

MINUTES OF JUNE 8, 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 PM. Bishop Robert Johnson offered an opening devotional.

Joan welcomed The Rev. Bruce Robison, and the Rev. Catherine Brall. Joan then announced that the Rev. Wade Lawrence has resigned as a member of council. Standing committee will find a replacement.

Present were: The Rt. Rev. Robert Johnson, The Rev. Scott Quinn, The Rev. Dr. James Simons, The Rev. Catherine Brall, The Rev. Bruce Robison, The Rev. James Shoucair, Russ Ayers, Linda Getts, Joan Gundersen, Andy Roman, Fran Gargotta, District II, The Rev. Stephen Smalley, District III, John Hose, District IV, John Roberts, District IV, The Rev. William Geiger, District IV, The Rev. Chuck Weiss, District V, The Rev. Lou Hays, District V, Joan Morris, District VII, The Rev. Moni McIntyre, District VII, Robert Pratt, District VIII, Judith Rosensteel, District VIII. Absent were: Melissa McClain, The Rev. Norman Koehler, Eric Cook, Robert Johnston, Ardelle Hopson, The Rev. Dr. Jay Geisler. The Rev. Brall has been invited to attend council meetings with seat and voice but no vote.

The minutes of the previous meeting were corrected in this way: under committee reports – budget and assessment the paragraph is to end at the word budget, and under the communications report the number 5 is to be eliminated. Lou Hays made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected, and John Hose seconded the motion. Motion carried. These corrected minutes will be sent to Andy Muhl to be placed on the web site.

Bishop Johnson reported that he had a conference call with the bishops of the other re-organizing dioceses – San Joaquin, Fort Worth, and Quincy. There will be ongoing communication among these dioceses. The 4 bishops will lunch with the Archbishop of Canterbury at General Convention in July. Rich Creehan will email convention information to all the parishes in the diocese. Bishop had an interview with Ann Rogers and this interview will be published in July in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. He then stated that there were 32 participants at the ordination exploration day on Saturday, June 6, 2009. This is a healthy sign for the diocese. We are moving on and not staying in the past. There is to be a fall clergy conference from 9-30 to 10-1. This will be support for the clergy of the diocese. CREDO will have a free conference from 11-2 to 11-9, and this will be for clergy only who have not attended a CREDO conference before. There is also to be a CREDO conference for the clergy and lay leaders of the diocese in Pittsburgh, but no date has been set.

The Rev. Dr. James Simons, president of the Standing Committee, reported that the House of Bishops met and have recognized this diocese as the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh. A letter confirming this information was sent to the Standing Committee. Gwen Santiago will be going to the General Convention as an alternate lay deputy. The Rev. Clay Matthews, in the presiding bishop's office, is advising the Standing Committee regarding our on-going search for a bishop. In the diocese of Springfield, we concurred with the selection of a bishop coadjutor in the diocese of Springfield. We did not concur with the selected bishop in the diocese of Northern Michigan on theological grounds. The Rev. Vicente Santiago has been named priest-in-charge at St. Mark's, Johnstown. Jim then asked council to approve the paying of Joan Gundersen, treasurer, retroactive to January 1, 2009, because she has put in more hours than agreed upon. John Roberts made a motion to that effect and Andy Roman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Andy Roman, Chancellor, reported that the May 27, 2009 hearing before Judge Joseph James was to have the stipulation from the previous law suit enforced. The end of July will be the earliest that there will be a decision made by the court.

Russ Ayers, president of the Board of Trustees, reported that there is now more structure to the board. There was a meeting with Morgan Stanley on May 19, 2009 regarding the Pool I assets. The amount in Pool I is \$17 million. There is to be a future meeting with both groups and Stanley Morgan. No action has been taken at this time. The Board met last week, and there will be no more meetings until fall. When we get access to the books, we will need to use a different firm than the one used by the other group to audit the books. Then parishes should receive their money if their name appears on the account. We have been asked to pay the legal fees of the other group. This has been opposed by the board. Two members of the board have resigned, S. Foerster and T. Moore. These two positions will have to be filled.

Joan Gundersen, treasurer, reported that we are holding our own regarding funds available. She stated that Judi Rogers has been a blessing for the diocese. Judi brings expertise in the position of administrative assistant. Joan also stated that our EIN# is being challenged. She is working on this problem. A copy of the treasurer's report is enclosed with these minutes. The treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS; John Hose, chairman of Budget and Assessment, reported that the committee had taken action on 4 issues. 1. There was a question regarding the motion pertaining to the May meeting about St. Mark's, Johnstown. The committee agreed that the \$12,000 was to be the total amount, with \$10,080 due to the diocese and \$1,920 due to the national church. Council approved this motion. 2. Trinity Cathedral's assessment is to be \$29,627.00 with \$24,886.68 due to the diocese and \$4,740.32 due to mission outreach. Council approved this motion with one abstention. 3. St. Peters, Brentwood, has received a mission grant in the past for youth ministry, and they have asked for \$5,200 to continue their youth ministry. Council approved this motion. 4. Joan Gundersen stated that there is money available to parishes to help with the new cost of medical insurance for clergy and lay employees. This is to be a bridge grant until parishes can develop their 2010 budgets. The amount of money available is to be up to \$500 for a one person taking the medical plan, and up to \$1,000 for a family taking the medical plan. There is a cap of \$3,000 per parish. The council approved this motion. The 2010 budget will be discussed at the next meeting.

The Rev. Dr. Bruce Robison presented the information concerning the new medical plan that is available to clergy and lay employees of the diocese. There was an email vote taken of council members on this issue because the insurance company had to arrange the coverage as of June 1, 2009. The vote was in favor of the plan presented. Joan Morris thanked the medical insurance task force for all their hard work on this project. A copy is enclosed with this report.

The Rev. James Shoucair, Secretary to Convention, reported that there is to be evening prayer and then a social time on Friday, October 16, 2009 at Trinity Cathedral. The convention will be on October 17, 2009 also at Trinity Cathedral. There has been a block of rooms reserved for deputies at the Marriot Courtyard in Pittsburgh. There will be 2 pre-convention meetings so that all the deputies can attend and be made aware of any and all resolutions and nominations before convention.

The Rev. Chuck Weiss reported for the Diocesan Life Committee. He stated that there is to be a vestry training on church growth. This is to be held on Sept. 19 from 10-3, hopefully at Trinity Cathedral. The schedule includes 1. Vestry training on church growth. 2. District break-out session. 3. Social time.

The Rev. Chuck Weiss also reported on the Diocesan Youth Initiative. There is to be a diocesan wide youth day at North Park on August 22, 2009 from 10AM to 2PM. The Initiative is asking council for \$1,000 to provide food and tee shirts for the youth who attend. 100-150 youth are expected to attend. Lou Hays made a motion to authorize this money to the Youth Initiative. Fran Gargotta seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next council meeting will be on August 24, 2009 at Calvary. There is to be a leadership meeting on July 25, 2009 at St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon. The meeting was ending with prayer by Bishop Johnson.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith M. Rosensteel