

**Diocesan Council
Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh
Minutes**

The Diocesan Council met **July 25, 2009** at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Mt. Lebanon. Elected Council members in attendance were The Rev. Norman E. Koehler, III, John F. Hose, John S. Roberts, The Rev. William Geiger, The Rev. Lou Hays, The Rev. Chuck Weiss, Joan Morris, The Rev. Dr. Moni McIntyre, Ardelle Hopson, Robert Pratt and The Rev. Dr. Jay Geisler. Also in attendance were Linda J. Getts, President, ECW, The Rev. Catherine Brall, Trinity Cathedral, Joan R. Gundersen, Treasurer, and Rich Creehan, Media Contact, Visitor. Absent Council Members included: Fran Gargotta, Melissa McClain, **District 2**; Eric Cook and The Rev. Stephen Smalley; **District 3**, Robert Johnston, **District 5**; and Judith Rosensteel, **District 8**.

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Joan Morris at 2:00 p.m. The Rev. William Geiger offered prayer.

The minutes of the June 8, 2009 meeting were corrected as follows: John Hose stated that on page 2 of the minutes, under **Committee Reports**, Item 2 should read **\$4,740.32 for Mission Outreach** instead of \$4,740.32 due to the national church. On a Hose/Hays motion, the minutes were then approved as corrected.

1. **Budget & Assessment Committee (John Hose).** Two grants have been requested: (a) All Saints Church, Brighton Heights, has requested \$2,400/\$200 per month to cover the cost of an ordained priest more than once a month. At the present time, The Rev. George Werner and a Lutheran Minister have been sharing the clergy responsibility. The Budget & Assessment Committee recommends \$200 per month for the remainder of 2009. The motion was approved by Council.

(b) Christ Church, Indiana is requesting a grant of \$1,300 for campus ministry at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) for the balance of 2009: \$800.00 for conference fees and \$500 for seed money for projects to be explored by IUP. Depending upon the success of the program, IUP will be encouraged to apply next year. The motion was approved by Council.

2. **Treasurer's Report (Joan Gundersen).** Joan reported that (a) the major bill for convention (about \$13,000 outstanding) has not yet been received; (b) one half of the grants have been paid to parish entities; (c) the legal bill has been paid from the money market fund; (d) even though we are running slightly behind, we are living within our means; (d) \$500 was given to the Rev. Cynthia Bronson Sweigert for travel (e) the Episcopal Diocese is receiving income from 25 parishes.

The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh 2010 Proposed Budget was presented **(The budget was titled incorrectly and will be corrected.)** There was much discussion, particularly concerning the 6 month actuals and the 2010 formula. Joan reported that the Special Master recommended the interest income be distributed equally

(50/50) with Duncan's Diocese. The Special Master further recommended that \$500,000 of Unrestricted Funds be withdrawn for legal fees to be split equally between both sides. When the case is decided, the "losing side" will repay the "winning side" for amounts taken for legal fees. Joan also responded to parishes asking for reductions. Joan reported that two parishes are participating with our Diocese, but have not, as yet, sent their assessment. The Episcopal Church (TEC) voted about \$400,000 to support the four Dioceses who are rebuilding. The finalized 2010 budget will be presented at the August Diocesan Council meeting.

The Rev. Dr. Jay Geisler praised the budget saying that it represented a wise strategy; that survival is the best form of protest. The Treasurer's report and the proposed budget were accepted by Diocesan Council.

Comments, Concerns:

1. It was reported that the Diocesan Archivist, Lynne Wohleber, has retired. The archives have been packed up for storage. The Rev. Catherine Brall stated that they are housed at Trinity Cathedral at the present time, along with other Diocesan items.
2. Health Care. The Rev. Brall stated that the proposed plan is good for small and large parishes.
3. Joan Gundersen asked for input from Council regarding the proposed budget. John Hose stated that any input should be forwarded to Joan Gundersen by **August 12th**.
4. The Rev. Lou Hays supported the proposed changes in the formula for parish contributions. Joan G. noted that the Budget and Assessment committee report of the final proposed budget would include a statement explaining the formula used.

Adjournment. The Chair called for the adjournment of the meeting and The Rev. Lou Hays closed the meeting with prayer.

The next meeting of the Diocesan Council will be **August 24, 2009 at Calvary Episcopal Church, East Liberty, 7 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,
Ardelle D. Hopson, Acting Secretary