

The Episcopal Diocese of West Texas  
105<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Council  
McAllen, Texas February 19 – 21, 2009

ACTION SUMMARY
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The 105<sup>th</sup> Annual Council of the Diocese of West Texas was held February 19-21, 2009, at the McAllen Convention Center, hosted by St. John's, McAllen. The theme throughout the Council was "**Abide in Me.**" (John 15:4)

### **BISHOP'S ADDRESS**

The Rt. Rev. Gary Lillibridge, Bishop of West Texas, addressed the Council on Friday morning and charged each congregation in the Diocese to undertake five initiatives:

*Charge #1:* Each member in the Diocese should engage the Core Purpose & Core Values of the Diocese by

- (a) Being intentional in your study of Scripture, prayer on a daily basis, and active participation in worship, prayer, and worship;
- (b) By asking, "How does my life reflect the life and teachings of Jesus?" (Faith)
- (c) By asking, "How do you personally, proclaim by word and example, God's saving love revealed in Jesus Christ?" (Evangelism)
- (d) By asking, "In what ways can you participate in reaching out to serve people in your community and throughout the world?" (Mission)
- (e) By asking, "What can you do, specifically, to foster a reconciled relationship with God and all people?" (Reconciliation)

*Charge #2:* Each commission, committee, and entity of the diocese spend significant reflection this year on how their purpose, their reason for being, is understood and "lived out" in light of the Core Purpose and the Core Values of the diocesan family.

*Charge #3* – That each congregation appoint its Every Member Canvass or Stewardship Chair and committee during Lent of this year and then formulate intentional plans for its stewardship efforts."

*Charge #4* –That the diocese read and study St. Paul's letter to the Romans.

*Charge #5* – That each vestry/bishop's committee meeting begin with a meditation or reflection on what is meant by "abiding in Christ." Specifically, that at least one of these meditations be focused on the Core Purpose of our life together (*Being Jesus' Witnesses*), and that at least five of these other meetings begin with a meditation centered on one each of the five Core Values with one meditation focused on the Core Purpose. One component of these is to ask, "*How is this calling me to change?*" Further, these meditations should be led by the laity.

### **ELECTIONS**

Executive Board: *The Rev. Michael Hoffman, The Rev. Jonathan Wickham; The Rev. Willie Davila; Rebecca Warren; Mike Davies; Gregg Robertson; Steve Roederer.*

Trustees of the Church Corporation: *The Rev. David G. Read; Mr. John Warren*

TMI Trustees: *The Rev. Chris Roque, Mr. Ben Houck*

Trustees of The University of the South: *Mrs. Amy Hoffman*

Standing Committee: *The Rev. David G. Read; Mr. Ron Tribo*

**ST. JOHN'S, NEW BRAUNFELS** The Council welcomed a goodly contingent from St. John's, New Braunfels, who are rebuilding after a painful split. The Council accepted their petition to change their status from parish to mission.

**WELCOME NEW CLERGY TO THE DIOCESE:** The Revs. Tommy Bye, Sandra Casey-Martus, Chris Cole, Phillip Cunningham, Kevin Dellaria, John Fritts, Kris Graunke, Sean Maloney, Antonio Regist, Douglas Schwert, Keith Turbeville, Lera Tyler, and Matthew Wise.

**YOUTH IN ACTION:** On Saturday morning Bishop Lillibridge commissioned a gathering of 75 youth from around the Diocese to be missionaries. The youth departed to work side by side among people who live in the local colonias.

**RESOLUTIONS:** The Council addressed 5 resolutions, but first halted debate to spend an hour in conversation and to hear thoughts and recommendations from Bishop Lillibridge. The Council adopted resolutions on (1) The Anglican Covenant; (2) Communion Partners; (3) Episcopal Church Litigation Expense Disclosure; and (4) Episcopal Church Litigation Forbearance Policy. Council tabled a resolution "Affirming the Integrity of Diocesan Governance in the Episcopal Church." (Copies are available at [www.dwtx.org](http://www.dwtx.org))

**ABIDING IN CHRIST: CONGREGATIONS GROWING TOGETHER, JUNE 6 at TMI.** – The Council was invited to a diocesan-wide event designed to strengthen congregations for mission and ministry. This event will include the sharing of best practices by congregations and leaders from around the diocese.

**NEXT COUNCIL:** The Council accepted the invitation to attend the 106th Council of the Diocese to be hosted by Church of the Good Shepherd, Corpus Christi, Feb. 18-20, 2010.

More information related to the 105<sup>th</sup> Council can be found at the diocesan website: [www.dwtx.org](http://www.dwtx.org).

Submitted by  
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