

Reports from Matthew Konerth from EYE

<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/eye2011.htm>

June 21-27

St. Paul, Minn.

Day 1: Wednesday, June 22

Today we finally arrived at EYE. After an excruciating 20 hour bus ride, riding through all hours of the night since Tuesday afternoon, and with most of us getting zero sleep (it is nigh impossible to sleep on a bus), we finally got to stretch our legs in St. Paul, Minnesota. Welcomed by Maryland's own Brooke Lucas, who is on the design team of EYE, and the Rev. Wes Wubbenhorst, Maryland's canon for youth ministry and EYE staff, we were led to our dorm. We are staying at Bethel University (<http://www.bethel.edu/>), at a dorm called Getsch Hall, with, it became apparent as they day went on, several other dioceses in the same geographical area.

We were given a water bottle, symbolizing the cool cup of water mentioned in chapter 10 of Matthew. This year's EYE theme is *Mission and Ministry*, hence our cool cup of water. We were also given the *EYE Guide*, containing a map, schedule and all sorts of other goodies, and pegged as being up there with the Bible for this trip. After a mandatory dorm meeting where some rules were ironed out, we settled down to some well deserved sleep.

Day 2: Thursday, June 23

Today after breakfast the first order of business was Eucharist. Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori led it and preached. There had to be more than 30 other bishops present as well. After praying for Presiding Bishop Katharine every week at church, it was quite gratifying to actually meet her.

There was also a band at the service that played some fantastic modern Christian music. But the best part had to be the four Native Americans leading us in prayer in their language while beating their drums. It was fascinating to glimpse their culture.

After the service we split into reflection groups, where we met more people and, quite simply, reflected on the service and theme of Mission and Ministry.

After lunch we all split into different workshops. Every participant will go to five over the course of the weekend, and there are 80 offered in all. Today I went to the theater workshop, theater being a passion of mine. The workshop talked about ways to combine theater and improve games with Christian ministry.

Next was Mission Possible, which were small, easy ministries accomplished in 45 minutes that proves ministry was quite possible. The one I went to collected soda pop can tabs for the Ronald McDonald charity house (apparently the tabs had the best concentration of aluminum).

Afterwards there was the first keynote speaker, Mr. Luke Fodor, Episcopal Relief and Development network coordinator, who gave a talk about the youth being vessels of God and God doing ministry through youth. Then we retired for the next day.

Day 3: Friday, June 24

Watch Dr. Rodger Nishioka at EYE 2011, keynote speaker, Friday, June 24: Empowering our youth to be prophets and visionaries for the Episcopal Church.

(http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=ZtMaFGcNau8)

Read news about EYE:

Episcopal youth enriched and empowered for mission

By Joe Bjordal, June 28, 2011

(http://www.episcopalchurch.org/79425_128867_ENG_HTM.htm)