



GULF ATLANTIC
DIOCESE OF THE
ANGLICAN CHURCH
IN NORTH AMERICA



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IN NORTH AMERICA

Gulf Atlantic Diocese

1st Annual Synod

Advent Christian Village, Dowling Park, FL
November 6, 2010

Gathering in God's Presence

Explanation of the Agenda (Fr. Jim Hobby)

Certification of Delegates (Mtr. Travis Boline)

- There are 59 clergy certified to vote, and 47 present. There are 44 lay delegates certified to vote 42 present. We have a quorum.

Clergy Announcements, Receptions, Granting of Seat & Voice, Memoriam (Mtr. Travis Boline)

- Clergy that have been received since the last Synod were recognized and welcomed.
- A motion passed unanimously to grant Seat and Voice to The Rev. James Hampton.
- Ordinations since last synod recognized
- Remembrance of Brother David Wright, died June 29, 2009

Recognition and Seating of New Congregations (Fr. Bob Coon)

- Fr. Coon recognized and welcomed St. Raphael's by the Sea, Christ Church, and All Souls. A motion was made and seconded to grant them seat and voice and the motion passed unanimously.

Recognition of Candidates for Holy Order (Mtr. Shari Hobby)

- The diocesan discernment process has been restructured and will be made available to clergy soon. There will also be a clergy day to go through the process.
- Mtr. Hobby recognized and welcomed Bo Ubbens, a Sr. at Trinity School for Ministry. The diocese also has a Postulant for Holy Orders at Duke University, Mike Boone. There are five other postulants and aspirants in the process at this time and a variety of other people in various stages of entering the process (25 in total).

Liturgy of the Word

Scripture Reading and Teaching (Mrs. Marcia Lebhar)

The headwaters of the River Jordan are in the northern part of Israel in Dan. It is a spring of pure, living water. Mrs. Lebhar offered this as an image of God's abundant provision for His people. The Lord led His people to a place of need so that they would have to depend upon His provision, grace and power. We must be careful not to despise whatever need, predicament, even pain that God has allowed in our lives; for He allows it to accomplish His will in and through us.

Where is God calling us to obey Him? In our lives and in our parishes, whatever challenge to faithfulness, sacrifice or obedience that God lays before us, He will be the abundant source of living water. He has chosen our land for us, He is the author of our situation, He's even engineered our need and He will be glorified when we live in expectation of His power and provision.

Bishop's Address and Vision (Bishop Neil Lebhar)

- The Bishop's Address is available on the diocesan web site.

Remembering God's Faithfulness

Youth Rally Report (Shaun Lafferty)

- The attendants of the Youth Rally, "Collide," joined the delegates (about 50 kids). They represent the strong foundation that is being laid in the Gulf Atlantic Diocese in youth ministry.
 - Communication amongst the youth ministers in the diocese is improving – how can we work together, what can we pray about for one another, what's working for you?
 - Diocesan-wide events are being planned
 - Dynamos – the High School Retreat
 - Camp Araminta for elementary-aged children.
- Today the youth will be talking about the Holy Spirit and His work in our lives and in the church. Peter Lebhar will be the speaker.
- Acts 2:42-47 is their prayer for the events being held today and for our diocese.

Youth Testimony (Charleigh Farmer) - a student's perspective on Dynamos & Camp Araminta:

- Students in high school face a harsh environment today. They are being pulled in many directions, most of them away from Christ.
- Dynamos is teenagers sharing with other teenagers about Jesus. She has found it to be a place to bring friends to meet kids who seeking to live for Christ. It's a place to build Christian community and to find true love.
- Camp Araminta is her favorite place in the world. She has been both a camper and a counselor-in-training. It's a place where kids can find acceptance and faith and an example of "cool older kids" loving Jesus.
- Youth Group is her community. They support her and challenge her in her faith. It is there that she finds accountability. Her church also has a women's group where teenagers meet with older women to learn to be godly, respectable women of faith.

Approval of Minutes of the Last Synod (Mtr. Travis Boline)

- A motion was made and seconded that the minutes be approved as presented. It passed unanimously.

Announcements and Welcome to Ministries Represented (Bishop Lebhar)

- The bishop recognized and welcomed the following ministries which have displays
 - Camp Araminta - Beth Kirby
 - Daughters of the Holy Cross - Jacque Crosby

- Anglican Relief and Development - Nancy Norton
- E412 - Carol and Clark Smith
- New Wineskins - Sharon Steinmiller
- Book table – The Rev. Whitey Haugen
- Acts 29 – The Rev. Alan Hansen
- American Anglican Council - Carol Fredericks
- *Our Anglican Heritage* – The Rev. Sam Pasco, co-authored with Bishop John Howe.
- St. Peter's Book Cellar - Carol Walker
- Dynamos - Barbara Boon

Adoption of the Rules of Order (Mtr. Travis Boline)

- The Rules of Order established at the previous Synod were presented for approval and use at this Synod. They were moved and seconded and unanimously adopted.

Small Group Breakout – How can YOU help plant a congregation? (Fr. Jim Hobby)

- Church Planting is not about franchising Anglicanism and Church Growth is not just about baptizing new babies. We need to pass the faith along to the next generation who do not yet know Jesus.
- The Lord asked Moses, “What’s that in your hand?” and then used it (his staff) to work His purposes and spread His message. The breakout question is: “What has the Lord placed in your hand, your heart, your head, to advance His Kingdom?”

Lunch Break

Asking for God’s Help & Discernment – Prayers of the People

Congregational Development / Anglican 1,000 (Canon Jim Hobby)

The charge of the canon for Church Development is twofold:

1. Church Health (seeing congregations become stable and growing)
 - There are many resources available (Acts 29, Titus Institute, AAC’s Sure Foundations Program)
 - We must not let stability become an idol. The only truly stable thing is something that is dead. It’s no longer growing or moving or accomplishing anything.
2. Church Planting
 - Our Archbishop has called us to plant 1,000 churches in five years. In order to achieve this goal, we’re going to have to do things differently. What we’ve done in the past didn’t work then and it won’t work now.
 - The Lord has opened a door of opportunity for Anglicanism to advance the Kingdom in planting churches. It’s in our heritage, our ancient story, and we need to reclaim that.
 - Leadership and development and discernment for ordination in the diocese will be focusing on raising up and equipping church planters.
 - Some resources:
 - a. Anglican 1,000 will hold its second symposium January 25-27, 2011.
 - b. Exponential is a conference being held in Orlando in April, the week after Easter – an ecumenical gathering of church planters (mostly 20-30 year olds).

- c. Church Planting Network for the Gulf Atlantic Diocese: we are learning from the best practices globally.

Feedback: some of the ideas from the lunch discussion

- When you leave a building or structure, leave a church behind in it. Don't leave it empty.
- Capitalize on your location, see it as an opportunity (e.g., storefront churches).

Finance, Budget & Stewardship (Fr. Alex Farmer)

The Asking Budget for 2011 was presented to the Synod for approval.

- The vision survey and analysis was examined along with the Congregational pledges to prepare this budget. We are \$28K short of the \$245K anticipated income for the Diocese. Much of the 2011 budget is based on the budget from last year.
- There are three new areas:
 - 1) New Church Plants: There was nothing budgeted for 2010 and there is a request for 25,950 for 2011
 - 2) Our existing church plant, St. Luke's.
 - 3) Diocesan Discernment Team – raising up new ordained leaders
- We would like a contingency fund as we move forward so as staff need arises, they will be compensated for their services.
- What happens if we do not receive all the funds asked for? We will make adjustments. It is likely that these new areas will be the first to be trim in order to have a balanced budget.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the budget as presented and it was accepted unanimously.

Clergy Compensation Guidelines

- The Finance Committee looked at multiple sources and working with a human resources specialist to developed these guidelines. These are not being presented in fulfillment of the canon for establishing a minimum compensation for clergy. That is still a work in process. They are simply a guideline and tool for congregational use.

Constitution & Canons (Fr. Eric Dudley)

- The committee provided provisional canons for the formation of the diocese. They have now revised and expanded the canons to bring them more into line with our actual life together as a diocese.
- The following canonical changes were presented to the Synod:
 - Article III has an additional section for the provision of a Special Synod.
 - Ecclesiastical Trial Court has been changed in composition from 5 clergy, 4 lay members to 4 clergy and 3 lay members.
 - Canon XVIII section 3: an addition to state that vestry members must be at least 18 years of age, baptized and confirmed.
 - Canon 1 Section 2 (Election of a Bishop): inserted "...the nominee meets the criteria established by the Synod and is compliant with ACNA Title III, Canon 8, Section 3."

- Canon II, Section 3 (Synod Delegates): changed the deadline for certification of delegates from “thirtieth of June” to “60 days prior to Synod.” Also, added the tag at the end of the canon, “without permission of the Standing Committee.” This gives a little wiggle-room for those parishes that have a legitimate reason for getting names in beyond the deadline.
- Canon III (Other Jurisdictions): added the words “or partnership” in line one after the words “canonical relationship,” to acknowledge that while AMiA is no longer in canonical relationship we nonetheless wish to include them in partnership. Also, at the end of this canon we have added, “or electing a bishop” making clear that those parishes who are in other jurisdictions, and thus under other bishops, should not participate in the election of either the bishop or the standing committee.
- Canon VII, Section 1 (Committee on Constitutions and Canons): added an explanation of the responsibilities of the Committee: “. . . to consider all proposed amendments to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese as recommended by Diocesan Council (pursuant to Canon XXVI).”
- Canon IX, Section 2 (Diocesan Council): changed the term of at-large members to three-year, staggered.
- Canon X (Assistance to the Bishop): added that the Bishop may appoint laity as well as clergy to assist him.
- Canon XV, Section 1 (Deans and Deaneries): included the purpose of a deanery: “The Diocese shall be divided into deaneries for the purpose of common ministry, communication, pastoral care, accountability, and fellowship.”
- Canon XVI, Section 2 (Parishes): expanded so that the process for admittance to the Diocese is clearer, and to stipulate that Parish Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation must be consistent with the Canons of the Gulf Atlantic Diocese and ACNA.
- Canon XX, Sections 1 & 2 (Vacant Parishes): clarified that when the Vestry is notified that the rector is resigning then the Bishop is notified and gives oversight through the transition.
- Canon XXI (Mode of Election of Rector or Other Member of the Clergy): added a Section 3 which makes clear that no member of the clergy can officiate without a license from the Bishop.
- Four New Canons have been added:
 - Canon XVIII Vestries – will be reworked and revisited next year.
 - Canon XXIII Ecclesiastical Trial Court – provides a process for making charges against clergy for misconduct.
 - Canon XXIV Provincial Assembly – states that when we are notified that there will be an assembly, we will elect representation for said assembly.
 - Canon XXV Provincial Council – the current ACNA canon is being adjusted and therefore ours will have to be adjusted as well. But for now we will let it stand as is.
- A motion was made and seconded that these canons be accepted as amended or added.
- Question: (Frank Gough) If a bishop is unable to function as a bishop, who determines that? The committee will explore this issue.

- Question: (Frank Gough) His church bylaws require vestry members to be at least 16. Will the bylaws need to be changed to corroborate with the diocesan canon? The diocesan chancellor, Tom Crapps, stated that vestry members serve as members of a non-profit board and are liable and, therefore, can be sued for negligence. Legally, a minor is not competent to make these decisions nor are they able to enter into a legal contract.
- Bishop Neil asked that all parishes be in compliance with the diocesan canons.
- Question: regarding the minimum number of vestry members (5); this is difficult for small parishes. Fr. Dudley pointed out that the number is from the ACNA canons.
- Fr. Frank Gough offered a friendly amendment to Canon XX, Section 1: the bishop assumes oversight once the parish has become vacant. Current wording is unclear and he suggested that the words “Upon such notification” be stricken from XX.1. A motion was made and seconded to accept the friendly amendment.
- A vote was taken and the amendment was accepted unanimously.

Elections (Fr. Michael LaCagnina)

- The bishop noted that there were very few names submitted in nomination for the diocesan vacancies. He asked the congregations to do better for next year. As a result, only a slate was presented.
- A motion was made and seconded to accept the slate, and the slate was accepted unanimously.
- Question: It was noted that there was no staggering of terms. In some cases, like Ecclesiastical Court, they work as a class. Fr. LaCagnina responded that we are waiting on the Province to revisit and revise these canons to provide for staggered terms.

Greetings from the Leadership of ACNA (Mr. Brad Root, COO)

- Brought greetings from Archbishop Robert Duncan (video)
- The province unites 120,000 (ASA) Christians in 640 Anglican Churches in 20 diocese into a single church. We are a province-in-formation that has been recognized, initiated at the request of the Global Anglican Future Conference in 2008.
- Our focus is to reach out to all with the transforming love of Jesus Christ.
- The bishops of the church believe that in order to fulfill our call and our purpose, we need to be able to measure our spiritual progress. Our measurables: 1) the making of disciples, 2) the empowering work of the Holy Spirit in our congregations 3) tithing as spiritually normal in our congregations, 4) church planting.
- The Provincial Office:
 - supports the Archbishop and Canon in ecumenical and Anglican relationships;
 - provides clear communication province-wide (biggest challenge)
 - supports Anglican 1000
 - administers clergy benefits and parish insurance
 - establishes stewardship resources
- There are now three full time and three part-time staff in the Provincial Office.

- The budget set for 2010/2011 is \$1.36 million which has not yet been realized. The funding for Anglican 1000 has passed to the Province which accounts for much of the increase.
- The Founder's Fund
 - Purpose is to subsidize the Provincial Budget. It is a major giving opportunity for those able to make significant contributions. Their target is to raise \$3 million over two years and will be comprised of gifts of \$10,000 or more. The Province needs help identifying potential donors who can give at this level. A Case Statement is available to help communicate the vision and the need.
- The Extra Mile Fund
 - Purpose is to help fill the gap years and to provide an opportunity for smaller gifts. The need for this year is \$580,000, to fund administration as well as programs (e.g., Anglican 1000). \$300K has been raised to date.

Welcome New Congregations (Fr. Bob Coon)

All Soul's, Jacksonville

Founded in 1979 and for the last three years, it has been under the jurisdiction of AMiA. In August, the vestry decided to transition into the ACNA and the Gulf Atlantic Diocese.

Christ Church, Vero Beach

Began in May, 2008 out of Trinity Episcopal Church. The church met initially in the home of a former tax collector. From the first service, their attendance exceeded capacity. They did satellite services and multiple services. They currently have had 31 teams of people and about 470 people.

St. Raphael's by the Sea, Ft. Meyers Beach

Began with about 25 members and their priest on August 7, 2010 and two weeks later, they had their first convert and first baptism. An Anglican Church in Phoenix, AZ and gave them a generous grant to provide them with a place to worship on a regular basis – a movie theater. .

Sharing in Christ's Body and Blood – the Eucharist

Reflection on Mission (Sharon Steinmiller, New Wineskins)

- New Wineskins has played a major role in fostering global relationships which were so important in our transition into becoming a new province.
- More Muslims have started following Jesus in the last 10-15 years at any time since the birth of Muhammad. More Jews have started following Jesus since the Book of Acts. God is doing amazing things around the world.
- Until recently there was one missionary for every one million Muslims in the world. Recently, Muslims are growing disgusted with fundamentalist Islam and the Lord is at work in Islam in amazing ways. And now the Lord is bringing them to us (since we haven't be coming to them).
- Of 100 cents spent on missions, 95 cents is spent on active Christians, 4 cents on the non-Christians and about 1 penny on the unreached people groups.
- Missions does not have to cost a lot of money. If you live in a college town, there are students of almost every nationality in your neighborhoods. The average international

student spends seven years in the US and does not see the inside of an American home, even once. They may have left family behind and would love to be with a family. All they know of American families is what they've seen on TV.

- God loves the world. He is heartbroken for the lost. The whole reason we are still on the planet is that we are called to make disciples of ALL nations. He wants us to join Him in this.

Bishop Lebhar closed this first annual Synod at 4:00 pm