July/August 2018

From the Bishop
July 19, 2018

Dear Friends:

The 79th General Convention held in Austin, Texas is history and the North Dakota deputation and I are safely home. If you are interested in a general overview of the actions of General Convention, I invite you to read the Episcopal News Service article “General Convention wrap-up: Following the Way of Jesus.”

As usual, the issue of same-sex marriage received much attention. In a surprise move, the General Convention upheld the 1979 Book of Common Prayer in Resolution A068 with its traditional teaching on marriage. Furthermore, it memorialized the current Book of Common Prayer as “a Prayer Book of the church preserving the psalter, liturgies, The Lambeth Quadrilateral, Historic Documents, and Trinitarian Formularies ensuring its continued use” (emphasis mine).

On the other hand, the General Convention shifted the responsibility for the required permissions necessary to utilize the rites for same-sex marriage from the bishop to the local rector or priest-in-charge. At the same time, it directs a bishop such as I who “holds a theological position that does not embrace marriage for same-sex couples, ... [to] invite ... another bishop of this Church to provide pastoral support to the couple, the Member of the Clergy involved and the congregation.”

Therefore, I direct any rector or priest-in-charge of the Diocese who desires to officiate at a same-sex wedding in the congregation he or she serves to first contact me for supplemental episcopal pastoral care. We will use the “Caring for All the Churches” procedure promulgated by the House of Bishops in 2004 and revised in 2012 as a roadmap for these matters.

continued on page 2
[Episcopal News Service – Austin, Texas] The Rev. Gay Jennings, president of the House of Deputies, during General Convention awarded the House of Deputies Medal to seven people – five deputies and two alternates – for distinguished service to the House of Deputies and the Episcopal Church. The award was established in 2012.

The 2018 recipients:

• Deputy Katie Sherrod from Fort Worth, a three-time deputy, for her decades of work in support of the Episcopal Church in Fort Worth.

• Deputy Lonnie Hamilton from South Carolina, a six-time deputy, for his work in his parish and the Episcopal Church in South Carolina.

• The Rev. John Floberg, deputy from North Dakota, for his work in rebuilding St. Jame’s, Cannonball, after a devastating fire eight years ago, and for his prophetic witness at Standing Rock.

• The Rev. Ruth Meyers, alternate deputy from California, for her years of teaching in seminaries of the church, as well as her work on the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music and the Task Force on the Study of Marriage.

• Deputy Tom Little from Vermont, an eight-time deputy who is chancellor of his diocese and has served on the Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons, the Standing Commission on the Structure of the Church and many other committees.

• Alternate deputy Diane Pollard from New York, who has attended 14 General Conventions and has served on the boards of Episcopal Urban Caucus and the Church Pension Group, as well as chairing legislative committees of the convention.

• Deputy Richard Miller from Southeast Florida, a 12-time deputy and two-time sergeant-at-arms, who has served on multiple committees at General Convention and in his home diocese.

From the Bishop (continued)

I was also a signatory to the “Austin Statement” of the Communion Partner bishops. I ask for your prayers. Please be assured of mine as we enter this new season of our life together. I am,

Yours in Christ,

+ Michael A. Smith

1 https://www.episcopalnewsinservice.org/2018/07/16/general-convention-wrap-up-following-the-way-of-jesus/
2 The Book of Common Prayer, p. 861.
3 https://www.vbinder.net/resolutions/A068?house=hd&lang=en
5 https://www.episcopalchurch.org/library/article/caring-all-churches
Dallas Mission Grant Guidelines and Application

Application deadline: August 1, 2018

As part of the partnership with the Diocese of Dallas and Bishop Michael working as their assisting bishop one-quarter time, they are making available to us $40,000 for mission grants. Congregations/organizations within the Diocese of North Dakota will be able to apply for grants of up to $8,000. Areas of ministry and mission available for funding are: Bakken Mission, Buildings & Grounds, Campus Ministry, Evangelism, Mission outside the Diocese (including East Africa Scholarship and Haiti), Native American Ministry, Sudanese Ministry, Theological Education, and Youth Ministry.

Grant Criteria
- Must address a strategic need as it relates to the above priorities of the Diocese.
- Must assist in implementing the mission strategy and priorities of the diocese, or local congregations.
- Congregations and organizations are limited to one application per year.

Application Requirements
- Completed application must be received by August 1, 2018.
- Applicant/Contact person is the person responsible for program operation.
- An endorsement by the governing body of the congregation or organization must accompany the application.
- Fully detailed income/expense budget for the program for which funding is requested.

Parish/Organization __________________________________________________________

Contact Person ____________________________________________________________

Address _________________________________________________________________

Phone number __________________________ E-mail address ______________________

Name of Program _________________________________________________________

Amount requested (maximum of $8,000): $ ___________________

List the goals and specific objectives of the program. (Use additional sheets as needed) ______________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
Areas of ministry and mission served (check all that apply):

- Bakken Mission
- Buildings & Grounds
- Campus Ministry
- Evangelism
- Native American Ministry
- Sudanese Ministry
- Theological Education
- Youth Ministry
- Mission outside the Diocese (including East Africa Scholarship and Haiti)

How the program will be evaluated?

_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________

Identify all other funding sources and amounts or requests for funding.

_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________

Describe how this program implements the mission strategy of your congregation/organization of the Diocese.

_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________  __________________________________
Signature of applicant/contact person     Date

____________________________________________________  __________________________________
Signature of Priest-in-Charge     Date

____________________________________________________  __________________________________
Signature of Senior Warden     Date

Send copy of completed grant application along with a program budget and congregation/organization endorsement by e-mail to leishaw@cableone.net. Grants will be awarded September 1, 2018.

For office use only

____________________________________________________  __________________________________
Bishop’s Endorsement     Date
St. Paul’s, Grand Forks News

By E. Jacobi

He’s back!
As mentioned at the Convention of the North Dakota Episcopal Diocese in October of 2017, St. Paul’s Rector, Jim Shannon, underwent cancer treatments starting in September of 2017. He has been on short-term medical disability from September to the end of May 2018, working only 20% of the time. St. Paul’s is happy to announce that Father Shannon is back to work full-time as of June 1st. He tells us he is feeling good!

St. Paul’s would also like to thank Father Ryan Fischer who very ably filled in at St. Paul’s during Father Shannon’s treatments and recovery time. Note: Father Fischer came to St. Paul’s as an E.L.C.A. Lutheran minister and left as an Episcopal priest! He was received into the Episcopal Church on March 25, 2018 at Gethsemane Cathedral in Fargo. Welcome to the Episcopal Church, Father Fischer!

Photo at right: St. Paul’s Tuesday Prayer Group presents Father Fischer with a quilt (made by Ilene Sherlock). From Left: Beth Kopp, Sandy Norby, Father Ryan Fischer, Ilene Sherlock, Rose Raymond, and Barb Chisholm. (Photo Credit: C. Johnson)

60th Wedding Anniversary Celebration
On June 10th, St. Paul’s was the scene of a 60th Wedding Anniversary Celebration for longtime members Gary and Pat Gowan. The Gowans were married at Granville Church (located west of Oslo, Minnesota) on June 6, 1958. Gary and Pat were blessed with five children, four daughters and one son. They have eleven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. In addition to the celebration at St. Paul’s with their Church family, the Gowans also celebrated their 60th with their extended family.

Pat and Gary Gowan and their 60th Anniversary Cake. (Photo Credit: E. Jacobi)
Fathers’ Day was Quilt Day at St. Peter’s in Williston!

By Terri Sorenson

Father Michael, Louie Abdilnour and George Abdilnour were presented with handmade quilts from St. Peter’s Sewing Circle in recognition of their hard work and leadership at our church. Sewing Circle continues their mission not only to provide handmade creations for donation, but to make sure each family in our congregation has at least one quilt made just for them!

Bishop Andy Fairfield to preach at Gethsemane September 23.

By Mark Strobel

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Fairfield, who served as the tenth Bishop of the Diocese of North Dakota from 1989-2003, will preach at Gethsemane Cathedral on September 23rd during the 10:30 am Holy Eucharist. People from across the diocese are invited and welcome to the service and to a lunch afterward to visit with Bp. Andy and Sally.

This year Gethsemane is celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the consecration of the present cathedral building following the fire that burned the old cathedral in 1989. A variety of events are marking the occasion and include people who were a significant part of the cathedral’s life.

Bishop Fairfield’s ministry in the diocese began just before the fire in 1989. Gethsemane members tells stories about first meeting the new bishop while working together to remove salvaged items from the old church.

Bishop Hopkins and Nancy at General Convention in 1985.

Your prayers are requested for the family of Bishop Harold Hopkins in the death of Nancy, his wife of over 60 years. Funeral arrangements are pending, but expressions of sympathy can be sent to:

15 Piper Road, J212
Scarborough, ME 04074
Historical Episcopal Churches of North Dakota

Over the next several issues of *The Sheaf*, we will be featuring pictures of historical Episcopal Churches throughout North Dakota as originally published in *The Sheaf* from 1902-1924. Thank you to Tom Tudor for submitting these nostalgic images.

St. Peter’s Church and Rectory, Williston

St. Mark’s, Oakes

Grace Church, York

Williston helps support Haiti Mission

By Andrea Stomberg

St. Peter’s Williston had their annual rummage sale, and were able to send $250 to the St. Marc’s Parish School in Jeannette, Haiti to purchase indoor play equipment for the preschoolers! The teachers had requested this several times, but funds just were not available. St. Marc’s school is supported by the Haiti Project, through the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee, with additional support from the Diocese of North Dakota.

St. Marc’s school has 550 students, preschool through high school. This gift to the school will allow the young students to safely play indoors.

The Diocese of North Dakota is planning a trip to Haiti, including Jeannette, for next June- come, and meet these little people in person!
The 48th Annual Convention will be held October 19-20 at the Radisson and St. George’s Church in Bismarck. Preparations are underway!

This year’s theme is Fruits of the Spirit: Joy & Generosity, and our guest speaker will be Donald Romanik, president of Episcopal Church Foundation.

Registration packets have been sent to all Congregations, Clergy and Diocesan Council members. The registration fee is $45.00 per person. However, those who register by OCTOBER 3 will receive an early-bird discount of $5.00 (or $40.00 per person registration fee). Early bird registration is encouraged. New this year, is online registration! Go to http://www.ndepiscopal.org/news/diocesan-convention/ to register online.

As in years past, there will be three Pre-Convention meetings throughout the diocese. The Bishop would like all clergy and lay delegates to attend one.

- Saturday, October 6, 10:00 a.m. at St. George’s, Bismarck
- Saturday, October 6, 2:00 p.m. at Grace Church, Jamestown
- Sunday, October 8, 2:00 p.m. at St. Paul’s, Grand Forks

Nominations are now being accepted for the positions:
Secretary of Convention (Elect: 1 person, 1-year term)
Treasurer of Diocese (Elect: 1 person, 1-year term)
Standing Committee (Elect: 1 clergy, 3-year term and 1 lay person, 3-year term)
Episcopal Foundation for Ministry in Higher Education (Elect: 2 people for 3-year terms)

Descriptions for each position, nomination forms, as well as detailed convention information are available at http://www.ndepiscopal.org/news/diocesan-convention/.

We are seeking a person or persons to coordinate Friday evening activities/social time beginning at 8:30p.m. If you are interested in taking on this task, please contact the Diocesan Office at leishaw@cableone.net.

Please note that there will NOT be Safe Church training during convention as previously advertised. All those who require training should use the online training modules.

This year’s featured congregation is St. George’s, Bismarck. Please look for the display of their mission and ministry outside the convention room in the gathering area. If you have a display you would like to set up, we have space available for seven tables. Tables can be set up for Friday and Saturday. Please let the Diocesan Office know if you would like to reserve a table at the Radisson.

Please see page 8 for a tentative convention schedule.
Tentative Convention Schedule
(subject to change)

All events are at the Radisson unless otherwise noted.

Friday, October 19

12:00 noon  NDCIM Meeting with lunch
1:30 p.m.  ND Episcopal Foundation Meeting
2:30 - 4:00 p.m.  Haiti Mission Workshop
4:30 - 6:00 p.m.  Episcopal Church Foundation Seminar Part 1
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.  Supper
7:00 - 8:30 p.m.  Episcopal Church Foundation Seminar Part 2

Saturday, October 20

7:00 a.m.  Breakfast Buffet
8:00 a.m.  Convention Business
10:00 a.m.  Holy Eucharist & Bishop’s Address (St. George’s)
12:00 p.m.  Lunch
12:30 p.m.  Regional Meetings
1:30 p.m.  Convention Business resumes
4:00 p.m.  Adjourn

Remember the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota in your Will

Further the ministries of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota by remembering us in your will. You can do this by using the following wording:

I hereby give, devise, and bequeath to the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota, a not-for-profit corporation with the present address of 3600 25th Street South, Fargo ND 58104, and its successors $__________ and or %__________ of my estate, to be used in such manner as determined by its Bishop and Standing Committee.

Ministry on the Margins

By Zanne Ness

Youth group from Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Garland, Texas. Along with their Rector and Youth Pastor they served at Ministry on the Margins in Bismarck on Thursday, June 14th.

They were the faces of Christ for about 300 people coming to the food pantry that evening. They also brought to MOTM a generous donation of books and clothing. They did an amazing job and were deeply appreciated for their spirit of Christ to the people.

We are already looking forward to their return next year! MOTM is so grateful for their compassionate service!
Thank you notes from a few of our East African Scholarship recipients in Rwanda:

Dear Sponsor:

Warm greetings. I am called Adeline Irasubiza, daughter of Emmanuel Nbanzamahoro and Mukamunana Odette of Gahini. We are seven children in the family, three boys and four girls and I am the first born (7-7-1998).

I am in high school year 6, study HEG: History-Economics-Geography.

I thank you so much for supporting me in paying my tuition fees. It is my hope that I will do much better. You can see on my progressive report.

I thank you once again for supporting me.

God bless you more,

Irasubiza Adeline

Dear Sponsor:

I am Mbaraga Modeste. I am student of G-S Nyagahandagaza in senior six HEG (History-Economics-Geography). I am 18 years old. My father’s name is MUDACUMORA Justin and my mother’s name (late) was UWIMANA Jeane. She passed away in 2006.

We were born eight children, one passed away and I am third born. After death of my mother, father remarried. Life was not easy but by the will of God, life is still going on. Economically, at home we have two cows and my lovely dog. In my life I wish to be a lawyer.

Actually, I am so greatful for your kind donation. I really thank you so much and I promise you that I will be good child and will do my best.

May God bless you.

I am your faithfully,

Mbaruga Modeste

Dear Sponsor,

I am Mukamugisha Annah, daughter of Munyaneza Emmanuel and Murekatete Juliet of Gahini. I am the last born of four children. Three boys and I am the only girl. I was born on 20-8-2000.

I am very greatful for paying tuition fees for me. May God bless you. You have done very good things to support my family for my education.

Lastly, I am a member of our choir in Gahini Cathedral, which I really enjoy.

May God bless you,

Annah Mukamugisha
Our theme for 2018, *Transformation to Generosity*, is rich with opportunity for broad conversations about generosity and transformation. In fact, it would be easy to include everything about our Christian faith under this topic.

I’m reminded of a paragraph in Peter Gomes’ book *The Scandalous Gospel of Jesus*. In the chapter “What Would Jesus Have Me Do?” Gomes writes:

> Our situation would be easier if Jesus were less clear about the priorities he sets for us. At the heart of the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus says, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” “All these things” refers to such things as food, clothing and other fundamental necessities of life, plus security, safety and moral clarity. The priority that Jesus asks us to seek is God’s kingdom, God’s righteousness, the first thing about all else to which we are meant to direct our attention and efforts. That is also the first petition in the pattern of prayer that Jesus taught his followers to say: “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done....” We should notice that only after that priority is established are we encouraged to ask for our own needs in the form of daily bread.

How would “generosity” be transformed if we remembered what Jesus is always calling us to do? We are indeed called to establish new priorities for ourselves and our communities of faith.

Too often the annual pledge drive is limited to funding the church’s budget instead of transforming how we look at our calling as Christians. Too often we worry about surviving instead of taking up Jesus’ challenge to us to thrive.

When we establish new priorities for ourselves and for our churches, we transform how we think about generosity. That transformation will call us to look for generosity in every aspect of our work, in every aspect of our lives. Remember the tenth chapter of Mark’s Gospel, “Jesus, looking at the man, loved him and said, ‘You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.’”

Once again, Jesus calls us to look at what Gomes calls “the long view.” Once again, Jesus challenges us to give all of ourselves to God’s righteousness and trust in God’s care.

What a challenge! What transformation!

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The Diocese of North Dakota is a member of TENS. A primary benefit of membership is that all congregations throughout the diocese have access to the 2018 Transformation to Generosity Stewardship Narrative Series. To access the series go to [http://www.tens.org/resources/member-resources/](http://www.tens.org/resources/member-resources/) website and enter (using all lower case):

- Login: Mark
- Password: 10:21
## Our Fair Share Report - July 13, 2018

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