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ON VIDEO

November 1992
Trans. by M. Arcieri

Transcription of: Episcopal General Convention - House of
Deputies Action to concur with the House of Bishops in adding
Jonathan Daniels to the church calendar. July 17, 1991

Chair of Dispatch: It's been reported to me that the folks who
are here in connection with the consideration of Jonathan
Daniels, which I believe would be the next report, are not here
after tonight and therefore would not be able to present their
report or be involved in their report if we waited until
tomorrow. So the chair of (dispatch?) will move that the house
consider its report number 48A which would amend report number 48
to also include the consideration of B006 from committee number
14.

Vice-president: It's been moved and seconded. All those in
favor of the report from the Committee of Dispatch of Business
number 48A please say 'aye'.

Crowd: [resounding] Aye.

Opposed, 'no'.

Crowd: [scattered] No.

V.P.: The resolution is carried. Dispatch. Chairman.

Chairman: Committee number 14 of Prayerbook and Liturgy present
it's report #13 and informs the house it has considered message
#84 from the house of bishops relating to resolution numbered
B006S on the subject of the inclusion of Jonathan Myran Daniels
to calendar. The committee recommends concurrence.

V.P.: Chairman McGonigle.

McG.: Well, vice-president, on behalf of the committee, I
recommend concurrence and would beg legal house to speak briefly
to it. (Please Do.) The committee meeting in cognate
configuration with the committee of the house of bishops heard
extensive testimony on the addition of Jonathan Myran Daniels to
the calendar on a trial use basis. The committee considered
carefully the criteria that were adopted by the 69th general
convention for the addition of person's to the calendar.

The committee found that this proposed addition conformed to
the criteria with the exception that Jonathan Myric Daniels'
death does not extend over two generations. However, the
committee also took note of the fact, and the bishops in their
action took note of the fact that Jonathan Myric Daniels is
considered a martyr to the faith. Jonathan Daniels was a
seminarian at one of our accredited seminaries, he died in

defense of the faith and in defense of the people for whom he was speaking and acting. And it is therefore appropriate, we believe to recommend concurrence with the House of Bishops' message, and I do so.

V.P.: Microphone #2.

Trobridge: Yes, madam secretary, Trobridge from New Hampshire, speaking for the deputation from New Hampshire and living in the town nearest to town Keene, New Hampshire where Jonathan Daniels came from. I'd just like to add our entire endorsement to the proposal. He was a great person, he came from New Hampshire, but he went to Alabama. We thank those from Alabama for their support.

V.P.: Microphone 6.

Edwards: Edwards of Maryland. Madam Vice-president, when I came green out of graduate school to teach at the Episcopal Theological Seminary that was then the Episcopal Theological Seminary in Cambridge Massachusetts, Jonathan Daniels was a student there. He was a personal friend of mine as well. One of my great regrets in life was that I did not accept his invitation to join him and others from the Episcopal Theological School to go to the march on Selma, which was where John's sense of commitment to the civil rights movement was galvanized. I can attest to the refinement of his character and I strongly support this resolution.

V.P.: Microphone 5

Hines?: Hines from Texas. I was the president of the student body at the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge at the time that this country was wrestling with issues of civil rights. Jonathan and I were close friends. Our student body supported him, not only prayerfully but financially. And that was a sacrifice on our part because we were all poor seminarians, but we respected what he did and were with him all the way.

I was deeply saddened and hurt by his death. But the point I want to make to this house, is that in making this change, those of us who knew him and those of us who knew people who were martyred during this time, our lives are different and they're different because of the death of a person or several. So I will be eternally grateful for the witness of this young man, that was 25 years ago or of thereabouts, and I will always remember that, but I will be different, and my ministry has been different since then. So I would encourage us to accept the recommendation of the [unintelligible] mission.

V.P.: Microphone #1

Laughton: Laughton, Western Massachusetts. It is with a certain

amount of emotion that I rise to speak on behalf of this resolution. And I think I speak for many when I say that this resolution has brought a welcome and refreshing spiritual gift to this entire convention. My husband and I were among the group from the Episcopal Divinity School who traveled to Selma with Jonathan Daniels in March of 1965 for the great Voting Rights March.

As you know, Jonathan returned that spring and summer to continue the ministry of presence that he had begun. He was murdered on August the 20th after being released without warning from the jail in Haineville. His last action was to push a young companion out of the line of fire, taking the full blast himself. By coincidence his death occurred on the very day that my husband and I were moving to our first parish and the example of his life and death in Christ has been a powerful witness to us for the past 26 years.

John Morris, the former director of the Episcopal Society of Racial and Cultural unity, who has done so much to bring this before this convention, has stated that a positive action to place the name of Jonathan Daniels-martyred on the calender, may help this church experience what he calls 'efficacious remembering;' efficacious in so far as present day commitments to racial justice and internal reforms are concerned. John Daniels is a genuine 20th-century martyr, a seminarian of the Episcopal church who gave his life for the unity of the church as Christ's body.

Although he was, of course, a civil rights activist, his own writings make clear that he saw his primary mission as one of reaching out to both white and black Christians, and members of the Episcopal Church especially, to bring about that vision of wholeness that is the mission of the church, to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. His letters and papers, which you can find in the exhibit hall, make clear the incredible spiritual depth of this young man. The members of this House, I prayerfully and joyfully urge that you support concurrence with the bishops on this resolution in the spirit of remembering the Christian faithfulness of Jonathan Daniels, and with hope and prayers for the future unity of this church.

V.P.: Microphone #8

Johnson: Lay Deputy Johnson from east Tennessee. It caused me great pain to come to the microphone today. I too was there, a young, naive, innocent student at Tuskegee Institute. I was on the bridge. I didn't know Jonathan Daniels, but there were a lot of Jonathan Daniels there that day. The night before, we had been beaten severely. Most of the young women were covered by the young men. Many of the men were beat; their bodies were broken. My late husband was injured severely. However, an Episcopal priest came to our rescue, called the governor, called to call off the state troopers who were doing the beating.

I don't know Jonathan Daniels, but I know what he was trying

to do because I was there. I encourage you to put Jonathan Daniels into this calendar. I would not go further, but the pain is so great, until it pains to even discuss it at this time.

V.P.: Microphone #3

Wolfe: Deputy Wolfe from the diocese of Kentucky. I speak in favor of this resolution and I just would like to inform the House that in Kentucky we have the Abbey of Goethesemene where Toman Murton spent all of his monastic life. And at this Abbey there is a shrine to Jonathan Daniels. And I think that most of us feel in some measure that only the Episcopal church knows about Jonathan Daniels, but it is a place of pilgrimage at Goethsemene and his ministry and his martyrdom is known throughout the Roman Catholic church in Kentucky as well. I just bring that to your attention as you deliberate on this resolution.

V.P.: Microphone 7

Pressler: Pressler from Massachusetts. In the same spirit as the observation of the deputy from Kentucky, I would just like the House to know that the celebration of Jonathan Daniels' martyrdom is a very significant observance in the city of Cambridge, Massachusetts and at the Episcopal Divinity School on an annual basis. And this past year saw the dedication of an icon depicting Jonathan Daniels in the company of the saints.

V.P.: The chair sees no one approaching the microphone. Yes, chairman McGonigle.

McG.: I just wanted to say that it is appropriate to recognize that the bishop of New Hampshire, the current bishop of Alabama, and the former bishop of Alabama, now deputy to the presiding bishop, have all endorsed enthusiastically this resolution, this concurrence.

V.P.: The question before us is: shall this House concur with the action of the House of Bishops as contained in its report #13 on B006. All in favor, say 'aye'.

Crowd: [unanimously] Aye.

V.P.: All opposed 'no': [none]. The motion is carried and the chair would like to call on the chaplain.

Chaplain: Would you all please stand. You have before you B006 at the bottom of the page you have the [?] suggested. I would ask you to pray it with me.

The Lord be with you.

-And also with you.

Let us pray. Oh God of mercy and truth, justice and peace.

Thou doth make the heart of thy servant Jonathan Myric Daniels to magnify thy name and rejoice in Jesus the savior. In times of injustice and violence, make our hearts joyful to call all people to unity with thee, and each other in Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

May the souls of the faith and the tenet mercy of God rest in peace eternal, and may light perpetual shine upon them. Amen.

[A song is sung]

V.P.: For what purpose does the deputy at microphone #2 rise?

Campbell: Madame vice-president, a point of profound personal privilege. Campbell of Alabama. On behalf of the bishop of Alabama, its deputation to this convention, and all Alabamians who have labored so to raise Jonathan Daniels before this church, I wish to express profound gratitude to this House. To a heart-breakingly tragic time in the life of our beloved state and region, this action brings a measure of God's grace and redemption. Jonathan Daniels life and death are indeed a worthy example to this church and to all christian people. Thank you.

V.P.: The chair recognizes the Dispatch of Business.

DB: Madam Vice-president, your committee on Dispatch of Business makes a number of reports. One is that tomorrow we begin with yesterday's calender with the report of....[endl]