

Diocesan Council – March 3, 2012 – Summary

The Council met at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin in Falmouth with 24 voting members, 4 staff members and one guest present. Two members were excused.

Bishop Lane called the meeting to order at 9:00 with opening prayers followed by a review of where the diocese is with adaptive change, noting that we are now moving into this way of working with change at all levels of the diocese.

Bishop Lane announced four working groups of Council: the Executive Committee, the Mission Review Working Group, the Leadership Development Working Group, and the Aid to Congregations Working Group. He then gave initial guidelines for the work of each of these groups.

The minutes of the previous meeting, December 2-3, 2011, were accepted as approved by electronic consent.

The required, and very brief, annual meeting of the Maine Episcopal Missionary Society, was called to order and, there being no business particular to it, adjourned.

The finance reports were received and discussed. Actions approved included a one time gift of \$25,000 to the Bishopswood Board of Directors to help with the costs of two Camp Directors during the transition between retiring Georgia Koch and whoever is called to be the new director. Also approved was money to be allocated for the work of Congregational Leadership Development, and a Lovett Fund Grant to St. Aidan's, Machias.

The Council then divided into the three working groups described above and a fourth group charged with discussing and prioritizing the requests for New Initiatives Grants. When the Council reconvened as a whole, the first report was from the New Initiatives Grants group. They recommended 10 applications for funding in whole or in part, to which the Council concurred.

Additional awards were made to three valuable projects that were not eligible for New Initiatives Grants.

Following lunch, Bishop Lane gave his report, including comments on his role as Co-Chair of the Committee on Program, Budget, and Finance for General Convention 2012, pastoral care and prayer concerns for several members of the diocese (clergy and lay leaders), and reports on the status of new ministry models in several parts of the diocese.

In anticipation of two topics coming before General Convention, the Anglican Covenant and the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music's report on the Blessing of Same Gender Relationships, Bishop Lane is preparing a Pastoral Letter to be read in all congregations. He also asked that the Council endorse the Covenant on Civil Discourse prepared by the Maine Council of Churches, which action the Council approved.

Reports from the morning meetings of the Working Groups were received. The remainder of the Finance Reports, including an outline of the budget building process for 2012 were received and discussed.

Reports from the Commissions and Canons were received.

Announcements of activities in the various Areas and congregations were made. Of particular note is Christ Church, Norway's golf tournament on June 16 and St. Francis, Blue Hill's Spirituality Conference on August 24 and 25.

The next meeting of Council will be May 11-12, 2012 at Living Water Spirituality Center in Winslow.

The meeting adjourned at 3:05.