

Wilderness Words



Spirit of the Wilderness www.spiritofthewilderness.org

Weekly News—October 10, 2012

Vicar's Notes

Our Annual Meeting is coming up after church on October 21st. I know, I know....you can hardly contain your excitement!! What's so important about an annual meeting? A couple things:

- One reason we have an annual meeting is because we HAVE to, as part of the Episcopal Church in MN. In other words our annual meeting signifies that we're part of a bigger institution. On the second page of our newsletter you will see Carolyn Schmidt's article about Diocesan Convention—another part of our being part of something bigger than ourselves. We are ***Spirit of the Wilderness Episcopal Church***.
- *It's at an annual meeting that we look at budgets and elect new officers....stuff that may make some people yawn. But this aspect of an annual meeting reminds us that we're not purely spiritual but also have needs—for financial and leadership support.*
- Not only are we both a physical and spiritual body, not only are we part of the greater church, we are also a very distinct local expression of church. People who walk in our doors sense that immediately. Our annual meeting gives us an opportunity to stop and consider who WE ARE as ***Spirit of the Wilderness Episcopal Church***. *To me, this annual official meeting gives us a chance to stop and consider who we are, where we're going, whether we need to adjust our course. In the busy-ness of our summer season and all the visitors, it's good to stop around now, take a breath, and consider these questions TOGETHER*

I would invite you, whether you'll be at the annual meeting or not, to consider these questions: who are we? who do we want to be? are we on track? If you have thoughts on this, please let one of us know.....we are in this together!

Blessings, Mary Ellen

October 17 Bishop's Committee Meeting—any thoughts or ideas to Rolf or Lee.

October 21 Annual meeting immediately after church.

November 4th—Mark your calendars for a social at Schmidts that evening.

2012 Annual Convention

The Episcopal Church in Minnesota (ECM) meets together once a year to discuss and decide our common Mission, Ministry and Management issues and plans. This year we met in the Lower Sioux Community's Jackpot Junction. Milan and Suzanne were deeply moved by the film "38 plus 2" shown on Friday. This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Dakota Conflict and the mass execution which changed the lives of the people of the Lower Sioux Community forever.

The theme "Who is My Neighbor" kept us focused on our Mission and the importance of what we do when we leave our worship spaces. I find Convention a wonderful time to reconnect with friends and to gather ideas and inspiration. I heard about weekly community dinners, Spanish language services, creative use of buildings and many other stories of people and communities with whom we share a common mission. Spirit of the Wilderness is the Episcopal Church in Minnesota reaching out to the Northeast Mission Area and beyond seeking and serving in the name of Jesus Christ. Convention reminds us that we are only part of a larger community seeking and serving together.

September 21 was a beautiful day in Morton in the Lower Sioux Indian Community. That weekend, the 155th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church met and began to move more fully into engaging God's mission. Focusing on the theme of *Who is My Neighbor*, we took a great step forward in reclaiming our missional roots.

Highlights included:

The Right Reverend Mark MacDonald, the Anglican Church of Canada's first National Indigenous Bishop, who preached about reconciliation and relevance, charging all of us to imagine bringing the church to the world instead of waiting for the world to come to the church:

Comments by the Right Reverend Brian Prior on mission, ministry, and management.

A brief explanation of Mission Project 2012 by Reverend Tim Hodapp, and

A recap of this July's General Convention by Reverend Devon Anderson and Sally Johnson, MN's General Convention Deputation Co-Chairs.

The mood of the convention was upbeat and all about fellowship and the celebration of culmination of years of hard work, and all resolutions were passed with very little floor discussion (but for one canonical amendment at the recommendation of the committee). Resolutions and canonical amendments passed included:

Resolution 1-2012: Anti-racism within the Episcopal Church in Minnesota, passed as amended

Resolution 2-2012: To Repudiate and Renounce the Doctrine of Discovery

Resolution 3-2012: To Ratify the Diocesan Council Action to Reduce Number of Regions from Nine (9) to Eight (8)

Canonical amendments passed included language changes to reflect change from Regions to Mission Areas, and provision for election of Mission Area Teams to form the new Council — a significant move forward after years of hard work to re-imagine the organization of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota.

(Please see the convention web site for the full text of resolutions passed, and for the link to the convention booklet with all canonical amendments.)

We can't forget the wonderful tunes provided by The Turner Boys (and the songs on which they were joined by the Rt. Rev. Mark on the guitar); the moving Eucharist; the joyful, helpful, and enthusiastic participation of the youth; or the wonderful hospitality of the Lower Sioux Indian Community and Bishop Whipple Mission.

Take a look at the full set of photos from the convention on flicker!

Below is the summary of the 155th Convention found on the ECM website.

Here are the links <http://episcopalmn.org/feature/annual-convention-3/>

<http://episcopalmn.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/Convention-2012-report.pdf>