

Minutes of the Synod of the Missionary Diocese of the Central States  
Meeting at St James Parish, Memphis TN  
September 22 and 23, 2011

- Having celebrated Holy Communion and said Morning Prayer, the Synod of the Missionary Diocese of the Central States was called to order with prayer at 10:02 AM on Thursday September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011.
- The Credentials Report was given by Melanie Boettner and is attached hereto as appendix item #1
- Visitors were introduced and with the approval of the House were granted access to the Floor with voice but not vote.
- The Rev Ian MacGregor was nominated and elected as Secretary to the Synod.
- Bishop Morse introduced and/or reaffirmed other officers of the Diocese:
  - The Rev Franklin Sanders as Treasurer
  - Standing Committee:
    - The Rev Wayne McNamara
    - The Rev Canon Scott Houser
    - Mr. Ron Mount
    - Mr. Tom McConnell
    - Mrs. Gypsie Van Antwerp
    - The Rev Charlie Camlin
    - The Venerable Peter Manto

The Bishop noted that Andy Figueroa is retiring to Georgia and had resigned. Bishop Morse put forth Ron Mount to replace Andy.

- Trustees
  - Mr Chip Byers
  - Mr Mark Malson
  - The Rev Franklin Sanders
  - The Venerable Peter Manto
  - The Rev Keith Boettner
  - Mr Tom Arrington
- A Motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to dispense with the reading of the minutes.
- Bishop Morse asked Canon Houser to assume the Chair while he read his report. A copy of the Bishop's report is attached.
  - During his report Bishop Morse asked Fr Sanders to report on his prison ministry, which was then done.
  - After the Bishop's report was delivered the floor was opened for questions.

- A question was asked about the REC relationship to the ACNA; the answer being that the REC continues to participate but has not merged and does not anticipate merging in to the ACNA in the near future. . . if ever.
- A question was asked about the REC relationship with the APA; the answer being that the organic merger between the REC and APA is on hold, however the two jurisdictions continue to be in Communion with each other and cooperation and dialogue is on-going.
- A motion was made to receive and approve Bishop Morse's report along with two of his recommendations:
  - that the diocese recognize Abortion Sunday as a Sunday near Sanctity of Life Sunday and that clergy preach on the importance of this issue on the appointed Sunday.
  - That all parishes of the diocese be encouraged to support Cranmer Theological Seminary.

The report along with these two recommendations was approved unanimously.

- The synod then took up other recommendations made during Bishop Morse's report:
  - As recommended by the Bishop, a motion was made, seconded and approved asking the Standing Committee of the Missionary Diocese of the Central States to appeal to the General Committee, meeting in April, 2012, to accept the Diocese as a full Diocese of the Reformed Episcopal Church.
  - Pending approval by the General Committee of the prior motion, it was moved and seconded that Bishop Morse be elected as the first Bishop Ordinary for the Diocese of the Central States. After a short discussion this motion was tabled until after lunch to allow the synod to prepare for the vote, said vote to be made by house (Lay and Clergy) with paper ballots.
- The Rev Franklin Sanders provided the financial report as well as a proposed budget for 2012. After discussion a motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the report and budget as presented.
- Archdeacon Manto thanked the Trustees and especially Rev Sanders and Mr Malson for their work handling the finances of the Diocese.

Following this the Synod broke for lunch at 11:55 AM, The Rev Rodney Longmire leading the synod in prayer.

- The Synod resumed at 1:15. A motion was made, seconded and approved to lift the previously tabled motion for the election of a Bishop Ordinary.
- Following prayer the Synod proceeded to vote by house. The final vote being
 

Clergy:	
Yes	19
No	0
Not voting/Abstaining	1

Laity

Yes 23

No 0

The vote being overwhelmingly in favor, Bishop Morse was declared elected as Bishop Ordinary, subject to approval of the Diocese as a full diocese in the REC and acceptance of him by the other dioceses and Bishops as required by canon.

- The Rev Camlin gave a report of the Standing Committee. The report was accepted by unanimous voice vote and the report is attached.
- Fr Camlin then offered a presentation titled: "Anglican Ethos: The Biblical and Monastic Roots of the Daily Offices of the Book of Common Prayer".
- Bishop Morse then asked the Rev Longmire to present recommendations from the Committee on the Constitution and Canons.
  - The Rev Longmeier indicated the Committee had not met; however he had two recommendations for changes to the Canons as follows:

Section 5. Whensoever the office of the Bishop Ordinary shall be vacant; and, the Diocese shall meet in regular or special session for the election of a Bishop Ordinary, there shall be the nomination of one and only one Presbyter (and note: all Bishops are Presbyters) by action of the council. The nominee shall accept nomination for election before an election shall proceed. Election of the nominee shall be by ballot and by orders. If the election shall fail in either house the council may proceed to the next nominee.

Section 6. Election of any Suffragan or Coadjutor in this Diocese shall be accomplished with a procedure identical to the election of the Ordinary.

- Following some discussion it was moved and seconded that the two additions be accepted as their 1st Reading.
  - An Amendment was then offered to the original motion to make the vote the first and final reading and vote.

It had been previously explained that the changes could either be approved by majority vote in two consecutive synods; OR, if the Synod wanted to make the changes effective immediately it could vote that the changes be the first and final reading; however, in such case the amendment would have to be approved unanimously.

- With this understanding, the Amendment was deemed to be a hostile amendment. There then followed significant discussion on the proposed changes themselves, discussion on the process followed by other dioceses and the desirability and/or necessity of making the changes effective immediately.

Following the discussion a second for the Hostile Amendment was obtained. A

voice vote then rejected the amendment.

- Additional discussion then occurred on the original motion seeking approval of the proposed changes. A voice vote was then held approving the motion.
- Following a 15 minute break the synod resumed business at 4 PM
- The Rev Scott Houser made a presentation titled: "Anglican Ethos, Evangelism and the Offices of the Book of Common Prayer".
- The Synod then retired for the day.

Friday September 22nd

- The Rev William Jerdan made a presentation
- Samaritans Ministries made a presentation
- A motion was made seconded and approved to have Resurrection Church of Shalimar, Florida host the 2012 Synod. The motion carried.
- A motion was made to move the date of the Synod to the 4th Thursday and Friday of October 2012 (October 25th and 26th). After discussion the motion carried.
- It was moved, seconded and approved that the report on Ministers Salaries should be accepted by the Synod.
- While there was not official report, the synod was reminded that the Women of the Church have a cookbook available for purchase.

The business of the Synod being completed, the Synod adjourned for the Synod Eucharist.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Ian MacGregor

Attachments:

- Synod Schedule
- Synod Credentials and Registration Report
- Bishop's Report
- Standing Committee Report
- Financial report
- REC Salaries Report