

**Proceedings of the 193rd Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in the
Diocese of Ohio**

November 14, 2009, Trinity Commons, Cleveland

The Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr., 11th bishop of the Diocese of Ohio called the 193rd Annual Convention of the Diocese of Ohio to order at 9:07 a.m., and the Convention was organized for business. **Bishop Hollingsworth** called on the Rev. Dr. **Brian Wilbert** (Christ Church, Oberlin) Secretary of Convention, who reported a quorum.

The Rev. **Alan James**, canon to the ordinary, announced a correction to Resolution 1 and added Resolution 5 on international partnerships. He also noted that **Roderick Adams** (St. Andrew's, Cleveland) had been nominated for trustee and **Rebecca Montague** (Grace, Sandusky) had been nominated for Diocesan Council. He thanked the participants of the Friday afternoon work projects.

Bishop Hollingsworth thanked the staff of the cathedral for hosting the convention, and called on the Very Rev. Tracey Lind to welcome the delegates. He then called on **Damon Hickey** (St. James, Wooster) who moved to adopt the rules of order. The rules of order were seconded and passed with the following changes:

- insert on page 8 line 28a: reports are announced by title to Convention,
- a resolution was proposed, seconded and passed with a voice extending privileges of the floor to assisting bishops in the Diocese of Ohio, the Chief Financial Officer, the Director of Communications, the Diocesan Consultant for Development, non-canonically resident clergy serving as Interim or Priest-in-Charge in a cure, Lutheran pastors with pulpits in Episcopal churches, the president of the Diocesan Episcopal Church Women, lay members of the Standing Committee, lay members of the Diocesan Council, lay members of the Trustees, lay deputies and provisional deputies to the General Convention, recipients of the Bishop's Medal, and Special Youth Representatives.

The Rev. Dr. **Brian K. Wilbert** explained the voting procedures for voting by a show of hands or by orders. Delegates shall raise their convention folders; he instructed the delegates to pass on their folders to any alternates taking their place. No new folders or ballots will be made available. Nametags cannot be replaced.

Bishop Hollingsworth then called upon the Rev. Dr. **Brian Wilbert** to report on parish compliance with canons. Dr. **Wilbert** reported that no churches were in arrears in clergy pensions; the following churches were not current in their diocesan assessments and therefore, not eligible for seat, voice, or vote:

- Church of the Holy Spirit, Akron

- St. Barnabas, Bay Village
- St. Anne's, Madison
- St. Timothy's, Massillon
- St. Luke's, Akron
- Church of the Transfiguration, Cleveland

No churches are in arrears in payment of clergy pensions

The following church is in arrears in payment of its lay pension report and payments, and will be eligible for seat and voice, but not vote:

- Old Trinity, Tiffin

The following church has not submitted its parochial reports:

- St Johns, Napoleon

The following churches have not submitted their audits:

- St John's, Napoleon
- St. Paul's, Oregon
- St. Paul's, Steubenville
- Old Trinity, Tiffin
- All Saints, Toledo
- St. Augustine's, Youngstown

Dr. **Wilbert** then made the following appointments:

- **Assistant Secretaries:** Eva Cole, Brenda Koenig, Martha Wright
- **Counters:** Eva Cole, Susan Cowling, Kristin Crites, Janine Johnson, Elizabeth Limmex, Jennifer Mitchell, Rita Rozell, Anne Yug
- **Tellers:** Audra Abt, Josh Butler, Chuck Catonese, Zeke Coughlin, Rosalyn Hughes, Brenda Koenig, Sue Leishman, Linda McCorkle, Jill Sonick, Jane Trager, the Rev. Bob Weaver

Bishop Hollingsworth called upon **Rebecca Wilson** (Our Saviour, Akron,), chair of the Nominating Committee. She placed in nomination those names put forward by the committee with any additional names received by the Secretary or from the floor for the following offices:

Trustee of the Diocese (1 person for a 5-year term)

- **Roderick Adams** (St. Andrew's, Cleveland)

Standing Committee (1 clergy and 1 lay for 4-year terms)

From the Lay Order:

- **Sue Perkinson** (Church of Our Saviour, Akron)
- **Becky Roth** (Trinity Church, Toledo)

From the Clerical Order

- The Rev. **Evelyn Manzella** (St. James Church, Wooster)
- The Rev. Dr. **Brian Wilbert** (Christ Church, Oberlin)

Diocesan Council (2 clergy and 2 laity for 3-year terms)

From the Clerical Order:

- The Rev. **Howard Humphrey, Sr.** (St. Martin's, Chagrin Falls)
- The Rev. **Ken Pepin** (St. Timothy's, Perrysburg)

From the Lay Order

- **Linda Martin** (Christ Church, Hudson)
- **Ernie Petrey** (St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights)

Episcopal Community Services Development Council (1 clergy and 3 laity for 3-year terms)

From the Lay Order:

- **Lorraine Angus** (Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland)
- **Cheryl Gray** (St. Martin's, Chagrin Falls)
- **Suzanne Palmer** (St. Timothy's, Macedonia)

From the Clerical Order:

- The Rev. **Kelly O'Connell** (St. Mark's, Toledo)

Cathedral Chapter (1 clergy and 1 lay for 2-year terms):

From the Lay Order:

- **Pam O'Halloran** (St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights)

From the Clerical Order:

- The Rev. **Dan Schoonmaker** (St. Hubert's, Kirtland Hills)

The Rev. Dr. **Brian Wilbert** then instructed the delegates in voting procedures. The first ballot was taken.

The Convention Eucharist followed the first ballot. **Bishop Hollingsworth** delivered the Episcopal Address.

Following the Eucharist and a break, **Bishop Hollingsworth** called on the Diocesan Treasurer to give the Treasurer's report. Mr. **Tom Austin** gave the Treasurer's Report for 2009. He discussed the options for the Joint Investment Fund and explained in detail the expenses and income of the diocese as published in the Convention Handbook. He noted that assessments were lower in 2009, but the diocese is in excellent financial condition, since it is not spending as much. Cedar Hills is expected to break even for the year, which will be March through September. Trinity Commons Books and Gifts experienced a greater loss than expected, and the bookstore was closed in October.

The Very Rev. **Tracey Lind** then nominated **Tom Austin** for Treasurer of Convention. He was elected unanimously. **Bishop Hollingsworth** called upon **Midge Brittingham** (Christ Church, Oberlin) to nominate the Rev. Dr. **Brian Wilbert** for Secretary of Convention. He was elected unanimously.

Bishop Hollingsworth then called upon the Rev. **Albert Jennings** (St. Timothy's, Macedonia) and **Linda Heitger** (St. Pauls, Canton) and the Rev.

Chris McCann (St. Luke's, Chardon) to report on the Deanery Review

Committee. **Jennings** reported that the Review Committee determined that the Deanery system was not using its resources, nor was its purpose clear. People felt the deaneries did not have motivation and the churches were too far apart. Only one of the 10 deaneries had an active council, but all had active ECW groups.

After many interviews, the Review Committee recommended creating eight Mission Area Councils, hoping to create relationships of affinity between missionary clusters and cooperation among parishes in mission work. The Missionary Councils will have a representative on Diocesan Council, and potentially will increase the engagement of laity in the work of mission. They will meet at least 4 times per year.

Bishop Hollingsworth then called on the Rev. **Keith Owen** (St. Peter's, Lakewood) to report on the Committee on Constitution and Canons. He explained the process for amending the Constitution and Canons, and proposed an amendment to the Constitution. The Amendment to the Constitution was a result of a request from the Ohio Council of Churches asking that lay delegates be replaced by bishops or an appointed member of their staff (Article V, section 3). The amendment brings the Diocesan Constitution into alignment with the Ohio Council of Churches' by-laws. A change in the constitution requires a two-

thirds majority in both houses. The amendment passed by two thirds in both orders by a voice vote.

The first Proposed Amendment to the Canons replaced the current Title II Canon 3 with a new Title II canon 3: Of Mission Areas (page 25 of handbook).

Discussion of the proposed amendment ensued, with a request that the Youngstown Mission area be able to change its name, since many of the churches are not in Youngstown. The Very Rev. **Tracey Lind** moved to continued debate, which was seconded and passed. The debate continued for 10 minutes, then was voted upon. The first proposed amendment to the canons carried.

Bishop Hollingsworth then called upon candidates for Holy Orders and clergy new to the diocese, in new positions, or those who have retired since the last Convention to come to the front.

Candidates for Holy Orders are:

Senior seminarians

- **Audra Abt**, Bexley Hall
- **Zeke Coughlin**, Bexley Hall,
- **Andrea Dedmon**, General Seminary, and
- **Gia Hayes Martin** Church Divinity School of the Pacific

Deacon Postulants:

- **Josh Butler**,

- **Anne Pillot**, and
- **Jane Trager**.

Change in orders:

- **Diane Carroll**, assistant at Holy Trinity, Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia
- **Daniel Knaup**, received from the Roman Catholic priesthood and serving as command chaplain, United States Army

Ordained to diaconate:

- **Vincent Black**,
- **George Baum**,
- **Matthew Humm**,
- **David Nelson**
- **Jennifer Leider**

New clergy in the diocese:

- **Mark Robinson**, Canon for Missions, Bishop's staff
- **Tom Hawkins**, rector, St. Marks, Canton
- **Himie-Budu Shannon**, rector, St. Andrew's, Cleveland
- **Katie Wright**, rector, St. Andrew's, Elyria
- **Vanessa Clark**, rector, St. James, Painesville
- **Michael Wiechers**, pastor, St Thomas, Port Clinton and Peace Lutheran Church, Port Clinton
- **Heather Hill**, rector, All Saints, Parma
- **Joe Kovitch**, Lutheran/Episcopal Campus Minister,

- **Thomas Jackson**, extended supply, Christ Church, Geneva, and St. Peter's, Ashtabula
- **Will Mebane**, curate, Trinity Cathedral

Retired:

- **Ernie Matijasic**, Grace, Sandusky
- **The Rev. Greg Griffith**, Trinity, Coshocton
- **John Horner**, St. John's, Youngstown.

Clergy in new assignments include:

- **Elaine McCoy**, interim, Grace, Sandusky,
- **Gene Pearson**, priest-in-charge, Grace, Defiance
- **Joy Caires**, assistant, Our Saviour, Akron
- **Jeremiah Williamson**, rector, St. Andrew's, Toledo
- **Erv Smuda**, interim, St. John's, Youngstown
- **Brad Purdom**, canon for congregations, Bishop's staff
- **Karl Stevens**, priest-in-charge, St. Paul's, Mt. Vernon
- **Pat Hanen**, rector, New Life, Uniontown
- **Diana Cook**, priest-in-charge, Trinity, Coshocton.

Bishop Hollingsworth then introduced and welcomed the Rt. Rev. **Ernest Shalita** from the Diocese of Muhubura in Uganda who is visiting St. Peter's, Ashtabula.

Convention then broke for lunch.

Convention was called back to order at 1:25 p.m. **Bishop Hollingsworth** called on the Rev. **Brian Wilbert** for a report on the first ballot. For the contested positions, 297 votes were cast; 149 were required for election. For Standing Committee in the Lay Order, **Sue Perkinson** received 144 votes, and **Becky Roth** received 126 votes; therefore no one was elected. In the clerical order for Standing Committee, the Rev. **Evelyn Manzella** was elected with 159 votes; the Rev. **Brian Wilbert** received 107 votes. The Rev. **Evelyn Manzella** was therefore elected to Standing Committee.

Bishop Hollingsworth then called on **Joe Bridges** (New Life, Uniontown) to report on the Commission on Global and Domestic Mission's recommendation for international partnerships. Dr. **Bridges** talked about the process for determining work that would respond to the MDGs, fulfill diocesan goals, and continue work that has been ongoing. The CGDM therefore recommended investigating two partnerships: the Diocese of Belize and the Diocese of Tanga in Tanzania.

Bishop Hollingsworth called upon the Rev. **Stephen Sedgwick** (Church of the Redeemer, Lorain), chair of the Committee on Resolutions. He presented the resolutions in order. R-1 on Clergy Compensation was corrected to change line 5, which said, "At least \$45,000 for assisting clergy ordained less than five years"

to “at least \$45,000 for assisting clergy ordained less than three years,” which is required by canon. **Sedgwick** proposed passage of R-1. It was seconded and passed with no discussion.

Sedgwick then proposed R-2, which acknowledged the end of the ministries at St. Andrew’s, Canfield, Grace, Galion, and Trinity, Bryan, and declared them to be extinct. The resolution to accept their closing was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Sedgwick then proposed resolution R-3, which calls on the Diocese to affirm the action of the 76th General Convention in adopting the Charter for Lifelong Christian Formation, by urging the Office of Christian Formation to support people in their lifelong faith journey. The resolution was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Resolution R-4 called on the Governor and Legislature of the State of Ohio to impose a moratorium on capital punishment by petitioning the Governor, asked parishioners to pray for families, friends, and murder victims. **Sedgwick** moved the resolution; it was seconded and passed.

Resolution R-5 asked for a preliminary exploration of forming a partnership with Dioceses of Belize and Tanga. **Sedgwick** moved the resolution; it was seconded and passed.

Bishop Hollingsworth then called on **Darrell Knapp** (St. James, Painesville), chair of the assessment review committee. **Knapp** explained that **Bishop Hollingsworth** had asked for a study of the assessment process in 2006. The study group recommended by last year's convention was asked to look at the current funding mechanism; how assessment was calculated according to last year's income; They realized the current funding mechanism burdens parishes, and that NOI is difficult to calculate on a monthly basis. Keeping in mind the mandate to simplify administrative processes, the committee proposed using NOE or net operating expenses less diocesan assistance and outreach monies. That lowers the base of what a parish is assessed on. The purpose was to keep the budget revenue neutral, so the graduated rated tables and percentages changed. Some parishes will pay slightly different amounts, approximately +/- \$1,000. The committee attempted to find a balance between generosity and accountability by recommending that all parishes in arrears get seat and voice but not vote. The canon will define arrears more generously, as well. Parishes must be up to date current through the month of June, rather than the month of August. This relief should help parishes get through lean summer months. This proposed amendment has the goals of simplification, inclusiveness, and promotes generosity of community. **Knapp** thanked all the members of the assessment committee: **Tom Austin** (Trinity Cathedral); **Chip Billow** (St. Paul's, Akron); **Bill Haywood**, (St. Paul's, Maumee), the Rev. **Alan James** (Bishop's staff); **Sue Leishman** (Bishop's staff); the Rev. **Kelly Kirby** (St. Andrew's,

Mentor); **Bob Larson** (St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights); **Tina Monreal** (Trinity Cathedral); the Rev. **Keith Owen** (St Peter's, Lakewood).

The report recommended changing the assessment formula starting on January 1, 2010, from assessing normal operating income (NOI) to assessing normal operating expenses (NOE), as follows:

- 10 percent of the first \$50,000 of NOE of a parish;
- 13 percent of that portion of the NOE above \$50,000 and up to \$150,000;
- 16 percent of that portion of the NOE above \$150,000 and up to \$250,000;
- 19 percent of that portion of the NOE above \$250,000.

NOE is defined as all other operating expenses less assistance from the diocese for operating budget in the line-by-line instructions for the preparation of the 2008 Parochial Report as provided by the Episcopal Church. (See Title I Canon 14: Of the Diocesan Fund).

Tom Green (Christ Church, Hudson) proposed an amendment that no parishes ever have to pay more on their annual assessment than \$1500 over what they paid in 2007. **Stephen Gracey** (St. Luke's, Cleveland), spoke against the amendment because the canon would have to refer back to 2007 indefinitely. The Rev. **Bob Weaver** also spoke against the amendment, saying, "let's not lock ourselves in." The Rev. **Brian Gillooly**, (Trinity, Cathedral) also spoke against the amendment. The amendment was voted on and failed.

The Rev. **Meghan Froelich** said that approximately 23 parishes would be affected and have to pay more. She asked if a parish running a deficit would be assessed. Assessment would be calculated only on funds spent.

There was a motion to continue the debate for 5 minutes, which was seconded and passed. The Rev. **Greg Sammons** complimented the assessment review as a document that was fair and just. The Rev. **Brian Suntken** said parishes should only be called to tithe and asked Convention to vote the amendment down.

Convention then voted on the second proposed amendment to the Canons, and it carried.

The Rev. **J. Paul Board**, (St. Paul's, Maumee) introduced the third proposed amendment to the Canons, which added the words, "The rector shall be responsible for hiring, terminating, and providing direct supervision of all paid employees of the parish, or the rector may delegate these tasks to others." The rationale for the canon is to clarify the lines of authority, giving the rector sole authority for employees.

John West (Church of the Good Shepherd, Lyndhurst) noted that this was a change from The Episcopal Church Canons, which gives the vestry authority over temporal issues. The Rev. **Alan Gates** (St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights),

spoke against the proposed change. The Rev. **Wanda Ray** (Christ Church, Huron) spoke in favor of it, citing the need for loyalty to the rector. The Rev. **Julie Fisher** (Christ Church, Kent) also spoke in favor of the change. **Brandon Hooper** (St. Matthew's, Toledo) moved to recommit the proposed change to the Committee on Constitution and Canons. The motion to recommit failed. A vote was taken on the proposed amendment and it failed also.

Bishop Hollingsworth then called on **Mike Bickerton** (St. Peter's, Lakewood) to give the report of the Trustees.

He reported that the Trustees had received advice from a number of people and conducted a search for a firm to help them in trying to get better returns on investments. The trustees made the decision to retain Hartland and Company.

Bickerton introduced **Tom Hartland**, who explained that his 20-year-old company has \$90 billion invested, including many nonprofits. They are independent advisors and deal with socially responsible investments, and their assets allocation involves equity and fixed income.

Bishop Hollingsworth then called on **Chip Billow** (St. Paul's, Akron) as the representative on Diocesan Council, to present the 2010 program and budget. He then proposed that Convention accept the budget as presented. The Rev. **Himie-Budu Shannon** (St. Andrew's, Cleveland) asked how much of the budget was allocated for youth work. **Bishop Hollingsworth** said figuring that out was

complicated and he couldn't do it at that time. The 2010 program and budget passed unanimously.

The reports of the following commissions and committees were filed by title:

Trustees

Standing Committee

Diocesan Council

Loans and Grants

Commission on Ministry

Christian Formation Commission

Episcopal Community Services

Task force on Human Trafficking

Cedar Hills Camp and Conference Center.

Bishop Hollingsworth asked if there was any unfinished business. **Bishop Bowman** rose to say it was his birthday the next day. The Convention sang Happy Birthday to him.

Bishop Hollingsworth announced that with 154 votes, **Sue Perkinson** (Our Saviour, Akron) was elected to the lay order of the Standing Committee. He nominated the Rev. **Liddy Hoster** (Trinity, Toledo); **Charles Catonese** (St. Patrick's, Brunswick); and **Brian Kirby** (St. Andrew's, Mentor) to the Commission

on Ministry; and he thanked all those who had completed terms on diocesan committees and commissions.

Bishop Hollingsworth then called on the Rev. **Stephen Sedgwick**, (Church of the Redeemer, Lorain) for the resolutions of courtesy.

The 193rd Convention of the Diocese of Ohio adjourned at 4:35 p.m.