



# THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MAINE

19 September 2015 Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Augusta

Present: Nina Pooley, Dick Rozene, Laura Peckham, Jane Schroeder, Linda Cappers, Fred Fowler, Joe Riddick, Betsy York, Cindy Beaulieu, Peter Bickford, Claudia Smith, Tim Higgins, Tim Fleck, Tim Walmer, Elizabeth Phipps, Nancy Moore, Liz Graves, Kim Wallace, Mark Spahr, Rita Steadman

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

Absent: Rebecca Grant

The meeting convened at 9:00.

Dick leads Morning Worship.

Review minutes of May 2015 meeting

After motion, the minutes were approved.

## Review Second Quarter 2015 Financials

Dick spoke on this. Reserve held for Rumford was released as per our actions back in May but didn't hit books until August. Same is true for Brewer. New Initiatives Grant is money that was released. Seeds of Hope Jubilee Center monies were released and no further expenditure to them from the diocese this year.

Assessments – concerned about ones that are 3-4 months in arrears.

Lisbon had some financial issues around their mortgage so did not pay assessment last year. Trustees and Finance Committee have re-financed their mortgage. They paid for 2014 so will have vote at convention. Will continue to work with them.

Rangeley – their summer income helps make up any monies owed so not concerned.

Saco – restructuring their finances and will be checking in with them this quarter.

Wilton – not caught up so will be touching base with them.

Winn – treasurer died so Terry will be working with them.

After motion and second, it was voted upon and passed

#### Review Proposed 2016 Budget Report

Nina spoke on this. Transfer from reserves starting at \$0.

Dick spoke on the request that Tim Fleck made at previous council meeting regarding the assessment rate. Finance Committee didn't feel it was appropriate to change it at this time based on information they've reviewed.

Some changes/additions of lines based on their effort to be more transparent to everyone in the diocese as to what money is being used for.

2013 was last year of Aid to Congregations – now Strategic Mission Support.

Not all the churches have received all the money in reserves. Some have used all, some part and some none.

Mustard Seeds & Trinity Lewiston are new to Strategic Mission Support for reserve. Trinity Lewiston will be going through some major changes in the next year.

Adult Formation is a new line. Bishopswood support line is now one line.

Dick then spoke about Bishop Knudsen Haiti Money. She raised funds independently for her trips to Haiti that have stopped due to multiple issues.

Line 155600 – Dick moved that we send \$9000 to Children's Nutrition Program of Haiti and \$9000 to Global Birthing Home Foundation and the remainder of \$2057 to Sisters of St. Margaret. Seconded.

St. Michael's, Auburn, 2016 assessment is now \$11,191.00.

As a result of the assessment change, the "Jeremiah Fund", account number 190102, for 2016 is now \$2,057.00.

Rita asked about any money being sent to the Diocese of Haiti.

Bishop Steve spoke on the chaos happening in Haiti right now including them deciding to divide into two dioceses – north and south. Bishop Knudsen not recommending sending money there. Question as to how it would be used.

After discussion, the resolution passed.

Peter spoke on the Compensation Committee Report.

Agreed to continue with process for clergy compensation. This year we will continue with the social security adjustment and possibly next year, go to \$15 per hour that was recommended at convention?

## Jubilee Center Funding

Bishop Steve spoke on this. Application process, interview, Executive Council.

We have 3 - Trinity Lewiston(501c3), Seeds of Hope(501c3) and St. Elizabeth's Pantry.

(501c3 can get civic and government funding)

He then asked council members to talk amongst themselves and wants to know:

What would you like to see? What is required by both diocese and Jubilee Center? What standards should they be held to?

Able to apply for grants from the Episcopal Church by having the Jubilee Center designation

Joe wondered if someone should go to the centers and speak to them as to what they expect from the diocese and what the diocese expects of them. And then the conversation about possible monetary compensation can happen.

Lay down the line about what the diocese will and will not do based on past experiences.

Finance committee to take under advisement and speak to the Jubilee Centers

## New Initiative Grants

Wilton – Moved and seconded. After vote it was passed. \$3000 for New Initiative Grant to be implemented in 2015

## Application Process

## New Initiative Grant Application Review

## 2015 MDG funding

The UN – has expired.

Episcopal Church has recommended to continue that funding (.7 % of annual budget). Moved and seconded that we follow the Episcopal Church recommendation.

After vote, it was passed.

## Convention Preview

Bishop Steve talked about the theme of convention as well as the division of convention between USM/The Italian Heritage Center and the Cathedral and other information.

"We Are God's Dwelling: Rooted in Scripture and Nurtured by Grace"

## Ephesians Text 2 19-22

o Nominations

? Committee for future

o Council Representatives

All nominations done

o Resolutions

Lay Delegate Formula (Second Reading)

Alcohol Policy for The Episcopal Diocese of Maine

Interfaith Educ Initiative on the Mid East Conflict

Encouraging Peace through Diplomacy

Clergy Compensation

Lay Compensation

Medical Insurance Benefits

St. Aidan's, Machias – will be coming to us to be made a parish

Worship

Bishop Steve spoke about some problems with convention. Most of our congregations don't pay the cost of their delegates. Some pay some. Limits representation. Also, holding meetings on weekdays. Bishop thinks this must change. Bishop will be presenting that next year's convention will be on Saturday with banquet that night and Sunday worship with possible spring convocation day for workshops. Claudia asked that worship be broadcast and the Bishop would like to do that.

Networks – Heidi Shott and Jane Hartwell spoke on the following

o Religious Ed / Wardens / Music

o MEJN (HS) A grant for \$90,000 for 3 years to help get going can be applied for. Heidi spoke on this

Parish Admins – Bishop Steve spoke on this

## Bishop's Report

St. Mark's/Prince of Peace/St. Matthew's/St. Barnabas - all four congregations have joined together. Honoring what each group of people is bringing is important. They're calling themselves "The 209".

Property matters – Terry spoke on this. St. Luke's woodland – property for sale. St. Thomas Winn rectory for sale – no activity. Augusta properties – holding pattern. St Mark's home – lots of underlying issues with heirs and Augusta claiming that area as a "historical district". St. Luke's Cathedral is selling the Deanery. There is a buyer interested but there are many issues that still need to be addressed.

St Anne's Windham has a temporary certificate of occupancy. Stay tuned.

Summer chapels – 3 of those are owned by the bishop or trustees that Terry is working with

Cathedral Capital Campaign – bulk of the work will be on the east wall. Entrances and renovate office space and bathrooms. Bishop has decided not to do a Diocesan Capital Campaign at this time.

Loring House Rehab - Needs to be renovated as professional office space.

Bishopswood: property, septic system - in order to open camp next year we need to raise about \$135,000. Bishop has agreed to backstop the contracts and get repaid as Bishopswood raises the money. He is committed to having camp open next summer.

Wolf-Loring Resolution – Bishop Steve resolved that the two be combined into one Loring-Wolf Grant Committee with four members. Moved and seconded and after vote, it was passed.

General Convention Recap - Bishop Steve showed a video by Heidi Shott and then spoke about it. Then Dick, Mark and Nina all spoke about their time at Convention.

New Presiding Bishop

Assessment Reduction

Prayerbook / Marriage Revision

Alcohol Policy Overview

Divestment

Green Initiatives

## Pre-Convention Meetings

Resolution on Pre-Convention Meetings – Bishop Steve is proposing that we not do them

anymore. Feels they are poorly attended and extra time and resources used unnecessarily. He then opened it up to discussion. Moved and seconded the question. After vote, the motion is lost.

Vote on 2016 proposed Budget

Moved and seconded by committee.

Amendment made and seconded to zero out the \$100 for each Jubilee Center due to vote from previous council meeting. After vote, it passed.

Terry asked to make an amendment to the budget:

St. Michael's Auburn – received parochial report – assessment number now \_\_\_\_\_.

The Jeremiah Fund now would be \_\_\_\_\_. Moved and seconded to change these numbers in the budget. After vote, amendment was passed.

Mark spoke about Brownville Jct and Dover Foxcroft for SMS sheet. Terry moves and its seconded to move them from proposed to reserve for this budget. After vote, it was passed.

After vote, the budget was approved.

Other Business

Syrian refugees

Guns in church

Q & A on Canons' Reports

Sharing/Wisdom from departing members

Rebecca Grant (absent), Tim Walmer, Tim Higgins (left early), Linda Cappers and Claudia Smith all departing members. Each one spoke on their work and time on council. Bishop thanks them for their faithfulness and their time served.

The meeting adjourned at 3:02