

## Diocese of Quincy – Frequently Asked Questions

### About Quincy

*When was the Diocese of Quincy founded?* The Diocese of Illinois was founded in 1835 when Bishop Philander Chase became the first Bishop of Illinois. In 1877, at the request of the Diocese of Illinois, the General Convention of The Episcopal Church approved the creation of two additional dioceses in Illinois to support the anticipated growth of the church in these areas. The Dioceses of Quincy and Springfield were established, and Bishop Alexander Burgess was named first Bishop of Quincy. The remaining region maintained the name of the Diocese of Illinois until 1884 when the Diocese of Illinois was renamed the Diocese of Chicago.

*How did Quincy get to their current situation?* In 2008, the Diocese of Quincy (DoQ) was torn apart when the former bishop "forced" a vote that resulted in the majority of congregations from the diocese of Quincy voting to join the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA). Of the 22 churches in the diocese, 18 left The Episcopal Church leaving the remaining congregations traumatized and grief-stricken. Members of 4 of the former congregations in Macomb, Galesburg, Rock Island, and Moline established continuing Episcopal congregations in other locations. In 2004, the Diocese of Quincy had approximately 3,000 members; by 2008, the number had declined to 1,500. Today, of the remaining Episcopal congregations, the Average Sunday Attendance is around 350 with total members at 755. Current congregations in the Diocese of Quincy are All Saints, Moline; St. John, Kewanee; Grace, Galesburg; St. Paul's, Peoria; St. James, Lewistown; St. George, Macomb; St. Paul, Warsaw; St. James, Griggsville; and Bread of Life Fellowship, Peoria.

*How did the Diocese of Chicago get involved?* When the Diocese of Quincy reorganized in 2009, Bishop John Buchanan was elected Provisional Bishop. At the same time, the diocese established the Quincy Future Committee to determine the future of this newly re-constituted diocese. The Quincy Future Committee explored a variety of options from continuing on their own, to merging with neighboring dioceses, or re-uniting with Chicago. In early 2012, the Quincy Future Committee approached Bishop Lee about a possible reunion. Bishop Lee appointed Matt Gunter, Kristin Orr, Shawn Schreiner, Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Richard Hoskins, Bruce Plummer, and Courtney Reid to serve with him and Bishop Epting on Chicago's Quincy Committee.

The two committees have met together three times; the Diocesan Councils of the two dioceses held a joint meeting in September; Courtney Reid, Alyson Eyer, and Bruce Plummer spent two days in the diocese visiting congregations currently in the Diocese of Quincy as well as ACNA churches; and Bishop Lee and several Diocesan staff and leaders attended the Quincy Synod in October.

*Why has Quincy chosen the Diocese of Chicago instead of Springfield or Iowa?* Canonically, the process of reunification is much easier than juncture. Chicago is the parent diocese of the Diocese of Illinois; therefore a reunion of the two dioceses is possible. A reunion must be approved by the conventions of the two dioceses, the Bishop of Chicago, the Bishop of Quincy, the House of Bishops, and the Standing Committees. A juncture of two dioceses is a much longer process that must be approved by the General Convention of The Episcopal Church in addition to the conventions of the Dioceses and other canonical bodies.

*What is the Diocese of Quincy like?* Like the Diocese of Chicago, the Diocese of Quincy is diverse in geography (encompassing both rural and urban communities), diverse in styles of worship (using Rite I and Rite II in the Book of Common Prayer), different types of churches (small buildings that seat 30-40 to a large cathedral which seats several hundred), and varying views. Bishop Buchanan ordained the Rev. Peggy Lee as the first woman priest in the Diocese of Quincy soon after he became Provisional Bishop. Peggy Lee serves All Saints Church in Moline. A second woman priest, Paula Englehorn, was ordained, and now serves St. George's in Macomb.

### Staffing

*Will we need to have a second full-time Bishop?* The reunion of Quincy and Chicago will necessitate looking at not only whether we need a full-time second Bishop but also how to assure adequate staffing overall.

These issues will be carefully considered and planned during the negotiation of the Chicago-Quincy Reunion Agreement.

### **Structures**

*Will we still be the Diocese of Chicago if we have a reunion with Quincy, or will we revert back to the Diocese of Illinois, or to some other name?* There is no plan to change the name of the Diocese. This may be something to discuss in future planning conversations.

*How will the churches from Diocese of Quincy be integrated into the current and future Diocesan structures - deaneries, commissions, Standing Committee, Diocesan Council, etc.* It is likely that the congregations from the Diocese of Quincy will become part of a new deanery (or deaneries) following a reunion. Additionally, as part of the reunion agreement and planning, we will propose ways to fully integrate and welcome members of the DoQ into our diocesan life and structures.

### **Legal and Financial**

*What are the ongoing legal issues with the Diocese of Quincy?* Since March 2009, litigation has been pending in the Circuit Court of Adams County, Quincy, Illinois, seeking a declaration by the court as to the proper ownership of Diocesan assets, between the breakaway ACNA parishes and diocese, and the non-departing parishes and original Diocese of Quincy. The main asset in question is the Diocesan endowment fund with a current value of about \$4 million, of which more than \$3 million belongs to the Diocese and the remaining amount represents funds of contributing parishes. After many delays, the case is scheduled for trial in late April, 2013. After that, there will undoubtedly be an appeal, so the final fate of the fund is unlikely to be determined before the end of 2013 or even later. Nonetheless, and despite the uncertainty that always hangs over litigation, we believe the Episcopal Diocese of Quincy is likely to prevail and that the endowment fund will stay with the Episcopal Diocese of Quincy, and thus with the reunified Diocese of Chicago.

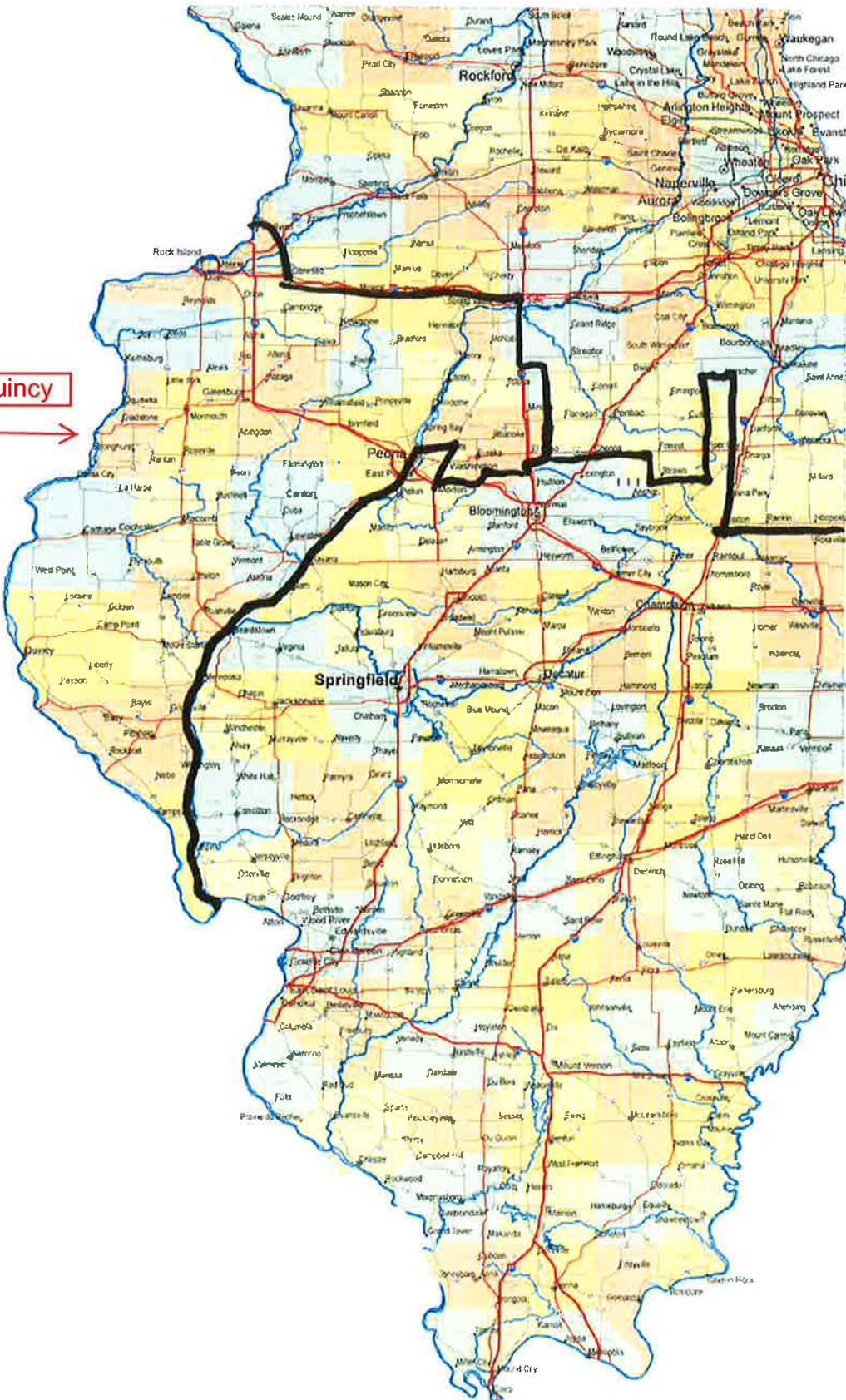
*Will the ACNA congregations return to the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Quincy?* Much remains unknown about the 18 congregations and churches that are currently part of ACNA. Once the litigation is decided, this issue may become clearer.

*How much will all of this cost?* The reunion of the Diocese of Quincy with this Diocese will almost certainly have a budgetary impact. Bishop Lee, in consultation with the Sponsors of this Resolution, believes that this action should be considered despite the potential budgetary impact. Preliminary financial analysis has suggested that increased costs from the reunion will be offset by additional income from endowment funds and other assets which the Diocese of Quincy will bring into a reunited Diocese. The assets of the endowment, however, are currently frozen until the pending litigation is settled.

### **Process and Timeline**

*Assuming we go forward with reunification what would be the process and timeline?* If resolution A-175 is passed at convention (the Diocese of Quincy has already passed a similar resolution), we will establish a team comprised of members of both dioceses who will draft the Quincy Reunion Agreement. The timeline will be determined in the agreement. It is probable the reunion would occur sometime in 2013 following the approval of the conventions of the two dioceses, the Bishops of Chicago and Quincy, and the House of Bishops, and Standing Committees of the church.

Diocese of Quincy



Diocese of Chicago

Diocese of Springfield