

THE LIVING CHURCH

New Calendar Marches On

By Douglas LeBlanc

General Convention's Committee on Prayer Book, Liturgy, and Church Music has endorsed continued trial use of *Holy Women, Holy Men*. During lengthy discussion July 5 of the proposed successor to *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*, numerous people testified that the text should be revised heavily.

The Rev. Patrick Malloy, acting dean of General Theological Seminary, said he is part of a community that prayed from *Holy Women, Holy Men* daily for a year. "Many of the texts were difficult to read and impossible to chant," he said. "This calendar is too packed" and undermines the genius of the Book of Common Prayer's calendar.

The Rt. Rev. Daniel H. Martins, Bishop of Springfield, proposed a substitute motion to suspend trial use, allow further changes to lie fallow for the next three years, and limit the number of new names in the future to 15 per General Convention.

The Rev. Gregory M. Howe, custodian of the Book of Common Prayer, asked the committee not to suspend trial use. About 30 years earlier the House of Bishops had "put a lid on Lesser Feasts and Fasts," he said.

"Please don't put a lid on this again," he added. "The last time it happened, it took nearly 20 years to pry it back off again."

Challenging Confirmation

By Matt Townsend

The subject of confirmation stirred passionate testimony July 5 before General Convention's Education



Matt Townsend photo

Liza Anderson, lay deputy from Connecticut, approaches the microphone before expressing her opposition to changes in canonical confirmation requirements.

Committee. Clergy and laypeople addressed the committee on Resolutions A041, A042, A043 and A044, all of which address the nature of confirmation as a necessary step in becoming Episcopalian.

The Rev. Canon Robert Brooks, the vice president of Associated Parishes for Liturgy and Mission, said the canons conflict with the Book of Common Prayer (1979), which describes Holy Baptism as full initiation into the Church. The resolutions seek to resolve that conflict, he said.

The Rev. Danielle Morris of the Diocese of Central Florida opposed the resolutions, saying confirmation helps create loyal members of the Church through education. She cited an example of a woman in her parish who wanted to serve on the vestry but had not been confirmed. "She said, 'I'll go through the classes,'" Morris said. "By the time

she ended those classes, she said, 'I had no idea. I'm an Episcopalian because I am now a part of all of that inheritance.' She will be an Episcopalian for life."

Short-changed Partners?

By Lauren Anderson

In a hearing July 5, the World Mission committee heard from the Episcopal Church's mission partners who said they did not receive full funding that they were promised in the past triennium.

Heather Melton, Chair of the Standing Commission on World Mission, introduced representatives from the church's covenant partners in Liberia, Brazil, Philippines, Mexico, and Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America (IARCA), all of whom sup-

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Matt Townsend photo

The Very Rev. Cesar Olivero (left) and the Rev. Sharon Lewis, both of the Diocese of Southwest Florida, and the Rev. Charlie Holt of the Diocese of Central Florida, enjoy a laugh at the end of the day on July 4 at General Convention.

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ported a resolution calling the Episcopal Church to honor its covenant agreements and, if the church is unable to do so, to ensure partners are notified of funding cuts.

During the last triennium, the church did not fulfill all financial commitments to its covenant partners, a mistake that Sandra McPhee, vice chair of the Standing Commission on World Mission, says was the result of “financial confusion” at General Convention in 2009. Moreover, the dioceses and provinces were not informed they would no longer be receiving funds.

Bishops Warm Up

By Joe Thoma

The House of Bishops’ first legislative session on the afternoon of July 5 carried a light workload, with half of the allotted time spent devoted to private table conversa-

tions and receiving a handful of resolutions from committees.

After introductions of new visiting bishops, and a welcome from the Rt. Rev. Catherine Waynick, Bishop of Indianapolis, the bishops welcomed ecumenical and interfaith visitors.

The bishops also:

- Discharged and referred to committee Resolution A030, which would amend language in the canons relating to “voluntary renunciation of orders” to the language of “release and removal” of clergy. The resolution also has implications for language relating to the disputed Title IV canons.

- Discharged and referred to committee Resolution A033, which also attempts to revise Title IV, by allowing a process to file a complaint, provide for the complainant to have an “advisor” to “support, assist and consult with” without having to hire a lawyer, and set bounds for confidentiality.

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