

Parish Delegate Report for the
225th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland
Hunt Valley Marriott
Friday and Saturday, May 1-2, 2009

Trinity Long Green's Delegates to the convention included Clergy: the Rev. Virginia (Fran) Stanford, and Lay Delegates: Charlie Calvert, Delegate, and Diane Pierce, Alternate.

This year was the first Maryland Convention for our newly elected Bishop Eugene Taylor Sutton. He was more than ready.

At the Pre-Convention meeting we were informed that this year's 76th General Convention's theme from Africa is "UBUNTU", "I in you and you in me".

The two days of the Maryland Convention were crowded with useful information. It was based on the theme of "Building on A Sure Foundation". The bible tells us to build on rock, not sand. So when the storm comes; then, what we have built will not fall.

Bishop Suffragan John Rabb gave the first address. He spoke about building a Christian Foundation by renewing our vines, by discerning, and by transforming. He noted that the 12 disciples were known as "friends", a vision we can relate to. He used the term "servanthood" to define a leader. He said that "by serving the least, we serve as Christ served us". We need more persons to become deacons, and spread the word. He said, let us not be tired Christians, anxious and fearful. We must be both holy and do justice.

We were also blessed to have as our keynote speaker, the Rev. Canon Charles Robertson, Ph.D., Canon to the Presiding Bishop of the United States.

Canon Robertson referred to a "Sacred Bundle" carried by Native Americans. The objects in the bundle spoke about whom they were, and their values. The carrier of the bundle had a foot on the inside and a foot on outside of their tribe/culture.

As Episcopalians, in all our many levels of Diocese, Parish, families, and individual persons, we need to become more intentional about the contents of our sacred bundles.

People of God are like extended families, not corporations. Consider an extended family in the wilderness, how they cared for one another, and shared resources to stay alive.

The essential elements in the bundle were considered to be at the very heart of the tribe's identity. The number of items needs to be limited so they will not be too heavy to carry.

Any changes in the items should be intentional. For example, if you have an arrow head, recognize it for its past purpose, and then set it aside; perhaps adding something else, for what is in your new life.

Question: Do our existing structures match our sacred bundles?

Who are we at Trinity Long Green?

How do we invite others to participate?

We have Space/Buildings, Staff, Vestry, Programs and Budget.

Parish Delegate Report for the
225th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland
Hunt Valley Marriott
Friday and Saturday, May 1-2, 2009

Why is the Golden Age always in the past? Why not in the Future?
Our challenge is to do Mission, not Maintenance.

Table discussions were held about Sacred Bundles, defining what attendees thought would be appropriate contents. Our table reported: Diversity, Youth Leadership, Environmental Concerns, Outreach, and Claggett. Other tables reported other ideas; such as, how can we change to meet the needs of younger people?

At the communion service on Saturday, Lauren Bourne, age 13, of Calvert County sang a solo of Pie Jesu by Andrew Lloyd Weber. Bishop Sutton said he invited her to sing after hearing her sing in Calvert County.

Rev. Mary Glasspool, Canon to the Bishops of the Diocese of Maryland, said the 76th General Convention will use "Public Narrative" to articulate why action matters. We need to intentionally engage others and share ourselves.

Bishop Sutton said he would use next year's 226th Convention to confirm the action committee reports, and state with clarity, about where we are going as a Diocese.

Bishop Sutton's address on Saturday, told us about his goals for the first two years of his ordination as Bishop. Namely, (1) Get acquainted with diocesan people, programs, and procedures. (2) Earn trust. (3) Maintain spiritual grounding. (4) Expand mission links within the Anglican Communion. (5) Strengthen the civic role of the Office of Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland (including exploring programmatic initiatives in education and the environment).

He said: We have been blessed, to be in a diocese firmly built upon a sure foundation. Our sacred bundles are sound.

The question before us now, though, is what do we build on the foundation we've inherited?