



Meeting of the Diocesan Council

13-14 December 2019 Embassy Suites, South Portland

Minutes of the Meeting

DRAFT 01/23/2020

Note: in this document “Ref:” refers to the document(s) file name on the Council’s Basecamp project.

13 December 2019

Introductions and Orientation

Bishop Brown: Introductory Exercise: where have you found joy lately?

Power point presentation:

Group norms and confidentiality / expectations

Canonical requirements / responsibilities of Council members

Diocesan Council Structure and relationships to other diocesan bodies

Sub-committee Membership / Officers (see last page for list)

Executive Committee Finance Committee

Mission Priorities (MP) Strategic Mission Support (SMS) Worship

Planning

Ms. Barbara Martin made a short presentation on the following e-communication tools: Basecamp, Zoom, ConstantContact, and the Diocesan website.

After Compline the Council recessed for the evening.

14 December 2019

The meeting reconvened with Morning Prayer

Review of the Minutes: September 2019 ref: [Dio Council Sept 2019.pdf](#)

Motion to accept as presented, second, no discussion, unanimously approved as presented

Mr. Terry Reimer, Canon for Finance and Stewardship spoke to Council about understanding the Financial Reports. Ref: October 2019 inc exp bal sht presentation version 11112019 (1).pdf **Finance Committee Report**

Mr. Dick Rozene, treasurer of the Diocese, presented detailed information about the financial health of the diocese and reviewed the Year-to-Date financial reports for 2019. Ref: October 2019 inc exp bal sht presentation version 11112019 (1).pdf

At the request of the Finance Committee, Cn. Terry Reimer and Bp. Thomas Brown made a presentation to the Trustees re: the budget for the Episcopal search and transition process. The original budget agreement was for Council and Trustees to share this cost equally (\$90,000 each). Additional costs for the search and transition process are about \$80,000. As a result of the ensuing discussion at the Trustees' meeting, they have agreed the Bishop search and transition process is a fundamental piece of corporate work, and it's not something assessments should pay for ~ assessment funds should be directed to mission. Therefore, the Trustees have agreed to fund the entire amount. Doug Mayer is working on a complete report of the process for the diocesan Archives.

Bp. Brown: Requested that at a future Council meeting, and in the spirit of the new relationship building between governing bodies, have a Trustee presentation to generate a clearer picture of what the Trustees do and what their investing philosophy is.

Cn. Reimer will post additional reports to Basecamp. Trustees' summary report is already posted to our website. If it's posted, feel free to share.

The Rev. Lael Sorensen, presented the Strategic Mission Support (SMS) releases for 2019, and the following motion: Based on monies earmarked for SMS, the Finance Comm recommends \$4,000 be released for Good Shepherd (Houlton) and \$4,000 be released for Good Shepherd (Rangeley).

No second is necessary (motion comes out of committee). Discussion.
Passed unanimously.

St. Anne's in Calais has made an additional SMS request. Mr. Dick Rozene is the SMS liaison to that congregation. After careful review, and a site visit to discuss a substantial and unsustainable deficit, the result is St. Anne's has asked for an additional \$10,000 (the original grant of \$10,000 was approved at Convention). Finance chair Sorensen does not have a recommendation at this time, but does expect to come forth to the March 2020 Diocesan Council meeting with a formal request (motion) to award the requested amount to St. Anne's. Discussion.

Bishopswood

Camp Bishopswood has requested additional funds for 2020. Ref: Camp Bishopswood 2020 Budget Adjustment.pdf. The background for that request was presented by the Rev. Lael Sorensen. After meeting with Director Douglass and Bishopswood Board Chair, the Rev. Susan Murphy, representatives of the Finance Committee (Sorensen/Rozene/Reimer) would like to hear about Camp Bishopswood's long range vision and strategic plan.

Discussion.

Philosophical Question: can diocesan resources be used for capital improvements? Diocesan work is to fund mission and is traditionally not used for capital expenditures. More broadly, where do we stand in our relationship with Camp Bishopswood? March 2020 meeting agenda item. Reminder that the Rev. Sarah D'Angio White is a member of the Board of Camp Bishopswood. Discussion.

Committee on Indian Relations

The Rev. Lael Sorensen reported on the current conversation with the Committee on Indian Relations. The chair of CIR, Mr. John Dieffenbacher-Krall, has submitted additional information ref: CIR 2020 budget adjustment.pdf. Discussion on CIR's program and legislative work, developing relationships with indigenous peoples, and how CIR can share that information with the Diocese. The topic of mileage reimbursement protocols will be taken up at a future meeting. CIR will be invited to present to Diocesan Council at a future date. (June?) after Diocesan Council has a chance to explore this conversation (program and process) more at their March meeting.

Finance chair Sorensen made the following motion:

The Finance Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Maine recommends that \$1,150 be added to the CIR budget line, bringing their 2020 budget total to \$1,400 to cover the costs of program and mission.

No second needed. Discussion. Approved unanimously.

Lovett Fund Application

Presentation and Discussion regarding St. Nicholas', Scarborough's second Lovett Fund Application in 2019 ref: St. Nicholas, Scarborough - Lovett Fund Request.pdf. The Lovett Fund is an endowment fund for missions to be used for sanctuary building once per year. The maximum grant is \$4500; congregational participation drops the award amount.

Chair Sorensen made the following motion: The Finance Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Maine recommends that the requested amount of \$4,432.50 be awarded to the Episcopal Church of St. Nicholas, Scarborough, ME, in the year 2020.

No second needed. Discussion. Approved unanimously.

If you are interested in being the vice chair or member at large to the executive committee, send an email to the Bishop at tbrown@episcopalmaine.org Primary responsibilities of each position were explained, term is one year for each seat.

Clergy Housing Resolutions for Staff ref: HOUSING RESOLUTIONS 2020.pdf were moved as follows:

Ambler. Second. No discussion. Passed unanimously

Bowen. Second. No discussion. Passed unanimously Brown

Second. No discussion. Passed unanimously

Election of Officers

Nominations are closed. Without objection the secretary pro-tem was asked to cast one vote for the following: The Rev. Nancy Moore will serve a one-year term as Vice-chair, and Ms. Melissa Sparks will serve a one-year term as Member at Large

Grants

No Domestic Outreach Grant application has been received. In the past, chairs for Loaves and Fishes at St. Peter's in Rockland and Food Pantry at Paris Elementary School were funded. \$5000 available.

Discussion

International Outreach Grant \$ 13,000 available ref: Basma Request 12052019.pdf.

Discussion. Motion: unanimously approved for an award of \$10,000.

Bp. Brown explained about his pledge of \$7500 for the Diocese of Bahamas post hurricane. Some individual gifts have been received, and Bishop requested \$7,500 be granted from the International Outreach Grant budget line.

Ms. Kim Wallace made a motion to award \$8,000 for disaster relief to the Diocese of Bahamas from the Diocese of Maine. Second. Discussion. Approved unanimously.

New Initiative Grant Fund Ref: NIG St Mary Falmouth Nov 2019.pdf

Cn. Reimer reported that the New Initiatives Grant (NIG) line was budgeted for \$26,000 in 2019. \$23,208 expended as of 14 December 2019.

Ms. Kim Wallace, NiG council liaison explained the grant request as akin to a one-time feasibility study opportunity. Data results will be available as to the success of this internet search engine optimization effort.

Discussion.

Ms. Wallace made a motion to award \$6900 to St. Mary's as a New Initiative Grant for 2019 for a web-based marketing plan for Greater Portland Episcopal Churches. Second. Approved unanimously.

St. John, Thomaston has withdrawn their 2019 grant in order to rework their application. They anticipate resubmitting sometime in 2020.

General Convention Resolution A068

The Rev. Cn. Nancy Moore explained this resolution directs each diocese to create a liturgical commission. The Diocese of Maine task force is comprised of: the Rev. Cn. Nancy Moore, the Rev.

Holly Hoffman, Ms. Lisa Lindsey and Mr. George Sheats. Rev. Nancy Moore reached out to Rev. Nina Pooley, chair of the GenCon liturgy commission for specific information about requirements. Bishop Brown advised that GenCon task force is really interested in creative, unique and original resources, not recycled information. The diocesan task force will hold its first meeting on 23 January 2020.

Creation Care/Solar Energy

Mr. John Hennessy explained that a carbon offset program for all church related travel has been proposed. Bishop Brown will adopt this as a travel policy within Loring House. Mr. Hennessy believes this topic will likely resurface at Diocesan Convention in October 2020, which will have implications for GenCon 2021. Additional information about this program will be published in upcoming editions of the DioLog. A good source of information is the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Comment and Discussion.

Mr. John Hennessy also shared info about the faith based community solar farm initiative. Next step is to establish a task force to manage this project. RFP will go out early in 2020.

Reports ref: Reports to Dio Council Dec 2019.pdf

Discussion.

Suggestion: congregations should have the opportunity to make presentations at Spring Training highlighting any creative combinations (ministry with other congregations for example) that might inspire others at Spring Training.

The Rev. Sarah D'Angio White added to her report that there were youth and young adults at Diocesan Convention 2019, and shared her excitement in revisioning programs and those connections to what's going on in congregations, and providing more support to those working on the ground.

Diocesan Convention 2019 Survey Results ref: 2019 DioCon Survey Results.pdf

Councilors would like staff to query the diocese again about ideas for Spring Training presentations. Suggestions may be sent to Ms. Barbara Martin at bmartin@episcopalmaine.org Council observed that we were not fully prepared to discuss guns/weapons at DioCon 2019. Perhaps

this is a Spring Training opportunity to educate people, especially around vocabulary. Take away: Be better prepared for resolutions in 2020. The time allotted for these complex discussions was not adequate.

Bishop offered comments and reflections, and informed DioCouncil that is absolutely in order for them to put forth Convention resolutions on any topic.

Additional Suggestions:

Resolution Workshop opportunity at Spring Training.

Create conversation opportunities by area.

Bishop Brown amplified his written report

Diocese of Haiti discussion. Ms. Rita Redfield and Mr. Steve Ward volunteered to be a part of any Haiti task force that may be created.

Would like a design team made up of Council members and CIR before CIR comes to DioCouncil meeting. Council asked to discern if they would like to be on that design team (CIR).

Worship planning committee ideas.

Music more often part of worship, please.

Discussion

(??) Ms. Christine Talbott made a motion to ask the Executive Committee of Diocesan Council to form a worship committee and issue a charge to that committee. Passed unanimously.

Bishopwood invited to come in March 2020; DioCouncil will wait on CIR until June 2020

2020 Visitation Schedule and Customary will be published for 2020 sometime the week of 16 December 2020. In order to think differently about strategic service, sometime early in 2020, lay leaders and clergy will be asked to indicate preferences for Visitations, or other staff visits.

The official portrait of the Bishop selection process by congregations is now underway.

Bishop will be participating in a 3-year “Living our Vows” education program for new Bishops, has been assigned a peer coach (Bp. Doug Fisher, DioWMA), and will attend College for Bishops prior to each House of Bishops meeting as well.

ARISE Portland (NB: the Rev. Lynn Rutledge is ecumenical officer for DioME). The Rev. Katie Holicky is one of the conveners and they are anxious and eager for conversations for both ecumenical and demographic reasons.

Bishop Brown and Rev. Mousin hosted dinner for Bishop Devadhar, of the United Methodist Church. Bp. Devedhar is facing mandatory retirement and his successor will be elected and appointed in July 2020. Bishop Brown is eager to establish a relationship with the new Bishop and the Methodist Church and would like to hear from DioCouncil about any local connections that already exist.

Bishop will attend Lambeth. His spouse, Rev. Tom Mousin, will travel with him and they will have accommodations off the University of Kent campus.

Bishop asked the Diocesan Council: “What should I know from you?”

Jubilee Centers

Jubilee Centers meeting was held for executives and board chairs on 13 December 2019. The Ven. Mike Kendall (retired archdeacon and staff officer at The Episcopal Church for Jubilee Centers) was guest presenter for the meeting. Energy of connection was great. Noteworthy that each is different in their identity and connection.

Idea: invite Bridging the Gap to participate, even though it’s not a Jubilee Center. Everyone will benefit from the connection.

Afternoon Session

In a ‘first of its kind, but not the last’, Diocesan Council welcomed the Standing Committee for noonday prayers, lunch and the afternoon’s agenda .

Bishop Brown gave a brief overview of the afternoon’s agenda, and asked Council and Standing

Committee members to consider the question “what is mission strategy?”

- Desire to engage all three governing bodies (council, standing, trustees)
- Expectation that a small group from each body will work together to lead conversations throughout the diocese
- Hope for adoption in September by each governing body, and roll-out at diocesan convention for endorsement
- Community building exercise

The group divided into six groups and two groups considered “who are we?”, two groups considered “why are we here?” and two groups considered the question “what are we doing about it?” (The white pages from these conversations will be made available under separate cover)

After group sessions, results were communicated to the entire group. Bishop Brown remarked he had no specific timeline in mind for this work, that he anticipates whatever emerges will be the diocesan 5-7 year plan, that the Trustees are not yet part of the discussion and they definitely have a role. He would like to be able to say at Convention 2020 that building blocks are being put in place even if an ‘architectural gem’ doesn’t yet exist.

Canticle Report

Mr. John Hennessy gave a brief overview and a handout of the report received from Cantical Communications. Ref: Reports to Dio Council Dec 2019.pdf

Planning Ahead

Housekeeping items for the good of the order were discussed, including the 2020 meeting schedule.

Saturday, March 7 Guests: Bishopswood Director and President of the Board of Trustees

Saturday, June 6 Guests: The Committee on Indian Relations/ Chair

Saturday, September 19 Long meeting anticipated as the 2021 budget is considered in prep for Diocesan Convention.

Friday, December 11 / Saturday December 12 (overnight)

The second overnight will be determined by Executive Committee. Locations for all meetings TBD.

The meeting entered into executive session and members of the staff were excused.

Closing Prayers / Depart in Peace

Executive Committee The Rt. Rev. Thomas J. Brown, chair; the Rev. Cn. Nancy Moore, Vice-chair;
 The Rev. Lael Sorensen, Finance Committee chair;
 Ms. Melissa Sparks, at Large to the Committee. Staff: Ms.
 Barbara Martin

Finance Committee The Rev. Lael Sorensen, chair; the Rev. John Balicki; the Rev. Rebecca
 Grant; Mr. Dick Rozene; Ms. Holly Sargent; Mr. Peter Bickford;
 Mr. Tom Ward; Mr. Rick Lombardi.
 Staff: Mr. Terry Reimer

Mission Priorities Mr. Paul Beaudette, chair; Ms. Kim Wallace, Mr. Tom Ward
 Staff: Mr. Terry Reimer

Strategic Mission The Rev. Lael Sorensen, chair; Mr. Dick Rozene; the Rev. John Balicki;
Support: The Rev. Ginny Urbanek; Ms. Melissa Sparks; Ms. Christine Talbott;
 Mr. Rick Lombardi
 Staff: Mr. Terry Reimer

New Initiative Grants Ms. Kimberley Wallace
 Staff: Ms. Barbara Martin

Gifts Committee appointed as needed
 Staff: Mr. Terry Reimer

Worship Planning TBD
 Staff: Barbara Martin

Province I

Ms. Kathy DeSilvey; Mr. Mark Spahr

The Rev. Maria Hoecker; The Rev. Claudia Smith

President: The Rev. Kit Wang

Staff: Ms. Barbara Martin

At Large Councilors Mr. Paul Beaudette