

The Minutes of the Diocesan Council
The Diocese of Quincy of the Episcopal Church

August 22, 2009

The Diocesan Council met at St. Paul's Cathedral, Peoria, on Saturday, August 22, 2009. The meeting was called to order with prayer by the Rt. Rev. John C. Buchanan, Provisional Bishop at 10:15 a.m.

Council Members present:

The Rev. James Allemeier
The Rev. Gary Dalmasso
Christine Barrow
Linda Brown
Lance Factor
Erica Goldstone
Fred Leggett
Katharine Pawelko
Brenda Spencer
Valerie Renner

Standing Committee Members present:

The Rev. Robert Dedmon
The Rev. Larry Larson
Lin Goldstone
Tobyn Leigh Miracle

Report of the Provisional Bishop

Bishop Buchanan read the Letter of Inhibition for clergy who have departed the diocese and the Episcopal Church. They have been inhibited under Title IV.10 of the Canons of the Episcopal Church. The Bishop then reported that with the consent of the Standing Committee he has removed the following clergy under the provisions of Title III.9.8, their actions having constituted a voluntary renunciation of their ordinations in the Episcopal Church:

The Rev. Edward den Blaauwen
The Rev. Richard Chapin
The Rev. Thomas Janikowski
The Rev. Lewis Payne
The Rev James Marshall
The Rev. Peter Powell
The Rev. John Spencer.

The Bishop asked for the advice and counsel of the Council and Standing Committee regarding changes to the computation of the quorum needed in the lay order for the Annual Synod on October 17, 2009. He said that he felt it would be wise to take steps prior to the synod that would reduce the number of lay deputies required.

The governing canon is Canon 79 "Change in the Status of a Parish," which reads in part: "if a parish . . . has failed to continue to comply with the conditions required for its organization as a Parish, such Parish shall, at the order of the Bishop,

relinquish its rights and privileges as an organized parish.” Canon 79.3 states that such a parish becomes an Organized Mission.

The condition of non-compliance is found in Canon 71.2 which reads in part:
“The application . . . shall include a promise and declaration . . . that the Parish shall conform to and be bound by the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Bishop of Quincy . . . and the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal church . . . and the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Quincy.”

The non-complying parishes are:

St. Peter’s, Canton	Christ Church, Moline	Trinity Church, Monmouth
St. Andrew’s, Peoria	St. John’s, Quincy	Trinity Church, Rock Island.

Grace Church, Galesburg, and St. George’s Church, Macomb, are complying parishes as each has organized a vestry and elected officers of the vestry.

The current formula to determine Lay Deputations is :

13 Missions X 2 = 26 deputies and 10 Parishes X 5 = 50 deputies, being a Total of 76 deputies, with a majority being 39 deputies. At the recent Special Synod meeting we had a few more than the required number.

In changing the status of the non-complying parishes, the formula would be:

19 Missions x 2 = 38 deputies and 4 parishes X 5 = 20 deputies, being a total of 58 lay deputies, with the majority being 30. An added advantage would be that the Bishop becomes the rector of all Organized Missions, with the authority to appoint vicars, and this would be helpful after the diocese has regained possession of all our properties.

The Council and the Standing Committee concurred with this action.

The Bishop distributed his visitation schedule. He visited Episcopalians in Galesburg on August 20, and conducted worship at the Lutheran Church.

This was a positive meeting with over thirty people. In September he will fly into and out of Moline and spend time with Episcopalians from Christ Church and Trinity Church, Rock Island.

The Bishop reported that he had ordained the Reverend Thomas Stone to the sacred priesthood on Friday evening, August 21, 2009, at St. Paul’s Cathedral.

Report of the Secretary of Synod

Dean Dedmon reported that a Letter of Call should soon go out to all deputies at our Special Synod in April, 2009, reminded them that each parish and mission must now

elect and certify their deputies for the regular Annual Synod in October. He will prepare a draft of the Letter of Call for the Bishop's consideration.

Report of the Treasurer

Michael Renner distributed the Treasurer's Report for July (attached). He reported the substance of a conference call on August 11, 2009. This call was initiated by the Rev. Charles Robertson, Canon to the Ordinary for the Presiding Bishop. Participating in the call were the four Provisional Bishops of the recovering dioceses, their four treasurers, the four chancellors, the Rt. Rev. Clay Matthews, suffragan bishop for pastoral development, David Booth Beers, Chancellor to the Presiding Bishop, Mary Kostel, counsel to the Presiding Bishop, and from the Diocese of Quincy, Mike Renner, Treasurer, Dean Robert Dedmon, and Lisa Hunt, Assistant to the Provisional Bishop.

The Episcopal Church will honor its grants to the four dioceses through the end of 2009, but afterwards will be unable to offer further grants for operating expenses due to budget constraints. However, each diocese will have the opportunity to apply for a Line of Credit with a maximum of \$125,000 for 2010, to be paid out in five increments of \$25,000, at 4.75%, the total borrowed with interest to be re-paid by December 31, 2012.

The Rev. Allemeier moved that the diocese apply for the Line of Credit, that any monies borrowed should be done with the specific approval of the Diocesan Council, and to authorize Treasurer Renner to establish this line of credit. This motion was seconded by Mr. Leggert and passed.

Mr. Renner reported that he had had much discussion with Chancellor Ewing regarding the use of the Diocese of Quincy tax identification number. From the legal standpoint the original EIN number continues, but because of provisions of the Patriot Act, banks now require other documentation before accounts can be established. We are currently using the original tax identification number. Some continuing congregations still are having difficulty establishing bank accounts.

The Bishop mentioned that on the day before the Annual Synod, that on October 16, 2009, there will be a special program available from Canon Rick Cluett and the Rev. Gaye Jennings to assist clergy and lay leadership in the diocese and to provide needed resources. This program will take place from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Cathedral.

Report of the Chancellor

Chancellor Ewing was unable to be at the meeting due to the illness of his son Scott. He sent his report that in the matter of the lawsuit filed by the departed Standing Committee on March 30, 2009, the Diocese of Quincy (Episcopalian) has asked for a change of venue from Adams County, Illinois, to Peoria County, Illinois, and that the judge now has this request under advisement and will rule shortly. This request was made on the basis of National City Bank

not doing business in Adams County. Once the venue is decided, the particular suit may be expanded to include not only endowments, but also other assets and properties.

In Moline the action is about the endowments of Christ Church, which the bank has frozen. The ACNA Vestry has filed suit to unfreeze the money. The judge decided against this vestry and kept the funds frozen. This decision was challenged by the ACNA Vestry who filed for a new hearing, at which the same judge repeated his decision. The Episcopal Church then filed an answer to the ACNA Vestry in which they enlarged the issues to be considered. Now the ACNA vestry has requested a different judge.

Report of the Standing Committee

The Rev. President Larson reported that the Standing Committee has recommended that the Letter of Agreement for the Provisional Bishop be extended to the end of December, 2009.

Nominating Committee

Dr. Lin Goldstone volunteered to chair the Nominating committee for the Annual Synod, assisted by Dean Dedmon. The Committee will be composed of members of the Diocesan Council.

Communications

The new diocesan website www.thedioceseofquincyonline.com is now up and running. David Hill of St. Paul's Cathedral is the webmaster. Upon the recommendation of the Diocesan Council, Bishop Buchanan appointed Tobyn Miracle to be the Communications Officer for the diocese.

Bishop Buchanan reported that the keynote speaker for the Annual Synod will be the Rt. Rev. Christopher Epting, former bishop of Iowa and current Ecumenical Officer of the Episcopal Church.

The joint meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

The next meeting is set for Saturday, September 12, 2009, at St. Paul's Cathedral, Peoria.

Respectfully submitted,

The Very Reverend Robert Dedmon
Secretary of Synod