

Diocesan Council – Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh

Minutes – August 24, 2009

The regular meeting of Diocesan Council, held at Calvary Church, was opened by President Joan Morris at 7:10PM. Bishop Johnson then had a prayer. Elected members of council present were: Judith Rosensteel, District 8, Robert Pratt, District 8, John Hose, District 4, Joan Morris, District 7, The Rev. Steven Smalley, District 3, The Rev. Lou Hays, District 5, Ardelle Hopson, District 7, John Roberts, District 4, The Rev. William Geiger, District 4, The Rev. Chuck Weiss, District 5, and The Rev. Dr. Moni McIntyre, District 7. Also in attendance were: The Rt. Rev. Robert Johnson, assisting bishop, Linda J. Getts, president ECW, Joan Gundersen, treasurer, The Rev. Dr. James Simons, president of Standing Committee, The Rev. James Shoucair, Secretary to Convention, The Rev. Catherine Brall, Trinity Cathedral, The Rev. Scott Quinn, Canon to the Ordinary, and Rich Creehan, Director of Communications. Those absent were, Fran Gargotta, Melissa McClain, The Rev. Norman Koehler, III, Robert Johnston, and The Rev. Dr. Jay Geisler. The Rev. Wade Lawrence and Eric Cook have submitted their resignations to Diocesan Council.

The Rev. Steven Smalley made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, and John Hose seconded that motion. Motion carried.

Bishop Johnson stated that the hike on Saturday, August 22nd was well attended, and was good for the youth of the diocese. He also visited at Christ Church, Indiana and at the Coal County Youth Hangout in Northern Cambria on Sunday.

The Rev. Dr. James Simons, president of the Standing Committee, reported that there is to be an interview with a candidate for provisional bishop in September. Because Andy Roman was not present, Jim reported that the court special master has made recommendation concerning the assets of the diocese, but the judge has not made a decision yet.

Joan Morris reported for the Board of Trustees, at Russ Ayers' request, that they have selected an auditing firm – McCroy & McDowell LLC. The Board's Audit Committee will be meeting with them in coming weeks to begin planning for the time when (hopefully) we recover control of the Diocesan assets.

Joan Gundersen, treasurer, gave her report. There is a copy enclosed with these minutes. There were no questions of this report. Joan stated the all bills had been paid to the end of July, except for legal fees not turned in as yet.

COMMITTEE REPORTS; Convention Committee – The Rev. James Shoucair reported that the packet is getting ready to go to the printers, but that the nominations are not complete. There is to be a pre-convention meeting on October 4 at 7PM. No place has been selected at this time. Nominating Committee – The Rev. William Geiger, reported for Steve Stagnitta, that the committee wants to have at least 2 qualified people for each position on the ballot with the widest possible distribution by district

and parish. Now there is only 1 person for each position. Constitution & Canons Committee -- Joan Gundersen stated that the Constitution & Canons Committee has put its proposal on the web site, and that they are finalizing everything this week so that the information can go to the printers. A pre-convention hearing about the committee's proposals was held at St. Andrews on August 12. Budget & Assessment Committee – John Hose reported that the Bridge Grants for Health Insurance Costs, totaling \$10,000 to date were recommended by the committee. (A copy is enclosed with these minutes). Council approved these grants. John also stated that 4 parishes are delinquent in their assessment payments. Joan Gundersen then presented the proposed 2010 budget. She stated that the budget is based on a simpler, revised formula: 5% of the parish's operating income on the first \$35,000 and 11% thereafter. This will result in reduced assessment payments for nearly all parishes. In the budget there is no support from TEC shown. John Hose made a motion to raise the Youth Ministry Commission allocation to \$4000.00. The Rev. Lou Hays seconded the motion. Motion carried. The 2010 budget was passed with those corrections. Joan Gundersen reminded the Council that a decision is needed regarding the recipient(s) of the 2009 allocation of \$2,955 for the Lambeth .7% resolution.

Robert Pratt reported that 10 parishes have completed and sent in their 2008 audits. Others are in process. All audits are due by September 1st.

There were 3 resolutions presented to council to approve for form only. The Rev. William Geiger made a motion to accept these resolutions for form to be printed in the pre-convention journal. The Rev. Lou Hays seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting was ended with a prayer by Bishop Johnson at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith M. Rosensteel

Recording Secretary