

Minutes of Diocesan Council on November 16, 2009.

The regular meeting of Diocesan Council was called to order by Joan Morris, president, at 7:15 PM. Members present were: Judy Rosensteel, Dist. 8, The Rev. Stephen Smalley, Dist. 3, John Roberts, Dist. 4, The Rev. Christine McIlvain, Dist. 2, The Rev. James Shoucair, Secretary to Convention, Joan Morris, Dist. 7, John Hose, Dist. 4, The Rev. Dr. James Simons, President of Standing Committee, The Rev. Charles Weiss, Dist. 5, Robert Pratt, Dist. 8, Linda Getts, ECW President, Dana Phillips, Board of Trustees, Joan Gundersen, Treasurer, The Rev. Dr. Moni McIntyre, Dist. 7, Rich Creehan, Director of Communications, Andy Roman, Chancellor, The Rev. Lou Hays, Dist. 5, The Rev. Scott Quinn, Canon to the Ordinary, The Rev. William Geiger, Dist. 4, Robert Johnston, Dist. 5, The Rev. Cathy Brall, Trinity Cathedral, and The Rt. Rev. Kenneth Price. Absent were: Fran Gargotta, Dist. 2, Melissa McClain, Dist. 2, Ardelle Hopson, Dist. 7, and The Rev. Dr. Jay Geisler, Dist. 8.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with the correction of a typo on p. 2.

Jim Simons, President of the Standing Committee, reported that the committee had met that day and approved the election of The Rev. Scott A. Benhase as Bishop of the Diocese of Georgia. A Credo program on behalf of the health of clergy and lay employees is planned for March, 2010. Bishop Price has made the following appointments: The Rev. Jeff Murph to coordinate how parishes can study and comment on a proposed Anglican Covenant as mandated by the General Convention and the Annual Convention in October, The Rev. Dr. Bruce Robison to chair a Task Force on Collaboration to explore ways the Pittsburgh Diocese could form beneficial partnerships with neighboring dioceses; Celinda Scott to pursue the revival of the Cursillo Movement within our diocese. By-law changes for St. Stephen's, Wilkinsburg were approved by Standing Committee.

Dana Phillips, representing the Board of Trustees in the absence of Russ Ayers, stated that they had approved a grant for St. Peters, Blairsville, in the amount of \$3,000.00 for the purchase of a new furnace. They also supported an application for a TEC loan to Holy Cross, Homewood, for major building renovations. Discussions are beginning on the issues of parish property in realigned parishes. The auditors performing the financial review of Diocesan accounts have met and are moving forward.

Chancellor, Andy Roman, reported that a meeting was held on Oct. 29 with the Special Master, appointed by Judge James. A report by the Special Master listing all diocesan property under paragraph 1 of the 2005 Stipulation is due Nov. 18. The judge's order in connection with current legal proceedings is expected after Thanksgiving. The realigned diocese is likely to file an appeal after the judge's order is announced.

Treasurer, Joan Gundersen, stated that all grants have been paid for this year. Province III dues have not been paid as of this date. A copy of her report is included with these minutes. The report was accepted as presented.

Committee Reports:

Social Justice and Outreach Committee president, Nancy Lapp, presented the following recommendation as to the disbursement of the .7% Lambeth allocation for 2009: 1/3 to be sent to the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund (for Haiti), 1/3 to be sent to the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank, and 1/3 to be used for the economic needs (such as heating and electric bills, medical expenses, groceries) of individuals living in the Homewood neighborhood, not of the Holy Cross parish. The third portion is to be administered by The Rev. Dr. Moni McIntyre. Jim Simons made a motion to accept the recommendations of the Social Justice and Outreach Committee regarding the distribution of the .7% Lambeth monies. Bill Geiger seconded the motion. Motion

carried. The committee is also working on having a film forum and awareness series on various social justice issues. The first forum is planned for March 21 at Calvary.

Diocesan Life chair, The Rev. Bill Geiger, reported that there will be a parish leadership day with Bishop Price on Apr. 10, 2010. Clergy from Ohio are expected to be on the program. Time and place will be determined at a later date. Vestry and other parish leaders will have the opportunity to learn from those of other parishes. Other diocesan-wide events being considered are: a day at a Pirate game, the symphony, or a Fun Day at an amusement park. He asked whether funding from the diocese was available for these programs. This committee is also interested in assisting with the planning for Absalom Jones Day.

Communications Committee co-chair, The Rev. Lou Hays, reported on the accomplishments of the committee so far this year. The current focus of the committee is to develop proposals for a consistent "brand" image for all Diocesan Communications.

Lou Hays then reported for the Youth Initiative group in the diocese. He stated that there is to be a lock-in at Calvary this weekend for the youth of our diocese. This is second event for the youth this year. The first was a hike with Bishop Johnson.

Budget and Assessment Chair, John Hose, reported that there were 2 actions taken by the committee. 1) Recommendation of a grant of \$5,020.00 for the purchase of new computers and software upgrades for the computer training program held at St. Stephen's, Wilkinsburg church. This program is available to the general public. The motion carried with Bob Pratt abstaining. 2) Recommendation of a diocesan assessment reduction at St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon in the amount of \$12,420.66. This recommendation was approved by Council, The Rev. Lou Hays and Robert Johnston abstaining. John Hose stated that 2 parishes have already requested that their assessments be reduced for the 2010 year.

In his remarks, Bishop Price stated that he has found Pittsburgh to be a healthy diocese with 27 parishes and strong leadership. He expressed confidence that we can move forward successfully. He will continue to have responsibility in the Diocese of Southern Ohio, parish visitations and annual convention duties. He indicated that the Diocese of Southern Ohio is basically providing his Pittsburgh stipend through the end of 2009. He plans to continue our practice of leadership days with the Board of Trustees, Standing Committee, and Diocesan Council on a quarterly basis in 2010.

The next Diocesan Council meeting will be on Monday, December 7, 2009 at 7PM at Calvary. Members whose terms are expiring in 2009 and newly-elected Council members are encouraged to attend.

There is to be a Committee on Racism workshop in January and all parish leaders who have not attended the workshop are encouraged to register. Questions were asked about the Sexual Misconduct Seminar. When is there to be another one and where will this be? Bill Geiger indicated they are scheduled as interest surfaces and dates will be provided as needed.

The meeting ended with prayer by Bishop Price.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith M. Rosensteel