

**Cape & Islands Deanery Assembly Meeting Minutes**  
**March 15, 2007**  
**St. Mary's, Barnstable, MA**

**Attending: St. Mary's Barnstable, St. Christopher's Chatham, St. Peter's Buzzards Bay, St. Barnabas Falmouth, St. Peter's Osterville, Christ Church Harwichport, Christ Church Plymouth, Holy Spirit Orleans, St. David's South Yarmouth, St. John's Sandwich, Good Shepherd Wareham, Grace Church Vineyard Haven.**

Opened at 6:50PM with a prayer from Rev. Steve Smith, Rector, St. Mary's.  
The January meeting minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's report:** none.

**Youth Officer's report:** Andrew Reichel from St. Barnabas gave the report. He mentioned the 3 pre-confirmation retreats for youth and the third one is coming up. Also, the Barbara C. Harris Camp registration for the summer sessions is open. You can register online or contact Rob Bacon from the diocese for more info. [www.bchcenter.org](http://www.bchcenter.org)

**Diocesan Council Representatives' report:** Mally Lloyd and Becky Alden reported. Mally reported that the Executive Committee asked them to make a presentation to us on the state of the Anglican Communion.

1. History lesson: Henry the VIII needed an heir but also he had a wish that people be able to work, worship and pray in their own language. Elizabeth presided over the squabble Catholic vs. Reform.
2. Elizabethan Settlement: The Book of Common Prayer came out of this and basically said worship according to the BCP and believe what you want.
3. American Revolution: we were divorced from the Church of England. Our first clergy were ordained by Scottish, not English Bishops. The British system of appointing Bishops stayed with the Church of England, not the Episcopal Church.

This really is not a new rift but because of fast travel and fast communication it is much more obvious than it was.

Becky reviewed the communiqué from the Primates. September 30<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for the House of Bishops to respond. They already said they wouldn't vote on anything.

She also distributed the draft of An Anglican Covenant by the Covenant Design Group and the Presiding Bishop's response to the Primates meeting.

Mally talked with Bishop Shaw and gave his input. He had 3 different meetings including one with GLBT clergy. He feels there is a lot of rhetoric out there and he wants to find out why the Presiding Bishop signed the communiqué. He said the Diocese of Massachusetts won't go backwards- he will continue ordaining GLBT people and he said to continue the blessings you may be doing. He said Rowan Williams has gone backwards from his stance when he first became the Archbishop of Canterbury. He stated that this IS a "ditch he will die in" (vs. Deanery confirmation which is Bishop Cederholm's "ditch to die in"). Bishop Shaw is less optimistic than he was 6 months ago, but if there is a split it won't be for long. Mally took several questions from the group after finishing her report.

**Dean's report:** Brian McGurk went to his first Dean's meeting with Bud Cederholm and discussed the upcoming Deanery confirmations, which are not going that well. April 21 and May 19 are our confirmation dates.

He said that the Deans reported that many of their gay parishioners feel abandoned because of the communiqué and they want to be able to support them.

St. Christopher's is having Evensong with Bishop Simon Okesh (from Kenya) the Massino North Bishop. Both St. Christopher's and Bishop Tom have been there or have had a relationship with that community. Though Bishop Okesh is conservative on the issues facing the church he is in dialogue with us. They considered having him at the Cathedral too.

Brain answered many questions about issues with the Deanery confirmations.

**Diocesan Liaison's report:** Rob Bacon was not in attendance and thus no report.

**Mashpee Church Plant update:** On March 30<sup>th</sup> Bud Cederholm will meet with Brian McGurk and John Bonnell and we will know more after that meeting.

**Program: Follow up of What is a Deanery discussion from January:**

Charlotte Stiefel ran this part of the meeting. She asked how many new people were here and many hands went up. So she mixed up the seating and made people sit with others in their "working groups": Environmental, Mashpee Mission, Housing needs, Youth, Communications/internet (sharing resources) and Education (basics for new reps; conduct between Diocese and parish and Christian basics).

The working groups met for about 15 minutes and then reported their findings:

1. Education: A. Customary in hands of each adult- what Christians should know (basic knowledge of the church).  
B. churches could pool resources: videos, DVDs and other teaching tools. Let all parishes know they have them.  
C. Create a Netflix in the Diocese online to order videos.

2. Housing: based on what we are already doing, work on communication to let each of the other churches know what we are doing: selling food certs for homelessness prevention as an example. They also discussed the great need for ONE NUMBER for people to call to be referred to the resources available when they are in a housing crisis. Centralization like the Falmouth Service Center

3. Environmental: lots of discussion- they will come up with 2 or 3 things that each parish can do, then maybe create a project for the entire Diocese to follow. And maybe "challenge" the Diocese to do so.

4. Youth: they suggested creating a C & I deanery wide Youth Event- like a U2-charist. Ask the kids what they want and bring Rob Bacon down from the Diocese in the early fall to start planning an event.

**Announcements: *From St. Barnabas.*** They will still be hosting our Deanery web site and though Helen Gordon was not in attendance, it was reported that there is a Deanery sub-page on the St. Barnabas web site with a blog and links to video of Bishop Curry's sermon. If your parish wants a stronger web presence they can contact Helen Gordon at St, Barnabas (their webmaster). Helen was hoping to have a meeting of all the Deanery webmasters in April.

**Becky Alden** mentioned the Anti-racism conference October 18-19 at Church of the Messiah in Woods Hole. **Christ Church in Plymouth** announced their Ride for the Fight Against AIDS in Africa on June 10<sup>th</sup> at the Cape Cod Canal. They handed out information and sponsor sheets. Please support them! **Eucharistic Visitor training** was mentioned, for more information you can visit [www.rvan.org/lem.html](http://www.rvan.org/lem.html)

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM for Eucharist. **Our next meeting is Thursday, June 7th at 6 PM at Christ Church Harwichport.**

Respectfully submitted,

Hilary V. Greene, Deanery Secretary