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ELECTING A BISHOP/ STATE OF THE CHURCH REPORT/General Convention

After months of interviewing, five candidates were selected by the Diocesan Search Committee. These are: Scott Benhase, Rector of St. Alban's Church in Washington D.C.; William Gahan, Rector of St. Stephen's Church in Wimberley, Texas; Frank Logue, Vicar of King of Peace Church in Kingsland, Georgia; Dean Taylor, Rector of St. Mark's Church in Dalton, Georgia; and Stephen Zimmerman currently serving at the Chapel of St. Andrew in Boca Raton, Florida. William Willoughby, rector of Saint Paul's, Savannah, was selected by petition.

Short video clips of each of the candidates, together with resumés and short essays, can be read at www.georgiabishopsearch.org. The Savannah delegates charged with electing a bishop will meet these candidates on Wednesday August 26th. The delegates from Saint John's are the three priests, the Senior Warden, Skip Jennings, Jane Pressly, and Patti Victor. The Convention to elect the bishop from these candidates will take place Saturday 12th September in Dublin. If you have the opportunity to view the information on the website, please feel free to speak to the clergy and delegates about your impressions. For those of you without access to a computer, the office will be glad to provide paper copies of the essays and resumés.

As I have said before, the office of a bishop exists to uphold and promote in its integrity historic Anglican Faith and Order [i.e. the Ordained Ministry], as set forth in the Bible, the Creeds, and the Book of Common Prayer. In the current state of the church, in which essential matters of Faith and Order, of Moral teaching and Liturgy are cheerfully compromised and obscured, this can by no means be taken for granted.

STATE OF THE CHURCH REPORT

ACNA The inaugural assembly of the newly-formed Anglican Church of North America, was held on June 22-24 in Bedford, Texas, at the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of Fort Worth. Bishop Robert Duncan of Pittsburgh was elected Archbishop, and a provisional constitution and canons were adopted. This newly formed province brings together various churches formerly of the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Church of Canada. It comprises the four dioceses of Quincy, Pittsburgh, San Joaquin, and Fort Worth; the Anglican Mission in the

Americas (AMIA), the Convocation of Anglicans in North America (CANAm), the Reformed Episcopal Church (REC – including St. Andrew’s Church, Savannah); Forward in Faith North America, and the missionary convocations of Kenya, Southern Cone, and Uganda (including our brethren at Christ Church, Johnson Square). None of the “first wave” of conservative Anglican churches, which left over the ordination of women and the new Prayer Book, are part of ACNA, although the Anglican Province of the Americas (APA) considered doing so. (Like St. John’s, the majority of parishes and dioceses that are part of the American Anglican Council remain within the Episcopal Church.) Recognition for the new province came from a number of Global South provinces in the Communion: West Africa, Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, Southern Cone, Jerusalem and the Middle East, Myanmar (Burma), South East Asia, and Rwanda. Bishops in Sydney, Australia, and England, also acknowledged full communion with ACNA. The new province faces considerable challenges. Not only must it fight off the external challenge of aggressive litigation for property launched by the Episcopal Church, and clarify its relation to the rest of the Anglican Communion, but it must also face with the internal challenge of articulating a theologically coherent basis for the unity of its “three streams”, catholic, evangelical, and charismatic.

Christ Church (ACNA). The Diocese of Georgia, and Christ Church (Episcopal) have filed a motion for Summary Judgment, which will be heard on August 14. As I understand it, a motion for summary judgment implies that there are no disputed facts for a jury to decide which could affect the outcome of the suit. It will be the job of Christ Church (ACNA) to demonstrate that there are indeed material issues of fact that have to be resolved. Regardless of the outcome, one fact remains unchanged: it is a vain imagination to suppose that the church’s unity can be preserved by litigation in the absence of coherent theological principle.

The General Convention of the Episcopal Church meets in Anaheim, California this month. As in recent years, the gospel-disturbing ideology of “inclusion” massively promoted by the gay lobby will exert powerful pressure on the deliberations, with pressure to move towards approval of same-sex blessings and gay ordination. One target is the 2006 Resolution B033, which committed the Episcopal Church to exercising restraint in the ordination of persons likely to cause offence to the Communion.

Prayer Book Society The Prayer Book Society commends the classical Prayer Books of the Communion (England 1662, USA 1928, Canada 1962) to Anglicans and Episcopalians wherever they are found. Its journal, *Mandate*, comes out six times a year and may be obtained by writing the Prayer Book Society, P. O. Box 35220, Philadelphia, PA 19128; or by calling 1-800-PBS-1928. A donation of about \$30 would help to fund this ministry.

The Rev'd Gavin G. Dunbar



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