

D R A F T  
Diocese of Alaska Southeast Deanery  
Minutes of Annual Convocation April 23, 2009

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2004 observation  
S: Hba AK 99835

First business meeting convened by Dean Hunter Davis at 9:45 PM

Delegates Present:

- Lana Palmer (St. John's)
- Mike McDonough (Holy Trinity)
- Norm Herron (St. John's)
- Fr. Wilson Valentine (Holy Trinity)
- Barbara Learmonth (St. Brendan's)
- Betty Nora (St. Philip's)
- Bridgett Kauffman (St. Peter's)
- Gary Paxton (St. Peter's)
- Glenda Rice (St. Peter's)
- Heidi Lee (St. Andrews)

Clergy Present:

- Mtr. Paula Sampson (St. Philip's)
- Fr. Bob Stevens (St. Brendans)
- Fr. Dave Elsensohn (St. Peter's)
- Fr. Ron Kotrc (St. John's)
- Fr. Wilson Valentine (Holy Trinity)
- Mtr. Dawn Herron (St. Andrews)
- Dcn. Georgia Giacobbe (St. Michael and All Angels)

Deanery officials

- Carol Knuth recorder
- Hunter Davis dean
- Fr. Gordon Blue dean elect
- Fr. Mark Boesser, Archdeacon

A quorum declared by Carol Knuth..

Bishop Rustin Kimsey introduced himself as assisting bishop, or interim bishop, and described deaneries he has visited since he came on staff in February. He spoke to the import of strong deaneries that make this enormous and unwieldy diocese viable and workable.

Dean Hunter Davis spoke to the great import of coalescence, true collaboration, and communication throughout the deanery and the great missions that could be undertaken by the parishes in cooperation, not to mention the help parishes could be to each other.

Then folks went home to bed.

Respectfully submitted,

Carole Knuth, Recorder

Elections ?

Diocese of Alaska Southeast Deanery  
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Business meeting called to order by Dean Hunter Davis at 0955. Present:

Delegates:

Learnmonth -

Betty Nore, St. Philip's  
Nancy Jo Bleier, (St. Peter's)  
Bridget Kauffman (St. Peter's)  
Barbara Learnonte (St. Brendan's)  
Glenda Rice (St. Peter's)  
Lana Palmer (St. John's)  
Heidi Lee (St. Andrews)  
Gary Paxton (St. Peter's)  
Mike Mc Donough (Holy Trinity)  
Norm Herron (St. John's)  
Fr. Wilson Valentine (Holy Trinity)  
Mim McConnell (St. Peter's)

Clergy

Fr. David Elsensohn (St. Peter's)  
Mtr. Paula Sampson (St. Philip's)  
Dcn Georgia Giacobbe (St. Michaels and All Angels)  
Fr. Wilson Valentine (Holy Trinity)  
Fr. Ron Kotrc (St. John's)  
Fr. Bob Stevens (St. Brendan's)  
Mtr. Dawn Herron (St. Andrew's)

Deanery Officials

Jane Bolima Treasurer  
Fr. Gordon Blue assistant dean  
Hunter Davis Dean  
Fr. Mark Boesser Archdeacon

Diocese staff

Shirley Lee FAI  
Bishop Rustin Kimsey  
Suzanne Krull  
Fr. David Blanchette

Guests

Mildred Boesser

Reports

M/S Fr. Dave Elsensohn/Mtr. Dawn Herron to accept **minutes** of 2007 Convocation and Executive Committee and Youth Camp Committee and request oral reports from treasurer and native convocation committee. Passed.

**Agenda:** add appoint budget committee and nominations committee N/S Fr. Gordon Blue/Mts. Dawn Herron Jane Bolima, Gary Paxton, Lana Palmer, Glenda Rice, Dcn Georgia Giacobbe. M/S Fr. David/Mtr. Dawn move and cast unanimous consent. Passed. Add Episcopal Churches of SE Alaska brochures use and distribution old business on M/S Mtr. Dawn/Heidi Lee which passed.

**Treasurer:** Jane Bolima distributed her report. M/S Mtr. Dawn/Fr. Bob Stevens accept treasurer's report and give gratitude for all her work. Passed.

**Native Convocation** report given by Mtr. Paula Sampson in absence of Marge Byrd. A large display about the convocation planned for September 11-13, 2009 in Wrangell set up with brochures and heading "Our strength is in our families". Resolution submitted by Dcn. Georgia:

WHEREAS the 2008 Southeast Deanery Convocation established a Native Convocation to be held in 2009 and supported it with funding, and

WHEREAS the 2009 Native Convocation committee has planned and established the Convocation at Wrangell September 11-13, 2009,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Southeast Deanery and its member congregations will actively promote the convocation in their communities and provide support for a meaningful and successful gathering. Passed.

**Standing Committee** Mtr. Dawn described difficulties and delays plaguing the committee. Communication problematic at best. Diocesan staff have been helpful. Bishop Search Committee that had only one candidate closed the search. Then a Discernment Committee, chaired by Dan Hall of Juneau, with two members from each Deanery, took the responsibility to bring three names to the Standing Committee. Southeast Deanery members Deatrea Marceil of Haines and Dan Hall. Since there is already one name on hand, a total of four names will go to the Standing Committee. A transition committee helped Bishop Mark's leaving and stands ready to help a new bishop get started

#### Lunch Recess

Dan Hall, Juneau, discernment committee chair joined meeting. as did Marge Byrd, delegate from St. Philip's

**Alaska Interfaith Power and Light** Mtr Paula invited all to join and distributed brochure (attached hereto).

**Fr. David Salmon School of Theology** needs questionnaire circulated for Diocesan staff.

**Discernment Committee Bishop Search** Dan Hall report distributed. Betsy Greenman consulting. Timeline on website (<http://www.alaskabishopsearch.org>) and not possible to complete search by October 2009. Bishop Kimsey said to beware stereotyping bishop's role and he advises that the process be transparent and open. Gary Paxton opined that the bishop should be notably tolerant. A nomination form is published on the website.

Bishop Kimsey spoke about deanery that has a lot going for it and word should be spread. Is there interactivity, communication, between deaneries? Probably weak communication, now dependent on Diocesan staff. Strong interactive deaneries are important for bishop recruitment. Interactive deaneries could make the bishop's role possible. Communication between deaneries and discernment committee vital. Sharing within this deanery and between deaneries of such as Jericho Road project would strengthen the missions of all parishes.

Dan Hall gave his addresses: 16245 Point Lena Loop Road, Juneau 99801, 907/789-0893 (h), 702/374-7475 (cell), email HallD@GCI.net.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Johnstone, Substitute Recorder

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**By-laws** Fr. Gordon said no need for revision has been given. Concern about quorum meeting and review of current by-law revealed: a quorum is one-half of *registered* delegates and two-thirds of the parishes must be represented.. Fr. David appealed to parishes to send *four delegates* to Convocation.

**Date of Next Convocation** Fr. Gordon appointed a committee to set meeting date and sit as nominating committee (including St. Simeon and Anna Society and Standing Committee nominations):

Fr. Dave Elsensohn

Fr. Ron Kotrc

Nancy Jo Bleier

meet with Mtr. Dawn from Standing Committee.

**Deanery Brochures** Brochures are here and were shared among parishes.

**Convocation site 2010** St. John's.

**Executive Committee**

St. John's: Fr. Ron, Jane Bolima

St. Phillips: Marge Byrd, Mtr. Paula

St. Peter's: Bridget Kauffman, Fr. David

St. Andrew's: Mtr. Dawn, Heidi Lee

St. Michael's and all Angels: Mtr.. Jan Hotze,, Deatrea Marceil

St. Brendan's: Fr. Bob, Gene Smith

Executive meets on the second Sunday at 4 pm.

**Clergy Retreat Committee**

Fr. David, Fr. Bob, Mtr. Dawn

**Camping Committee**

Fr. George Silides

Dan Hall

Lana Palmer

**Budget**

M/S Glenda Rice/Mtr. Dawn allocate .7% of total revenue to MDG, i.e. \$200. Passed.

St. Philip's and St. Andrew's request an invoice from treasurer for Deanery assessment (\$11 per active communicant in good standing as per parochial report).

M/S Fr. Bob Stevens/Mtr. Paula Sampson accept budget as amended.

M/ Paul Mather School of Ministry directors Fr. David and Mtr. Dawn \$3000 line item for expenditures approved by Deanery Executive.

Fr. Ron hopes that the School will establish a library, Others said that Mtr. Wakefield's library is available and the Diocese has given some books which Mtr. Dawn has.

Fr. Gordon thinks that the budget should be increased as well as assessment. M/S faith line income increase to \$2000, "matching grant" expense line increased to \$2000.

Insert Paul Mather School expense \$3,000, so that there is a balance of \$518. Budget passed unanimously. Budget accounting is attached hereto.

Diocesan Report

**Nominating Committee**

**St. Simeon and St. Anna Society St. Peter's:**

Candi Barger  
Roberta Modrell  
Jan Brookman  
Dolores Ingwersen

**Youth Commission**

Youth: <sup>Emilie</sup> Emily Valentine, Holy Trinity  
Samantha McNeith, St. John's, alternate  
approved unanimously.  
Adult: Fr. Wilson Valentine elected unanimously

**Convocation date:** April 22-25, Easter 4, 2010

**Standing Committee**

Fr. Bob Stevens  
Barbara Learmonte

Resolved by Mtr. Dawn that Deanery Convocation gives gratitude to parish and people of Sitka.

**Jericho Road** Dean Gordon and Ted Laufenberg described homeless services in Sitka and hope other parishes might collaborate.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Johnstone  
Substitute Recorder

Convocation of the Deanery of Southeast Alaska

Minutes of Business Session April 24, 2009

Diocesan Report

Suzanne Krull of the diocesan **finance office** presented a report including:

**Publications:** A new edition of *Epiphany* is due soon. *Good News* has been published monthly and issued by email, saving postage cost, and allowing individual parishes to print at their own cost, if desired.

**Training** Fr. David Salmon school of ministry will conduct a training session in lay ministry, in each deanery. A topical survey was distributed to the participants in the meeting (attached).

**Budget** Suzanne presented the budget report, attached. \$350k of the total \$850k diocesan budget (more than a third) comes from a block grant from Episcopal Center.

We will lose this grant if we do not comply with requirements, including those for congregational support of the diocese, and especially the requirements for reporting. See report "Congregational Pledges for the Diocese" and note that two southeast parishes have not returned their annual reports, to date. Requirement for reporting to Diocese by March 1; Diocesan editing must be complete and report submitted by May 1.

Bishop Rustin Kimsey, Assisting Bishop for Alaska, added information.

The block grant grew from Coalition 14, formed in 1971, when fourteen missionary districts of the Episcopal Church banded together to administer a block grant from the national church. Prior to that, it had been a process described as "hat in hand, make a trip to New York". Each year, a finance committee scrutinized the budgets of the participants, then plans and dreams were discussed during an intense five-day meeting, at the end of which the block grant was apportioned among the fourteen participants. One of the standards for coalition was that twenty-five percent of each congregation's budget would support the diocese, to reduce dependence on the grant.

Arizona, Rio Grande, Hawaii and Northern Michigan left the coalition after eliminating their need for block grant support.

Alaska, Navaholand, North and South Dakota left the coalition to form Episcopal Commission on Indian Ministries in the late 1980's.

Other dioceses continued in the coalition. Eastern Oregon was one of these, and parishes there continue to contribute 25% to the diocese.

Bishop Kimsey said: "We gave grants to the parishes that couldn't give twenty-five percent. Then we helped them to build better stewardship, trying to realign the incentives to produce better results."

**Annual Gifts Campaign** is a fund established for support of non-stipendiary clergy in their advanced age. It received less than \$40k capitalization in 2008 and an additional \$6k this year. (See attached "The Rt. Rev. Mark McDonald Major Gifts Campaign")

**Faith Into Tomorrow** grant proposals must be postmarked by June 1 and will be awarded at "convention time". This year \$4,840 will be available for victims of poverty and \$3,272 will be available for Encouraging Spiritual Growth and Outreach.

**Episcopal Academy for Gospel Leadership and Evangelism** Shirley Lee reported that this program is looking for sixteen to eighteen young people, four from each deanery plus

two from Navaholand. Application and notification process is still under development. The program will train for lay licensing of people eighteen to twenty- six years old, to mission in Alaskan communities. The curriculum under development is reviewed on the website and includes: Church History, Old and New Testament, living the Baptismal Covenant, Church and Parish Administration, Liturgy, Anti-racism and Safe Church. The course will be web based, clergy instructors are sought and accreditation with UAS Fairbanks is being discussed.

**Youth Commission** met in February in Fairbanks, a strategic planning meeting facilitated by Tim Pearson.

#### Parish Reports

In addition to the written reports submitted by parishes as part of the convocation packet which are attached hereto, an oral report was received from Lana Palmer of **St. John's**. The vestry has been working with two local developers (Reeve and Miller) and the historical committee on plans to redevelop Yates and Totem Building. This has been set aside until there is economic improvement.

Fr. Ron has been working with a committee on the homeless, to reopen the Yates Building for a six to nine month pilot program to operate a daytime "drop-in" shelter. Ketchikan has a night-time shelter but no place for homeless people to shelter during the day.

A leak in the roof of the church, above the altar, led to a large roof replacement project.

A grant from the borough will allocate visitor head tax funds for a sprinkler system.

Outreach ministries include: Sunday services at the Pioneers' Home, The Lord's Table, Sunday dinner provided two weeks a month and other churches alternate Sundays. Love, Inc. (Love In the Name of Christ) is active providing for needy families through the "closet" program. Salvation Army soup kitchen receives support. A gift shop has a docents program for outreach for visitors. A missionary orphanage in Mozambique, staffed by a member's daughter, is supported. Easter Sunrise service held together with Lutheran and Methodist churches.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Gordon Blue