

Section E

Reports of

Canonical Bodies

BISHOP'S REPORT

In addition to tending to the needs of our congregations, the pastoral care of the clergy and their families, and my episcopal duties detailed in the statistics below, a great deal of time and attention this past year, particularly from September to February, was devoted to preparing for the *Presiding Bishop's Pilgrimage for Reconciliation, Healing, and Evangelism in Southwestern Pennsylvania*. While diocesan staff worked overtime to lay the logistical groundwork for the event, I worked to build relationships with ecumenical leaders, particularly those in African-American churches. The result was a tremendously successful weekend February 3-5, in which the racial divide that afflicts the region and the churches began, in some small measure, to be bridged. This work continues through the partnership between the Rev. Dr. Darryl Canady and me, resulting in a movement we are calling *Church Without Walls*. This has brought together over 170 people from several traditions, including participants from 15 of our parishes. They meet in racially balanced small groups for prayer, study, and listening to one another. The next phase will be launched on October 15th. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry asked me to give an oral report to the House of Bishops on what we have done and where we are going. I did so on September 26th. It was enthusiastically received, and several bishops have expressed an interest in creating a similar movement in their own dioceses.

When General Convention arrives this coming July, I will have served three years as one of five bishops appointed to the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music. Our principal task has been fulfilling the requirement of GC Resolution A169 – to prepare a plan for the comprehensive revision of the *Book of Common Prayer* – but our report will include a second option allowing the BCP to remain in its current form while expanding the canonical categories for other liturgies to be authorized in this Church. I am one of the drafters of this alternative. This option emphasizes the importance of the book as an instrument of catechesis, a use that has not yet been widely promoted. I am hopeful that in the coming years the Prayer Book will find its appropriate place in lay faith development, in such efforts as the Restoration Project and the Faith Five initiative being encouraged in our parishes by our Canon for Evangelism and Faith Formation, the Rev. Natalie Hall.

Our relationship with Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is developing, including a design for an Anglican Track, which is taking longer than I had hoped, though I expect to see a concrete proposal go forward by the end of the year. I continue to serve on the PTS Board and teach there occasionally. I am hopeful that an ongoing program of development for recently ordained clergy will be unveiled in the next several months.

With encouragement and funding from our diocesan trustees, Trinity Cathedral has hired staff critical to the further development of its ministry. In consultation with the Very Rev. Scott Quinn, Interim Dean, I have called together a working group comprised of trustees, advisors, and other stakeholders to build a new vision and strategy for the Cathedral, emphasizing future ministries in the areas of arts and culture, education and social empowerment. I will be taking an active role building relationships across the city and region to help the Cathedral become the significant institution for a public Gospel I believe God wants it to be.

The parishes of the Mon Valley are progressing in their task of forming a common vision for Gospel work in their neighborhoods. The Rev. Brandon Mazingo has been appointed Deacon-in-Charge of Saint Stephen's McKeesport, under the supervision of Canon Jay Geisler, and Canon Kim Karashin is working with the team to partner with the leadership of Bethlehem Baptist Church in addressing the scourge of addiction as a primary focus of the Church's mission. Though the state budget is still in limbo as of this writing, I am hopeful that our efforts on behalf of the Manchester Bidwell Corporation, under the direction of Bill Strickland, will secure adequate funding to study the feasibility of establishing a job-

training center in McKeesport, which could become a focus for our own future ministry in the Mon Valley.

Our diocesan staff has continued to help parishes meet their needs for deeper Christian formation, clearer financial administration, and better-equipped lay leadership. In addition to the work of those named above, our Treasurer and Director of Administration, Kathi Workman, provides invaluable and patient support in every conceivable question around the management of parish resources. Other notable staff contributions include the Appreciative Inquiry process for re-evaluating parish goals led by Canons Ted Babcock and Kim Karashin, and the daily response to countless inquiries, phone calls, requests for information and the like, offered by Executive Assistant Judi Rogers, Property Manager Marlene Rihn, and Archivist Joan Gundersen. Support of the clergy is aided by Canon Pastor Scott Quinn. On the communications front, I am grateful for Rich Creehan and Andy Muhl, especially as we aim to launch our new website before the end of this year, while the Rev. Shawn Malarkey has already proven of enormous value as the new coordinator for clergy communications. I am proud and grateful for the contributions of all the colleagues mentioned in this report, and for the many others whom I have not named – the faithful clergy and laity of our congregations – upon whose prayers I depend from hour to hour.

Faithfully your bishop,
+Dorsey

Statistics for September 1, 2016 – August 31, 2017

Episcopal Visitations	37	Marriages	0
Confirmations	72	Burials	3
Receptions	20	Ordinations	6 (Order of Deacon 3; Order of Priest 3)
Baptisms	4	Renewal of Vows	1

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

At the end of 2016, we acknowledged with immense gratitude the service of Russ Ayres and Joe Karas, who departed from the board after terms that spanned the maximum length possible under our by-laws. Both Russ and Joe had served as president during their terms. Those years were extremely critical to the current health of the diocese. They contributed greatly in that respect.

Betty Duckstein, Dana Phillips (a former trustee) and incumbent Amy Shelley were elected trustees at the 2016 Diocesan Convention. Tom Moore and Steve Stagnitta were reappointed to second terms by Bishop McConnell.

Bishop McConnell appointed me as board president at the start of 2017. John Hose graciously accepted his election as secretary, and Mike Donadee was elected assistant secretary to take advantage of his expertise in handling real estate transactions. Our internal committees are chaired by Tom Moore (Finance/Investments), Mike Donadee (Property) and Bob Eley (Audit). Steve Stagnitta and Amy Shelley serve as the trustees' representatives to the Growth Fund Committee, which Amy chairs. Our chancellor, Andy Roman, continues to provide us with wise counsel. Their leadership and hard work are greatly appreciated.

We also owe many thanks to the diocesan staff that supports our work. As Treasurer and Director of Administration, Kathi Workman enables us to function by always having the needed financial and property information readily available. Kathi and Marlene Rihn skillfully manage all the issues with the diocese's surplus properties and coordinate the property sales.

The focus of the Board of Trustees continues to be the management of the financial and real assets of the diocese to the glory of God and for the furtherance of the mission and ministry of the Episcopal Church in southwestern Pennsylvania. Highlights of the past year are summarized below.

Diocesan Endowment

The diocesan endowment continues to be managed by Morgan Stanley, with oversight by Tom Moore's Finance/Investments Committee. The total of all the endowment funds, including diocesan funds and funds held for individual parishes and programs, grew from \$22.2 million on December 31, 2016, to \$23.1 million as of June 30, 2017. Our current asset allocation is approximately 57% equities, 25% fixed income, 14% alternatives and 4% cash.

The trustees continue to use the long-standing distribution policy of calculating the yearly withdrawal as 4.5% of the prior 48-month moving average of the pooled endowment value. The withdrawal amount credited to any individual fund is either distributed or reinvested, depending on the specific fund.

Support of Trinity Cathedral

The overwhelming costs of urgent maintenance projects at Trinity Cathedral have led the trustees to embark on a plan to look at the mission and ministry of the cathedral and determine what aspects and expenses should be considered diocesan-driven versus parish-related. As a result, the trustees committed to financial support to the cathedral for additional staffing for an interim period. A Cathedral Working Group composed of several key cathedral stakeholders and a subset of the Board of Trustees has started the process of reimagining the cathedral's future. The group recommended providing \$100.4k to the cathedral for additional staff and strategic planning in the second half of 2017. At its May meeting, the

Board of Trustees approved this funding to come from trustees' unrestricted funds. A separate task force will continue to develop a vision for the future mission of the cathedral.

Support for Parishes

Since the last Convention, grants and/or loans recommended by the Growth Fund Committee have been approved by the trustees for these parishes: St. Bartholomew's, Scottdale; St. David's, Peters Township; Emmanuel, North Side; St. Paul's, Monongahela; St. Peter's, Blairsville; St. Thomas, Canonsburg; and St. Thomas, Oakmont.

The trustees also approved restructuring the loan guarantee designed to provide mortgage relief to St. Brendan's, Franklin Park.

Disposition of underused property

Following on the work of the Strategic Planning Task Force of several years ago, the trustees have completed the sale of the following church buildings that no longer had Episcopal congregations during 2017:

- Prince of Peace, Hopewell, to Genesis Church
- Trinity, Freeport, to an individual committed to preserving the historic building as a museum for local artifacts
- All Saints, Rosedale, to New Vision Community Church

For such sales, the trustees have adopted a policy of putting the net proceeds into funds designated for new or existing mission/ministry in the corresponding region of the diocese.

The trustees have also sold the All Saints, Rosedale, rectory and the St. Andrew's, New Kensington, rectory to private individuals in 2017. The proceeds for the Rosedale rectory have been designated to help fund the additional Trinity Cathedral staffing mentioned above. Disposition of the funds from the New Kensington rectory sale will be addressed this fall.

The trustees especially want to thank Mike Donadee for his role in preparing much of the paperwork for these transactions.

Support for Diocesan Mission

Since the diocesan budget is funded in part from endowments controlled by the trustees, we met with members of the Budget and Assessments Working Group (BAWG) of Diocesan Council and Bishop McConnell in June to work on the 2018 diocesan budget that is being presented to this Convention. We extend thanks to Kathi Workman, the BAWG members, chair Kathy Baird, and council president the Rev. Lou Hays, for all their work during the budget process.

Support for Sheldon Calvary Camp

In 2017, the trustees paid \$20,000 as the fourth of five installments of our 2014 commitment of \$100,000 to Sheldon Calvary Camp's capital campaign. As in previous years, the trustees also authorized an annual grant from one of the diocesan endowments to support the camp's scholarship program.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry L. Stephenson
President, Board of Trustees

CANON FOR CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT

My duties shifted over the past year from being the diocesan Director of Administration to Canon for Congregation Support. The new title better reflects the movement in my job responsibilities over the past year. I worked very closely with Kathi Workman to move more and more of the administrative responsibilities to her while retaining some of the old administrative responsibilities like approving bills and journal entries, HR, IT and office maintenance.

Cathedral and Diocesan Office Security

The new security system was installed in late spring 2017. The security system protects diocesan house and cathedral office employees from those who just wander in without having legitimate business within the building. It provides a bell, and video camera with audio capabilities on the Oliver Avenue entrance so employees in both offices can observe who is at the door, and talk with them before admitting them. There is an electronic lock that can be opened by an employee from their desk after observing and/or talking with the person ringing the bell. The door to each office has its own camera with audio capabilities as well as a bell. Each door has an electronic lock that can be opened only by people in that specific office. There is a keyboard at each door to provide keyless entry for each employee.

Cathedral and Diocesan Office Fire Escape

I worked with contractors and the cathedral staff to finalize the design of an appropriate escape ladder/stairs from the first floor to the ground, to rectify the current fire escape which terminates on the roof of the first floor, leaving an 18-foot jump to the ground. There are many security concerns with the escape ladder, which not only provides a way down, but could also provide unwanted access to the upper floors of the cathedral building. The final design was submitted to the city, with approval being granted, with some modifications, on June 14, 2017. Installation is pending.

New Diocesan Website

It has been a long haul to learn about the possibilities of using our website to reach an un-churched population. We have settled on a contractor and the site design is progressing. It is being driven not by those who manage the site, but rather by the end users, as represented by an advisory group assembled from within the diocese, and their needs.

Appreciative Inquiry

St. Michael's, Ligonier

We finished our work in January 2017 and are aiding them as needed in the implementation of the new work that arose in response to their identified call from God. They are a great parish, with a lot of energy to drive forward and serve Christ. Kim Karashin was trained as an Appreciative Inquiry leader during this process.

St Brendan's, Franklin Park

The vestry, along with a few additional volunteers, went through the Appreciative Inquiry process. They re-discovered St. Brendan's DNA and its historical call from God. They have nearly completed identifying where they think God is calling St. Brendan's and are developing a path forward in response. Once St. Brendan's knows where God is calling, it will identify the desired attributes for their next priest.

Kim Karashin did the Appreciative Inquiry work at St. Brendan's and during the process she trained the Rev. Regis Smolko as an Appreciative Inquiry leader.

Deployment

St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon, has called the Rev. Noah Evans as its new rector. Let's all welcome Noah and his family to the diocese.

There are currently four openings at four parishes and we have had many transitions – some into retirement and others to new calls.

Financial Re-structuring of Parish Debt

I worked with the Board of Trustees, Kathi Workman, and Morgan Stanley to restructure loans for St. David's, Peters Township, and St. Brendan's, Franklin Park. Using our endowment as security, we were able to get a low, risk-free, interest rate with a seven-year term for both parishes. This lowered their carrying costs and, in St. David's case, saved the diocese a significant amount of money. St. Brendan's also saved a significant amount of money that has allowed them to refocus on their ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Ted Babcock
Canon for Congregational Support

CANON FOR EVANGELISM & FAITH FORMATION

With gratitude I submit this report to my sisters and brothers in Christ in the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh. Since joining the staff in January 2017, I have found joy in service. You who serve in the diocese in a diversity of roles visibly strive for faithful, sustainable, and creative means of serving Jesus Christ and one another. I am grateful to serve along with you.

A principle call of my ministry is providing concrete support for households as the primary source of faith leadership. I continue to develop relationships with congregations throughout the diocese to introduce at-home faith formation, which encourages households to become the substantive location of faith practice and conversation. While every parish naturally encourages members to attend worship regularly, what about the days in between? My role is to connect with individual parishes to help households initiate daily faith practices that require nothing more than a faithful heart. Namely, I teach a practice called FAITH5 which is a cost-free, 10-15 minute practice that anyone can participate in regardless of background, household demographic, or education.

To date, I have served St. Andrew's, Highland Park; St. David's, Peters Twp.; St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon; St. Stephen's, Wilkinsburg; and Redeemer, Squirrel Hill, and have upcoming sessions with Christ Church, North Hills. This includes preparatory work, an initial presentation, follow-up meetings, and assistance to clergy and lay leaders in supporting the participating people of their parish. I am available to any congregation throughout the diocese interested in further exploration. Additionally, I am eager to assist congregations in identifying ways to organize cross-generational aspects of regular worship, meaning that people of all ages and experiences gather together to influence, care for, and love one another in the name of Jesus.

It is my goal and hope that 100% of all congregations would aim to energetically participate in faith formation and evangelism development as part of a wider effort both in supporting the individual identity and health of each congregation and to unite in purpose with the diocese and wider Episcopal Church.

To further develop opportunities for the diocese, grant proposals are currently underway to support joint individual, parish, and ecumenical ministries. Among those efforts include upcoming events to present opportunities for faith formation at home, best practices in ministry, assessment tools for evaluating success in ministry (other than money and attendance!), and more. Another exciting project is developing a relationship with Pittsburgh Theological Seminary to develop an Anglican track for study, as well as organizing diocese-wide lay opportunities for substantive faith formation.

It is a great joy and blessing to work with our bishop, canons, and members of both the diocesan and cathedral staff. Furthermore, I am humbled and grateful to serve in a diocese where the priests, deacons, and laypeople so diligently work to make the Gospel of Jesus Christ real among the congregations and communities of our region.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Natalie L.G. Hall
Canon for Faith Formation and Evangelism

CANON FOR MISSION

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve Bishop McConnell and the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh as Canon for Mission, and am continually blessed by the relationships and experiences that I have gained while serving in this role for the past (close to) two years.

During late 2016 and early 2017, much of my time was devoted to the planning and coordination of *The Presiding Bishop's Pilgrimage for Reconciliation, Healing and Evangelism in Southwestern Pennsylvania*. Hundreds participated in one or more of the five events occurring that weekend. They included clergy and laypeople from throughout our diocese, visitors from other Episcopal dioceses (near and far), and neighbors from other faith traditions in and around Pittsburgh.

This was followed closely by *Lenten Learning Day 2017: The Word Beyond the Walls*. Approximately 80 people from 26 parishes gathered at St. Brendan's, Franklin Park, to learn and worship and eat!. The day was designed to explore more deeply the topics covered in the workshops at the 2016 Diocesan Convention: digital ministry, discipleship, and family faith formation.

Thanks to all who had a hand – or heart – in helping with these events. I pray that you and your congregations have been enlightened and encouraged by each, and that your experience has begun to bear fruit for the sake of Christ's kingdom.

Other major initiatives in which I have been involved over the past year include:

Appreciative Inquiry

I had the privilege of leading St. Brendan's, Franklin Park, through the Appreciative Inquiry (AI) process. AI encourages a parish to (1) look at itself with an "appreciative eye," identifying the gifts that lie within and around it, and (2) discern how God is calling the parish to use its gifts as it joins in His mission. The process required a series of ten meetings over the course of five months. Fifteen parishioners (vestry members and others) were involved in the process, before the results (a mission statement and action plan) were rolled out to the rest of the congregation. I commend St. Brendan's for the spirit and commitment with which they undertook this process!

The Mon Valley Mission

I have continued to provide strategic support and logistical leadership for this initiative, intended to help our Mon Valley parishes discern their role in addressing the region's socio-economic issues and spiritual needs. For details, see the separately submitted Mon Valley Mission report.

I am looking forward to another exciting year of mission and ministry ahead. Please let me know if I may be of any assistance to you or your parish.

Prayerfully and respectfully submitted,
Kimberly Karashin

CANON FOR ORDAINED VOCATIONS

As Canon for Ordained Vocations, I have focused on working with the Commission on Ministry on recruiting, preparing, and examining those who believe they have been called to the diaconate and priesthood. By God's grace, we continue to be blessed and have had several ordinations in the last year and more possibilities in the future.

I continue to work with the seminarians at Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge and, in addition, have begun to work with the seminarians at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (PTS). Last year, the bishop and I taught two courses at PTS: the "Anglican Way of Theology" and "Liturgy as Pastoral Care." This dovetails nicely with Canon Cathy Brall working with students at PTS fulltime as the Director of Field Education.

Last September, we had a Recovery Retreat in Foxburg, Pennsylvania, with the clergy of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania. The focus was in understanding addiction and its treatment. I wrote a grant to the Widows Corporation of Pennsylvania, which funded the full event. It was wonderful cooperating with the clergy of our northern neighbor.

Formation, however, is more than working with the clergy. In the upcoming year, we hope to expand formation, from being focused on clergy, to help the laity to carry out the mission of the Church as found in the "Great Commandment:"

Jesus said unto him, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."
Matthew 22:34-40

In addition, to the Great Commandment is the "Great Commission," Jesus' final statement before His Ascension:

Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
Matthew 28:18-20

We are hoping that more laity will be able to attend the Pittsburgh Pastoral Care Conference, which has been held annually for the last 17 years. The dates for the Spring 2018 Pittsburgh Pastoral Conference will be announced.

If anyone has any comments, ideas, or suggestions for improving the formation of the people of God (both clergy and laity) please contact me at 412-414-3337 or send me an email at: jgeisler@episcopalpgh.org.

Peace & Prayers,
The Rev. Canon Dr. Jay Geisler

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.”

Since the 2016 Diocesan Convention, the Commission on Ministry will have met seven times, including the annual Winter Interview Day, Ministry Exploration Day, and a retreat for those in the discernment and ordination process. Highlights of the year include:

- The Bishop granted Postulancy to Kim Karashin of St. Peter’s, Brentwood.
- Three individuals took the General Ordination Examinations in January 2017.
- The Annual Winter Interview Day with the Bishop, Commission on Ministry, and Standing Committee on January 14, 2017, featured formal interviews with five individuals.
- The Bishop granted Postulancy to Julie Smith of Redeemer, Squirrel Hill.
- The Commission and Bishop accepted the nomination of Brandon Cooper of St. Andrew’s, Highland Park.
- The Bishop ordained Joseph Baird to the Sacred Order of Priests on January 22, 2017, at St. Peter’s, Blairsville.
- The Bishop ordained Annis Rogers to the Sacred Order of Deacons on March 4, 2017, at Trinity Cathedral, and ordained her to the Sacred Order of Priests on September 17, 2017, at St. Mark’s, Johnstown.
- With the consent of the Standing Committee, the Bishop granted Candidacy to Brandon Mozingo of St. Peter’s, Brentwood, followed by approval for ordination, and ordination to the Sacred Order of Deacons on June 3, 2017, at Trinity Cathedral.
- The Bishop ordained Douglas Kinsey to the Sacred Order of Priests at St. Peter’s, Brentwood, on June 18, 2017.
- With the advice and consent of the Standing Committee, the Bishop received the Holy Orders, Priesthood, of Charles Esposito on August 6, 2017, at Calvary, East Liberty.
- Under the leadership of the Rev. Michelle Boomgaard, the Commission held its first retreat for individuals in the process, at the Donegal House on April 21 and 22. It was an opportunity for worship, fellowship, and spiritual reflection.
- Ministry Exploration Day was held on May 6, 2017, at Calvary, East Liberty. Approximately 30 people participated, including potential nominees for Holy Orders with spouses and clergy.

The Rev. Charles Hamill was elected to serve a three-year term at Annual Convention. The Commission mourned the death of former long-time member of the Commission on Ministry, the Rev. Lynn Chester Edwards. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

I thank Bishop McConnell for his leadership and support, and each member of the Commission for their service during the year: Ms. Carolyn Booker, St. Stephen's, Wilkinsburg; the Rev. Michelle Boomgaard; Ms. Bethany Hamill, Christ Church, North Hills; the Rev. Charles Hamill, Christ Church, North Hills and All Saints, Brighton Heights; the Rev. Jonathon Jensen, Calvary, East Liberty; the Rev. Eric McIntosh, St. James, Penn Hills; the Rev. Kris Opat, St. David's, Peters Township; the Rev. Lorena Ringle, Christ Church, North Hills; Mr. Steve Stagnitta, St. Andrew's, Highland Park; the Rev. Ann Staples, St. Thomas, Northern Cambria; Ms. Daryl Walker, All Saints, Brighton Heights; and ex-officio as staff, the Rev. Scott Quinn, Canon Pastor, the Rev. Jay Geisler, Canon for Ordained Vocations, and the Rev. Ted Babcock, Canon for Congregational Support.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Louis B. Hays
Chairperson

COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND CANONS

The Committee on Constitution and Canons (the Rev. Dr. Bruce Robison, chair; the Rev. Dr. Michelle Boomgaard, secretary; Betsy Hetzler; the Rev. Shawn Malarkey; Ken Stiles; Ansley Westbrook; and, *ex officio*, Chancellor Andy Roman) met through the year to discuss proposals from its members and from others within the diocese regarding changes to the Constitution and Canons that might better serve our diocese.

The Committee has studied for several years the manner in which the current Constitution and Canons refer to attendance at Diocesan Convention for the purpose of deciding whether to propose any changes that would clarify the canons or improve the organization of the canons. This study was begun following the suggestion of a Lay Deputy in 2015 that the reference in Canon II, Section 3 to Clergy canonically resident in other dioceses but serving as a priest-in-charge or interim of a parish in union with Convention did not seem to fit under Canon II. The Committee hopes to conclude its study of these issues in September, and to bring any proposals for clarification or reorganization of the canons to the 152nd Convention.

The Committee has also studied the manner in which the current Constitution and Canons deal with the rights of Clergy and Lay Deputies to attend, speak out at, and vote at Convention, when the parish has failed to comply with its canonical responsibilities regarding assessments, audits, and parochial reports. The goal of this study is to determine if changes are warranted to make the canonical consequences more consistent as well as more clear. The Committee hopes to conclude its study of these issues in September, and to bring any proposals for amending the canons to the 152nd Convention.

Finally, the Committee has discussed how our diocesan canons might be amended to support greater creativity in efforts by parishes and by the diocese to address challenges and emerging ministry opportunities. We also have continued to examine provisions in our Constitution and Canons which exclude ordained persons from election to and from service on the Board of Trustees, comparing our practices with those of other dioceses and discussing whether our current structures could be amended to enhance the stewardship of the “human resources” of the diocese. While the Committee will not be bringing any proposals to the 152nd Convention on these topics, we do hope to continue these conversations in the coming year.

The Rev. Dr. Bruce M. Robison, Chair

DIOCESAN COUNCIL

The Diocesan Council exists by virtue of Article XI of the Constitution of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh. Its responsibilities are summarized in Section 1 of Canon V as follows: “The Diocesan Council shall act on behalf of the Convention when the Convention is not in session. In particular, it shall evaluate the policies, programs, and other activities of the Diocese, make recommendations to the Convention, and give general oversight to the work, mission, budget and human resources of the Diocese. The Council shall perform such other functions and tasks as the Convention may assign to it.”

Since the 2016 Annual Convention, Council has met six times: December 6, 2016, and February 7, April 4, June 13, September 12, and October 3, 2017. Minutes of these meetings are or will be available from the diocesan office. In addition, Council acted under Section 9 of Canon XVII (electronic voting) as follows: 1) in December 2016, to allocate \$25,000 from the Miriam Moyer Trust to Parish Mission Grants for mission projects that promote evangelism and/or racial reconciliation, and to amend a previously approved clergy housing allowance; 2) in March 2017, to elect the Rev. Jean Chess to fill the unexpired term (through 2017) of the Rev. Carol Henley as Secretary of Council; 3) in May 2017, approved a mission grant application for \$3,000 from St. Brendan’s, Franklin Park, and a mission grant application for \$3,100 from Church of the Advent, Jeannette; 4) in June 2017, amended the 2017 diocesan budget to provide \$5,129 from the Campbell Foundation income to cover the cost of hiring a diocesan staff person for clergy communications; 5) and in August 2017, approved a mission grant application for \$1,000 for Trinity Cathedral.

Council meetings consist of reports from the Bishop, Canons to the Bishop, President of the Standing Committee, President of the Board of Trustees, Chancellor, Treasurer, and the chairs of various diocesan committees and organizations, and action items as needed.

December meeting: Council approved the following amendments to the 2016 budget: add budget line for Presiding Bishop’s visit expenses of \$5,000 to Formation and Mission budget; increase Technology – Hardware, Support, and Training budget from \$6,000 to \$7,000; and decrease the amount allocated for Legal Expenses by \$6,000, from \$50,000 to \$44,000. Council also provided St. James, Penn Hills, with \$3,000 in emergency funds to repair a roof leak. Council approved 2017 housing allowance resolutions for six clergypersons and amended the 2016 housing allowance resolution for one clergyperson. Council elected the officers for 2017 as follows: the Rev. Lou Hays, President; the Rev. Charlie Hamill, Vice President; and the Rev. Carol Henley, Secretary.

February meeting: Council approved the Bishop’s request that Kathi Workman’s job responsibilities and title be changed to Treasurer and Director of Administration. The following budget amendments were approved by Council: \$20,700 of the 2016 net operating income of \$67,450 to be carried forward to 2017; increase income to reflect Campbell Foundation Grant Income by \$44,871; increase expenses by \$44,871 for addition of Canon for Evangelism and Faith Formation; increase Website/Database expense by \$5,600; and increase Total Returned Properties – Net Expense by \$15,100 for maintenance/repairs committed to in 2016 which were not able to be completed due to contractor delays and winter weather. The following requests for relief from assessment were approved: the total assessment for St. Stephen’s, Wilkinsburg, was reduced by 10% from \$21,032 to \$18,929; the assessment for All Saints, Brighton Heights, of \$3,987 was reduced by 24% from \$3,987 to \$2,847 with a Growth Fund assessment of \$199 for a total assessment of \$3,046. The following request for a Parish Mission Grant was approved: \$1,000 for St. Peter’s, Blairsville, to start a ministry in a local laundromat modeled after a program called Laundry Love. Council approved a housing allowance resolution for the Rev. Canon Natalie Hall.

April meeting: Council approved two requests for 2017 Diocesan Mission and Faithful Remnant Grants

from the same parishes and for the same amounts as in prior years: \$22,000 for Emmanuel, North Side, and \$12,000 for the Church of the Good Shepherd, Hazelwood. Council approved a request for relief from assessment of \$1,990 for St. Thomas, Oakmont, due to a recently discovered error in income that should not have been included as Normal Operating Income on their parochial reports for the past three years. Council approved a request for a \$1,000 Mission Grant from St. Francis in the Fields, Somerset, for connecting two outreach groups. Council approved a revised housing allowance resolution for the Rev. Canon Natalie Hall.

June meeting: Council approved a request for relief from assessment submitted by Trinity Cathedral, reducing its 2017 assessment by 40% from \$44,872 to \$26,923.

September and October meetings: Results not available for this report. Minutes will be available from the diocesan office.

Committees of Diocesan Council

The following committees have continued to function over the past year: Budget and Assessment Working Group, chaired by Kathy Baird of St. Peter's, Blairsville; Social Justice and Outreach, chaired by Marianne Novy of Redeemer, Squirrel Hill; Resolutions, chaired by Terlene Brown, Holy Cross, Homewood; Nominations, co-chaired by the Rev. Nancy Chalfant-Walker, St. Stephen's, Wilkinsburg, and Russ Ayers, Calvary, East Liberty; and Compensation, chaired by the Rev. Lou Hays, retired priest. Sheila Stagnitta, St. Andrew's, Highland Park, serves as Judge of Audits, and Kathy Baird serves as Judge of Assessments.

Report of the Social Justice and Outreach Committee

Members of the Social Justice and Outreach Committee include: Colleen Sari, Calvary, East Liberty (until June); Marianne Novy, Redeemer, Squirrel Hill/PIIN; Patricia Eagon, St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon; Bill Farra, Community of Celebration; Elizabeth Duckstein, ECW/St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon; Patricia Kennedy, St. Andrew's, Highland Park; the Rev. Michael Foley, Redeemer, Squirrel Hill; Erin Morey, St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon; Linda Schneider, St. Brendan's, Franklin Park; Anne Robb, Calvary, East Liberty; the Rev. Garrett Yates, St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon; and Nancy Lapp, Holy Cross, Homewood.

The committee's recommendation for the diocese's 2016 Lambeth Funds, accepted by Diocesan Council, was to distribute \$3,523 as follows: International: Episcopal Relief & Development, designated for Syrian Refugees, \$1,000; Regional: Highland Education Project (part of Appalachian Ministries), \$1,000; Local: Operation Safety Net, \$750; Jubilee Soup Kitchen, \$773.

The committee began 2017 by thanking Nancy Lapp for her outstanding service as chair of the Social Justice and Outreach committee since close to its beginning in 2009. Nancy is dedicated, thorough, diplomatic, and informed about a wide range of issues, and the committee urged her to continue as a member.

As a result of a presentation to our committee by Thaddeus Popovich of St. Brendan's, Franklin Park, in April, the committee arranged a film, panel, and discussion on social justice and petrochemical factories, generously hosted by Calvary, East Liberty, and introduced by the Rev. Ted Babcock. The film, *Fenceline: A Company Town Divided*, about the impact of the Shell plant in Louisiana, was followed by talks about the likely impact of the factory that Shell is planning for Beaver County, with an emphasis on health effects and better alternatives. Several among the approximately 70 attendees have discussed planning a similar event for their own congregation.

In July, the committee took on responsibility for coordinating the "Walk-in" ministry at Trinity Cathedral, part of a collaboration with four other downtown churches. Every fifth week, Trinity is the go-to church

for individuals with emergency needs (food, referrals for ID, bus fare to medical appointments, etc., or just someone to talk to). In addition to receiving help from several members of the cathedral staff, there are now six volunteers from St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon; Calvary, East Liberty; and Redeemer, Squirrel Hill. The schedule alternates so that there are always two volunteers present from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, during the assigned week. Additional volunteers would be welcomed.

The committee supported community gardens at six congregations, all renewals. The grants went to St. Brendan's, Franklin Park; St. David's, Peters Township; St. Andrew's, Highland Park; Holy Cross, Homewood; Redeemer, Squirrel Hill; the Community of Celebration; and Shepherd Wellness Community. Several individual and church donations have generously supplemented the money in the committee's budget for this purpose.

Participation in packing days at the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank continued this year. Between November and April there were 52 volunteers. They came from Calvary, East Liberty; Christ Church, North Hills; Holy Cross, Homewood; Redeemer, Squirrel Hill; St. Brendan's, Franklin Park; St. Peter's, Brentwood; St. Thomas, Oakmont; and the Episcopal Student Association at the University of Pittsburgh. The Committee also has urged the parishes of our diocese to support Bread for the World, which helps citizens advocate for legislation to fight hunger domestically and internationally. Marianne Novy has gained information from several Pittsburgh meetings and the National BFW Lobby Day in Washington DC, and can help parishes who want to host an Offering of Letters.

The Social Justice and Outreach Committee arranged and publicized several events dealing with racism and mass incarceration, identified as key concerns by the Episcopal Church. Brittany Buttry-Watson shared information about the mentorship program of Foundation of Hope, which works with individuals who are incarcerated or recently released, to reduce the chance of their returning to jail. The committee publicized the documentary *Thirteenth*, shown at Redeemer, Squirrel Hill on March 2, about the connection between slavery and incarceration, as well as Redeemer's Great Issues series of panels on Race in Pittsburgh. The committee also encouraged people to attend the 19th Annual Summit against Racism, held at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary on January 21. Race and incarceration are current concerns of PIIN (Pennsylvania Interfaith Impact Network) Southwest. The diocese and seven parishes (Calvary, East Liberty; Emmanuel, North Side; Holy Cross, Homewood; Redeemer, Squirrel Hill; St. James, Penn Hills; St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon; and St. Stephen's, Wilkinsburg) are members of PIIN, and several committee members have attended PIIN's events dealing with these topics.

The committee also wrote a letter publicizing various kinds of Episcopal support of refugees and immigrants, and suggested several ways people could help refugees locally. Currently, St. Brendan's, Franklin Park, and Calvary, East Liberty, have ESL (English as a Second Language) classes, parishioners of Redeemer, Squirrel Hill, have helped refugees and immigrants get their green cards and citizenship, and St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon, participates extensively in immigration assistance through the Northern Area Multi-Service Center.

With the help of Andy Muhl, we have updated our website, with lists (and brief descriptions) of Episcopal organizations working for social justice through advocacy and service, service organizations that parishes and the diocese have worked with, and advocacy organizations with members in the diocese working on justice issues of concern to the Episcopal Church.

We are grateful, as always, to Council for its support, as well as especially to Nancy Lapp for her guidance in the work of our committee.

Respectfully submitted, Marianne Novy, Chair

Report of the Resolutions Committee

As of the time of submission of this report, no resolutions have been offered. The Committee will take appropriate action on any resolutions presented after the date of the submission of this report.

Report of the Budget Assessment and Working Group

This group meets regularly to evaluate requests from parishes for reduced assessments or grants funded by the Diocesan operating budget. It then recommends action to be taken by Diocesan Council. Members also work with the Bishop, Treasurer, and Board of Trustees to develop the diocesan budget for submission to Annual Convention. On occasion, members of the group work with parishes to assist with financial issues. Current members of this committee include: Kathy Baird, St. Peter's, Blairsville, Chair; the Rev. Charles Hamill, Christ Church, North Hills and All Saints, Brighton Heights; the Rev. Lou Hays, retired priest; Kevin Hipolit, Emmanuel, North Side; and the Rev. Vicente Santiago, Advent, Jeannette.

I would like to thank all members of Diocesan Council for their faithful service since last year's Annual Convention, and those who regularly attend and participate in Council meetings. It has been a privilege serving as President of Council and with Charlie Hamill, Vice President, and Carol Henley and Jean Chess, Secretaries.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Lou Hays
President of Diocesan Council

THE STANDING COMMITTEE

This report covers the business conducted by the Standing Committee from September 2016 through August 2017.

Episcopal Consents

Easton, Western North Carolina, Central New York, Armed Forces, Haiti (consent to hold election), Indianapolis, Spokane, Los Angeles, Puerto Rico, West Texas, North Carolina, San Joaquin

Consent to Ordinations

Annis Elizabeth Humphries Rogers (Candidacy, Diaconate, Priesthood)
Douglas Andrew Kinsey (Diaconate, Priesthood)
Joseph Paul Baird (Priesthood)
Alyse Elizabeth Viggiano (Priesthood)
Brandon Thomas Mozingo (Candidacy, Diaconate)

By-law Changes

Church of the Redeemer, Squirrel Hill
St. Peter's, Blairsville

Reception of Orders

Regis J. Smolko
Charles Paul Esposito

Title III Release from Ministry

Paul M. Johnston
Terence L. Johnston

Property Issues

Consent to an easement for Calvary, East Liberty for a neighbors garage use
Approved sale of Prince of Peace, Hopewell.
Approved sale of Good Samaritan, Liberty Boro.
Approved sale of All Saints, Rosedale.

The committee elected the Rev. Leslie Reimer to fill the unexpired term of the Rev. T.J. Freeman.

The committee also had substantive discussions with the Commission in Ministry regarding the ordination process and the interface of the COM with the Standing Committee.

There was also significant discussion regarding the February visit of the Presiding Bishop.

I would like to thank the current members of the Standing Committee: the Rev. Kris Opat (secretary), John Adams, Russ Ayers, Kathy Baird, the Rev. Eric McIntosh, the Rev. Leslie Reimer, and Darrell Powell-Williams, as well as the Rev. William Geiger and Dana Philips whose terms expired at the end of 2016. Also our thanks go to Andy Roman who continues to serve faithfully as our chancellor.

The Rev. Dr. James B. Simons
President

TREASURER & DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

Responsibilities include overseeing the diocesan accounting system, serving as financial liaison to the Board of Trustees, Council, Property Committee, Growth Fund Committee, Audit Committee, Budget and Assessments Working Group, and Compensation Committee, providing financial and employee benefit assistance to parishes and diocesan staff, managing returned properties with assistance from the Trustee Property Committee, and handling administrative matters and employee benefits for the diocese.

Updates since the 2016 Convention include:

- The 2016 audit was completed and an unqualified opinion rendered by Maher Duessel.
- Assisted four parishes in obtaining \$16k in grants from The Advancement Society to defray costs for various building maintenance projects.
- Conducted annual Parish Finances Workshop in conjunction with CPG Presentation of Upcoming Changes to Clergy Benefits with 29 attendees.
- Diocese provided payroll processing through ADP to six parishes at reduced rates (annual cost ranges from \$150 to \$225). Contact Marlene Rihn for information.
- Organized volunteer audit teams to assist parishes with their annual audits.
- Of 36 clergy/lay employees who enrolled in ECMT health plans for 2017, 16 (44%) selected Consumer Directed Health Plans (CDHP) with Health Savings Accounts (HSA). Bishop McConnell donated \$500 to each employee's HSA.
- Three properties were sold during 2017. The former Prince of Peace, Hopewell, was sold to Genesis Church, which had previously rented space at a Moon Township hotel. The former All Saints, Rosedale, was sold to New Vision Community Church, which had rented the church since 2011. The former Trinity, Freeport, was sold to an individual committed to preserving the historic church as a museum for local artifacts. Sale proceeds from these and other properties sold in recent years have been deposited to Morgan Stanley Pool 1 in funds for new church plants/ministries in the corresponding geographic areas.
- All Saints, Rosedale, and St. Andrew's, New Kensington, rectories were sold during 2017.
- Received \$50k DFMS Mission Enterprise Zone grant on behalf of St. James, Penn Hills, designated for rebuilding the parish over a two-year period.
- Received first installment of \$50k from Campbell Foundation (total grant \$150k over 3-year period) designated for ministry to senior adults.
- Received \$61k bequest from DeCoux estate designated for the preservation and maintenance of the church and columbarium at St. Thomas in the Fields, Gibsonia.
- Approved Growth Fund grants of \$77k to parishes with urgent building maintenance projects. Approved Growth Fund loan of \$26k to one parish in 2017.
- 2017 Operating Budget provides \$143k in financial support to reopened parishes/parishes in need of financial assistance and \$27k in Community Outreach Grants to Coal Country Hangout Youth Center,

Neighborhood Youth Outreach Project (NYOP), Shepherd Wellness Center, and Sheldon Calvary Camp.

- \$44k in funding is available for Parish Mission Grants. The Parish Mission Grant Application is available on the diocesan website.
- 2017 Trustee grants provided \$20k to the Sheldon Calvary Camp Capital Campaign, \$19.5k to Sheldon Calvary Camp for scholarships, and \$82k to Trinity Cathedral for additional 2017 staffing.

With gratitude for the opportunity to serve,
Kathi Workman