

*Remarks by the Rt. Rev. John W. Howe, Chaplain of the Daughters of the King, and Bishop of Central Florida, at the close of the DOK Triennial business meeting in Anaheim.*

I would like to reflect for a couple minutes on my perception of what has happened today. It is clear that people have very deep feelings and concerns and I think we've tried to respect that. I think we have been fairly successful at respecting that. Certainly there has not been name calling or any unpleasantness of that sort, and I thank you for that. Let us hold that up; we are dealing with very difficult things.

I have had the privilege of meeting with the Council for three years. I have said over and over to the members of Council what I'm going to say to you just now, that the conflict in the Order is a reflection of the conflict at the national level in The Episcopal Church. You cannot solve that here. I wish you could. But you cannot. We are deeply, deeply divided at the national level and that division has led to the departure of many to other jurisdictions and that problem is reflected here.

The question is, how do you live your life together as an Order? That has been the question of the last three years.

I think your parliamentarian summed it up very well and I would like to underscore what she has said. Three years ago – I was not present but I understand this - three years ago the bylaws that were then in place were interpreted. And you have the right to interpret them.

They were interpreted to include the seating of all Daughters: Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Anglican, and Episcopalian.

Today that interpretation was challenged by the move to reject the credentials report, a move that was sustained by your initial vote. And so 17 people - 17 people who came here at their own expense because they love you - were asked to go to the back of the room. That was 5.7% of the 298 delegates among us!

Then we went through a very difficult day of parliamentary moves, an attempt to resolve the issues by amending the bylaws and a substitute amendment, both of which failed.

This returned us to the bylaws that were in place in 2006. You are exactly in the place you were three years ago in having to interpret exactly what those bylaws mean.

Do they mean only Episcopalians? Do they mean only Episcopalians and Catholics (who have been Daughters for over 20 years)? Do they mean Episcopalians, Catholics, and Lutherans (with whom we are in full communion)? Or do they also mean Anglicans, with whom we are in some kind of confused relationship, because they are part of jurisdictions with which we are supposedly still in full communion? (Even though the American bishops serving those jurisdictions have not been recognized by the Archbishop of Canterbury—which is irrelevant to your bylaws.)

I can't resolve this mess for you, I can just reflect on where we've been today.

I find it very, very sad, because every one of you loves the Lord. I know that, and I know you love each other. But over the last three years in spite of that, hateful things have been said by Christians to each other in many congregations.

There is pressure from both sides—you need to know this if you do not know it—some of the Bishops of the Anglican churches do not want their Daughters to be part of the Order of the Daughters of the King. And some of the Bishops of The Episcopal Church do not want the Anglican Daughters to be part of the Order of the Daughters of the King.

But your parliamentarian said it was legitimate to take a vote on whether those 17 should be reseated and you did.

It is not appropriate to call for a roll call vote after the vote has been taken.

Sorry, you are in exactly the same confused place you were three years ago!

There is work to be done; it will not be done by Sunday. It will have to be done over the next three years.

Till then I very much hope you can live together. Can we say the Lord's Prayer together?