

Diocesan Council Minutes

December 5, 2011

Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by Fr. Bill Geiger, President.

Members Present: The Rev. Bill Geiger, President; The Rt. Rev. Ken Price, Bishop; Jeff Dunbar, Dist. 3; Betty Duckstein, ECW; Patrice Walters, Dist. 2; Andy Roman, Chancellor; Kerry Ochap, Dist. 3; the Rev. George Werner, Standing Committee; Steve Stagnitta, Dist. 2; the Rev. Jeff Murph, Standing Committee; the Rev. Christine McIlvain, Dist 1; Alan Schneider, Dist. 1; Carl Hockenberry, Diocesan Treasurer; Joan Gundersen, Archivist; Jerry Stephenson, Dist. 1; the Rev. Chuck Weiss, Dist. 3/Council Secretary; John Roberts, Dist. 4; John Hose, Dist. 4; Rich Creehan, Diocesan Communications; the Rev. Cynthia Bronson Sweigert, Dist. 2; Bob Johnston, Dist. 3; the Rev. Scott Quinn, Canon to the Ordinary; and, the Rev. Cathy Brall, Cathedral Provost.

Devotions. Bishop Price led a reflection on John1:6-8, 19-28: "In what way am I called to be like John the Baptist?"

General Communications. Fr. Geiger welcomed new Council members Jeff Dunbar (Dist. 3) and Jim Neral (Dist. 1). He noted that both he and Patrice Walters had been re-elected to Council, and welcomed Fr. George Werner from the Standing Committee. Fr. Geiger also offered thanks to outgoing Council members Bob Johnston, Jerry Stephenson, and Fr. Jeff Murph. Pastoral concerns were shared.

Minutes of October 2011 Meeting. The Minutes were moved and seconded, and unanimously approved, with the following changes:

- Under Social Justice and Outreach Committee Report, the third sentence should read, "On October 21, the film *King Corn* will be shown at Christ Church, North Hills, and on November 18, the film *Fresh* will be shown at St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon."
- Under Budget and Assessments Committee Report, under the reference to the Proposed Budget, the next sentences should read, "John Hose moved a resolution designating a portion of the Rev. Timothy Hushion's compensation for service at St. Christopher's, Warrendale, as housing allowance. The attached motion was seconded and passed."
- Under Resolutions Committee Report, the first sentence should read, "Canon Geisler moved that Council approve the report for Convention offered by the Committee."

Bishop's Report. Bishop Price reported that Fr. Murph had accepted the Chairmanship of the Strategic Task Force; that the Bishop will be out of town next weekend for his last visit in the Diocese of Southern Ohio; and that, on December 21, a celebration of Fr. Harold Lewis 40th anniversary as a priest will take place at Calvary, Shadyside.

Canons Report. No report.

Standing Committee Report. The Rev. Jeff Murph reported that the Standing Committee:

- Received reports from the Bishop Transition and Nomination Committees. The Transition Committee is creating a subcommittee re: a ring and crozier for the new Bishop.
- Received the Chancellor's Report.
- Confirmed approval of the bylaws of St. Thomas, Cambria County.
- Recommends that St. Christopher's, Warrendale, representatives, who were not listed as deputies at Diocesan Convention, be recognized as such for the special convention in April 2012.

In addition, Fr. Murph noted that the Strategic Task Force plans to issue its report on March 15, 2012.

Board of Trustees Report. Fr. Geiger reported on behalf of Russ Ayers. At the November meeting, Mike Donadee was authorized by the Board of Trustees to find a real estate firm to help with property assessments.

Chancellor's Report. Andy Roman expanded on the Board of Trustees Report as follows: the Diocese received letters from St. Martin's, Monroeville, and Good Samaritan, Liberty Borough, saying they will vacate the property on January 2, 2012; we also received a letter from Prince of Peace, Hopewell, expressing their interest in negotiations.

Andy recommended that Council report to the Secretary of Convention whether any parishes have become "transitional". He referenced the February 2011 letter Bishop Price had sent to all parishes not paying diocesan assessments, listing them as such. A motion for Council to report this list of transitional parishes (attached) to the Secretary of Convention was seconded and unanimously approved.

Andy presented proposed amendments to Council Bylaws. These were tabled for discussion until a future Diocesan Council meeting. A subcommittee (presumptive incoming Council President, John Hose, and Patrice Walters) was formed to review these amendments.

Treasurer's Report. Carl Hockenberry presented the *Cash Balance Report and Profit and Loss Performance Report* as of November 30, 2011.

A motion to receive the Treasurer's Report (attached) was seconded and unanimously approved.

Budget and Assessment Working Group Report. John Hose reported on the following:

- The Budget reallocation of \$7000 to "Office of the Bishop" was unnecessary and the Working Group recommended returning this sum to "Program Grants". This recommendation was unanimously accepted.
- A resolution (attached) that St. Christopher's, Warrendale, based on its inactive status in the diocese for the past few years, and its recent return to active status, have its 2009, 2010, and 2011 assessments waived. Motion was unanimously approved by Council.
- St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon requested \$12,000 to support the *Refuge at St. Paul's* worship service. The Working Group recommended that St. Paul's receive \$6000; the motion (attached) was unanimously approved by Council with one abstention.

- St. Stephen's, McKeesport, asked that their assessment be reduced or waived entirely. The Working Group recommended that the total assessment be reduced from \$16,880 to \$1000, resulting in a diocesan portion of \$840, a TEC portion of \$160, and a Growth Fund assessment of \$70. The motion (attached) was unanimously approved by Council with one abstention.

Social Justice and Outreach Committee Report. Jerry Stephenson reported that the Committee will be meeting soon to discuss plans for 2012.

Convention Committee Report. Bishop Price recommended with Council's concurrence that the Diocesan Convention be moved to November 9-10, 2012, because of the proximity of the previously considered date to the proposed seating of the new Bishop.

Diocesan Life Committee Report. Fr. Geiger reported that the Committee will focus on building relationships at a district level and addressing anxieties around the election/arrival of our new Bishop.

Archivist Report. Joan Gundersen reported that

- The Committee distributed its revised bylaws on Archives/History. Their hope is to have Council vote on them at the January 2012 meeting.
- The previous congregation of All Saints, Rosedale, is meeting in a new location.
- St. Christopher's, Warrendale, required plumbing repairs (\$7800).
- St. Martin's, Monroeville, has begun conversations with the diocese regarding vacating the property.
- Two library science students will serve as interns at the Resource Center.

Cathedral Chapter Report. The Rev. Canon Cathy Brall reported that:

- At the request of the Transition Committee, the Cathedral is exploring dates for a farewell event for Bishop Price.
- The Special Convention to elect the new Bishop has been scheduled for April 21, 2012.
- The Cathedral needs a firm date from Council for Diocesan Convention 2012.
- Diaconate ordinations are scheduled for February and June 2012.
- Bishop Price will celebrate Holy Eucharist at 10 PM on Christmas Eve.
- Cathedral Chapter is reconsidering the Cathedral's association with two dioceses.
- She was the official Diocesan representative at the Blessing of the Crèche.

Growth Fund Committee Report. Carl Hockenberry reported that the Committee has begun to develop policies and procedures, as charged by the Board of Trustees.

Constitution and Canons Committee Report. Joan Gundersen reported the following elections: Lionel Diemel, Chair; Joan Gundersen, Vice Chair; Michael Braxton, Secretary.

Commission on Ministry Report. Canon Quinn reported that a Roman Catholic priest has expressed interest in Episcopal priesthood in the Diocese. There is also an ACNA postulant who has requested ordination in TEC.

ECW Report. Betty Duckstein reported that thirty-five people attended the UTO Ingathering. Over \$17,000 was given in scholarships and \$18,000 went to the Neighborhood Youth Outreach Program.

Pittsburgh Youth Initiative Report. The Bishop reported that PYI is leading a gathering of youth to serve at Shepherd's Heart this weekend.

Christian Education Report. Fr. Geiger has spoken to Joyce Donadee re: child abuse prevention training. The diocese is looking for people who might be interested in becoming trainers.

New Business. Council moved, seconded, and unanimously approved the election of the following officers:

- President—John Hose
- Vice President—Fr. Chuck Weiss
- Secretary—Rich Creehan.

Fr. Bill Geiger was thanked for his leadership as Council President.

The next meeting of Council is set for January 9, 2012. Proposed 2012 meeting dates were distributed.

Motion to Adjourn. Moved, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Closing Prayer was offered by Bishop Price.

Respectfully submitted,

Fr. Chuck Weiss