

Meeting of the Diocesan Council 21 February 2015 St. Patrick's, Brewer

Present: Stephen Lane, Laura Peckham, Rebecca Grant, Rita Steadman, Joseph Riddick, Tim Higgins, Linda Cappers, Elizabeth Phipps, Mark Spahr, Tim Walmer, Peter Bickford, Liz Graves, Nancy Moore, Dick Rozene, Nina Pooley, Fred Fowler, Kim Wallace, Claudia Smith, Cynthia Beaulieu, Betsy York, Lu-Anne Conner.

Absent: Tim Fleck and Jane Schroeder

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

Morning Devotions (Cindy)

The Bishop called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Review minutes of 12-13 December 2014 meeting

After discussion, minutes were accepted without objection.

Finance Committee Report

Dick and Terry both spoke on this.

- Review Fourth Quarter 2014 Financials
- 2014 Year End Financials
- end of year adjustments/carryovers
- specific line items to be addressed
- late assessments - specific cases

Jefferson - not paid

Lisbon - Terry has been working with them to re-organize their debt. Given them 6 month payment moratorium. Using first 6 months of 2015 to get paid full on assessments.

Saco - still not receiving payments. There was the illness of their treasurer & computer trouble. Linda spoke on behalf. Dick asked for them to try to make finance committee aware of issues earlier than this time.

Winn - not paid but will be recovered from sale of rectory.

Bishop's Report

The Bishop spoke on the difficulty of his idea of walking and praying the neighborhood. He had no idea how difficult people would find it.

- Bishop's Priorities

give time/energy/money to new communities of faith

work on worship and formation

to model some of what he's asking for

- Capital Campaign

The Cathedral is working on a capital campaign. A firm by the name of CSS will be helping. There is a question as to whether the staff at Loring House and the Bishop will have the ability to work on this campaign? He talked about the struggles with limited staff at Loring House but how wonderful they all are.

- Convention Planning Report

The Bishop gave his thanks to the Convention Planning Committee and Barb Martin for their hard work trying to find a new place.

Convention will be at USM and the Italian Heritage Center for the banquet and the Cathedral for worship

Seeds of Hope

Nina Pooley spoke on this.

In 2014 Seeds of Hope cost the diocese:

\$11,500 in grant and \$38,353.18 in deficit covered by diocese = \$49,853.18

Of which the \$38,353.18 was paid by the diocese to cover the payroll, with the understanding that it was a cash flow issue, and would be realized by the end of year or shortly there after.

Proposed Budget - 2015

In 2015 the Seeds of Hope budget presumes the following cost to the diocese:

\$12,500 in Mission Priorities grant and an additional \$31,533.84 in deficit to be covered by diocese = \$44,033.84.

Subtracting the \$8,200 from the city that Shirley reported early this week: the deficit would be \$23,333.84 plus the \$12,500 from the diocese which would = \$35,833.84 in cost to the diocese for 2015, should all other funding come through.

Total cost to the diocese for Seeds of Hope for 2014 and 2015: \$85,687.02

That number assumes that the 10K in the 2015 budget under Episcopal Church is from TEC and not the Diocese of Maine, and that the proposed additional funding will be realized now that Seeds of Hope has regained their nonprofit status, which they lost mid summer because they failed to file with the IRS on time, and failed to file for an extension. It has become clear that failure to secure funds through other sources will result in further cost to the diocese as demonstrated by the actions of Seeds of Hope in 2014. While we of the diocesan finance committee appreciate the ministry of Seeds of Hope, we

have grave concerns about the cost of this program to the diocese, the financial management demonstrated thus far, the ongoing financial insecurity as shown in their proposed 2015 budget, as well as the assumption made by this program that the people of the diocese are willing to fund any program of the diocese to this extent, without properly and transparently asking that of the diocese through appropriate channels. As stewards of the financial security of the diocese, we feel that without a mandate by convention to fund a single program to the extent of more than \$85K over two years, it is our responsibility to make the following recommendations:

The Diocesan Finance Committee makes the following recommendations to Diocesan Council concerning Seeds of Hope.

1. That the funds advanced for payroll in 2014 to Seeds of Hope (\$38,353.18) be treated as a receivable and not absorbed by the diocese, or in any way be considered a retroactive grant.
2. That the Finance Committee reaffirms the grant of \$12,500 budgeted and approved by convention in the 2015 diocesan budget to go to the Seeds of Hope program.
3. That, given the amount of the deficit in the proposed 2015 Seeds of Hope budget, no further financial support be provided from the diocese to Seeds of Hope.
4. Finally, we recommend a plan of dissolution be developed without delay between the board of Seeds of Hope and the finance committee, and that operations cease as soon as possible and no later than June 30, 2015.

Following the report and recommendations by the Finance Committee, the Council then heard a presentation by Shirley Bowen

Shirley wants to talk about the bigger picture of mission and ministry rather than the financial part.

She states that for Seeds of Hope everyday is an Ash Wednesday. They encounter people outside the church. Many people find comfort there. It is a Jubilee Center and they serve 60-80 people per day breakfast/lunch, they give out free clothing, they have a career resource center. They are sought out by different parts of the city for assistance. They help with funerals and memorial services for people who may not have a religious affiliation.

Their foundation is the baptismal covenant of the church. The ministry of Christ Church didn't end, it transformed.

She stated that there are no grants at this time but Lisa Meader Turnbull is helping them. They have also received assistance from some of their neighboring churches.

She stated that the board has been actively “problem solving” since Housing Authority walked away. Gave her thanks to Council for allowing her to speak on behalf of Seeds of Hope.

Bishop asked for questions from council for Shirley.

There was some discussion about the partnership of Christ Church, Biddeford, Seeds of Hope and the Biddeford Housing Authority. Seeds of Hope is a lessee of the church. Christ Church is under the Bishop as CEO for use of the building because Christ Church is not closed but has no members. The Housing Authority withdrew with no notice.

Jubilee status would be kept if dissolution.

The Bishop called for a short break for 15 minutes at 11:00 am

Called the meeting back to order at 11:15 am.

Bishop asked if council would mind moving forward for now but will come back to Seeds of Hope discussion after lunch.

Consideration of 7 New Initiative Fund grants

Heidi spoke on this. Total of \$30,050 requested. Terry went through what he considers is available which is \$49,000 total. There could be an additional \$5000 for second round (domestic poverty grants)

Joe spoke on “Walk with Me: The Journey” from St. Matthew’s, Hallowell.

Moved and seconded. After discussion, was passed

Jane spoke on “Creating an E-Library” from the Diocese.

Moved and seconded. Bishop asked council would you support this if funds can be found? All ayes.

Referred to Finance committee.

Nancy spoke on “Talking about alcohol & addiction” from St. Paul’s Brunswick

Moved and seconded. After no questions or comments, passed.

Laura spoke on “Thistle Farms & Becca Stevens” from the Human Trafficking Ministry Group

Moved and seconded. After no questions or comments, passed.

Broke for lunch at 12:15 and reconvened at 12:55.

Linda spoke on “Holiday Food/Fine Craft Sale” from St. Dunstan’s, Ellsworth

Moved and seconded to move to ECW fund and not be a New Initiative.
After much discussion, there was a vote and the motion was lost.

Rebecca moved and it was seconded that we deny the application under New Initiative. After vote, it was passed to deny funding.

Heidi spoke on “Food for Thought” from St. Columba’s, Boothbay Harbor

Moved and seconded to not grant the funding because it would be paying for a salary.

Joe moved to table this until the next meeting and it was seconded.

After vote the motion to table was denied.

Then vote was taken to not fund the grant, and it was carried.

Heidi spoke on “I am a Mainer” Education Campaign from the Diocese

Claudia moved to defer pending policy and it was seconded.

After Terry clarified whether this would be like the E-Library grant, Claudia withdrew the motion.

Rebecca moved to fund it the same way as E-Library and it was seconded.

Rita moves to defer until the next meeting and it was seconded.

After vote, motion to defer was passed.

Some things that need to be made clear for a New Initiatives Grant is:

Needs to be new and shouldn’t support a salary

Review Strategic Mission Grant process and current practice

Nina spoke on this as did Terry.

- An Overview of the Grant Process
- Principles of Application
- Current action items

Rangeley and Rumford

Dick spoke on Rangeley. He recommends that they receive the additional \$3400 from reserve. Moved and seconded. After vote it was passed to release the additional \$3400.

Nina spoke on Rumford and the Finance Committee recommends that they receive the \$3870 from reserve. Moved and seconded. After discussion and vote it was passed to release the money.

2015 Budget

Nina spoke on budget adjustment requests and the recommendations of the Finance Committee. Recommendations are as follows:

(these have all been moved and seconded by committee)

To balance the deficit from draft 2014 financial reports (67,890.37)

we propose the following adjustments:

For the account 186960 Seeds of Hope Jubilee Center

the amount in excess of budget to be reclassified as receivable 38,353.17

From account 161100 Reserve Legal

reduce reserve account 10,835.15

From account 161100 Loring House/Emmanuel Chapel Maintenance Reserve	
reduce reserve	6,234.02
From account 163409 Path to Clergy Ministry Reserve	
reduce reserve	6,234.02
From account 163410 "Jeremiah" Reserve	
reduce reserve	6,234.01
net surplus (deficit) after proposed adjustments	0.00

Resolutions to move money from reserve accounts to balance the 2014 budget:

After vote, all four were passed.

Resolutions about Seeds of Hope

(these have all been moved and seconded by committee)

first recommendation: after vote it was passed

second recommendation: after vote it was passed

third recommendation: after vote it was passed

fourth recommendation: after vote it was passed

Bishop then added a couple of things about the Committee on Indian Relations.

The committee has aged and the chair is vacant at this time. The Bishop has no idea who would even chair it at this point. He has written to them to ask them to say goodbye to the committee and end it.

Response to The New Parish

Bishop also recommends “Slow Church” as another choice

Other Business

Kim Wallace announced that Maine will have a youth delegate going to General Convention this year.