

Section E

Reports of

Canonical Bodies

## BISHOP'S REPORT

Dear Friends in Christ,

It has been just a year since my ordination and consecration as Eighth Bishop of the Diocese of Pittsburgh. In some ways it has been one of the most challenging years of my life, but it has also been one of the happiest. Betsy and I could not be more delighted than to be here in Pittsburgh among all of you. We are so grateful for your consistent hospitality and many kindnesses shown to us and Evan, even since before we arrived in August of 2012. We truly feel part of this diocesan family and look forward to serving among you for many years to come.

I must say that being a bishop is, in some ways, easier than getting ready to be a bishop. My episcopal colleagues repeatedly warned me, before my ordination, that “only thirty percent of what you have done over the last thirty years is transferrable.” That was a little daunting, and they were right. The learning curve has been steep. Add to this, the upheaval of the move and of finding a place to live, all coupled with the loss to cancer of Betsy’s sister, Annie, and the first few months were simply dizzying. But God is good, all the time, and He has carried and sustained us especially through the prayers of all of you, the work of our devoted and tireless diocesan staff, and the kind companionship of clergy and lay people we have found at every turn. We are now well-settled in our condo in Edgewood, Evan is out of college and working in Pittsburgh, and Betsy has established a private psychotherapy practice in Shadyside. And I find my day-to-day ministry as your bishop deeply fulfilling.

I have nearly completed an entire cycle of visitations, and I am enormously heartened by the vibrancy of local life in our congregations. I cannot tell you how much joy you give Betsy and me as we visit you from week to week. Our parishes encompass a great diversity of contexts and styles, and getting to know the clergy and people in their spiritual homes has been nothing less than a revelation.

Beyond this, the work of the past year has partly consisted in building on the legacy of Bishop Price, continuing to help us move from the crisis of the past few years into an emerging diocesan identity as a forward-looking network of mission-based churches. This transformation will not be easy or quick, and the groundwork will need to be carefully laid. As part of this, we need to continue the work of trust-building begun during the interim. Our diocesan conversations around matters of the blessing of same-sex unions and the ordination of partnered gays and lesbians have been a significant part of this. Designed by a diocesan planning team working with the Public Conversations Project, and financed mainly by the Constable Fund of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, these structured dialogues were carried out from late spring of this year through September. They have been very helpful for those who have participated in understanding the deeply held convictions of others and in opening up the prospect of life together in the future without further division. I am hopeful that a policy decision in these areas can be made in mid-November, and that we will finally move successfully beyond what has been a source of deep antagonism for many years.

I have tried to spend as much time as possible listening to your hopes, fears, and dreams for the future. I believe one of my most important roles is as pastor to the clergy and their families, and I have been touched and honored at the extent to which my ordained colleagues have allowed me access to their lives. In September, many of us came together for a two-night clergy conference at the Antiochian Village, featuring Mike Moynagh, the Director of Research at Fresh Expressions (UK), who gave us a challenging and exciting picture of the many new ways churches in the United States and abroad are building new communities and revitalizing old ones through the missionary power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This was also a chance to spend informal time together, including one late night gabfest around theology and mission with a number of our younger clergy that left me bleary-eyed but happy the next morning. I have

been delighted to be included in two luncheons honoring our retired clergy, and Betsy has been working closely with clergy spouses toward an upcoming retreat in November.

When I arrived here, I was hopeful that a collaborative-style of episcopal leadership could become the norm in the diocese, and thus far I have not been disappointed. I find that people across the diocese are grateful to be consulted and not shy about speaking their minds. Having said that, I am still in the early stages of my tenure, and I obviously have a lot to learn. I have, for example, never served in a diocese where such obvious tension existed, historically, between laity and clergy. As an important next step in our future, I have convened, with the approval of Diocesan Council, a second stage of an earlier strategic planning group, now called the Task Force on Strategy for Mission. This includes a wide array of clergy and lay leaders from governing bodies, staff, and parishes. The earlier group offered observations concerning the strategic use of our parishes and assets, including mission opportunities in areas where we currently have no presence. A major focus of their vision was the principle of partnership in mission, where congregations with matching gifts and needs collaborate. I have asked “Task Force 2.0” to decide how best to implement this and further consider ways to advance three strategic goals:

1. **A Public Gospel.** *How do we more effectively bring the proclamation of God’s mercy and hope in Jesus Christ out of our churches and into the public square?*
2. **Missional Communities.** *How do we re-create ourselves, from an assembly of isolated and settled, inward-looking religious associations, into a network of mutually supportive outward-focused apostolic societies?*
3. **Leadership Formation.** *How do we develop effective local leadership, lay and ordained, for the ongoing formation and empowerment of these communities?*

I will expand on these subjects in my address at the 2013 Convention. Suffice it to say that these will be the priorities I will be setting before the diocese over the next decade, and while our work in pursuit of these may vary from year to year, I think if we are able to make substantial progress in reshaping our common life so that these things can be clearly seen as normative, we may rightly give thanks to God for His having done a mighty work among us.

Outside our parishes, but related to them, I have established a warm relationship with Sheldon Calvary Camp, visiting that wonderful place three times this past summer, preaching and celebrating in the chapel, talking with the staff and directors, and hanging out with the kids. Evan was an aquatics counselor there and had a tremendous time. I was asked, and gladly consented, to introduce the video describing the upcoming capital campaign, and I have heard from many Calvary Camp families as a result. I look forward to many years of collaboration.

In the broader affairs of Pittsburgh, I have been active in the Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania, and have begun to develop those ecumenical relationships. I am grateful for Bishop David Zubik’s invitation to join him and other judicatory leaders in celebrating Tenebrae at St. Paul Cathedral during Holy Week, and for the Chrism Mass our clergy shared with my friend, Bishop Kurt Kusserow, and our other Lutheran brothers and sisters. Kurt was one of the principal co-consecrators at my ordination, and he and I have already been talking about ways to collaborate, to make the “call to common mission” between the ELCA and the Episcopal Church more of a reality in Pittsburgh. I have also made more than one appearance in meetings of organized labor in our area, including the Pittsburgh Labor Council, last year’s IBEW District 3 Progress Meeting, and the recent United Way Breakfast convened by the local AFL-CIO. I am especially proud in these meetings to be by the side of Father Jack O’Malley, a Roman Catholic priest, who for decades has been a spiritual force within the labor movement and who was a hero of mine for years before I came to Pittsburgh.

I have been active beyond the diocese on several canonically-mandated trips related to the House of Bishops (one week in March and one in September); the College for Bishops (a week in January and a week in June); the Church Pension Group's introductory conference for new bishops and spouses (a few days last December); preaching engagements at the General Theological Seminary and at Wycliffe College, the University of Toronto; and ten days on mission in Uganda in my capacity as President of Pilgrim Africa. I was privileged with an honorary doctorate from General in May, and while in New York, I also ordained William Ogburn to the transitional diaconate.

I was honored to ordain my first class of priests in December: Charlie Hamill, Terry Johnston, Gwen Santiago, John Schaeffer, and Todd Schmidtter. In June, I ordained the remainder of my first crop of transitional deacons, who are already taking on exciting and interesting ministries: Frank Yesko is the new Deacon-in-Charge of St. Barnabas, Brackenridge; Eric McIntosh is Deacon-in-Charge of Saint James, Penn Hills, and is being supported through an Episcopal Church Foundation Fellowship; and Ben DeHart is filling a number of pastoral duties at St. Thomas, Oakmont, UPMC St. Margaret, and Nativity, Crafton.

In July, I welcomed the Rev. Dr. Catherine Brall as Canon Missioner from her most recent post as Provost of Trinity Cathedral. Cathy will be working with the other canons, and with lay and ordained leadership in our parishes, to promote missional development on the congregational level. The Rev. Timothy Hushion was appointed Priest-in-Charge of Trinity, and we are working with the chapter to prepare the cathedral for the next phase of its ministry.

Our Treasurer, Carl Hockenberry, left the staff in the spring to concentrate on his private practice. Carl did excellent work for us during his time with the diocese for which I am grateful, and as of this writing, I am hoping I will be able to announce his successor very soon. Marlene Rihn deserves special recognition for taking on a lot of additional work during the interim and handling it with great efficiency and constant goodwill.

Finally, I wish to express my deep thanks to all the staff of our diocese: our canons, Scott Quinn, Jay Geisler and Cathy Brall; our communication professionals, Rich Creehan and Andy Muhl; our financial assistant, Marlene Rihn; our property administrator and archivist, Joan Gundersen; our youth leaders, Vickie O'Brien and Brent Hansen; our chancellor, Andy Roman; and especially my executive assistant, Judi Rogers. I am more grateful for their work than I can possibly express.

Faithfully your bishop,  
+Dorsey

# BISHOPS' STATISTICS

## September 1, 2012 – October 20, 2012

### **Bishop Kenneth L. Price, Jr.**

Episcopal Visitations	8
Confirmations	16
Receptions	9
Baptisms	4
Marriages	0
Burials	0
Ordinations	0
Renewal of Vows	0

## October 21, 2012 – August 31, 2013

### **Bishop Dorsey W.M. McConnell**

Episcopal Visitations	19
Confirmations	44
Receptions	13
Baptisms	5
Marriages	1
Burials	0
Ordinations	9
(Order of Deacon 4; Order of Priest 5)	
Renewal of Vows	1

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The Trustees have met nine times since the 2012 Diocesan convention, including a day-long retreat at the Clergy House in Donegal in June of this year – more on that below. At our November 2012 meeting we welcomed Bishop McConnell into our midst and said our final farewell to Bishop Price, thanking him for his tireless efforts over the three years of his ministry here. At the end of the year, we said farewell to Carl Campbell, Jay Follansbee, Larry Howard, Larry Knapp, Jim McGough, Dana Phillips and David Quinn, thanking them for their contributions to the board, and we welcomed new trustees Sue DeWalt, Bob Eley, Bob Johnston, Leon Haley, Melanie Kurtz, Bill Moore and John Rogers.

Our hard-working diocesan staff has ably managed the finances of the diocese following the departure of our Treasurer, Carl Hockenberry, at the end of May. The Finance Committee of the Board is working hard to find a replacement for Carl, unfortunately without success as of the date of this report. As always, we value the wise counsel we receive from our Chancellor, Andy Roman.

At all times, our focus and goal have been to manage the assets of the diocese to the glory of God and in furtherance of the mission and ministry of the Episcopal Church in southwestern Pennsylvania. A few highlights of that work are summarized below.

### **Diocesan endowment**

Our Finance Committee oversees the management of the diocesan endowment by Morgan Stanley, meeting with them once each quarter. The total endowment, including diocesan funds and funds dedicated to individual parishes and programs, stood at \$21.9 million as of September 30, 2012, and \$22.5 million as of September 13, 2013.

### **Support for parishes**

Two parishes that have mortgage debts that are guaranteed by the diocese – St. Brendan's, Franklin Park, and St. David's, Peters Township – were able to take advantage of favorable borrowing rates and refinance their mortgages, thereby saving themselves thousands of dollars each month in debt service. The Board of Trustees was able to support these parishes by agreeing to extend the guarantees, without any increase in the principal balance of the mortgages.

The Trustees also approved a total of nine Growth Fund grants and loans to help our parishes manage their properties and make needed repairs and improvements. Since the last Convention, Growth Fund grants and loans have been approved for St. David's, Peters; St. Stephen's, Wilkesburg; St. Thomas, Oakmont; St. Paul's, Monongahela; St. Peter's, Blairsville; and St. Thomas, Northern Cambria.

### **Support for Diocesan mission**

As mentioned above, the trustees spent most of a day in early June in prayer and meeting with the Budget and Assessments Working Group of Diocesan Council, working to develop the budget for 2014 that is being presented to this Convention. We met with Bishop McConnell at the Clergy House in Donegal and shared fellowship, food and lively discussion as we worked to make our budget match our resources. Our thanks go out to our partners on Council, and especially to John Hose and Steve Stagnitta who led the effort from their side.

## **Support for Diocesan properties**

As we reported last year, a Strategic Planning Task Force formed by Bishop Price completed the first phase of its work in the spring of 2012, developing guidelines for deciding both pastorally and financially which of the many underused buildings in our diocese should be strengthened for ministry and which should be sold. The first fruits of that evaluation was the de-consecration of the former St. Christopher's Church in Warrendale, followed by the signing of an agreement to sell the property to a local hotel developer. The buyer is attempting to secure municipal approval for the redevelopment of the property; we are hopeful that the sale will close in November.

Bishop McConnell has now organized a second Task Force to refine and implement the Phase One guidelines referred to above; this Task Force will be led by Sue DeWalt and Bob Johnston from the Board of Trustees and is well along in developing a vision for the next phase of their work.

## **Support for ministry “across the aisle”**

Perhaps our most satisfying accomplishment in late 2012 was reaching a unique agreement with Shepherd's Heart Fellowship, Uptown, that will allow them to continue their vital ministry to homeless veterans in Pittsburgh. The agreement, announced in October 2012, allows Shepherd's Heart to take title to property formerly owned by or in trust for the Board of Trustees, free of any ongoing claim by our diocese so long as the property continues to be used in its current ministry of outreach to the homeless. The mortgage loan on the property was refinanced by Shepherd's Heart to remove the previous guarantee given by the Board when the property was acquired. The agreement was approved by the court in late November and formally “closed” on December 28. Shepherd's Heart continues to be supported by many Christian congregations in the Pittsburgh area, including many parishes in our diocese as well as parishes that are part of the ACNA diocese in Pittsburgh. We rejoice in the ministry founded and led by Fr. Mike Wurschmidt and look forward to playing a positive role in the continuation of that ministry.

Russell W. Ayres, III  
President, Board of Trustees  
September 16, 2013

## CANON FOR FORMATION

It has been an honor to serve as the Canon for Formation for the last two years. God has done remarkable things with the Commission on Ministry and with the those individuals who have heard God's call to pursue ordained ministry, as well those who have been called to a more committed form of lay ministry.

I do not wish to restate all that the Commission on Ministry, in conjunction with the Standing Committee and the bishop, has accomplished. As a process, we are hoping to develop into a discerning, supportive community that "walks with" those who enter the discernment process for ministry.

Traditionally, the formation process involved getting a four-year college degree, then attending three more years of seminary, followed by serving as an assistant in a parish and then, eventually, becoming a full-time rector. It is important to understand that this traditional process is changing. This is due to several factors:

1. The increasing burden of debt associated with a college and seminary education.
2. The escalation of health insurance costs due to the high cost of modern medicine.
3. Declining resources in parishes as economically-strapped families are able to give less.

Formation is important not only for seminarians, but for everyone. Under Chuck Noll, the Steelers hired their first "strength and conditioning" coach in order to have a team with "strength, flexibility, and speed." This commitment to formation resulted in four Super Bowls under Noll. For those involved in ministry and for those "equipping the saints for ministry," we certainly need to be a team that has "strength, flexibility, and speed" as we move into the future.

I am hoping to develop more support groups for the newly-ordained and to continue to be a "Barnabas" (encourager) to those whom God is calling into a more committed ministry, whether lay or ordained. Empowered by our "baptism covenant," we are all called to share in the ministry of Jesus Christ, each in our own unique way.

Peace and prayers,  
The Rev. Dr. Jay Geisler  
Canon for Formation



## CANON TO THE ORDINARY

As parish properties are being returned to the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh, the diocese is making a concerted effort to identify and provide pastoral care to any faithful remnant. Where possible, we have resumed Episcopal Church services in these parishes. In several other parishes, congregations have resumed their participation in the diocese and have been in need of Episcopal clergy. In both situations, retired clergy, newly ordained clergy, and existing clergy have been utilized:

**Church of the Atonement, Carnegie:** The Rev. Todd Schmidtetter had served as a regular supply priest once the parish had resumed full and active participation in the life of the Episcopal Diocese. He has since assumed responsibilities outside the diocese and several retired clergy have been filling in.

**St. John's Episcopal Church, Donora:** The Rev. Gwen Santiago was appointed by Bishop McConnell to serve as Priest-in-Charge of the parish, which has resumed full and active participation in the life of the Episcopal Diocese.

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Monongahela:** Services continue to be led by the Rev. Dr. Teresa Hunt, and what was a remnant house church congregation is now worshipping at the church after the property was returned to the Episcopal Diocese.

**St. James Episcopal Church, Penn Hills:** Eric McIntosh was ordained a transitional deacon and appointed Deacon-in-Charge of St. James by Bishop McConnell.

**St. David's Episcopal Church, Peters Township:** The clergy of St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon, continues to oversee the rebuilding of St. David's congregation under the local presence and leadership of the Rev. Kris McInnes and the Rev. Lou Hays. The transition towards parish operational independence is ongoing and making progress.

**St Andrew's, New Kensington:** After the parish property was returned in late summer to the Episcopal Diocese, Bishop McConnell appointed the Rev. Norman Koehler and Mrs. Alice Ramser to lead efforts to identify whether an on-going Episcopal congregation could remain. Regular Sunday services are being held while the assessment continues.

In other transitions involving diocesan-appointed parish clergy:

**St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, Brackenridge:** The Rev. Kamila Blessing retired and assumed temporary responsibilities outside the diocese. Frank Yesko was ordained a transitional deacon and appointed Deacon-in-Charge of St. Barnabas by Bishop McConnell.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Canon Scott T. Quinn  
Canon to the Ordinary

# COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

The commission has made good progress on many fronts this year. This report is a summary of accomplishments, work-in-progress, and future initiatives and needs.

## **Status of the Archives**

Joan Gundersen has maximized the existing space, but as the archives continue to grow, space is at a premium. The commission recommended to the bishop that space contiguous to the archives' present location be identified for use. This would adhere to best-practices in archival storage and would alleviate the anxiety over preserving material which has been stored in the cathedral basement, which is not environmentally sound and often floods. At its June 22, 2013, meeting, the commission was informed that the archives will potentially get an additional room on the third floor next to its present location.

Additional support to manage the day-to-day functions of the collection and to continue the entry of data into the PastPerfect database will again be provided this fall by a field placement intern from the School of Library Science at the University of Pittsburgh. The field placement provides ten hours of help per week at no cost for the term, for which the student receives three credit hours. The interns work directly with Joan. This opportunity provides much-needed support for data input, thus providing better access to, and knowledge of, what the archives contain.

The old computer in the archives has ceased working and we were able to replace it with a laptop that had previously been used by Bishops Price and Johnson.

The archives has been getting requests for digital access to its earliest registers, especially from the History Society. While the diocese's photocopy machine has scanning capabilities and a USB port for downloading, the acquisition of a dedicated scanner for the archives should be addressed. Perhaps a donor might be identified who would be willing to cover the cost of this essential equipment.

The commission has discussed several issues this year that relate to access to particular kinds of items in the archives. For marriage and death records, the commission has recommended that the material cut-off period will be 70 years (nothing after 1943 will be made public; this is a moveable date). However, entire registers will be made available electronically: online version will have a page that ends public access and will be posted on the archives website; full register will be available for use on-site. This year we will work on guidelines for when personnel records can be made accessible.

It is desirable to have an adequate and inviting space to allow researchers and scholars to use the material on-site. As more of the archives is registered and made available to the public, interest in using the materials on-site will grow. This should be made a priority in the coming year.

## **Other Needs**

The archives still needs a microfilm reader to access information in that format which is housed in the collection. We also are trying to identify a reader for zip-disks, as several necessary files are stored in this fashion.

### **Website**

Work on developing a revised web page for the archives was completed this year. This revision includes the history of the diocese, hours and use policies. We have a space for online records when we are able to post them. The web page can be accessed at: <http://www.episcopalpgh.org/archives/>.

### **Meetings**

We have now scheduled regular meetings for the commission for 2013–2014. This will allow the members of the commission to work together to accomplish the goals we have set before us. The archives is a great asset to the diocese and the general public. As such, we hope that the operating budget will remain intact. The codification of history and practice provides the foundation to see where we have been as we work toward where we want to be in the future.

If there are questions concerning this report or on any aspect of the archives, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,  
James P. Cassaro  
Convener, Commission on Archives and History

## COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

The Commission on Ministry is established pursuant to Title III of the Canons of the Episcopal Church and Canon XXX of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh in order to advise and assist the bishop “in the determination of present and future opportunities and needs for the ministry of all baptized persons; and in the design and oversight of the ongoing process for recruitment, discernment, formation for ministry, and assessment of readiness therefore.” (Title III, Canon 2, Section 2, Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church, 2006)

Since the 2012 diocesan Convention, the Commission on Ministry will have met six times, including the winter interview day and the annual ordination exploration day. Highlights of the year include:

- The bishop, commission, and Standing Committee had informal interviews with six individuals in the discernment process and four candidacy interviews at the winter interview day.
- The bishop ordained five individuals to the Sacred Order of Priests at Trinity Cathedral on December 15, 2012: Charles Hamill, Terence Johnston, Gwendolynn Santiago, John Schaeffer, and Todd Schmidtter.
- Three individuals took General Ordination Exams in January.
- With the consent of the Standing Committee, the bishop granted candidacy to Benjamin DeHart, Eric McIntosh, William Ogburn, and Francis Yesko. Later, all were accepted for Ordination to the Diaconate. The bishop ordained Ben, Eric, and Frank to the Sacred Order of Deacons on June 15, 2013, at Trinity Cathedral, and William in New York City on May 15.
- The commission and bishop accepted the nomination of Mr. Shane Siciliano of Trinity Cathedral to be considered for postulancy.
- The annual ordination exploration day was held on April 13, 2013, at St. Paul’s, Mt. Lebanon. Approximately 30 people participated, including potential nominees for Holy Orders with spouses and clergy.
- The bishop, commission and Standing Committee interviewed Wally LaLonde for postulancy and Bert Daly for candidacy on September 7, 2013.
- Through the leadership of Jessie Hipolit, the commission continued to explore how best to encourage and support lay ministry within the diocese. The diocese, through Ms. Hipolit, was awarded a grant from the Roanridge Trust to fund an expanded lay ministry initiative.
- The Rev. Timothy Hushion was elected at Convention to serve a three-year term on the commission. The bishop appointed Daryl Walker and the Rev. Ann Staples to serve three-year terms as members of the commission.
- We thanked David Laughlin of St. Paul’s, Kittanning, for the conclusion of his faithful service as a member of the commission.

I thank Bishop McConnell for his leadership and support, and each member of the commission for their service during the year: the Rev. Lenny Anderson, St. Francis-in-the-Fields, Somerset; the Rev. Lynn

Chester Edwards, retired priest; Robert Goode, Redeemer, Squirrel Hill; Jessie Hipolit, Emmanuel, North Side; the Rev. Tim Hushion, Trinity Cathedral; Nancy Lapp, Holy Cross, Homewood; the Rev. Kris McInnes, St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon; Steve Stagnitta, St. Andrew's, Highland Park; the Rev. Ann Staples, St. Thomas, Northern Cambria; Daryl Walker, All Saints, Brighton Heights; and ex-officio as staff, the Rev. Scott Quinn, Canon to the Ordinary, and the Rev. Jay Geisler, Canon for Formation.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Louis B. Hays  
Chairperson

## COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND CANONS

In 2013, the Committee on Constitution and Canons addressed a wide range of issues in our canons, by-laws and constitution and will propose to Convention amendments to:

- Article VI (Secretary of Convention)
- Article IX Section 4 (Standing Committee)
- Canon I (List of Clergy)
- Canon XII Section 3 and Section 4.d (Budget and Financial Administration)
- Canon XVII Section 9 (Business Methods in Church Affairs)
- Canon XXVI Section 1 and Section 3 (Deputies to Provincial Synod and General Convention)
- Canon XXIX Sections 2 through 4 (Church Pension Fund)
- Rules of Order Section A.8 (Organization and Business)
- Rules of Order Section D.1 (Election of Bishop)

See Section C, Action Items, of this Preconvention Journal for the specific motions for each of the above.

The committee also invited comments from the diocese regarding our canons, including proposed changes to Canon II concerning the apportionment of deputies among parishes to the diocesan Convention, which was returned to the committee by the last diocesan Convention.

The committee welcomed the Rev. Charles Hamill, who currently serves as secretary. Other members include Michael Braxton (chair), Dr. Joan Gundersen (vice chair), Randy Amis, the Rev. Lou Hays, the Rev. Richard Pollard, and Andy Roman (*ex officio*).

## **DIOCESAN COUNCIL**

Diocesan Council's only meeting in 2012 after the adjournment of the 147th Annual Convention was held in December. During that meeting, Diocesan Council bid farewell to members completing their terms of office, welcomed new members elected at the Annual Convention, re-elected Mr. John F. Hose and Mr. Rich Creehan as President, and Secretary respectively, and elected the Reverend Louis Hays as Vice President.

The elected officers immediately began organizing for 2013 by finding qualified individuals to serve in appointed positions or as committee chairs. They were pleased that Mr. Steve Stagnitta of St. Andrew's, Highland Park, agreed to serve as Judge of Assessments; Ms. Linda Getts of St. Thomas, Oakmont, agreed to serve as Judge of Audits; Dr. Diane Duntley of Christ Church, Indiana, agreed to continue as Chair of the Diocesan Life Committee; Ms. Nancy Lapp of Holy Cross, Homewood, agreed to continue as Chair of the Social Justice and Outreach Committee; and Dr. Jeffrey Dunbar of St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon, agreed to serve as chair of the Resolutions Committee.

To continue with the update of the Diocesan Compensation Plan begun in 2012, the Reverend Bruce Robison of St. Andrew's, Highland Park, agreed to continue as chair of the Compensation Committee consisting of the Reverend Lennel Anderson of St. Francis-in-the-Fields, Somerset; Mr. Stuart Fox of St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon; Dr. Joan Gundersen of the diocesan staff and also a member of Church of the Redeemer, Squirrel Hill; the Reverend Leslie Reimer of Calvary, East Liberty; and Ms. Karen Schneider of St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon.

The Reverend Kris McInnes of St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon, agreed to serve as the chair of the Diocesan Nominating Committee with the assistance of Ms. Daryl Walker of All Saints, Brighton Heights; Mr. William Moore of St. Matthew's, Homestead; The Reverend Lennel Anderson of St. Francis-in-the-Fields, Somerset; and Ms. Betsy Hetzler of Nativity, Crafton. Diocesan Council dissolved the Communications Committee because that committee's functions had shifted to the Director of Communications and the Webmaster.

So far in 2013, Diocesan Council has convened on five occasions with meetings in January, March, May, June, and September. Council is scheduled to meet again in October and December.

Diocesan Council is kept well-informed with regular reports from Diocesan Leadership. Bishop McConnell has kept Council current on activities of the wider church, as well as through his concerns and plans pertaining to the future of the diocese. The Reverend Canons Scott Quinn and Jay Geisler kept Council abreast of happenings in parish ministry, activities of ordained leadership, and the opportunities for attracting new candidates for ordination. Periodically, representatives from the Commission on Ministry briefed the Council regarding the discernment and development of future ordained leaders of the diocese. Representatives from the Committee on Constitution and Canons kept Council informed of that committee's work

Reports were given at each meeting by the Chancellor, the President of the Board of Trustees, and the President of the Standing Committee. The Reverend Canon James Shoucair, Secretary of Convention, kept Council up-to-date about plans for 148th Annual Convention. Diocesan Council was encouraged by the progress reported by the Archivist and Director of Properties, the Provost of Trinity Cathedral, the President of ECW, the Youth Ministers on behalf of the Pittsburgh Youth Initiative, the Coordinator of Christian Education and the Resource Center, and a representative from the Growth Fund Committee. Director of Communications, Mr. Rich Creehan, kept Council apprised of his activities and the Diocesan

Treasurer and Director of Administration, Mr. Carl Hockenberry, provided clear and informative reports regarding the fiscal activity and financial status of the Diocese until his departure at the end of May.

During 2013, Diocesan Council approved housing resolutions designating a portion of the respective compensation as housing allowance for the Reverend Ann Staples; the Reverend Canon Dr. Catherine Brall; the Reverend Timothy V. Hushion, Jr.; and the Reverend Eric McIntosh.

In April 2013, Bishop Dorsey McConnell requested that Diocesan Council and the Board of Trustees form a joint task force to make recommendations regarding the implementation of the Strategic Plan which had been completed in 2012 by a prior task force. Pursuant to the bishop's request, Diocesan Council nominated Mr. Rich Creehan of St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon; the Reverend Louis Hays of St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon; Mr. John Hose of Advent, Jeannette; the Reverend Bruce Robison of St. Andrew's, Highland Park; and the Reverend James Simons of St. Michael's of the Valley, Ligonier, to accomplish the assigned tasks in conjunction with the representatives appointed by the Board of Trustees.

Moreover, Diocesan Council amended several sections of its by-laws to conform to the Diocesan Constitution and Canons or to reflect current practices.

Much of the work of Diocesan Council is accomplished by its committees.

### **The Budget and Assessment Working Group**

The Budget and Assessment Working Group, chaired by Mr. Steve Stagnitta, regularly evaluated and made recommendations to Diocesan Council regarding requests for assessment relief and grant funding from 2013 Diocesan Budget line items. In performing these functions, the chair was assisted by: Mr. Joseph Baird of St. Peter's, Blairsville; Ms. Linda Getts of St. Thomas, Oakmont; the Reverend Louis Hays of St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon; Mr. James Neral of Christ Church, North Hills; and Mr. Alan Schneider of St. Brendan's, Franklin Park.

Following the recommendations of the Budget and Assessment Working Group, Diocesan Council granted assessment relief for 2013 to St. Francis-in-the-Fields, Somerset; St. Paul's, Kittanning; Trinity Cathedral; and St. Stephen's, McKeesport. Funding for special mission projects was approved for St. David's, Peters Township, and Emmanuel, North Side. The Budget and Assessment Working Group also spent many hours assisting with the preparation of a fiscally responsible 2014 Diocesan Budget.

### **Diocesan Life Committee**

During 2013, the Diocesan Life Committee, chaired by Dr. Diane Duntley, continued to assess options for rebuilding the life of the diocese. In addition to the chair, participants in the committee's activities were: the Reverend Kamila Blessing of St. Barnabas, Brackenridge; Mr. Walter Bowman of Calvary, East Liberty; Mr. David Dix of Christ Church, North Hills; the Reverend Carol Henley of Calvary, East Liberty; the Reverend Kathy LaLonde of St. Paul's, Kittanning; Mr. William Moore of St. Matthew's, Homestead; Ms. Kerry Ochap of St. Stephen's, McKeesport; Ms. Daryl Walker of All Saints, Brighton Heights; and the Reverend Canon Scott Quinn, Pastoral Care Director and Canon to the Ordinary.

In 2012, the Committee supported the Convention Committee by developing and coordinating workshops on seven relevant topics. The Diocesan Life Committee supported the revitalization of districts by producing an introductory brochure on the role and functioning of districts and examined approaches to develop an expanded leadership pool by interesting a new generation of candidates to seek elective offices and volunteer for appointed roles.



During its meeting on September 9, 2013, the committee determined that it had completed its work of bringing healing and reconciliation to the diocese following the 2008 split and recommended that the committee be dissolved. Later that same evening, acting on the Diocesan Life Committee's recommendation, Diocesan Council passed the following:

“That the Diocesan Life Committee, having completed its assigned mission, is hereby dissolved with Diocesan Council's sincere appreciation to the committee's members, both past and present, and with special appreciation to Dr. Diane Duntley for her dedication, leadership, and contributions to the committee's successful endeavors.”

Diocesan Council is extremely grateful for this committee's outstanding efforts which have strengthened the ties of understanding, respect, shared mission and ministry, and mutual affection among the parishioners and parishes of the diocese.

### **Social Justice and Outreach Committee**

The Social Justice and Outreach Committee is chaired by Ms. Nancy Lapp of Holy Cross, Homewood. Members of the committee include: Mr. Jerry Stephenson of Christ Church, North Hills; the Reverend Moni McIntyre of Holy Cross, Homewood; Ms. Judy Rosensteel of All Souls, North Versailles; Ms. Marianne Novy of Redeemer, Squirrel Hill; Ms. Sue DeWalt of Calvary, East Liberty; Ms. Patricia Eagon of St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon; Mr. Bill Farra of the Community of Celebration; Ms. Elizabeth Duckstein of St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon; Mr. Mark Rust of Calvary, East Liberty; the Reverend Charles Weiss of St. Thomas, Canonsburg; Mr. Joseph Baird of St. Peters, Blairsville; and Ms. Patricia Kennedy of St. Andrews, Highland Park. Mr. Andy Muhl often attends committee meetings and has helped to spread the word of the committee's events. It is a very active committee and all members are to be thanked for their leadership of the various activities.

Diocesan Council was pleased to approve the committee's recommendation that the diocese's 0.7% Lambeth Resolution contribution for 2012 be spread among Episcopal Relief and Development with the request that it be directed to Nets for Life to prevent spread of malaria, to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank because of the continuing need to relieve hunger in the diocese, and to the Uncommon Ground Cafe in Aliquippa for its service to that community.

In the fall, the committee launched a Community Garden program under the leadership of Ms. Pat Eagon based upon the experience gained from participation in the community garden of the South Hills Interfaith Ministries. This project was promoted by a convention display, features in Grace Happens, and presentations by Mr. and Mrs. Eagon. Through this program and with financial assistance from ECW, the Committee awarded grants of \$280 to Shepherd's Wellness; \$250 to St. David's, Peters Township; \$420 to Calvary, East Liberty; and \$500 to the Community of Celebration. The committee is considering continuation of this successful program next year.

During 2013, the Social Justice and Outreach Committee continued to coordinate diocesan volunteer days at the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank and continued its participation in the PA Interfaith Impact Network (PIIN), particularly at the Spring Banquet where the Reverend Jared Jackson, the committee's former representative to PIIN was honored. In May, the committee voted to co-sponsor a workshop on solitary confinement initiated by the National Religious Coalition Against Torture and contributed \$50 toward the event.

In November 2012, the committee adopted plans for a second Habitat for Humanity house, again in Sharpsburg, for a refugee family with five children, ages eight to eighteen. Committee members took responsibility for various aspects of the work for which they all deserve thanks. A diocesan-wide kick-off

meeting took place on January 13 and the house was blessed by Bishop McConnell on March 16. More than eighty volunteers from various diocesan parishes have participated in work days alongside the family who provided “sweat hours.” In addition to the work by volunteers, the committee exceeded its goal by raising almost \$40,000 in support of this project. The contributions include \$3,708 in seed money from the committee, a grant of \$500 from ECW, \$15,000 from a family foundation, several individual donations, and contributions by seventeen diocesan parishes. As of the end of August, the house was not yet ready for occupancy, so volunteer work continued. Nevertheless, a dedication took place September 15 with the bishop present. It is hoped that the children of the refugee family will be able to enter schools in the Fox Chapel School District for the 2013-2014 school year.

Diocesan Council extends its sincere appreciation to the Social Justice and Outreach Committee as it strives to encourage the people of God to hear and respond to the cries of the poor, the hungry, the oppressed, and the alienated within our communities, the nation and the world.

### **Resolutions Committee**

The Resolutions Committee, chaired by Dr. Jeffrey Dunbar of St. Paul’s, Mt. Lebanon, with the assistance of the Reverend Vicente Santiago of Advent, Jeannette, has worked diligently to receive and review the resolutions being brought before the 148th Annual Convention.

Sincere appreciation is extended to Bishop Dorsey McConnell for his wisdom and guidance to the committees of Diocesan Council. Bishop McConnell, along with the President of Diocesan Council, serves as an ex-officio member of each of the committees.

In concluding, I express my sincere appreciation to the members of Diocesan Council for their dedicated, faithful, and prayerful work. All elected members serve on one or more of the committees and working groups of Diocesan Council. Their tireless efforts allow the Council to function effectively in its service to the Diocese. On behalf of the members of Diocesan Council, I want to thank Mr. Rich Creehan who consistently provided Council with accurate minutes of our deliberations, and the Reverend Louis Hays for his service as Vice President. Grateful appreciation also is extended to the diocesan staff members, the leaders of the other governing bodies, and the commission and committee chairs and members, all of whom assisted Diocesan Council in supporting the mission of the diocese.

Working with and assisting the Rt. Reverend Dorsey McConnell in his first full year as Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh, has been a distinct pleasure and privilege. We are all exceedingly grateful for his leadership as we strive to meet the challenges and opportunities associated with rebuilding and strengthening the diocese.

Respectfully submitted,  
John F. Hose  
President, Diocesan Council

## STANDING COMMITTEE

In accordance with the Canons of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Pittsburgh, the Standing Committee took the following actions from October 2012 through September 2013:

Granted Consent for Episcopal Elections:

- \* Bishop Suffragan in the Diocese of New York
- \* Bishop Coadjutor in the Diocese of Massachusetts
- \* Bishop Suffragan in the Diocese of Maryland
- \* Bishop Coadjutor in the Diocese of Mississippi

Gave specific Consent to the Episcopal Elections:

- \* William Douglas Hahn, Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Lexington
- \* W. Jay Lambert, Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Eau Clair
- \* Anne Hodges-Copple, Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of North Carolina
- \* Mark Allen Boulakas, Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia
- \* William Hallock Stokes, Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of New Jersey
- \* Wayne M. Hougland, Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Western Michigan

Consent to Ordain to Holy Orders to the Diaconate:

- \* Benjamin DeHart
- \* Eric McIntosh
- \* William Ogburn
- \* Francis Yesko

Consent to Ordain Deacons to the Priesthood:

- \* Gwendolynn Santiago
- \* John Schaeffer
- \* Terence Johnston
- \* Charles Hamill
- \* Todd Schmidtetter
- \* Benjamin DeHart
- \* Eric McIntosh
- \* William Ogburn
- \* Francis Yesko

Filled the following vacancies to Diocesan Office:

- \* Vicente Santiago to Diocesan Council
- \* Terlene Brown to Diocesan Council
- \* Charles Hamill to Committee on Constitution & Canons

Other Actions:

- \* Election of Bruce Robison and Jon Delano as president and secretary, respectively
- \* Consent to Reunion of Diocese of Quincy and Diocese of Chicago
- \* Approved new By-Laws for St. David's, Peters Twp.
- \* Approved amendment to By-Laws for Calvary, East Liberty

Respectfully submitted,  
The Rev. Dr. Bruce Robison, President  
Jon Delano, Secretary