

## Diocesan Council – 23 February 2013 – Summary of Minutes

Council met at St. Martin's, Palmyra with 20 members, 4 staff people, and one guest present. Four members were excused.

The meeting convened at 9:00 with greetings from the Rev. Tom Gilbert, Deacon at St. Martin's. Bishop Stephen Lane led opening prayers and conversation about how the meeting impacts and involves people in poverty.

The minutes of the December meeting stand as previously approved.

The Finance report included the executive summary of finances for the end of year 2012, information about funds requested to be carried forward because circumstances had changed the timing of the projects for which they were dedicated, and a year end adjustment to bring the figures into balance as required by our cash accounting protocols. The reports were received and the adjustments approved. Other action approved a grant request from the Seeds of Hope Board of Directors to assist with their transition into a separate not-for-profit corporation. Doug Mayer presented preliminary information about the work the finance group is doing in preparation for the 2014 budget process.

Jane Hartwell, Youth Missioner of the Diocese, presented the proposed guidelines for implementation of Resolution 11 of Diocesan Convention 2012 creating an Official Youth Presence at Diocesan Convention. The guidelines were approved by Council and the request for funding referred to Finance.

Council then reviewed the applications for New Initiatives Grants and approved six, potentially seven.

Following Noonday Prayers and a delicious lunch provided by St. Martin's, Bishop Lane presented his report to Council. He talked about the work that will be done by Steve Smith, Consultant, and the staff at Loring House, the progress in the Holy Conversations project, an upcoming summit with 5 Kennebec congregations, the excellent press coverage that Ashes To Go in Maine received, and noted that the Episcopal Church is already becoming very visible in the gun violence conversation. He anticipates that there will be a pastoral letter on the subject of gun violence from the House of Bishops' spring retreat; the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies have already made public statements.

Discussion then turned to the work of the Aided Congregations Working Group and how they are looking ahead to the 2015 budget process and criteria for aid as we continue forward into the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Bishop Lane closed the meeting with prayer and Council adjourned at 3:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth M. Ring, Secretary to Council.