

President's Address

ECD Convention 2010

Many things have happened in the ECD in the past two years. Some life changing.

In 2008 Nancy Bock who had been elected Member-at-Large at the 2005 ECD Convention felt it necessary to resign her position. The Board asked The Rev. Maria Isabel Santiviago to replace Nancy. Maria had received the second highest number of votes in 2005 for Member-at-Large.

Much of our time in 2008 was spent preparing for our presence at General Convention 2009. The entire Board attended General Convention 2009. We had a double ECD booth in a prominent location and had good visibility. The Rev. Roy F. Brown, even though he was very ill, came to Convention for three days to set-up the technical component of our booth. Roy was too ill to stay and went home to Boston. He died two weeks later on August 10th in Boston in hospice care. The Board began the process of trying to collect the data base records Roy had in his computer.

In September the Board met in Boston for our regular business meeting. The Board met Roy's family, attended and participated in the Memorial Service for Roy at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Natick, MA where St. Andrew's Church of the Deaf has been meeting since their building was sold several years ago. Several memorial gifts were sent in Roy's name. The Board has purchased a beautiful Memorial Book for the ECD and voted to change the name of the Betsy Smylie Fund to the Chaplains' Fund so that chaplains of the ECD can be memorialized.

With the death of Roy Brown we needed to collect the Deaf Episcopalian and data base information from Roy's computer. Roy's son, Michael, was able to go into Roy's computer and collect this for us. It took some time to revise the DE mailing list but we were able to get the Spring/Summer and the Fall/Winter issues of the DE mailed. Mission Graphics, the printer, was a great help with the mailing list information they had on file.

In the fall of 2009 we received a Grant Request from St. John's Episcopal Church in Northampton, MA to be used for interpreter services as they attempt to begin a ministry with Deaf persons. They have a Deaf man who is sensing a call to ordained ministry. As of last report he was in the Discernment Process with the Diocese of Western Massachusetts.

The Board meets as necessary in online CHATs. With Roy Brown gone it was necessary to replace him as First Vice President. First Vice President must be clergy. The Rev. Marianne Stephens moved from Second Vice President to First Vice President and David Early agreed to move from Member-at-Large to Second Vice President, which can be non-clergy. This left us with a vacancy for a second Member-at-Large. The Rev. Maria Santiviago has been working hard on updating the National Deaf Church Directory and has made good progress. With Nancy Bock leaving Maria was left with the entire job.

In February 2010 at our face-to-face Board meeting we received a grant request from Randy Campbell from St. Alfred's Episcopal Church in Palm Harbor, FL. This church is beginning an interpreted ministry and the money was to be used for interpreters. This was approved. We also approved the change of officers as noted earlier in this report. We studied the 2008 resolution on establishing a "study committee" and felt we needed more information on the structure of this committee. We will discuss this more with the Rev. Dr. Roger Pickering who submitted the resolution. We decided that we need to have face-to-face Board meetings every three months rather than twice a year with CHATs in-between.

In May 2010 we discussed plans for 2010 ECD Convention. In order to facilitate the process of assisting Ephphatha Rochester the Rev. Marianne Stephens will be working with the rector of Epiphany Episcopal Church, Rochester where Ephphatha is now meeting. Marianne has begun a video sermon library at St. John's Church for the Deaf in Birmingham.

Other changes in churches and congregations: Ephphatha Buffalo moved to St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Eggertsville, NY where the

Rev. Barbara Price is the interim rector. Rev. Price has worked with Ephphatha in the past and also was the Missioner to the Deaf in the Diocese of Buffalo when the Rev. Betsy Smiley left as vicar several years ago.

Holy Spirit Mission of the Deaf in Walnut Creek, CA has been closed for several years. However, all of their artifacts have been stored in the basements of two members, Mrs. Margaret Christenberry and Mrs. Elizabeth Kolombatovic. These women faithfully cared for the artifacts. They contacted the president of ECD asking for direction on where these might be sent. The ECD assisted them in finding the Archives of the Episcopal Church in Austin, TX and the appropriate items have been sent there and gratefully accepted. The items appropriate for diocesan archives have been sent and the matter has been successfully closed. Several lovely liturgical items were sent to ECD Convention 2010 in Birmingham, AL. These items were displayed at Convention and most were taken by various churches who had need.

The President initiated the Leader Letter, which had not been distributed for several years.

We have had a successful three years and look forward to many more.

The Rev. Barbara A. Allen
President