

Diocesan Council  
07 March 2011

#### Attendance

Members: Bill Geiger (D4); John Hose (D4); John Roberts (D4); Christine McIlvain (D1); Bob Johnston (D3); Carl Kylander (D3); Wes Rohrer (D2); Alan Schneider (D1); Patrice Walters (D2); Ken Price (Bishop); Jeff Murph (Standing Comm.); Scott Quinn (Canon, Ordinary); Jay Geisler (Canon); Joan Gundersen (Dio. Admin.); Rich Creehan (Dio. Comm.); Carl Hockenberry (Dio. Treas.)

Reported Absences: Linda Getts (ECW); Russ Ayers (BOT); Chuck Weiss; Jim Shoucair (Convention)

#### AGENDA

##### **Call to Order – 7:16**

The president polled for Quorum. There was a Quorum of Council.  
Opening reflections and prayer were led by Bishop Price.

##### **Motion to approve January Minutes**

Motion carried with the following corrections:  
Correction of names - Rich Creehan; John Hose

John Hose has been working to locate a Judge of Audits - Robert Johnston is the Judge of Audits

##### **Bishop's Report – Bishop Price**

The Bishop reported that the diocesan coordinator for Episcopal Relief and Development ERD resigned. He inquired if there were any interested parties within Council who might be interested in assuming the position using an upcoming (5-8 May) conference in Cleveland as an enticement. There was no apparent interest in Council. Bishop Price asked Wes Rohrer to take the job description to the Social Outreach and Justice committee to see if there was any interest in that committee.

Council president reminded Council that Lent 1 (or some other Sunday in Lent) is ERD Sunday.

The Bishop reminded Council that the Presiding Bishop will be in Pittsburgh on 19 April. She will preside at the renewal of vows at St. Stephen's (Wilkinsburg) and will meet with clergy in the afternoon. A forum for the laity is scheduled for 7pm at Trinity Cathedral.

##### **Standing Committee – Jeff Murph**

Fr. Murph reported that Anti-Racism training was held over the past weekend and that Mrs. Bessie Butler of The Church of the Holy Cross has been appointed to The Cathedral Chapter. Fr. Murph reported that the Standing Committee had been consulted about the Bishop's letter to realigned parishes.

Fr. Murph reported that the Bishop's nominating and transition committees continued to meet.

Resources for the discussion of the Anglican Covent were sent to parishes.

Bruce Robison continues to work on the joint Clergy conference planned for later this year.

##### **Board of Trustees – Bill Geiger**

Council president reported for Russ Ayers.

The BOT granted an easement on the Calvary Camp properties to allow for conservation work at the waterline. The BOT approved two grants, as recommended by the Growth Fund, for grants and or loan forgiveness for St. Pauls' (Kittanning) and St. Pauls' (Mt. Lebanon.)

The BOT approved a \$20,000 distribution for the Emma Locke to be used for scholarships to Calvary Camp. A smaller grant to the Trinity Cathedral was approved.

**Chancellor**

No report

**Treasurer's Report – Carl Hockenberry**

See Treasurer's report for detail.

The Diocese is in the process of calculating the distributions from the endowment for 2011.

The Diocese has joined the Education for Ministry program. EFM programs are currently running at St. Pauls' (Mt. Lebanon) and Calvary.

Dr. Gundersen explained after questions arose that the Diocese had paid the startup cost for the program. Six people are needed start a class. Individuals will have to pay a fee but the sponsoring parish will not.

**Budget & Assessments – John Hose**

Mr. Hose reported that a request for funding for Christ Church Mission (Greensburg) was submitted. The committee will meet in March to review this and any other requests. The committee will also review and submit changes to the budget required by new staffing.

**Social Justice and Outreach - Wes Rohrer**

Mr. Rohrer reported that SOJ did not meet in February.

Nancy Lapp has been attending Christian Associates meeting. CA is planning a series of programs in May that focus on issues if hunger.

**Communications – Patrice Walters/Rich Creehan**

Ms. Walters reported that the communication committee was in the process of organizing itself. Jon Delano, the Standing committee's representative to the Communication committee was put forward as chair.

Mr. Creehan spoke about the information emerging from the most recent Leadership Days program. Mr. Creehan had been caution that much of the information released during the meeting was proprietary and not for public consumption. He is able to release the information to parishes who should contact him to secure the materials.

Mr. Creehan also reported that Andy Muhl had conducted a survey of parish website and surmised that fully one-half of the parishes need "web help." Mr. Muhl will make this a focus of his efforts in the near future. This may necessitate some alteration to the *Grace Happens* publication schedule.

**Diocesan Life – Bill Geiger**

Fr. Geiger reported that preparations for Joyful People schedule for 07 May are ongoing. Many of the programs are confirmed but there is still the need for operational help the day of the event. There is also the need for persons to volunteer to run children's programs on the day of the event. Interested persons are to contact Diane Duntley, event chair.

The option for online registration will be provided as the date of the event approaches.

**Growth Fund - Bob Johnston**

Mr. Johnston reported on the 11 February teleconference where grant and loans for St. Pauls' (Kittanning) and St. Pauls' (Mt. Lebanon) were decided.

He also informed Council that he had been elected chair of the committee.

**Convention - Joan Gundersen**

Dr. Gundersen reported for Jim Shoucair.

The Convention committee met. The focus of the meeting was in providing for the Audio-Visual needs after some of the issues at the last Convention. The committee continues to work on the Friday night program.

### **Constitutions and Canons – Joan Gundersen**

Dr. Gundersen reported that the committee was in the process of discussing procedure for closing parishes. She expressed that while parishes had been closed in the past there was no formal process and, in light of where the diocese is at present, the committee felt that some procedure needed to be in place for that eventuality.

Dr. Gundersen reported that the committee is also considering the rules of order for the upcoming Diocesan and Nominating conventions as well as whether current rules for assigning delegates by parish is equitable. There was some discussion about the role Council may play in informing the decision making. Council president will initiate further conversation with the committee on this issue.

### **Commission on Ministry – Scott Quinn**

Canon Quinn reported on the meeting in Johnstown which he attended with Canon Jay Geisler. They reported that there were ongoing issues dealing with the realignment. The Canons will continue to work to buoy the vestry.

There was a gathering for persons interested in ordained ministry in the diocese. Canon Geisler reported that he was enthused after the meeting and looked forward to further consideration of non-traditional paths to ordained ministry in the diocese.

Canon Geisler also reported that a weekly service would be scheduled at Trinity School for interested students.

### **EX-OFFICIO REPORTS**

#### **Cathedral Chapter**

No report.

#### **Episcopal Church Women**

No report.

### **COUNCIL-SUPPORTED PROGRAMS**

#### **Pittsburgh Youth Initiative**

The Bishop reported that he met with Fr. Kris Opat to discuss Fr. Opat's role with youth ministry in the diocese. Fr. Opat has other duties that will take him away from the youth program. The Bishop suggested that it may be time for the diocese to employ a part-time person focusing on youth ministry. The Bishop invited Council to offer ideas about strengthen youth ministry.

#### **Christian Education**

No report.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Bylaws**

President of Council initiated a conversation about the Bylaw begun at the previous meeting of Council. In light of the reduced numbers of Districts in the Diocese, the President recommend that the rules governing Quorum be amended.

Recommendation: Quorum will be defined as the presence at least one half of the voting membership of Council with two-thirds of the Districts having a representative present.

Fr. Murph moved the recommendation; it was seconded by John Roberts.

Discussion followed. Fr. Murph called the question. The motion passed unanimously. Per Council Bylaws, the vote must be affirmed at the next regular meeting of Council to amend the Bylaws.

There was additional discussion about how bylaws and other governing document were made available to Council members. The Constitution and Canon are available online on the Diocesan website. Bishop Price asked

Mr. Hose to plan an orientation for the next class of Council members that would include provision of the important documents.

Dismissal and Closing Prayer – 8:47