

The Episcopal Church in Maine



Meeting of the Diocesan Council

2-3 June 2017

New England Outdoor Center, Millinocket, Maine

Present: Stephen Lane, Corey Walmer, Gail Chandler, John Balicki, Craig Hacker, Kevin Kinsey, Liz Graves, Laura Peckham, Nina Pooley, Mark Spahr, Rita Steadman, Lael Sorensen, Judith Cox, Heidi Shott, Nancy Mooers, Kim Wallace, Nancy Moore, Jason Briggs.

Absent: Tim Fleck, Dick Rozene, Peter Bickford, Fred Fowler, Tom Ward, Terry Reimer, Jane Hartwell, Michael Ambler, Paul Beaudette

Friday, June 2

Following dinner, the Bishop's shared a video - Leadership in Contentious Times. After viewing, there was discussion of what spoke to them in the video. The evening ended with Compline led by Rita Steadman

Saturday, June 3

Following breakfast, there were morning devotions and the meeting began at 9:20.

After review of the minutes of the March 2017 meeting, and motion and second they were approved.

Recess from Council and called to order the Maine Episcopal Missionary Society, Annual Meeting. With no business, there was a motion and second and the meeting was adjourned.

Finance Committee Report

Nina reported on this.

Current Year Financials

First Quarter Financials, please refer to: March 2017 income expense balance sheet

Current year parochial assessments: Lisbon and Saco, referred to Standing committee.

Lisbon: There is a summit meeting with Lisbon coming up. Lisbon's numbers are such that they need to consider their options moving forward.

Saco: David Robinson sent a letter to finance committee dated May 10th, stating that the parochial reports filed for 2014 and 2015 were incorrect. Terry will look into those reports, and work with the new treasurer, now that Trinity is willing to accept help in addressing their finances.

Current year SMS grant follow up

Rangeley: received grant request to release reserve, and appropriate documentation.

Recommendation to council: to release \$7,600 to Rangeley from SMS grant reserve.

Wilson Center Request: (Document: Diocesan Council Re Wilson Center 04.13.17)

After follow up discussions between Fred Fowler and Tom Ward and Jane Hartwell to further clarify the request before our committee, the committee respectfully submits:

“With respect for the importance of this ministry and the desire to move forward on this work, the timing of this request is unfortunate. Dick Johnson is no longer with us, the Executive Director is no longer with the Wilson Center, and no member of the Board of the Wilson Center was available / willing to meet with this group to put this into place for the fall semester 2017.

Before we can in good conscience take funding from where it is currently being utilized, we need the following to be put into place:

- 1) The group to be in touch with the new director/leadership of Wilson Center (once they are in place), and get some buy in from the new director.
- 2) The committee of volunteers on the ground be gathered, organized, and ready to commit to the work before them.
- 3) The proposal come from THEM for what they would like to do, and include a commitment from St. James for this new work. Should this program become a reality prior to the 2018 budget cycle in mid-August (August 15), we look forward to receiving this proposal. Otherwise, we encourage those involved to begin the concrete work needed with Area Three congregations, and to please be in touch with us, we would like to help, if possible, frame the proposal in such a way that it might be successful, and sustainable.”

Looking ahead to planning the 2018 Budget (See 2018 Income Estimate)

2016 Parochial Reports: most in, though not all, and Finance has been following up with +/- 5%.

At this point in the budget process, we set the basic blocks from which we draw our income estimate, and the assessment rate.

Finance proposes:

Assessment Rate 15%

(170500) Trustees: \$25,000

(170400) Summer chapels: \$25,000

(170101) Prior year assessment: \$35,000

Endowed income estimate: \$301,000

Income Estimate \$1,748,563

Grants:

Strategic Mission Support Grant /Mission Priorities Application processes:

Applications are out, have been posted in the dialog and targeted emails sent.

Timeline: Due July 1.

Deadline for all things finance for 2018 budget planning – August 15

Big Finance Meeting – August 29

During the Finance Committee Report, the Bishop also spoke on Lisbon to give some clarification. Proposed to suspend their status as a parish and make them a mission. Suspension of their assessments and attempt to restructure their finances. They “went home to think about it”. There should be a decision in a couple of weeks.

After a short break, the meeting reconvened at 10:55 am.

Heidi spoke on the following:

- New Initiative Fund - Approval of Round 2 timeline – Heidi spoke on this. August 1 deadline for this round. Maybe in the future, give dates of January 1 and July 1.
- International Outreach grant process for 2017 (\$12,000)
- Domestic Poverty grant process for 2017 (\$5,000)
Heidi spoke on these also. Typically a letter of application. Again with a deadline of August 1 for 2017 at least.

The Bishop spoke on the following:

- Diocesan Convention 2017 Planning
 - Nominations and Resolutions deadline: September 1
 - Electronic voting
 - Discussing the theme and possibly including a Eucharist
- Task Force: Congregations in Good Standing – these seem to fall into 3 groups:
 - 1) not paying assessments,
 - 2) relationship with ordained persons does not fit canonical expectations,
 - 3) congregations where they don’t have an elected body that meets their own by-laws or incorporation papers.
- Task Force: Bicentennial
- 2017 Spring Training – positive feedback and would like to continue to expand and move from Brunswick to other places.
- 2018 Spring Training (last Saturday in April) (just an aside from discussion last night, perhaps an idea for a workshop would be how to talk about your church

Canons’ Reports – The Bishop spoke on this on behalf of Michael and Jane.

- Living Local: Joining God

Heidi then spoke on “alert media”. ER&D has developed a tool and asked our diocese to be a pilot for it.

Noonday prayers were led by Lael Sorensen then council was dismissed for lunch at 12:00 pm.

After lunch, the meeting reconvened at 1:05 pm

The Bishop then gave his report to council

- Haiti
- People in Process: Deacons and Priests
- Loring House and Cathedral updates
- Long September meeting
- December meeting with Standing Committee
- News from the Province
 - CT River Pilgrimage
 - “Beloved Community”
 - Province 1 Workshop at Barbara C. Harris Center, Sept. 15-16: "Faith-Rooted Organizing with the Rev. Alexia Salvatierra"
- Diocesan Structure Consolidation
- Health Insurance

Announcements and Other Business

Closing prayer led by Nancy Moore then Bishop’s Blessing and depart in Peace.

Meeting concluded 2:35 pm