

THE VERGERS' GUILD OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SEVENTEENTH FULL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
OCTOBER 29, 2005
ST. MARY'S RETREAT CENTER
SEWANEE, TN

Guild President, David Jette, opened the 17th Full Business Meeting with prayer at 8:30 a.m. The Guild secretary reported that a quorum was present. There were 74 members present for the meeting.

Margaret McLarty, Conference host, announced that registration for this year's conference was 121 people. She also reviewed the options available as activities for the afternoon and provided everyone with a map of the area. She ended her report by sharing the Sewanee Legend with us.

The Rev. Douglas Schwert welcomed everyone to St. Mary's Retreat Center and presented a brief description of the center and its history.

Introductions were made by everyone in the group.

Secretary's Report

Guild Secretary, Dianne Betts, presented the minutes from the 16th Full Business Meeting in Dallas, TX, which were accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's Report

Guild Treasurer, Walter Stuart, presented the 2005 Financial Report. A copy is attached. Since there were no corrections to the Financial Statements, the Financial Statements will be filed for audit.

Vice-President's Report

Wynne Porter reported on his experience serving as Master of Ceremonies for the ordination of deacons and the various issues that arose. He noted that he is continually asked what it is that vergers actually do.

Newsletter Editor's Report

Editor, Nick Phillips, was unable to attend but submitted a report announcing that increased family responsibilities have made it impossible for him to continue as editor of the Vergers' Voice. His report encouraged us to continue with "Vergers Profiles" and the "Day in the Life of..." features as well as reviews of books and CDs. He outlined other characteristics of the position for the benefit of future editors and assured us that he would assist in the transition process. He thanked the guild for their support for the past 2 years. (see attached)

Webmaster's Report

Webmaster, Mike Malone, was also unable to attend but did send a report outlining the problems the website has faced during the past year and the changes that have been, and continue to be, implemented in order to deal with them. He has placed a sample of a new website online for our perusal and feedback. (see attached) He is confident the changes will eventually allow us to have a much more efficient and user friendly site.

Membership Secretary's Report

Membership Secretary, Dianne Betts, reported that the Guild has 600 members representing 323 parishes, 44 states, and 4 countries. Membership renewal forms will be sent out in November for 2006. A new Membership Directory will be sent to all paid members in February.

VGEC Training Course

Roy Harvey and Bill Gleason reviewed the procedure for requesting and submitting the training course. It was announced that 35 members had completed the course during the year.

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 Cabin. He announced that we were in the process of seeking a secure website so that credit cards could be used online.

Conference Reports

2006 – Walter Stuart, verger at St. Gregory's in Boca Raton and host of the 2006 Conference in Southeast Florida, passed out brochures outlining the plans for next year's conference to be held November 9 – 13. Most of the conference will take place while cruising the Bahamas. He read a welcoming letter from his bishop and said that full plans would be sent out after the first of the year.

2007 – Emilie Rowe, verger at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Evangelist, invited the Guild to Albuquerque for the 2007 Conference. She presented a brief outline of possible activities and noted that the Cathedral was excited about the prospect of hosting the group during the 125th anniversary of their parish. Tentative dates have been set for the last weekend in September.

David announced the following appointments:

Rev. Milton Williams, Jr. – Chaplain

Dianne Betts – Membership Secretary
Mike Malone – Webmaster
Roy Harvey – Training Course Coordinator

Nominating Committee

The committee consisting of Dianne Betts, Vince Jang, Nora Buckley, and Mike Flannes nominated Dr. Anna McHargue for a term as Vice President. She was elected by acclamation.

Chapter Reports

- The R.K. Rollason Convocation of Vergers of the Diocese of Southeast Florida – Meg Clements, President of the Convocation, reported that they currently have 23 members, including 3 life members. This number will increase to 32 with the installation of a number of vergers later in the fall. They receive active support from both their Bishop and the Diocesan Newspaper. For the first time, the Convocation included a weekend retreat in Key West that was well received. They hope to continue this. The vergers for St. Andrew's School in Boca Raton hope to spread the use of vergers for all Episcopal schools.
- Diocese of Dallas – Dianne Betts, verger at Saint Michael and All Angels, reported that the Dallas Guild meets quarterly and just completed a weekend retreat as well. They currently have 28 members and continue with their community outreach supporting St. Simon's Day Care Center.
- Diocese of Mississippi – Margaret McLarty, verger at Saint Andrew's Cathedral, reported that vergers in the diocese continue to be active in Diocesan events and are being actively encouraged by their bishop. She also gave a brief description of the effects of Hurricane Katrina on the diocese and the emergency activities that many vergers assisted with.
- The Waco Mace Chapter, Diocese of Texas – Dick Johnson, president, reported that this chapter has 70 members, including 13 new ones. They are working to make vergers more visible in the diocese and hold quarterly meetings. Each year they host an annual day-long seminar on liturgy. The CDs they produce are available from the Guild Shoppe.
- Heartlands Chapter, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas, and Iowa – Joanne Salisbury reported that the chapters in Oklahoma, Missouri, and Kansas were in transition but were active.
- Diocese of Ft. Worth – Ron Turner, verger at St. Vincent's Cathedral, asked for prayers for verger Tom Jones. He said that the chapter had 16 vergers but was not very active.
- Diocese of the Rio Grande – Emilie Rowe, verger at the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Evangelist, reported that the guild now had 30 to 40 vergers and continue to install new ones. They meet twice a year. They are planning to consecrate a new bishop who is very supportive of the verger ministry.
- Mark Emory Graham Chapter, Diocese of Atlanta – Louise Wilber, Holy Family Church in Jasper, reported that they have 40 members and a very pro-verger bishop. They meet twice a year.

President's Report

Guild President, David Jette, presented his report remarking on the beauty of the setting and the importance of continual communication. A copy of the report is attached.

Old Business

Greeting from several vergers who were unable to attend the conference were extended.

Guild Chaplain, the Rev. Milton Williams, dismissed us with his blessing.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Betts

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