

## Diocesan Council – December 2-3, 2011 – Summary

The Council gathered for an overnight meeting at Living Water Spiritual Center in Winslow.

Friday evening's discussions centered on getting to know each other, exploring the job description of Council in Canon 15 of the Canons of the Diocese, and initial conversation about the Resolutions from Diocesan Convention. Council is one of three standing bodies in the Diocese. It is responsible for program and budget. The Trustees of Diocesan Funds are responsible for the property of the Diocese. The Standing Committee is a Council of Advice for the Bishop and an integral part of the polity of the Episcopal Church in its roles relating to people in the process for ordination, consent to the election of bishops across the dioceses of TEC, and other responsibilities; its members.

As members explored the roles of Council and the expectations that the Bishop and members have for its work, it became clear how important Council is in articulating the vision of the diocese and bringing its mission to life.

Saturday began with the financial reports from the Chair of the Finance Committee, the Treasurer of the Diocese and the Canon for Finance. Part of the discussion ensuing from these reports centered on how grants are structured for congregations in need of financial assistance and congregations initiating new ministries. Three different reasons for financial support were identified: ongoing support of ministry in places where our presence is vital, but cannot be anticipated to become self-sustaining; unforeseen emergencies that require one time assistance; congregations with the potential for self-sustainability that need an extra boost to empower them – these congregations would need to have a plan in place as part of any granting process. Another area is the area of new initiatives in any of our congregations, particularly as discerned through the process in Resolution 5.

Grant Applications that reflect the different types of grants available are being developed and will be available electronically. Contact Canon Shott for more information, [hshott@episcopalmaine.org](mailto:hshott@episcopalmaine.org).

An hour of Saturday morning was spent in three working groups related to the Convention resolutions: Resolutions 7 and 8, Program Review and Funding; Resolution 6, Aided Congregations; and Resolutions 5 and 9, Leadership Development and Mission Readiness. We then re-gathered to share highlights of these conversations and information about when and how each group wanted to continue their work.

Saturday afternoon the Bishop and Canons shared their reports; there was time to ask questions related to the posted reports by the Commission chair people; and news of activities in congregations was shared.

Following the close of the meeting, the Bishop celebrated Eucharist and commissioning new Council members.

Please contact your area representative for more information about the work of Council.