

OUR TIME AT DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Reflections from Delegates

The Church of the Good Shepherd, Corpus Christi, hosted diocesan Council as they celebrated their 150th anniversary. Some 800 delegates met together at the AmericanBank Center and worshiped together Thursday evening at the Corpus Christi Cathedral. There were several visiting bishops present, including from Uganda and Mexico.

This year's diocesan theme is "Bear One Another's Burdens". The bishop requested that we ponder this theme as we spend the coming year studying the proposed Anglican Covenant, which has now been finalized, and which will be presented to the National Convention in 2012. The bishop announced this proposed covenant will be further reviewed at our council next year.

The Core Values of the Diocese were presented to us, and a "Mutual Invitation Process" was explained to assist us in three "conversations" (three small group sessions) we would have.

Beginning with the pre-council meetings, the word "covenant" had been introduced to us and we had been invited to reflect on our various covenants, back to Abraham and then going forward. Then at council, the small group "conversations" were held where we visited about what it means when we think of: "Covenant and Companions", "Covenant and Communion", and "Covenant and Compassion".

Encouraging reports were heard from Camps and Conferences (we have one of the strongest camps and conferences programs in the United States) and The Good Samaritan Center (which has been expanded to many different areas in our diocese.) Several "Minutes for Ministry" videos were presented showing examples of various ministries by different churches throughout the diocese.

Our own Marthe Curry gave an outstanding World Missions Report. Tom Hardin was a part of the group reporting on the Reconciliation Commission, the Committee on the Bishop's Address, and Courtesy Resolutions. Marthe Curry also spoke at the Friday "Women's Sharing Luncheon".

Ruby K. Payne, an expert on assisting those in poverty to become self sufficient, spoke at the larger council luncheon and then was present at a "question and answer session" at council following the luncheon on Friday afternoon.

It was announced that a second Abide in Me Conference will be held at TMI in June. Last year's conference exceeded all expectations.

So, while the overall spirit of council celebrated what was positive in our diocese, many Christ Church delegates were disappointed that there was no time dedicated to the actual proposed Anglican Covenant this year. (Our vestry had understood from the bishop last November that there would be significant time this year at council dedicated to discuss the

proposed Anglican Covenant.)

For some delegates, there was disappointment also that there was no mention of the various crises in some dioceses related to the National Church. And there was no time for discussion about any anxiety within churches in our own diocese i.e. Christ Church.

Action Items from Council included:

Congregations and/or individuals are requested during the year 2010 to:

- * Study and comment on the proposed Anglican Covenant, and be prepared to address this matter at the 2011 Diocesan Council.
- * Study Galatians and 1st and 2nd Thessalonians.
- * Appoint Stewardship Chairs by April 15, 2010
- * Have a majority of the Vestry attend the Stewardship Workshop in San Antonio on August 21, 2010.
- * Have at least five persons attend the Abide in Me Conference at TMI on June 5th.

In addition to our actual time devoted to council, on Thursday night the Christ Church delegates and alternates had dinner together at the Town Club. Also with us were Margaret and Charles Obaikol from Uganda who attended council. Bishop Obaikol then preached at Christ Church the following Sunday.

The Church of the Good Shepherd entertained us on Friday night at the Corpus Christi Aquarium, complete with dolphin show and “box supper” dinners.

In addition to our clergy, Chuck, John, and Scott, Christ Church delegates and alternates were: Bill Clark, Tom and Martha Hardin, John Harrison, Leslie Kingman, Phil and Carol Miller, Jane Monroe, Austin and Martha Moore, Jed and Janie Morrison, Dennis and Holly Tottenham, and Garnett Wietbrock.

Pat McAlpin was at council manning the Christ Healing Center exhibit. Claire Levingston was representing the Daughters of the King. Other Christ Church faces we saw were Garry and Helen Schnelzer. Helen was assisting with the Ugandan textiles ministry.

Details from council, including Bishop Lillibridge’s address, Bishop Reed’s sermon Thursday night, and other items can be heard by going to www.dwtxmediahub.org.