

# Record of the 134th Annual Diocesan Convention, 2008

Meeting in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin October 17-18, 2008

1. **At the Eucharist and Banquet preceding the Business Session.** The offering was taken to support congregational feeding programs within the diocese. The Bishop's Cross was presented to Sue Workman (St. Luke's, Sister Bay). The speaker was Tim Koehler (Cathedral, Fond du Lac).
2. **Morning Prayer with Bishop's Pastoral Address.** (The Address appears in the Appendices.)
3. **Opening Prayers and Call to Order.** Bishop Jacobus opened in prayer and called the meeting to order.
4. **Report from Committee on Credentials.** The Committee reported 113 laity from all congregations represented (Tomahawk lay delegates were not present). "Roll Call of Clergy and Lay Delegates" on Agenda was forgone, and Convention declared organized for business. Registration indicates that 62 clergy were present.
5. **Recognition of Guests; Retiring Clergy; Introduction of New Clergy.**
  - a. New Deacons: the Rev. Geoff Ward (St. Matthias, Minocqua); the Rev. Marie Gray (St. Paul's Cathedral, Fond du Lac).
  - b. Letters Dimissory received for the Rev. Barbara Johnson (non-parochial, from Diocese of Ohio), the Rev. Nigel Bousfield (St Mark's, Waupaca, from Diocese of Long Island).
  - c. The Rev. J.D. McQueen, II, Curate, Grace, Sheboygan, not canonically-resident. Motion to give seat & voice to the Rev. McQueen moved, seconded, passed by voice vote.
  - d. Retired Clergy: the Rev. Malcolm Hughes is retiring tomorrow (10/19/08), tomorrow being his last Sunday at St. John's, Shawano.
  - e. Letters Dimissory sent for those leaving Diocese: the Rev. Joel Turmo to Southeast Florida; the Rev. Scott Thompson to the Diocese of Texas; the Rev. Arthur Mattox to the Diocese of Quincy.
  - f. Deaths: the Rev. Canon Edmund Webster (November 2007); the Rev. C. Walton Fitch (February 2008).
6. **Recognition of Seminarians; persons in Ordination process; Diocesan Staff.**
  - a. Seminarians: Mr. Mark Evans (Nashotah) and Mrs. Anne Schnaare (Univ. of the South) (both to be ordained to the transitional diaconate 12/20/2008); Mrs. Jane Johnson (Univ. of the South).
  - b. Deacons' School: Mr. Brien Beck, St. Anne's, DePere; Mr. Bruce McCallum, St. Mark's, Waupaca; Mrs. Sandra Muinde, Trinity, Oshkosh; Mrs. Susan Reimer, All Saints', Appleton; Mrs. Amanda Sampey, New Life, Mosinee; Ms. Joy Zakrzewski, St. Luke's, Sister Bay.
  - c. Diocesan Staff: Matthew Payne, Administrator; Vicky Stauber-Pufall, Office Secretary; the Rev. Deacon Diane Murray, Youth Ministries Coordinator; the Rev. Bill Johnston, Deployment Officer; Mr. David Natzke, *Clarion* Editor.
7. **Explanation of Decorum and Parliamentary Processes.** Mr. Gordon Stillings, Parliamentarian, reviewed "Diocesan Convention Parliamentary Procedure: Basic Concepts."
8. **Election of Secretary; Treasurer; Chancellor.** One nomination received for each: Secretary: the Rev. Dr. Thomas McAlpine, St. Peter's, Ripon; Treasurer: Mrs. Anne Peterson, St. Thomas', Menasha; Chancellor: Mr. Gary Dreier, Intercession, Stevens Point. Each elected by voice vote.
9. **Confirmations of Bishop's Appointments.** Motion to confirm moved, seconded, carried (voice vote).

Appointments:

  - a. Assistant Secretary: Mr. Richard Wilson (*Blessed Sacrament, Green Bay*)
  - b. Assistant Treasurer: Mr. James Sachs (*Intercession, Stevens Point*)
  - c. Registrar: the Rev. Barry Whenal (*Retired*)
  - d. Assistant Chancellor: Mr. Jerry McCormack (*St. Ambrose, Antigo*)
  - e. Commission on Ministry: the Rev. William Bippus, Chair (*St. Paul's, Marinette*); the Rev. John Cell (*Blessed Sacrament, Green Bay*); the Rev. Wilson Roane (*Retired*); the Rev. Dcn. Linda Schmidt (*Ascension, Merrill*); the Rev. James Trainor (*Intercession, Stevens Point*); Mr. Richard Bidwell (*St. Mark's, Waupaca*); Mrs. Val Burg (*Grace, Sheboygan*); Mrs. Winnie Hutjens (*St. Anne's, De Pere*); Mr. David Natzke (*St. John's, Wisconsin Rapids*); Mrs. Sara Vetter (*St. John's, Wausau*).

48 **10. Notification of Bishop's Appointments** (not requiring action of convention)

- 49 a. Committee on Credentials: the Rev. Kristina Henning, Chair (*Holy Apostles', Oneida*); the Rev. Dcn. Nancy  
50 Behm (*Trinity, Oshkosh*); The Rev. Dcn. Charles Daily (*St John, Shawano*).
- 51 b. Deans: the Rev. Seth Richmond - Green Bay '09 (*St. Anne's, De Pere*); the Rev. Dean Einerson –  
52 Northwoods '10 (*St. Augustine's, Rhinelander*); the Rev. James Trainor – Wisconsin River '09 (*Intercession,*  
53 *Stevens Point*); the Rev. Samuel Nsengiyumva – Lake Winnebago '11 (*St. Peter's, Sheboygan Falls*).
- 54 c. Committee on Resolutions: the Rev. John Cell, Chair (*Blessed Sacrament, Green Bay*); Mr. Ray Dodge (*St*  
55 *Anne's, De Pere*); Mrs. Nancy Kuhn (*St Peter's, Ripon*); Mrs. Susan Reimer (*All Saints', Appleton*); the Rev  
56 Daniel Repp (*St Paul's, Plymouth*).
- 57 d. Committee on Dispatch of Business: the Rev. William Bippus (*St. Paul's, Marinette*)
- 58 e. Parliamentarian: Mr. Gordon Stillings, Esq. (*St Thomas', Menasha*)
- 59 f. Tellers: Ms. Kathy Schreiber, Head Teller; Members of: St Paul's Cathedral and Holy Trinity, Waupun.
- 60 g. Committee on Constitution & Canons: the Rev. Peter Bird (*Holy Trinity, Waupun*); the Rev. Dcn. Georgeanne  
61 Cusic (*St. Alban's, Marshfield*); The Rev. Rex Perry (*Grace, Sheboygan*); Mr. Matthew Payne (*St. Thomas,*  
62 *Menasha*); Ms. Anne Schuette (*St. James', Manitowoc*); The Chancellor, ex-officio (*Intercession, Stevens*  
63 *Point*).

64 **11. Elections**

65 Ecclesiastical Court of Review – Clergy

66 Receiving a majority of votes for three-year term and listed by number of votes received: the Rev. Dcn. Mary Trainor,  
67 Intercession, Stevens Point; The Rev. Barbara Johnson, Non-Parochial.

68 Receiving a majority of votes in third place, and so elected to fill out un-expired term: the Rev. Dcn. Charles Daily, St  
69 John's, Shawano.

70 Ecclesiastical Court of Review – Laity

71 Mr. Gordon Stillings, St. Thomas', Menasha, nominated. No other nominees; moved, seconded, carried that  
72 nominations be closed and a unanimous ballot cast.

73 Executive Council – Clergy

74 No candidate received majority on first ballot.

75 On second ballot: the Rev, Brian Beno, Canon Pastor and Acting Dean, Cathedral Church of St. Paul the Apostle,  
76 Fond du Lac.

77 Executive Council – Laity

78 Majority received: Mr. Ray Dodge, St. Anne's, De Pere.

79 General Convention Alternate Deputy – Clergy

80 Majority received and listed by number of votes received: the Rev. Dr. Thomas McAlpine, St. Peter's, Ripon; the  
81 Rev. Rex Perry, Grace, Sheboygan (1<sup>st</sup> place tie); the Rev. Vicki Natzke, St. John's, Wisconsin Rapids; the Rev. Dean  
82 Einerson, St. Augustine's, Rhinelander.

83 General Convention Alternate Deputy – Laity

84 Majority received by four candidates listed by number of votes received: Mrs. Sue Roane, Intercession, Stevens Point;  
85 Mr. Ray Dodge, St. Anne's, DePere; Mrs. Nancy Kuhn, St. Peter's, Ripon; Mr. Matthew P. Payne, St Thomas',  
86 Menasha.

87 Standing Committee – Clergy

88 Majority received by the Rev. Rex Perry, Rector, Grace, Sheboygan.

89 Standing Committee – Laity

90 No candidate received majority on first ballot.

91 On second ballot: Mr. Jim Workman, St Luke's, Sister Bay.

92 Trustees – Clergy

93 The Rev. Barbara Sajna, St. Luke's, Sister Bay nominated. No other nominees; moved, seconded, carried that  
94 nominations be closed and a unanimous ballot cast.

95 Trustees – Laity

96 Elected on first ballot: Mr. James Sachs, Intercession, Stevens Point.

97 Elected on second ballot: Mrs. Karen Woolsey, St. Mark's, Waupaca.

98 **12. Advance Reports.** The Advance Reports were submitted in a booklet previously distributed. No additional  
99 information was submitted from the floor. Moved and seconded to accept Advance Reports; carried by voice vote.

100 **13. Resolution 2008-01 Communion Partners.**

101 *Be it resolved*, by the 134<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Fond du Lac, that the Diocese of Fond du Lac  
102 recognizes the Communion Partners initiative to which Bishop Russell E. Jacobus is a signatory and affirm our  
103 Bishop in his involvement with this initiative to strengthen our ties with the Anglican Communion, strengthen our  
104 commitment to the observances of diocesan boundaries within the Episcopal Church and strengthen the exercise  
105 of the Episcopal office as a focus of unity, and;

106 *Be it further resolved* that a copy of this resolution certified by the Secretary of this Convention be sent to the  
107 office of the Presiding Bishop, the Executive Council of the national church and the Office of the Archbishop of  
108 Canterbury.

109 **The Resolution as amended from the floor passed by voice vote.**

110 **14. Resolution 2008-02 Hunger Initiative.**

111 *Be it resolved*, by the 134<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Fond du Lac, that its constituent congregations  
112 be called to:

- 113 • regularly offer corporate and private prayers for those who suffer hunger at home and abroad;
- 114 • consider a communal fast in solidarity with the hungry;
- 115 • involve the congregation in such programs as are available locally addressing the issue of hunger, if not  
116 already doing so;
- 117 • seek ways to bring the concerns about hunger to bear on public officials in hopes of addressing the problem;
- 118 • encourage members to adopt food purchase habits that reflect good stewardship of our natural resources;
- 119 • provide financial support for Episcopal Relief and Development and/or other agencies that directly serve the  
120 needs of the hungry around the world.

121 **The Resolution passed by voice vote.**

122 **15. Resolution 2008-03 National Seminarian Support.**

123 *Be it resolved*, by the 134<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Fond du Lac, that this Convention memorialize  
124 the 76th General Convention of the Episcopal Church and its Standing Committee on Program, Budget and  
125 Finance to provide funding in the coming triennium in the amount of \$100,000 in year one, \$150, 000 in year two  
126 and \$200,000 in year three for the purpose of providing needs-based scholarships for Episcopal Seminarians, and;

127 *Be it further resolved*, that said funds be administered and distributed to needy seminarians through the existing  
128 Scholarship Program of the Society for the Increase of the Ministry (SIM), said Society having an established  
129 record of 151 years of experience in administering scholarship grants to Episcopal seminarians, and;

130 *Be it further resolved* that this Convention memorialize the General Convention to direct SIM to report annually  
131 to the Executive Council on this work and its effectiveness in meeting the needs of the future ordained leaders of  
132 this Church and that the Executive Council, in turn, provide a full report to 77<sup>th</sup> General Convention.

133 **The Resolution passed by voice vote.**

134 **16. Resolution 2008-04 Diocesan Seminarian Support.**

135 *Be it resolved*, by the 134<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Fond du Lac, that the Diocese promises  
136 financial support to those persons in the ordination process for the priesthood and enrolled in an accredited  
137 seminary, of at least \$7,500 per year, and;

138 *Be it further resolved*, that this diocese promises financial support to those persons in the ordination process for  
139 the diaconate and enrolled in the Diocesan “Deacons School” of at least \$250 per year.

140 *Be it further resolved*, that this convention encourage each congregation within the diocese to adopt a 1% budget  
141 commitment for seminary support to be directed to an Episcopal seminary or to support in other ways as may be  
142 needed those training for ordained ministry.

143 **The Resolution as amended from the floor passed by voice vote.**

144 **17. Resolution 2008-05 Consent to Junction.**

145 *Be it resolved*, by the 134<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Fond du Lac, with the mutual agreement of the  
146 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Eau Claire and the approval of the Bishop of the Diocese of Fond du  
147 Lac, that a resolution asking for consent to junction the Diocese of Eau Claire and the Diocese of Fond du Lac be  
148 made to the 76<sup>th</sup> General Convention of the Episcopal Church meeting in 2009.

149 **The Resolution (after two amendments to resolution failed) passed by voice vote.**

150 **18. Resolution 2008-06 Asking**

151 *Be it resolved*, by the 134<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Fond du Lac, that Canon 4.4(3) be amended to  
152 read:

153 (3) A congregation is expected to Pledge at the Asking level. A congregation that submits a Pledge below the  
154 Asking level will provide written explanation concerning the Pledge not meeting the Asking level and the Bishop  
155 may meet with the congregational leadership to discuss the Pledge and provide financial information requested by  
156 the Bishop.

157 **The Resolution passed by show of hands.**

158 **19. Resolution 2008-07**

159 *Be it resolved*, by the 134<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese of Fond du Lac, that the system used for 2008 to  
160 adjust the diocesan pledge to the national church through individual restrictions be continued for 2009, and;

161 *Be it further resolved* that subsequent to the calculation of the "restricted" pledge, that ten percent of the non-  
162 restricted operating diocesan income for 2007 become our pledge to the national church for 2009.

163 *Be it further resolved* that the intent of this resolution includes continued conversation to heal dissent and  
164 discussion with the Church.

165 **The Resolution as amended from the floor passed by voice vote.**

166 **20. Announcements:**

- 167 a. Mrs. Karen Powers, Trinity, Oshkosh, reported that \$503.02 has been raised for books for seminarians  
168 through the Church Periodical Club.
- 169 b. Mr. Steve Prestegard, St. Peter’s, Ripon announced a Celebration of New Ministry Oct 29 at St. Peter’s.
- 170 c. Mrs. Barb Drewry-Zimmerman, St. Paul’s, Plymouth, announced Pancake Breakfast Oct 19 at St. Paul’s.
- 171 d. Mr. Dick Bidwell, St. Mark’s Waupaca, announced a Celebration of New Ministry Nov 19 at St. Mark’s.
- 172 e. Mother Hilary, Order of Julian of Norwich announced that grants of about \$30,000 received for new “green”  
173 sources of energy at the house and offered to consult with parishes re: writing similar grant proposals.

174 **21. Treasurer’s Report**

175 a. Mr. Matthew Payne presented the Treasurer’s Report, as it appears in Advanced Report pages 30-31. Last  
176 year income and expenses were as expected. Financial position of Diocese is strong, neither excellent nor  
177 poor. Mr. Jim Workman: “We have money and we’re doing OK.”

178 b. The 2009 Budget was presented by the incoming Treasurer, as contained in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Pre-Convention  
179 Mailing. The goal continues to be 10-10-10. Moving from 12% to 11% asking would have meant a deficit

- 180 budget of about \$30,000. The Diocesan Youth Coordinator's time has been decreased to half-time, both  
181 because of budget situation and because of difficulty of defining a three-quarter's time position.
- 182 c. Motion to approve 2009 budget moved, seconded, **not** carried by counted vote of hands. Most critiques of  
183 the presented budget focused on the decision to reduce the youth ministry position from three-quarters to  
184 half time, a number of those critiquing the proposed budget recognized the need for parishes to give more  
185 than the current diocesan asking.

186 **22. Open Forum**

- 187 a. The Rev. Whenal requests that minutes show that convention wants Executive Council to find way to put full-  
188 time youth ministry in budget; therefore we need to tell our congregations that the parishes need to give more  
189 to fund it.
- 190 b. Need different ways of doing health care (Mrs. Barb Drewry-Zimmerman).
- 191 c. Take advantage of this moment to explore new possibilities (Fr. David Klutterman).
- 192 23. **Courtesy Resolutions** from Resolutions Committee (Fr. Cell, Chair). Courtesy Resolutions presented and passed  
193 by voice vote. Text → Appendix.

194 **24. Blessing by Bishop; dismissal by Deacons; Adjournment.**

195 Respectfully submitted,  
196 The Rev. Dr. Thomas H McAlpine  
197 November 11, 2008

198 **BISHOP'S PASTORAL ADDRESS - 2008**

199 *(Address to the 134th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Fond du Lac, October 18, 2008)*

200 In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

201 Grace and peace in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to those gathered at this 134th Annual Convention of the  
202 Diocese of Fond du Lac, and to members of the Diocese who will be reading this as it is distributed.

203 I want to begin by thanking Mr. Tim Koehler, a young man from St. Paul's Cathedral, a freshman at UW-Milwaukee,  
204 for sharing his faith journey with us at the Banquet last evening. It was a moving story of the important part the  
205 church plays in the life of our young people. I hope you share my appreciation for Tim's reflections, and understand  
206 the importance of ministry to young people.

207 At the Convention Banquet I was honored to present the Bishop's Cross for this year to Sue Workman from St. Luke's  
208 Church in Sister Bay, who has served committees and commissions of the Diocese with honor and devotion.

209 At the banquet I also recognized and thanked all who assist with the varying ministries in and through the diocese. It  
210 was an extensive list because a lot is happening. If you were not at the banquet but are involved in any way in  
211 diocesan life, please know you are appreciated, and we extend out thanks to you for your continuing service in the  
212 name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

213 I want to take this opportunity to thank every member of the Diocese for allowing Jerrie and me to represent you at  
214 the Lambeth Conference this past summer in Canterbury, England. It was an extraordinary encounter with the Holy  
215 Spirit working through more than 650 Bishops from around the Anglican Communion.

216 As my Visitations continue this fall, I will continue to speak informally with congregations during coffee hour about  
217 our experience and how it has made a drastic change in my focus on my episcopal ministry here in the diocese. I want  
218 to share some of my insights in this Pastoral Address, and challenge you to work with me in developing new and more  
219 effective forms for our life together in the coming years as a community of disciples enthusiastically leading all  
220 people to transformation in Jesus.

221 Let me begin by reflecting back on my Pastoral Address to the diocese in 2007. I talked about the diocese being at a  
222 watershed moment, as more congregations are moving from fulltime clergy to other ways of being the Church. I  
223 challenged you, as disciples of Jesus Christ, to have more than just opinions about your calling, but to have  
224 convictions; and I specifically challenged "every member of the diocese - be convicted in study and teaching - be  
225 convicted in prayer - and be spiritually convicted."

226 I still hold to those challenges, and was pleased to hear at several of the Pre-Convention Deanery meetings that a  
227 number of congregations responded by adding Bible study opportunities for members while others have add prayer  
228 groups. It is my prayer more congregations will do the same.

229 My Lambeth experience, however, brought me to the realization of how locally focused I have been. Most ministries,  
230 of course, are done locally through members in our congregations. And it is essential to build up the Body of Christ in  
231 our communities with a greater conviction to our local programming. But there is so much more to being a follower of  
232 Jesus and being His disciple in the world.

233 The blessing of the Lambeth Conference was that bishops worldwide were able to establish personal relationships  
234 with one another, sharing the challenges we face, and beginning to understand the very different contexts in which we  
235 live and minister. I have come to the realization that we truly live in one global community.

236 This has become obvious in the past few weeks regarding the economic situation world-wide. I heard on the Thursday  
237 Night News that "Joe the Plumber" was news in Asia and across Europe. What we do here has an immediate impact  
238 on other parts of the world. And what happens in the Middle East or elsewhere, has impact here. In making decisions,  
239 we must now realize that they will impact more than just me.

240 I have been in e-mail conversation with the eight other Bishops who were in my Lambeth Bible Study group: this  
241 includes Harold from the West Indies, Albert and Robert from Zambia, Ron from Canada, John from England, Bob  
242 from Los Angeles, Jacob from Tanzania, and Muru from New Zealand. Our Convention is being held up in prayer in  
243 all of those places. (Harold asked us to pray for him this weekend as he leads a Christian Teaching Conference in  
244 Jamaica which will have as its theme, "Encounters with the Third Person of the Holy Trinity".)

245 My awareness of the challenges our brothers and sisters in Christ face in other parts of our global community was  
246 heightened when I received an e-mail last week from my brother bishop, Henri Isingoma, from the Province of the  
247 Anglican Church of the Congo.

248 They held their Diocesan Synod or Convention from September 30th to October 5th. Bishop Henri shared the  
249 following: "The 13th Synod by God's providence went as planned. Despite the war that had broken out two days after  
250 its opening around Bukiringi area 17 km from Boga, the delegates were able to carry on without fear visible on  
251 anyone's face. At its end, delegates from Aveba, Gety and Bunia had to travel in convoy with us by a seldom-used  
252 forest path because the usual route between Boga and Bunia was unusable due to daily conflicts between government  
253 soldiers and rebel forces that seem to have become more powerful. We spent two days on a very bad road through the  
254 forest before coming to the city of Bunia.

255 "Bunia itself is still peaceful. However the price of food has skyrocketed because of the merchants being cut off from  
256 the local countryside and the prudence of businesses not try to bring merchandise into the city. We were told that  
257 yesterday some trucks filled with merchandise were shot up and pillaged as they attempted to enter the city. We are  
258 now called to support not only all the delegates of the synod of the region where the hostilities are but also several  
259 other displaced persons. We counted this morning 48 families waiting on the Anglican church. In the environs, on the  
260 road to Gety and Boga, there are already in Kotonu, a group of 7,000 persons gathered, while others are still arriving!  
261 These people come with nothing on their person. They need food, health care, blankets and tarps for shelter, for it is  
262 the rainy season. Certain NGOs like WVF (World Vision) are trying to intervene with a daily ration but they have  
263 been submerged because of the sudden outbreak of the war.

264 "While we really appreciate your prayer support which has been effective in getting us out of much danger, we cannot  
265 but cry out an SOS for material aid for these thousands of very vulnerable people."

266 The relationships developed at Lambeth have had an impact I cannot describe - other than to say when I hear of  
267 situations like this - I can no longer say, "Oh, that's not happening to anyone I know - and it doesn't impact me."  
268 Christ has transformed my life in such a way that my leadership among you is already beginning to take a more  
269 mission-minded direction.

270 I am aware that some in this diocese are concerned about the practice of allowing restrictions for individual members  
271 when they make a pledge - but this practice allows for the Diocesan budget to have an outreach line-item that we  
272 might otherwise not have. I plan to ask the Executive Council, at its meeting next month, to designate a portion of  
273 those 2007 outreach funds for immediate relief in the Province of the Congo, in response to Bishop Henri's plea.

274 I want to share another encounter at Lambeth with one of the Bishops from the Solomon Islands, in the Anglican  
275 Province of Melanesia. This conversation took place following a plenary entitled "Given the Ecological Crisis, what is  
276 the role of the Church?" This presentation was given by Professor Chris Rapley, director of the Science Museum in  
277 London, and former director of the British Antarctic survey -- an expert in climate change.

278 The Bishop shared how proud the people of the Solomon Islands are, because of their assistance to John F. Kennedy  
279 during World War 2, when his ship the PT-109 was damaged and the crew was rescued. One of the islands even bears  
280 the name Kennedy Island. He said they always felt close to the US, but recently feel distanced by our lack of concern  
281 for the global environment and climate change. With global warming, he said, their land is threatened by the rising

282 sea. He said if more isn't done, he and the 550,000 plus people of the Solomon Islands will eventually have no  
283 homeland. He asked us if we might not be able to do something to help.

284 Relationships started at Lambeth have put a face on problems like this; and that's when it really begins to make a  
285 difference.

286 I have begun to think about my carbon footprint and I need to reduce it, remembering my conversation about the  
287 Solomon Islands. I'm ready to commit myself to do what I can. But I need your help and support.

288 As a diocese, as congregations, and as individuals, we are called by our Lord to proclaim the Good News to all. We  
289 have been given the responsibility of caring for God's creation. We are called to assist our sisters and brothers and all  
290 those who are in need.

291 I have come to the conclusion that, in response to those obligations, I need to do my episcopal ministry in a more  
292 efficient and "green" way.

293 When I look at my recent Visitation schedule -- driving to congregations in the Northwoods three successive  
294 weekends, driving to Door County two successive weekends -- somehow this does not seem helpful to the  
295 environment that God has entrusted to you and me. What if I drove once, and in a day or two at the most, made two or  
296 three Visitations? Of course I wouldn't have the pleasure of being with every congregation at their main Sunday  
297 morning worship. Would that be possible?

298 In two weeks I plan to meet with the Deans to seek their advice on a new pattern for Episcopal Visitations. I have  
299 already asked the Standing Committee for their council. Matthew and I have already been in discussion about using  
300 technology more for meetings of committees and commissions of the diocese. (I want to thank the Trustees for taking  
301 an initial step in this direction. Of the seven meetings they held this past year, four were done by phone using  
302 FreeConference.com.)

303 I believe I need to begin leading the diocese in a new way of understanding the ministry of the Bishop -- and this will  
304 be even more important if our relationship with the Diocese of Eau Claire begins to develop.

305 Obviously the concerns expressed in my Address last year -- of needing convictions, not just opinions -- have  
306 blossomed from the bud of the congregation to the bloom of the global community. However, be aware that I am still  
307 concerned about our local situations.

308 There was concern expressed at a couple of the Pre-Convention Deanery meetings about the lack of support the  
309 diocese seems to be giving to some mission congregations. There are different philosophies regarding aid; and rather  
310 than simply continuing to make decisions through the budgeting process, I am establishing a Mission Strategy Task  
311 Force to look at these philosophies, to consider what other diocese around the country are doing, and to make  
312 recommendations to the Executive Council and its Finance Committee about possible changes for the future.

313 My Lambeth experience, as I have implied here and have spoken of in a number of settings, was all about  
314 relationships -- and the difference those relationships have made in my vision of what we need to do and be as a  
315 diocese.

316 I'm blessed to be on an e-group of a parishioner at Christ the King, Sturgeon Bay. John Ingrisano regularly sends out  
317 "thoughts for the day", and the "Thursday Thought" this week was a word from God summarizing my feelings in this  
318 Pastoral Address.

319 John said, "I come from a long line of tough, independent, annoyingly arrogant loners. I've watched family members  
320 stand on pride and surrender relationships with loved ones; or struggle alone in crisis against overwhelming odds,  
321 never blinking, never complaining; or not know how much others needed their support, understanding and  
322 compassion.

323 "I was once that way. But I found being a hard-shelled, tough loner just doesn't work. Such souls may become the  
324 best at something, but they never reach their full potential as people. That takes relationships.

325 John continues: "My point: I've learned that life is like a three-legged race. We need others to get along, and others  
326 need us. The best part: When we trip up and stumble, we get to laugh as we tumble, sharing the adventure and the  
327 bruises. Enjoy others. They are blessings."

328 My vision for the diocese for 2009 -- be in relationship with Jesus and be a blessing to God -- be in relationship with  
329 others and be a blessing to them.

330 As I said a moment ago, as a diocese, as congregations, and as individuals, we are called by our Lord to proclaim the  
331 Good News to all -- we have been given the responsibility of caring for God's creation -- we are called to assist our  
332 sisters and brothers and all those who are in need.

333 What are we waiting for?

## Courtesy Resolutions

334

335 Resolved that that the 134th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Fond du Lac, extend its appreciation and gratitude  
336 to the people of the Cathedral of St. Paul the Apostle, Fond du Lac and to the Rev. Brian Beno for hosting the  
337 convention.  
338

339

340 Resolved that that the 134th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Fond du Lac, extend its deepest gratitude, support  
341 and love to the Rt. Rev. Russell E. Jacobus and his wife Jerrie for their faithfulness, dedication and passion in  
342 leading this Diocese and the Church and offers its prayers for them in the coming year.

343

344 Resolved that that the 134th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Fond du Lac extend its appreciation and gratitude  
345 to the Diocesan Staff, especially Lay Canon Matthew Payne and Office Secretary Vicky Stauber-Pufall for  
346 preparing, communicating and organizing the Convention's logistics.

347

348 Resolved that that the 134th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Fond du Lac, extend its greetings and prayers to the  
349 people of the Diocese of Eau Claire.

350

351 Resolved that that the 134th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Fond du Lac, extend its greetings and prayers to the  
352 people of the Diocese of Milwaukee and the Rt. Rev. Steven Miller their bishop.

353

354 Resolved that the 134th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Fond du Lac, extend its greetings to the Most Rev. Dr.  
355 Katharine Jefferts Schori, assuring her of our prayers as she continues serving our Lord.

356

357 Resolved that that the 134th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Fond du Lac, extend its greetings and prayers to the  
358 Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev. and Rt. Honorable Rowan Williams, especially as he and the whole  
359 Church attempt to resolve our differences and heal the wounds of the Anglican Communion.

360

361 Resolved that that the 134th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Fond du Lac, extend its greetings and affirmation  
362 of fellowship to the people of the East Central Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Bishop  
363 James Justman; to the people of the Nicolet and Winnebago Districts of the Wisconsin Conference of the United  
364 Methodist Church, and to the Rev'd Gordon Lind, their District Superintendent; to the people of the Winnebago  
365 Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church of Wisconsin, and to the Rev'd Lucy Rupe, their Executive Presbyter; to  
366 the people of the Moravian Church, Western District, and to the Rev. James Hicks, their President; to the people  
367 of the United Church of Christ, Northeastern Wisconsin Association and the Rev. Art Willie, their Associate  
368 Minister; and to the Most. Rev. David L. Ricken, Bishop and the Most Rev. Robert F. Morneau, Auxiliary Bishop  
of the Diocese of Green Bay.