

## **Diocesan Council 2007 Report**

Membership on Diocesan Council is composed of two lay members and one member of the clergy elected from each of the six convocations of the diocese and three members elected at large by convention. The Bishop, the Treasurer and the Chancellor of the diocese are also members of Council. The six Convocation Deans, President of the Episcopal Church Women, President of the Standing Committee, the Senior Clerical Deputy and Senior Lay Deputy to the General Convention, President of Youth, Canon to the Ordinary and Diocesan Administrator are members entitled to seat and voice.

Council conducted Diocesan business in four meetings held in 2007. A summary of those meetings is outlined in this report to convention.

### **MARCH 9-10: CHRIST CHURCH, ST. MARY'S**

Bishop Louttit shared with Council that we have thirty-five people in the ordination process to be vocational deacons and priests. We have three mission congregations in the process of moving forward to parish status: St. Luke, Rincon; King of Peace, Kingsland; Holy Comforter, Evans.

Clergy needs: St. Paul's, Albany, Assistant Priest; St. Paul's, Savannah, Assistant Priest; Valdosta State University (1/2 time on campus, 1/2 time as Assistant at Christ Church; St. Luke's, Rincon; St. Barnabas, Valdosta.

Four congregations have Interim Priests: Christ Church, St. Mary's; St. Thomas, Thomasville; St. Anne, Tifton; Calvary, Americus.

New church starts: Our Savior at Honey Creek; St. Luke, Rincon; Holy Comforter, Evans; King of Peace, Kingsland. St. Luke's, Hawkinsville is now self-supporting. We have 12 non-stipendiary priests serving congregations in the diocese.

Elected Wayne Woodside, St. George's, Savannah, as Vice-President of Council.

Upon the recommendation of Together, We Grow—Strategy To Action Team, Council approved the establishment of three new commissions in the diocese:

Diocesan Congregational Development Commission  
Convocation Congregational Development Commission  
Clergy Wellness Commission

### **MAY 11-12: ST. AUGUSTINE'S, AUGUSTA**

Bishop Louttit announced how well Assisting Bishop Rodney Michel and his wife Marie had been received in the diocese.

The Clergy Wellness Commission, Congregational Development Commissions are receiving names so the commissions can move forward with their ministry.

An extensive report, prepared by The Rev. Joy Fisher, Chair, Together, We Grow, was distributed to Council.

Approved the establishment of a Commission on Administrative Effectiveness/Communication. Did not approve the position of Director of Communications for the diocese.

### **OCTOBER 19-20: ST. PAUL'S & ST. PATRICK'S, ALBANY**

Bishop Louttit gave pastoral leadership to a lengthy discussion relative to the situation with Christ Church, Savannah leaving the Episcopal Church, Diocese of Georgia and now joined with the Anglican Province of Uganda. Diocesan Chancellor, Jim Elliott, Esq. Gave leadership to the many questions surrounding the present situation. Christ Church (Episcopal) is currently meeting at St. Michael and All Angel's Episcopal Church in Savannah. The Rev. Canon Neal Phelps is serving as Priest-In-Charge, assisted by The Rev. George Maxwell, Rector Emeritus.

Council received an outstanding report by Ms. Gina Jenkins, Director of Youth Ministries of the Diocese.

Received an excellent report from Mr. Dwayne Summar, Chair, Diocesan Communication Commission.

Bishop Louttit informed Council of the recent closing of St. Stephen's Church in Leesburg.

Council approved two changes to the Canons of the Diocese and submitted them to the Standing Committee on Constitution and Canons for presentation to the February 2008 Diocesan Convention. The changes are related to Title II, Section 2 on mission congregations applying for parish status.

### **DECEMBER 7-8: TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, STATESBORO**

Upon the recommendation of The Executive Committee and the recommendation of The Rev. Canon Neal Phelps, approved the appointment of Ms. Victoria Logue to serve as Clerk of Council

Two proposed resolutions were presented to Council.

- 1) The number of lay delegates from congregations to convention be increased. Consensus of Council was the proposal was not well defined enough to present to Convention
- 2) Voting by Vocational Deacons in Convention was discussed. No consensus reached and not defined well enough to present to convention.

Received an update on the life and ministry of Christ Church (Episcopal) in Savannah. A congregation of 100 continues to meet each Sunday.

Received a report from The Rev. Ted Clarkson on the Camp and Conference Center.

New Clergy to the diocese were announced. The Rev. Don Hudgens, Rector, Calvary, Americus; The Rev. William Winston, St. Luke's, Rincon; The Rev. Bill Stewart, Interim Rector, Annunciation; Vidalia; The Rev. Ann Heineman, Interim Rector, St. John/St. Mark, Albany; the Rev. Ron Southerland, Rector Annunciation has retired. Fr. Southerland will serve as Vicar Good Shepherd, Swainsboro beginning in January, 2008.

The structure of Convocation Council was discussed. It was decided that the Deans of each Convocation would speak to convocational preference at Diocesan Convention in February 2008.

Quarterly financial statements of the diocese are prepared by The Rev. Sanford Ulmer, Diocesan Administrator and Diocesan Treasurer, David Saussy, and presented at each meeting of Council for review and discussion.

Copies of all minutes are on file at Diocesan House, 611 East Bay Street, Savannah, Georgia.

Respectfully submitted  
The Rev. Canon Neal Phelps  
Canon to the Ordinary