

Diocesan Council Meeting – December 11-12, 2015 – Marriott Sable Oaks, Portland, Maine

Friday, 11 December 2015

Present: Stephen Lane, Laura Peckham, Fred Fowler, Paul Beaudette, Joe Riddick, Elizabeth Phipps, Kim Wallace, Craig Hacker, Gail Chandler, Rita Steadman, Betsy York, Kevin Kinsey, John Balicki, Mark Spahr, Jane Hartwell, Lael Sorenson, Jane Schroeder, Liz Graves, Peter Bickford, Corey Walmer, Nancy Moore. Heidi Shott, Nina Pooley, Dick Rozene, Terry Reimer, Michael Ambler.

Introductions and Orientation

As there are many new members of council, The Bishop spoke about the norms and expectations of council as well as the canonical responsibilities of Council members and canonical requirements.

The Bishop then went over Diocesan Council Structure/Membership & Review Structure of Sub-committees

- Executive
- Finance
- Mission Priorities
- Strategic Mission Support
- Maine Episcopal Network for Justice (MENJ)
(formerly the Public Policy Network)

The Bishop spoke about The Agile Church by Dwight Zscheile and there were copies for all to take and read.

The Bishop showed a short video about Establishment duties and Adaptive change.

The meeting ended at 8:00 pm with Compline

Saturday, 12 December 2015

The meeting began at 8:40

A scripture reading was read aloud and then council broke into groups to discuss how each person interpreted the reading.

The September minutes were reviewed – they were accepted.

Heidi then spoke about Digital Faith. Ending our contract with them. For the congregations that were working with them, Heidi will be working with them to move them to a new site.

Finance Committee Report

Nina spoke on Budget Adjustments and SMS adjustments which there are none at this time.

Review third quarter 2015 financial information – Dick spoke on this
Dover Foxcroft and Brownville Jct. – SMS recommended to split the monies more like 70/30 instead of 50/50 but after speaking to the congregations, it was decided to split it 50/50 so as to reflect the efforts of both congregations working toward a closer relationship. Mark spoke on this.

Proposed and moved by Finance Committee that the amount is \$15,120.00 - \$7,560.00 per congregation. After vote it was approved.

As of end of November, the only congregations that are behind in their assessments are:

Lisbon – significant problem with mortgage. Terry working with them.

Saco – Fred spoke to the Senior Warden there and they're hoping to be balanced when the year ends.

Winn – Terry spoke on this. Treasurer died and there was an issue of misuse of funds. Damage to roof and stained glass from storm. Working with Terry to try to catch up.

2016 Clergy Housing Resolutions for Staff

Housing Resolution for The Rt. Rev. Stephen Lane 2016

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 the total compensation from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 paid to Bishop Lane that \$35,255.91 be designated a housing allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the IRS Code of 1986.

Housing Resolution for The Rev. Canon Michael Ambler 2016

Whereas the Rev. Canon Michael Ambler 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, 2016 through December 31, 2016 paid to Canon Ambler, that \$22,000.00 be designated a housing allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the IRS Code of 1986.

Housing Resolution for The Rev. Shirley Bowen 2016

Whereas the Rev. Shirley Bowen is employed as a minister of the Gospel by Seeds of Hope, an extension of ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Maine, which does not provide a residence for her, the Diocesan Council resolves that of the total compensation from January 1, 2016 through

December 31, 2016 paid to the Rev. Bowen, that \$21,000.00 be designated a housing allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the IRS Code of 1986.

- The Rt. Rev. Stephen Lane – moved, seconded, passed.
- The Rev. Canon Michael Ambler – moved, seconded, passed.
- The Rev. Shirley Bowen – moved, seconded, passed.

There was a 15 minute break and then the meeting reconvened.

The Bishop passed around an op-ed piece that he wrote with Reza Jalali that will be appearing in the BDN next week about the Syrian refugees that are coming into this country.

Heidi and Nina also spoke on ways to help with the asylum seekers and refugees.

Heidi spoke on the following grant requests:

International Outreach (Ministry Grant Requests) – There is only one request
Chuck & Beth Bradshaw – request for \$21,500 total for music building. Moved and seconded that the entire \$12,000 that is available from this grant be sent to the Bradshaws to go towards the cost of the music building. Rita moved to amend and it was seconded that \$6000 be sent to the Bradshaws and \$6000 to ER&D for refugee response. After discussion, the amendment was passed. After vote, the resolution passed as amended.

Note: there appears to be some process questions/issues in this area that we will not be able to address today.

Domestic Outreach (Poverty Grant Requests) – there is \$5000 allotted in the budget for domestic poverty grants. There were two requests:

Dinner is Served – ministry of St. Brendan's Deer Isle – asking for \$2500 to replenish some of the funds that they paid to purchase a commercial oven.

Church at 209 – supporting the ministries that have been part of St Mark's and still on the St. Mark's campus. They requested \$7200. The grant will give them \$2500.

Motion to fund and seconded. After vote it was passed.

New Initiatives Grants – maximum of \$25,000 for grants

2016 First Round NIF deadlines, application, and process – Heidi spoke on this.

There is a “companion” from council who would meet with point of contact at congregation to speak about the application to make sure grant application ready to go.

Peter moved and seconded that up to 75% of money would be allocated to the first round and at least 25% would be allocated to the second round. After vote, motion is lost.

**Revisit deadlines and regularizing the application time at the February meeting.

Populate Diocesan Committees /Election of Officers

Executive:

Vice Chair – Nancy Moore

At large – Rita Steadman

Finance:

Fill a 3-year term – Lael Sorenson

Mission Priorities:

Chair – Paul Beaudette

Clergy Member – Laura Peckham

Clergy Member – Kevin Kinsey

Bishop spoke on the Jubilee Centers. Bishop would like to have a couple of council people to agree to be part of a Task Force/Working Group. To continue to the conversation of what the role of the diocese is to the Jubilee Centers and a recommendation back to council of how to look at them looking forward. The two members of council who volunteered are Jane Schroeder and Kim Wallace.

After noonday prayers and lunch, the meeting reconvened.

Affirmation of the list of Diocesan Committees/Officers was done with a show of hands.

Adult Formation Initiative - Spring Workshop Day Brainstorming

Michael and Jane spoke on this.

April 9, St. Paul's in Brunswick, workshops. Open to the whole diocese. Pilot program.

Spring Workshop Day – other name ideas

Bishop's Report

Convention Debrief and Survey Evaluation – still not sold on the one day convention idea.

Still working out the details and the agenda.

Cathedral Capital Campaign – trying to raise at least 1.5 million. Bishop has sent out a letter to congregations to make donations toward the campaign. The sale of the Deanery is very complicated.

Loring House Work – due to start soon. Probably to last at least 2 years.

Bishopswood Septic Project – Bishop has sent a letter to congregations to donate. The Cathedral has tied their capital campaign to this also.

Disaster Planning Initiative

Missional Network Experiment – 7 of 10 diocese have agreed to participate. Three years of experimenting at the congregational level to change behavior. Maybe positioning some churches for the new church that is coming. It's not an attempt to "save the church".

Clergy Day – February 2 - Living Compass & Renewal Works – bring a lay companion.

Health Insurance Task Force update

Peter spoke on this.

Planning for Diocesan Bicentennial (2020) – Bishop opens the table for ideas.

Try to pull together a working group to celebrate this.

Staff Reports

After closing Prayer and Bishop's blessing, the meeting ended at 3:00 pm.