

Episcopal Diocese of Maine  
Minutes of Diocesan Council  
May 16 and 17, 2014  
New England Outdoor Center, Millinocket

Present: Cynthia Beaulieu, Linda Capers, Lu-Anne Conner, Tim Fleck, Fred Fowler, Rebecca Grant, Liz Graves, Doug Mayer, Laura Peckham, Elizabeth Phipps, Jeff Prozzo, Doug Reighley, Joseph Riddick, Dick Rozene, Jane Schroeder, Claudia Smith, Mark Spahr

Excused: Tim Higgins & Tim Walmer

Staff: Terry Reimer, Jane Hartwell, Heidi Shott

Friday night conversation

Meeting opened at 9:00 am by Bishop Steve Lane

Morning Devotions

Maine Episcopal Missionary Society Annual Meeting

The Bishop asked if there was any new business and Terry said there was not. Jeff moved to end the meeting and it was seconded. The meeting was closed.

Diocesan Council Secretary Proposal

Bishop Lane proposed that Leigh Spahr become the Secretary of Diocesan Council as she is the "chosen one" to become Secretary of Diocesan Convention for 2014. Doug moved and it was seconded. After vote it was accepted.

Review minutes of February 2014 meetings:

Minutes accepted after no changes made.

Finance Committee Report:

First Quarter Financials , presented by Dick Rozene.

Our cash position was the best it's been in 3 or 4 years in March. Dick commended the congregations on keeping up on their assessments. The Bishop thinks part of the reason for that is that the recession has ended for most people in Maine. Terry also thinks that relationships with congregations have improved.

Bishop Lane moved to accept the first quarter financials report. It was seconded and after vote it was passed.

Parochial Reports:

Doug and the Bishop spoke on dealing with parochial reports.

Budget Adjustment Requests:

Doug Mayer spoke on behalf of the Finance Committee. There is \$112,000 in the budget for adjustments. Following are two requests for budget adjustments:

Committee on Indian Relations

The first request is from the Committee on Indian Relations and they are requesting more money for travel. Finance committee recommends that their budget be increased by \$900 with conditions.

Doug R. spoke on behalf of Phase 2 committee saying they were not consulted. This committee thought they were spending a lot of money and that it was not being well spent. Mark S. also spoke on behalf of that committee saying that they are trying to move them toward self sustainability by not giving them money every year.

Bishop spoke on the age/length of time the Indian committee has been around and has been largely successful but has not shared any information with anyone. He is favorably inclined to aid them given their attempt to try to change that fact. Laura and Jane also spoke on their behalf. Heidi spoke as the Indian Committee liaison also on their attempts to change. Claudia was supportive but also asked for some accountability for giving the money. Cindy spoke to the need for more education about the Indian culture and such. Mark and Doug R. both supported the money going to them with some accountability. Bishop asked for vote and it was passed.

#### Camp Bishopswood

The second request for budget adjustment is from Camp Bishopswood. They are requesting \$15,500 for capital expenses to replace equipment. Doug speaks on his report. The finance committee recommends that no financial grant be made to them. The Bishop spoke on his meeting with Mike Douglas. There is a new board and connections with parishes. The nature of the relationship between the diocese and the camp is confusing. The camp is the property of the diocese but.....who pays for what is unclear. This is going to be a long term discussion.

Jane spoke as part of the board of the camp. They thought they were supposed to wait until need for something to send a request. The Bishop says this is not emergency funding. Doug said the board has decided to go ahead with the project whether the money comes from assistance or not. If no assistance, the cost for "tuition" will go up over the next few years. Doug R. asking about delaying their request to give them a chance to raise themselves up and figure some things out. Jeff mentioned a possible business plan from them. Again there was question as to what is who's responsibility?

Amendment to add "at this time" to the first recommendation of no financial grant. Amendment was passed.

Then the recommendation to deny the request was passed.

#### Income Estimates for 2015

Doug spoke on the income being about \$70,000 less than this year. There is money in the 2014 budget that can be absorbed without making changes that anyone would notice. Bishop spoke on the shrinkage of income. Terry spoke on the idea of stability of the assessment rate and sustainability of the budget over a 5 year period that include building reserves that can be used in later years. The Bishop spoke on the "national asking" which is now at 19%. The bishop thinks it will drop to around 15% which would give us more money. That will be discussed at General Convention in 2015.

#### Targets for Strategic Mission Support and Phase II Committee

The finance committee needs two actions that are important to budget building over the summer: Strategic mission support target amount of \$120,000 and \$40,000 for phase 2.

#### Budget Calendar

Doug briefly reviewed the calendar.

## New Initiative Fund: Round 2

Heidi talked about the new initiative grants tracking chart from previous years. There were a total of 32 grants and 6 grants that either weren't drawn on or returned.

Looking for some kind of support in place for after offering these grants to make sure they are taken advantage of. Any ideas would be welcome.

New thing added to the Round 2 application is the "list the names and e-mail addresses of those who will be directly involved with this project".

Liz asked about maybe adding which congregation those people are affiliated.

Cindy asked about finding out about congregations elsewhere that might be doing what you are interested in doing. Maybe adding a check box on the application to make sure that these people are ok being contacted.

## Biennial Convention Task Force Interim Report

Members of the task force were listed by Claudia. Task force decided they didn't like the idea of the biennial convention. Recommend not going to a biennial convention right now with the understanding that we're looking for ways to make it more cost effective on a yearly basis. Some things talked about by the task force are to continue doing what we're doing by going around the diocese, go to a central location (most likely Bangor), have a set convention every time in Portland, toggle back and forth between Bangor and Portland. They also recommend convention to become a Saturday/Sunday event so that more working people could attend. That way there could be a Sunday service that could be sent out on the web for all to see. Laura spoke to the fact that it is very expensive but also extremely valuable. Two resolutions will be coming to convention.

1. Amendment to the \_\_\_\_\_ for the biennial convention.
2. Dust off the 2009 proposal for delegates based on average Sunday attendance numbers.

Heidi mentioned that convention is more than just a business meeting, it's about the body coming together. Claudia also mentioned the possibility of financial assistance for struggling parishes to get to convention. Mark S. asked about amending the language of the convention being made biennially by the bishop as opposed to by the convention itself.

## Youth Presence at Convention/Convention Planning Committee Report

Convention planning committee report

Doug R. spoke on that. There will be pre registration on the buses. Nametags brought from parishes to help. Videos will be used on the buses to show information about Aroostook County. Downsides are no breakout rooms for workshops so ideas for that would be climbing Haystack and going out to a potato farm in place of meeting in rooms.

Doug R. expressed his thanks to Jason Briggs of Trinity, Saco and VIP Travel for all of his help.

## Youth Presence at Convention:

How do we want to do this on an annual basis?

Jane spoke on this. Most of the elected youth at convention have been at convention prior as something else. Jane spoke to resolution 11 passed at convention in 2012.

Who is going to be the responsible party for the youth?

Bishop addressed this question – Claudia thinks it belongs to convention planning for them to identify the right party. Dick agrees from a financial standpoint to allocate the money for them.

Bishop agrees also. Mark has two separate questions – lodging which is definitely under planning committee. But who's responsible for the youth? The ones who are in contact with them? Or convention planning committee? For supervision and training.

## Re-Appointment of Nancy Moore

### Filling Area #3 seat

Bishop or the Council or Area 3 can fill

Moved by Doug for the bishop to appoint someone and seconded. Hand count ayes 4 nays 12.

Ask Area 3 to fill the seat themselves.

### Canon Missioners Reports

The Bishop spoke on Vicki Wiederkehr's report. Doug R. requesting a letter from council with thanks for all that she has done and that we're happy for her but she will be sorely missed.

Terry has nothing to add to his report. Cindy thanked Terry for his work.

Heidi has nothing to add to her report.

Jane gave a short speech about mission to DR. There will be another youth mission there in 2015 and then there will be discussion about continuing it or phasing out.

Bishop spoke about his thoughts and mentioned ER&D and "voluntourism". Spoke of there being things done there that may have been more about what we thought would be helpful than what really was needed. The relationship has evolved and improved but it may be time to go elsewhere and help others.

Blessing and meeting adjourned for lunch at 12:05 pm.

### Meeting reconvened at 1:00

The Bishop spoke about his sabbatical.

The Bishop also spoke about changes at Loring House and changes in the diocese.

Terry also spoke about the transition at Loring House.

The Bishop handed around copies of a draft of a letter he wrote to Mayors in the state of Maine as a member of Bishops Against Gun Violence to see if they would like to become part of Mayors Against Illegal Guns. There are currently 6 mayors in the state who are not part of that coalition.

### Bishops Report- Becoming a Missional Church

(See attached)

Claudia voiced concern about The Bishop's second proposal. Worried about no "voice on high" and how people will act with the self organization. Jane and Laura also voiced concern.

Discussion of Vicki's retirement. The Bishop will be the transition officer in the interim of Vicki's retirement and the hiring of a new person.

### Announcements

Meeting concluded at 2:40 p.m. and was followed by Eucharist.