

September 6, 2014 Grace Episcopal Church, Bath, ME

Members Present: Bishop Stephen Lane, Claudia Smith, Elizabeth Phipps, Liz Graves, Fred Fowler, Doug Reighley, Linda Cappers, Cynthia Beaulieu, Rebecca Grant, Joseph Riddick, Tim Walmer, Nancy Moore, Doug Mayer, Lu-Anne Conner, Dick Rozene, Mark Spahr, Jane Schroeder, Laura Peckham, Jeff Prozzo, Tim Higgins, Nina Pooley

Staff Present: Jane, Hartwell, Terry Reimer, Heidi Shott

Others Present: Leigh Spahr, Secretary;

Excused: John Burgess and Tim Fleck

The meeting was convened at 9:00 am by Bishop Steve. He then asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the previous Council meeting. After no changes, the minutes were approved.

Finance Committee Report

Review Second Quarter Financials (Dick Rozene)

Liabilities and Equities were highlighted. Bishop Steve spoke to the Clergy Ministry Reserve. So far, it hasn't been needed but it may need to be drawn upon soon. In 2014 assessments, Lisbon is 4 months behind and Saco is 3 months behind. Time has been given to them to the end of September and then some more discussion will be happening. Waterboro is closed but will still pay its assessment when the property is sold because the parish remains in existence until convention votes. Brewer and Old Town are a month in advance. Fred asked about travel reimbursement and the increase in cost. Bishop Steve explained that this has increased due to more travel to the parishes.

Bishop Steve asked if, pending audit, is the report approved as presented? It was approved.

Review Proposed 2015 Budget (Doug Mayer)

Doug thanked parishes for getting their parochial reports in on time. Income up a little which is good considering no increase in income in last 5 years prior.

Aid to Congregations - Calais \$11,150 and Rumford \$3,870 and Brewer \$5000 will be taken out and moved to reserve amount pending further discussions with those parishes.

Bishop Steve asked for any questions about budget proposal. Nancy spoke to the group mentioned for funding by Doug. Convention approved another five year companion relationship with the Diocese of Haiti. Future Council meeting should discuss dealing with Convention approved programs and how the budgeting takes place. Doug suggested that Mission Priorities Review Committee, and not Finance Committee, should shepherd

those decisions.

Council broke out into small groups to discuss the proposed budget and then reported out.

There was much discussion about changing the presentation prior to convention. Bishop Steve said there would be no vote on the budget right now. Break first. Reconvene in ten minutes.

Meeting reconvened at 11:00 am and Bishop Steve asked Terry to speak.

Compensation Committee Report (Terry)

Continue with current formula. (see Res 5)

Minimum compensation for supply clergy to be increased for the first time in many years. (see Res 5)

New Initiative Grants (Heidi)

Terry asks the Council to base their decisions on the merit of the applications and not deal with matching the funding to the amounts available.

Motions asked for each one.

Motion for St. Ann's, Windham – Claudia moved and Doug R. seconded. Motion passed.

Motion for St. Anne's, Calais – Doug R. moved to not grant from new initiatives but \$10,000 from front line funding. Rebecca seconded. Discussion ensued. Motion carried.

St. George's, Sanford – Jane moved and Doug R. seconded. Claudia moved that this is third and final phase for this parish and Doug M. seconded. Carried. Bishop suggested Council return to it application in December after clarification from St. George's.

St. Nicholas, Scarborough – Doug R. moved to grant the \$2200. Seconded by Tim H. Motion carried.

Trinity, Portland for All Saints Church - \$4,600 for this year. Carried.

Kennebec 6 – moved by Claudia seconded by Tim W. to give them the full amount. Laura asked to remind them that this is a one shot deal, especially in regard to salary. Doug R. requested an update from them at December Council meeting. Motion carried with those provisions.

Break for lunch at 12:15 pm.

Bishop Steve reconvened the meeting at 12:50 pm.

2014 MDG funding

\$13,000 grant. To Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza through the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. Moved by Doug R. seconded by Doug M. Motion carried.

Convention Preview

Theme (Steve)

“On the Road Together: Taking Time, Watching for God, Showing Mercy”

Nominations (Heidi)

Resolutions: Convention, EPF, Compensation, Provincial Synod

Biennial Convention TF Recommendations (Claudia)

Report on Basecamp – amendment to (first reading) last year’s recommendation and the final recommendation is not going to biennial at this time. Having worship be broadcast across diocese. Council and bishop put together new group to work on future.

Dissolution of union with Caribou, Mars Hill & Waterboro (Steve)

Forfeiting the union – parishes actions are prior. Will take time to recognize those congregations.

Cancelled 2015 and 2016 Portland reservations for Convention.

Will find new place for meeting rooms. Thanksgiving for the current Convention Planning Committee

Property matters (Terry)

St. Luke’s, Caribou - tax assessment is 3 times asking price – getting reassessment

St. Anne’s, Mars Hill - under lease purchase arrangement

St. Anne’s, Calais/ St. Luke’s, Woodland - property being emptied before sale can happen.

St Aidan’s, Machias has been approached by the federal government to acquire a piece of their property

St. Mark’s, Augusta - report will be provided to their vestry on four buildings on the property.

Christ Church, Biddeford - Housing Authority lease would purchase at some point. In 2013, they didn’t want to agree to purchase – only the lease through 2015. Seeds of Hope Neighborhood Center in discussion with Housing Authority first quarter

2015.

St. Ann's, Windham - question of whether they can build on the property they have. Alternatives are being looked at.

St. Stephen the Martyr, Waterboro - They accepted an offer and the sale closed 2 weeks ago.

St. Mark's Home is ministry of St. Mark's Church. Home for indigent women originally. Decision made to close the home because of fragility of St. Mark's Church. An attorney is now working on a determination of what must be done with the property when it ceases to operate as a home.

The Cathedral and Loring House. Cathedral and the diocese are exploring plans that combine the two places in a couple of ways. Trying to use the buildings for more neighborhood activities. Looking at the future of the complex. Will spending the money to make changes be a sign of hope for the diocese? The discussion raises the question of whether this is the right time to spend the money needed to get buildings up to code. Bishop to keep everyone informed on any decisions made.

Staff Transition (introduce Michael Ambler)

Things seem more efficient at Loring House. Commend Teresa and Barb for their hard work. Michael Ambler will start as Canon to the Ordinary on September 8, 2014.

There will be more presence of canons in the parishes. Reexamine the workload with the addition of Michael. Transition ministry also Canon to the Ordinary.

All in all, Bishop Steve is happy with the transition.

Hull's cove new rector – no name yet

Mary Ann Taylor - interim in charge in Belfast

St. Patrick's, Brewer, and St. Phillips, Wiscasset, have short lists. Grace, Bath has called interim.

St. Peter's, Rockland has short list

Nancy Moore - 18th November celebration of new ministry

Pre-Convention Meetings (Heidi)

Meeting Agenda/Process (Dates & Places)

Elections

Coverage & Online meeting

Vote on 2015 proposed Budget

Bishop asked for questions on the budget. There will be a budget resolution presented at convention. Has been moved and seconded by finance committee. Three enabling resolutions in favor. Carried.

Other Business

Presiding Bishop will be coming to Maine. Will be attending St. Mary's 125th anniversary Sunday service in April 2015.

Discussion on what's going on in the parishes.

Bishop out of the Diocese for House of Bishop's meeting from the 12th to the 28th of September. Meeting in Taiwan.

Farewells and Thanks

Doug R. will be departing from Council. Would like to see some younger members join and will be available to counsel anyone with any questions.

Doug M. will be retiring. He spoke that the growth of council under Bishop Steve's leadership has been amazing. Bishop thanked Doug for pushing us in a new direction and opening the dialogue between the finance committee and the diocese.

The meeting adjourned after Bishop Steve's blessing at 2:50 pm.

Next Meeting: Friday, Dec 12 and Saturday, Dec 13, St. Mark's Church, Waterville