

PROCEEDINGS of ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL DIOCESAN CONVENTION

NOVEMBER 14-15, 2003

On Friday, November 14, 2003, the day chosen in accordance with the Constitution of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Long Island, clergy and laity gathered at the Hilton Huntington Hotel, Melville, Long Island, New York for the Annual Diocesan Convention.

In compliance with Rule of Order 1, the delegates of the 137th Annual Convention assembled in the main ballroom and the Rt. Rev. Orris G. Walker, Jr., Bishop of Long Island, took the chair as President. Following an opening prayer offered by the Rev. Cecily Broderick y Guerra, Bishop Walker called the Convention to order and declared it organized for business at 10:00 a.m. after the Secretary of the Convention (the "Secretary"), the Rev. Richard E. Simpson, reported a quorum present. The President announced that only authorized delegates were allowed on the floor of the Convention.

The President appointed the Rev. Margaret Peckham Clark as Parliamentarian and Robert Fardella, Esq., to serve as Assistant Parliamentarian.

The Secretary nominated, and the Convention confirmed, the appointment of Wayne Drake, delegate from St. Mark's, Islip, as Assistant Secretary to this Convention.

The Secretary moved that the following persons be admitted on the floor as necessary and authorized for the business of the Convention:

- Wayne Drake, Assistant Secretary
- Clergy canonically resident less than three (3) months (without vote)
- Clergy serving in the Diocese not canonically resident (without vote)
- the administrative staff of the diocese

The motion was properly seconded and carried.

The President asked that priests be seated with their delegations and requested that delegates remain throughout the Convention. He asked that delegates vote whenever a question was put, unless excused by the Convention, and reminded non-delegates that they do not vote. The President also announced that the Canons of this Diocese do not allow restoration of voting privileges to any parish or mission not in compliance with the filing of reports unless reports are in hand.

The Secretary reported that there were no defective or contested delegate certificates but that certificates had not been submitted from the following congregations thereby denying their voting privileges:

St. James, Elmhurst

St. John's, South Ozone Park
St. Andrew's, Oceanside
St. Thomas, Amagansett
Christ Church, Brentwood
Atonement, Quogue
St. Andrew's, Saltaire

The Secretary reported that the following congregations had failed to file parochial reports for the year 2002 thereby forfeiting the seat and right to vote of their elected lay delegations:

St. Andrew's, Astoria
Trinity-St. Joseph's, Flushing
St. John's, South Ozone Park
St. Andrew's, Oceanside
Christ Church, Brentwood
St. Andrew's, Saltaire

The Secretary reported that the following congregations had failed to file audit certificates for the year 2002 thereby forfeiting the seat and right to vote of their elected lay delegations:

All Saints', Brooklyn
St. Andrew's, Astoria
All Saints', Bayside
St. James, Elmhurst
St. John's, South Ozone Park
Christ Church, Garden City
Christ Church, Lynbrook
St. Matthias, North Bellmore
St. Andrew's, Oceanside
St. Bede's, Syosset
Christ Church, Brentwood
St. Andrew's, Saltaire
All Souls', Stony Brook

The President then called upon the Rev. Canon Denis C. Brunelle, Chair, Committee on Dispatch of Business ("Dispatch"), to present and move the following Agenda for the 137th annual convention:

- Secretary to report that Tellers of Election and Counters of Ballots have been appointed
- Secretary of Convention to report on Correspondence and any Unfinished Business from the 136th Convention
- Nominations are presented from the Pre-Convention Journal and further nominations taken from the floor, if any
- Elections are approved for all uncontested seats
- Secretary to instruct delegates on voting procedures then proceed to the **First** Ballot
- Resolutions and Propositions by Title as printed in the Pre-Convention Journal
- Report of the Committee on Miscellaneous Business
- Bishop's Address to the Convention
- Proceed to Noonday Prayer
- Adjourn for lunch
- Report of the Tellers of Election
- Proceed to the **Second** Ballot
- Report on the Cathedral Project
- Archdeacons introduce New Clergy
- Appointment of Convention Committees

- Three concurrent breakout sessions on Stewardship, General Convention Delegation Report and Peace, Justice and Globalization
- Report of the Companion Diocese Committee
- Report of the Tellers of Election
- Proceed to the **Third** Ballot
- Evening Prayer with the Bishop Suffragan's Address
- Recess until Saturday morning
- Convention reconvenes following the Eucharist
- Report of the Tellers of Election
- Proceed to the **Fourth** Ballot
- Report of the Treasurer
- Adoption of the Year 2004 Diocesan Budget
- Report of the Tellers of Election
- Proceed to the **Fifth** Ballot, if necessary
- Appointment of the Commission on Ministry for confirmation by Convention
- Report of **Camp DeWolfe**
- Report of the Committee on the Bishop's Address
- Report of Other Committees of Convention
- Reading of the Minutes of the 136th Convention
- Other Business
- Noonday and Closing Prayers
- Adjournment with Benediction

Bishop Walker called for any discussion concerning the agenda. There being none, the motion to approve was seconded and carried.

The Secretary reported that Tellers of Election had been assigned in accordance with the Canons of the Diocese. They were as follows:

TELLERS OF ELECTION

Clergy A-C	The Rev. Michael E. Bartolomeo Ryle Watson
Clergy D-J	The Very Rev. Alexander Gunthorpes Joyce Samuel
Clergy K-P	The Rev. Gloria E. E. Payne-Carter Amanda Savino
Clergy Q-Z	The Rev. Bernadette Sullivan James Tempro
Brooklyn A-R	The Rev. Shawn M. Williams Denniston C. Wilks
Brooklyn S-T	The Rev. Howard K. Williams Frank Kain
Queens A-H	Deacon Richard S. Montrose Valarie H. Crosdale
Queens J-W	The Rev. Jeffrey H. Krantz Clarence St. John

Nassau B-L	The Rev. SaraLouise Krantz Robert Reed
Nassau M-Z	The Rev. Mauricio Wilson Olivia Trott
Suffolk A-L	The Rev. Christopher L. David Doreen Vaz
Suffolk M-Y	The Rev. Hickman Alexandre Robert Smith

Dispatch called upon the Secretary to report on correspondence and unfinished business of the 136th Convention. The Secretary reported that there were none.

Dispatch presented the nominations by name as published in the Pre-Convention Journal. The President then called for further nominations from the floor, after each office and in every category. Except as noted below, there were no further nominations. Deacon Kertland, who had been nominated for the Board of Trustees of the George Mercer Jr. Memorial School of Theology, was noted as not being canonically resident; her nomination, therefore, was withdrawn.

SECRETARY (until 2004)

(nominated from the floor)

The Rev. Richard E. Simpson

TREASURER (until 2004)

Don R. Derrick

HISTORIOGRAPHER (until 2004)

The Very Rev. John E. Walker

THE STANDING COMMITTEE

(One Clergy until 2007)

The Rev. Edyth K. Baker

The Rev. SaraLouise C. Krantz

The Very Rev. John E. Walker

(nominated from the floor)

The Rev. Juan A. Quevedo-Bosch

THE STANDING COMMITTEE

(One Lay Person until 2007)

Estrada J. Bernard, Esq.

THE STANDING COMMITTEE

(One Lay Person to fill an unexpired term until 2006)

(nominated from the floor)

Ernest Fritz Weinrich

Kennedy Mills

DIOCESAN COUNCIL

(Two Clergy until 2006)

The Rev. Christopher L. David

The Rev. Juan Quevedo-Bosch

The Very Rev. Tracey M. Williams

DIOCESAN COUNCIL
(Two Lay Persons until 2006)
Joseph Ang
Justo Scott
(nominated from the floor)
Renee Erny

DIOCESAN COUNCIL
(One Clergy to fill an unexpired term until 2005)
The Rev. Hickman Alexandre
The Rev. P. Allister Rawlins

THE BOARD OF MANAGERS OF CAMP DeWOLFE, INC.
(Two persons until 2006)
Jennifer Carroll
Ruth Haugaard
The Rev. Dennison S. Richards
(nominated from the floor)
Antonio Contreras

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF EPISCOPAL CHARITIES OF LONG ISLAND, INC.
(Two Persons until 2006)
The Rev. Dr. Edward Kienzle
Priscilla Stevens
(nominated from the floor)
The Rev. Richard Doscher

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF EPISCOPAL CHARITIES OF LONG ISLAND, INC.
(One Person to fill an unexpired term until 2004)
The Rev. Percival G. Brown
The Very Rev. James Cardone

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE GEORGE MERCER JR. MEMORIAL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
(Two Persons until 2006)
The Rev. Jeffrey Krantz
The Rev. Roy E. Waywell
(nominated from the floor)
Linda Duplessis

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE GEORGE MERCER JR. MEMORIAL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
(One Person to fill an unexpired term until 2004)
Beverly Mayne Kienzle
The Rev. P. Allister Rawlins

THE TRUSTEES OF THE ESTATE
BELONGING TO THE DIOCESE OF LONG ISLAND, INC.
(Two Persons until 2007)
David G. Booth
The Rev. Timothy J. Lewis
(nominated from the floor)
Carlos Cruz

THE DIOCESAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

(Two Clergy until 2006)

The Very Rev. René R. John
The Rev. Canon John E. Madden

THE DIOCESAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

(One Lay Person until 2006)

Janice Commentz
(nominated from the floor)
Antonio Checo

THE DIOCESAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

(One Clergy until 2005)

The Very Rev. Tracey M. Williams

THE DIOCESAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

(Two Lay Persons until 2005)

Betty Watts Carrington
John C. Thomas, Jr.

THE DIOCESAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

(Two Clergy until 2004)

The Very Rev. James J. Cardone
The Rev. Timothy J. Lewis

THE DIOCESAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

(One Lay Person until 2004)

Mercedes Broderick

The motion to close nominations was properly made, seconded and carried.

Dispatch moved the election of all uncontested seats by office and name. Motion was properly seconded and carried and the following elections were declared:

SECRETARY (until 2004)

The Rev. Richard Simpson

TREASURER (until 2004)

Don R. Derrick

HISTORIOGRAPHER (until 2004)

The Very Rev. John E. Walker

THE STANDING COMMITTEE

(One Lay until 2007)

Estrada J. Bernard, Esq.

THE DIOCESAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

(Two Clergy until 2006)

The Very Rev. Rene R. John
The Rev. Canon John E. Madden

THE DIOCESAN REVIEW COMMITTEE

(One Clergy until 2005)

The Very Rev. Tracey M. Williams

THE DIOCESAN REVIEW COMMITTEE
(Two Lay until 2005)
Betty Watts Carrington
John C. Thomas, Jr.

THE DIOCESAN REVIEW COMMITTEE
(Two Clergy until 2004)
The Very Rev. James J. Cardone
The Rev. Timothy J. Lewis

THE DIOCESAN REVIEW COMMITTEE
(One Lay until 2004)
Mercedes Broderick

Dispatch requested the Secretary to instruct the Convention as to voting procedures and then proceed to the first ballot.

Dispatch then moved resolutions number 1 through 5 and propositions 1 and 2 as printed in the Pre-Convention Journal and called for any resolutions by title.

Six resolutions were presented by title and, following a two-thirds majority vote, were referred to appropriate committees for review.

The President then asked the Rev. Canon John E. Madden, Chair of the Committee on Canons, to present the Committee's report on the resolutions printed in the Pre-Convention Journal.

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CANONS TO THE
137TH DIOCESAN CONVENTION**

The Committee on Canons reported that there was no remaining business from the 136th Convention requiring a report from the Committee.

Five resolutions and two propositions were submitted to the Committee on Canons for action at the 137th Convention.

Resolution #1 Concerning 2004 Base Diocesan Compensation, as presented in the Pre-Convention Journal, was moved by the Committee on Canons, and seconded. It was then approved by this Convention.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #1 Concerning 2004 Base Diocesan Compensation

BE IT RESOLVED that the Base Diocesan Compensation for 2004 be increased from 2003 figures by a 3% Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) in accordance with the following table:

BASE SALARY AND EMOLUMENTS THE DIOCESE OF LONG ISLAND

CATEGORY	ALL FULL-TIME CLERGY IN CHARGE OF CURES 2004	ALL FULL-TIME CLERGY IN CHARGE OF CURES 2003	ALL FULL-TIME ASSISTANTS 2004	ALL FULL-TIME ASSISTANTS 2003
BASE CASH SALARY	\$35,680	\$34,640	\$30,327	\$29,443
HOUSING ALLOWANCE (Where NO church housing is provided)	50% of Base Cash Salary			
BASE SOCIAL SECURITY CONTRIBUTION (7.65% Of Base Cash Salary & Housing Allowance Where Provided)	\$2,730	\$2,650	\$2,320	\$2,252
AUTOMOBILE & TRAVEL ALLOWANCE (10% of Base Cash Salary)	\$3,568	\$3,464	\$3,033	\$2,944
UTILITIES (Gas, Heat, Electric, Water and Telephone)	ACTUAL COST			
PENSION ASSESSMENT	18% of Total Base Compensation as defined by the Church Pension Fund			
LIFE INSURANCE (\$50,000 Group Term)	\$456.00 (This is <u>in addition to</u> the \$50,000 coverage provided at no cost by the Church Pension Fund to all active clergy)			
HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS	Ranging from \$4,600 to \$23,000 (Depends on plan selected and number of dependents)			
HOUSING EQUITY ACCOUNT	<i>A Housing Equity Account is to be established for clergy living in church-provided housing. The annual amount to be contributed is 3% of the clergy's total compensation as defined by the Church Pension Fund.</i>			
VACATION	One month (to include 5 Sundays)			
SABBATICAL LEAVE	6 weeks full base package for every 5 years of completed service (for the purpose of study, rest and/or travel)			
CONTINUING EDUCATION ALLOWANCE AND PAID LEAVE	\$600 and 6 days per year (In addition to vacation)			
SUPPLY CLERGY: \$150.00 per service, plus reimbursement at the standard mileage rate established by the IRS for business mileage OR Actual Cost if public transportation is used.				

*Submitted by
Commission on Clergy Salaries*

Following discussion, it was moved and seconded to table Resolution #2 Concerning Peace in the Middle East for further discussion.

Dispatch called upon the Secretary to report the results of the first ballot.

THE STANDING COMMITTEE
(One Lay to fill unexpired term until 2006)
Kennedy Mills

DIOCESAN COUNCIL
(Two Clergy until 2006)
The Very Rev. Christopher L. David
The Very Rev. Tracey M. Williams

DIOCESAN COUNCIL
(Two Lay until 2006)
Joseph Ang
Justo Scott

DIOCESAN COUNCIL
(One Clergy to fill unexpired term until 2005)
The Rev. Hickman Alexandre

THE BOARD OF MANAGERS OF CAMP DEWOLFE, INC.
(Two Persons until 2006)
Jennifer Carroll
The Rev. Dennison S. Richards

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF EPISCOPAL CHARITIES OF LONG ISLAND, INC.
(Two Persons until 2006)
The Rev. Dr. Edward Kienzle
The Rev. Richard Doscher

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF EPISCOPAL CHARITIES OF LONG ISLAND, INC.
(One Person to fill unexpired term until 2004)
The Very Rev. James J. Cardone

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE GEORGE MERCER JR. MEMORIAL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
(Two Persons until 2006)
The Rev. Jeffrey Krantz
The Rev. Roy E. Waywell

THE TRUSTEES OF THE ESTATE BELONGING TO THE DIOCESE OF LONG ISLAND, INC.
(Two Persons until 2007)
David G. Booth
The Rev. Timothy J. Lewis

THE DIOCESAN REVIEW COMMITTEE
(One Lay until 2006)
Janice Commentz

At this time the nomination for the Rev. Juan A. Quevedo-Bosch for the Standing Committee was withdrawn.

Dispatch then moved to proceed to the second ballot. The Secretary reviewed the elections still undecided and gave instructions as to voting procedures.

Noonday prayers were offered, following which the Convention recessed for lunch.

Following lunch, the Convention reconvened at 2:00 p.m. Dispatch called upon the Rev. Canon John E. Madden to continue the Committee's report with a discussion of Resolutions #3 through #5 and Propositions #1 and #2 as printed in the Pre-Convention Journal.

Resolution # 3
Concerning Human Rights: Immigration and Undocumented Workers

Whereas, at the General Convention of the Episcopal Church meeting last summer, Deputies from our Diocese proposed a resolution on "Human Rights: Immigration and Undocumented Workers,"

Whereas, this resolution passed both the House of Bishops and House of Deputies and will be forwarded to members of Congress and state legislatures as an authoritative "*expression of the Episcopal Church*" urging

"...that the Congress of the United States enact legislation to expand the temporary workers' programs to include all persons currently residing in the United States engaged in meaningful labor...."

"... that such temporary workers receive such compensation and benefits for themselves and their dependents living with them that parallel those available to other legal residents such as the Federally mandated minimum hourly wage, Social Security, drivers' licenses, medical care and education...."

"...that based upon a specified period of residence in the United States, such workers have the option of adjusting to permanent resident status, which could lead to naturalization."

Therefore be it resolved that this 137th Convention of the Diocese of Long Island designate the Second Sunday of Lent, March 7, 2004, to be *Immigration and Undocumented Workers Human Rights Sunday*,

and be it further resolved that the clergy and lay leaders of each of our parishes be urged, on that Sunday, 1) to call attention to the plight of Undocumented Workers in our communities and across our nation, 2) to make use of a bulletin insert "fact sheet" prepared by the Long Island Episcopal Immigration Taskforce for that occasion and 3) to invite informed speakers to talk about immigration into America,

and be it further resolved that the Archdeacons and clergy of each Archdeaconry arrange for a delegation personally to deliver a copy of the Episcopal Church's resolution to their United States Congress Representatives and to communicate our deep concern in this matter.

And be it further resolved that our Bishops be urged to undertake personally to deliver a copy of the Episcopal Church's resolution to our United States Senators expressing similar deep concern.

*Submitted by the Rev. Canon Nils Blatz and
the Very Rev. Alexander Gunthorpes
on behalf of the Long Island Episcopal Immigration Taskforce*

Resolution # 4
Concerning a Companion Diocese Relationship

Be it resolved that the Diocese of Long Island establish a companion relationship with the Diocese of Oji River, in the Province of Nigeria, and be it further

Resolved that this relationship will last five years and can be renewed by mutual agreement of the Dioceses concerned, and be it further

Resolved that the relationship would begin in the year 2003.

Submitted by
The Rt. Rev. Orris G. Walker, Jr.
Bishop of Long Island, and
The Rev. P. Allister Rawlins
Rector of St. George's Church, Hempstead

Resolution # 5
Concerning an Amendment to the Rules of Order

Be it resolved that the Rules of Order of the Convention of the Diocese of Long Island be amended by the addition to Part VII thereof of Rule 4, Vote by Certain Officers, as follows:

The Convention Secretary, Diocesan Treasurer, Diocesan Chancellor, and Diocesan Registrar, whether clergy or lay, elected or appointed, shall be entitled to vote at all Convention elections and on all questions put to Convention.

Submitted by
The Ven. Peter P. Q. Golden, Archdeacon of Brooklyn
The Ven. Bernard O. D. Young, Archdeacon of Queens
The Ven. John A. Greco, Archdeacon of Nassau
and The Ven. Jerome J. Nedelka, Archdeacon of Suffolk

Following discussion, and upon motion duly made and seconded, the three resolutions were adopted as presented.

Proposition #1

To Amend Title VI, Canon 1, Section III(b), Annual Meeting: Election of Officers (The Standing Committee)

Section III: Meetings. The By-laws of the Standing Committee shall contain the following provisions.

- (b) Annual Meeting: Election of Officers. The first meeting of the Standing Committee shall be convened by the President of the Standing Committee no more than four weeks following the annual meeting of the Diocesan Convention. In addition to the President, ~~who shall be a member of the clerical order~~, the Standing Committee shall, at its first meeting, elect one or more Vice Presidents, Secretaries, and other officers to serve until the first meeting of the Standing Committee following the next annual meeting of the Diocesan Convention, and until their successors have been duly elected and qualified.

Submitted by the Rev. Richard F. Brewer, Rector
Church of St. Luke and St. Matthew, Brooklyn

Following discussion, Proposition #1 was not adopted.

Proposition #2
To Amend Title IV. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS IN THE CONVENTION
Canon 1, Deputies to the General Convention

The following change is being proposed in order to provide for the election of Regular and Provisional Deputies to General Convention at the same time. Our present canon is in violation of The Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church, TITLE I, Canon 1.4a, which requires election of all deputies at least twelve (12) months in advance of General Convention. Our election of Provisional Deputies falls short of that twelve (12) months. The substitute canon proposed provides for election of Deputies, Provisional and Regular, within the prescribed time line.

It is proposed that the existing SECTION 1 be replaced by a new SECTION 1 as proposed below:

SECTION I. Qualifications, Terms and Manner of Election. The Convention, at the annual meeting in the second year preceding that in which a stated meeting of the General Convention will be held, shall elect, by the concurrent ballot of the Clerical and Lay members, eight ordained persons, Presbyters or Deacons canonically resident in the Diocese, and eight Lay Persons, adult confirmed communicants in good standing of the Church, having domicile in the Diocese, as Deputies, Regular and Provisional, to the General Convention from this Diocese. Such Deputies, Regular and Provisional, shall rank in order of election, in their respective orders, the four receiving the largest number of votes being Regular Deputies, and the remainder being Provisional Deputies, and shall hold their respective places until successors are appointed, and shall be Deputies or Provisional Deputies to any General Convention which may be held during their continuance in office. Such order of election shall be determined first by priority of the ballot at which the Deputies, Regular and Provisional, were elected, or, if more than one such Deputy or Provisional Deputy be elected by that ballot, by the cumulative votes cast in both orders for the Deputies or Provisional Deputies so elected.

*Submitted by the Rev. Canon John E. Madden, Chair
Committee on Canons*

Following discussion, and upon motion duly made and seconded, Proposition #2 was adopted as presented.

Dispatch called upon the Secretary to report the results of the second ballot:

THE STANDING COMMITTEE
(One Clergy until 2007)
The Very Rev. John E. Walker

**THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE GEORGE MERCER JR. MEMORIAL SCHOOL OF
THEOLOGY**
(One Person to fill unexpired term until 2004)
The Rev. P. Allister Rawlins

Dispatch called upon the Rev. Mervyn L. Belmontes, Chair, Committee on Miscellaneous Business, to present his report on the six resolutions presented by title.

Resolution #6
Concerning Support of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals

Be it resolved, that the 137th Convention of the Diocese of Long Island affirm and embrace the United Nations Millennium Development Goals that pledge to:

- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Achieve universal primary education
- Promote gender equality and empower women
- Reduce child mortality
- Improve maternal health
- Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Ensure environmental stability; and
- Develop a global partnership for development, and

Be it further resolved, that this convention strongly support the actions of the 73rd General Convention and 74th General Convention, challenging all dioceses and congregations to contribute 0.7% of their annual budgets to fund international outreach efforts and development programs like Episcopal Relief and Development; and

Be it further resolved, that the convention strongly encourage the Department of Budget of the Diocese of Long Island to include 0.7% for this work in the 2005 diocesan budget.

Respectfully submitted
Canon Joyce Hogg

Following discussion, and upon motion duly made and seconded, the resolution concerning Support of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals was adopted as presented.

Resolution #7
Concerning the Actions of the General Convention of ECUSA 2003

Whereas, the General Convention met and conducted its business in July-August 2003, including affirming the election of the Rev. Gene Robinson as Bishop of New Hampshire, a man living in an open gay, committed relationship; and

Whereas, the convention did nothing to prevent the blessing of same gender commitments; and

Whereas, these recent decisions have caused great angst in the ECUSA and the Anglican Communion; and

Whereas, no justification has been presented in terms of our three-pronged approach to decision-making; and

Whereas, the Presiding Bishop has called for this to open discussions on human sexuality;

Be it therefore resolved, that there be a program provided to each archdeaconry to educate the members of the diocese on human sexuality, Holy Scripture (as it applies), tradition of the church, and other considerations that contributed to these decisions.

Submitted by The Rev. SaraLouise C. Krantz, Rector
Renee Erny, Lay Delegate
Grace Episcopal Church, Massapequa

Resolution #8
Concerning Holy Matrimony - Marriage

Whereas, the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony is an outward and visible sign of inward and spiritual grace; and

Whereas, Christ's presence and first miracle at a wedding commends it to be honored by all; and

Whereas, the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony is to be lifted up as a symbol between Christ and His Church; and

Whereas, in the tradition of the church, reasonable restrictions have been placed on those persons desiring to be married in the church;

Be it therefore resolved, that "Marriage" and "Holy Matrimony" be used to describe only unions between a man and a woman.

*Submitted by The Rev. Sara Louise C. Krantz, Rector
Renee Emy, Lay Delegate
Grace Episcopal Church, Massapequa*

Following discussion, Resolution #7 concerning the Actions of the General Convention of ECUSA 2003, and Resolution #8 concerning Holy Matrimony - Marriage were not adopted.

**Resolution #9
Concerning Alma Wohlstadt 101st Birthday**

The Episcopal Diocese of Long Island commends Alma Wohlstadt on her 101st birthday on the 16th of November 2003, for her devotion to Our Lord Jesus Christ and dedication to St. Andrew's Church of Astoria, Diocese of Long Island.

*Submitted by The Rev. Louis Braxton, Jr.
St. Andrew's Church, Astoria*

Following discussion, and upon motion duly made and seconded, the resolution concerning Alma Wohlstadt 101st Birthday was adopted as presented.

**Resolution #10
Concerning the Salary and Fringe Benefits of the Bishop Suffragan**

Be it resolved that the salary and fringe benefits of the Bishop Suffragan be set in the 2004 budget at 90% of the diocesan bishop's salary and fringe benefits.

*Submitted by Virginia Parker, Warden
Trinity Church, Northport*

Following discussion, Resolution #10 concerning the Salary and Fringe Benefits of the Bishop Suffragan was not adopted.

**Resolution #11
Concerning Youth Representation on Cathedral Council**

Proposition: To amend Resolution #3 of the 135th Convention of the Diocese of Long Island concerning youth representation on Parish Vestries to include the Cathedral Council of the Cathedral of the Incarnation within the definition of the term "parish vestries."

Purpose: To provide for and encourage the representation of the youth of the Cathedral Congregation in the same manner as other parishes of the Diocese.

Following discussion, and upon motion duly made and seconded, Resolution #11 concerning Youth Representation on Cathedral Council was adopted.

Dispatch called upon the Bishop to present his address to the Convention.

ADDRESS TO THE CONVENTION
The Rt. Rev. Orris G. Walker, Jr.
Bishop of Long Island



I would like to begin my address by expressing my appreciation for the outstanding performance of the Bishop Suffragan, the diocesan staff, the archdeacons, my deputies and the agency heads during the past year. I also want to give thanks for the dedicated work of numerous volunteers who served on diocesan boards and handled other diocesan responsibilities. Special note must be made of the work of our Chancellor, Canon Robert Fardella. His advice is called on not only by the bishops and Standing Committee, but also by members of various parishes and diocesan agencies. Bob Fardella's commitment to the work of this diocese is a true blessing.

It is with mixed feelings that I have to acknowledge the retirement of my Deputy for Episcopal Administration, the Venerable Canon John A. Greco. We first met as seminarians at the General Theological Seminary in 1964. His devotion to this diocese is legendary. His insistence that we do what is right for this faith community has earned him the respect and appreciation of many. I will personally always be grateful for his service. Thank you, John, for being a loyal, faithful, trusted son of this diocese. Much of what has been accomplished today can be attributed to your efforts and vision. Thank you for a job well done and done with such style. One cannot replace a John Greco.

However, the work continues. Joining my staff at the beginning of the year will be Canon Diane Porter. Canon Porter has served this diocese as a member of the Standing Committee, Trustees of the Estate Belonging to the Diocese of Long Island, Trustees of Episcopal Charities Appeal, and Trustees of the Mercer School. She served as a member of the nominating committee when I was elected Bishop-Coadjutor. Canon Porter has also served on the boards of Episcopal Health Services and Interfaith Medical Center. She has just recently resigned from her position at National Institute for Applied Behavioral Sciences. Also in her list of accomplishments is her service on the senior staff of the former Presiding Bishop, Edmond Lee Browning. With her knowledge and expertise of the Church, I believe this diocese will be well served by this appointment. The responsibilities that Archdeacon Greco had in my office will continue under Canon Porter.

During this year we experienced a number of transitions. Brooks Johnson, Diocesan Youth Director, left the staff to take on the responsibilities for youth ministries in a large parish in North Carolina. During his period of service we saw the youth program in this diocese make significant strides in the meaningful incorporation of our young people in the life and work of this diocese. In the meantime I have asked Bishop Michel to oversee this important ministry.

The Chairman of the Department of Budget, the Rev. Gerald Collins, recently received a call to be rector of St. Andrew's, Cincinnati. We wish him well in this new ministry. Another Collins, not related, has also left the diocese. Over the years, the Rev. Dr. Lynn Collins has been most helpful in a variety of ways.

She has helped me identify youth leadership in her work as the former Staff Officer for Urban and Black Ministries at "815." Most recently she served as Priest-in-Charge of St. Stephen's, Jamaica. Now she is off to Los Angeles to serve as Rector of St. John's Church. May God continue to bless her in her new ministry.

And this year saw the consecration of the Canon Residentiary of the Cathedral as Bishop of Oregon. Bishop Johncy Itty was a great asset in the life of this diocese. Yet again, Long Island has been called to share its resources with the larger church. We wish him and his family well as they begin their new ministry.

This will be the last Diocesan Convention for Joyce and Bill Hogg. It is noteworthy that Joyce will be serving as Chair of Dispatch of Business, being the first layperson to hold that position in the life of the diocese. She has served as Vice-Chair of Episcopal Charities, an officer in both national and local ECW and the diocesan chair for the Presiding Bishop's Fund for World Relief, now known as Episcopal Relief and Development. Bill has served this diocese as deputy to General Convention, member of the Board of Episcopal Charities, the Standing Committee and Commission on Ministry. They plan to relocate to northern Virginia to be close to their grandchildren. At present Joyce is undergoing medical treatment which will require her to return to the New York area on a regular basis. Please know that the prayers of this diocese go with you both as you embark on this new chapter of your life together.

I am pleased to report to this Convention that upon the recommendation of the Chancellor of the diocese I have given my permission for St. Augustine's Parish, Brooklyn, to resume its status as a parish in the Diocese of Long Island. The priest and people of this historic congregation deserve our profound thanks for their dedicated efforts to restore the church to fiscal soundness. The story of how they were able to turn things around is remarkable indeed. Father Howard Williams has provided outstanding leadership in this turn-around effort. On Monday, November 10, I attended a special parish meeting at St. Augustine's to thank the members for their courageous efforts. At that meeting a new vestry was elected to begin this new chapter in the history of this great parish. It is my understanding that there are representatives of St. Augustine's parish here at Convention and I would like them to stand and have the Convention acknowledge their presence.

Now it is time to look at the challenges that face the Church: challenges at the local level--congregations of the diocese, challenges at the diocesan level, challenges at the national church level, and finally challenges facing the Anglican Communion.

At the local level our congregations are challenged to improve their financial stewardship. The tithe is the standard of giving in this Church. When we survey the present situation we note that some people are just "tipping" God. Good stewardship requires a thoughtful examination of how we use our time, talent and money for the building-up of the Kingdom. In order to assist congregations in this essential ministry, Episcopal Charities has made the Rev. Mark Clevenger available to the diocese as the Stewardship Officer. When congregations feel they need help in this area they should feel free to call upon Father Clevenger. He has had extensive experience in this area and is always willing to assist when asked.

Another resource available to congregations is Episcopal Community Services. This new work under the direction of Father Charles McCarron is to

assist congregations in developing ministries in their immediate neighborhood. ECS will provide four basic services: community advocacy, fund development, program collaboration and education development. In its attempt to meet the needs of those who come to their door for assistance, the local congregation needs trained volunteers who are prepared to listen and respond to those who are economically poor and poor in spirit. This initiative follows a pattern established in other dioceses in The Episcopal Church and we are very fortunate to have this ministry develop at this time.

Congregations are continually challenged to engage the youth and young adult members of our church in a meaningful way. I am pleased that at present Confirmation is no longer viewed as graduation from church. Now more young adults are offering themselves to the ongoing life and work of this diocese. How shall we use this new cadre of individuals?

Many are concerned about increasing the numerical membership of our local congregations. It seems to me that this can best be done by invitation to discipleship. Often our invitation comes across as an invitation for more financial contributors to the congregation. Instead we must invite others to journey with us as we move towards the Kingdom, the reign of God. By sharing this vision with others, we invite the total commitment that is expressed in the Baptismal Covenant. We will invite others to enter the ministry of service to the world. As such they will join in "the apostles' teaching and fellowship," "in the breaking of bread," and "in prayers", they will be taught "to persevere in resisting evil," and, "whenever they fall into sin," they will repent. By word and example they will learn to proclaim "the good news of God in Christ." We will invite them "to seek and serve Christ in all persons," learning "to love their neighbor as themselves." They will join the church as it strives "for justice and peace among all people," "respecting the dignity of every human being."

The challenge at the diocesan level is to continue to work towards the goal of each congregation responding to the asking. The present asking figure is 13%, while the tithe is just 10%. When we examine our status in the Episcopal Church, that is the giving of congregations to the diocese, we discover that Long Island is at the bottom of the scale, just above Navajoland. The average congregation in the Episcopal Church is assessed between 18 and 25%. So you see we have our work cut out for us.

During this convention you will receive a report about the important and necessary work that must be done on the physical fabric of our Cathedral. Under the leadership of Dean James Cardone, the Cathedral is truly becoming more and more the mother church of the diocese. The Cathedral has become the essential gathering place for diocesan services. Soon we hope to build a new Cathedral Parish House that will be able to handle large banquets and dinner dances. At present many parishes raise significant sums during their fund-raising efforts only to have a significant portion of the proceeds go to a catering hall. With this new facility, parishes could hold their events in the beautiful setting of the Diocesan Cathedral Campus. With a reasonable usage rate, more profit would be available to the sponsoring congregation.

Another vision that will be shared with you at this convention will be the proposal of a retreat facility at Camp DeWolfe. There are a number of vestries and other small groups who already use the present facilities during the off-season. There is a need for a place for vestries to gather for prayer, study and renewal. The Dominion Retreat Center is a dream that must become a reality.

There are those who categorize the present state of the Anglican Communion as one in crisis. Archbishop Robin Eames, Senior Primate of our Communion, sees the present crisis as an opportunity. I choose to join with the Archbishop in sharing that perspective. For we now have the opportunity to talk seriously about the place of Holy Scripture in the life of the Church. We now have the opportunity to have thoughtful conversations about the various dimensions of human sexuality we encounter. We have an opportunity to talk about sexuality in the lives of Christians, especially since there is such a diversity of views on this subject.

Following the example of our Lord we must be involved with the outcasts of society. Jesus knew the tax collectors, the prostitutes, the Roman soldiers, the adulterers, the lepers and those excluded from polite society. The good news of the Gospel is for the very life of the world. Those who think they know what God wants are in for some surprises. Any examination of human history shows humankind is always moving to new understanding of what it means to be created in the image and likeness of God.

At a recent meeting with the Archbishop of Canterbury in London, he was asked, "What holds this communion together?" His reply, "bonds of affections hold us together." If this is true, then we must ask what we can do to sustain this "bond of affection."

One attempt at demonstrating this "bond of affection" was a recent trip to Nigeria by a diocesan team from Long Island. With the strong condemnation of the recent decisions of General Convention by the Archbishop of Nigeria, I was apprehensive about the reception we would receive in the Diocese of Oji River. At the very beginning of our visit there was a frank exchange on concerns of the decisions of the Minneapolis General Convention. After discussing our positions, we decided that we must build this companion relationship on what unites us and not on what divides us. What divides us is something we must address as this relationship matures.

This visitation began with an extraordinary demonstration of African hospitality. We were overwhelmed by their graciousness. At each stop on our journey we encountered something new and wonderful. All these encounters seem to confirm that this relationship was indeed a good and necessary association. We began our journey by thinking what we might do for this new, young diocese. But as we progressed in our travels through this diocese we received many gifts and we acquired new insights into the meaning of this vital relationship.

In an attempt to address the needs of the youth in the diocese, Bishop Amos Madu has established two new secondary schools. The principal of the girls' school informed us that there was an immediate need for contemporary science textbooks. Thankfully, we were able to respond to this request at the beginning of the new school term. We also learned that a classroom building was needed to accommodate a growing number of students. When I enquired about the cost of this project, I was told \$20,000 could complete this project. I shall be asking the congregations of this diocese to contribute to this important project. This is something we can address. This will be one way in which we can touch the lives of young people who are trying to improve their lot in life.

In the spring of 2004, it is my hope that a team from Oji River will be able to come to the Diocese of Long Island so that we will be able to experience the power and joy of this singing church. Did you know that there are 17 million

Anglicans in Nigeria? In the US, Episcopalians number just over 2 million. We have a lot to learn and share in this relationship. Medical supplies from the Interfaith Medical Center have already been shipped to Oji River for a new health clinic that is being built at the diocesan center. We also had the opportunity to witness the industriousness of the Mother's Union as they sponsored training programs in tailoring and hairdressing. The Mother's Union also has a commercial water bottling enterprise going. This blessed water comes from a special spring. We observed the elaborate purification process that was necessary in order to insure the safety of this water.

The Bishop has a dream of reopening a hospital which the church started in the 1930's. At present there is a definite need for this hospital, and the Bishop is moving ahead in faith responding to this challenge. This, my friends, is what the church is all about—mission. And we have the opportunity to share in this mission.

What can you do to strengthen the bonds of affection within the Anglican Communion? I believe that the bonds of affection are already strong in this communion and will sustain us in the days ahead. We are not a perfect Church. We must remember we are redeemed sinners called to grow into the fullness of Christ. I believe that this Church must focus on mission. We must focus on our mission because God expects the church to be the forerunner in the struggle for justice and peace. And I believe God expects the church to provide leadership in quest for worldwide quality healthcare.

I want to share an experience I had last fall. A young professional came to my office to inform me that she wanted to be a missionary in Africa dealing with HIV/AIDS. After hearing her expectations I assured her that her desired goal was a noble cause. However, I informed her that it would take some time for her to be recognized as an appointed missionary of the Episcopal Church. To my surprise six months later she returned to my office to inform me that she had undergone the necessary training and had received the appointment as a missionary assigned to work in Africa with the Anglican Church. I was quite surprised, but very pleased by this development. I shared this exciting opportunity with members of the Diocesan Council, and it was decided that this was a situation the diocese must address. In response, the Council voted to support Dr. Jenny Coley for a three-year period permitting her to share her expertise in the midst of the present pandemic. The Church must always be able to respond to its mission both at home and abroad. Now I invite each member of this diocese to pray daily for the mission of our Church. We must also thank God for the many blessings bestowed upon us as we attempt to fulfill our ministries and various missions.

I am aware that there are some who wish to leave the church at this time because of the recent actions of the General Convention. My plea to them is to stay and work with us for God's mission to the world. In doing so, many things that trouble us will pale in comparison to the work that faces us. God is counting on us all. Archbishop Eames shared a very poignant story with us during my recent visit to London. While visiting an orphanage for children with HIV/AIDS, he picked up an infant and carried the child in his arms as he toured the facilities. At the end of his tour, the doctor said, "I will take the child from you now." The Archbishop said, "I can hold him a little longer" and the doctor told the Archbishop that the child had died in his arms. With the needs of the world pressing around us, we cannot adopt the attitude of "taking our marbles and going home because we don't like the game." From the very beginning of the life of the Church there have been fierce disagreements on how the church should

live its life.

The first fight was whether Gentiles, non-Jews, could or should be included in the young Church. The Church has fought over the nature of Christ. What does it mean to say "the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." We have fought over the nature of the ordained ministry. We have fought over whether bishops were necessary or not. Through all of these conflicts the faithful have attempted "to serve the Lord with gladness." And to be the hands, heart, legs, ears, mouths and eyes of Christ in their generation.

The Church moved on by focusing its attention on the Savior who calls us all to take up our cross and follow him. This invitation has been extended to millions over the years and it has provided strength and insight to the community of faith as it seeks to do its work.

The General Convention, the highest decision-making body of our Church, has acted on two controversial matters that have sparked concern on the part of some. First, let me review the process for the affirmation of Episcopal elections. Normally after a diocese has elected a bishop, the Standing Committees of the dioceses are asked for their affirmation of the election. Once a majority of Standing Committees has consented to this election, then the diocesan bishops are polled for their support. If a majority of diocesan bishops vote to affirm the election, a consecration proceeds. However, if a diocese holds an election within a three-month period before General Convention, the General Convention acts on the election. First the House of Deputies, which is composed of four clergy and four lay from each diocese, must vote to confirm the election. If the House of Deputies votes in favor of a candidate, it is then sent to the House of Bishops. Only diocesan bishops have a vote in this legislative action. It is to be noted that before each House votes there is an open hearing where Deputies, Bishops and other interested parties can raise their concerns. I was privileged to speak on behalf of then bishop-elect, Johncy Itty. These hearings are normally very gracious affairs. However, during the confirmation of the bishop-elect of New Hampshire, there was much debate. The Rev. Canon V. Gene Robinson handled the situation very well. The bishops and deputies asked the questions to which they felt the church needed answers. The forthrightness of the candidate's answers and the affirmation by others of his pastoral abilities won the day for his confirmation. It must be remembered that the Diocese of New Hampshire decided that Canon Robinson was their choice to lead them in their ministry and the General Convention of our church concurred.

The second issue that caused concern was the proposed rite of the blessing of same-sex couples. In 1976 General Convention passed a resolution which said "homosexual persons are children of God who have a full and equal claim with all other persons upon the love, acceptance and pastoral care and concern of the church." At the 2000 General Convention, a resolution addressing the nature of same-sex relations states, "we expect such relationships will be categorized by fidelity, monogamy, mutual affection and respect, careful and honest communication and the holy love which enables those in such relationships to see in each other the image of God." The resolution also acknowledged that those relationships presently exist throughout the church. The recent Convention has urged the Presiding Bishop to call together a special committee to advise the church on how we ought to proceed on this matter.

In light of this development, and as chief liturgical officer of this diocese, I am calling on the liturgical commission to gather all texts presently being used. As to these liturgies, no one will be compelled to use them, but those who wish to utilize them as a pastoral resource should be able to do so. It

is to be noted that the blessing of a same-sex relationship is not a marriage. It is a blessing for those who intend to live as the church has mandated.

I think it is important to understand that Christian marriage is an institution that exists between a man and a woman. Its purpose is for procreation, mutual support and encouragement. However, we live in a time when individuals of the same sex desire a pledge of loyalty and faithfulness to each other. Obviously, all do not agree on how these situations should be handled. Working with the commission, I shall authorize a liturgical text to be used in this diocese. It is important to acknowledge that some congregations might feel the need to utilize this blessing and other congregations may never utilize these services.

The Church has yet to have a serious conversation on the purpose and nature of human sexuality. We have talked around the issue, made jokes about it, thus demonstrating our discomfort. Is sexuality a divine gift or a burden? Christians need to be clear about the purpose of sexual activity. We know that sin can distort and destroy. But God's amazing grace restores, renews, transforms and redeems. This is living in the Gospel dispensation.

On the Sunday of All Saints this year, I attended the consecration of the Rev. Canon V. Gene Robinson. This was the first time participants in a consecration service had to pass through metal detectors, face body searches and questioning normally associated with airport security. Even bishops had to endure this unceremonious gauntlet of security people. Finally, a hopeful spirit began to fill us all as we awaited the beginning of this historic service. The service began with an enthusiastic congregation of worshipers. However, at the appropriate time in the service three individuals raised objections to the proceedings. After they read their statements the Presiding Bishop announced that these concerns were raised at the Minneapolis Convention and, after considering these matters, the Convention voted to proceed with the consecration. The service then proceeded and Gene Robinson was consecrated a bishop in the one Holy Catholic Apostolic Church. Bishop Robinson noted that there was an extraordinary amount of publicity about this event, more publicity than the church could have purchased. We should take this occasion to talk to others about the extraordinary love we all experience serving God at this time. For it is God's desire that we all be one. It is God's desire that there be no "outcast." Bishop Browning pointed out many years ago that there would be no outcasts in this Church, and now we have the opportunity to really celebrate the incredible diversity of this communion of faith called The Episcopal Church. We are all sisters and brothers in the Body of Christ. We don't have to agree on everything, but we must honor the reality that God loves us in a way that passes all understanding. We are truly linked by "bonds of affection" that compel us to respect and honor one another. The Book of Common Prayer reminds us that "we are to seek and serve Christ in all persons," to "love our neighbors as ourselves" and "respect the dignity of every human being", even those with whom we profoundly disagree.

Jesus tells his disciples the story about the wheat and tares. Because they look so much alike, they must grow together until maturity. At the appropriate time during the harvest they will be separated. Therefore, a judgment is rendered. In the spirit and wisdom of this story, it is my hope that we will find reasons to remain a strong, loving, serving community.

I recently heard a preacher state that his life had been changed in a radical way by some "defining moments." He cited several examples. This caused me to think about defining moments in my own life. The one that came to mind was the birth of my grandson. Life really changed for me. I was able to

experience dimensions of life that had before gone unappreciated. For many, defining moments might be marriage, graduation, confirmation, sickness or death. Everything is changed. A new perspective is given.

Looking back over the years I can identify four defining moments that have radically altered the life of The Episcopal Church. First, I recall the Philadelphia ordination of the first female priests. Many in the Church could not accept this action. However, the Church eventually changed its mind, and now we have the gift of the ordained ministry of women in all three orders of our Church.

The second defining moment was the passage of the revision of the Book of Common Prayer in 1976. At last the church had a comprehensive prayer book. It brought a new unity to a Church that was divided by the conflicts over churchmanship. The Eucharist had become the principle act of worship on Sunday for all Episcopalians. New pastoral offices were made available to the local congregations. A new Baptismal Covenant would provide a new perspective to our mission and ministry.

The third defining moment for me was the consecration of Barbara Harris as the first female bishop in the Anglican Communion. Her consecration led the way for the Church to be blessed by the other female bishops now serving in the Anglican Communion. And, finally, the recent consecration of V. Gene Robinson. This whole process has moved our Church to be a more welcoming place for all of God's children. Time will tell the full story.

After each of the aforementioned defining moments there were predictions of the destruction of the Anglican Communion. It is true that some people left. But it is also true that others have joined. I am reminded of the situation Jesus encountered in the 6th Chapter of the Gospel of John. After teaching about himself as "the bread that came down from heaven", some of his hearers would not follow him any longer. They rejected his message and, I might add, to their own peril.

Through it all, I believe God has more work for the Anglican Communion to accomplish. I truly believe that if our eyes stay fixed on Jesus we will be able to fulfill what God expects of us.

The Bishop's Address was received with applause from the Delegates of the Convention.

Dispatch then called upon the Very Rev. James J. Cardone, Jr. to present his report, after which Dispatch called upon the Secretary to provide instructions to the delegates regarding the breakout sessions.

Dispatch called upon the Archdeacons to introduce new clergy to the Convention. The Bishop then asked the delegates to acknowledge the service of those clergy celebrating anniversaries of their ordination:

25th Anniversary to the Priesthood

The Rev. W. Kurt VonRoeschlaub

The Rev. Robert L. Schwarz

The Rev. Alfred Stefanik

The Rev. Lloyd Anthony
The Rev. Cn. Denis C. Brunelle
The Rev. Charles Sullivan
The Rev. George Bonner

40th Anniversary to the Priesthood

The Rev. George Busler
The Rev. Llewellyn Armstrong

50th Anniversary to the Priesthood

The Rev. John M. Mills
The Rev. John Jay Johnson
The Rt. Rev. Robert C. Witcher
The Rev. Cn. Edmund Olfiers

60th Anniversary to the Priesthood

The Rt. Rev. Richard B. Martin

Dispatch asked the Bishop to appoint members of the Convention Committees.

Committee on Canons

Class of 2007

Christian Hylton, Esq.
The Rev. Margaret Peckham Clark

Committee on Dispatch of Business

The Rev. Cn. Denis C. Brunelle, **Chair**
The Ven. Peter P. Q. Golden
The Ven. Jerome J. Nedelka
The Ven. Bernard O. D. Young
The Very Rev. Theodore W. Bean, Jr.
The Rev. Margaret A. Peckham Clark

Evelyn Thompson-Jones
Frank Logan
Don Derrick

Committee on Miscellaneous Business

Class of 2007

The Rev. Debra Low-Skinner
John C. Thomas, Jr.

Dispatch called upon the Rev. P. Allister Rawlins to present the report of the Companion Diocese Committee.

Dispatch then announced that Convention would proceed to Evening Prayer with the Bishop Suffragan's Address and then adjourn until 10:30 a.m. Saturday morning.

ADDRESS TO THE CONVENTION

The Rt. Rev. Rodney R. Michel
Bishop Suffragan of Long Island

May God's Shalom be with you my sisters and brothers in Christ Jesus. On this Commemoration of the Consecration of Samuel Seabury and the bestowal of the historic and apostolic episcopate to the Episcopal Church in the United States of America, we remember the sometime Rector of Grace Church, Jamaica, New York, and the 6th Rector of St. George's Church, Flushing, ~ one of ours ~ who became the first Bishop of the American Church.

Because I know you will be waiting for this, I'll give it to you right away. Gee, it's

so quiet you could hear a pun drop. A guy had a girlfriend named Lorraine who was very pretty and whom he liked a lot. One day he went to work and met a gorgeous new employee named Clearly with whom he became quite smitten. The guy was a decent fellow and wouldn't do anything with Clearly while he was still going out with Lorraine. He decided that there was nothing left to do but break up with Lorraine and begin dating Clearly. He planned several times to tell Lorraine, but he couldn't bring himself to it. One day they went for a walk along the riverbank and Lorraine slipped and fell into the fast moving current. Sadly, she was carried away down stream and not seen again. The guy stopped for a moment there by the river, shed a tear or two and then went on his way, smiling and singing: **"I CAN SEE CLEARLY NOW, LORRAINE HAS GONE."**

In the lesson for Evening Prayer we heard those familiar words from the 16th chapter of Matthew's Gospel where Jesus establishes the Church, built on a rock solid foundation: *"on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it."*

I find it interesting to be celebrating the bestowal of the historic episcopate to the Anglican Church represented in the United States of America, when naysayers are telling us that the Church is about to break apart, come unraveled, be destroyed forever because of the actions of General Convention 2003 and the Consecration held on November 2, 2003. We need to remember that, when the Episcopal church was established, our mother Church of England refused to provide bishops for us, for political reasons, but that did not prevent us from exercising our own integrity as a new province of the Anglican Communion.

We didn't buckle then, and it is not likely that this unruly child of Mater Anglicana will abandon our convictions, and become the obedient child in this instance. Above all, we remember, dear friends, that this is God's Church and God is still in control, though at times we may feel like we are on a spiritual roller coaster ride, and will never get our equilibrium or balance again. God is in control, have no doubt about that.

Abigail Adams, in a letter to her husband John Quincy Adams in 1780, wrote: "These are times in which a genius would wish to live. It is not in the small calm of life or in the repose of a pacific station that great challenges are formed. Great necessities call out great virtues." This is a time for great virtues that are hidden in our life of faith to be called out, and the genius of the Anglican expression of the Christian Faith to be demonstrated. One of the most important discoveries we need to make in these tumultuous times is to gain some perspective, look at the larger picture of where God is leading us in this part of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. It may mean looking at new ways for the 38 provinces of the Anglican Communion, spread across 164 countries, of relating and being in communion with one another, but still being about the kingdom work of the Church.

Certainly, we have to acknowledge that not everyone in our faith community is in accord with the recent decisions of the Church gathered in General Convention. There are those among us who are in great pain and sorrow, while others rejoice and give thanks to God for what has happened.

A few weeks ago each bishop of the Church received one of these very lovely Anglican Prayer Ropes made by the holy Sisters of the Transfiguration in Cincinnati, Ohio. One of the Sisters told of how, on the last day of the General Convention in Minneapolis, a man asked her to let him think out loud on the dilemma facing the church. She said she wanted to argue with him passionately,

but she could not stop hearing the call to repentance that the Presiding Bishop had mentioned in his final sermon of the Convention. She writes: "When he finished what he had to say, I felt an urge to give him the rosary I had just finished [making], asking him to accept it as a sign that, regardless of our vast disagreement, we serve the same Christ and will always be brother and sister. He accepted it, and I discovered that I actually love this man with whom I have only Jesus Christ in common. It was a gift of profound repentance and conversion. I suddenly wanted to share this sign of grace with all of the bishops who were preparing for their vote and for whatever the aftermath would be, regardless of the outcome. As a community, we have diverse opinions about the situation. Even so, we are in agreement that we must find ways to remain together in Christ's love in spite of our painful differences, as part of our witness to a world in desperate need of hope and reconciliation." **We must find ways to remain together in Christ's love in spite of our painful differences, as part of our witness to a world in desperate need of hope and reconciliation.** Remaining together is a part of the work of the Kingdom.

Our Presiding Bishop and Primate, Frank T. Griswold, in a letter to the Bishops of the Church last month, wrote: "It, therefore, concerns me deeply when Christians use inflammatory rhetoric when speaking of one another or issue ultimatums. In such a climate, mutual pursuit of ways to build up rather than tear down is made more difficult, and the vast deposit of faith upon which we all agree is obscured. At the same time, we must acknowledge and respect our brothers and sisters who feel alienated by certain actions of the recent General Convention. We must take seriously their grief and anger and seek as best we can to stand with them.

Those working to transform the world in the ministry of reconciliation remind us of the call to all persons of faith, and the mission of the Episcopal Church today and the primary focus of most of its members. Division and splintering, while much in the news, are not the spirit which gives life to our church.

Baptism establishes an indissoluble bond between those who are baptized and the Risen Christ. So, too, baptism binds us together in such a way that we cannot say to one another, "I have no need of you."

This calls to mind the 4th chapter of Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians, where he says: "I...beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all." And later in that same chapter, Paul writes: "But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love." Dear friends, as we work to build up the Body of Christ we cannot say to any brother or sister, "I have no need of you" because we disagree in matters of moral standards or Biblical interpretation. We are all God's children and we all bear responsibility for one another in the Church and in the world.

We cannot be like the herring who asked of another herring, "Am I my brother's kipper?" Nor can we be like the chimpanzee sitting on a rock with an open book in each hand, looking first at one and then at the other. Upon closer identification, the observer saw The Bible and Charles Darwin's "Origin of the Species." Curious, he asks the chimp, "What's with the books?" The chimp

replies, "I'm trying to decide whether I'm my brother's keeper, or my keeper's brother!" That we are our brothers' or sisters' keeper has been part of our Judeo-Christian ethics since the Book of Genesis.

Moving beyond the pain and angst of this current crisis in the Church we must regain the vision of the mission of the Church. We must avoid what Cornelia Otis Skinner once mentioned in a lecture: "One learns in life to keep silent and draw one's own confusion." We have enough of confusion and then some, and we can do without it. Bishop John M. Burgess, + of blessed memory, the first Bishop Diocesan of color in the Episcopal Church said in his first Convention address to the Diocese of Massachusetts in 1970: "I hope we will not lose sight of the fact that our true and essential mission is to the world and not to ourselves. It would be tragic indeed if debate on ecclesiastical minutiae provided us an escape from a world in need of Christ."

A world in need of Christ. That brings to mind a hymn that my saintly old grandmother used to sing when she was urging me to be a missionary. It is a 19th century hymn written by Henry Ernest Nichol, but the words still apply in the 21st century.

*"We've a story to tell to the nations,
That shall turn their hearts to the right,
A story of truth and mercy,
A story of peace and light,
A story of peace and light.
For the darkness shall turn to dawning,
And the dawning to noonday bright;
And Christ's great kingdom shall come on earth,
The Kingdom of love and light.*

She didn't mention, of course, that there would be dangers inherent in missionary work. Two cannibals met one day and the first one said, "You know, I just can't seem to get a tender missionary. I've baked them, roasted them, and stewed them; I've barbecued them, and tried every sort of marinade. I just cannot seem to get them tender." The second cannibal asks, "What kind of missionary do you use?" "The ones with the brown cloaks with a rope around their waist, and they're sort of bald on top with a funny ring of hair on their heads." "Ah, ha!" said the second cannibal, "No wonder ~ those are the friars." With apologies to our own friars of the Society of St. Francis.

Granny did mention that there were dangers inherent in missionary work but she also told me that God would always be with me. God sustains us on the journey. "On this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it!"

Centuries before John Burgess spoke of the mission of the Church, Richard Hooker wrote: "I pray that none will be offended if I seek to make of the Church an inn where any and all are to be received joyously, rather than a cottage where some few friends of the family alone are received."

William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury in the early 1940's said in a sermon: "The Church exists for the benefit of those who do not belong to its membership." This sentiment continues to be echoed in the Church today.

Alanson B. Hughson, a retired Episcopal priest recently wrote: "The church is not a club where only "members in good standing" are welcome, but an arena of

reconciliation for all sorts and conditions of people. The church is not a fortress to keep out those whose views we disagree with, but an open, available place where all who wander in are offered a seat at our table and welcomed into our fellowship. The church is not in any danger of falling apart. We are the ones who are in danger of falling away from that very gospel of love and acceptance and healing that Jesus lived and died for. Jesus turned away no one, be they lepers or Romans or scribes or Pharisees or harlots. Everyone was welcome in His life and into His discipleship. The Church has been around for a long time without our help, and we need to remember that before we pompously decide what is right and what is wrong, and who are in and who are not to be part of "our" Church."

We need to work towards an ecclesiology that says: The next person through the door is the reason we're doing this. Can we catch that vision? It is challenging and daunting but, with caring and committed clergy, a good church staff, powerful worship every Sunday of the year, and committed members of the community of Faith, we can engage God's mission to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ, and we can do that with sure trust that God will make good use of what we offer.

It will mean having a larger perspective, a serious look at the "big picture". We can't be like the person who went to the local post office and asked for 50 Christmas stamps. When the clerk at the window said, "What denomination?" without blinking an eye, the woman says, "God help us. Has it come to this? Give me 6 Catholic, 12 Presbyterian, 10 Lutheran and 22 Baptists."

Being a missionary Church is going to be messy, and those who are troubled about tidiness will be greatly frustrated. There will be, indeed there already are, situations and needs that don't fit the legislative processes of Conventions or councils. Many people will be upset because it isn't the Church the way it's always been. But I say, "Thank God for that!" We need to get ready for something bigger and God has great surprises in store for us.

Don't you think Sam Seabury was nervous when he approached the hallowed halls of Lambeth Palace or Canterbury Cathedral seeking ordination to the historic episcopate? Yet, he knew that he dare not return to these brand new United States of America without the consecration he sought, and God helped find a way through the Non-Juring Bishops of the Episcopal Church in Scotland.

God prevailed and the Episcopal Church in the United States of America has moved from Bishop Number 1 in the American Succession of the historic episcopate to number 993 on November 2, 2003.

The 794th bishop in the American Succession, Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold, said recently: "This I know: whatever the outcome may be, we will be able to live it with the awareness that the church is never something we can possess and shape according to our own liking. The church always exceeds our understanding because it is shaped and formed by the mind of Christ. Though I avoid speculation, I am not without particular hopes. I hope that there may be an enlargement of our sense of what it means to be the body of Christ made up of diverse members who, in faith, hold divergent points of view. I hope that all of us might move beyond a spirit of condemnation and reaction. I hope we can speak to and about one another with a vocabulary that avoids limiting categorizations such as liberal/conservative, reactionary/progressive, and orthodox/ revisionist. I hope there may emerge among us a renewed sense that we are bound together through baptism in 'solidarities not of our own choosing,' as the Archbishop of

Canterbury, Rowan Williams, has reminded us. . . . I hope that in this world, so full of hate and so in need of love, the reconciling energy of the divine compassion may flow through our church and our whole Communion witnessing to a way of being that gives hope to a world so in need of love.”

Our mission and ministry is about encouraging and challenging people to do ministry together ~ and to provide a place at the table for everybody, not just at the table of leadership and decision, as well as at the altar. It means inviting young people and old, small churches and large parishes, liberals and conservatives, Anglos, West Indians, Asians and Hispanics, Anglo-Catholics and Evangelicals, Archdeacons and lay people ~ the whole famn damily. It is God’s church and Christ’s ministry, but we are called to live it out, and we have no choice but to do that together.

Reports of the press to the contrary, many good things happened at the 74th General Convention. Five program and budget priorities were established:

1. Young adults and youth;
2. Reconciliation and evangelism;
3. Congregational transformation;
4. Justice and peace; and
5. Anglican and other partnerships.

I believe that every one of those priorities is applicable to the work of the Church in the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island. Everyone, from our leadership to the people in the pews of every one of our congregations, is called to a commitment to these priorities, as we trust in God to make good use of what we offer. It is my hope that we can continue the very good ministry among young adults and youth which we began six Conventions ago and which was carried out so faithfully by our brother in Christ, J. Brooks Johnson.

Show me one congregation in the Diocese which could not benefit from transformation? The cry for justice and peace in this country and throughout the world echoes throughout the universe. How do we respond? All of these priorities call for ample resources and committed, loving, and caring people, who want to do it all for Jesus and not just for the feathering of their own nests. But we can do it, especially if we will work together.

Together we can turn our attention to the poor and to ministry in the inner city, as well as among impoverished farm workers and undocumented visitors to our country. Together we can deal with all the messy extras needed to minister in today’s world; you know, learning other languages, understanding other cultures, races and traditions, and living side by side in this pluralistic world with people of all faiths and religions. The Church can no longer be a monochrome institution. Jesus commanded us to go to all nations, and repeatedly urged us to abandon our desire for exclusiveness. That is a truth that some may find to be distressing.

Dear friends in Christ, this is God’s Church built on solid rock and nothing can prevail against it. As people of faith, we are stronger than the forces of evil, random violence, and hate which seek to crush the human spirit. And we are stronger when we stand together under the banner of Christ’s Love

As an adapted version of Kevin Prosch’s song goes:

*You can feel the love of God in this place,
And His banner over us is love.*

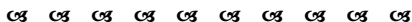
*We believe God's goodness and receive God's grace,
And His banner over us is love.
His banner, over us is love.*

I want to leave you with a word of hope, and the words of the Archbishop of Capetown, Njongonkulu W. H. Ndungane, come to mind. He says that, with God's grace, we Christians can build "a tapestry of hope to help alleviate the suffering in this world and give courage to those who are stultified by the overwhelming tasks which face them each day." If we can help to bring that tiny ray of light and stand with others as agents of hope and commitment, God can use us to help usher in the Kingdom by sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

Right now, I am going to ask each of you to do something that may seem "corny" or too simple for sophisticated Episcopalians, but humor me please; I'm now a senior citizen. Turn to the person next to you – right now – and say "I thank God for giving you to sit next to me. Let's make a world of difference together."

And then my brothers and sisters let us all pray earnestly for God's beloved Church and for every member of the Church in this Diocese, that together we may bring a ray of light, if ever so tiny, that will break through the darkness of despair, misunderstanding, and hatred that engulfs us in these difficult times. It will mean committing ourselves daily in prayer for that sacred and blessed community of the New Covenant, for the clergy and the People of God called to be the Church in the Diocese of Long Island; but dear hearts, we are people of prayer, we are God's people, and God will hear and bless us. The promise is there! It will mean working together in love and trust, relying on one another to speak the truth in love and to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ, so that everyone can be strengthened by the good news of our Savior and Lord. Let's live into our heritage as Anglicans and celebrate the roominess that has always been such a part of our Communion. Let's act as if we really do have the mind of Christ. For, indeed, we do, and Christ is the reason for it all. The journey may not always be easy, but God has promised to be with us on the journey, and our faith will sustain us along the way as we march to Zion.

We've a story to tell to the nations, and that begins right here in the Dominion in the Sea. Our work ~ with God ~ can help to turn the darkness to the dawning, and the dawning to noonday bright, so that God's great kingdom can come on earth ~ **The Kingdom of Love and Light**. May God help us and bless us one and all.



Saturday, November 15, 2003

Following a celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 8:45 a.m., the Convention reconvened with Bishop Michel presiding.

Dispatch called upon the Rev. Churchill Pinder to update the Convention on the activities at Camp DeWolfe.

Dispatch then called upon the Treasurer of the Diocese, Don Derrick, to present his annual report to the Convention

Following the Treasurer's report, Frank Ellis, Vice Chair of the Department of Budget, presented the 2004 budget as printed in the Pre-Convention Journal and moved its adoption. Following discussion,

and upon motion duly made and seconded, the 2004 budget was adopted.

An announcement was made regarding the creation of the Canon Joyce Hogg Fund to be administered by Episcopal Charities.

Dispatch called upon the Rev. Mervyn Belmontes to continue discussion on the resolution concerning Peace in the Middle East.

Resolution #2, as presented in the Pre-Convention Journal, was amended and moved by the Committee on Canons to read as follows. It was seconded, and passed by Convention in the amended form.

Resolution # 2
Concerning Peace in the Middle East

The members of the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island proclaim that

Whereas, Christianity has its roots in Judaism; and

Whereas, the New Testament derives from the Old Testament; and

Whereas, all the people of the Holy Land are the children of God; and

Whereas, Episcopalians regard all people as their brothers and sisters under God; and

Whereas, prejudice of all kind is a sin against God and humanity;

Therefore be it resolved, that the Israelis should be able to live in peace with their Palestinian brothers and sisters. The Diocese of Long Island supports a peaceful two-state solution without barriers such as the wall presently under construction, in order that Israel and Palestine may live in peace and mutual respect with one another and all their neighbors in the Middle East.

Dispatch then called upon the Bishop to nominate, in accordance with Diocesan Canons, the members of the Commission on Ministry for confirmation by Convention.

The Rev. Hickman Alexandre
The Rev. Margaret A. Peckham Clark
Deacon Gail E. Kertland
The Rev. Timothy J. Lewis
The Rev. T Abigail Murphy
The Rev. William C. Parker
The Rev. Howard K. Williams

Ms. Janice Commentz
Christian Hylton, Esq.
Mr. Alan J. MacDougall
The Rev. Charles F. McCarron
Mr. James L. Place
Mrs. Muriel Sobers
Mrs. Jane Tamke

The Rev. Thomas F. Reese, **Chair**
The Rev. Juan A. Quevedo-Bosch, Examining Chaplain

Dispatch moved that the appointments be confirmed by a vote of Convention. The motion was seconded and carried.

Dispatch called for the Report of the Committee on the Bishop's Address. The Very Rev. William M. Viola, Rector, St. Anselm's, Shoreham, presented the following response to Bishop Walker's address:

Dear Bishops and Friends:

Once again it is my privilege to respond to the Bishop's address on behalf of the diocese. We all agree that we are blessed by a fine diocesan staff and many

wonderful volunteers who make our church what it is, especially people like Canon Fardella.

It is sad to say goodbye to Fr. John Greco. Not only was his vocation as archdeacon and your deputy done well, but it was done with grace, style and panache. May God always be with him.

And how does one say farewell to old friends? We say a joyous "till we meet again" to Canon Joyce Hogg. I personally found Joyce's amazing zeal and energy for this diocese, the national church, and especially her work for Episcopal Relief and Development, inspirational. I know God will always be with her and her husband, Bill, who also did his fair share to build community. We will miss them both and we raise our glasses with a "wee doch and doris".

We say goodbye to Brooks Johnson and thank him for beginning to incorporate young people into the life and work of the diocese. We shall miss his contagious smile and even his bow ties. We wish him well.

We were thrilled at the election of one of our own members of the diocese to be the Bishop of Oregon, Canon Johny Itty. We know he will make this diocese proud of him.

What great news about St. Augustine's parish in Brooklyn! Well done good and faithful servants. We welcome too the help of Fr. Mark Clevenger and Fr. Charles McCarron in the areas of stewardship and aiding people who are poor economically and in spirit. Tithing is the least we should do to support these worthwhile diocesan ministries.

We wish Dean Cardone well and pledge our support to help our mother church, our Cathedral in Garden City. The Camp DeWolfe project too is worth our support. I compliment all those working at camp on our new Dominion Retreat Center. These are all signs of life and vitality in our diocese.

We were happy to be reminded by Archbishop Eames that our present crisis with other provinces in the Anglican communion is an opportunity to review what it means to be created in the image of God as revealed in scripture, tradition, reason, and each other. We certainly need to focus on our "bonds of affection" and our mission as church, the people of God. Should we not be leaders in the struggle for justice and peace? We can only do this if we stay together, especially around the Eucharistic table. Thank you, dear Bishop, for reminding us that, as part of the Catholic Church, we must love and accept all, even those with whom we disagree or those who are different from us. No one should stand in the margins of our church family, but be full members linked by baptism, the Eucharist, and love. Let us cultivate peace. Let us practice the art of building bridges and not walls. We look forward to an exciting future in a church where all people feel truly welcome.

While we are not a perfect communion of saints, we hope that Jesus will recognize us at his second coming and we pray that we will hear him say "behold those Anglicans, how they love each other!"

Respectfully submitted,
The Very Rev. William M. Viola, Rector
St. Anselm's, Shoreham

Dispatch called upon the Rev. Mervyn L. Belmontes, Chair, Committee on Miscellaneous Business to present his report.

Dispatch called for reports of other Committees of Convention, if any.

A motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the 136th Convention was duly seconded and passed.

Dispatch called for any other business to come before this Convention.

Dispatch then moved that the 138th Convention of the Diocese of Long Island be held on Friday and Saturday, November 12th and 13th, 2004 at the Hilton Huntington Hotel, Melville, Long Island.

Dispatch further moved that the 137th Convention of the Diocese of Long Island immediately move to Evening Prayer and that the Convention be adjourned sine die.

Following Evening Prayer the Convention was adjourned.

(The Rt. Rev.) Orris G. Walker, Jr., *President of Convention*
and
(The Rev.) Richard E. Simpson, Jr. *Secretary of Convention*