

**Minutes of the 108th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Montana
In Big Sky
October 7, 8 & 9, 2011**

The 108th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Montana commenced Friday, October 7, 2011 with Opening Eucharist at 7 p.m. at the Big Sky Chapel, 510 Little Coyote Road in Big Sky. The Rt. Rev. C. Franklin Brookhart, Jr. was Celebrant and Preacher.

Following Eucharist, The Rt. Rev. C. Franklin Brookhart, Bishop of the Diocese of Montana, called the business session to order at 8:15 p.m. The Rev. Jerry Jasmer, diocesan Senior Active Priest, offered the opening prayer.

Welcome. Bishop Brookhart welcomed everyone to Convention. Pastor Darius Larsen was introduced as Pastor of All Saints Church, the host congregation in Big Sky, a shared ministry of the Episcopal and Lutheran (ELCA) Churches. Laura Sacchi was introduced as the Host Chair.

Credentials Committee. Sandy Williams, Credentials Committee chairperson announced that of a possible 29 clergy, 21 were registered and in attendance, and of a possible 105 lay delegates, 71 had registered and were in attendance. The delegates in attendance (lay and clergy) constitute a two-thirds majority, therefore, Bishop Brookhart stated a quorum was present and the business of the Convention could proceed.

Introductions. Bishop Brookhart introduced The Rev. Jessica Crist, Bishop of the Montana Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and newly elected President of the Conference of Bishops. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was agreed that Bishop Crist be given seat, voice and vote at this Convention.

Rules of Order for the Convention. Bishop Brookhart stated the Convention will follow the General Convention Constitution and Canons, the Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Montana, and the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order. Jim Shuler, Chancellor to the Bishop, and Charlie Briggs, Parliamentarian of the Convention, will be available to advise the Bishop on the Rules of Order throughout Convention.

Election of Diocesan Secretary and Treasurer. Bishop Brookhart reported Gayle Archey was nominated for Diocesan Secretary. There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously approved to accept the nomination as presented. By motion duly made and seconded, Gayle Archey was elected by acclamation to serve as Diocesan Secretary until the 2012 Annual Convention. Bishop Brookhart reported Beth Baker was nominated for Diocesan Treasurer. There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously approved to accept the nomination as presented. By motion duly made and seconded, Beth Baker was elected by acclamation to serve as Diocesan Treasurer until the 2012 Annual Convention.

Appointments to Diocesan Convention Committees. Bishop Brookhart announced those individuals serving on committees during the 108th Diocesan Convention:

1. Credentials: Sandy Williams (Chairperson) and Roger Stone.
2. Nominations Committee: The Rev. Jacob Knee (Chairperson), Kathy Thomas and Bill Warnock.
3. Resolutions Committee: The Rev. Sue Eades (Chairperson), the Rev. David Gunderson and Carl Thomas.
4. Legislation Committee: The Rev. Linda McCloud (Chairperson) and The Rev. Mike Fay.
5. Parliamentarian: Charlie Briggs.

Committee on Legislation. The Rev. Linda McCloud, Chairperson of the Legislation Committee, stated no legislation was received for presentation prior to the 60 day pre-Convention deadline.

Committee on Nominations. The Rev. Jacob Knee, Chairperson of the Nominations Committee, announced elections will be held Saturday to fill the following positions:

Diocesan Council: two clergy positions and two lay positions (three year terms); Standing Committee: one clergy position and one lay position (three year terms).

Committee on Resolutions. Committee on Resolutions Chairperson, The Rev. Sue Eades, announced the Committee received four proposed resolutions. However, only three of the resolutions will be presented during tomorrow's plenary business session, as one was not received by the Diocesan Office prior to the 60 day pre-Convention deadline. Upon motion duly made, the report of the Resolution Committee was accepted as presented.

New Clerics to the Diocese. Bishop Brookhart announced the following new clerics to the Diocese of Montana:

1. The Rev. J. Christopher Roberts is serving as Canon to the Ordinary at the Diocesan Office in Helena.
2. The Rev. Sue Eades is the new Rector at St. James' Church in Dillon.
3. The Rev. Terri Ann Grotzinger is serving as Rector at Holy Spirit Church in Missoula.
4. The Rev. Karen Gail King is serving as Rector of the Episcopal Churches of the Lower Yellowstone Cluster, they being Ascension Church in Forsyth, St. Matthew's Church in Glendive, and Emmanuel Church in Miles City.
5. The Rev. Joan Yetter is the new Rector at Calvary Church in Red Lodge.
6. The Very Rev. Heidi Kinner will be installed as the Dean of St. Peter's Cathedral in Helena on October 16, 2011.

Additionally, Bishop Brookhart announced The Rev. Jean McLean and The Rev. Louise Baker are available for supply work throughout the Diocese.

Designation of Plate Offerings during Convention. The plate offerings received during the Eucharist services throughout Convention will be divided between Camp Marshall, United Thank Offering, and Episcopal Relief and Development. The money raised during the Benefit Auction Event and Banquet Saturday evening will go to Camp Marshall.

Jubilee Ministries. Roger Stone spoke of the Jubilee Ministries within the Diocese. The Diocese currently

has two programs that have been designated as Jubilee Ministries: the Wood Bank from St. James' Church in Dillon, and the Community Gardens from St. Patrick's Church in Bigfork.

Record of Bishop Brookhart's Official Acts. Bishop Brookhart announced a record of his official acts during the past year (Ordinations, Baptisms, Confirmations, Visitations, etc.) is listed in the Diocesan record book which will be available for review throughout the Convention weekend.

Ordination to Sacred Order of Deacons. The Ven. Roxanne Klingensmith announced the Diocese will soon have two new Deacons. Donna Gleaves and Br. Bede Leach will be ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons on October 30, 2011.

Adjournment of Friday Business Session. Bishop Brookhart adjourned the business session with prayer at 8:45 p.m.

Convention Reconvened Saturday Morning. The convention reconvened with a Healing Eucharist on Saturday, October 8th at 8 a.m. at the Big Sky Chapel. The Rev. David Gunderson was Celebrant, and The Rev. Canon J. Chris Roberts was Preacher.

Resurrectional Ministries. Four half hour presentations were offered to Convention delegates Saturday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Geri Campbell, Chair of the Congregational Development Committee spoke about "T-3: Time, Talent and Treasure." David Campbell, Camp Marshall Director and Youth Ministry Coordinator, presented "Just Add Water," the key elements for developing a youth ministry and helpful information for every congregation. The Rev. Jessica Crist, Bishop of the Montana Synod ELCA presented "Call to Common Mission," the long running, successful partnership between The Episcopal Church in the USA and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Finally, The Rev. Edwina Aker and Lin Sultzer talked about the on-going success of the Bigfork/Ferndale Community Garden located at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, which was started in 2009.

Business Session Reconvened. The business session of the Convention reconvened with Bishop Brookhart's call to order at 1 p.m., and prayer lead by The Rev. Jerry Jasmer. Credentials Committee chairperson, Sandy Williams reported 98 lay delegates, and 26 clergy delegates are in attendance. Bishop Brookhart stated a quorum was present and proceeded with the business of the Convention.

Introductions. Bishop Brookhart introduced The Rev. Canon J. Chris Roberts, Canon to the Ordinary. Chris Roberts stated he has compiled a list of supply priests available to serve, and to contact him if more information is needed.

Also introduced was The Rev. Judy Anderson, United Thank Offering (UTO) Coordinator for the Diocese. Judy reminded all to use the UTO blue boxes and envelopes.

Bishop Brookhart's Address. Bishop Brookhart delivered his annual address to the Convention delegation.

Diocesan Council Nominations. Committee on Nominations Chairperson, the Rev. Jacob Knee, assisted by Roger Stone, announced the nominations for Diocesan Council.

Jacob indicated the need to fill four positions, two clergy and two lay, each for three-year terms.

In the clergy order, the Rev. Sue Eades and the Very Rev. Heidi Kinner were nominated. There being no further nominations in each order, upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously approved, the nominations were closed. Upon motion duly made and seconded, a unanimous ballot was cast for the Rev. Sue Eades and the Very Rev. Heidi Kinner in the clergy order. Upon motion duly made and seconded, a unanimous ballot was cast for Gayle Gransbery and Carol Goddard in the lay order.

Standing Committee Nominations. Jacob Knee announced the nominations for Standing Committee. Jacob indicated the need to fill two positions each for three year terms, one clergy and one lay. The Rev. Canon Clark Sherman was nominated in the clergy order, and Lee Stadtmiller was nominated in the lay order. There being no further nominations in each order, upon motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously approved, the nominations were closed. Upon motion duly made and seconded, a unanimous ballot was cast for the Rev. Canon Clark Sherman in the clergy order. Upon motion duly made and seconded, a unanimous ballot was cast for Lee Stadtmiller in the lay order.

Presentation of 2012 Budget. Diocesan Treasurer, Beth Baker presented the proposed 2012 operating budget for the Episcopal Diocese of Montana. Beth noted the proposed 2012 budget is based on an 19.0% assessment rate, which is an increase of one-half percent to cover expenses for the eight delegates to General Convention to be held July 2012 in Indianapolis. Beth stated the proposed 2012 budget also includes a \$1,200 raise for Diocesan staff. Additionally, Beth said allocation of funds for the Program Budget was done by the program and committee chairpersons. Beth said this is the second year the allocation process has been done this way, and it seems to be working very well. In an effort to save on expenses, a lot of committees have gone to conference call meetings instead of in-person meetings. Beth entertained a motion to bring the proposed 2012 budget before Convention. The motion was made, seconded and approved. A motion was duly made and seconded to accept the 2012 Operating Budget for the Diocese of Montana as printed. The motion was approved by a majority vote of the Convention delegation.

Convention Entertainment. Convention Delegate, Tiffany Boucher, from Christ Church in Sheridan, the current Montana State Grand Champion Fiddler, entertained the Convention delegation by playing several songs on her fiddle.

Funds Available from Leadership Development Commission on Ministry. The Very Rev. Stephen Brehe announced the Leadership Development Commission on Ministry has \$7,000 available for distribution to congregations and individuals. The money came from donations, the silent auction at last year's Diocesan Convention and various benefactors. Those interested in applying for a portion of these monies should contact The Rev. Canon Clark Sherman.

Committee on Resolutions. Committee on Resolutions Chairperson, the Rev. Sue Eades, announced three resolutions were received for presentation prior to the 60 day pre-Convention deadline. Other members of the Committee on Resolutions include The Rev. David Gunderson and Carl Thomas.

1. Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously agreed, the following resolution entitled "The 77th General Convention of the Episcopal Church in the USA designate September as Lay Ministry Month" be presented to the Convention delegation for their consideration. Following discussion and several amendments, upon motion duly made and seconded, the following resolution was approved by the Convention delegation, and will be presented to the 2012 General Convention.

WHEREAS, the work of the Church is ministry, and lay people are the first listed in the Book of Common Prayer as ministers of the Church, and

WHEREAS, it is important to people to recognize that they are Christ's heart, hands and feet in the world, and

WHEREAS, The Episcopal Diocese of Montana has observed September as Lay Ministry Recognition Month for the past seven years as a time to celebrate the ministry of lay people in the workplace, school, volunteer activities and through outreach with a special litany, a pastoral letter from the Bishop and with lay ministry fairs being held in parishes, and

WHEREAS, we would like to see September declared as official Lay Ministry Month in the Episcopal Church.

RESOLVED, that the 77th General Convention designate September as Lay Ministry Month annually in The Episcopal Church in the USA to recognize and celebrate the integral and vital ministry of the laity throughout the year.

2. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was agreed the resolution entitled "Church Calendar Commemoration to the Right Reverend Daniel S. Tuttle, The Reverend George W. Foote and the Reverend E.N. Goddard" be presented to the Diocesan Convention delegation for their consideration.

RESOLVED the House of _____ concurring, that application be made to the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to designate May 23rd as the annual commemoration of the life and work of The Right Reverend Daniel Sylvester Tuttle, the Bishop of Montana with Jurisdiction in Idaho and Utah, The Reverend George W. Foote and The Reverend Edward N. Goddard in the liturgical calendar, Holy Women, Holy Men.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously agreed, the resolution was approved by the Convention delegation and will be forwarded to the 2012 77th General Convention for deliberation by the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops.

3. A motion was made and seconded to consider *revised* Resolution #3 entitled "Authorization for Bishop to Engage in Title Four Implementation," as it was not submitted by the Convention deadline. With an affirmative vote, revised Resolution #3 was approved for discussion and consideration at Convention. This is a "bridge resolution" until the General Convention in 2012, which is designed to guarantee clergy are given a fair trial in the event of disciplinary action. Following a lengthy discussion, upon motion duly made, seconded and agreed upon by a majority of the Convention delegation, the following resolution was approved and will be forwarded to the 2012 77th General Convention for deliberation.

BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the Diocese of Montana adopt and shall implement the revisions to the Canons for Ecclesiastical Discipline also known as Title IV adopted by the 76th General Convention of the Episcopal Church in 2009, which shall become effective on July 1, 2011; and
2. It is in the best interest of the Diocese of Montana to enter into an agreement with one or more sister Dioceses of the Episcopal Church to share assets and resources in order to implement the provisions of the revised Title IV Canons. Therefore, the Bishop is requested to enter into negotiations with one or more Dioceses of the Episcopal Church in order to implement the Title Four revisions within a multi-diocese structure, which because of possible changes, will continue; and
3. An agreement has been reached with the Diocese of Idaho. The Bishop shall, in consultation with, and with the consent of the Standing Committee, appoint the Church Attorney and members of the disciplinary Board necessary to implement the revisions of Title Four within a multi-diocesan structure consistent with the revisions to the Canons for Ecclesiastical Discipline adopted at the 76th General Convention in 2009. Such appointments shall be retroactively effective on July 1, 2011. In the event Idaho does not adopt the agreement, the Bishop is authorized to pursue other agreements; and
4. In the event that the agreement is terminated or expires before Diocesan Convention 2012, the Bishop shall then, in consultation with, and the consent of the Standing Committee, appoint qualified persons to fill the offices and to perform the duties necessary to implement the Canons for Ecclesiastical Discipline adopted at the 76th General Convention in 2009, also known as Title Four, for the Diocese of Montana, and such appointments shall become effective November 1, 2011, or on the date such appointments is executed by the Bishop, whichever occurs last.
5. Provisions 3 and 4 (above) will sunset at the 2012 Diocesan Convention. During the interim, details of the changes necessary to implement Title IV will be developed and be presented to the 2012 Diocesan Convention for consideration.

Bishop's Announcements. Bishop Brookhart made the following announcements:

1. On October 16, 2011, The Very Rev. Heidi Kinner will be installed Dean and Rector at St. Peter's Cathedral in Helena.
2. Donna Gleaves and Br. Bede Leach will be ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons on October 30, 2011 at St. Peter's Cathedral in Helena.
3. Bishop Brookhart will institute The Rev. Terri Ann Grotzinger as the 12th Rector of Holy Spirit Parish in Missoula on November 6, 2011.

4. A Lay Retreat lead by Bishop Brookhart is scheduled for October 28, 29 & 30, 2011 at Camp Marshall.

Thanks to Committee Members. Bishop Brookhart offered his thanks to those individuals who have served on various Diocesan boards, commissions, committees and councils, and whose terms of service is now expiring:

1. Christian Formation: Cynthia Benkelman
2. Commission on Ministry: The Ven. Roxanne Klingensmith
3. Congregational Development Committee: Manny Hoag, Barb Hoag and The Rev. Linda McCloud
4. Diocesan Council: Carol Goddard, Gayle Gransbery, The Rev. David Gunderson and The Rev. Clark Sherman
5. Finance Department: Beth Baker
6. Standing Committee: Rick Harden and The Rev. John Toles
7. Social Justice Committee: Ginnie Lane
8. Board of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Montana Foundation: Beth Baker and The Rev. David Gunderson

Jubilee Ministries Presentation. In recognition of work in and around their communities, two Episcopal Churches in Montana were awarded Jubilee Ministry designations: St. Patrick's Church in Bigfork for their Community Garden, and St. James' Church in Dillon for the Wood Bank. As members of the Jubilee Ministry, St. Patrick's and St. James' are eligible for various grant monies to enable them to further their good work and efforts.

Annual Report. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously agreed to accept the 2010 Annual Report of the Diocese.

Courtesy Resolutions. Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, the Rev. Sue Eades presented the following courtesy resolutions:

WHEREAS, Sandy Williams has faithfully served the Diocese of Montana for 16 years as Chairperson of the Credentials Committee; and

WHEREAS, Sandy has performed her duties with diligence, efficiency and grace; BE IT RESOLVED, that the 108th Convention of the Diocese of Montana extend to Sandy our deepest gratitude for her years of outstanding service.

WHEREAS, the faith community of All Saints, Big Sky graciously welcomed the delegates and visitors of the Episcopal Diocese in the name of Jesus; and

WHEREAS, as they have sought to make us comfortable; have helped us traverse the hallways and highways of both Buck's T4 and Big Sky; and

WHEREAS, as they have worked tirelessly and faithfully in preparation for this Convention and have invited us into their wonderfully holy and sacred ecumenical worship space;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the 108th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Montana offer heartfelt thanks and gratitude for making our time together such a blessing.

Diocesan Convention 2012. The Very Rev. Heidi Kinner, Dean of St. Peter's Cathedral in Helena extended an invitation to the 109th Annual Diocesan Convention to be held October 12, 13, 14 2012 at the Red Lion Colonial Inn in Helena.

Diocesan Convention 2013. Members of Christ Church, Kalispell announced they will host the 110th Diocesan Convention 11, 12, 13 October 2013 in Kalispell.

Convention Adjournment. Bishop Brookhart adjourned the business session with prayer at 4:35 p.m. A social hour, banquet and silent auction followed, with the auction proceeds benefitting Camp Marshall.

Sunday Festival Eucharist and Conclusion of Convention. The Convention concluded on Sunday, October 9, 2011 with a Festival Eucharist at 9:30 a.m. at The Big Sky Chapel. Bishop Brookhart was Celebrant, with The Rev. Jessica Crist Con- Celebrant and Preacher.

Respectfully submitted,
Gayle Gallik Archey, Diocesan Secretary.