

DIOCESAN COUNCIL

The Diocesan Council exists by virtue of Article XI of the Constitution of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh. Its responsibilities are summarized in Section 1 of Canon V as follows: “The Diocesan Council shall act on behalf of the Convention when the Convention is not in session. In particular, it shall evaluate the policies, programs, and other activities of the Diocese, make recommendations to the Convention, and give general oversight to the work, mission, budget and human resources of the Diocese. The Council shall perform such other functions and tasks as the Convention may assign to it.”

Since the 2013 Annual Convention, Council has met seven times: December 2, February 3, March 3, May 5, June 2, September 8, and October 6. Minutes of these meetings are or will be available from the Diocesan office. In addition, in July Council acted under Section 9 of Canon XVII (electronic voting) to approve the housing allowance for a Diocesan staff member. Meetings consist of reports from the Bishop, Canons to the Bishop, President of the Standing Committee, President of the Board of Trustees, Chancellor, Property Manager, Treasurer, and the chairs of various Diocesan committees and organizations, and action items as needed.

December meeting: The Council approved the hiring and compensation package of the Diocesan Treasurer, Kathi Workman; approved a revised 2013 budget; approved allocation of funds in support of the Millennium Development Goals pursuant to the Lambeth 0.7% resolution; and elected Council officers for 2014.

February meeting: The Council approved two actions recommended by the Budget Assessment and Working Group: to provide a grant to St. David’s, Peters Township, and to reallocate funds to provide the compensation for the Canon Missioner.

March meeting: The Council approved the Treasurer’s reports as submitted.

May meeting: The Council approved the Treasurer’s report as submitted; approved three actions recommended by the Budget Assessment and Working Group, to reduce the assessment for Trinity Cathedral by 25%, a grant to Emmanuel, North Side, and a grant to Church of the Atonement, Carnegie; and appointed Ms. Betty Duckstein to a three-year term on the Growth Fund Committee.

June meeting: The Council approved the Treasurer’s report as submitted and approved an action recommended by the Budget Assessment and Working Group to reduce the assessment for St. Stephen’s, McKeesport.

September and October meetings: Results not available for this report. Minutes will be available from the Diocesan office.

The following Committees have continued to function over the past year: Budget and Assessment Working Group, chaired by Steve Stagnitta of St. Andrew’s, Highland Park; Social Justice and Outreach, chaired by Nancy Lapp of Holy Cross, Homewood; Resolutions, chaired by Jeff Dunbar, St. Paul’s, Mt. Lebanon; Nominations, co-chaired by the Rev. Vicente Santiago, Advent, Jeannette, and Jon Delano, St. Paul’s, Mt. Lebanon; and Compensation, chaired by the Rev. Dr. Bruce Robison, St. Andrew’s, Highland Park. Steve Stagnitta continues to serve as Judge of Assessments, and Linda Getts, St. Thomas, Oakmont, continues to serve as Judge of Audits.

Report of the Social Justice and Outreach Committee

Members of the Social Justice and Outreach Committee include: Jerry Stephenson (Christ Church, North Hills), Marianne Novy (Redeemer, Squirrel Hill), Patricia Eagon (St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon), Bill Farra (Fellowship of Reconciliation), Elizabeth Duckstein (representing Diocesan Council and ECW), Mark Rust (Calvary, East Liberty), the Rev. Charles Weiss (St. Thomas, Canonsburg), Patricia Kennedy (St. Andrews, Highland Park), and Nancy Lapp, Chair (Holy Cross, Homewood).

Our recommendation for the Diocese 2013 Lambeth Funds, accepted by Diocesan Council, resulted in \$3,065 distributed as follows: \$815 to Episcopal Relief & Development for relief in the Philippines; \$750 to Ghanaian Mothers' Hope (a Jubilee Center of the Episcopal Church working with the needs of mothers and children); \$750 to the Rural and Migrant Ministries (a New York state based ministry administered by the Rev. Richard Witt, formerly of Christ Church, North Hills); and \$750 to the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

The work on our second Habitat for Humanity house in Sharpsburg continued. The house was dedicated by the Bishop, and turned over to the refugee family on May 17, 2014. Churches, individuals, and organizations of the Diocese contributed over \$40,000, well over our goal. There were over 110 volunteers from many churches.

The Summer Food Program of the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank was presented to the Committee in the fall, and through the spring we were able to give the program some support and publicity when volunteers were needed. We participated in a packing day at the Food Bank in April. We also provided information about SNAP, formerly known as Food Stamps, to our parish outreach committees, Rectors, and Senior Wardens.

Participation in the Pennsylvania Interfaith Impact Network (PIIN) continued, particularly at their Public Action meeting in November attended by approximately 1,000 people, a forum on the living wage for UPMC employees in February with a panel that included our Bishop, and the Annual Banquet in May where we placed an ad of support from our Diocese in their program. Marianne Novy continues as our representative to PIIN.

Last summer and fall saw a very successful season for our community Gardens projects. Those who received grants reported great results. Grants were again offered for 2014. With additional contributions from the Outreach Committee of St. Paul's and another donor in Mt. Lebanon, we were able to fulfill all requests: St. Brendan's, \$500; Shepherd's Heart, \$200; Spring Street (Community of Celebration), \$500; St. Stephen's, Wilkinsburg, \$500; Holy Cross, \$500; and Calvary Camp, \$400.

The Committee is considering ways of supporting Jeremiah's Place, a crisis care shelter housed in the Kingsley Center offering shelter to children birth-age through six for up to 72 hours with the possibility of multiple stays. It can house approximately twelve children at a time. There is no fee for services; this ministry is supported by private donations.

On October 25 we will present a program, "Peace be with You," a respectful conversation on preventing gun violence from a variety of perspectives. Chuck Weiss is leading this activity and has obtained panel speakers from Cease Fire PA and the Pittsburgh police, with other possibilities.

Report of the Resolutions Committee

Prior to last year's Annual Convention, the Resolutions Committee reviewed and submitted to Convention a resolution proposed by the Commission on Racism to encourage diversity among lay and

ordained leadership. The resolution was adopted. The Committee will take appropriate action on any resolutions submitted after the date of the submission of this report.

Report of the Budget Assessment and Working Group

This group meets regularly to evaluate requests from parishes for reduced assessments or grants funded by the Diocesan operating budget. It then recommends action to be taken by Diocesan Council. Members also work with the Bishop, Treasurer, and Board of Trustees to develop the Diocesan budget for submission to Annual Convention. On occasion, members of the group work with parishes to assist with financial issues. Current members of this committee include: Steve Stagnitta, St. Andrew's, Highland Park, Chair; Joe Baird and Kathy Baird, St. Peter's, Blairsville; Linda Getts, St. Thomas, Oakmont; Courtney Harder, St. David's, Peters Township; the Rev. Lou Hays, St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon; and Jim Neral, Christ Church, North Hills.

I would like to thank all members of Diocesan Council for their faithful service since last year's Annual Convention, and those who regularly attend and participate in Council meetings. It has been a privilege serving as President of Council and with Terlene Brown, Vice President and Carol Henley, Secretary.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Lou Hays
President of Diocesan Council