

Diocese Of CT Episcopal Church Women's 129th Annual Meeting/Luncheon

The Diocese of Connecticut Episcopal Church Women celebrated their 129th Annual Meeting and Luncheon at the Aqua Turf in Southington, CT. on May 4th. There were 385 people comprising of 57 Connecticut churches, 10 members from the Diocese of Rhode Island and 2 members from Anglican Women Empowerment (AWE) organization. The table decorations were made by Daughters Of The King.

Celebrants: The Rt. Rev. Ian Douglas, The Rt. Rev. Laura J. Ahrens and The Rt. Rev. James E. Curry jointly did the Communion Service.

Our newly elected Bishop Ian T. Douglas's homily was on Propers for Mission I from the scriptures of Isaiah 2:2-4, Ephesians 2:13-22, Luke 10:1-9. He stated his respect of the women and their work in the church and the challenges the women have had to face over time from the church and broader society. How they remained faithful throughout and surpassed the efforts when the church often tried to exclude them. "The United Thank Offering has and continues to be today the single biggest fund in support of building projects and mission ventures around the Anglican Communion." He stated, "You are the leading edge of mission in the Episcopal Church." The Bishop encouraged the women "to reclaim their birthright and challenged us to go out in new ways, two by two, to heal the world and proclaim the kingdom of God." He said, "Go forth, and step together, in this urgent and risky business of God's mission."

The Keynote speaker was Marcia Himes, President of the National Episcopal Church Women on the topic "Stepping Forward Together". She presented a power point presentation showing the generation gap and how traveling together can be hard with all the new technology we have today. She compared the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) who celebrated "Bold Women Day" on February 28, 2010 and how they explore boldness in prayer, advocacy, caring, and teaching. Marcia Himes explored just a small part of that teaching, in that "Women today stand at a particular point where the bold women of yesterday and the bold women of tomorrow can meet. We are the ones whom we have been waiting for: The call to act boldly on our faith, work, peace, friends, family, talents, education, finances, and carry out our baptismal call to work justice and peace for all God's creatures in Jesus Christ."

Submitted By Shirley Greiman – Province I Representative to The National Episcopal Church Women's Board