

**41st Annual Convention of the
Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon
Proceedings**

Sing a New Song!

Hosts of Convention: St. John's, Hermiston, and the North Central Convocation

Presiding: The Rt. Rev. Bavi "Nedi" Rivera, Bishop

Friday, October 14, 2011

Friday events were held at the Hermiston Conference Center. Registration was held from 3:00–6:45 p.m. Potato bar supper was served from 5:00–6:30 p.m. The annual meeting of the Eastern Oregon Episcopal Foundation preceded the Convention meetings at 3:30-4:30 p.m. in the Rotary/Altrusa room at the Conference Center. The parish coordinators for Episcopal Relief and Development met with Diocesan ERD Coordinator, Bruce Barnes, from 4:30–5:15 p.m in the Board Room of the Conference Center. The Foundation Trustees met following the Foundation annual meeting from 4:30-5:30 p.m. A budget review session was held in the Rotary/Altrusa room from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Opening Session

At 7:00 p.m., Bishop Nedi opened Convention by introducing the Rev. Dr. Eric H.F. Law as the guest presenter for convention. She invited Eric to teach the song, "Christ is our Guiding Light." Following the song, Bishop Nedi offered the Collect of the Day for Samuel Isaac Joseph Schereschewsky, Bishop of Shanghai, 1906.

Following the opening prayers, Bishop Nedi introduced the Rev. Dan Lediard, Rector of St. John's and Leslie Weimer, Chair of the Host Committee.

Session I: Five-Years in Review

Bishop Nedi explained that the evening session would be an opportunity to look at commitments made during the 2006 Crossroads Convention, as reflected by the Mind Map created at that convention, and to reflect on the ways in which God has led the Diocese of Eastern Oregon during the past five years. The Bishop introduced Ruth Tsu who explained the small group process for the evening. Ruth asked that participants look at the Mind Map briefly to note connections and points of interest or curiosity. She then asked participants to work in small groups to share things that have happened or where congregations chose to go in another direction and any "ah-ha" moments. She then asked the groups to share their observations and plan a presentation of their reflections on how the past five years prepares the diocese to "sing a new song."

At approximately 7:40, Ruth invited the small groups to share their presentations. A variety of songs, posters, dramatic readings, poems and statements were shared. *(See addendum for copies of lyrics, poems, statements, etc.)*

Following the presentations, Eric Law reflected on the offerings noting that God just wants us to give thanks, and that the presentations offered were a thanksgiving. He noted that there was reference to things expanding though finances are shrinking. He referenced Isaiah 55:10 and stated that money is like water; it is just one resource. Like water, if money collects and sits in stillness, it will stagnate and rot. He asked attendees to think about what each diocesan budget expense flows into. Eric commented that his presentations would examine currencies, saying that if other currencies are tracked, money will not be an issue. He said that as the Word of God flows through, watch what will grow.

Announcements were made and Convention Committee Chairs for Tellers and Resolutions Committee were introduced.

Worship

At 9:00 p.m., St. John's parishioner Angela Purcel led the gathering in Compline. The meeting recessed following Compline.

Saturday, October 15, 2011

Saturday sessions were held at the Hermiston Conference Center. Registration of late arrivals continued from 7:10-8:00 a.m. A budget review session was held in the Rotary/Altrusa room of the Conference Center at 7:15-8:00 a.m.

Worship

Convention reconvened at 8:00 a.m. with Gospel Based Discipleship Morning Prayer led by Dan Lediard, Rector of St. John's.

Keynote Address - Holy Currencies

At approximately 8:30 a.m., Eric Law presented the keynote address on Holy Currencies. A handout of information and worksheets was included in the convention packets that attendees received at registration. The six Holy Currencies are: Currency of Gracious Leadership, Currency of Relationship, Currency of Truth, Currency of Wellness, Currency of Money, and Currency of Time and Place. He stated that Sustainable Missional Ministry depends on all of the currencies being used and flowing to rejuvenate each other. Eric described the beginnings of the Kaleidoscope Institute and realizing that it was out of the flow of the five other currencies that the flow of money to sustain that ministry resulted. He gave the example of flow by saying that Kaleidoscope Institute books a place and time to do leadership training, participants take what they learn home and begin to practice gracious leadership, which begins building relationships; diverse relationships are developed and trust is established; truth is spoken and truth creates wellness; people need to give in order to be well and money flows into those programs and institutions that they value.

Eric led participants in an exercise of networking small groups to illustrate having relationships and being open to new relationships. He explained that evangelism is creating opportunity to build relationship, using the trust within those relationships to speak the truth and create wellness. He noted that the Chinese character for truth is the combination of the

character for ten and the character for eye, meaning that it takes at least ten different viewpoints to see the truth.

Eric suggested that parishes should be asking what the community is doing to create wellness. He suggested that every church should have a community garden and a farmer's market and that the church should be an agent to make those things flow. He noted that he had learned that the diocese has farm land and showed a video of the Abundant Table Farm ministry to illustrate a flow of currencies.

Business Session I

Following a break, Bishop Nedi called the business session to order at 10:15 a.m. and asked Terry Joakimides, Secretary of Convention, to report on quorum. Terry reported a quorum in the lay order and in the clergy order, and that all parishes were represented.

Bishop Nedi again introduced and thanked Leslie Weimer, Chair of the Host Committee, and Dan Lediard, Rector of St. John's.

Bishop Nedi read a letter of greeting from Mary Margaret Davis, Province VIII coordinator for National Episcopal Health Ministries (NEHM).

Bishop Nedi requested Convention to grant seat, voice, and vote to ELCA Pastors, the Rev. Katy Anderson, Hope Lutheran/All Saints Episcopal, Heppner, and the Rev. Matthew Littau, St. Andrew's Episcopal/Peace Lutheran, Burns. It was **so moved, seconded and passed** on voice vote with no dissenting votes.

Bishop Nedi requested Convention to grant seat and voice to the Rev. Deacon Georgia Giacobbe, canonically resident in the Diocese of Alaska and serving at St. Paul's, The Dalles. It was **so moved, seconded and passed** on voice vote with no dissenting votes.

Transitions

Bishop Nedi introduced new clergy to the diocese and reviewed transitions in the diocese since the 2010 annual Convention.

New Clergy

- The Rev. Dan Lediard, Rector of St. John's, Hermiston, was installed in January, 2011. His wife, the Rev. Jody Lediard is serving as Interim Vicar at St. Paul's, Kennewick
- The Rev. Matt Littau, ELCA, was installed as Pastor at St. Andrew's Episcopal/Peace Lutheran, Burns on Sept. 11, 2011. He is also Pastor at Church of the Living Waters.
- The Rev. Deacon Georgia Giacobbe has moved to The Dalles from Alaska and is in process of transferring her canonical residence.

Ordinations

- The Rev. Michelle Meech was ordained a priest of this diocese just a year ago (Oct. 14, 2010) and serves as the Director of the Center for Anglican Learning and Leadership at Church Divinity School of the Pacific.
- The Rev. Kathy Macek, Interim Vicar at St. Peter's, La Grande, was ordained a deacon on April 30, 2011, and transferred her canonical residence in May.

Transfers

- Lee Kiefer has transferred his canonical residence to the Diocese of Spokane where he is Rector of St. Luke's, Wenatchee.
- Janis Johnson, retired priest of this diocese, transferred her canonical residence to the Diocese of Olympia.

New Positions

- The Rev. Aletha Bonebrake was installed as Vicar of St. Stephen's, Baker City on Feb. 24, 2011
- The Rev. Alison Dingley is the new Interim Rector at Church of the Redeemer, Pendleton, as of Oct. 1, 2011.
- The Rev. Martha Hurlburt has been called as Vicar of St. Paul's, Klamath Falls.
- The Rev. Rebecca Hendricks has been called as Vicar of St. James', Milton-Freewater.

Bishop Nedi introduced the members of Diocesan Council and Standing Committee; the Rev. Alison Dingley, the Rev. Christy Close Erskine, the Rev. Paul Morton, the Rev. Dcn Steve Schafroth, the Rev. Dcn Ruth Brown, the Rev. Anna Carmichael, G Royes, Laurance Kerr, Ruth Tsu, Terry Rahmsdorff, and Sue Powers; Jerry Frazier, Treasurer, and Terry Joakimides, Secretary of Convention. (*Arnold Coe and Bobby Fox were absent and two positions were vacant.*) She mentioned Council and Standing Committee's year of visiting parishes and listening and thanked them for their work.

Elections

Bishop Nedi announced that James Foster has resigned as **Chancellor** of the Diocese effective at the close of Convention. She introduced **Bergen Bull** as **Legal Advisor to the Bishop** until such time as a new Chancellor can be appointed.

Bishop Nedi announced her nomination of the Rev. **Jan Kozak** to serve another term on the **Ecclesiastical Disciplinary Board**. She asked for approval of this appointment. **Approval** was given by voice vote, with no dissenting votes. Members of the Disciplinary Board are:

Class of 2012: The Rev. Theodore Rodrigues, Sisters
Arnold Coe, Cove

Class of 2013: The Rev. Janet Fullmer, The Dalles
The Rev. Richard Thew, Cove
John Adams, The Dalles
Fabian Baker, Bonanza

Class of 2014: The Rev. Jan Kozak, Madras

Bishop Nedi announced that her appointments to the **Commission on Ministry**, Class of 2014, are: **Gail McGuire**, Bend; the Rev. Dcn **Willie Hoffer**, Bend; and **Bob Thomson**, Hood River. She noted that there is still a vacancy in the Class of 2012 awaiting an appointment. She asked for a vote to confirm these appointments. **Confirmation** was given by voice vote. The previously appointed and confirmed members of the Commission on Ministry are:

Class of 2012: The Rev. Rebecca Hendricks, Milton-Freewater
Peggy Ziegler, Bend

vacant

Class of 2013: The Rev. Jim Mosier, Ontario

The Rev. Mary Lujan, Hood River
The Rev. Janet Fullmer, The Dalles
Kathy Thew, Cove

Bishop Nedi also announced the appointment of **Dick Brown**, Redmond, as an **Ecumenical Associate Member** of the Commission on Ministry with seat and voice.

Candidates for **Standing Committee** were introduced. Julie Sarazin, Nyssa, was nominated from the floor by G Royes to the lay order, class of 2014. It was **moved, seconded, and passed** to elect **Julie Sarazin**, Nyssa, to the lay order, class of 2014. **The Rev. Jim Mosier**, Ontario, was elected to the clergy order, class of 2014 by written ballot.

Candidates for **Diocesan Council** were introduced. It was noted that the Rev. Janet Fullmer was a candidate for clergy order, class of 2014 and needed to be written in on the ballots. A **Rule of Order** for election was suggested by Bishop Nedi: in the lay order, delegates mark their ballots for the two candidates they wish elected to the three-year terms. The candidate receiving the lowest number of votes will serve the one year term. She asked for statement of objection to such a Rule of Order; hearing none, the election proceeded according to the above stated rule. **The Rev. Richard Landrith**, Lakeview, was elected to the clergy order, class of 2014 by written ballot. **Kimberly McClain**, Bend, and **Don Dickinson**, The Dalles, were elected to the lay order, class of 2014, and **Sue Powers**, Culver, was elected to the lay order, class of 2012. Bishop Nedi announced the appointment of **Neva DeMayo**, Heppner, as a **Lay Ecumenical Associate Member** of Diocesan Council with seat and voice.

It was **moved, seconded and passed** to cast a unanimous ballot to elect **Terry Rahmsdorff** as **General Convention Deputy Alternate, Lay Order**.

2012 Proposed Budget – First Reading

Jerry Frazier reviewed the proposed budget for 2012. He noted that the budget is based on a 22.5% assessment on Operating Revenues. Jerry commented on a few of the line items, noting that the notation on line item 12, Duncan Farm Income, should indicate that there will be about \$14,000 in the account for 2013. He also noted line items 66, Bookkeeping/Payroll/Administration, is for outsourcing bookkeeping services based on Year to Date and includes outsourcing some of the functions of the Business Manager; line item 108, Bishop's Compensation, stating that the bishop is half-time; line item 111, Bishop's Search/Consecration Reserve, stating that the amount targeted has been reached and will be held until further decisions are made. He noted that line 115, General Church Apportionment, is an amount determined by a specific formula. Jerry called attention to the final balance on line 142 noting that the budget is in the black for 2012 with no "cookie jar dipping."

As a closing, the Rev. Alison Dingley, President of Standing Committee, spoke to the work done to lower the assessment. She also spoke about stewardship of clergy leadership, including the bishop, through appropriate compensation. Terry Rahmsdorff, Co-chair of Diocesan Council, thanked the Finance Committee, Jerry Frazier, Treasurer, and Tiiu Vahtel, Diocesan Business Manager, for their work on the proposed budget. He also thanked Council and Standing Committee, saying that they heard from parishes the need to lower assessment and he stated

that he is proud of the work they have done. Jerry Frazier closed by saying that we need to look carefully at how the money flows.

Ascension School Camp and Conference Center

Bishop Nedi introduced Patty Olson Lindsey, Ascension School Executive Director, as a young adult involved in the church. She invited Patty to talk about Ascension School program. Patty introduced Lisa Boquist, Ascension School Hospitality Manager, who assisted with the presentation. While a slide show of summer camp experiences was displayed, Patty talked about her experience of Ascension as a former camper, former camp counselor, and as the executive director. She referred to Ascension as a safe place and referenced Matthew 13:17-24 to illustrate how she feels about Ascension as fertile ground. She noted the impact that camp experience has on youth faith formation. Patty invited Amy Rooper to share her experience of Ascension. Patty noted that Amy is a young adult who has attended camp as a camper, counselor, and has recently served as a volunteer resource person.

Bishop's Address

Bishop Nedi presented her address following the Ascension School report. The text of the address will be found following these minutes in the pages of the Convention Journal.

Response

Following the Bishop's Address, Eric Law commented. He thanked Nedi for making the connections between his presentation and the address. He told attendees that it is better to not know where they are going; to go back, wait, pray, and continue to discern.

Worship

The Rev. Rebecca Hendricks, St. James', Milton-Freewater, led Gospel Based Discipleship Noonday Prayer. She was assisted by Wilmalu Tomlinson, Barbara Coddington, and Jim Phillips.

Following announcements and worship, clergy spouses attended lunch with the Rev. Bob Moore, the Bishop's spouse, at the Farmer's Kitchen restaurant. Lunch was served for Convention attendees in the Conference Center.

Workshops

Convention reconvened at 1:10 p.m. Workshop sign-up sheets were redistributed and location of workshops was announced. Eric Law offered two sessions of workshop on *Holy Currencies* and one session on *Music That Makes Community*. These workshops were presented in the main meeting space of the Conference Center. The Rev. Anna Carmichael offered two sessions of workshop on the *Anglican Covenant* in the Board Room of the Conference Center. The Rev. Jerry Reynolds offered two sessions of workshop on *Expanding the Paradigm: Stewardship as Invitation Rather than Obligation* in the Rotary/Altrusa Room of the Conference Center.

At 4:30 p.m., convention reconvened in plenary session. Eric called attention to page 12 and 13 of the Holy Currencies handout and asked participants to share in table groups about how the currencies are flowing in their present ministries. At 5:10 p.m., he asked participants to re-gather and share insights. He noted that participants need to be aware of the flow out from convention, as this type of gathering builds wellness. He asked that participants consider what kind of leadership is needed to help make currencies flow.

Worship

The Rev. Katy Anderson, All Saints Episcopal/Hope Lutheran, Heppner, led Holden Evening Prayer, assisted by her husband, Bruce Anderson as cantor. They were assisted by Cyde Estes, Dan Sharp, and Virginia "George" Nairns. The UTO ingathering was included in the Evening Prayer service; ingathering total was \$3980.03.

Banquet

Bishop Nedi asked Eric Law to lead grace for the meal.

Following the meal, Bishop Nedi introduced the program by thanking the caterer, Angella Lambert and her staff. She also thanked the musicians, led by Les McMasters, who would be playing music and leading contra-dancing following the presentations.

Laurance and Ava Kerr presented the Bishop's Banner from Ascension School to St. James', Milton-Freewater, for their involvement and support of Ascension School programs.

Bishop Nedi presented Bishop's Crosses to the Rev. Alison Dingley, Jim Foster, and Tiiu Vahtel for their service to the diocese. Bishop Rustin Kimsey spoke about hiring Tiiu and of her service to the diocese. Diane Adams and Jerry Frazier presented a retirement gift from members of the diocese to Tiiu Vahtel. The gift was a memory book and a check to be used for a computer, with additional funds to go into a travel fund. Bishop Nedi led the attendees in a song written as a tribute to Tiiu. Tiiu thanked those gathered and spoke of her years in the diocesan office.

The presentations were followed by contra-dancing.

Sunday, October 16, 2011

At 7:30 a.m., the Rev. Alison Dingley, Church of the Redeemer, Pendleton, led Gospel Based Discipleship Morning Prayer at Hermiston Adventist Church.

Business Session II

The business session was reconvened by Bishop Nedi at 8:10 a.m. at the Hermiston Adventist Church.

Resolution for Canonical Changes

Bishop Nedi introduced Jim Foster, Chancellor, who reviewed the proposed canonical changes. Jim Foster **moved** the resolution as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon be amended as proposed:

Canon III, Section 3: The Canon shall be amended as follows:

The Standing Committee shall be composed of three (3) lay members who shall be confirmed adult communicants in good standing of some congregation in canonical union with the Diocese and three (3) clergy entitled to vote pursuant to Canon V.6 to be elected by the Diocesan Convention. The term of office shall be three (3) years on a staggered basis. One (1) clergy and one (1) lay person shall be elected each year at the Annual Convention for three (3) year terms to fill the expiring terms. The Bishop of the Diocese shall have seat and voice in all meetings of the Standing Committee but no vote. The members of the Standing Committee shall also be members of the Diocesan Council.

Canon V – The Convention shall be amended as follows:

Section 6:

(a) All actually and canonically resident clergy, of whatever Order, who have a regular diocesan or congregational assignment, and are in good standing, and who are performing the duties of their office, and who are not under ecclesiastical discipline, have the right to seat, voice and vote in the Convention. Retired clergy, canonically resident in the Diocese, shall be entitled to a seat and voice, but no vote in Convention.

(b) All interim clergy in charge of a congregation of the Diocese have the right to seat, voice and vote in the Convention during their tenure as interim clergy in charge of said congregation.

(c) All clergy affiliated with a Church in Communion with The Episcopal Church and are in charge of a congregation of the Diocese have the right to seat, voice and vote in the Convention.

Canon VIII – Representation in General Convention shall be amended as follows;

Section 2:

The clerical deputies and alternates shall be presbyters and/or deacons ~~canonically resident within the diocese~~ entitled to vote pursuant to Canon V.6. The lay deputies and alternates shall be confirmed adult communicants of a congregation in canonical union with the Diocese.

Discussion was invited. The resolution **passed** on voice vote.

Resolution on Diocesan Futures

Bishop Nedi called on the Rev. Jim Mosier, chair of the Resolutions Committee to distribute a resolution concerning the future of the diocese submitted by the Standing Committee. Bishop Nedi explained that a two-thirds majority was needed to consider the resolution.

It was **moved, seconded and passed**, by voice vote with dissenting vote, to **consider the resolution.**

Whereas: The Futures Committee of the EDEO put forth assumptions which included the continuation of the EDEO and

Whereas: The Futures Committee assumptions included an assumption that the EDEO would have a Bishop, and

Whereas: The comments received from individuals and congregations during the DC/SC visits this past summer further communicated the desire to remain the EDEO and to have a Bishop, and

Whereas: the Standing Committee of the EDEO supports maintaining the EDEO as currently defined and to have a Bishop for the EDEO and

Whereas: Many persons involved in the fiscal management of the EDEO are optimistic that financial resources will be available for the future of the EDEO which includes a Bishop. Therefore

Be it resolved: That the EDEO by action of this 41st Annual Convention direct our Bishop, Standing Committee and Diocesan Council to continue our efforts:

- To remain the Diocese of Eastern Oregon
- To have a Bishop

Be it further resolved: that the Diocesan Council be charged with the responsibility to identify and develop financial resources to sustain this future vision.

Discussion followed. Members of Standing Committee responded to questions from Diana Garcia, Ontario; Nancy Condron, Prineville; Don Scott, Redmond; Deedee Heidrich, Bonanza, and others. The questions were in regard to purpose of the resolution, next steps, and timeline. Alison Dingley explained why Standing Committee proposed the resolution, commenting that it was a tiny first step. She stated that the charge to Council in the second resolve is implicit that Council will offer direction in next steps for a long range plan. Alison stated that the immediate plan is to maintain status quo until 2013. Arnold Coe offered further response to the question of purpose of the resolution saying that conversations have been diverse, and taking the option with the lowest interest off the table allows focus of energies on the other options. He stated that it was intentional that the next steps were not included. Bishop Nedi responded to a question about the possibility of being a diocese without a bishop, saying that it is possible, as was done in Eastern Oregon from 2007-2009, but that it is not a long-term solution. Christy Close Erskine reiterated that the resolution only takes the option of merging the diocese or dividing the diocese off the table.

Question was called. The resolution **passed** on voice vote with no dissenting votes.

Resolution on Diocesan Assessment

Jim Mosier, Chair of the Resolutions Committee, presented the resolution from the vestry of St. Paul's, The Dalles, as published in the pre-Convention Journal:

Resolved that the current diocesan assessment of 25% be changed to 17.5% of Net Disposable Income for the current year, effective January 1, 2012.

Jim clarified that the proposed change in assessment was not a change in what is assessable, only in the amount of assessment. Jim invited Monte Dickinson to speak to the resolution.

Monte Dickinson, Sr. Warden of St. Paul's, The Dalles, **withdrew the resolution.**

Resolution on the Anglican Communion Covenant

The resolution from the Rev. Jim Mosier and the Rev. Kathy Macek on behalf of the Collegium was distributed.

It was **moved, seconded, and passed** on voice vote, with no dissenting votes, to **consider the resolution.**

Kathy Macek reviewed the following resolution:

Whereas: The churches of the Anglican Communion are held together in an indissoluble spiritual bond as members of the body of Christ and are called, individually and collectively, to “be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us” (Ephesians 5:1-2); and

Whereas: Within that indissoluble bond of love, each member church must discern where the Spirit of God is calling them as they live out their promise made in baptism “to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves,” ever mindful of their primary call to further the present-and-coming reign of God; and

Whereas: After prayerful consideration of *The Anglican Communion Covenant*, the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon, in Province VIII of The Episcopal Church, believes that the *Covenant* does not further the reign of God; and

Whereas: We believe that Section Four in particular – by its adjudicatory nature – introduces an adversarial element that could wound the Communion;

Now, therefore: We recommend that The Episcopal Church respectfully decline to ratify *The Anglican Communion Covenant* as proposed.

Discussion was invited. Bishop Nedi noted that the church is no longer referred to as The Episcopal Church in the United States, and it was accepted as a friendly amendment to remove “in the United States” from the resolution.

Question was called. The resolution **passed** on voice vote, with no dissenting votes.

Courtesy Resolutions

Bishop Nedi explained that part of the purpose of courtesy resolutions is to show appreciation for those who hosted Convention.

Ned Kice, The Dalles, presented the resolution:

Be it resolved that the 41st Annual Convention of the Diocese of Eastern Oregon, meeting in Hermiston, from the 14th to the 16th of October, 2011, convey our thanks to our hosts:

- St. John’s Episcopal Church, Hermiston
 - The Rev. Dan Lediard, Rector; Leslie Weimer, Sr. Warden and chair of the Host Committee, assisted by Sam Weimer and Karen Bounds, Bob Estoup and Denise Johnson, registrars.

- The management of the Hermiston Conference Center and the congregation of the Hermiston Adventist Church
- Angella Lambert and the Desert River Inn who provided our food.
- Les McMasters, who provided music and entertainment
- The Rev. Dr. Eric Law, our guest presenter and preacher at Eucharist
- The Rev. Jerry Reynolds and the Rev. Anna Carmichael for leading workshops
- Bruce Anderson for leading us in Holden Evening Prayer
- The prisoners of Two Rivers Correctional Institute for providing cookies

Bishop Nedi asked if there were further thank yous to be given. Aletha Bonebrake added Bruce Anderson and Jean Cupp added the prisoners of Two Rivers Correctional Institute as listed above.

Fabian Baker, Bonanza, continued the resolution:

Be it further resolved that after hours of singing, dancing and meetings, we pause a few minutes and send our prayerful greetings:

- To our retired Bishops: Rustin Kimsey, Bill Spofford and Bill Gregg; thank you for leading us to find our truth.
- To Edmund Browning
- To our Presiding Bishop Katherine Jefferts Schori, Bishop Michael Hanley and members of the Diocese of Oregon; and Bishop David Brauer-Rieke and members of the Oregon Synod of the ELCA, we send greetings of relationship.
- Bishop James Waggoner and the members of the Diocese of Spokane
- For Gracious Leadership, we thank Tiiu Vahtel and Jim Foster for their years of dedicated service.
- For Building Relationships, we thank Lee Kiefer and Ivor Hughes, who pulled on their boots and gave it a go.
- Bonjour to Father Noe, Shirley and family who offer team Haiti their hospitality in Cap Haitian, and to Episcopal Community Services in New Orleans; and to Bishop Jean Zaché Duracin of Haiti.
- We offer prayers of support and healing to Dan Gardner who is caring for his wife, Jean, and to Karen Lewis and her husband, Don.

Bishop Nedi added Bishop Duracin to the greetings as listed above, and asked for further additions. The Rev. Rebecca Hendricks added Bishop Waggoner and the Diocese of Spokane, as listed above.

Bishop Nedi asked for **approval of the resolution** by acclamation, which was given.

Budget Second Reading

Bishop Nedi reviewed the proposed Special Rules of Order:

- A. Any proposed amendment that calls for new or increased spending must include an estimate of the additional costs and must specify budget line item reductions or other revenue sources that would maintain a balanced budget.

- B. Any proposed amendment that calls for reduction in spending must specify the budget line items to be affected.

Bishop Nedi called for a vote on the Special Rules of Order; the rules were **accepted** on voice vote with no dissenting votes.

Jerry noted that line there was an error on line 128, Business Manager, for the column 2010 actual; the amount should be \$43,444.

Jerry Frazier **moved** on behalf of Diocesan Council the acceptance of the proposed budget using an assessment rate of 22.5% of the Operating Revenues of each congregation, and that this budget acknowledges our intents of how our Currency of Money will flow in the fiscal year 2012. The motion was **seconded**.

Discussion followed. In response to a question, Jerry clarified that reduction of assessment begins January, 2012.

The motion **passed** with no dissenting votes.

Reports

Bishop Nedi announced that reports could be found in the pre-Convention Journal and asked for questions. She stated that the reports will be filed by title.

Time and Place of Convention

Bishop Nedi announced that the 42nd Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon will be held October 12-14, 2012, in Bend. She stated that there is consideration of October 12th being a service work day. She asked attendees to keep that option open when planning their time for convention.

Convention adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

Convention Eucharist

The Eucharist service followed at 10:00 a.m. at Hermiston Adventist Church. Bishop Nedi Rivera celebrated and the Rev. Eric Law preached. Rosemary Ross, The Dalles, read the Old Testament; Susan Youngblood, La Grande, read the New Testament, and the Rev. Dcn Georgia Giacobbe read the Gospel. The Rev. Dcn Jean Cupp served as Deacon of the Table.

The service included Confirmations, Receptions, and the Ordination to the Priesthood of Kathryn Ellen Macek. Kathryn was presented for ordination by the Rev. James Mosier, and by Meleah Sheehy, Sr. Warden, St. Peter's, La Grande.

Eucharistic elements were distributed by Bishop Nedi, the Rev. Kathy Macek, and the Rev. Dan Lediard, assisted by the Rev. Rebecca Hendricks, the Rev. Alison Dingley, and the Rev. Katy Anderson, and lay persons from St. James', Milton-Freewater, Church of the Redeemer, Pendleton, and All Saints, Heppner.

The Convention offering was combined with the "Haiti and Here" ingathering. The ingathering amount was \$12,623.06. Half of the ingathering and offering will go to rebuilding the Cathedral in Haiti and the remainder will be used for a mission project within the diocese.

Proceedings of the 2011 Diocesan Convention prepared by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane R. Adams". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Diane R. Adams
Assistant Secretary of Convention

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "E. A. 'Terry' Joakimides". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

E. A. "Terry" Joakimides
Secretary of Convention

Friday Evening Small Group Presentations

Song

We are the church,
We're marching forward
With open doors we're opening hearts
We're helping others
To find their own voice
To sing a new song
Of praise to God!

Song

Tiny bishops
Get things done
While they travel
On the run

In our spirit
We are one
All are welcome
And they come

Tiny bishops
Get things done
Our great future
Will be fun.

Song was illustrated by a poster showing a can of "Bishop Bubbles." Bubbles rising from the can are labeled "e-mail," "fresh paint," "one in spirit," "community needs," and "all are welcome."

Poster

Illustration shows a bridge over water. The bridge leads from "Old Song" to "New Song." The platform of the bridge is labeled, "each are a part of the body of Christ." The railings of the bridge are labeled "community," "faith," "Mutual Ministry," "gifts of God," and "opportunity." The water under the bridge is labeled, "Holy Spirit leads you!"

Poster – We’re starting to shine

Central circle labeled “Us” has arrows radiating from it. The arrows point to “Ascension School effects a more diverse population;” “Better communication in Diocese & Parish;” “Expanded service/worship offerings;” “Domestic & international outreach efforts abound;” and “Stronger Diocesan sense of community.”

Presentation

Sing a new song of:

Renewal of Lay Ministry training & empowerment

Ascension School. Churches as spiritual centers – Cursillo – Summer camp

Community outreach – community meals, food bank, tutoring, Warming Place.

Blessing of animals at a park – community invited. Free clothing give away for school children. Haiti medical/education. Habitat for Humanity. New Orleans.

Community connections between Anglo/Hispanic communities. Knitting ministry.

Diocese is functional due to part-time Bishop who is “HAPPY”

Dramatic Reading

Song we sing is –

A Song of Hope!

We use the resources we have

Thus we discover new ministries

Transformations –

The Lord’s Work!

Poem

We are the Church.

The church is not a building, Lord,

But the opening of our hearts embracing all people with Christ’s love and his spirit.

Our work is never over.

Song

For reaching out beyond our walls, we praise your name, O Lord.

For scaling down our finances and doing more with less,

We need to share our gifts each day; a webpage would be great.

For a bishop willing to teach a new song, we give you thanks, O Lord.

Statements

1. We've grown together as churches & Diocese
2. We've learned to meet together
3. We have held hands with each other & with the World.
4. We have danced together & with our children.

So let us raise our voices together & sing a new song!

Poem

Looking back to where we've been gives us hope for where we're going.

We did not know what was ahead
or what would come of it.
but with God's help, his Spirit brings
the peace and happiness we need
as we look back to see what God
has done . . .
in us . . .
through us . . .
as we learn a new song . . .

Reflection on what it means to sing a new song -

Singing a New Song
A new image into the community
Create awareness of sharing our gifts
Known as part of Diocese and as partner in community
Sharing with other churches
Bread
Music
Sharing with people in need
Fruits & vegetables
School supplies - Afghanistan
Haiti & Here
Sharing our story
VBS
Kids to Cove
Sharing God's love with each other

Story

Power of Relationships

5 yrs later there is a better spirit in EDEO

Positive Capital Campaign building the structure and Community

Hopeful plans that did not work out moved congregations in a new direction – new live and outreach, new friends

He's got you and me brother; He's got you and me, sister and He's got the whole world in God's hands.

Statement

The Diocese is functioning with a higher level of openness and hope with fewer resources.

Song

Dough is scarce,

 although we do more with less

Rays shine out to all in need

Me – is where God manifests

Fa - . . . still a long, long way to go

So we're singing a new song

Immortal, invisible currencies flow

 We'll all make this work with a little less dough!

Lakeview sharing –

We are explorers in the land of change and adaptation. We maintain a remote outpost of Episcopal and ecumenical ministry. We passed through the gates of do-more-with-less and bare bones existence. In a town of 2000 people, bereft of the forest industry, one leg of our three-legged economy, we faced population loss, declining funding and vacant pews and loss of clergy.

Our response was to tie a knot and hold on. God sent gifts, but we had to learn to recognize them and learn how to use them. Our deacon was ordained and was offered a position as Supply Pastor at First Presbyterian, allowing him to accept appointment at St. Luke's, non-compensated.

We learned to humble ourselves and not feel shame at being unable to pay our clergy, but to rejoice in his presence in our circle of faith. We are learning to trust each other because we must in order to survive.

We struggled to define our mission in our community where we felt insignificant, unknown and powerless. We have come to realize that we are on mission every day.

Each of our 12 active members is Christ's Hands in the World every day as we go about our lives. We work in all aspects of the community. We work in education, crisis intervention, local government, natural resource management, food production, human trafficking, commerce, fine and performing arts, elder in-home care, community garden, communications, farmers market, Presbyterian women, youth programs, economic development, and Community Action Team. We actively belong to civic and fraternal organizations.

We do not announce that we represent the Episcopal church in those endeavors. We are Episcopalians doing God's work and striving to live the Word through example.

We gather at St. Luke's to share, support and succor, to celebrate, to hear God's Word and to receive the sacraments. We give praise and gratitude for the abundance of our lives. Our song is *On the Road Again*.