

Diocesan Council Meeting ~ May 10-11, 2013
New England Outdoor Center, Millinocket, ME

21 delegates and 3 staff members were present. 3 delegates and 1 staff member were excused.

Friday evening, following dinner, Bishop Lane opened the meeting with prayer at 7:15. The conversation for the evening centered around a presentation by Bishop Lane that was drawn from the book *A Fly in the Ointment* and other studying he has been doing with consultant, Steve Smith, around the reshaping of the diocesan structure. Lively discussion ensued.

The evening concluded with Compline at 8:40.

Saturday morning Bishop Lane called the meeting to order with morning prayers at 9:00. The Annual Meeting of the Maine Episcopal Missionary Society was called to order in accordance with the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese and, there being no business before the meeting, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and excepted. The Council meeting resumed.

The minutes of the February Diocesan Council meeting stand as previously approved electronically.

Finance Committee Reports:

Richard Rozene, Treasurer of the Diocese presented the First Quarter Balance Sheet. It was moved, seconded, and approved to accept the Treasurer's report as presented, pending audit.

Doug Mayer, Chairman of the Finance Committee, presented two requests for budget adjustments in the 2013 budget, one from Cursillo and one from the Trinity Jubilee Center. The request from Cursillo was not approved because they are a "related organization", not a program of the Diocesan Budget. The request from Trinity Jubilee Center was tabled pending additional information.

Doug Mayer presented the proposed 2014 budget building process. This process fulfills the promise at Diocesan Convention to do budget building differently. The primary pieces of the proposed process are: those things that are required by Canon to be a diocese, those things that are legally necessary to administer the diocese, and programs that support the work of the people of the diocese. Several scenarios, based on different assessment percentages and projected income were included in the presentation. The new, targeted assessment approach for budget building was affirmed and a final decision on the details will be made at a June tele-meeting.

Doug Mayer presented the process for Grants in Aid for 2014. Congregations seeking continuing aid will be met with via telephone. Otherwise the letter to congregations and the process for new congregations seeking assistance is the same as for 2013.

Council then moved into small groups to discuss the Mission Review proposal submitted to the 2012 Diocesan Convention.

In preparation for lunch, Council was invited to reflect on the how our work is impacting and including people in poverty.

Following lunch, Council met in Executive Session, without staff members, to hear and discuss the report from Bishop Lane about the proposal submitted by the consultant, Steve Smith, regarding the structure of the diocesan staff.

Returning to regular session, Bishop Lane reported on the Holy Conversations project; guidelines and application for the Loring Fund were reviewed and approved; and the new information about a previously submitted New Initiatives Grant request was reviewed. Bishop Lane is in conversation with the Haiti Committee about the direction of our relationship with the Diocese of Haiti.

Reports were received about successes in the New Initiatives Grants to Belfast and Camden. Announcements about different projects in Delegates' congregations were made.

Following a short break, Bishop Lane celebrated the Eucharist with Council and the meeting adjourned at 3:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Ring, Secretary to Council