

THE VERGERS' GUILD OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SIXTEENTH FULL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
SEPTEMBER 24, 2004
SAINT MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
DALLAS, TEXAS

Guild President, David Jette, opened the Sixteenth Full Business Meeting with prayer at 11:00 a.m. This was followed by a welcome from John McFarland, head verger at Saint Michael & All Angels. David then requested Guild Secretary, Dianne Betts, to determine whether a quorum was present and it was reported that a quorum was present.

There were 72 members present for the meeting. Introductions were made by everyone in the group. A special welcome was extended to the Rev. Milton Williams, Jr., the new assistant Chaplain to the Guild. Dianne Betts, Conference host, announced that registration for this year's conference was 123 people representing 70 parishes, 22 states, and 3 countries. A list of attendees is attached as "Attachment A."

David announced the following appointments:

Nicholas Phillips – Newsletter Editor
Rev. Pete Gustin – Chaplain
Rev. Milton Williams, Jr. – Assistant Chaplain
Dianne Betts – Membership Secretary
Mike Malone – Webmaster
Roy Harvey – Training Course Coordinator
Audit Committee –

Vice-President's Report

Wynne Porter stated that he had served as verger at an ordination in Baltimore and had found the experience to be an exciting one. The parish had never experienced the services of a verger and found the experience a pleasant one. The Senior Warden has expressed an interest in becoming a verger.

Secretary's Report

Guild Secretary, Dianne Betts, asked everyone to be sure to sign one of the attendance rosters being circulated. She then presented the minutes from the 15th Full Business Meeting in Lexington, KY, which were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's Report

Guild Treasurer, Walter Stuart, presented the 2004 Financial Report. A copy is attached as "Attachment B."

Since there were no corrections to the Financial Statements, the Financial Statements will be filed for audit.

Membership Secretary's Report

Membership Secretary, Dianne Betts, reported that the Guild has 548 members representing 309 parishes, 40 states, and 4 countries. Membership renewal forms will be sent out in November for 2005. A new Membership Directory will be sent to all paid members in February.

Privy Counselor's Report

Privy Counselor, Bill Gleason, reported that Guild Shoppe sales were doing well and encouraged everyone to visit the display in the Hospitality Suite. He also gave the Workshop Installation Report and reviewed the procedures to follow to obtain certificates and to have board representation at installations. Bill noted that he would be having coronary bypass surgery in October and asked the Guild for their prayers.

Chapter Reports

- The R.K. Rollason Convocation of Vergers of the Diocese of Southeast Florida – Meg Clements, President of the Convocation, reported that they lost one of their founding members, Les Frazer, who died at the beginning of the year. There were also a number of retirees thereby reducing the membership to 25. Walter Stuart was elected Vice President at the last general meeting. There is a plan in place to divide the Diocese into two areas to facilitate attendance at meetings.
- Diocese of Dallas – Anna Houston, President of the Diocese of Dallas Guild of Vergers reported a membership of 28 with a number of others in training. She told of the Guild's outreach project supporting St. Simon's Day Care project.
- Diocese of Mississippi – Margaret McLarty reported that the number of vergers in the Diocese was growing with vergers in about 20 parishes. The Guild has 36 active members.
- The Waco Mace Chapter, Diocese of Texas – Peggy Metcalf reported that the Chapter has 65 members and is growing. It meets three times a year and has established a website. She is making a CD with their training information available to the VGEC.
- Heartlands Chapter, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas, and Iowa – Joanne Salisbury reported that the Chapter was going to divide into state chapters because of the growing number of vergers. A number of states now are doing the training course. The Chapter does support an annual Acolyte Festival.
- Diocese of Ft. Worth – Tom Jones reported that the diocese now has 15 vergers.
- Diocese of the Rio Grande – Emilie Rowe reported that the guild was small but growing. They are preparing for the consecration of a Bishop Co-adjutor.

- Mark Emory Graham Chapter, Diocese of Atlanta – Jerry Michael reported that they have several meetings each year and currently have between 40 and 60 members.. The Chapter spans 4 states.
- Diocese of Western Louisiana – Jim Boyd announced that the Diocese had established a guild of vergers to serve the growing number of vergers in the Diocese.

Conference Reports

2005 – Margaret McLarty is chairing the 2005 Conference which will be held Oct 27 – 30 at the University of the South at Swanee. She gave a brief description of proposed plans.

2006 – Scott Crowell has offered to host the 2006 Conference in Las Vegas, NV. He will report on the feasibility of hosting the conference to the board in a month.

2007 – Walter Stuart has offered to host the 2007 Conference in Southeast Florida. He will update the plans at the next conference.

Webmaster Report

Mike Malone, Webmaster, reported that a number of additions to the Guild website had been made. They include: online translation into other languages, an electronic version of the Vergers' Voice, and an online Guild Shoppe.

Nominating Committee Report

Wynne Porter, chair of the nominating committee, nominated David Jette to serve another term as President. He was elected by acclamation.

VGEC Training Course

Roy Harvey and Bill Gleason reviewed the procedure for requesting and submitting the training course. It was announced that 15 members had completed the course during the year.

Anglican Church of Canada Report

John Taylor reported that the province had a growing number of active vergers.

Church of England Guild of Vergers

David Jette read a brief report submitted by John Campbell, our liaison with the Church of England Guild of Vergers. John told of his experience at the Dean's Vergers Conference in England and encouraged us all to reflect on the many positives that thrive in the world to unite us and to pray for tolerance to rule in our hearts as well as in the world.

Vergers' Voice Report

In the absence of Nick Phillips, David Jette reported that there were six issues planned for the coming year. Nick is looking for volunteers to contribute to the "Day in the Life of..." series.

Unfinished Business

Dianne Betts reported that Fr. Larry Smith was sending \$2300 in the name of the Guild to the Haitian Hurricane refugees.

New Business

There was no new business.

President's Report

Guild President, David Jette, gave his report. A copy of the report is attached as "Attachment C".

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne C. Betts
Secretary, The Vergers' Guild of the Episcopal Church