

Episcopal Church Women - Diocese of South Dakota

Minutes of the Annual Meeting - September 25, 2015 - Ramkota Inn, Pierre

Call to Order. President Bonnie Walker called the meeting to order at 10:35 AM with an opening reflection on the purpose of ECW as defined in our prayer. She then introduced our guest, Sandra Squires of Omaha NE, President of the National Board of the United Thank Offering and also President of the Episcopal Church Women of Province VI. Members present were Bonnie Walker, Cora Koss, Vicki Sweet, Donna Burnap, and JoAnn Edstrom – Emmanuel, Rapid City; Elizabeth Campbell, Diana Regan and Yvonne Derosier - All Angels, Spearfish; Judy Graves - Good Shepherd, Sioux Falls; Barb Oates - St. Thomas, Sturgis; Pat Michels - St. Paul's, Yankton; AnnRae Herr – Christ, Milbank; Sandra Magnavito, Margaret Vranesh, and Linda Simmons - St. Andrew's Rapid City; Nancy Nielsen and Luella Hicks - St. Luke's Hot Springs; and Doris Hicks and Carol Livermont – St Katharine's, Martin.

Agenda. The agenda was adopted as presented.

The Remembrance of Sister Saints. The President read the names of Diana Shupe, Joan Hughes, and Beverly Trull from Emmanuel; Betty Hauk from St. Andrew's; Marge Gross from St. Paul's; and Edna Mae Ward from All Angels before offering a prayer of thanksgiving for their work and ministry.

Minutes. Secretary Elizabeth Campbell presented the Minutes of the last meeting on May 2, 2015. Hearing no corrections or additions, the President stated they would be filed as written.

Proposed Bylaws Bonnie presented proposed bylaws which had been posted sixty days in advance. She explained that we are shortening our bylaws and creating policies and procedures for things that change more often, like job descriptions, i.e., as this will allow a simple vote at any regular meeting to change areas of responsibility for an officer. After a short discussion, Pat Michels moved to adopt the proposed bylaws as presented; Linda Simmons seconded the motion; passed unanimously.

Guest Presentation. Sandra Squires outlined the work of her two roles – in the Province VI ECW here in the upper Great Plains and with the National UTO Board. Each participant received a bag with UTO information to take home to their parish or mission. Sandra noted that in Province VI there is an organized Diocesan ECW in Colorado, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming. In Iowa, Minnesota, Montana and North Dakota many parishes have women's groups but there are only families and individuals who

coordinate ECW and UTO with the Province. However, the Province VI Board has a full complement of active officers, including Elizabeth Campbell representing UTO and Judy Graves CPC on our national boards. We have also received grants to sponsor annual leadership events and teaching seminars, such as Dean Kate Morehead's *Magdalene* series.

Proposed Policies/Procedures. After the recess for lunch, the proposed policies and procedures were then presented by the President. After several questions, AnnRae Herr moved we adopt them and Linda Simmons seconded the motion; passed. Bonnie also passed out guidelines for a Parliamentarian, an optional choice at the discretion of the President.

Reports: (Written copies are attached and available by request.)

Province VI Report. As the Province VI Representative on the National UTO Board, Elizabeth Campbell asked that other South Dakota members think seriously about attending Province meetings. The possibility of holding the 2016 Province meeting in Rapid City was raised. She asked Sandra to tell about the Webinars which will be available for UTO and ECW members to attend on-line. Sandra told about them and announced that the next Webinars are scheduled the first week in October. Elizabeth will email that information to all who have an email listed in the attendance sheet. A copy of the report of all gifts to South Dakota through the Thank Offering since 1883 was passed out, and Elizabeth reports the total is over \$1.7M.

Treasurer. Cora Koss, Treasurer, circulated the report with a current checkbook balance of \$5,183.85. Several parishes commented that they thought dues/donations had been mailed in but Cora checked and they had not been sent. Everyone was asked to check with their own ECW. She also distributed a proposed budget for the following budget year. Motion by Diana Regan, second by JoAnn Edstrom to accept the proposed budget; passed. (It was suggested at last year's meeting that we use the term "contributions" rather than "dues" in the budget.)

CPC. Judy Graves reported that she is the Province VI Representative on the National Board and hopes to have others on her committee to learn how the program is run as she hopes to step down in the next year. She continues to collect children's coats, hats, and mittens, and now is also accepting socks, which are going to the Santee Mission this year.

UTO. Barb Oates reported that she was not able to bring along Blue Boxes, but Sandra Squires has about 150 to share with those who need them for their parishes/missions.

Altar Guild. Vicki Sweet stated she has had a few calls regarding Altar Guild questions like where to order gluten free bread. She asked where we wanted to store our ECW quilt and there was a consensus that she should continue to keep it in Rapid City.

Spring Retreat. Nothing is scheduled at this time.

Scholarships. Sandra Magnavito provided a written report about the current scholarship recipients, Lydia Simmons who plans to study Nursing, Spanish and Religion, and Heaven Singer who plans to study Nursing. Both are from Calvary Cathedral in Sioux Falls and attending Augustana University. She has asked Carol Cloud Eagle from St. Matthew in Rapid City to also serve on the committee.

Annual Mission Project. Bonnie passed out a flyer and reviewed the Episcopal Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza which was chosen for our Special Project this year. It is not only the oldest but also the only full service Christian Hospital, owned and operated by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. Children come in at the rate of 120 cases per day. This hospital accepts both Arab and Israeli patients – no one is turned away.

Honored Woman of the Year. Sharon Van Doren, in a written report, announced that Doris Hicks of Martin is our 2015 Honored Woman. She was given the award with four members of her family present, which was a surprise to her. Photos were taken in front of the South Dakota ECW quilt, which was displayed for the occasion.

President's Report. Bonnie read the written report to the Bishop outlining her two terms as President.

Nominating Committee. Elizabeth Campbell reported that the committee, which also included Judy Graves and Sandra Magnavito, presented the names of Diana Regan for President and Vicki Sweet for Vice President. The committee also recommends that the chairperson of each committee invites at least two other members to serve, so that more women can be involved in the day-to-day mission and ministry of the SD ECW.

Old Business. None.

New Business. Elections took place with no nominations from the floor. Both Diana and Vicki received unanimous votes. Diana then assumed the chair of President. Given the positive status of our finances, Elizabeth Campbell moved and Judy Graves seconded a motion to give \$1000.00 above and beyond other gifts to the Al Ahli Hospital. There was discussion about possibly giving more, but consensus was that this can be reviewed at the Spring Meeting. Motion passed. Cora Koss moved that we give Sandra Squires \$200.00 for an honorarium; seconded by Bonnie Walker and passed.

Closing. The meeting closed at 3 PM with the ECW Prayer in unison. Bonnie Walker distributed a number of gifts to ECW officers and chairpersons. A drawing was held for other items. The *Quilt History* was available for a donation.

Elizabeth Campbell, Secretary