

Diocesan Council
December 13-14, 2013
St. Paul's, Brunswick

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

Staff present: Vicki Wiederkehr, Jane Hartwell, Terry Reimer, Heidi Shott

Members Excused: Mark Spahr

Friday, December 13:

Welcome, new member orientation, and discussion

Bishop Lane welcomed everyone and particularly new members. He offered an overview of the diocesan structure and looked at Canon 15 that outlines the make-up and responsibilities of Council.

Bishop Lane covered norms:

- Attendance is important because Council only meets four times a year.
- Members will be well-prepared. Please use Basecamp
- Members may speak freely; content of meetings is public, comments by individuals is not reported
- Council will start and end on time
- Everyone should have an opportunity to speak before others speak a second time

Bishop Lane covered the internal structures of Council, new members will be solicited on Saturday.

Bishop Lane led a discussion on "Where is the Episcopal Church in Maine headed?" guided by an excerpt of Chapter 5 - "Seeking the World's Hospitality" of Dwight Zscheile's book **People of the Way**.

Saturday, December 14

Morning Prayer

Set officers, committee and task force appointments

Officers of Council: Bishop, Treasurer, Chair of the Finance Committee, Vice-Chair. The role of Secretary and the question of who will take the minutes was discussed. It was agreed, as a test, that staff would post a minutes template based on the February

2014 agenda prior to the meeting and, at the start of the meeting, a volunteer will be recruited from the membership.

Vice Chair: Claudia Smith nominated. Approved by Council.

Executive Committee: Bishop, Vice-Chair, Chair of the Finance Committee, and Member-at-Large: Cynthia Beaulieu nominated. Approved by Council.

Finance Committee: Dick Rozene nominated Lu-Anne Conner (2 year term) and Fred Fowler (3 year term). Approved by Council. Terry Reimer is staff liaison.

Communications/Web Hub Task Force: At least four people needed. Laura Peckham, Tim Fleck, Tim Walmer, Fred Fowler, Claudia Smith volunteer. Heidi Shott is staff liaison.

Mission Criteria Committee: Nancy Moore served as Chair. Doug Reighley, Liz Graves, Tim Higgins, Linda Cappers, Doug Reighley, and Mark Spahr will serve. Terry Reimer is staff liaison.

Gifts and Bequest Acceptance Committee: Jane Schroeder, John Burgess. Terry Reimer is staff liaison.

Youth Ministry Discussion:

Jane Hartwell made a half-hour presentation on youth ministry: she covered the history of youth ministry in the diocese, a snapshot of 2012, and the new configuration. Youth ministry, which was once under the old model a discrete program of the Diocese, is in the process of being better integrated. Youth events will be run primarily by volunteers, and Jane will be responsible for oversight and leading the Maine Episcopal Youth Event Collaboration group. She is also cultivating the Christian Education Collaboration group as well as adult education/formation. The former is well underway, the latter needs to be invented. Electronic technology will assist in connecting people across the diocese. Hope to build communities of practice.

People interested in conversation about adult formation: Laura Peckham, Claudia Smith, Nancy Moore.

Tim Higgins asked about the Convention discussion on youth ministry and the vote to add staff for youth ministry to the 2014 budget. Bishop Lane: As we build next year's budget we can take youth ministry into consideration, but the 2014 budget is in place.

Finance Committee Report:

Doug Mayer's outlined the work of the Finance Committee over the course of the year:

1Q:

- Look at budget adjustments for the current year
- By March look at income assumptions for the next budget

2Q:

- ask Council to approve the budget perimeters; baselines for major sections of the budget

3Q:

- programs are evaluated by Mission Criteria Committee
- Finance executive committee meets with Bishop on operating information
- Finance Committee meets in August to finalize a budget recommended to Diocesan Council

4Q:

- September Council asks to make a recommendation for the next year's line-by-line budget
- Convention considers and approves the budget

Dick Rozone reviewed the third quarter 2013 financial report.

He asked that members review the line for "Reserve for Budget Adjustments" which is less than it was in 2012 and continues to decline.

He asked that members review the assessment page and notes congregations that are delinquent in assessment payment. Only one or two parishes are in significant arrears. Month to month we are always about \$80,000 behind in assessment payments.

Specific lines: Summer chapel income line at \$30,000 was well below in September. The position is somewhat better by the end of November.

Moved Reighley, seconded Walmer to accept the Financial Report.

New Initiative Grant

Should not change the name. It is known and best describes the process. There is \$25,000 available for 2014 - \$10,000 from the CDF budget and \$15,000 from the Foundations for Ministry endowment income.

People already know it by New Initiatives. Repeat funding is not as helpful because one-time funding is a kickstart and requires the recipient to either make it work or drop it.

Timeline will work back to allow Council to have two weeks to review. One member of Council will be the presenter for each application. Applicants will be encouraged to contact their Canon Missioner prior to completing the application.

Ask: Applications that indicate a congregation is "shovel ready" will receive preference.

Limit materials to one page. Staff will vet any additional materials rather than send voluminous materials to all members of Council.

Bishop's Report Part 1

Reviews sabbatical plan.

He will be back for the clergy retreat the week before Holy Week, in the southern part of the state for Holy Week and Easter, and fully returned to work after Easter.

Bishop Lane went over the "granting greater freedom" memo sent to clergy-in-charge and senior wardens. Fred Fowler reminded members that nonprofits must be careful about fee-for-use rather than donations by outside group.

Strategic Congregational Grants - Part 1

~~Grants-in-Aid~~ - A thing of the past

Powerpoint attached to the minutes.

Exercise: Members paired up and looked at a map of the diocese to see which congregations are near one another.

Noonday prayer and lunch.

Bishop's Report - Part 2

Housing allowance for Bishop Lane for 2014

"WHEREAS the Rt. Rev. Stephen Lane is employed as a minister of the Gospel by the Episcopal Diocese of Maine, which does not provide a residence for him, the Diocesan Council resolves that of the total compensation from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014 paid to Bishop Lane that \$34,666.67 be designated a housing allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the IRS Code of 1986."

Approved

Claudia as Vice Chair will appoint members of the Biennial Convention Task Force

Rebecca Grant

Laura Peckham

Doug Mayer

Doug Reighley

volunteered

to convene in the new year.

Strategic Congregational Grants - Part 2

Shared July 1945 map of the diocese and the Central Maine Mission from The Northeast.

Members responded to what they were struck by in the first exercise:

- Distances between congregations
- Lots of empty space where there's nothing but trees and blueberries

- Palmyra is the northern edge
- There are centers within 30 minutes drive time

Second exercise:

Members paired up again to brainstorm possible scenarios for aided congregations. Pairs shared their ideas with the full Council. This process demonstrated a wide variety of possibilities.

What have you learned about this process?

- It's hard
- Big difference between putting a circle around a geographical center and talking to the people in those places.

What other things would you need to know to make a decision?

- Photos to show the place and people we're talking about
- Information from www.episcopalchurch.org on churches and communities
- To hear the people of the congregation tell their own story

A process to determine aid to congregations in 2015 will be presented by the Finance Committee to Council at an upcoming meeting. The brainstorming activities at this meeting will be taken into consideration as they formulate a proposal.

Announcements:

- Seeds of Hope Jubilee Center heard on 12/13 that they received a \$20,000 Mission Enterprise Zone grant from The Episcopal Church. We have \$11,500 in matching funds for this project in the 2014 budget. Checking to see if it needs to be a 1:1 match.
- Tim Walmer commended the partnership with missionaries and encouraged members to be in touch with their missionary for support.
- Transition ministry: increasing number of short lists for congregational searches
- Terry updated members on negotiations with Bank of America on services for the Trustees of Diocesan Funds
- Heidi offered to share materials from Vanco Services about online giving.
- July 11 - 13, 2014 Downeast Spiritual Life Conference with John Philip Newell at Maine Maritime Academy in Castine
- The Cathedral and Loring House will engage in a campus-wide engineering study about use of the buildings.
- Bishop Lane expressed his gratitude for the Council's work on hard issues around strategic support for congregations.