

MINUTES OF THE 106TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MONTANA IN MISSOULA

SEPTEMBER 25, 26 & 27, 2009

The 106th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Montana commenced Friday, September 25, 2009 with Opening Eucharist at 7 p.m. at Holy Spirit Parish, 130 South Sixth Street East in Missoula.

The Rt. Rev. C. Franklin Brookhart, Bishop of the Diocese of Montana, called the business session to order at 8:30 p.m. The Rev. Steve Oreskovich, Convention Chaplain, offered the opening prayer.

Welcome. Bishop Brookhart welcomed everyone to Convention, especially the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, and her husband. The Rev. Steve Oreskovich was introduced as Rector of Holy Spirit Parish, the host congregation. Bishop Brookhart next introduced his wife, Sue. Elke Scholl was introduced as the Host Chair, who presented a few housekeeping announcements to the Convention delegation.

Credentials Committee. Sandy Williams, Credentials Committee chairperson announced that of a possible 32 clergy, 27 were registered and in attendance, and of a possible 122 lay delegates, 84 had registered and were in attendance. Bishop Brookhart stated a quorum was present and the business of the Convention could proceed.

Election of Diocesan Secretary and Treasurer. Bishop Brookhart reported Gayle G. Archey was nominated for Diocesan Secretary. There being no further nominations, upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously approved to accept the nomination as presented. By motion duly made and seconded, Gayle G. Archey was elected by acclamation to serve as Diocesan Secretary until the 2010 Annual Convention. Bishop Brookhart reported Beth Baker was nominated for Diocesan Treasurer. There being no further nominations, 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 2010 Annual Convention.

Appointments to Diocesan Convention Committees. Bishop Brookhart announced those individuals serving on committees during the 106th Diocesan Convention:

- Dispatch of Business: Gayle G. Archey.
- Credentials: Sandy Williams (Chair), Roger Stone, and the Rev. George Walter.
- Nominations Committee: The Rev. Michael Fay (Chair), the Rev. John Toles, Cynthia Benkelman, and Lee Stadtmiller.
- Resolutions Committee: The Rev. Jane Schmoetzer (Chair), the Rev. Canon Bradley Wirth, Ted Lovec, and Martha Winford.

- Legislation Committee: The Rev. Jane Shipp (Chair), Cliff Shipp, Tom Todd, and the Rev. Pattiann Bennett.
- Parliamentarian: Charlie Briggs.

Committee on Legislation. The Rev. Jan Shipp, Chair of the Legislation Committee announced the Committee received no proposed legislation for presentation at Convention.

Committee on Nominations. The Rev. Michael Fay, Chair of the Nominations Committee announced that elections will be held Saturday to fill the following vacancies:

- Diocesan Council: 2 clergy positions and 2 lay positions (3-year terms);
- Standing Committee: 1 clergy position and 1 lay position (3-year terms);
- Foundation Board of Trustees: 2 clergy positions (4-year terms).

Committee on Resolutions. Committee on Resolutions Chair, the Rev. Jane Schmoetzer, announced no resolutions had been received for presentation by the 60 day pre-Convention deadline. However, one resolution dealing with health care reform was received after the deadline. Jane stated the Convention delegation will vote to determine if this late resolution can be considered at Convention.

Introductions. Bishop Brookhart introduced the Rev. Judy Anderson, the United Thank Offering (UTO) Coordinator for the Diocese. Also introduced was Barb Hagen, the Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) Coordinator for Province VI and for the Diocese of Montana. Barb announced to date, the Diocese of Montana has raised over \$32,000 for ERD. Further, Barb stated the Diocese was challenged a few months ago to raise \$4,000 for ERD; the Diocese far exceeded this challenge by raising \$8,000. Jamie Sherman was introduced as the Diocesan Chair for Godly Play.

Designation of Plate Offerings during Convention. It was announced that plate offerings received during the Eucharist services throughout Convention will be split one-half to Camp Marshall, and one-half to Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD).

Diocesan School for Deacons. The Ven. Roxanne Klingensmith gave an update on the Diocesan School for Deacons. Roxanne stated the goal of the School is to have a Deacon in every parish throughout the Diocese of Montana.

Adjournment of Friday Business Session. Bishop Brookhart adjourned the business session with prayer at 9:00 p.m. A reception held in Holy Spirit's Parish Hall immediately followed.

Convention Reconvened Saturday Morning. The Convention reconvened with a Healing Eucharist on Saturday, September 26 at 8:00 a.m.

Mini-Versity Presentations. Four Mini-Versity presentations were offered to Convention delegates Saturday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. The Mini-Versity presentations included:

- A Habitat for Humanity Tour: Build Louder! Decent Housing Changes Lives & Communities.
- Love Thy Neighbor: A Look At the New Faces of Poverty.
- This Fragile Earth; Our Island Home: Finding Ways to Live More Sustainably.

- The Closer We Look, The More Alike We Are: Learning How Montana's Togendowagan Society Blends Native American & Episcopal Spiritual Traditions in Worship.

Convention Reconvened at 1:30 p.m. Convention reconvened with Bishop Brookhart calling the business session to order at 1:30 p.m., and prayer lead by the Rev. Steve Oreskovich. Bishop Brookhart introduced the Chancellor of the Diocese, Jim Shuler; and the Parliamentarian of the Diocese, Charlie Briggs.

Holy Cross Church, Billings. As Holy Cross is a newly formed mission in Billings, the Missioner, the Rev. Linda McCloud, requested Bob Cummings and Robyn Cummings, two delegates from Holy Cross, be given voice and vote at this 106th Diocesan Convention. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the motion was approved.

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

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

Diocesan Council Nominations. Committee on Nominations Chairperson, the Rev. Mike Fay, announced the nominations for Diocesan Council. Mike indicated the need to fill four positions, two clergy and two lay, each for three year terms. The Rev. George Walter and the Rev. Tim Ljunggren were nominated in the clergy order. Bob Cummings, Dillon Warn and Louis Bowne were nominated in the lay order. There being no further nominations, upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously approved, the nominations were closed. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Rev. George Walter and the Rev. Tim Ljunggren were elected by acclamation.

Standing Committee Nominations. Mike Fay announced the nominations for Standing Committee. Mike indicated the need to fill 2 positions each for 3-year terms, 1 clergy and 1 lay. The Rev. Canon Bradley Wirth and The Rev. Jacob Knee were nominated in the clergy order, and R. D. "Dutch" Brewer, Kenneth Zahn, Sandy Williams and Joanne Taylor were nominated in the lay order. There being no further nominations, upon motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously approved, the nominations were closed.

Diocesan Foundation Board of Trustees. The Rev. Mike Fay announced the nominations for Board of Trustees of the Episcopal Diocese of Montana Foundation. Mike indicated the need to fill two positions in the clergy order, each for four year terms. The Rev. Canon Joe Scheeler and the Rev. J. Elton Smith were nominated. There being no further nominations, upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously approved, the nominations were closed. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Rev. Canon Joe Scheeler and the Rev. J. Elton Smith were elected by acclamation.

Results of Election for Diocesan Council. Mike Fay announced Bob Cummings and Louis Bowne were elected to Council, each to serve a three year term.

Results of Election for Standing Committee. Mike Fay announced the results of the Standing Committee election. Joanne Taylor and The Rev. Canon Bradley Wirth were elected, each to serve a three year term.

Presentation of 2010 Budget. Diocesan Treasurer, Beth Baker, presented the proposed 2010 operating budget for the Episcopal Diocese of Montana. Beth noted the following with respect to the 2010 budget:

- The assessment rate for the proposed 2010 budget remains at 18.5%.
- The budget contains a 3% raise for Diocesan staff.
- The budget contains no money for assisted congregations.
- No investment funds are used to balance the budget.

Beth entertained a motion to bring the proposed 2010 budget before Convention. The motion was made, seconded and approved. Following a brief discussion, a motion was duly made and seconded to receive the 2010 operating budget for the Diocese of Montana. The motion was approved by a majority vote of the Convention delegation.

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 are now expiring.

- Anti-Racism Committee: The Rev. John Board, the Rev. J. Elton Smith and Martha Winford.
- Board of Examining Chaplains: Charlie Briggs and the Rev. Jane Schmoetzer.
- Camp Marshall Advisory Committee: Jan Butorovich and Sharon Songstad.
- Chancellor to the Bishop: Jim Shuler and Tom Morrison.
- Christian Formation: Lea Colvill and Jamie Sherman.
- Commission on Ministry: The Rev. William Baumgarten and Sutton Smith.
- Congregational Development Committee: Geri Campbell, Daryl Todd, the Rev. Mike Fay and the Rev. Glen Gleaves.
- Diocesan Council: Jerry Asleson, the Rev. Jean Collins, Donna Gleaves and the Rev. J. Elton Smith.
- Finance Department: Ginnie Lane, Carl Thomas and Kathy Thomas.
- Ecclesiastical Trial Court: Jim Hunt and the Rev. John Moran.
- Standing Committee: Scott Jourdonnais and the Rev. Carolyn Kuhr.
- Youth & Young Adult Committee: Clark Carlson-Thompson and the Rev. Jane Schmoetzer.

Camp Marshall. Dave Campbell, Camp Director, stated the 2009 camping season was a success and Camp continues to be a positive experience in the lives of many young people. Dave said attendance is increasing every year and Camp Marshall is growing. Dave stated for the fourth consecutive year, Camp Marshall hosted Grace Camp, a camping experience specifically designed for children of incarcerated parents.

School for Deacons. The Ven. Roxanne Klingensmith (Archdeacon) gave an update on the School for Deacons. Deacons currently serving in the Diocese are: Myrna Chaney (Dean of the School), Doug Anderson, Judith Anderson, Robyn Barnes, John Board, Rick Johnson, John Moran and Cynthia Seddon. Individuals currently enrolled in the School are: Donna Gleaves, Mary Alice Jones, Duane Leach and Martha Winford. Roxanne challenged the Convention delegates to search within their congregations for individuals to join the Deaconate program. The goal of the School for Deacons is to have a deacon in every parish throughout the Diocese.

Update on Diocesan Programs. The Rev. Canon Maurice “Mo” Champion-Garthe spoke about the Safeguarding God’s Children program whereby all individuals working with children in the parishes must have a background check and receive training with respect to giving appropriate affection to children. Canon Mo announced there are currently 75-100 individuals in the Diocese who have completed the program. Additionally, Canon Mo stated Anti-Racism training continues to be offered within the Diocese, with the next one day training session being October 17, 2009 at St. John’s Church in Butte.

Printed Annual Reports. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously agreed to accept the 2008 Annual Report of the Diocese.

Core Values of the Episcopal Diocese of Montana. On behalf of the Standing Committee, Scott Jourdonnais presented the five Core Values of the Diocese, together with the elements of being an adult member of the Diocese of Montana.

Core Values:

1. Commitment to Christ and the Church.
2. Enthusiasm for the Mission of one’s congregation and for the Vision and Mission of the Diocese.
3. Compassionate action in the world for the sake of Christ.
4. Obedience, discipline and responsibility in our common life. We play by the rules, and take responsibility for what we say and do.
5. Scripture is the standard of our life together.

Being an Adult Member of the Diocese:

1. I will be faithful in attendance at Holy Eucharist, knowing that communing once per week is the minimal norm.
2. I will pray daily for the church catholic, the diocese, the bishop, my congregation, my vestry, and my priest as part of my daily discipline of prayer.
3. I will give generously of my income time, talent and treasures for the work of Christ through the Church, knowing that the tithe (10% of one’s income), is the norm.
4. I will analyze my talents and interests so that I can develop a personal ministry both outside and inside the church.
5. I will speak well of my congregation, priest, bishop, and The Episcopal Church in public.
6. I will analyze my life journey so that I am aware of and can tell the story of God’s gracious action in my life.
7. If I am in conflict with another member, I will seek reconciliation by speaking directly and privately with that person, avoiding the appearance of gossip and triangulation.
8. I will seek to grow in my relationship with our Lord and in my knowledge of scripture, prayer, theology, the Prayer Book, and the sacraments.
9. I will support my priest and bishop by prayer and by interpreting their words and actions in a charitable way.
10. I will invite others to church and share my God story with them.

Committee on Resolutions. Committee on Resolutions Chairperson, the Rev. Jane Schmoetzer, announced that no resolutions were received for presentation prior to the 60 day pre-Convention deadline. There was, however, one resolution received after the deadline with respect to health care reform. Bishop Brookhart declared it a timely resolution, allowing the resolution to be presented to the

Convention delegation without a two-thirds majority vote. Following discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded, the following resolution, as amended, was approved by a majority vote:

Whereas, the current discussion concerning health care reform is in danger of obscuring the true problem that many of God's children are suffering and will suffer for lack of adequate health care;

Be It Resolved, that the 106th Convention of the Diocese of Montana:

- Affirms the right of all of God's children to receive the necessary health care that preserves the body and thereby provides opportunity for nourishment of the soul; and
- Commits itself as a Diocese and as individual members of the Diocese to be Christ-like advocates speaking for those who have neither power nor voice to affect the reform.

The Presiding Bishop Speaks to Convention. The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, spoke to the Convention delegates regarding decisions and developments from the General Convention held this past summer in California, and answered questions from the delegates.

Diocesan Convention 2010. Kenneth Zahn announced the 107th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Montana will be held in Bozeman, hosted by St. James' Church, on October 1, 2, & 3, 2010.

Diocesan Convention 2011. ELCA Pastor Darius Larsen, the Pastor-In-Charge of All Saint's Episcopal Church in Big Sky, together with Laura Sauke, extended an invitation to the Episcopal Diocese of Montana to attend the 108th Annual Convention in Big Sky in the fall of 2011.

Courtesy Resolutions. Members of the Resolutions Committee, the Rev. Jane Schmoetzer, Ted Lovec, the Rev. Canon Bradley Wirth and Martha Winford submitted the following courtesy resolutions for inclusion in the Minutes of the 106th Annual Diocesan Convention:

(COURTESY RESOLUTIONS TO BE INCLUDED WHEN RECEIVED)

Convention Adjournment. Bishop Brookhart adjourned the business session at 5:25 p.m. An evening of good food, entertainment, fellowship, and a live and silent auction followed. Auction items were donated by various parishes throughout the Diocese with the auction proceeds going to Camp Marshall.

Sunday Festival Eucharist and Conclusion of Convention. The Convention reconvened on Sunday, September 27, 2009 with a Festival Eucharist at 9 a.m. at Holy Spirit Parish, concluding the 106th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Montana.

Respectfully submitted,
Gayle Gallik Archey
Diocesan Secretary