

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

**MINUTES 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. Timothy's Church, 1020 24<sup>th</sup> Street, West Des Moines, Iowa on May 19, 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  
Ms. Elinor Kornhauser  
Ms. Kim McIrvin  
Ms. Phyllis Melton  
The Rev. Patricia Roberts  
The Rev. Melvin Schlachter  
Mr. William Smith  
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; Ms. Diane Bjorklund, Assistant Youth Missioner, Mr. Grant Curtis, Ms. Susan Shantland, The Rev. Darin Lovelace, Mr. Dennis Unga, Ms. Vonnie Dittmer, Mr. George Boldt and The Rev. Thomas Gehlsen.

Absent were: The Rev. Alexander Aiton, The Rev. Dian Ong, The Rev. Donald Payer and The Rev. Anne Williams.

The Rev. Cathleen Bascom led an opening meditation and reflection "For all Christians in their vocation."

The minutes for the March 24 meeting were approved.

**Bishop's Report**

"The future beckons" is the theme of this report. Most things seem to be oriented toward preparation - preparation for the Cathedral to Cathedral run which begins in a week's time; preparation for General Convention; preparation for our own Diocesan Convention which began in earnest with our site visit to the Marriott Hotel this week and with the letters going out to the Iowa female clergy of yesterday; and today, preparation for the 2007 budget which you will be receiving today; preparation for changes anticipated in

2008 in our strategic plan and asking formula as we survey clergy, vestries and congregational members.

The future is also making demands upon us as we consider the viability problems of small, barely pastoral-size congregations with large, overwhelming buildings and dwindling endowments, or assist the people of Christ Church, Clinton as they deliberate about moving from two buildings into one, and which one should it be.

We continue to face the opportunity of reshaping our clergy as new ones enter the diocese and some of our clergy pillars like Steve Hall and Ron Osborne retire, while others anticipate retirement in the next six to twelve months. At our last Board meeting we addressed chaplaincies and the changes are reflected in this upcoming year's budget. We still ask what is to become of Old Brick in the future. And the future is becoming now, as the Bishop's Advisory Group on Stewardship gets ready to launch its educational work in the fall.

The Cathedral-to-Cathedral run has created its own excitement. The financial returns have yet to be determined, and are modest thus far but I know that several congregations are hoping to match the \$ 1000 per mile challenge. Charles Cox has worked very hard at the logistics and found volunteers along the way as drivers, hosts, fellow walkers or joggers. The run has required its own demanding training, which in the end may help to save my health.

The Board's Task Force on Strategic Planning has launched its survey stage. We meet regularly early Wednesday mornings, almost every other week, and have an ambitious schedule to report back to congregations by September 17th. Wendy Abrahamson will give a fuller report today.

Even our Ministry Development Team affiliation is moving into a future stage which demands vigilance, as the Commission on Ministry meets with Grace, Decorah, tonight and plans are being made for visits to St. John's, Glenwood, and St. Luke's, Fort Madison, in the fall. The COM visits are geared to follow the canonical patterns of postulancy and candidacy but with an emphasis on team discernment rather than individual discernment. Within a year we might see our first Ministry Team move towards commissioning and ordination, but it is as more congregations come on board, (we anticipate seven more in the pipeline) that the process will make its own demands. To state the obvious, when we move towards a quarter of our congregations in this process, we are making a significant future commitment to this style of congregational ministry and it will have its own future financial and administrative support questions. Will it need to reflect an increasingly proportionate amount of emphasis in our expense budgeting?

It is therefore no surprise that there is no clear shape for our state of affairs as we engage in so much future work. We may well have taken on similarities with the 1-235 at the moment, and I am expecting greater definition to appear in 2008. It feels strange to be skipping an entire year, but 2007 may well be a year of deeper becoming.

In my regular rounds in the life of the congregations, I made formal visitations to St. Mark's, Des Moines; St. Luke's, Fort Madison; Trinity, Ottumwa; St. Alban's, Spirit

Lake; St. Paul's, Council Bluffs; and Christ Church, Cedar Rapids. For Holy Week, I spent Palm Sunday at Trinity Cathedral in Davenport, and the Easter Vigil and Sunday at St. Paul's Cathedral in Des Moines, with Maundy Thursday at St. Stephen's, Newton, and Good Friday in St. Paul's, Marshalltown, and St. Paul's, Grinnell.

In Marshalltown I participated in their community walk with the Cross and carried it for several stages along Church Street. The entire service was notably bi-lingual in Spanish and English, a sign of the new Iowa. I have also met with vestries from St. Alban's, Davenport, and from Algona and Emmetsburg and with wardens and clergy from St. Mark's, Fort Dodge, on issues of future deployment. I was invited to do mid-week confirmations at St. John's, Ames; St. Stephen's, Newton, and Trinity, Waterloo. These are always particularly joyous as the request often indicates fruit of evangelistic work that cannot "wait" for the visitation schedule!

Our Deacon Gathering this spring was not well attended, though Jean McKinney's presentation on pastoral care was much appreciated, but Clergy Conference in early May was a great success. Roger Ferlo hit a cord with everyone present and set a tone for what we need to be offering in the future. I have been continuing meeting with clergy in chapter clusters. Next week I finish up with a gathering in Davenport. This week I saw clergy from the SE Chapter and last month met with clergy from the Iowa City/Cedar Rapids Chapter. Chapters are going to become more consistently active this fall, as people will be asked to meet to consider the budget and to elect Board representatives prior to Diocesan Convention.

In other Christian formation news, the Youth Ministry Development Team opened up their Spring Forum to the broad topic of congregational development, and invited Charles Fulton of the Episcopal Church staff as keynote speaker I have heard many references from various congregations who had representatives (and a half of all our congregations were represented in a wonderful turn-out), which would indicate that Charles hit a nerve for many people. We need to ask about ways to follow up. The Forum coincided with the final weekend of Sammy Homer's Youth Evangelism Tour, and we had a great closing Eucharist of forum participants and youth conference participants at St. John's, Ames.

In rounding out my schedule, I had the pleasure of ordaining Catherine Quehl-Engle to the priesthood on April 22nd at Trinity, Iowa City. She invited me to participate as a live Bishop in their annual living chess game at Cornell College yesterday. It was fun and very different with lots of paparazzi on hand. More ordinations are planned for June and July as we welcome back Carl Mann, Mitch Smith and Brian McVey. On an ecumenical note, I participated in the 20th anniversary of IRMS as they sought to re-enact the inaugural celebration, which featured Walter Righter quite prominently. I was grateful to Al Aiton for representing the Diocese at the consecration of the new bishop of Sioux City Diocese. And finally you will be glad to know that I did go on retreat for 50 hours in Donnellson at the end of April. It did seem rather busy as I had to keep up my training and seemed to have brought too many position papers to read.

It is always my intention in this report to give a reckoning of my time and emphasis in the current period between board meetings. It always amazes me to see how much goes on in

such a brief period of time. There are always new things, which are beginning to emerge or are in the conversation stages. I met with members of the Chemical Dependency Task Force recently to get their advice for correct procedures in handling concerns about clergy with perceived alcohol problems. They have accepted an invitation to become part of the Clergy Wellness Task Force. Many of you probably know of their semi-annual retreat for people in recovery.

Another group that continues to work at developing a proper plan for handling natural disasters is the Disaster Response Team. Our work has been difficult in fashioning a comprehensive plan for local situations, while at the same time seeking to be true to the changing demands of those seeking help in Louisiana and Mississippi. Trinity, Davenport, and St. Timothy's, West Des Moines, are sending teams to work there this summer, and we hope to plan a Diocesan work team in the mid-fall. That all depends if we have any energy left after everything else! I am told that sometimes less is more, but I have never waited long enough to find out. Beyond the demands of congregational and diocesan life, Mother Nature's excesses or groans and society's politicizing of issues which really ought to be about how we find room for each other in a just and dignified way, all manage to combine to make sure that whatever rest we seek to carve out for ourselves does not last that long! And then there is the simple caring for the children, and the loving of our beloved!

### **Appointments**

On a motion by the Rev. Cathleen Bascom, duly seconded, the following appointments were approved:

#### *Multicultural Commission*

Ms. Lois Eichacker, St. John's, Keokuk

#### *Resolutions Committee of Diocesan Convention*

Mr. Bill West, St. Anne's by the Field, Ankeny

#### *Clergy Wellness Commission*

Ms. Patti Christiansen, St. Timothy's, West Des Moines

The Rev. William Magie, St. Anne's by the Field

### **Financial Report**

Mr. Robert Joy reported that expenses for 2006 were on budget and included payment of certain dues and licenses for a full year. He noted that total income from pledges was one-half to one month behind which is not uncommon for this early into the year.

### **Auditors' Report**

Ms. Susan Shandland, member of the firm of Meriwether, Wilson and Company P.L.C., reported on the recently conducted audit for the financial records of the Diocese. In the opinion of the auditors, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Episcopal Corporation of the Diocese of Iowa as of December

31, 2005 and 2004. The accompanying management letter listed as a Reportable Condition the lack of segregation of duties among accounting personnel.

### **Task Force on Strategic Planning**

The Rev. Wendy Abrahamson reported that the group has been meeting every other week gathering information and having conversations about assessments/askings. Two surveys have been developed. Answers to the questions about what those surveyed value in the parish, the diocese and the greater Church will inform strategies for 2007 and 2008.

An 11% random sample of congregation members was chosen from households receiving *Iowa Connections/Episcopal Life*. This calculation works out to be one in five members for small congregations and one in ten for larger. The survey will go to 100% of the clergy. Vestry and bishop's committees will be surveyed individually.

### **St. Paul's, Durant**

The board has a policy of inviting congregations that do not pledge the amount of the diocesan asking to come to a board meeting to explain the reasons behind their decision. St. Paul's, Durant was invited to the May 19 meeting. The Rev. Darin Lovelace, rector; Mr. Dennis Ungs, senior warden; Ms. Vonnie Dittmer, junior warden; and Mr. George Boldt, past clerk of the vestry, attended. The conversation covered participation expected of a parish in both the finances and program of diocese.

### **2007 Budget**

Mr. Grant Curtis, chair of Ways and Means Committee, presented the proposed budget for 2007. A minority report from Mr. John Thompson was distributed. Mr. Curtis noted that 2007 was the third year of a reduction in the McClure Mission Venture Fund to provide seed money for Ministry Development and Congregational Development work. He also noted that the \$210,000 was less than the \$244,926 requested for the General Church Program (line 18).

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

### **RESOLUTION NO. I**

Rename line 18

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That line 18 General Church Program be renamed Pledge to The Episcopal Church.

Mr. Curtis further noted that a 2% cost of living increase was not included in the Ministry Grants. The discussion centered on criteria for receiving the grants and responsibility for accountability of recipients. Since there is no Ministry Grant policy in place, the topic of grant procedures was referred to the Task Force on Strategic Planning.

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

## **RESOLUTION NO II**

### Ministry Grants 2007

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That, the 2% cost of living increase be restored to the 2007 Ministry Grants and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That, the increase will be funded by an adjustment to Other Investment Income (line 12).

Mr. Curtis announced that two items were not available to the Ways and Means Committee when it met to develop the budget. One was the proposal for the Episcopal Chaplaincy at the University of Iowa on which no action was taken. The other one requested honoraria and expenses for the ten people (not on the diocesan staff) who serve as coaches for ministry development teams in congregations.

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

## **RESOLUTION NO. III**

### Ministry Development coaches

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That, honoraria and expenses in the amount of \$11,000 be available for ten persons (not on the diocesan staff) who coach Ministry development teams in local congregations. And,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That, funding be charged to Theological Education.

### **E-Seminary**

The Rev. Thomas Gehlsen brought the board up to date on the successful launching of E-Seminary. Fifty people completed four courses in theological education the first semester. Registration for the fall semester is now open. By using the ICN network across the State of Iowa, participants were able obtain high quality theological education without having to leave their communities. E-Seminary has brought national exposure and continuing interest to the Diocese of Iowa. Most recently the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge MA has arranged to offer continuing education credits. Other seminaries are considering doing likewise. The Rev. Gehlsen continues to pursue stable funding streams for the future.

### **Regional Reports**

Chapters are just starting to organize. The Northwest Chapter, which crosses some former deanery lines, elected new officers. Ms. Elinor Kornhauser will represent them on the Board of Directors.

There were no other chapter reports. The board is considering requesting written reports at board meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

**Future meeting locations**

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

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