

## **Diocesan Convention of the Diocese of Olympia calls for postponing 2008 Lambeth Conference**

By a vote of 299 for and 79 against on Saturday, November 3, 2007, the 97th Convention of the Diocese of Olympia voted to approve an amended resolution calling for the 2008 Lambeth Conference to be postponed "until the listening process is more complete."

This resolution was submitted by Bishop Suffragan Nedi Rivera after the convention began. The resolution approved the text of a letter sent to Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori over the signature of Bishop Diocesan Greg Rickel and Bishop Rivera. This letter is to be the input requested by Bishop Jefferts Schori from the bishops in The Episcopal Church. She wanted advice on how to respond to Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan William's letter asking for "your reactions and...proposals for any next steps we should take together" after the Joint Standing Committee report.

The text approved by the convention said "We are leery about using the occasion of the [2008 Lambeth] Conference to present a Covenant that is exclusionary, that centralizes authority, or that adds to the core doctrine of our faith. The cost of holding the Lambeth Conference under the present circumstances is disproportionate to its

benefits, and the good we can do elsewhere in the mission of the church."

In other action, the convention acknowledged and recognized "the struggle by our brothers and sisters in Oak Harbor and Poulsbo." The convention also committed support to "our bishop, Standing Committee, and Board of Directors" in the stewardship of congregational property. Also, the convention committed to "studying and engaging the difficult issues we face as a Church with attention and compassion, remembering our bond as brothers and sisters in Christ and our responsibilities as delegates of the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia."

With regards to the situation in Oak Harbor and Poulsbo, Washington, Bishop Rickel told the Living Church that negotiations are underway. There is a need to resolve issues that all parties have had with the July 2006 covenant negotiated by then-Bishop Diocesan Vincent Warner and representatives from the two congregations wanting to leave The Episcopal Church.

The two-day convention was called to order on Friday, November 2, with over 440 lay and clerical delegates present. It was held at the Tacoma Sheraton Hotel.

On Saturday, November 3, retired Bishop Robert Cochrane received special recognition on the 56th anniversary of his

ordination to the priesthood. Bishop Rivera went to escort Bishop Cochrane to a microphone to receive this recognition. She was present as her father, the late Bishop Victor M. Rivera, was the then-rector of the church in Visalia, California, where the ordination took place.