



Diocese of Alabama President, Andi Silberman
February 2007

Senior Chapters:	36	Senior Chapters in training:	2
Junior Chapters	2	Junior Chapter in training:	2
Daughters at Large:	41		
Deaths:	1 (Mavis Hicks)		
Total Membership:	468		

The Rev. Alison Carmody, Diocesan DOK Clergy

- We have another chapter in formation at St. Luke's in Jacksonville.
- Our Spring 2007 Assembly will be at St. Andrew's in Tuskegee on Saturday, April 21, 2007. The Rev. John B. Fritschner of Holy Trinity Church in Auburn, Alabama. The theme is: "WHAT IS MY MINISTRY?"
- Our Fall 2007 Assembly will be at Canterbury Chapel
- in Tuscaloosa. We don't have the firm date yet.
- Our Spring Assembly 2008 will be at Grace Church, Cullman, Alabama. Rev. Bob and Kay Blackwell are at this church now (formerly in Syria). They are an amazing testament to living into ones faith.

A letter has been sent out to all DOK's within the United States. Three wonderful and credible past DOK National Presidents writes this letter. Here is the letter:

February 2007

Dear Sisters in Christ,

This letter comes from three past national presidents of The Order of the Daughters of the King sharing our concerns. The Order is going through a period of transition and self-examination. Just as the Episcopal Church is defining itself, we too are being called to rethink who we are, what is our purpose and where we are going.

The vows of prayer and service that we took when we chose to become members of The Order of the Daughters of the King opened our hearts and spirits to real grown-up spiritual tension. Each of us has had to deal with reaching a balance of prayer and

service that works in our individual lives each and every day. Because of this tension we have studied and we have learned, we have grown, we have sought spiritual direction and we have prayed from our hearts and souls “Lord, what will you have me do?” We gave up being spiritual infants when we took those vows and became women joined together in the goal of spiritual maturity. Being mature, while rewarding, is not always easy and certainly not always fun.

In our Order, a tension has been growing regarding membership. Who can be a member of The Order of the Daughters of the King? Concepts like inclusion/exclusion make it seem very simple, but our maturity tells us that this is far too easy.

The last National Council placed legislation on the Triennial Convention floor last summer that compromised the status of our Order in the Episcopal Church. This legislation passed without benefit of full disclosure and explanation about the effect it would have upon our Order. Further, as a result of this desire to be inclusive, the closing Eucharist (always a joyful time of coming together to celebrate our completed work, new council members, new officers and new National Chaplain) was held in separate rooms to accommodate the Roman Catholic members. At General Convention, American Anglicans celebrated Eucharist separated from the convention communion services. Obviously inclusion did not equate with unity. Now as an ecumenical organization, we are no longer under the authority of the Episcopal Church, and we find ourselves under multiple authorities of many denominations represented in our Order.

We began as an Episcopal Order. For reasons only known to God, the Episcopal Church was chosen to host The Order of the Daughters of the King. Our numbers multiplied because women sought the discipline that our Rule of Life could provide. Our Order not only provided a spiritual tool for individual women, but it provided a source of spiritual help and inspiration for clergy, congregations, bishops and the National Church. Because of our non-political stance, we were called to invite Jesus into any decisions of the Church—political and non-political. There is no doubt that over the 121 years of our existence, the focused prayers of the Daughters of the King have been a source of support within the Episcopal Church.

We emphasize the wording “within the Episcopal Church” because as a result of the decisions made by the last National Council, the present National Council now considers us an ecumenical Order. This is causing concern, especially in the House of Bishops. We have been in touch with many of our sisters, our clergy and our bishops, and we know that there is confusion and misinformation. In a time of unrest in the Episcopal Church, the idea of an ecumenical Order has overtones that mislead.

We are proposing that we continue to function as an Episcopal Order (as many Daughters believe we do). We propose that we function under the oversight of the Episcopal House of Bishops, and that we function within the Episcopal Church. We do not believe that every member of the Order need be an Episcopalian – Roman Catholic, Lutheran, American Anglican and International members are sisters. However, in order to function as an Order, each affiliate group would need to organize with its own appropriate pastoral oversight, focusing on prayer, service and ministry within its own scope.

There are many Daughters who wish the Order to remain within the Episcopal Church with affiliates in other denominations and countries, even if this forces a formal division.

We ask each chapter to take time to study in depth the implication that the decisions of the former National Council and the 2006 Triennial have made upon the Order in which you took your vows. You will be receiving, in the near future, a questionnaire prepared by the current National Council. We beg you to carefully discern each question before answering.

Should you need any clarification or need any further information, please contact any or all of us. These are stressful times in our world, our country and in our church. Our Order is needed now more than ever to support our bishops, clergy and congregations as we move forward in ministry.

Please remember our call and vows reflect our ministry of prayer, study and service as we seek to bring others to Christ, not particularly to the Order. Our membership in the Order provides the nurturing and safe place for our education and growth for our ministry.

May our King continue to bless and guide us on our journey together.

For His Sake,

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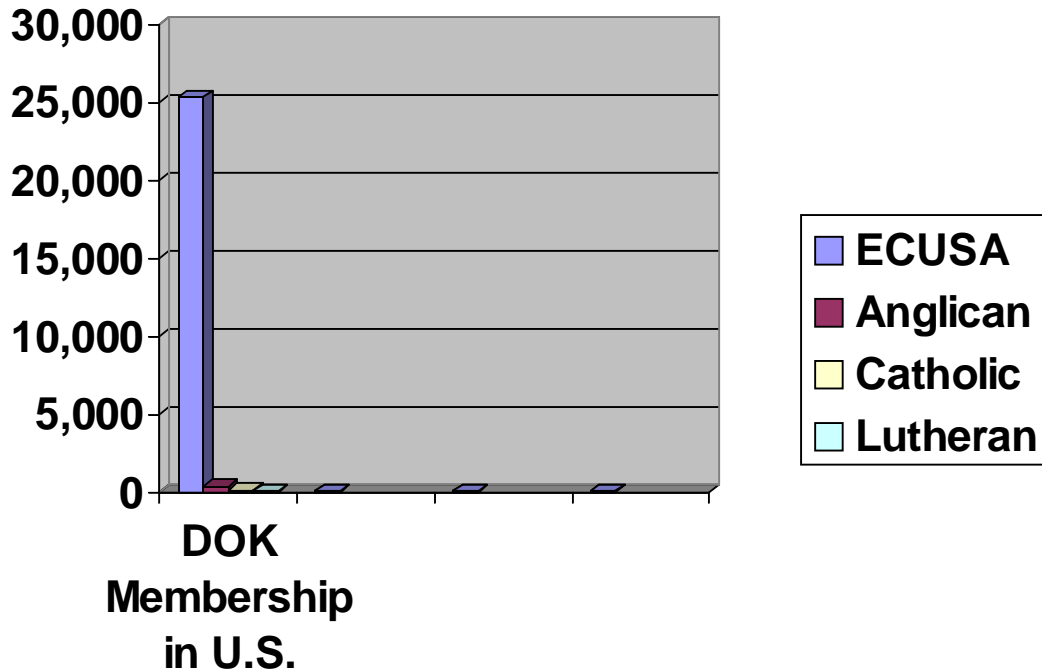
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Copies to: Diocesan Bishops
Chapter Clergy

- DOK Triennial was separated from our General Convention for the first time (since 1924) this summer. Several of the past National Leaders (we voted in new National Officers at Triennial) were leaving the Episcopal Church and they were trying to change our bylaws for a personal agenda. They held our Triennial in Orlando, Florida...and they knew that they had the vote for any amendments that they wished.
- At Triennial, our past National President, seated affiliate chapter members, in direct contrast to what our bylaws calls for. This illegal action has broken the Order from the Episcopal Church, temporarily.
- Here is the good news: Triennial 2009 is back with the General Convention in California. Thanks be to God! The past National leadership seemed to be leading us toward the Anglican and away from our Episcopalian roots. There is a movement under (which I support) to strengthen our DOK bylaws.



Anglican members in USA: 376
Catholic members in USA: 99

Lutheran members in USA: 24
Episcopal USA members: 25,326

ECUSA (United States) contributes dues of: \$886,410.00 annually
The rest contribute dues of: \$ 17,465.00 annually

- The DOK has a portfolio of about \$2 million dollars.
- We have stopped all funds to the National Office and will keep funds at the Chapter level until further notice.
- Bishop Parsley has made it clear to me that our Diocesan Order will remain with the Episcopal Church.

**THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN ALL THIS IS TO KEEP OUR VOWS!
GOD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU!**