

Minutes of Diocesan Council  
February 1, 2014  
St. Martin's Episcopal Church  
Palmyra, Maine

Members Present: Cynthia Beaulieu, Linda Capers, Lu-Anne Conner, Tim Fleck, Fred Fowler, Rebecca Grant, Liz Graves, Tim Higgins, Doug Mayer, Laura Peckham, Elizabeth Phipps, Doug Reighley, Dick Rozene, Claudia Smith, Mark Spahr, Tim Walmer

Also Present: Nina Pooley

Members Excused: John Burgess, Nancy Moore, Jeff Prozzo, Joe Riddick, Jane Schroeder

Staff Present: Terry Reimer, Jane Hartwell, Heidi Shott

Bishop Steve Lane is on Sabbatical

Doug Reighley volunteered to take the minutes.

Meeting opened at: 0900 by Chairperson Claudia Smith

Devotions led by Cindy Beaulieu with a reading from A Mystic Garden, by Gunilla Norris, a silent meditation, and sharing.

Review of Fourth Quarter 2013 and 2013 Year-End Financial Reports, presented by Dick Rozene:

The 2013 financial statement reflects a surplus of \$19,211. Dick commended Terry for prudent financial cash management of our diocesan resources. He discussed the 'account payable line' and where we are paying our bills from. After discussion within Council, Dick moved acceptance of the 2013 financial report. Council voted to accept.

Carryover Requests from 2013 to 2014 as presented by Doug Mayer:

Move the surplus of \$19,211

To line 160706 - \$14,039

Of line 160706 - To line 163407, \$4,000

- To line 190111, \$10,039

To line 160700 - \$5,172

160706 is for prior year carry-over

163407 is for Bishop/Council designated leadership development purposes

190111 is for Bishop/Council designated stewardship/evangelism purposes

160700 is the Fund for Budget Adjustment

These were approved by Council.

Action on 2014 budget requests by Doug Mayer:

Move that the Church of the Good Shepherd – Rangeley receive a Grant in Aid for \$7,000 from line 160700. This church has had a significant drop in membership and loss of pledges. After the Finance Committee conversed with the Rector and Diocesan Missioner, they recommended this motion. The motion was approved by Council

Review 2015 Budget Process led by Doug Mayer:

Budget planning will begin after all parochial reports have been received. The reports due deadline is **March 3, 2014**. Early planning steps include; planning income projections, planning our expense budget to meet our income projections. Parochial reports are checked for accuracy and changes like membership and pledge numbers. Corrections are to be made before the national Church deadline at the end of May.

During the summer, the Finance Committee will work with Mission Priorities group (aka Phase II) and the Strategic Mission Support group. The last week of August is when the budget recommendation for Council is finalized. In September Council votes to recommend the budget to Convention.

RE Strategic Mission Support: “We are not close to having this ready, either as policy or procedure.” There will probably be a working group meeting March 22 to address these issues. Some guidelines we have are; support will be to areas (the 30 minute rule), areas would demonstrate viability and vitality, funds will be used for clergy compensation, 3 years of support, and “buying in”.

Consider New Initiative Fund grant applications:

Four applications were received by the January deadline. These applications were reviewed and then presented as follows:

1. Encounters – Community Youth Ministry, from St. Margaret’s, Belfast. Presented by Lu-Anne Conner. The request is to fund the final development of the training manual and a planning grant for evangelism. Lu-Anne requested Council to approve \$4,000 of the \$9,000 requested to fund the evangelism portion of the grant. Council felt that prior grant funds had not been used to meet their intended purpose and that this request was not therefore a “New Initiative”. The motion to approve failed.
2. Women’s Initiative, St. Peter’s, Bridgton. Presented by Tim Higgins. The request is to supply startup costs for copying, art supplies and other basic needs to “support women in transition with educational, emotional, and coaching backing. Members realized how this pilot program will be easily expanded throughout the Diocese. The grant of \$2,400 motion was passed by Council.
3. The Stockell Program for at risk young adults, St. George’s, York Harbor. Presented by Linda Cappers. The request of \$4,000 is to cover the first year costs for the program. It is bringing to Maine the Leadership Development Initiative program developed in Massachusetts. St Georges is partnering with York County Community Services in working with “at risk” 17 to 20 year old youth. St. George’s is also seeking other grants to cover the startup costs. Council approved the motion for \$4,000.

4. Godly Play Training, Christian Ed Collaboration. Presented by Fred Fowler. Although Godly Play has and is being use in our Parishes for many years, we have never raised up our own trainers. By having our own certified trainers, we will offset the high cost individual congregations incurred with the program. The motion to grant the request of \$6,700 was approved by Council.

Heidi Shott reported that Seeds of Hope Jubilee Center is soon to receive a \$20,000 Mission Enterprise Zone grant to support a new women's empowerment initiative and a new program to help late teens and young adults with job and life skills. Discussion included a hope that NIF grantees #2 and #3 could collaborate with Seeds of Hope on best practices in these similar ministries.

Consider housing resolution for Rev. Shirley Bowen, presented by Terry Reimer. Whereas Shirley serves in an extension of the ministry of the Diocese at Seeds of Hope, a housing allowance of \$21,000 was approved by Council.

Task Force assignments presented by Claudia Smith:  
Committees will be constructed with a balance of geographic and interest in representation. The discussion was focused on the Bi-Annual Convention committee.

Other Business:

The Web Hub Taskforce has selected 7 sites: Belfast, The Cluster, Millinocket, Palmyra, Windham, Bangor-Brewer, and Brunswick-Falmouth.

Our Missioners shared their views on their new roles – visitations are powerful, sensing leadership vacuums, youth programs healthy, emotional challenges of highs and lows, wonderful to be able to connect parishes with similar interests and ideas, not having enough time to share within ourselves, letting people know they are not alone, and we can see its working. Please hold the Cluster in our prayers as changes are happening.

Council voted to have a second round of New Initiative Grant Requests at the September meeting.

Meeting adjourned at: 1503