



224th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

November 6-7, 2009
Trinity Church, Boston





2009 Diocesan Convention



Questions this report tries to answer

- What is the annual convention about?
- What happened at this one?
- What impact does any of it have on St. Paul's?





2009 Diocesan Convention



What is this annual convention about?

- Required by the [diocesan constitution](#) and the canons of the Episcopal Church
- Legislative authority for the diocese
- Publicizes diocesan activities
- Showcases diocesan diversity
- Opportunity for ~650 brothers and sisters in Christ to pray, play, and plan together
- Recognition of
 - Individual and group accomplishments
 - New clergy, retired clergy, missionaries, etc





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What happened at this convention?

- For details of the proceedings, see the [report](#) on the diocesan web site
- Framed by worship and **a lot** of varied music
 - Friday afternoon
 - Opening Worship with meditation by Bishop Tom
 - Evening Worship
 - Saturday
 - Morning Prayer à la 1784 with meditation by Bishop Tom
 - Holy Eucharist with meditation by Bishop Tom





2009 Diocesan Convention



What happened at this convention?

- Meditations
 - emphasized love and sacrifice for the sake of community
 - “in community we have the most profound dynamic experience of God”
 - Bishop Shaw thinks “this generation of youth is on fire, more than any other since World War II”





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What happened at this convention?

- Young adult leaders participated in the meditations
 - Waetie Kumahia - Relational Evangelist
 - Jason Long - Minister of Community Life (Cathedral)
 - Assistant Director of “Living Together” (Young Adult Intern Program)



“If you want to go quickly, go alone; if you want to go far, go together.” – Kenyan proverb





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What happened at this convention?

- Legislative session
 - Procedural business
 - Elections
 - Resolutions
 - Committee reports





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Election Results

- **Members of Standing Committee:**
 - Mr. David G. Bergquist, Christ Church, South Hamilton
 - The Rev. George H. Welles Jr., Church of Our Saviour, Milton
- **Members of the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center Board of Directors:**
 - The Rev. Jonathan T. Eden, Christ Church, Cambridge
 - Ms. Angela C. McConney, St. Cyprian's Church, Roxbury
- **Member of Trustees of Donations:**
 - The Rev. Hall Kirkham II, St. Peter's Church, Weston





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Uncontested Elections (1st of 2)

- Clerical Member of the Cathedral Chapter:
 - The Rev. Robert G. Windsor, Christ Church, Needham
- Lay Members of the Cathedral Chapter:
 - Dr. David Colfax Garre, St. Christopher's Church, Chatham
 - Ms. H. Betsy Munzer, St. Paul's Church, Brookline (filling unexpired term through 2011)





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Uncontested Elections (2nd of 2)

- Clerical Member of the Ecclesiastical Trial Court:
 - The Rev. Gale Davis Morris, Church of the Good Shepherd, Acton
- Lay Member of the Ecclesiastical Trial Court:
 - Ms. Rebecca Alden, St. David's Church, South Yarmouth
- Treasurer of the Diocese:
 - Mr. James F. Gammill, Church of the Good Shepherd, Watertown
- Secretary of the Diocese:
 - Mr. Leon A. Brathwaite II, Church of the Good Shepherd, Waban





2009 Diocesan Convention



Progress on Mission Strategy Goals



INVITING
FORMING
SENDING
SERVING

- Presented by Rev. Canon Mally Lloyd (Canon to the Ordinary)
 - 8 original goals now subsumed into three interdependent focus areas
 - vital and viable congregations
 - children, youth and young adults
 - urban, ethnic and multicultural ministries





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Progress on the 8 Goals (1st of 3)

1. Plant new worshipping communities
 - 39 created within congregations
2. Send new assistants to urban congregations
 - 7 sent to 6 congregations
 - Urban Residence Program
 - Some still being funded after 2 years
3. Create program to fund parish capital campaigns
 - 22 campaigns created in parishes





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Progress on the 8 Goals (2nd of 3)

4. Launch new campus and Young Adult ministries
 - 42 new programs
 - 28 parishes work with colleges
 - Internship programs
 - Micah Project
 - Relational Evangelism Pilot Project
5. Engage in mission through parish-based partnerships





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Progress on the 8 Goals (3rd of 3)

6. Address issues of social and economic justice
 - 11 priorities addressed by Diocese
 - 51 addressed by parishes
7. Work as a Diocese for AIDS prevention in Africa
 - 48 projects
8. Provide resources and training
 - 37 programs and resources offered by Diocese





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What happened at this convention?

- Jeffrey Tyrakowski – report from Compensation and Benefits Committee
 - Recommended increase of 1% in Standard Guidelines
 - Related resolutions passed
- Details in [Diocesan Convention 2009 Handbook with Liturgy](#)





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Given recognition at this convention

- Tom Shaw's 15 years as Bishop
 - Wheelbarrow, manure, tub of worms
 - New fountain for Emery House (Society of Saint John the Evangelist hermitage in West Newbury)
 - "Sweet Bishop Tom"





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Given recognition at this convention

- Trustees of Donations: bicentennial next year
- Diocesan Youth Council
- Recent election of 15th bishop of Connecticut
 - Dr. Ian T. Douglas,
Episcopal Divinity School





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Resolution 1

Resolved, that the 224th Convention of the Diocese of Massachusetts express its hope that its Bishop will interpret publicly “generous pastoral response” as expressed in Resolution C056, passed by the 76th General Convention to mean that clergy throughout the Diocese are permitted to sign marriage licenses and pronounce marriages for any couple that is legally eligible for marriage in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.





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Resolution 2 (1st of 2 slides)

- Details in [Diocesan Convention 2009 Handbook with Liturgy](#)
- Affirms actions of the 76th General Convention on slavery and reconciliation
- Continues process to gather information on
 - Complicity in slavery, segregation, discrimination
 - Resistance to slavery and discrimination
 - Economic benefits derived from slavery
- Task Force to assist parishes in the history-gathering process





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Resolution 2 (2nd of 2 slides)

- Information gathered provides foundation for truth-telling, confession, apology, forgiveness, repentance and reconciliation
- Present to General Convention in 2012
- Name a Day of Repentance and hold a Service of Repentance
- Commit to:
 - becoming a transformed, anti-racist church
 - work toward healing, reconciliation and a restoration of wholeness to the family of God.





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What happened at this convention?

- \$6.4 M budget approved for 2010
 - Reflects current hard economic times (down \$530K from last year), but “maintains its mission commitment and invests in strategic ministries”
 - Staff reductions by attrition
 - No salary increases
 - Simplified assessment formula
 - Assessment relief to 60% of parishes
 - Includes an appeals process
- Details on [diocesan web site](#)





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What happened at this convention?

- Dr. Ruy Costa: Episcopal City Mission
 - Grants program for social justice initiatives
 - Economic and Community Development Program
 - Affordable housing
- Dutch Treat & Rev. Martha Hubbard: Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center
 - Attendance broke 1000
 - 40% receive financial aid
 - Conference Center heavily used





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What happened at this convention?

- Very Rev. Jep Streit (Cathedral Dean):
Cathedral report
 - Outreach
 - Muslims use Cathedral of Fridays
 - Actors Shakespeare project – free tickets to homeless
 - Homeless man has become director of Monday lunch program
 - Cathedral radio has ended as a result of WGBH takeover of WCRB





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What happened at this convention?

- Pre-convention Lunch 'n Learn
 - Green Bishop's Forum on Environmental Stewardship and Climate Change
- Saturday lunchtime discussion of 76th General Convention (July '09, Anaheim, CA) with the Massachusetts deputation





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Green Bishop's Forum

- What is God asking us to do for our grandchildren?
 - Reduce, reuse, recycle
 - Get off plastic
 - Get off the grid
- Bishop Bud
 - Bishop Bud: “Listen to the heartbeat of a planet in distress, and love it”
 - Examples of spiritual acts include calling your Congressman and walking instead of driving
- Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light





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Saturday Lunchtime Discussion

- 76th General Convention Q&A
 - Diocese of MA delegation: 3 bishops, 8 deputies
 - Several deputies very active in legislative committee work
 - 10 resolutions submitted concerning
 - Same-gender matrimony
 - Discrimination based on gender expression
 - Global economic crisis
 - Restoring funding for support of Millennial Development Goals
 - Outcome





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What happened at this convention?



- Youth Rally



12/06/2009

Report to St. Paul's on the 224th Convention of the Diocese of Massachusetts





2009 Diocesan Convention



What is the impact on St. Paul's?

- Connection with other parishes
- Awareness of diocesan programs
- Permission to perform same-gender marriage (per Bishop's message of November 29, 2009)
- Our assessment to the Diocese
- Help "going green"





2009 Diocesan Convention



Want more information?

This presentation will be posted on St.
Paul's website
(<http://www.stpaulsnorthandover.com>)
with active links to the details.

