

## Episcopacy Concerns

Paragraph 637 of the *2008 Book of Discipline* defines the function of the Conference Committee as follows:

- To support the bishop in the oversight of the spiritual and temporal affairs of the church.
- To be available to the bishop for counsel
- To assist in the determination of the Episcopal needs of the conference and to make recommendations to appropriate bodies.
- To keep our bishop advised concerning conditions within the conference as they affect relationships between our bishop and the people of the conference agencies.
- To interpret to the people of the conference and to conference agencies the nature and function of the Episcopal office.
- To engage in annual consultation and appraisal of the balance of our bishop's relationship and responsibilities to the annual conference, the jurisdiction, general Church boards and agencies, and other areas of specialized ministry, including, at all levels, concern for the inclusiveness of the Church and its ministry with respect to sex, race, and national origin, and understanding and implementation of the consultation process in appointment-making.
- To report needs for Episcopal leadership to the jurisdictional committee on episcopacy through the duly elected conference members of that committee.
- The Conference Council on Finance and Administration shall make provision in its budget for the expenses of this committee.

### Past Actions

- In carrying out the disciplinary provisions assigned to the Committee on Episcopacy, specific attention is focused on the health and well-being of our bishop.
- We have met twice since the start of the new conference. It is anticipated that this will be the norm for our meetings.
- The entire committee, composed of both (former) north and south Indiana Lay and Clergy persons, has elected Dr. James (Jim) Shaw, Chairperson; Larry Marhanka, Vice-Chair; and Rosa Bernard, Recording Secretary.
- We receive reports from four primary areas: the Bishop, the Executive Assistant, Conference representatives of the NCJ Committee on Episcopacy and our Conference Lay Leaders.

### Future Action

The Committee recommended a Prayer and Fasting period of (4) weeks prior to Annual Conference to enable Bishop Michael Coyner, his Cabinet and Staff personnel.

### Additional

The Episcopacy Committee heartily commends Bishop Coyner and his Cabinet as they continue to provide leadership for the new Indiana Conference as it becomes one state-wide conference.

The Episcopacy Committee is encouraged to know that other Conferences are looking to our Episcopal leadership as a model in "how to" move forward in increasing mergers throughout the United States and beyond.

Dr. James (Jim) Shaw, Chair