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ENCOMPASS

News and Events from the American Anglican Council Mission and Ministry Network

Two Orthodox Seminaries Won't "Change Tune" Despite Revisionism

BY AUDREY BRIGHT, AAC SUMMER INTERN

For orthodox Episcopal seminaries in the United States, a study by the Church Pension Group projecting that approximately 40 percent (over 2,500) of current regularly-employed parish priests will retire over the next 20 years is good news. According to this data, as well as a commonly quoted statistic that the average age of clergy is currently over 50 years of age, the opportunity for these seminaries to train faithful leaders to renew the state of the church is imminent.¹

These statistics are certainly encouraging to the Very Rev. Robert S. Munday, dean and president of Nashotah House Episcopal Seminary in Nashotah, Wis. He says the mission the school was founded upon in 1842 is still alive today: "Our mission is to train biblically faithful priests... who can lead congregations," he said. "[Nashotah] has always been a mission-oriented seminary."

In the wake of the current revision-

ist movement within the church, Nashotah is one of the few breaths of fresh air for the orthodox. As leader of a seminary that has more than doubled its enrollment in the past five years, Munday says the liberal progression of the church has not affected the work of Nashotah. The required classes students take are what keep the school on top of the issues the church is facing, he says. Serving just under 100 students, the seminary offers courses in theology and ethics as well as church history, thus grounding students in the truths of Scripture.

"You don't have to teach the specific issues," he said. "If you teach [the] truth, [then] people know where they stand on the issues."

This is the same philosophy held by Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry in Ambridge, Pa. Trinity shares Nashotah's commitment to proclaim the truth of the Bible and to ground students through course requirements in Scripture and ethics. Director of Admissions and Dean of Students the Rev. Tina Lockett said Trinity is helping students battle the liberal progression of the Episcopal Church by providing them with core knowledge in the classroom.



A Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry (TESM) classroom. (Photo provided by TESM.)

"Bottom line ... a basic foundation," she said.

Lockett said this is accomplished by requiring Greek and Hebrew so students will know what Scripture says before they proclaim it. The school also hopes to have a positive impact on the Episcopal Church through church planting. Lockett said that Trinity is offering more classes in this area.

"We are now in missionary mode in the U.S.," she said.

Requirements for admission to Trinity include having the ability to articulate a commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, demonstrating written and oral communication skills in order to benefit from the degree program, and demonstrating spiritual and ministerial gifts. Students must have discussed with a bishop, diocese, or local church their call to the ministry and have completed a Bachelor's Degree in Arts or Sciences.

("Seminaries" continued on Page 2)

AAC Experiences Significant Growth in Post-General Convention Period

Over its 10-year history, the American Anglican Council (AAC) has grown regularly in affiliated congregations, individual membership, and ministry partners. Current records show that since 2000, the AAC has almost doubled its individual membership, and the number of individuals receiving our mailings has

increased almost five times the number receiving them six years ago. The AAC's email communications continue to be widely read as well, with a distribution list of almost 23,000 individual emails.

Following General Convention 2003 and through the end of 2004, the AAC experienced an approximate 33 percent increase in individual membership, and over the last 18 months (since the beginning of 2005), membership has increased nearly 25 percent, with a significant number joining during and after General Convention 2006. As of mid-August, the AAC had

("AAC Growth" continued on Back Page)

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The new chairman of Trinity's Board of Trustees, the Rev. Canon David H. Roseberry, said the current crisis within the Episcopal Church has not changed the tune of Trinity.

"[We're] focused on classical Anglicanism and that is certainly needed now more than ever," said Roseberry, who is also rector of Christ Church (Plano, Texas).

Lockett said that although it hasn't been easy, the mission of Trinity has remained unchanged for more than 30 years – but not to its own credit.

"We have been consistently looking for God's guidance," she said. "It has been totally God's faithfulness to us and our dependence on him. God has been abundantly gracious to us."

Trinity has seen enrollment increase each year since it was founded in the mid-1970s, and Lockett said that of the 44 students who graduated last May from Trinity, 41 had



Photo above of Dean Zahl provided by Trinity.

"Trinity School for Ministry is seeking to offer our students a classical theological education second to none. We stress the Bible, and the Biblical languages ... ; the great tradition of Biblical theology in seeing Scripture as God's unified whole; and 'the faith once and for all delivered to the saints' – the continuity of core Christianity throughout all ages and places. We are a Bible-anchored school and a tradition-nurtured school."

-The Very Rev. Dr. Paul Zahl, Dean and President of Trinity Episcopal School For Ministry

jobs by graduation day. She said many of the 800-plus students who have received degrees from Trinity are now missionaries in countries such as Singapore, Peru and Rwanda.

And while the school is still legally called "Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry" and the board has not voted for it to be named otherwise, Lockett said the school is now operating without the "Episcopal" just as other seminaries have chosen to do. She said Trinity is not owned or accredited by the national Episcopal Church, nor does the school receive funds from it – affording the school much more institutional freedom than is enjoyed by the 11

officially accredited Episcopal seminaries in the nation.

Even though Trinity differs from Nashotah House in that it is associated more with the evangelical movement and Nashotah with the Anglo-Catholic stream, Munday said both schools share the same commitment to the authority of Scripture. Lockett and Munday said the schools have faced similar discrimination when dealing with revisionist dioceses across the nation. Many bishops in these dioceses will not allow their students to attend Trinity or Nashotah, claiming they are too orthodox.

"Trinity is often excluded in a church that proclaims inclusiveness," Lockett said, noting the irony.

Munday said it is more common for conservative students to be encouraged to attend revisionist-run seminaries in order to be broadened, but it is rare to find liberal-leaning students being encouraged to attend orthodox seminaries.

Nevertheless, the futures of both schools seem to be bright. According to Roseberry, in 20 years, Trinity may

DID YOU KNOW?

The typical rector or vicar in the Episcopal Church is 57 years old and was called to his or her congregation in 2001.

Note: Statistics are based on median data. Survey was completed in mid-2005.

Source: "Episcopal Overview: Findings from the 2005 Faith Communities Today Survey," published by the Episcopal Church Congregational Development research office.

have even greater national impact through additional campuses and programs. He said he hopes that the seminary will be multiple times its current size and have several campuses and perhaps satellite seminaries.

"[We'll be] working with a variety of constituent members of the Anglican Communion," he added.

Nashotah plans to begin offering a distance education program online as well as a Doctorate of Ministry degree for students in residence.

Both schools are currently a part of the development of an Anglican-Episcopal degree program at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Munday said in order to establish a program for students in the Northeast, both seminaries will be working with Gordon-Conwell. The Northeast Convocation of the Anglican Communion Network will also assist with the program, as the convocation's dean, the Rev. William L. Murdoch, first proposed the idea of the program, according to a recent article by the *Living Church*. Gordon-Conwell is planning to add courses in Anglican prayer, liturgy and governance, according to the same article.

"[The program at Gordon-Conwell] will offer 'an orthodox view of the Bible' to Episcopalians seeking a seminary 'that has not departed from biblical truth and the historic faith of the Anglican Communion,'" said Gordon-Conwell Academic Dean Barry H. Corey in a recent *Boston Globe* article.

Both Trinity and Nashotah are assisting Gordon-Conwell in plans for visiting faculty or distance-learning courses in order to serve the needs of students in that area.

"You have a number of Anglicans or Episcopalians in the New England area who are looking for a theological education of a biblically faithful and theologically orthodox nature, and recognize Gordon-Conwell is capable of giving that," Munday said in the *Globe*.

Certainly, this program, combining the ideals of both Trinity and Nashotah House, is yet further proof of the growing presence of biblical Anglicanism in the United States.

Just as theological education has played a central role in the current revisionist agenda's growth and spread within the Episcopal Church, it will also serve as a centerpiece in the realignment of the Anglican Communion. It is vital that seminaries like Nashotah House and Trinity continue to train students in biblical truths and history so they will be thoroughly equipped as they lead the newly aligned, faithful Anglican churches throughout the United States.

For more information about Trinity, visit www.tesm.edu; visit www.nashotah.edu to find out more about Nashotah House. ♦



The Rt. Rev. FitzSimmons Allison, Bishop of South Carolina (Retired), stands with Nashotah House Dean and President the Very Rev. Canon Robert S. Munday (right) during General Convention 2006. (Photo by Dennis Egan.)



A Message from the President

THE REV. CANON DAVID C. ANDERSON
AAC PRESIDENT AND CEO

The Anglican Communion realignment is becoming a reality, but the process can best be described as an untidy, complicated and long process. Despite the frustrating delays as we await resolution, things are happening! There are a flurry of meetings scheduled for this month – some above the radar and others below. A group of Episcopal Church USA (ECUSA) bishops are meeting Sept. 19–22 at Camp Allen, Navasota, Texas, where they will be joined by Bishops N.T. Wright (Durham) and Michael Scott-Joynt (Winchester), both from the Church of England. An Episcopal News Service (ENS) article indicates that the Archbishop of Canterbury has given his “blessing” to this meeting. Global South primates will also meet in mid-September. Both of these meetings as well as others will focus on the big question: How do we deal with the fact that the

Episcopal Church has chosen to walk apart? It is going to be important that this fact remains front and center: ECUSA has refused to adequately address the Windsor Report and honor its recommendations, thereby choosing to walk apart.

Thousands of individuals and a large number of churches are leaving ECUSA in the wake of General Convention 2006 – this is an observable and verifiable phenomenon. A number of dioceses have asked for alternative primatial oversight. Note that these dioceses have **not** asked for a conciliator – they have asked for provision of structural oversight, at least on a temporary basis. This will provide both a safe harbor from revisionist bishops and spiritual freedom under orthodox cover. Biblically faithful Anglicans in the United States need official recognition of who they are. Together, the orthodox represent the true expression of Anglicanism in juxtaposition with the heterodoxy of ECUSA that has willfully abandoned the faith once delivered and demonstrated its desire to walk apart from the communion. In addition, these Anglicans need godly counsel in setting our new life on the right course. **Recognition and counsel:** simple requests that would offer spiritual life, health and hope. Join us in praying that the Anglican Communion will recognize the need, as well as what is at stake. ♦

New Adult Christian Theological Education Curriculum Endorsed by Trinity Episcopal Seminary

Recently endorsed by Trinity Episcopal School for Ministry, a new curriculum for adult Christian theological education, called Foundations for Discernment of Christian Ministry (FDCM), promises to provide an orthodox, biblically based theological education for Christian adults through a four-year program. The curriculum, which is entering its pilot year this fall, is unique in that it utilizes regular seminary textbooks. It is recommended for small groups of 5-8 adults and may be led by facilitators who have obtained one-time certification. The curriculum’s four sections, which will become progressively available over the next four years, include: History of Christianity (now available for general use), Theology and Ecclesiology, Wisdom Literature and New Testament, and Old Testament. Trinity has agreed to grant continuing education credits for the program and a certificate of completion, according to the original FDCM announcement. An upcoming training session weekend for facilitators will take place Sept. 22-24 in Menomonie, Wis. *For more information, contact the Rev. Kathryn Jeffrey at kate@hopeanglican.us or (651) 815-5702, or visit <http://hopeanglican.us/fdc/>.* ♦

DONATE

The AAC appreciates any tax-deductible donation you are able to enclose in the attached envelope. Make checks payable to the American Anglican Council. If you wish, you may designate your donation to go toward a specific area of AAC ministry: Episcopal Witness/Church Relations; International; Legal Defense Fund; or General Operating Fund.



Martyn Minns Consecrated Bishop in Nigeria

The Rt. Rev. Martyn Minns was consecrated as the first missionary bishop of the Convocation of Anglicans in North America (CANA) by the Most Rev. Peter Akinola, Primate of All Nigeria, on Sunday, Aug. 20, 2006, in the National Christian Centre in Abuja. Bishop Minns also currently serves as rector of Truro Church in Fairfax, Va., and is a member of the Board of Trustees of the American Anglican Council (AAC).

According to the Anglican Church of Nigeria’s website, CANA was established in April 2005 “as part of Church of Nigeria’s response to the lingering crisis in the U.S. Anglican Churches brought about by controversial teachings regarding human sexuality and the Bible.” The site continues, “The Convocation is expected to provide a ‘safe spiritual harbour’ for millions of Anglicans affected by the teachings of the Anglican branch in the U.S.”

The Rev. Canon David C. Anderson, president and CEO of the AAC, attended the service.

“It was an honor and privilege to be present for Bishop Minns’ consecration,” Canon Anderson said.

In a statement issued Aug. 15, 2006, Canon Anderson commended the Church of Nigeria:

“These are difficult times for faithful Anglicans, and the AAC is especially thankful for the creative and timely response of many of the Global South primates in recognizing the danger that the Episcopal Church in the United States posed for the Anglican Communion and the offer of safe harbor that was and has been extended to congregations in the United States looking for orthodox episcopal and primatial oversight. Additionally the AAC is deeply appreciative of the clear and prophetic voice of Global South primates who have spoken up, at great cost personally and for their provinces, and called the Anglican Communion to a holy and orthodox faith consonant with the historic teachings of both Christianity and Anglicanism.” ♦



The Rt. Rev. Martyn Minns (far left, top) during the consecration service in Abuja, Nigeria, on Aug. 20, 2006. (Photo courtesy of the Anglican Church of Nigeria.)

Finding an Anglican Church in Your Area

The AAC answers calls daily from individuals who want to leave their Episcopal churches but don't know where to turn. Below are some resources available to assist you in finding an orthodox, Anglican-tradition church nearby:



American Anglican Council (AAC)
www.americananglican.org (click on the right-column link to "Find an AAC Affiliated Parish")
Phone: (800) 914-2000
Email: info@americananglican.org

Anglican Communion Network (ACN)
<http://www.acn-us.org/local>
Phone: (412) 325-8900

Anglican Mission in America (AMiA)

(Under the Province of Rwanda)
www.anglicanmissioninamerica.org (click on the link at the top to "Find a Church")
Phone: (843) 237-0318
Email: info@anglicanmissioninamerica.org

Forward in Faith North America

www.forwardinfaith.com/resources/parishes-na.html
Phone: (800) 225-3661

Greater Danbury Anglican Fellowship - "Find an Anglican Church" online map

(Shows U.S. Anglican churches affiliated with a multitude of provinces and Anglican groups)
www.greaterdanburyanglicans.org/AMiAChurches/AMiAChurches.html?ShowAll

The American Anglican Council is a network of individuals (laity, deacons, priests and bishops), parishes and specialized ministries who affirm Biblical authority and Christian orthodoxy within the Anglican Communion. In response to the Lord's calling and by His grace, we commit ourselves to proclaim the Good News to every person and to reform and renew the Church of Jesus Christ. We are uniting in order to fulfill our apostolic mission and ministry, working to build a faithful Anglican witness in the Americas.

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333 affiliate parishes in 36 states, 38 affiliate ministries, 31 chapters, and three affiliated Episcopal dioceses. Thirteen new parishes affiliated in July and August alone (as of mid-August). While numerous AAC parishes are affiliated with U.S. Episcopal dioceses, a growing number of parishes are officially linked with overseas provinces, including Uganda, the Diocese of Recife (Province of the Southern Cone), Kenya, and Rwanda (through the Anglican Mission in America). ♦



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