

Diocesan Council – December 7-8, 2012 – St. Paul's, Brunswick  
Summary Minutes

Diocesan Council met at St. Paul's, Brunswick on Friday evening, December 7, and all day Saturday, December 8.

22 members and 4 diocesan staff attended. 3 members were excused.

Friday, following supper, Bishop Lane opened the meeting with prayer and invited everyone to introduce themselves. He then outlined the structure of the diocese – Convention, Council, Standing Committee, Trustees of Diocesan Funds, and program groups and reviewed how the revised Canon 15 addresses the Council in particular. Bishop Lane then asked the members to articulate their expectations of their work on Council and to talk about norms for the work of Council.

The evening closed with Compline at 8:00.

Saturday, Bishop Lane reconvened the meeting with prayer and 5 minutes of conversation about how the work of Council includes and impacts people in poverty. The mandate for all meetings in the diocese to begin with this conversation comes from an action of Diocesan Convention.

The minutes of the September meeting were confirmed as approved electronically.

Bishop Lane introduced the work that the Commission on Ministry and the Standing Committee have been doing about the process toward ordination, particularly ordination to the priesthood, in the Diocese. Many factors are contributing to the need to examine the process as it now exists and how it does and does not address the needs of the priesthood and the church going forward.

Bishop Lane introduced the letter about his challenge in his Convention Address that every congregation enter into a Holy Conversation about moving their "front lines" in mission in their communities. Every congregation will be provided with copies of *Mission Shaped Spirituality* by Susan Hope to empower these conversations.

Richard Rozene, Treasurer of the Diocese, Douglas Mayer, Chairman of the Finance Committee of Council, and Terry Reimer, Canon for Finance and Stewardship presented the financial reports.

- A motion to accept the financial report for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2012 was seconded, and approved.
- A motion to grant an additional \$1515 to St. Thomas', Winn from the New Initiatives money was seconded and approved. This additional money will allow them to purchase computer equipment to enhance what is proving to be a very important and successful program.
- A motion to bring money available from the 2012 New Initiatives funds forward for 2013 was seconded and approved. This exception to our accounting protocols, which to not provide for routine accrual, addresses the fact that a

couple of the projects adopted for 2012 were not able to be completed in this year and money was returned.

Doug Mayer presented the report of the work that the Finance Committee has done on revising the budget process so that it better reflects the priorities and mission of the Diocese and how work is accomplished.

Council then moved into 4 small groups to talk about questions related to the topics that had so far come before the meeting. One particular insight that appeared consistently was that we do not tell our story about being Episcopalian well and many people in our congregations do not understand our polity and its gifts.

Council viewed again the Ronald Heifetz video about adaptive change.

After a break for lunch, Council reconvened at 12:45.

Bishop Lane shared his calendar for the coming year, reported on his experience at CREDO, pastoral concerns around the Diocese, and with Canon Wiederkehr about congregations and clergy in transition.

He then invited Barbara Martin, his Executive Assistant, to share the new guidelines for grants from the Wolf Fund. Barbara has been working with both the Wolf and Loring Fund committees to review and update their guidelines and application processes for grants.

- A motion to approve the new guidelines for applications to the Wolf Fund was seconded and approved.

Bishop Lane then returned the conversation to the structure of the Finance Committee of Council and Council's connections with the Trustees of Diocesan Funds.

- The proposal for the restructuring of the Finance Committee passed as amended regarding eligibility for re-election. Nominees to the Finance Committee from Council were Fred Fowler for one year, Nancy Moore for two years, Elizabeth Miller for three years. There being no further nominations, they were elected.
- A motion to request the Trustees of Diocesan Funds to create a working committee of themselves, wardens, clergy, and congregational finance people to develop a useful information gloss to accompany each payout check was seconded and approved.
- A motion to request that the Trustees review determinant of payout value, examining other methods for determining equity value different from "the last business day of each quarter" was seconded and approved.

Canons Shott and Wiederkehr presented their reports. Canon Shott's report included an preview of the mobile app that Trinity, Saco, is developing with their New Initiatives grant. This app makes the congregation's web site very mobile friendly and easy to navigate.

Council then returned to matters of its own structure.

- A motion that the election of the Executive Committee [of Council] be annual and that the present committee continue for this year was seconded and approved. The Executive Committee is Bishop Lane, Claudia Smith, vice-chair, Doug Mayer, and Judy Burleigh.

The future work of the working groups was then discussed and will be further refined at the next meeting.

Canon Reimer gave his report focusing particularly on his work as liaison to the Trustees of Diocesan Funds and the Standing Committee for matters regarding real and tangible assets of the Diocese and its congregations.

The meeting ended with the commissioning of new members of Council and closing worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth M. Ring  
Secretary to Council and Registrar of the Diocese