

The Episcopal Diocese of Montana

Minutes of the 105th Annual Convention

The 105th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Montana commenced Friday, October 3, 2008 at 7 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 27 North 27th Street in Billings, with Opening Eucharist celebrated by the Rev. Tim Ljunggren.

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. The Rev. Canon Gary Waddingham, Rector of the host congregation, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, was introduced and presented a few housekeeping announcements including the collection of non-perishable food for the Billings Food Bank and the Saturday morning service projects.

Credentials Committee. Sandy Williams, Credentials Committee chairperson announced that of a possible 43 clergy, 28 clergy had registered and were in attendance, and of a possible 118 lay delegates, 87 delegates had registered and were in attendance. Bishop Brookhart announced 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 2009 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 2009 Annual Convention.

Appointments to Diocesan Convention Committees. Bishop Brookhart announced those individuals serving on committees during the 105th Diocesan Convention:

- Dispatch of Business: Gayle G. Archey.
- Credentials: Sandy Williams (Chairperson), Roger Stone, and Mary Alice Moffet.
- Nominations Committee: The Rev. Michael Fay (Chairperson); the Rev. John Toles, Ginnie Lane, and David Agnew.
- Resolutions Committee: The Rev. Jane Schmoetzer (Chairperson), the Rev. Glen Gleaves, Donna Gleaves, and Ted Lovec.
- Legislation Committee: The Rev. Jane Shipp (Chairperson), Eugenie Drayton, Manny Hoag; and the Rev. Pattiann Bennett.
- Parliamentarian: Charlie Briggs.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, Bishop Brookhart's selection for Chancellor of the Diocese, Jim Shuler from St. Peter's Cathedral in Helena, was unanimously affirmed by the Convention Delegation.

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

- Diocesan Council: Three clergy positions and two lay positions (three year terms);
- Standing Committee: One clergy position and one lay position (three year terms); and
- Ecclesiastical Trial Court: One lay position (seven year term).

Introductions.

- Bishop Brookhart introduced his wife, Sue. The Bishop then introduced members of the Diocesan staff, they being The Rev. Canon Maurice Champion-Garthe, Canon to the Ordinary; Barbara Hagen, Canon for Finance; Roger Stone, Canon for Administration; and David Campbell, Camp Marshall and Diocesan Youth Director.
- The Rev. Canon Maurice Champion-Garthe introduced clergy new to the Diocese of Montana this year. The Rev. Linda McCloud is serving Holy Cross Church in Billings, the newest mission in the Diocese. The Reg. George Walter is serving St. Andrew's in Polson.
- Darius Larsen, a Lutheran pastor from Big Sky was introduced. Darius is working under a partnership arrangement with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and serves both the Lutheran church and All Saint's Episcopal Church in Big Sky.
- Also introduced was Kathy Thomas, the 2008 United Thank Offering (UTO) Coordinator for the Diocese. It was noted Kathy is resigning her position at year end. Barb Hagen, the Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) Coordinator for Province VI and for the Diocese of Montana was next introduced. Barb announced as of August 2008, the Diocese of Montana has donated \$30,000.00 to ERD.
- The Deputies to General Convention were introduced. The deputies (4 clergy and 4 lay) are: The Rev. Carolyn Kuhr (Chair), the Rev. Canon Bradley Wirth, the Rev. David Gunderson, the Rev. Jean Collins, Cynthia Benkelman, Mary Jett, Sandy Williams and Ralph Spence. Clergy alternates are: the Rev. Gail Wheatley, the Rev. John Toles, the Rev J. Elton Smith. Lay alternates are Mary Alice Jones, Susan Bartlett, Terry Moran and Carol Anderson. General Convention will be held in Anaheim, California from July 8 through July 17, 2009.

Record of Bishop Brookhart's Official Acts. Bishop Brookhart announced that 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.

Designation of Plate Offerings During Convention. It was announced that plate offerings received during the Eucharist services on Friday evening and Saturday morning will be split one-half to Camp Marshall, and one-half to Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD). The plate offerings received during the Sunday Eucharist service wherein Jedediah Fox, will be ordained to the Deaconate, will go to Jed's discretionary fund.

Adjournment of Friday Business Session. Bishop Brookhart adjourned the business session with prayer at 9:10 p.m.

Convention Reconvened Saturday Morning. The 105th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Montana reconvened on Saturday, October 4, 2008 at 8 a.m. with a Healing Eucharist celebrated by the Rev. Jane Shipp.

Community Service Projects. Convention delegates had the opportunity to participate in various community service projects around Billings. The community service projects provided assistance to the following local organizations: (1) The Billings Food Bank; (2) Habitat for Humanity; (3) Montana Rescue Mission; (4) St. Vincent de Paul; (5) YWCA Gateway House; (6) Family Services; and (7) MOV Sandwiches.

Convention Reconvened at 1:30 p.m. Convention reconvened with Bishop Brookhart calling the business session to order at 1:30 p.m. with prayer lead by the Rev. Steve Oreskovich.

Godly Play. The Rev. Gail Wheatley introduced Jamie Sherman, who told an inspiring story incorporating colorful banners demonstrating the creative curriculum of Godly Play.

Wellness Clinic by the Church Medical Trust. It was announced that immediately following the adjournment of the business session today, nurses and a life coach from the Church Medical Trust will offer hand and scalp massages, skin cancer screenings, and information on nutrition, chiropractic, stress and reflexology. A stain-glass demonstration will be given to show how working with our hands through art can calm our minds and relieve stress. Hand-outs and give-a-ways will be available.

Lutheran/Episcopal Partnership Agreement at Big Sky. It was announced that the Lutheran Pastor, Darius Larsen, is the Pastor-In-Charge at All Saint's Episcopal Church in Big Sky pursuant to a partnership arrangement with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously agreed to give Darius Larsen seat, voice and vote at this Diocesan Convention and all subsequent Diocesan conventions while he is working at All Saint's Church in Big Sky.

Bishop Brookhart's Address. The bishop presented his annual address to the Convention delegation. Under the direction of Bishop Brookhart, the Convention delegation broke into small groups to discuss "resurrection efforts" within our own churches, a very positive, up-lifting exercise. Bishop Brookhart announced that after the banquet tonight, he and his wife, Sue, will meet with individuals interested in hearing an account of their experiences at the Lambeth Conference.

Committee on Resolutions. Committee on Resolutions Chairperson, the Rev. Jane Schmoetzer, announced that five resolutions had been received for presentation by the 60 day pre-Convention deadline, as follows:

Pulpit Exchange. Resolved, that the congregations and full-time clergy of the Episcopal Diocese of Montana commit themselves to at least one pulpit/Eucharist exchange during the next 11 months.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Resolution was approved by a majority of the Convention delegation.

Establish the First Sunday of Lent as Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday. The following Resolution be submitted for consideration and adoption to Province VI and to the 76th General Convention of The Episcopal Church:

Resolved, that the first Sunday in Lent be designated as Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD) Sunday and an annual celebration of ERD's role in our collective mission to seek and serve Christ in all persons.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Resolution was approved by a majority of the Convention delegation.

A Resolution to Encourage Individual Parishes to Develop Programs to Include Youth in the Full Body of the Church (Kids Included in Church Community).

Resolved that all churches in the Diocese of Montana and all the leaders therein commit to a plan to include youth as full participating members of their Church; and be it

Further resolved that each congregation develop plans to support "Kids Included in Church Community." Kids being interpreted as "youth" as defined by the individual church, including to not limited to middle school and high school aged persons.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Resolution was approved by a majority of the Convention delegation.

The Diocese of Montana Should Join Other Dioceses in the Episcopal Church and Deputies Attending the 76th General Convention in Introducing the Following "Prayers for the Life and Loss of Companion Animal" Resolution to the 76th General Convention.

The following Resolution be submitted for consideration and adoption to the 76th General Convention of The Episcopal Church:

Resolved that the General Convention direct the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music to develop prayers of thanksgiving for the life of and to observe the loss of a companion animal for inclusion in the next edition of the Book of Occasional Services and that it report its work to the 77th General Convention.

Upon motion duly made and seconded the Resolution was approved by a majority of the Convention delegation.

A Resolution to Revise Eucharistic Prayer C for Trial Use to be Introduced as a Resolution to General Convention from the Diocese of Montana.

The following Resolution be submitted for consideration and adoption to the 76th General Convention of The Episcopal Church:

Resolved that the revised text of Eucharistic Prayer C for Trial Use from January 1, 2010 until the publication and issuance of the next Proposed Book of Common Prayer, per Title II, Canon 3, Section 6; and

Further Resolved that the Custodian of the Standard Book of Common Prayer take the necessary steps to fulfill Title II, Canon 3, Section 6(b) and (d) to enact the intention of the resolution.

Following discussion, it was suggested to amend one specific paragraph of Eucharistic Prayer C as follows (amendment highlighted in bold):

... Lord God of our ancestors; God of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Rachel and Leah (**and God of _____**), God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name. ...

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Resolution was approved as amended by a majority of the Convention delegation.

Presentation of 2009 Budget. Diocesan Treasurer, Beth Baker, with Canon for Finance, Barb Hagen, presented the proposed 2009 operating budget for the Episcopal Diocese of Montana. Beth noted the assessment rate for the proposed 2009 budget remains at 18.5%. Beth entertained a motion to bring the proposed 2009 budget before Convention. The motion was made, seconded and approved.

A motion was duly made and seconded to direct Diocesan Council to find a way to modify the 2009 Budget to give the Diocesan staff (excluding Bishop Brookhart) a 3% salary increase. The motion was amended to include a provision to start making arrangements for Bishop Brookhart to take a sabbatical. Another amendment was proposed to fund the 3% salary increase for Diocesan staff with funds set aside for the receptionist's salary line item in the Budget, now that the receptionist's position has been eliminated. This twice amended motion was defeated by a majority vote of the Convention delegation.

A vote was taken on the original motion to direct Council to modify the Diocesan 2009 Budget to include a 3% salary increase to Diocesan staff. The motion was defeated by a majority vote of the Convention delegation.

A motion was duly made to direct Diocesan Council to consider all means to find a way to give a 3% raise to Diocesan staff (excluding Bishop Brookhart). The motion was seconded. Following discussion, the motion was approved by a majority vote of the Convention delegation.

A motion was duly made and seconded to suggest to Diocesan Council to consider and begin making arrangements for Bishop Brookhart to take a sabbatical. The motion was approved by a majority vote of the Convention delegation.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the 2009 operating budget for the Diocese of Montana was accepted as amended by a majority vote of 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 five positions, three clergy and two lay, each for three year terms. The Rev. Karen Hall, the Rev. Linda McCloud and the Rev. Canon Clark Sherman were nominated in the clergy order. Owen Robinson, Britten Gray and Cindy Perry 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. Karen Hall, the Rev. Linda McCloud and the Rev. Canon Clark Sherman were unanimously elected by acclamation.

Standing Committee Nominations. Mike Fay announced the nominations for Standing Committee. Mike indicated the need to fill two positions each for three year terms, one clergy and one lay. The Rev. John Toles was nominated in the clergy order, and Barb Hoag and Rick Harden 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. John Toles was unanimously elected by acclamation.

Ecclesiastical Trial Court Nominations. Mike Fay announced the nominations for Ecclesiastical Trial Court. Mike indicated the need to fill one position in the lay order for a seven year term. Tony Kendall was nominated. There being no further nominations, upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously approved, the nominations were closed.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, Tony Kendall was unanimously elected by acclamation.

Results of Election for Diocesan Council. Mike Fay announced Britten Gray from Emigrant and Cindy Perry from Columbus 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. Rick Harden from Great Falls was elected to serve a three year term.

Camp Marshall & Youth Ministries. Dave Campbell, Camp Director, stated the 2008 camping season was a success and Camp continues to be a positive experience in the lives of many young people.

Dave said the recent donation of a sail boat to the Camp is a wonderful addition to the waterfront program. Dave stated that for the third consecutive year, Camp Marshall hosted Grace Camp, a camping experience specifically designed for children who have a parent that is incarcerated. Dave stated the success of Grace Camp continues to grow each year and is a memorable experience for both campers and staff alike. Dave thanked all the churches throughout the Diocese for their donation of quilts which are given to all attendees of Grace Camp.

Reports. The Rev. William Baumgarten spoke of the "Uganda 9," a group of young people from Christ Church, Kalispell, who did fund raising efforts throughout the year and raised enough money to travel to Uganda for a three week mission, offering aid and assistance to a local orphanage.

The Rev. Todd Young, Co-Chairperson of the Congregational Development Committee. Todd reminded all churches that the Committee is available to offer assistance with regard to the "direction" of their congregations.

The Rev. Linda McCloud spoke on the newest mission church starting in the Diocese, Holy Cross, which is located on the west end of Billings.

The Rev. Canon Maurice Champion-Garthe announced the Diocese now has a model policy for guidelines for how to ward off predators, how to keep our children safe, how to conduct background checks and other useful "how to" information. Additionally Canon Mo stated anti-racism training is now being offered throughout the Diocese.

The Ven. Roxanne Klingensmith gave her report as Arch Deacon of the Diocese of Montana. Roxanne announced this past September, the Diocese opened the School for Deacons, with six postulants currently in the Deaconate program. Roxanne stated the call of a Deacon is to be an agent for social change. Roxanne challenged the Diocese to have five more postulants enrolled in the Deaconate program by next year's convention.

Printed Annual Reports. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously agreed to accept the reports as printed in the 2008 Annual Report.

Diocesan Convention 2009. An invitation was offered to the Convention delegation by Holy Spirit Episcopal Church to attend the 106th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Montana in Missoula on September 25, 26 & 27, 2009. Bishop Brookhart announced the Presiding Bishop will be in attendance at this Convention.

Diocesan Convention 2010. On behalf of St. James' Episcopal Church, the Rev. Canon Clark Sherman invited the Episcopal Diocese of Montana to attend the 107th Annual Convention in Bozeman on October 1, 2, & 3, 2010.

Courtesy Resolutions. Members of the Resolutions Committee, they being: the Rev. Glen Gleaves, Donna Gleaves, the Rev. Jane Schmoetzer and Ted Lovec submitted the following courtesy resolutions for inclusion in the Minutes of the 105th Annual Diocesan Convention:

Whereas, audits are a pain and no one wants to do them:

- Be it therefore resolved that this Convention give thanks to all Church treasurers and audit teams for their efforts, and to their clergy who encouraged them along the way, and to the Diocesan Finance Department for their work on audits this year.

Be it resolved that the Diocese acknowledge and thank the Uganda 9 for their mission.

Be it resolved that Camp Marshall continue to grow in the grace and love of God in Christ.

Be it resolved that this Convention recognize the work of the Board for the new School for Deacons which has begun its work with a class of six postulants for Holy Orders - Deacon.

Whereas, convention is a busy time requiring much preparation, thought and prayer:

- Be it resolved that this Convention express gratitude to Bishop Brookhart for his inspiring message and leadership; to Roger Stone for his Convention preparation work and for keeping us all informed; for Barb Hagen and her tireless efforts for financial organization, all done with a smile; for David Campbell for his tireless work with Camp and youth; for Julie Sisler and her cheerful labor (hosting another rental group at Camp this weekend); and for Canon Mo Champion-Garthe, for his work and his calm and prayerful presence.
- Be it resolved that the Diocese of Montana thank the good and generous people of St. Luke's Billings for their generous hospitality.
- Be it resolved that this Convention and this Diocese thank Beth Baker and Gayle Archey for their generosity in serving this body as Treasurer and Secretary, respectively.
- Be it resolved that the Diocese and this Convention extend a warm Montana welcome to the Rev. Linda McCloud of Holy Cross, Billings, and the Rev. George Walter at St. Andrew's, Polson.
- Be it resolved that this Convention thank Barb Hagen, our Diocesan and Provincial E.R.D. Coordinator for her diligent work in that capacity with the result of having already sent more than \$30,000 so far this year to E.R.D.
- Be it resolved that we thank the youth of St. James' Bozeman, who willingly served as ushers and tellers for this Convention.
- Be it resolved that this Convention and Diocese share the Bishop's adage that our clergy are "as good as it gets!" Let us share our thanks for their hard work.
- Be it resolved that the thanks of this Convention be extended to our Christian Formation Committee and the cadre of volunteers for their wonderful story of calling the Disciples and of charging this Convention to go forth to be the Body of Christ in the world.

- Be it resolved that we all live into the vision of our Bishop and into the resurrection of our Lord and our Diocese.
- Be it resolved that we thank the authors of the Resolutions considered and approved by this Convention for their thoughtful and prayerful craft.

Convention Adjournment. Bishop Brookhart adjourned the business session at 6 p.m. A Wellness Clinic provided by the Church Medical Trust was available until 6:30 p.m., followed by the banquet at 7 p.m.

Convention Reconvened Sunday, October 5, 2008. The Convention reconvened at 9 a.m. at St. Luke's with a Festival Eucharist and the Ordination of Jed Fox, celebrated by Bishop Brookhart.

Adjournment of Convention. Following the Festival Eucharist and Ordination, the 105th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Montana was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Gayle Gallik Archey, Diocesan Secretary