

**JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS**  
of the  
**ONE HUNDRED-SECOND ANNUAL COUNCIL**  
of the  
**DIOCESE OF WEST TEXAS**

San Antonio, Texas  
February 23-25, 2006



**FIRST DAY**

Thursday  
February 23, 2006

This being the day and place designated for the One Hundred-Second Annual Council of the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas, in accordance with Article II, Section 4 of the Constitution of the Diocese, the Council assembled in the Municipal Auditorium, San Antonio, Texas, at 1:05 p.m. on Thursday, February 23, 2006, with the Right Reverend Gary R. Lillibridge, Bishop Coadjutor of West Texas, in the Chair.

**Quorum**

The Bishop called on the Secretary of the Diocese, the Rev. Frank E. Fuller, to certify the quorum. Based on registrations begun at 10:00 a.m. that day, the Secretary announced that there was a quorum present of clergy entitled to seats in Council, as well as a quorum of lay delegates, of whom there were 348 eligible to be seated, and that a quorum of congregations was present in Council, in accordance with Article II, Section 7 of the Constitution. He gave notice of those congregations which had not yet certified delegates or registered those previously certified, and on behalf of the Committee on Credentials moved that all the canonically non-resident clergy licensed to serve within the Diocese be seated with voice but without vote. Seconded, the

**MOTION PASSED**

The Secretary then reported the reception of proposed amendments to Article II, Section 2, Article I.7, and Article I.2 of the Constitution of the Episcopal Church under consideration for action at the next General Convention, copies of which were distributed to the Clergy and Delegates. He moved that these be received and filed by title. Seconded, the

**MOTION PASSED**

**Greetings of the Host Parish**

The Bishop introduced the Rev James Murguia, Vicki Hester, and Carol Goldman of the host parish for the Council, St. David's Church, San Antonio, who briefly addressed the Council with their welcome.

**Council Committees**

The Bishop announced the appointment of the Committees of Council as listed below:

COMMITTEE ON THE BISHOP'S ADDRESS

CHAIR: The Rev. John Badders	St. John's, McAllen
The Rev. Milton E. Black	St. John's, Sonora
Mrs. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson	St. Stephen's, Wimberley
Mrs. Alice Ann Fischer	Good Shepherd, Corpus Christi
The Rev. Ripp B. Hardaway	St. Christopher's by the Sea, Portland
The Rev. John F. Hardie	St. Mark's, Corpus Christi
Mrs. Thurma L. Hilton	St. Bartholomew's, Corpus Christi
The Rev. Walter (Chip) L. Prehn	St. Luke's, San Antonio

CHURCH PENSION FUND COMMITTEE

CHAIR: The Ven. Don Lee	Ascension, Montell
Mr. David Bridges	Partners in Mission, Eastern Conv.
Mr. Jack Hatfield	St. Alban's, Harlingen
The Rev. Al Leveridge	Trinity by the Sea, Port Aransas
The Rev. John Padgett	Partners in Mission, Eastern Conv.
Mr. Peter Stoll	Trinity, Pharr

COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND CANONS

CHAIR: The Rev. Phillip Stevenson	St. Boniface, Comfort
Mr. John Brooke	St. Stephen's, Goliad
The Rev. Fred Brown	St. Elizabeth's, Buda
Mr. Drew Cauthorn	St. Mark's, San Antonio
Mr. Wendell Hall	Christ Episcopal, San Antonio
Mr. Jack Hebdon	St. Mark's, San Antonio
The Rev. John Lewis	St. Mark's, San Antonio
Mr. Richard Mosty	St. Peter's, Kerrville
Mr. James Norman	St. David's, San Antonio
Ms. Donna Rayes	All Saints', Pleasanton
Mr. Jeffrey Rochelle	St. Mark's, San Antonio
Mr. Rob Schneider	Holy Spirit, Dripping Springs

COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS AND PRIVILEGES

CHAIR: Mr. Ted Burkhart	St. Luke's, San Antonio
Co-chair: Mrs. Jane Cozad	St. John's, McAllen
Mr. John Brooke	St. Stephen's, Goliad
Ms. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson	St. Stephen's, Wimberley
Mrs. Beverly Bryars	St. Mark's, San Antonio
Mr. Tom Carskadden	St. Philip's, Uvalde
The Rev. Canon Robert DeWolfe	St. Margaret's, San Antonio
Mr. Dan H. Hanke	St. Luke's, San Antonio
The Ven. Don Lee	Ascension, Montell
The Rev. James Murguia	St. David's, San Antonio
The Rev. David G. Read	St. Helena's, Boerne
Mr. Pat Townsend	St. Peter & St. Paul, Mission

COMMITTEE ON DISPATCH OF BUSINESS

CHAIR: The Ven. Don Lee	Ascension, Montell
Mr. Jack Hebdon	St. Mark's, San Antonio
Canon Garry Schnelzer	Christ Church, San Antonio

COMMITTEE ON GREETINGS AND COURTESY

CHAIR: Mrs. Betty Mosty	St. Peter's, Kerrville
Mrs. Betty Cavender-Juen	St. Mark's, San Antonio
The Rev. Bur Dobbins	St. Peter & St. Paul, Mission
The Rev. Jeffrey Hammond	St. Andrew's, Corpus Christi

Mr. Herb Hill  
The Rev. Tim Vellom  
Mrs. Rebecca (Becky) P. Warren

Christ Episcopal, San Antonio  
St. Matthew's, Universal City  
Good Shepherd, Corpus Christi

COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

CHAIR: The Rev. Ned Bowersox  
Mr. Jack Hebdon  
The Ven. Don Lee  
Mrs. Alice Sallee  
Canon Garry A. Schnelzer  
The Rev. Phillip M. Stevenson

Good Shepherd, Corpus Christi  
St. Mark's, San Antonio  
Ascension, Montell  
Good Shepherd, Corpus Christi  
Christ Episcopal, San Antonio  
St. Boniface, Comfort

COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF PARISHES AND MISSIONS

CHAIR: The Rev. Paul Worley  
Mr. Robert Bates  
Mr. John Brooke  
The Rev. Nancy Coon  
The Rev. Mac Keeble  
The Rev. Phillip Taylor, Jr.

Resurrection, San Antonio  
St. Francis, Victoria  
St. Stephen's, Goliad  
Holy Spirit, Dripping Springs  
St. Peter's, Rockport  
St. Andrew's, Port Isabel

**Committee on Credentials & Privileges**

Mr. Ted Burkhart, chair, reported all required parochial reports and audits had been received from the congregations. Three congregations—Sts. Thomas & Martin, Corpus Christi; Grace Church, Weslaco; and St Margaret's, San Antonio—met with the committee to consult concerning unpaid apportionments and have undertaken plans by which to resolve the situation. On that basis Mr. Burkhart moved these congregations be seated with voice and vote. Being seconded, the,

**MOTION PASSED**

**Agenda**

The Venerable Don Lee, reporting as chair of the Committee on the Dispatch of Business, moved that the Council adopt the Agenda as printed in Section II of the Journal, except for the taking and receiving of ballots and other business which might be brought by the committee. Seconded, the

**MOTION PASSED**

Archdeacon Lee submitted the reports of various committees and commissions, as listed in the Agenda, and moved their adoption by title. Seconded, the

**MOTION PASSED**

Archdeacon Lee made several announcements including a reminder that only delegates and clergy may sit on the floor of Council and must be identified by appropriate nametags, and that materials may be distributed on the floor of Council only with permission of the chair and the Committee on Dispatch of Business. He further noted the longstanding custom of Council that forbids the distribution of electioneering materials. He introduced and thanked the pages for their services. He pointed out the availability of simultaneous Spanish translation for any who wish to receive it and that the chapel is available for prayers.

**Nominations Committee: First Report**

The Rev. Jay George, chair, presented the report of the Nominating Committee,

expressing thanks for those who served on the committee, and explaining the policies and procedures of the committee designed to increase the breadth of leadership in the Diocese. He submitted nominations for General Officers and other officers of the Diocese:

Chancellor:	Mr. Drew Cauthorn
Secretary:	The Rev. Frank E. Fuller
Treasurer:	Mr. Tom Carskadden
Registrar:	Mrs. Laura Woodall
Historiographer:	Mr. Donald Engelking

There being no further nominations, each of those on the slate of nominees was elected by acclamation. Moved and seconded, each

### **MOTION PASSED**

Mr. George then presented nominations for Executive Board members and other offices to be elected except for the Standing Committee, nominations for which were made following completion of the election for Executive Board. The full report of the Committee may be found in Section II of the Journal. Nominations were received from the floor.

### **The Bishop's Opening Remarks**

Bishop Lillibridge presented an opening teaching on the theme of the Council, "Bound for Glory," with a multimedia review of the history of missions in the American West in the nineteenth century. He highlighted the use of chapel cars on the railroads of the westward movement as a useful historical model for creative thinking and action in carrying Christ to a new situation in the world.

### **Good Samaritan Center**

The report for Good Samaritan Community Services was presented by Neal Lane, immediate past chair of Good Samaritan Center, highlighting the growth of the program, beginning with expansion into the Rio Grande Valley with a multi-million dollar contract awarded from Workforce Solutions to provide services there. He emphasized that the mission of Good Samaritan Community Services is about changing lives one at a time, and as an example he introduced Suzelle Reyes, a Good Sam program graduate and now a student at Texas Lutheran University, who addressed the Council with her story. Mr. Lane introduced a video about the work of the Good Samaritan and its expansion plans. The Council celebrated with noisemakers provided on the delegation tables, rendering the session into gleeful disorder. In a slow moment while order was being restored (and oftentimes thereafter), the Bishop played with his "Bound for Glory" model train on the table on the dais, a loan from St. John's, McAllen.

### **Presentation of New Clergy**

Members of the Clergy new to the Diocese were presented to the Bishop and Council by their rectors and the deans of their respective convocations. Those presented were

The Rev. John Hammond Barrett, assistant, Christ Church, San Antonio  
The Rev. William Patrick Gahan, rector, St. Stephen's, Wimberley  
The Rev. Michael Patrick Hoffman, curate, St. Andrew's, Seguin

The Rev. Earl Mahan, rector, St. Matthew's, Edinburg  
 The Rev. Thomas Holt Murray III, assistant, St. Peter's, Kerrville  
 The Rev. David George Newhart, curate, St. Helena's, Boerne  
 The Rev. Dr. Walter L. "Chip" Prehn, assistant, St. Luke's, San Antonio  
 The Rev. Cristopher Allen Robinson, curate, St. Thomas', San Antonio  
 The Rev. Christopher Alan Roque, curate, St. John's, McAllen  
 The Rev. Jim Sproat, vicar, Trinity, Junction, and Calvary, Menard

### **Appointments by the Bishop**

The Bishop announced appointments of the Chairs of the Departments, Commissions and Committees of the Diocese, calling attention to the listing of the full list of appointed members in delegates' packets. The members of each such group may be found in the Official Directory, Section I of the Journal.

Department Chairs	New Church Initiative
Camps & Conferences	Pastoral Congregations
Christian Education	Program Congregations
Christian Faith in Action	Resource Church
Communications	Spiritual Life
Congregational Development	Transitional Congregations
Evangelism	Cursillo Movement
Finance	Disaster Response Committee
Higher Education	Ecumenical Commission
Stewardship	Episcopal Schools Commission
World Mission	Evangelism Department
Young Adults	Finance Department
Youth	Insurance Committee
Deans of the Convocations	Good Samaritan Center Board
Camp Capers Summer Deans	Historical Commission
Book of Remembrance/Thanksgiving	Leadership Development Committee
Camps & Conferences Department	Liturgy & Music Commission
Camp Capers Program Division	Scholarship Committee
Camp Capers Site Division	Stewardship Department
Mustang Island Program Division	Annual Giving Division
Mustang Island Site Division	Capital Giving
Christian Faith in Action Department	Legacy
AIDS Awareness	Mission Giving
Disability Ministry	Women's Ministries Commission
Environmental Stewardship	World Mission Department
Habitat for Humanity	Episcopal Relief & Development
Jubilee Officer	Youth Department
Kairos	Happening Movement
Recovery Ministries	Youth Commission
Church Buildings Commission	Special Ministries
Congregational Development	Faith Alive
Church Builders	Bishop Jones Center Development Comm.
Family Congregations	

### **Elections on Nomination by the Bishop**

The Bishop nominated persons for service in the following capacities, the elections of whom were confirmed by voice vote of Council; the names of those so elected may be found in the Official Directory, Section I of the Journal.

The Commission on Ministry

Compensation Committee  
Continuing Education Committee  
Examining Chaplains  
Interviewing Committee  
Lay Ministry Committee  
Directors of the Episcopal Church Foundation in West Texas  
The Board of Directors, Good Samaritan Center  
The Board of Directors, Morningside Ministries  
Delegates to the Texas Conference of Churches  
Charter Trustees of Texas Military Institute

### **Episcopal Church Foundation in West Texas**

Mr. Dan Butt reported for the Episcopal Church Foundation in West Texas, summarizing the model portfolios managed by the Foundation, which had grown to 95 accounts with \$26.2 million at the end of 2005. Diocesan accounts comprise \$17.7 million of that total amount. Consolidated investment gains were 5%, amounting to \$1.1 million.

### **Visiting Bishops**

Bishop Lillibridge invited Bishop Ray Tieman of the Southwestern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to the podium and he addressed the Council on behalf of our sister synod, noting the shared campus ministry in San Marcos and cooperation among many congregations. The Bishop then welcomed the Rt. Rev. Ramiro Delgado-Vera, Bishop of Cuernavaca in the Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico and a former priest in the Diocese of West Texas, who spoke briefly and presented our bishop with a cross from his people in Cuernavaca. Bishop Lillibridge also presented Bishop Benito Juarez-Martinez, Bishop of Southeast Mexico, noting the activities of the Café Beneficio program which imports coffees and other goods for support of the ministry there. Bishop Juarez addressed the Council briefly and gave a framed seal of the Diocese as a gift to the bishop. The Bishop stated that the offerings of the Council Eucharist were to be dedicated to the ministry of these two dioceses in Mexico.

### **Elections**

The first ballot for the various offices for which nominations had been received was presented, with instructions for balloting by a Scantron (electronically-read) ballot. Through a series of succeeding ballots, the following were elected to the offices open to be filled at this Council:

#### *In the Clergy Order:*

#### STANDING COMMITTEE:

The Rev. Tim Vellom

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD:

The Rev. James Murguia

The Rev. Bur Dobbins

#### *In the Lay Order:*

Mrs. Alice Ann Fischer

Mrs. Jill Vassar

Mrs. Beryl Wright

Mr. Gil Merkle

Mrs. Pam McDowell

TRUSTEES OF THE CHURCH CORPORATION:

The Rev. David G. Read

Mr. John McClung

TRUSTEES, TEXAS MILITARY INSTITUTE:

The Rev. Chip Prehn

The Rev. Frank Fuller

TRUSTEE, UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH:

Ms. Lindsay Young

**Greetings**

The Bishop recognized the retired bishops present who have served in the Diocese in their generations, greeting Bishop Bob Hibbs, immediate retired Bishop Suffragan, Bishop John MacNaughton, seventh Bishop of West Texas, retired, and Bishop Earl McArthur, who served as Bishop Suffragan with Bishop MacNaughton. The Council greeted them with appreciation and sustained applause.

**The Bishop's Open**

Mr. Mike Horridge invited all who wished to participate to the Bishop's Open Golf tournament on November 13 in San Antonio, designed as a benefit for the parish youth program of those who are tournament winners.

**Dispatch of Business**

Archdeacon Lee made several announcements, and Bishop Lillibridge explained plans for the Bishop's Institution Service, which followed at First Baptist Church at 4:30 p.m. with Bishop Folts handing over the historic crosier of the Diocese of West Texas to his successor, Bishop Lillibridge, who preached and celebrated the Holy Eucharist. Council stood in recess at 3:25 p.m. to meet again at 8:15 a.m. the following morning.



**SECOND DAY**

Friday  
February 24, 2006

The Right Reverend Gary R. Lillibridge, Bishop of West Texas, called the session into order at 8:15 a.m. and led morning prayers. The morning Bible study was introduced by the Rev. Jonathan Wickham and led by Colby Adams, a high school senior from Christ Church, San Antonio, with discussion groups on Acts 1:15-26.

**The Bishop's Address--Part I**

The Bishop presented the first portion of his first annual Address to Council as diocesan bishop, the full text of which may be found immediately appended to these minutes in Section I of the Journal.

## **Department of Congregational Development**

The Rev. John Rayls, new chair of Congregational Development, introduced himself as a new Episcopalian and a church planter and reported on the new initiatives of the department for the church as more than a meeting on Sunday mornings, committed to growing larger through growing smaller in close groups of disciples who know each other well. He introduced the Rev. Ripp Hardaway, rector of St. Christopher's, Portland. That parish is now undergoing the restart process, in which a parish which can no longer afford to support a rector is supported by the diocese while rebuilding its strength and without losing its parish status. He described his call to the parish and the struggle to go beyond life as a private chapel, a "holy huddle," to become a people valuing people most of all and reaching out to all around them.

## **Guest Bishop: The Right Reverend Duncan Gray III, Bishop of Mississippi**

The Bishop introduced Bishop Gray of Mississippi, who introduced a video describing some of the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina on the state of Mississippi and its churches and people, with entire communities washed away. The good news has been the outpouring of love and support from the Church throughout the nation and the world. Lutheran-Episcopal Services of Mississippi is a combined effort, formed a half year before the hurricane, which has been a vital central agency in response to the dislocations of thousands of lives. Relief centers were set up in seven sites for service and resettlement throughout the state. The second phase for rebuilding is just beginning, with three large centers for reconstruction teams. Funding has come primarily from Episcopal Relief and Development, and its Lutheran counterpart. Work has been done on some 5,000 homes. In about a year the third phase, re-development, will begin with envisioning and transforming a new Mississippi Gulf coast, including incubation for small businesses and support for re-establishing day care and other centers. He told many wonderful stories of hope being restored and faith at work. The Council welcomed his presentation with a sustained standing ovation.

The Bishop then called on Tru Hiatt of the Diocesan Disaster Relief Task Force, who reported that in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the work of the diocese was vast and sustained, and the funds raised for relief amounted to \$434,000. Bishop Folts appointed the Disaster Response Task Force in September, and that group has trained parish members and coordinated the response to these disasters and helping families displaced by them. She introduced representatives of other disaster relief work groups who were present provide resources for those seeking to assist in these efforts. The Task Force's next goal is to develop long-term, comprehensive ecumenical plans for disaster relief as a Disaster Response Network, aiming to have every church ready to participate in the ministry that may be demanded of us at any time.

The Bishop then made a presentation to Bishop Gray of a check for \$50,000 for relief of the needs of the Diocese of Mississippi from funds contributed by members of the diocese. Bishop Gray later addressed the luncheon of the Clergy Association as well.

## **Noonday Prayers and Necrology Report**

The Bishop then introduced Carolyn Whitmire, who recognized the churches which had made contributions to the United Thank Offering, and led the prayer of thanksgiving for this offering. The Bishop presented the report of the Necrology

Committee, with prayers for those who had served in the Councils of the Diocese and died in the past year, and led the Council in Noonday Prayers. A special greeting was proffered by the Bishop to Mrs. Margie Bevins, widow of the Rev. Art Bevins, retired from this diocese. Following announcements, the Council stood in recess at 11:16 a.m., dispersing to the various luncheons of the Clergy Association, the Lay Ministry Committee, and the Clergy Spouses.



## **AFTERNOON SESSION**

Following lunch, the Bishop reconvened the plenary Council session at 2:05 p.m.

### **Camps and Conferences**

The Rev. Jonathan Wickham, Bishop's Deputy for Youth Ministry and executive director of Camps and Conferences, introduced the Rev. David G. Read, Boerne. His report on the program of Camp Capers noted that the 101<sup>st</sup> Council had charged the Department to research the future prospects of Camp Capers and suburban growth in its vicinity. Results suggest that other opportunities afforded by the gift of property near Blanco by Mr. & Mrs. Lyon Brinsmade may provide better alternatives for the camping program in the long term future. Mr. Wickham then introduced Mrs. Lisa Mason, who told the Council about the growing use and services of the Mustang Island Conference Center, especially the summer family camps. Mrs. Mary Clark presented a review of the history of the conference center and development plans for its growth, and showed a video about plans and opportunities there.

### **Department of World Mission**

Dr. Betty Chumney, chair of the Department, described the continuing growth of the relationships with mission partners around the world. Presenters on mission efforts this year included (1) the Rev. Dori Zubizarreta, reporting on the progress in rebuilding the community of Lucio Blanco, Mexico, which was devastated by an explosion last year; (2) Rand Mason, reporting his ministry in the orphanages and communities of Belarus; (3) Mrs. Marthe Curry, describing her work with the Women's Center in Nebbi, Uganda, over the past six months; and (4) Dr. Louis Manz, reviewing the work of the Water Well Ministry taking place in Honduras, Mexico, and Texas, not only drilling wells but teaching English and hygiene, evangelism and youth work in those communities where they have been called. Mrs. Chumney finally called on all those who had served on a mission team to stand, together with those who have provided financial and preparation support, and all those who had kept the mission teams in their prayers, wherewith she presented to the Bishop the vast majority of the Council members as being missionaries making a difference.

### **The Bishop's Address—Part Two**

Bishop Lillibridge continued his address with an extended teaching on the situation of the Church in our times and the challenges to us for bringing spiritual transformation. Discussion groups were formed at delegation tables to respond to his points and responses were gathered for further incorporating these ideas into the active

mission of the Diocese.

### **Second Report of the Nominating Committee**

The Rev. John Badders, speaking for the chairman, presented nominations for the Standing Committee; there were no nominations from the floor. Results of all elections are reported above.

Following announcements and prayers by the Bishop, the Council recessed at 5:12 p.m. for a free evening to meet again at 8:45 a.m. Friday morning.



### **THIRD DAY**

Saturday  
February 25, 2006

The Bishop celebrated Holy Communion at St. Mark's Church at 7:30 a.m., and a continental breakfast was served immediately thereafter.

The Bishop called the Council to order at 8:48 a.m., with prayers. A Bible study on St. Mark 9:2-9 was led by Asa Cozad of St. John's, McAllen, and other youth of the Diocese.

A Resolution from the floor was presented by the Rt. Rev. Bob Hibbs, as follows:

WHEREAS, Dr. John and Frances Etheridge celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of their wedding this past February 18<sup>th</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the Etheridges, by the witness of their lives and ministries have greatly adorned the common life of our diocese and given us an example of Christian love and fidelity; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this One Hundred-Second Council of the Diocese of West Texas offer high praise and hearty thanks to God for the lives and ministries of John and Frances Etheridge, for the beauty of their lives together, and assure them of our continuing love and prayers.

Being seconded, with an ovation, the

**MOTION PASSED**

### **Department of Finance**

Mr. Tom Carskadden, treasurer of the Diocese, reported that the accounts for 2004 had been audited and the recommendations of the auditor acted upon. He then presented the finance report for the department for 2005 with supporting slides and commentary, the substance of which may be referenced in Section V of the Journal. He included the budgets of the Church Corporation, the Church Foundation, and the

Development Program. The adoption of the 2005 Financial Report was moved and seconded, and the

**MOTION PASSED**

### **2006-2007 Budget Report**

Mr. Carskadden submitted the proposed budget for 2006 and for 2007, the detail of which may be found in Section V of the Journal. On behalf of the Finance Department, the Treasurer moved adoption of the 2006 and 2007 budgets. The motion being seconded, the

**MOTION PASSED**

### **Mission Engagement Committee**

Mr. Ted Burkhart presented the packet of information about the program ministries funded by the diocesan budget and the responses of the congregations on the Mission outreach funding. On behalf of the committee, Mr. Burkhart moved adoption of the following amendment to Resolution 3-2005 passed at the One hundred-first Council:

**Mission Engagement Committee**  
**Proposed Change to Resolution 3-2005**

RESOLVED, that Council add a provision to include a specific reference to the congregational Reaching Out allocations under items 1a and 1b. Each congregation, as a part of the payment of its full 2007 apportionment, must designate the ECUSA asking portion of the Reaching Out budget, between:

- (a) Episcopal Church United States of America (ECUSA); and/or
- (b) Missionary Giving Outside the Diocese of West Texas, those ministries to be established by the Executive Board.

Each Vestry or Bishop's Committee may, at its discretion, provide for individuals, in their personal pledges, to have the same option with respect to the ECUSA percentage of their pledge.

The motion being seconded, on a voice vote, the

**MOTION PASSED**

The Bishop reminded Council that designations from parishes will be due by November 1, 2006. Mr. Burkhart reminded Council that applications for support under the Reaching Out budget must be submitted to the appropriate department by April 17, 2006.

### **Committee on Resolutions**

The Rev. Ned Bowersox, chair, presented the report of the committee, with one item, Resolution 1-2006, co-sponsored by St. Peter's Church, Kerrville, Good Shepherd, Corpus Christi, St. Peter's, Rockport, Advent, Alice, and St. Mark's, Corpus Christi, and moved the resolution as follows:

## WINDSOR REPORT 2004

WHEREAS, this 102nd Council of the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas desires to reaffirm the Diocesan commitment as previously resolved to remain, with The Episcopal Church (in the United States of America), “a constituent member of the Anglican Communion, a Fellowship within the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, ...in communion with the See of Canterbury,” as provided by the Preamble of the Constitution of The Episcopal Church; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this Diocese joins with our Bishop in committing to accept and live within the framework of the *Windsor Report 2004*, recognizing our interdependence and responsibility as members of the Anglican Communion, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Diocese urges the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church in the United States of America to reaffirm its constitutional obligation to continue a constituent member of the Anglican Communion, in communion with the See of Canterbury, through an unequivocal acceptance of and compliance with the findings and recommendations of the *Windsor Report 2004*, recognizing the very real possibility and the dire consequences otherwise of “walking apart” from our sister churches in the Communion. [*Windsor Report 2004, p.157*].

The motion was seconded. No one rose to address the main motion. On a voice vote without audible dissent on Resolution 1-2006,

**MOTION PASSED**

### **Committee on Constitution and Canons**

The Rev. Phil Stevenson, chairman, presented a single proposed canon change on behalf of the committee. Proposed changes in the text are in italics and underlined.

#### I. PROPOSAL TO AMEND CANON 1.1(a)

“BE IT RESOLVED THAT CANON 1, The Diocesan Council, Section 1.  
(a) be amended to read as follows:

‘Section 1. The voting membership of the Council, in both its annual and its special meetings, shall consist of the following clergy, and lay delegates:

- (a) CLERGY. Every bishop, priest and deacon in good standing, active or retired, who is canonically and actually resident in the Diocese; and clergy who are canonically, but not actually resident in the Diocese, and who are engaged in work approved by the Bishop. Clergy who are actually, but not canonically, resident in the Diocese and who are engaged in work approved by the Bishop shall be entitled to a seat and a voice, but no vote, in the Council.

Clergy who are actually, but not canonically, resident in the Diocese and who are appointed by the Bishop to serve as the Acting Rector or Vicar for a specified time as the minister in charge of a specific congregation, and who are so serving at the time of Council, shall be entitled, at such Council, to seat and voice and vote. The Bishop, prior to the meeting of the Council, shall furnish to the Secretary of the Diocese an accurate, certified list of the names of clergy entitled to membership. No clergy shall be entitled to vote unless the parochial report required of him/her has been received by the Bishop.”

Mr. Stevenson moved the proposal on behalf of the committee and it was seconded. After four speakers, on a standing vote first in the clergy order (66 yea, 11 nay) and a voice vote in the lay order, the

**MOTION PASSED**

### **Committee on the Bishop’s Address**

The Rev. John Badders, chairman, led the committee in presenting twelve resolutions based on the Bishop’s Address, as follows:

#### **I. ON THE DISASTER RELIEF TASK FORCE**

WHEREAS, the Diocese of West Texas responded in a wonderful and significant way to the hurricane relief efforts of Katrina and Rita by raising in excess of \$434,000 and providing hundreds of hours of volunteerism; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that a Disaster Relief Task Force, chaired by the Rev. Kevin Johnson of St. Francis, San Antonio be established; and be it further

RESOLVED, that such task force be charged with developing plans for a diocesan disaster response to reach out to those affected by a disaster in a coordinated way as need arises.

Being seconded, by a voice vote, the

**MOTION PASSED**

#### **II. ON GOOD SAMARITAN COMMUNITY SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Diocese of West Texas seeks to serve Christ in all persons and has a tremendous opportunity to achieve a dream to expand the word of the Good Samaritan Center in other areas of the diocese; let it therefore be

RESOLVED, that this Council give thanks for the initiative and opportunity for the Good Samaritan Community Services located in the Rio Grande Valley.

Being seconded, by a voice vote, the

**MOTION PASSED**

**III. ON THE BARTBERGER ENDOWMENT**

WHEREAS, with thanksgiving for the seeds sown by our Bishop Everett Jones years ago, the Diocese of West Texas has received the largest single bequest in our history of 6.3 million dollars; and  
WHEREAS, as the Trustees of the Church Corporation have secured this endowment in three significant areas for the future needs of the diocese; therefore let it be

RESOLVED, that this Council commend the Church Corporation and give thanks to the Bartberger family for their thoughtful gift and blessing through legacy giving to the diocese.

**IV. ON THE DIOCESAN STAFF**

WHEREAS, 2006 is a transition year for the diocesan staff which works diligently to assist us in ministry and to support the Bishop of West Texas; and  
WHEREAS, the year will bring new names faces and reorganization to the diocesan staff; and  
WHEREAS, seven people—Garry Schnelzer, Helen Schnelzer, John Brooke, Grace Underwood, Tom LaNoue, Carolyn Lane and Erin Shaver—who have been faithful men and women all in their respective vocations will be leaving the staff; and  
WHEREAS, we as a diocese have been blessed by these men and women who have served us with faithfulness, honor, grace, dedication, distinction and humility; therefore let it be

RESOLVED, that this 102nd Diocesan Council extend to them our thanks for jobs well done and our sincere best wishes for them in their prospective new pursuits.

Being seconded, by a voice vote, the

**MOTION PASSED**

**V. ON CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

WHEREAS, Congregational Development is one of the most significant functions of the diocese; and  
WHEREAS, we are facing a rapidly changing world; therefore, be it  
RESOLVED, that we begin to think in terms of a missionary strategy for areas in our diocese all the while thinking with the help of John Rayls, outside the box.

Being seconded, by a voice vote, the

**MOTION PASSED**

**VI. ON LEADERSHIP & TECHNOLOGY**

WHEREAS, we must create opportunities for leadership to emerge at both the congregational and diocesan level; and

WHEREAS, we must examine the whole arena of leadership development for both clergy and lay; and

WHEREAS, we must also make this rapidly changing world our ally by looking at the best ways to incorporate technology into our ministries; and

WHEREAS, a 3x5 card may be the height of technology for some but not others; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that a Leadership Development Committee and an Information Technology Committee be formed to prepare us to be an emerging church of the 21st century.

Being seconded, by a voice vote, the

**MOTION PASSED**

**VII. ON MOVING TOWARD GENERAL CONVENTION**

WHEREAS, the Episcopal Church is gearing up for General Convention this summer; and

WHEREAS, it must deal with the Windsor Report in a realistic and significant manner; and

WHEREAS, we will also be electing a new Presiding Bishop for a nine year term and not a messiah; and

WHEREAS, the General Convention is not a horrendous monster or a panacea for all the Church's problems; therefore let it be

RESOLVED, that we approach General Convention with realistic expectations and generous amounts of prayer.

Being seconded, by a voice vote, the

**MOTION PASSED**

**VIII. ON MOVING TOGETHER FORWARD IN FAITH**

WHEREAS, it is true that we should dream our dreams wisely; and

WHEREAS, faith is the assurance of things hoped for; and

WHEREAS, our bishop believes by faith that our Episcopal Church can with the Spirit's help get out of the proverbial ditch we are in; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this Council adopt a posture of optimism and possibility, dreaming of a united, renewed emerging Church that will prevail in these difficult times by faith.

Being seconded, by a voice vote, the

**MOTION PASSED**

**IX. ON CHALLENGES #1 & 2**

WHEREAS, our bishop has challenged each and every member of the diocese to seriously consider what it means, at its core, to be a Christian person; and

WHEREAS, becoming and remaining a spiritual person is a challenge in today's world, because our society continues to edit out the sense of holy and spiritual from daily life; and

WHEREAS, we cannot share what we do not have; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the congregations here present hereby commit to regular participation in Sunday and midweek formational opportunities in religious education, and the delegates and clergy present will personally set the example requested by the Bishop.

Being seconded, by a voice vote, the

**MOTION PASSED**

**X. ON CHALLENGE #3**

WHEREAS, we are not always responsive to those who come into our holy places seeking God's love; and

WHEREAS, we often say we welcome you if you like the way we do things; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that we, the agile people of the Diocese of West Texas, accept the Bishop's challenge to humbly serve in the name of Christ, those who are not yet our members, even when it means changing the way we do things.

Being seconded, by a voice vote, the

**MOTION PASSED**

**XI. ON CHALLENGE #4**

WHEREAS, people are very much interested in things spiritual; and

WHEREAS, the Christian Faith needs compelling apostles; and

WHEREAS, we need personal transformation to articulate our personal transformation through the love of Christ to the unchurched; and

WHEREAS, we need to forgo our conspiracy of silence as Episcopalians; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that each person here at Diocesan Council reach out to three unchurched persons or families in the coming year and develop Christian caring relationships with them in our homes and other non-threatening gatherings where they might see how Christ has touched our lives before personally leading them into that transforming relationship through the community of faith we love as the Episcopal Church.

Being seconded, by a voice vote, the

**MOTION PASSED**

## **XII. ON CHALLENGE #5**

WHEREAS, in the Book of Acts we learn how the original movement known as the “The Way” grew and became the Christian Church; and WHEREAS, each of us has been given a study guide to the Book of Acts; therefore let it be

RESOLVED, that each of us read, study and discuss the Book of Acts this year.

Being seconded, by a voice vote, the

**MOTION PASSED**

### **Chancellor’s Report**

Mr. Jack C. Hebdon, Esq., rose to make his only report as Chancellor during his 41 years of service (1965-2006), reflecting on his long and happy service to the Diocese with an appreciation of all the bishops and leaders with whom he served. The Council responded with a heartfelt standing ovation, and Bishop Lillibridge introduced Mr. Hebdon’s wife Anne Hebdon and daughter Elizabeth West to the Council. The Bishop presented a framed portrait as a retirement tribute to Mr. Hebdon, a copy of which will hang between the bishop’s offices to keep watch on them.

### **Various Reports**

The Rev. Bob Creasy reported for the Habitat for Humanity. The Rev. Ned Bowersox gave the report of the Recovery Ministries Committee, emphasizing the available opportunity for Recovery Sundays for all the churches of the diocese. Mrs. Lou Taylor gave the report for the Department of Christian Education and presented the members of the committee. Chris Mitchell of St. Luke’s, San Antonio, reported for Diocesan Youth Ministries. Dr. James Freeman, Headmaster of TMI—The Episcopal School of Texas gave the annual report on the growth and progress of the diocesan school. Dr. Betty Chumney conducted the drawing for the annual Pennies from Heaven contest, with the prize being a weekend in the Robertson’s condominium on Mustang Island; the Rev. Jeff Hammond and Bob Hotson were the winners. Sra. Angelica Juarez, wife of Bishop Benito, presented a gift of an embroidered stole from the women of the Diocese of Southeast Mexico, Iglesia Anglicana de Mexico. Mrs. Chumney also introduced representatives of Café Beneficio, who presented a shirt to the Bishop, as part of their ministry in support of the Diocese of Southeast Mexico. The Bishop recognized visitors including the Rev. Don Bretz, formerly of this Diocese and now serving as a Air

Force Chaplain in Iraq.

### **Special Council Session Hosts for Election of the Bishop Suffragan**

The Rev. David G. Read, rector of Boerne, with a goodly company of the congregation's members, invited the Council to TMI—The Episcopal School of Texas, where they will host the special session for the election of the Bishop Suffragan on March 25, with early registration Friday March 24.

### **Invitation for the 103<sup>rd</sup> Council**

The Rev. Ned Bowersox, Church of the Good Shepherd, Corpus Christi, addressed the Council with an invitation to meet in Corpus Christi on February 22-24, 2007. The Council responded enthusiastically, and the invitation was accepted.

### **Report of the Committee on Greetings & Courtesy**

Mrs. Betty Mosty and members of the Committee presented Courtesy Resolutions, which were duly adopted, expressing the affection and thanks of the Council to:

- (1) Visiting Bishops Delgado, Juarez-Vera, Tieman and Gray
- (2) The Bishop, Clergy and People of the Diocese of Mississippi
- (3) Evelyn Bailey and in thanksgiving for the late Bishop Scott Field Bailey
- (4) Bishop Earl McArthur and in thanksgiving for his late wife Shirley McArthur
- (5) St. David's Church members as host parish, the Pages of Council, and First Baptist Church as host to the service of Institution
- (6) Missionary coffee from Southeast Mexico
- (7) Sympathy to the Lillibridge children
- (8) Bishop Lillibridge for expansion of his personal memory device and other technological innovations
- (9) The Honorable Jack Hebdon on his retirement as Chancellor
- (10) Bishop Lillibridge for keeping his staffs even as we say good-bye to some of his staff
- (11) Encouragement for short Bishop's Addresses—ruled out of order
- (12) Redneck Episcopalians and Redneck Bishops
- (13) Little trains that could as examples of faith at work and Bound for Glory

Following announcements by the Committee on Dispatch of Business and request for evaluations, the Bishop offered closing prayers and a blessing, with which the Council stood adjourned at 12:25 p.m.



**SUMMARY**  
**of Certification and Registration**  
**102<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL COUNCIL**

February 23-25, 2006

**CERTIFIED:**

Of the 92 eligible parishes and missions in the Diocese, 89 submitted certified delegate lists. No Certificate of Election of Delegates and Alternates was received from the following: Carrizo Springs, Ft. McKavett and Yoakum.

**REGISTERED:**

Delegates	322
Alternates	<u>193</u>
Total	515
Lay Delegates certifiable	348
Clergy in attendance*	111

Of the 56 parishes of the Diocese, all were represented by delegates in Council. Of the 36 missions, 33 had delegates in Council. All congregations which had certified a delegate were represented in Council.

Respectfully submitted,

(The Rev.) Frank E. Fuller,  
Secretary

**ATTEST:**

(The Right Reverend) Gary R. Lillibridge, D.D.  
Bishop of the Diocese of West Texas

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\* 14 members of the Clergy not canonically registered but licensed and serving in congregations were also present with seat but not vote.