

Cathedral gains new honorary canons

JAMES H. THRALL

New provost met new provost when the Very Rev. William David Wightman of St. Andrew's Cathedral in Aberdeen, Scotland, traveled to Connecticut to become an honorary canon of Christ Church Cathedral, Hartford.

His host, the Very Rev. Richard Mansfield of the Hartford cathedral, was, like Wightman, installed as provost just this year.

Wightman was one of four people whose service of investiture as honorary canons was included in the opening service of the diocesan Annual Convention, October 25. Also named as honorary canons were:

- The Very Rev. Philip Williams Turner, dean of Berkeley Divinity School at Yale, representing the theological education community;

- The Rev. Richard Thomas Nolan, Associate for Education at Christ Church Cathedral and Professor of Philosophy and Social Science at Mattatuck Community College, representing the educational community of the State of Connecticut, and the non-parochial clergy (clergy who do not serve in parishes) of the diocese, and in honor of his volunteer service as a member of the cathedral staff;

- The Rev. David Lawrence Cannon, rector of St. James' Episcopal Church, Poquetanuck, representing the parochial clergy (clergy who serve in parishes) of the diocese and in recognition of his long and devoted service to this diocese, his parish and his cathedral.

The Rev. Barbara Zikmund, president of Hartford Seminary, has been elected an honorary canon, but was unable to attend the service. She will have her investiture at a later date.

The ties between Scotland and the Diocese of Connecticut go back to the consecration of Bishop Samuel Seabury, first bishop of Connecticut and first American bishop. In 1784, when English bishops refused to consecrate Seabury as a bishop for the new United States, he traveled to Aberdeen where Scottish bishops performed the consecration.

It has become a tradition for the provost or dean of the Aberdeen cathedral to be an honorary canon of the cathedral in Hartford, and vice versa. Mansfield will travel to Scotland some time in the future for his investiture.

In an interview after the service, Wightman, who represented the Epis-



Photos by James H. Thrall

ABOVE: Bishop Arthur Walmsley presents special vestment patches to four honorary canons of Christ Church Cathedral, Hartford, in a service of investiture as part of the opening service of the Diocesan Convention.

RIGHT: The Very Rev. Richard Mansfield, provost of Christ Church Cathedral, left, and the Very Rev. David Wightman, provost of St. Andrew's Cathedral, Aberdeen, Scotland, right. Wightman is one of the new canons.

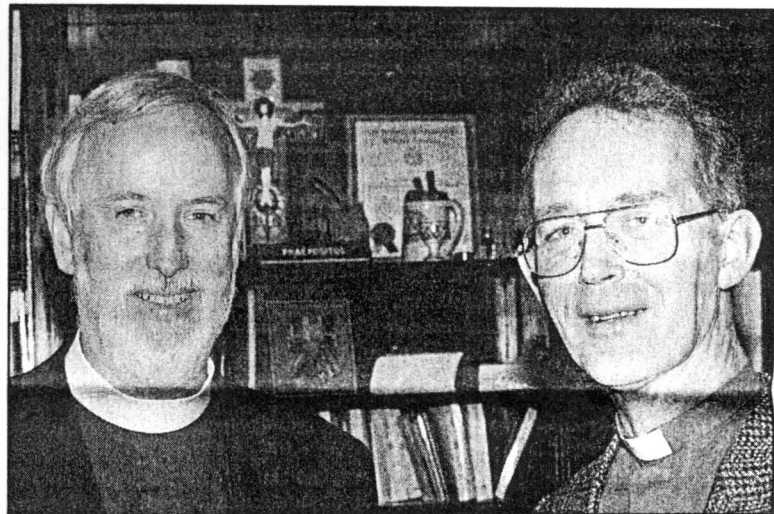
copal Church of Scotland and the diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney at the convention, said Connecticut and his diocese "really are different, but it's the differences that make it interesting."

The Episcopal Church here is far larger than in Scotland, he said. With the Presbyterian Church of Scotland the national church, the Episcopal Church in Scotland is "so much a minority church," he said.

In numbers, though not in geographic size, the Diocese of Connecticut "is about the same size as the whole of the Province of Scotland," he pointed out. Geographically, though, "it's 14 hours to Orkney," part of his diocese, he said.

Outreach appears to be more developed in Connecticut, Wightman said. And while his diocese probably has the same variety of congregations and worship styles as Connecticut, "you'd only have one of each," he said.

The Church of Scotland has only



seven bishops, rather than the nearly 300 members of the American House of Bishops, he said. The Scottish national General Synod meets every year rather than every three years like the American General Convention.

Issues the Scottish Church confronts include liturgy, ordination of women, evangelism and "the environment comes up from time to time," Wightman said. "Human sexuality we have not really dealt with."

The Church in Scotland ordains women to the diaconate, but not to the priesthood.

At the same time, the provosts noted, similarities between the two cathedrals include their settings as inner-city parishes, and their strong musical traditions.

Plans are being developed to bring the choirs of St. Andrew's Cathedral to Connecticut, and the provosts said they would be looking for other ways the two cathedrals can maintain contact.

"I don't intend to treat this as a nominal thing," said Wightman. "It's something I'd love to develop as much as I could."

While they were guests of the Mansfields, Wightman and his wife, Karen, visited the Glebe House in Woodbury where Samuel Seabury was elected bishop.

They also visited the home of one of Mansfield's ancestors, also Richard Mansfield, who was one of Seabury's electors. His house is preserved as a museum by the Derby Historical Society.