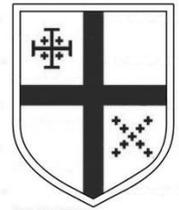


Glad Tidings



The Newsletter of the United Episcopal Church of North America

Advent 2020



The 14th General Convention of the UECNA was held October 14 to 16 at Good Shepherd Anglican Church, Waynesboro, VA. Thirty delegates, three bishops, and six observers were present at the meeting which was postponed from August due to Covid-19 restrictions. As a result of social distancing rules, the Convention had to be held in the nave of the Church

rather than the parish hall as had been originally planned, and no group photo was taken.

The House of Bishops met on the evening of the 14th, followed by Evening Prayer. The main part of the Convention began with Morning Prayer at 9:00am on Thursday morning, which was followed by the ordination of Jim Neese (Paul's Chapel, Lexington, NC) to the diaconate. The celebrant at the Communion service and the ordaining Bishop was Bishop Robinson, assisted by the Rev. John Brantley (Holyrood, Smithfield, NC) and the Rev. Todd Davis (Boger Reformed, Concord, NC) as Epistler and Gospeller respectively. Both services were sung, with the organ played by Roger Daggy, who is both organist at Good Shepherd, and music director at First Presbyterian Church, Waynesboro.

The formal business of Convention began with roll call, and establishment of a quorum. The House of Delegates elected the Rev. Aaron Long (Paul's Chapel, NC) as President, and the Rev. Mike McDonald (Sovereign Grace, NC) as Secretary. Missionary District and Diocesan Reports then followed, with Bishop Robinson reporting on East, South and Ozarks, and West; Bishop George Conner on the former AECUS churches, and the Rev. Mike McDonald on the Diocese of the Great Lakes. These reports showed a generally stable picture, with encouraging progress evident in both the East and the South and Ozarks. The meeting was suspended for an hour for a catered lunch in St. John's Hall.

Upon resuming, the financial report was reviewed. It showed surpluses of \$10,815 for 2017; \$13,500 for 2018; but a deficit of \$2253 for 2019 due to the fact that no substantial bequests or donations were received in that year. Annual operating costs for the UECNA are approximately \$30,000. One worrying trend has been a slow decline in tithes during the three year period, and whilst it is assumed that 2020 will be even lower due to the extraordinary reactions on the part of government to the Covid-19 outbreak, it is hoped that tithes and offerings will rebound in 2021.

The Budget for 2021-23 was offered for consideration. Yet again, a bare bones budget was proposed, but one that included a modest increase in stipend for the Presiding Bishop, the first in ten years, from \$18,000 to \$21,000 per annum, and some reallocation of resources between Missionary Districts to reflect anticipated travel costs, and \$2000 a year in seed money for missions. If all budget allocations are used, the UECNA is committed to raising and spending \$35,600 in 2021 and 2022, and \$40,600 in 2023. The Budget was unanimously approved by the House of Delegates.

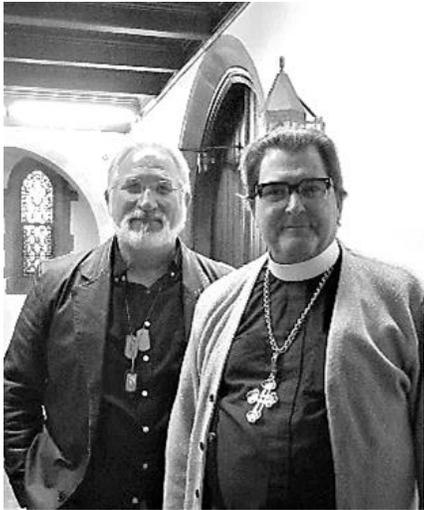


A motion was brought before the House of Delegates in support of Law Enforcement and the proper Rule of Law. It had been drafted by the Rev. Tom Hiter, who was unable to attend, so it was moved by the Rev. Jim Byrum. The Resolution was well-supported and passed unanimously.

The business of the House moved on to a series of revisions to the Constitution and Canons of the UECNA. The first item was the second reading of the Preface to the Constitution of the UECNA. This received its first reading at the 2017 General Convention in Grand Rapids, MI. (Continued on Page 2.)

Photos: Top, Watercolor bookmark by Ainsley Bloomfield, Good Shepherd; R, Sanctuary; L, Fr Patrick Rodgers & Fr John Taylor Brantley.

(Continued from front page.) It was approved, though in discussion some concern was expressed at the lack of any mention of the St Louis Congress of Concerned Churchmen’s role in the foundation of the UECNA. A resolution was then made, seconded, and approved acknowledging the UECNA’s gratitude for, and debt to, both the St Louis Congress of 1977, and the Denver Consecrations of 1978. There then followed two minor amendments to the Constitution allowing for joint sessions of the General Convention, both of which were approved..



The General Convention then moved on to Canon changes. Two of these, to the Canons governing the Presiding Bishop and the National Council, stemmed from the move to allow joint sessions of General Convention. A measure was also passed requiring that Parish Bylaw amendments should be submitted to the annual parish meeting or a special congregational meeting for approval. The remaining Canon changes involved revisions to Canons governing the reception of clergy and congregations from other traditions. These two Canons were restorations of Canons from the 1958 Code which were deleted in 1992. The Canon on authorized translation of the Bible for use in worship has been amended to eliminate translations based on the Alexandrian text type. Lastly, a major simplification of the Canons concerning

the election of bishops, and their work was approved.

After Evening Prayer, the delegates went to dinner at the Blue Mountain Brewery in nearby Afton. The meal and opportunity to socialize were greatly enjoyed by all who attended.

Friday morning began with Morning Prayer and the Litany at 9:00am, with a bagpipe prelude played by Piper Robinson. The Delegates met briefly for elections and unfinished business. The Rev. John Brantley was elected as Recorder; Steven Welch as Chancellor, and Penny Windsor as Treasurer. This was followed by the election of three clergy and six laity to the National Council.

A presentation was made to the Presiding Bishop of an antique brass desk clock and a facsimile copy of the 1769 edition of the Authorized Version of the New Testament in thanks for his work in overseeing the UECNA. Resolutions also were made thanking Mrs. Piper Robinson for her work in editing ‘Glad Tidings’ and for the many other tasks that she undertakes to assist the work of the UECNA; and to Good Shepherd Anglican Church for hosting the 2020 General Convention.

The offer of St Joseph Anglican Church, Branson, MO to host the 2023 General Convention was accepted by the House of Delegates with the proviso that the National Council would set the precise date of the meeting. Business concluded at 10:45am with a Motion to Adjourn and the Presiding Bishop’s blessing.

+PDR



Upper L: The Rev. Paul A. F. Castellano, Vicar General, & the Rt Rev. Steven Murrell. Upper R: Mrs. Piper Robinson flanked by Mrs. Dipamaryar Yuetter & Mrs. Nancy McDonald, both of Sovereign Grace Mission, Grand Rapids, MI.

Lower far L: Miss Ainsley Bloomfield with her watercolor cards. Lower L: Chaplain Dan Sparks had books & information for Confessing Anglicans. Lower R: Social distancing during a break.

