLUTION NO. I

2006 Housing Allowances

Wacome, Karen	\$ 10,032.00
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The Board considered the request of St. Paul's, Durant to receive the deed to its property. Questions were raised as to whether the congregation was accepting its full responsibility as a parish in the diocese. St. Paul's is requested to send representatives to the May 19 meeting of the Board of Directors.

Mr. Joy reminded the Board that the Stewardship Commission has been inactive for several years. The Bishop's Advisory Committee on Stewardship is a task force. Its members signed on for a two-year term and will complete their task in the fall of 2006. Canonically the commission is chaired by an appointee by the Bishop of a member of the Board of Directors. In the past it included chairs of property, ways and means and investment committees. Since the Stewardship Commission is to act as the "finance department" of the diocese, it is suggested that additional persons be appointed with skills in long-range and strategic thinking.

On a motion by Ms. Phyllis Melton, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. II
Stewardship Commission

BE IT RESOLVED, That, the Board of Directors approves the Bishop's plan to re-invigorate the Stewardship Commission to fully implement Canon 7.

Chaplaincies

The Board revisited the subject of parish-based chaplaincies at Iowa's colleges and universities. With the growth of work around the diocese it is time to look at a more equitable distribution of funds available. The parish could provide local evaluation and accountability. The Board requested the ways and means committee to make recommendations when the 2007 budget is prepared.

Chapter Structure

Bishop Scarfe announced that by the September 29th meeting the details of the canonical changes would be ready for presentation at the Diocesan Convention in November. They would go into effect at the annual meeting scheduled for December 1, 2006.

Diocesan Ministry Team Reports

Youth Ministry Development: Ms. Diane Bjorklund highlighted the increasing representation of smaller congregation at youth events as evidenced at the Ski Trip and Happening. She reported that the Flame in My Heart Tour with Sammy Horner was in full swing and would wind up in Ames on March 31. Afterwards Horner would join the youth for an overnight at St. John's and participate in the forum being led by Charles Fulton.

Commission Reports

Congregational Life: Ms. Phyllis Melton reported they plan to visit congregations during the year. In September Fort Dodge will host a regional meeting for churches in the northwest to explore Appreciative Inquiry as a tool for learning how to envision ministry.

One World One Church: Mr. Paul Meginnis reported that sixteen people are going to Swaziland in July. He believes there is a good cross section of people and ages from around the diocese making the trip. He reported that OWOC would fund the United

Thank Offering Custodian's trip to General Convention. The ecumenical committee of the commission organized the Iowa Day Celebration at the National Cathedral in Washington DC on March 19. Bishop Scarfe presided at the eucharist and United Methodist Bishop Gregory Palmer preached.

Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation: The Rev. Anne Williams reported that the Jubilee Commission decided that the JPIC name more clearly described the work of the commission. They plan an April meeting to work on budget matters.

Multicultural Commission: Bishop Scarfe reported the commission has met with a focus on Native American ministry which will include a visit to St. Paul's Indian Mission in Sioux City. They will also work toward building an Hispanic ministry.

Clergy Wellness Commission: The commission has not met.

The meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.

Future meeting locations

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 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