

Minutes of Diocesan Council

May 3, 2010

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

Members present were: Joan Morris, District 7; Fr. Chuck Weiss, District 5; The Rev. Nancy Chalfant-Walker, Standing Committee; Rich Creehan, Diocesan Communications Director; Fr. Jay Geisler, District 8; Joan Gundersen, Treasurer; Fr. Lou Hays, District 5; Bob Johnston, District 5; Nancy Boulden, Church of the Redeemer, Guest; John Roberts, District 4; The Rev. Christine McIlvain, District 2; The Rev. Canon Jim Shoucair, District 2; John Hose, District 4; Fr. Bill Geiger, District 4; Andy Roman, Diocesan Chancellor; The Rev. Leslie Reimer, District 7; The Rt. Rev. Kenneth Price, Bishop; Russ Ayres, Board of Trustees; The Rev. Canon Cathy Brall, Trinity Cathedral; Diane Duntley, Christ Church, Indiana, Guest; Fr. Steve Smalley, District 3; Kristin Smalley, District 3; Linda Getts, ECW; The Rev. Scott Quinn, Canon to the Ordinary.

Opening Reflection and Prayer. Fr. Bill Geiger led a discussion of *John 14:23-29*, the Gospel for Easter VI.

Approval of Minutes. Joan Morris moved that the April Minutes be accepted as presented; Fr. Jay Geisler seconded; unanimously approved.

Standing Committee Report. The Rev. Nancy Chalfant-Walker offered the report. At the April 8 meeting of Standing Committee, consent was given to the election of the Rev. Canon David Bailey as Bishop of Navajoland Area Mission. Since required consents for the election of the Rev. Mary Glasspool, to be the Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of Los Angeles, had already been received from both the Bishops and Standing Committees, no action was taken on this matter of consent. Both Bishop Price and Chancellor Roman reported on recent activities. Chancellor Roman has been invited to address the May 6-8 meeting of Diocesan Chancellors in Fort Worth, Texas. Standing Committee Goals were adopted: 1) Develop process and timelines for the search and calling of a diocesan bishop; 2) Parish support and development; 3) Communications; 4) Community; 5) Developing a process for conversation around contentious issues. Bishop Price submitted goals for the Bishop via email following the meeting. The revised by-laws of Calvary Episcopal Church were approved on recommendation of the Chancellor. Bishop Price agreed to contact the Presiding Bishop about a possible visit to the Diocese.

Board of Trustees Report. Russ Ayres reported that the diocese is making good progress in getting our financial assets returned. The Morgan Stanley endowment stands at approximately \$20 million. Morgan Stanley has recognized our Board of Trustees as the rightful overseer of the endowment. Morgan Stanley will be distributing checks to parishes which have invested with them (as well as to ECW and UTO). PNC raised the question to both our diocese and ACNA re: Trinity School for Ministry and St. Edmund's Academy; we made no claim to these.

The Rev. Canon Cathy Brall mentioned that she received a notice re: property assessments which was unclear. Joan Gundersen explained that such notices may be sent incorrectly due to confusion re: parishes in our diocese and in ACNA. Andy Roman offered to assist Canon Brall with proper filing of assessments.

Chancellor's Report. Andy Roman reported on the litigation process. Re: the ACNA appeal, the Commonwealth Court of PA is requiring a brief from ACNA by May 25, and our diocese thirty days later. Oral arguments will likely follow after August of this year. Andy mentioned that he will attend the National Association of Episcopal Chancellors meeting, May 6-8, in Fort Worth, Texas. He will report on our situation to this gathering, as well as hear similar reports from other dioceses which faced realignment. Andy met with David Booth Beers, Mary Kostel, and the Rev. Rich Cluett to discuss our position and prepare a public statement.

Anti-Racism Committee Report. Nancy Bolden reminded Council of General Convention and Diocesan Convention resolutions requiring clergy to attend anti-racism training ("Seeing the Face of God"). She met with the Rev. Jim Simons to develop a new team post-realignment. Jim met with TEC staff to seek assistance with this goal. Nancy noted that the next Anti-Racism Training is scheduled for June 11-12 at The Spiritan Center in Bethel Park. The cost is \$65. The focus of the event is to develop an anti-racism plan specifically for diocesan leaders to implement. The program will be led by Jayne Oasin, former TEC Officer for Anti-Racism Training.

Nancy also spoke about the Absalom Jones Day event. She noted how powerful the sermon was from a social justice perspective. She added that the offering was divided between a tutoring program at Emmanuel, North Side, and the Neighborhood Youth Program at St. Stephen's, Wilkinsburg.

Treasurer's Report. Joan Gundersen presented the Treasurer's Report (see attached). She noted that the correct date on that report should be May 3, 2010. In addition to the notes on that report, Joan highlighted the "Other Funds" section, representing \$20,599,397.00. There is still some concern about financial information being sent to the wrong address (ACNA). We are running slightly behind in assessment payments. We will know better by mid-year about costs and revenues of acquired properties.

The question was raised: What is the Treasurer's biggest concern re: the budget? Joan responded: getting funds in to address deficit; potential legal expenses (we don't have a legal fund seeking donations); parishes which are behind in assessments.

Russ Ayres noted that the Donegal property is uncontestedly ours. He said that we need to determine policies for this property's use.

Fr. Lou Hays moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented; motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Budget and Assessments Committee Report. John Hose reported on the following:

- *Trinity Cathedral.* The request was for an assessment adjustment. Last year it was decided to split the assessment 50/50 with ACNA; this year the Cathedral required a further reduction. The Committee tabled this issue until it can gather more information from Canon Brall.
- *Emmanuel, North Side.* The request was for \$22,000 to support various ministries (e.g., Jazz at Emmanuel, Friends of the Family, Urban Program for Reading). The request is identical to previous ones, even before the realignment. Emmanuel has not yet voted re: realignment; the parish does send observers to our convention. Unanimously approved.
- *Coal Country Hangout and Youth Center.* Council received a thank-you note from them for our \$5000 donation.
- The Budget and Assessments Committee is developing a uniform policy to assist those seeking funds.

Communication Committee Report. No report.

Diocesan Life Committee Report. Diane Duntley, Committee Chair, thanked Council members who attend the *Moving Forward Together* program in April. She passed out a report on that event to Council; she noted that the Diocesan Life Committee is developing a more extensive report for later distribution. Diane pointed out that a high number of attendees at *Moving Forward Together* reported on evaluation forms that their voices were heard and respected. In addition, she thanked Walter Bowman for his hard work in collating data.

Outreach and Social Justice Committee Report. There was no official report, but the Rev. Leslie Reimer noted that the Kick-Off event for the Committee's Habitat for Humanity project is scheduled for Saturday, May 8, 8:30 a.m., at the project house in Sharpsburg.

Cathedral Chapter Report. The Rev. Canon Cathy Brall reported that the Cathedral is in its "wedding season". Cathy noted that the Cathedral continues to offer to have all ordinations there, if desired. Work is being done in the burial ground. Bishop Price will visit the Cathedral on Trinity Sunday. Trinity School for Ministry will hold its graduation there on May 15. On Mother's Day, they will have the Blessing of the Bibles for Lydia's Place. Recently, in their walk-in ministry, people have been coming with needs beyond the Cathedral's resources. Cathy highlighted Camp Downtown, a VBS program sponsored by the downtown ministerium.

Pittsburgh Youth Initiative Report. Fr. Chuck Weiss reported on the Diocesan Youth Retreat at Calvary Camp, scheduled for May 14-16. The event is meant for senior high youth. Cost is \$25 (PYI is covering half the expenses). PYI is also tentatively planning an Episcopal Youth Day at the Pirates in late July; they may coordinate this event with the Diocesan Life Committee.

Fr. Lou Hays added that St. Paul's is planning a Youth Mission Trip from June 13-19, and is offering five spots to young people who are not St. Paul's members. The event is for senior high students. They will use Calvary Camp as their base and do outreach work in Erie. The cost is \$250; scholarships are available.

Cursillo Report. No official report was offered, but Fr. Scott Quinn mentioned that fifteen people attended a recent Cursillo planning meeting. An Ultreya, which gives a sense of the Cursillo program, is scheduled for June 13, 3:00 p.m., at St. Mark's, Johnstown.

Bishop's Report. Bishop Price encouraged diocesan leaders to attend Leadership Days and the *Strength for the Journey* program. He noted that, given the multitude of diocesan events being scheduled, Council members are not expected to attend all events.

Other Business. It was noted by several people that, while it is good that many groups are organizing diocesan events, there is a need to coordinate these plans better so that events do not overlap.

Next Meeting: Diocesan Council will meet next on Monday, June 7, 7:00 p.m., at Calvary Church, Shadyside.

Adjournment. Moved and seconded. Unanimously approved. Bishop Price closed with a blessing.