



General Convention Deputy Nomination The Rev. Gregory B. F. Brown

Intent: I served the diocese as a deputy to General Convention in both 2009 and 2006, and I am excited at the direction in which the church seems to be going. I still think that GC is some of the best that The Episcopal Church can be. Each voice, each diocese, each position having its opportunity to be heard. Our diversity. Our energy. Our optimism. Our breadth. Our depth. Our history. I love being a part of that, and hope to do so again. I aspire to remain a stabilizing voice for the church, striving to be one who listens to both sides of each issue, and then letting the Holy Spirit guide me to what I feel God is calling The Episcopal Church to be. Usually that means voting similarly to our deputation, sometimes that means standing on one's own. That is the strength of the deputations I have been blessed to be a part of...an acceptance of other's ideas and perspectives that enhance, rather than limit one's own.

I am passionate about issues of peace and justice, and fully subscribe to the MDG's. I advocate the voices of youth in the Church. I was blessed to serve on the General Convention Committee on the Election of Bishops in 2009, and had wonderful opportunities to work inter-culturally with members of the Diocese of Ecuador, working pastorally with both the Bishop-elect and the deputation to find peaceful resolutions to their differences. I also bring a passion for Hispanic ministry, having attended seminary in both Mexico City and New York City. I bring a rare experience in theological training in two different provinces of the Anglican Communion. I still feel that I am at the beginning of my church career, and yet have a variety of skills to offer on behalf of our diocese to the Church.

Biographical Sketch : I graduated from Michigan State University in 1989 with a B. S. in Biology. I taught school for eight years, first in Florida and then in East Grand Rapids before beginning Seminary. I am married to Cathy, and we have three daughters, ages 11, 9 and 7. I have been involved in the Diocese for 26 years, which includes many years on the Commission of Youth Ministries (with two years as the Diocesan Director of Youth Ministries) and many years at our Episcopal Summer Camps. I have a passion for connecting the Church to the world, and for ecumenical relations. I was baptized Catholic in 1965 and when confirmed Episcopal in 1993 I entered discernment. I benefit from several years of Family Systems Theory which helps me to maintain objectivity even in the middle of contentious issues. I serve my community through serving as both a USSF and as a high school soccer referee spring through fall...so I have a penchant for being yelled at! I was ordained in 2001 and have served twice as Rector, first in Grand Ledge, and now in Petoskey. We love to travel and experience different cultures, and at General Convention in 2006 I paid special attention to the Committee on World Mission. I see that as something that I hope to be a part of in West Michigan.