

# From the Bishop's Desk

The Rt. Rev'd William O. Gregg, Ph.D.  
Bishop

II(November 19, 2006)

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This weekend I would ask you especially to keep in your prayers the Diocesan Council and me as we meet for our Annual Retreat at Ascension School. The focus of our work will be to design the appropriate structures and processes to implement our support of the vision and priorities expressed by the Crossroads Convention 2006.

Our Convention set three priorities for support of the mission and ministry of the Diocese: Communications and Technology, Youth and Young Adults (age 0 – 30), and Outreach.

Convention worked very hard under the skillful guidance of Helen Specter and Susan Dupré as we began the work of recreating how to be the most generative, creative, transforming, and effective diocese within the context of our realities as a geographically large diocese of small parishes in small communities that are separated for the most part by significant distances. A significant part of our work focused on envisioning ourselves, our parishes and our Convocations as real and effective resources for our mission and ministry. How can we work together? What are we willing to do? What resources will we offer one another? Will we identify our needs and turn them into opportunities for collaboration and building up the parishes, Convocations, and this Diocese?

We discovered that we are in fact an immensely well-resourced Diocese, resourced well beyond and in addition to our funding capacity. We identified and posted to one another both needs and

resource offerings. At the end of the Convention, members of Convention came forward and read their commitment to the life and work of our parishes and convocations and placed their commitment on the Altar. It was a powerful and moving moment. But more than a mere moment at Convention, it marked for all of us as a Diocese a walking through the threshold into a powerful, creative process of recreating what it is to be a diocese as we engage with one another collaboratively in mission and ministry. Indeed, Convention as a whole marked a new beginning that has emerged organically out of the very best of who we are and have been in faithful response to the unfolding work to which God is now calling us.

There is much work ahead of us. We shall all need to be prayerfully attentive to what the Spirit unfolds within and before us. By grace, we can bring forward our very best and become the very best we shall be as we do the work of mission and ministry together. The creative possibilities are infinite. We shall grow and change as we resource one another, as we grow into the fullness of the stature of Christ.

One additional note. I have followed up the invitation for us to engage in outreach at the Communion level through participating in the capital campaign for a new library/classroom/technology building for the College of the Transfiguration, Grahamstown, South Africa. I have invited a select group of individuals and each parish to participate through a gift to the project. To date, I have received pledges and gifts totaling approximately \$9,000 toward our goal of \$24,000 (to be matched by an \$8,000 gift from the diocesan budget) to reach our goal of \$32,000 (roughly 210,000 Rand). St. James, Milton-Freewater is the first parish to step up to the invitation with their gift of \$500. I have also received a gift from one of the individuals to whom I wrote. I am most grateful to both for their generous support of this important project. I invite and urge each person and parish to join me in support of this substantial contribution to and support of our Anglican Brothers and Sisters in the province of Southern Africa.

*+William*