

**THE MINUTES *OF THE 121st ANNUAL CONFERENCE
EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN-DIOCESE OF ALABAMA
THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS
ANNISTON, ALABAMA
OCTOBER 7-8, 2010**

The Cheaha Convocation hosted the 121st Annual Conference of the Episcopal Church Women of the Diocese of Alabama at The Church of St. Michael and All Angels on October 7–8, 2010. The ECW theme was “Serving Others in Christ: Mission and Ministries in the Diocese of Alabama.” The speaker was The Reverend Margaret Rose, Director of the Mission Leadership Center at the Episcopal Church Center, New York. Other guest speakers included Jackie Robe, ECW President of Province IV; Barbara Owens, Province IV Representative of the National ECW Board and Zona Tounsley, Member At-Large and Secretary of the National UTO Committee. The Conference began with Noon Day Prayers led by The Reverend Bruce White, Rector of St. Michael and All Angels. Following Noon Day Prayers a light lunch was served in the Parish Hall.

Diocesan ECW President Gethryn Giles called the opening session to order at 12:55 p.m., October 7, 2010 by introducing herself and welcoming those in attendance. Gethryn recognized and invited Jane Wood, Coordinator for the Cheaha Convocation, to greet the Conference. Jane Wood welcomed everyone to Anniston and to the Cheaha Convocation. Jane announced the Cheaha Convocation’s plans for exciting programs to be held at the architecturally beautiful and historical churches of St. Michael and All Angels and Grace Church.

President Giles thanked each parish of the Cheaha Convocation on the excellent job they did in providing the wonderful welcome bags for each conference participant. Gethryn recognized clergy participants: The Rev. Bruce White, The Rev. Judith Comer, The Rev. Fletcher Comer, The Rev. Richard Cobbs, The Rev. Allison Carmody, The Rev. Marianne Aiken, The Rev. Lee Shafer, The Rev. Ray Walden, The Venerable Louise Thibodaux, Diocesan Archdeacon and Lauren Wainwright, Youth Director at the Church of the Epiphany, Guntersville.

President Giles introduced past ECW Presidents, Lucy Ware, Alleen Cater, Betty Potts Woodward, Dee Buzby and Olivia Weingarten. She introduced and thanked all 52 Episcopal Church Women who serve on either the ECW Board or as committee members. She commended them for the hard work they had done this year. Gethryn invited anyone who has an interest in serving on the ECW Board or on a Diocesan Board Committee to please inquire.

Minutes: The minutes of the 120th Annual Conference, were approved as presented on a motion by Bea Strong. The minutes are on the ECW website www.alabamaecw.org.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer, Jill Whitten, presented the ECW financial statement showing actual and budgeted expenses for 2009 and 2010, and a proposed budget for 2011. After prayerful consideration, the ECW Board recommended the approval of the proposed 2011 budget. The budget was approved. All financial statements are available on the ECW website www.alabamaecw.org.

Calendar: President Giles recognized President Elect, Fiona Watts, and thanked her for producing the 2011 ECW Calendar Handbook. The theme of the calendar is "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands: Our Mission and Ministry in the World." Each parish receives 2 calendars handbooks. Additional handbooks cost \$5.00 each.

Corporate Gift: It was the ECW Board's recommendation to continue its commitment of \$2,000 as its Corporate Gift to ACTS2. This gift will go toward the sacristy of the Chapel of St. Francis at Camp McDowell. The ECW has given a total of \$59,000 of their \$65,000 pledge. President Giles said that 2011 will be the 5th and final year of this pledge. After no questions or further discussion, the recommendation by the board to continue the Corporate Gift to ACTS2 was ratified.

Raffle Items: President Giles described the three items being raffled off to raise funds for our ECW ACTS2 pledge. Each of the raffle items was hand-made by an ECW member of the Cheaha Convocation: 1) an icon of St. Francis by Jane Wood, of Grace Church, Anniston; 2) a quilt by Linda Cortes, St. Michael and All Angels and; 3) a sculpted wine chiller with stand by Cindy Burch, St. Luke's, Jacksonville. Gethryn encouraged ECW members to visit the raffle display and buy tickets. All monies raised from the raffle will go toward fulfilling our pledge to ACTS2.

REPORTS

Scholarships: Beth Ensey and her committee awarded \$9,600 in scholarships to 20-21 recipients. The scholarships ranged from \$100 to \$1000. Gethryn encouraged all ECW members to consider who may be qualified to receive a scholarship from their parish. She reminded members to consider giving to the ECW Scholarship Fund by memorials or honorariums. This is an important way to grow the fund and to give more to the scholarship recipients.

CHURCH PERIODICAL CLUB (CPC): President Giles recognized this year's CPC Chairman, Linda George. The CPC grants are given to seminarians from our Diocese to help them purchase books. This year Linda George and her committee raised \$2,483.75. This amount allowed individual grants of \$275.00 to nine seminarians.

Nominations: President Giles recognized Nominating Committee Chairman, Marilyn Atkins, and thanked her and her committee (Alleen Cater, Bea Strong, Nancy Boston, Tana Branch, Lisa Gruner, Puddin McArthur and Hope Skelton) for a strong slate of nominees. These nominees represent convocations from across the diocese. Chairman Marilyn Atkins presented the following slate of officers:

- i. Brenda Mayhall, President Elect -Mountain
- ii. Jolai Jenkins, Secretary – East Alabama
- iii. Paula Bird, Treasurer- Black Belt
- iv. Linda Kennedy, UTO chair, Birmingham
- v. Fiona Watts, President, Birmingham

Each nominee was presented individually for vote. Without additional nominees from the floor, each nominee was elected to serve for the years 2012-2013.

UNITED THANK OFFERING (UTO): Committee: Brenda Mayhall asked Zona Tounsley, Member At-Large and Secretary of the National UTO Committee, and her committee to join her in presenting two grant certificates from UTO. Two grant certificates, one domestic and one foreign were awarded. The domestic grant certificate went to St. Peter’s Episcopal Church and Day School in Talladega to help with playground construction to allow physically challenged children full access to playground activities. The Reverend Ray Walden accepted the grant certificates of \$17,750 on behalf of St. Peter’s, Talladega. The foreign grant went to the rebuilding of St. Albans’s Church and School in Crochu, Haiti. Judy Quick, Chairman of the Department of Mission and Outreach of the Diocese of Alabama and a member of the Companion Diocesan Commission accepted the grant of \$40,000 on behalf of the Commission.

Appointment of Alms Committee: President Giles appointed Fran Lowe, Sally Sinclair and Jolai Jenkins to the Alms Committee. Please give them your suggestions for the Alms offering. Their selection will be announced at the same time the raffle tickets are drawn.

Parish Sharing: Barbara Carpenter is in charge of Parish Sharing to be held on Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. You must sign up to participate in the session and each parish will be allowed 2 minutes. A written report, summarizing the activities in your parish should be turned in to the secretary and will be attached to the 2010 Annual Conference minutes.

Website: Gethryn introduced, Sally Sinclair, our ECW Web-Master. Gethryn stated how proud we are to have such a wonderful website that has won many awards. Gethryn encouraged all members to use our website, www.alabamaecw.org for information and happenings of the ECW and other parishes and to advertise your own fundraisers on “marketplace.” If you want to get emails, go to the homepage of website and type your email address in the top left hand corner. Please send the names of the officers of your ECW. If you don’t have an ECW, please send the names, email addresses and/or contact numbers of your parish. This information will help the convocation coordinator send your parish information. You will also find a page on the website listing all parishes and their contributions and donations. All contributions should be sent to the Carpenter House address marked ECW. Jill Whitten handed out sheets listing contributions made by each parish. The goal is for each parish to participate in all categories listed, such as the annual ECW

contribution, CPC, UTO, Scholarship, and ACTS2. This list is maintained on the website and is a good way to see how your parish has contributed.

Announcements: Gethryn encouraged everyone to visit Cindy Funderburk who has brought many books and items from the Episcopal Bookstore.

The wine and cheese party will be at Grace Church beginning at 4:45 p.m. with a dinner following.

GUEST SPEAKERS: Gethryn introduced special guests, Barbara Owens, Zona Tounsley and Jackie Robe. They each spoke for 5 minutes on their role as a national ECW leader.

Barbara Owens, Province IV Representative to the National ECW, serves on the Women of Vision and the Worship Committee. The Outreach Committee chooses projects that will be meaningful to us in Province IV. The projects highlighted at the 2012 Triennial must be beneficial to women and children while enriching their families and communities. Three Women-to-Women Grants that were chosen for this Triennial include: 1) the Sudan Peace Initiative that promotes civic education and trauma relief for women and children in the Sudan; 2) a school and clinic in the Dominican Republic led by the Sisters of the Transfiguration and; 3) Blackfoot Lily and Valley School on the Fort Hawk Reservation in Blackfoot, Idaho.

The one large project called The Unified Project, was Jericho Road, which will end in November. The new Unified Project will be Nets-for-Life in Africa. Malaria is a serious problem and having a mosquito net at night saves many lives. Please send a donation through the ECW. The Episcopal Relief and Development Board (ERD) has an ongoing Nets-for-Life program and you may contribute through that. Nets are \$12.00 each. Please visit the National ECW website at www.nationalecw.org.

Zona Tounsley, Member At-Large and Secretary of the National UTO Board, is in charge of grants representing Latin America. This includes the Caribbean, Spain, Portugal, Central and South America with the exception of those countries represented by Province IX. The UTO was able to award five grants to Latin America and one to Spain. Zona challenged us to show our thankfulness for Bishop Parsley and for his service to this Diocese. She would like us to give extra coins and dollars in appreciation for all he's done so that it will be reflected in the next two year's UTO Ingatherings.

Online granting began this year. You may fill out a grant online and send it by email or you may download it, fill it out by hand and mail. Claudia Connor is the new coordinator in the New York office and Paul Thorson is the new UTO Grants Associate. Either one will be happy to help you with information on granting. Zona thanked everyone for all they do for the UTO and reminded us that UTO is not a fundraiser but a gift from the heart that benefits many, domestically and overseas.

Jackie Robe, ECW Province IV President, stated that Province IV is the most active province in the Episcopal Church. Jackie encouraged everyone to attend the Province IV ECW Conference at Kanuga scheduled for June 6, 7, and 8th. New officers will be elected at the conference for the Triennial of 2012 -2015. Dee Buzby is the new Nominating Chair for Province IV. Katerina Whitley will be the speaker at the conference this year. Tuesday of the conference will be dedicated to “Believe in a Miracle” with the theme this year of “Telling Your Story.”

Following a brief break, The Rev. Margaret Rose, Director of the Mission Leadership Center at the Episcopal Church Center, New York, gave her first talk on this year’s ECW theme, “Mission and Ministries in the Episcopal Church. “

A Wine and Cheese Social was held at 4:45 p.m. in the garden of Grace Church followed by dinner in the parish hall. After dinner, the ECW enjoyed a special program by The Jacksonville Gospel Choir in the nave. The evening closed with An Order For Compline with The Rev. Lee Shafer, Officant.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN’S ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE CONTINUED- OCTOBER 8, 2010

Diocesan President Gethryn Giles called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

Parish Sharing Session: The following parish representatives shared the highlights of their ECW activities. Barbara Carpenter was the time keeper; each was given two minutes. Each representative gave a written copy to the secretary.

Birmingham Convocation

Carolyn Moore – St. Andrew’s, Birmingham
Alleen Cater – Cathedral Church of the Advent, Birmingham
Fiona Watts- St. Stephen’s, Birmingham
Bethe Ensey – Grace, Birmingham
Julia Wilcox – St. Luke’s, Birmingham
Helen Bunn – St. Andrew’s, Montevallo

East Alabama Convocation

Bobbie Avsharian – St. Stephen’s, Smith Station
Andrea Peacock – St. James, Alexander City
Laura M. Chappell – Holy Trinity, Auburn
Jolai Jenkins – St. Andrew’s, Tuskegee

Black Belt Convocation

Bettie Anne Cleino, Christ Church, Tuscaloosa
Maggie Noland - St. James, Livingston

Mountain Convocation

Cheri Blair – Church of the Epiphany, Guntersville
Ann Cummings– The Church of the Resurrection, Rainbow City
Zona Townsley – St. Luke’s, Scottsboro

Tennessee Valley Convocation

Betty Ahrens – St. Bartholomew’s, Florence
Joan East – St. Matthew’s, Huntsville
Lucy Ware – Trinity, Florence

Cheaha Convocation

Judith Keat – Grace, Anniston
Audrey Vander Yacht – St. Michael and All Angels, Anniston
Marilyn Atkins – St. Peter’s, Talladega

Montgomery Convocation

Mitzi Waldo – St. Michael and All Angels, Millbrook
Fiona Watts – Trinity, Wetumpka
Betty Smith – Holy Comforter, Montgomery

President-Elect Fiona Watts announced that the Parish Leadership Training Event will be held April 2, 2011 at All Saints in Birmingham. It’s another opportunity to enjoy parish sharing. She invited everyone to attend. President Giles thanked everyone for their participation in the parish sharing. The meeting took a small break and planned to resume promptly at 9:30 a.m.

The session resumed with Gethryn Giles welcoming Bishop Parsley and his wife, Becky. Becky expressed gratitude on behalf of all clergy spouses for the ECW’s support of Krik! Krak! She gave an update on the work that the clergy spouses had done in Crochu, Haiti. An informational video on Krik! Krak! will be available soon, if anyone is interested in having a program at their parish. Bishop Parsley thanked Gethryn and the ECW Board for all they have done on behalf of God’s missions and the “minding of the world.” He recognized guest speaker, The Rev. Margaret Rose and her contributions to the Missions and Ministries of the Episcopal Church.

The Rev. Margaret Rose then gave her last talk on Missions and Ministries. Following her talk Rev. Rose was presented with a hand-made ceramic wine cooler.

The Alms Committee announced that the alms offering would be divided equally between Krik! Krak! and the ECW Scholarship Fund. The Alms offering was \$836.00.

Dee Buzby announced that the raffle had raised \$800.78. She called on Jane Wood to draw the names of the raffle winners. Amy Maria Thomas won the quilt; Catherine

Mitchell won the wine chiller and stand; and Lark Powell won the Icon by Jane Wood.

In adjourning the meeting, Gethryn thanked everyone in the parishes of the Cheaha Convocation for an excellent job on hosting the conference. She invited everyone to attend the 2011 Fall Conference on October 6th and 7th at St. John's in Montgomery. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

The 121st ECW Annual Conference closed with the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

The participants in the Holy Eucharist Service were:

The Rt. Reverend Henry N. Parsley, Jr., Preacher

The Reverend Bruce A. White, Celebrant

The Reverend Deacon Mary Groff, Deacon

Dr. Claire Keel, Organist/Choirmaster

Lenn Costner, Jr. and Jim McDaniel, Ushers

Florence Cuneo, Caroline Haberer, Charlotte McDaniel, Kim Beckett – Acolytes

Gethryn Giles, Prayers of the People

Jane Wood and Fiona Watts, Lectors

Florence Cuneo and Charlotte McDaniel, Altar Guild

Following the Eucharist Service, a light lunch was available in the Parish Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy S. Thompson, Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Gethryn Giles, President

Fiona Watts, President Elect

Jill Whitten, Treasurer

Brenda Mayhall, UTO Coordinator

ATTACHMENTS:

Treasurer's Report; Proposed 2011 Budget – Jill Whitten
Parish Sharing Reports

*This is a preliminary copy of the minutes for your review. A corrected/approved copy will be posted after the January 8, 2010 board meeting.