

Minutes of Diocesan Council

March 8, 2010

Call to Order. The regular meeting of Diocesan Council was called to order by the Rev. Bill Geiger, President.

Members present: The Rev. Nancy Chalfant-Walker (District 7); Ms. Fran Gargotta (District 1-2); The Rev. Bill Geiger (District 4); Ms. Joan Gundersen (Treasurer); The Rev. Lou Hays (District 5); Mr. John Hose (District 4); Mr. Robert Johnston (District 5); Ms. Joan Morris (District 7); Mr. Robert Pratt (District 8); The Rt. Rev. Kenneth Price (Provisional Bishop); The Rev. Leslie Reimer (District 7); Mr. John Roberts (District 4); Ms. Kristin Smalley (District 3); The Rev. Steve Smalley (District 3); The Rev. Chuck Weiss (District 5)

Others present: The Rev. Canon Cathy Brall (Cathedral Provost); Mr. Rich Creehan (Communications Director); Ms. Linda Getts (ECW)

Opening Reflection. The Rev. Bill Geiger shared about his recent trip to the Holy Land.

Minutes. Corrections were given on the spelling of Gundersen, Creehan, Hays. Under Growth Fund, the following change was made: *“Second, Council needed to elect from its own members, a member for the Growth Fund for a three-year term beginning January 2010; Robert Pratt was elected.”* With these corrections, the Minutes were moved, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Secretary. The Rev. Lou Hays moved that the Rev. Chuck Weiss be elected Secretary of Diocesan Council. Mr. John Hose seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Standing Committee Report. The Rev. Nancy Chalfant-Walker reported that Standing Committee will be re-establishing policy and function. The bishop and the committee will determine mutual goals and evaluation procedures. She added that they have had a large number of episcopal consents to consider. Standing Committee is divided on the question of consent regarding the Rev. Mary Glasspool (Diocese of Los Angeles.)

Board of Trustees Report. The Rev. Nancy Chalfant-Walker reminded the Council of the recent legal appeal made by ACNA. The basis for the appeal may not be known for approximately two months, and the process itself may take a year. A committee has been formed to explore property issues: the Rev. Nancy Chalfant-Walker, the Rev. Bill Geiger, Ms. Joan Gundersen, the Rt. Rev. Kenneth Price. On April 6, David Booth Beers, Chancellor to the Presiding Bishop, will meet with this group.

Treasurer’s Report. Ms. Joan Gundersen presented the Treasurer’s Report as of March 8, 2010. (See attached.) Ms. Gundersen reported that she and the Rev. Nancy Chalfant-Walker met with the Rev. Karen Stevenson and Ms. Marsha Tallant regarding transfer of records. Ms. Gundersen has transferred several boxes of records, including both bills and checks, which were not part of our budget, to the diocesan office. There is now a chapel at the diocesan office; a request was made for purificators. The Rev. Nancy Chalfant-Walker commended Ms. Paula Hopkins and Ms.

Joan Gundersen for their work in the transition of records. She added that there is no indication that ACNA's appeal is holding up this process. Mr. Robert Johnston moved to accept the Treasurer's Report; Ms. Fran Gargotta seconded; the motion was unanimously approved.

Diocesan Life Committee Report. The Rev. Bill Geiger reported on the Moving Forward Together program. The event is scheduled for April 10, 2010, and is open to everyone interested in developing and re-establishing relationships in the diocese. The location of the event had to be changed, and the new site will be announced shortly. Ms. Diane Duntley was elected as Chair of the Diocesan Life Committee. Bishop Price noted that CREDO is offering a special program to the diocese on May 21-22; more information is forthcoming.

Outreach and Social Justice Committee Report. On Sunday, March 21, 2:30 p.m., at Calvary Church, the committee will host an informational meeting regarding a Habitat for Humanity project. The Absalom Jones Day has been rescheduled for May 1 at Holy Cross, Homewood.

Pittsburgh Youth Initiative Report. The Rev. Chuck Weiss reported that on March 16, PYI will meet to plan a diocesan youth retreat at Calvary Camp (scheduled for May 14-16). On April 24, youth leaders from around the diocese are invited to lunch at Noon with Bishop Price at Calvary Church.

Communications Committee Report. No report was offered.

Budget and Assessments Committee Report. Mr. John Hose reported on five budget requests:

1. Assessment relief for St. Thomas, Oakmont—to reduce assessment from \$32,129 to \$14,200. Unanimously approved.
2. Support for Urban Program for Reading and Urban Program for Life—a \$9000 request by Emmanuel, North Side. Unanimously approved.
3. Support for the youth ministry at St. Peter's, Brentwood—a \$5000 request. Unanimously approved.
4. Support for Coal Country Hangout Youth Center—a \$5000 request to assist with taxes. Unanimously approved.
5. Support for Holy Cross, Homewood. Due to recent heavy snowfalls, the church had shifting of walls, with the risk of collapse, in the Parish Hall. They requested \$10,000 (which may be returned to Council) to supplement a \$35,000 emergency grant from the Growth Fund. Unanimously approved.

The Budget and Assessment Committee is anticipating assessment adjustment requests from St. Francis-in-the-Fields, Somerset; St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon; St. Paul's, Kittanning; and St. Barnabas, Brackenridge.

Commission on Ministry Report. The Rev. Lou Hays reported that the committee is developing new guidelines and procedures for the ordination process. They hope to publish this information on the diocesan web site in the near future. He noted the Second Annual Ordination Exploration Day, scheduled for April 24, 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Calvary, Shadyside.

Committee Membership. The Rev. Bill Geiger encouraged all members of Council to join at least one committee and passed around a sheet on which members could sign up.

Diocesan Children's Christian Education. The Rev. Lou Hays asked how Council might support a group of children's Christian educators who have been meeting. Ms. Fran Gargotta offered to make a report at Council on behalf of Ms. Joyce Donadee, who heads that group.

Cathedral News. The Rev. Canon Cathy Brall reported that the Cathedral is working with the Downtown Ministerium to address the needs of homeless persons. She noted the Clergy Renewal of Vows, scheduled for March 29, 10 a.m.; she encouraged lay leaders to attend. Regarding Easter services at the Cathedral, Bishop Robert Duncan will officiate at the Easter Vigil, and Bishop Price will officiate on Easter Sunday. Diocesan Convention will take place at the Cathedral on October 16-17.

Next meeting. Diocesan Council will meet next on Tuesday, April 6, 7:00 p.m., at Calvary, Shadyside.

Adjournment. Bishop Price closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Chuck Weiss