

MINUTES OF THE MAY 11, 2009 MEETING OF DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH (TEC)

The meeting was called to order by president, Joan Morris at 7:05 PM.

Present were: Joan Morris, District VII, Judy Rosensteel, District VIII, Ardelle Hopson, District VII, Andy Roman, Chancellor, the Rev. Jay Geisler, District VIII, the Rev. James Shoucair, Secretary to Convention, Linda Getts, ECW President, Lee Hicks, Standing Committee, Fran Gargotta, District II, Melissa McClain, District II, the Rev. Steve Smalley, District III, John Roberts, District IV, the Rev. William Geiger, District IV, the Rt. Rev. Robert Johnson, Assisting Bishop, Beth Hardie, Board of Trustees, John Hose, District IV, Bob Pratt, District VIII, Bob Johnston, District V, the Rev. Scott Quinn, Canon to the Ordinary, the Rev. Lou Hays, District V, Joan Gundersen, Treasurer, the Rev. George Werner, Standing Committee, the Rev. Chuck Weiss, District V. Absent were: the Rev. Wade Lawrence, the Rev. Norman Koehler, Eric Cook, the Rev. Moni McIntyre, the Rev. James Simons.

The minutes were corrected by John Hose stating that St. Barnabas requested that their assessment be reduced to \$5,000.00, but the committee recommends their assessment to be \$7,670.00. Also in the third sentence from the end the word need should be changed to needs. John Hose made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Fran Gargotta seconded the motion. Motion carried.

In his remarks, Bishop Johnson stated that the Widow's Fund in the amount of \$20,730.00 has been sent to us and not to the Southern Cone group. This money can be used for the health and wellness of our clergy.

REPORTS; Standing Committee – George Werner stated that at their April 20, 2009 meeting the group discussed what type of bishop we need, and also which bishop would be available at this time. They also discussed pension for clergy without cures, and what would be the minimum amount. The group also discussed the consents of Northern Michigan's choice of bishop. There has been communication from Bishop Frank Griswold thanking us for all that we do.

Beth Hardie reported for the Board of Trustees stating that S. Forrester has resigned. St. Paul's in Kittanning, wants to rent their parish house. She also mentioned the ongoing legal matters with the Southern Cone group.

Joan Gundersen, treasurer, presented the report, and stated that we will start to have more expense than income. There has been an administrative assistant hired. Judith Rogers will start on May 26, 2009. Also convention expenses will be \$30,000 and we have budgeted only \$20,000.

COMMITTEE REPORTS; John Hose , Budget & Assessment, the committee approved a request for \$10,000.00 grant to St. Stephen's, Wilksburg for their Neighborhood Youth Outreach Program. Council approved this.

The committee approved an emergency grant request from the Coal Country Hangout Youth Center for \$5,000.00. Council approved this. The committee accepted the proposal for the salary of Rich Creehan to be \$30,000.00/yr. retroactive to January 1 as director of communications for the diocese. Council approved this. The committee approved the reduction of assessment of St. Thomas Memorial Church in Oakmont to the amount of \$18,000.00. Council approved this. The committee approved the

assessment reduction of St. Paul's, Kittanning to the amount of \$10,978.00. Council approved this. The committee approved the assessment reduction of St. Mark's, Johnstown, in the amount of \$12,000.00. Council approved this. The committee approved the recommendation that Andy Muhl be retained as web master and be compensated in the amount of \$20,000.00/yr retroactive to January 1. Council approved this. The committee approved supporting Emmanuel, North Side, in the amount of \$20,000.00. Council approved this. The committee approved the 2009 budget.

Communications, Lou Hays asked that the following recommendations be approved by council. 1. We recommend that Council and Standing Committee approve an Initial External Communications Policy. This policy addresses the audiences, media relations activities, and website management issues. Council approved this. 2. We recommend that each Diocesan organization that has public meetings provide for publication on the Diocesan website a schedule of meetings, and advance copy of meeting agenda, and a copy of approved minutes. Council approved. 3. We recommend that all significant information be reported to the Diocesan Communications staff (Rich Creehan and Andy Muhl). Council approved this. 4. The Communications Committee is concerned that the requirement for a regularly recurring staff meeting has not been implemented. This is a major deficiency in communications. There was no decision from council on this.

Secretary of Convention, Jim Shoucair reported that there has been a planning meeting of the convention committee. The convention for the diocese of Pittsburgh will be held on October 17, 2009 at Trinity Cathedral from 8AM to 3PM. There will be a mailing for resolutions and nominations sent out in the very near future.

The Rev. George Werner reported that there are plans to provide a special CREDO conference for each of the four reorganizing dioceses, combining the wellness initiative of the Church Pension Fund and the expertise of the CREDO Institute. George is organizing a local committee to work with national leaders to plan such a conference here. Full scholarships will be available for clergy, employees and lay leaders who attend.

The Diocesan Youth Initiative is a collection of priests and lay ministers that has been formed for the benefit of the youth and families in the Diocese. It intends to offer programs and events that will bring youth groups together as well as provide an additional community where youth groups do not exist. Jay Geisler made a motion that Council recognize this group as an official committee of the Diocese. Lou Hays seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Joan Morris reminded everyone about the leadership meeting on May 16th at Redeemer, and the next council meeting is on Jun 8th at Calvary at 7:00 PM. John Hose accepted the responsibility for providing Andy Muhl with a summary of actions taken at the meeting for use on the web site.

Bishop Johnson gave a closing prayer, and Lou Hays made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ardelle Hopson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Judith M. Rosensteel