

Section E

Reports of

Canonical Bodies

BISHOP'S REPORT

Dear Friends in Christ,

Last November I issued a pastoral letter permitting the use of the provisional rite for the blessing of same-sex unions, and in July I issued a further stipulation requiring clergy who use that rite to do so in conjunction with the revised civil marriage laws in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. However, there has clearly been a lot more than this going on in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, particularly in the three strategic priorities I articulated this past year: **Public Gospel, Missional Communities, Leadership Formation**. While I cannot mention all of our significant progress in these areas, here is what some of that has looked like in my own actions and observations as your bishop.

Public Gospel is really a matter of getting the word out into the world. I have talked to civic groups, prayed for labor union breakfasts, and been in the streets with protesting workers. I have made videos about Christmas, Easter, cancer and hope, and led discussions about learning Gospel lessons from *Breaking Bad*. I have administered ashes in Market Square, hung out with the homeless, and washed the feet of a wandering deacon. I have made Trinity Cathedral a priority as it resumes its place as a beacon of hope in the public arena. I have been chaplain to a gathering of state religious leaders and a keynoter at a pastoral care conference. I have joined other judicatory leaders in blessing the city's crèche and skyline. I have begun work with them to take on the twin curse of racism and inequality, and have signed on to help with the governance of prison ministry in Allegheny County.

Missional Communities are *you*, the congregations of the diocese. Weekly visitations remain the greatest joy of my ministry. Every time I walk in the door of a church on a Sunday morning, I am aware that I have been granted the enormous privilege of being welcomed into the inner life of a local family. How generous you have been to me and to Betsy! Every week I discover something new about the ways that you are salt and light for the world around you. If I have two desires for my episcopate, it would be to help you build on what you already do, and help you discover what new thing God would have you be about in the world around you. The Strategic Task Force (2.0) has opened up this field of conversation, and I extend an ongoing invitation to you to contribute ideas for local mission and ministry. We especially want to hear about what you are already doing in your neighborhoods, in the U.S., or abroad in obedience to Jesus command to *go into all the world*. The Task Force is also considering how to strengthen or reposition our assets to enable us best to proclaim the Gospel over the next fifty years.

Leadership Formation is not only the task of training effective clergy; it is also the work of building up lay leadership equipped for mission in their local communities. I still have the dream of a diocesan institute for missional leadership that will form deacons, priests, and lay leaders *together* for the work of the Gospel; the outlines of this are just beginning to emerge, and I am honestly not yet sure how this will look in the end. In addition to exploring further connections with Episcopal seminaries, over the past year I have begun to cultivate relationships with the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and with the Anglican Episcopal House of Studies at Duke Divinity School; these both hold out great promise for future partnership. Canon Jay Geisler and I are teaching a for-credit introduction to Anglicanism at PTS this fall, and I have visited Duke twice to teach and to assist in the formation of an ongoing community of young ordained leaders called the Scholar Priest Initiative. I ordained Ben DeHart, Eric McIntosh, and William Ogburn to the priesthood and Bert Daly to the transitional diaconate. I am also pleased with the number and quality of individuals in discernment for holy orders. While we all know that the number of full-time positions for clergy is shrinking across the Church, I have been happy to hear the way people who are thinking about ordained ministry are also thinking "out of the box" – bi-vocationally, or contemplating "cluster" ministry and other less traditional forms. Last but not least, I am delighted to have welcomed three new rectors: the Reverend Michael Foley at Redeemer, Squirrel Hill; the Reverend

Jonathon Jensen at Calvary, East Liberty; and the Reverend Scott Russell at Saint Brendan's, Franklin Park. These three colleagues have already thrown themselves wholeheartedly into the life of our diocese and I believe will be a valuable resource in our ongoing task of raising up a new generation of leadership.

In addition to these three emphases, and in fulfillment of my ordination vows to take my place in the councils of the Church, I have been getting out into the wider Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion. I attended semi-annual House of Bishops meetings in Nashville and Navasota, as well as the annual week of continuing education called *Living Our Vows*, a mandatory three-year training program for newly-ordained bishops. I attended the House of Bishops meeting in Taiwan in September, taking an extra few days to visit the Reverend Marc Jacobson, our missionary in the Philippines. I accompanied several of our youth and our youth leaders, Brent Hansen and Vickie O'Brien, to the Episcopal Youth Event in July, joining over a thousand other kids and leaders for a very exciting few days. I then led a team consisting of my wife Betsy, Canon Jay Geisler and Peter Balfe, a Pittsburgh city firefighter and member of the vestry at Saint Paul's, Mt. Lebanon, on mission with Pilgrim Africa (pilgrimafrica.org) to the Teso region of Northeastern Uganda. The team worked with other skilled professionals from London and New York in trauma treatment; with the Beacon of Hope School and the Soroti Fire Brigade in fire prevention and safety; and with local clergy and social workers to develop an AA-based infrastructure for alcoholism treatment and recovery. More on these trips can be viewed on my blog, accessible through the diocesan website.

None of this would have been possible without my colleagues on the diocesan staff: Canon Scott Quinn, formerly Canon to the Ordinary and now Interim Dean of Trinity Cathedral and Canon Pastor for the Diocese; Canon Dr. Jay Geisler, our Canon for Formation; Canon Dr. Cathy Brall, our Canon Missioner; Kathi Workman, our Treasurer; Marlene Rihn, our Financial Assistant; Vickie O'Brien and Brent Hansen, Co-Directors of the Pittsburgh Youth Initiative; Dr. Joan Gundersen, Director of Properties and Archivist; Rich Creehan, our Communications Director, and Andy Muhl, our Webmaster; the Venerable Jean Chess, our newly-appointed Archdeacon and Director of Administration; and our endlessly resourceful, patient and helpful Executive Assistant, Judi Rogers. I am more grateful than I can say for this bank of talent, for the hours they put in on your behalf, for their unflagging support and invaluable counsel.

Above all, however, I return again and again in prayer and thanksgiving for the greatest treasure of this diocese – you, the people of our parishes. Saint Paul writes to the Church in Thessalonica, *"What is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? For you are our glory and our joy."* (1 Thess. 2:19-20) This verse rings in my head every time I visit you, pray with you, hear from you, preach to you – even when I sit in meetings with you! After nearly two years I can still scarcely believe the abundance of the gift, the extravagant and humbling privilege, God has given me through your calling me to serve you as your bishop. Betsy and I are deeply grateful for you all and pray we may have the pleasure to be in your company on the road with our Lord Jesus for many years to come.

Faithfully,
+Dorsey

Statistics for September 1, 2013 – August 31, 2014

Episcopal Visitations	34	Marriages	0
Confirmations	89	Burials	2
Receptions	19	Ordinations	4
Baptisms	2	(Order of Deacon 1; Order of Priest 3)	
		Renewal of Vows	1

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees will have met eleven times since the last Diocesan Convention. At the end of 2013, we said goodbye to Board members Linda Getts and John Adams. Also, although he was re-elected to the Board and continues to serve as a member, Russ Ayres stepped down as Trustee President at the end of 2013. Russ served as President for five years. He demonstrated excellent leadership during a most difficult time, and we are extremely grateful for his service. Bishop McConnell appointed me as President to start 2014, and John Rogers was elected Secretary of the Board. In 2014, we welcomed Amy Shelley and Thomas Moore and said farewell to William Moore who resigned from the Board in June to take a new job in Sarasota, Florida.

Many thanks are owed to the hardworking diocesan staff that supports the work of the Trustees. Kathi Workman does an excellent job keeping track of income and expenditures from the various endowments and managing distributions to the parishes invested in Pool 1. Dr. Joan Gundersen has kept the diocese's surplus properties in good repair and found tenants to occupy those churches while we decide what to do with them. We continue to rely heavily on the wise counsel provided by our Chancellor, Andy Roman.

The Board of Trustees has three standing committees: Finance and Investments, chaired by Bob Johnston; Audit, chaired by Bob Eley; and Property, chaired by Mike Donadee. The hard work of these chairs and their committees is greatly appreciated.

As stated so well in our former president's report to the 2013 Convention, the focus and goal of the Trustees is to "manage the assets of the diocese to the glory of God and in furtherance of the mission and ministry of the Episcopal Church in Southwestern Pennsylvania." Highlights of the past year are summarized below.

Diocesan Endowment

The Trustees have continued to rely on the services of Morgan Stanley to assist us in managing the diocesan endowment. Our Finance and Investment Committee oversees the work of Morgan Stanley, meeting with its representatives on a quarterly basis to discuss investment strategies for diocesan held funds. The total endowment, including diocesan funds and funds dedicated to individual parishes and programs, grew from \$22.5 million as reported to the 2013 Convention to \$23.7 million as of the end of August 2014.

Support for Parishes

Since the last Convention, Growth Fund grants and/or loans have been approved by the Trustees for Nativity, Crafton; St. David's, Peters Township; St. Peter's, Brentwood; Church of the Atonement, Carnegie; Emmanuel, North Side; St. Thomas, Northern Cambria; and, All Saints, Brighton Heights. The Trustees also assisted St. Paul's, Kittanning, in the sale of a neighboring property, the proceeds from which will be held in trust for the future benefit of that parish.

Support for Diocesan Mission

In early June, the Trustees met with members of the Budget and Assessments Working Group of Diocesan Council (BAWG) and our Bishop to work on the 2015 Diocesan Budget that is being presented to this Convention. We met in prayer and fellowship at the Clergy House in Donegal. This work involved many hard choices, but we were determined to develop a budget that balances planned

expenditures with all anticipated sources of income. Our thanks go out to Diocesan Treasurer Kathi Workman and BAWG members Joseph and Kathy Baird, Linda Getts, Courtney Harter, Jim Neral and Steve Stagnitta for their time and effort in working through the budget process with us.

Support for Diocesan Properties

The second Strategic Task Force appointed by Bishop McConnell and chaired by Trustees Sue DeWalt and Bob Johnston established a Property Subcommittee. This subcommittee, led by Mike Donadee, was charged with developing recommendations regarding certain underused diocesan properties. In response to those recommendations, the Trustees have taken initial steps toward the possible disposition of the former St. Martin's Church in Monroeville, Epiphany Church in Avalon, and Trinity in Freeport. Additional approvals will be required from the governing bodies of the diocese before any of these properties can be sold or otherwise transferred. In addition, in late 2013 the Trustees approved the offer for sale of vacant property in Allegheny Township near Leechburg, PA.

Support for Sheldon Calvary Camp

In March 2014, the Trustees authorized a contribution of \$100,000 over five years toward Sheldon Calvary Camp's Capital Campaign. As in past years, the Trustees authorized an annual grant from one of the diocesan endowments to support the Camp's scholarship program. Currently, we are working with our Chancellor on a long-term lease between the Trustees and Sheldon Calvary Camp to assure that the camp will continue to have use of Trustee-owned property on the shores of Lake Erie to operate as a mission of the Episcopal Diocese.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph M. Karas
President, Board of Trustees
September 12, 2014

CANON FOR FORMATION

New Initiatives:

Canon Geisler and Bishop McConnell have begun a pilot class at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. The class is on the Anglican Way of Theology in the Episcopal Church. It is an introductory course that is open to both laity and clergy.

Bishop McConnell, with my assistance, reached out to the Anglican Diocese of Soroti in training their Bishop and clergy about alcoholism, addiction and recovery.

I recently facilitated a relationship between the Oasis Recovery Center and Trinity Cathedral to help in developing a “recovery environment” to serve the walk-in population that frequents the downtown area and often the arena during the daytime.

With Bishop McConnell’s guidance, we have forged a relationship with the local organized labor movement in the hopes of training clergy to seek justice and basic fairness for our working parishioners, especially in entry-level positions in the health care industry and in the fast food industry as well as the recent indebted college graduates.

I recently began to work with the Church of the Atonement in Carnegie to help them move towards calling a regular supply priest and then towards calling a priest-in-charge. The goal is to be a completely self-supporting parish with consistent clergy support.

Ongoing:

- Convening “Clergy Support Group North” meetings with recently ordained clergy.
- Coaching Deacon Bert Daly, Deacon Howard Gillette and Trinity graduates Wally LaLonde and Doug Kinsey as well as seminarians at Trinity School for Ministry.
- Attending bi-yearly Clergy Deployment meeting with Transition Officers from the Eastern Seaboard to the Mid-Atlantic Region (from Maine to Georgia, as far west as Chicago). This group looks at local clergy seeking positions and churches seeking candidates for clergy openings in their parishes.

Peace & Prayers,
The Rev. Canon Dr. Jay Geisler

CANON MISSIONER

I began actively serving as the Canon Missioner after Labor Day in 2013. During the past year, my work has had two primary aspects. My main focus has been coming alongside three or four parishes to assist the clergy and lay members in the pursuit of their mission and ministry. These parishes are St. Barnabas, Brackenridge; St. Andrew's, New Kensington; St. James, Penn Hills; and St. Thomas, Canonsburg. Each parish has had differing needs and my role has been adjusted accordingly.

At St. Barnabas, I've been mentoring Deacon Frank Yesko in his formation towards priestly ordination and have worked with him and the Vestry on many nuts-and-bolts details of Episcopal parish life as this parish grows in numbers and spiritual vibrancy. St. Andrew's in New Kensington returned to active participation in the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh in late July 2013. Fr. Norman "Chips" Koehler valiantly assumed the worship and pastoral duties there. I worked with him, the congregation, and other clergy and parishes of the Allegheny Valley to explore options. By late October, it became clear that sufficient resources were not available for St. Andrews to continue as a worshipping parish at this time. Their last service was held on All Saints' Sunday in November 2013. In Penn Hills, the Rev. Eric McIntosh, a newly ordained Episcopal priest with many years experience as a Baptist minister, began a restart of St. James with a unique vision to minister to the community through the parish facilities. I've been blessed to serve as a mentor and sounding board to Eric as this dynamic and culturally-sensitive ministry continues to unfold. St. Thomas in Canonsburg has experienced steady growth in recent years, so that the congregation and its ministries have felt constrained by the limits of their small and challenging physical plant. My role here has been to support the Rector, Chuck Weiss, and the Vestry in analyzing their mission priorities and options for sustained ministry over the long haul.

The second aspect of my ministry as Canon Missioner this past year has been to fill in some of the administrative/functional gaps within the diocesan structure. These have included: assisting and advising other staff members with parish/clergy needs and resources; representing the Bishop at events when he has had scheduling conflicts; and participating in an ex officio capacity in several diocesan committees. With the appointment of our new Director of Administration and Archdeacon, the Venerable Jean Chess, I expect my involvement in such work will lessen in the year ahead.

Finally, as I look with eager anticipation to the future, allow me to share concerning a couple of projects under development. I participate in as many parish visits of the Listening Committee that my schedule permits. I'm starting to process the conversations, data, dreams, and passions to seek ways of better under-girding the mission and ministry of our parishes and the diocese as a whole through sharing resources and best practices. The other project is a diocesan-wide baby shower for Jeremiah's Place, a new crisis-care nursery in East Liberty. This event, scheduled for January 2015, will serve as a model for bringing people of the diocese together in mission and fellowship.

With gratitude for the opportunities to serve Christ with you in mission,
Canon Cathy Brall+

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

The Commission on Ministry is established pursuant to Title III of the Canons of the Episcopal Church and Canon XXX of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh in order to advise and assist the bishop “in the determination of present and future opportunities and needs for the ministry of all baptized persons; and in the design and oversight of the ongoing process for recruitment, discernment, formation for ministry, and assessment of readiness therefore.” (Title III, Canon 2, Section 2, Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church, 2006)

Since the 2013 Diocesan Convention, the Commission on Ministry will have met eight times, including the winter interview day and the annual ordination exploration day. Highlights of the year include:

- The Commission and Standing Committee had informal interviews with nine individuals in the discernment process and one candidacy interview at the winter interview day.
- The Bishop ordained Ben DeHart and Eric McIntosh to the Sacred Order of Priests at Trinity Cathedral on January 11, 2014; Bert Daly to the Sacred Order of Deacons at Trinity Cathedral on June 21, 2014; and William Ogburn to the Sacred Order of Priests at Church of the Redeemer, Squirrel Hill, also on June 21.
- Three individuals took General Ordination Exams in January.
- With the consent of the Standing Committee, the Bishop granted candidacy to Bert Daly and John Feuerstein. Subsequently, Bert Daly was approved for Ordination to the Diaconate.
- The Commission and Bishop accepted the nominations of Ms. Shana Hutchings of St. Andrew’s, Highland Park; the Rev. Howard Gillette, Deacon; and Ms. Alyse Viggiano of St. Paul’s, Mt. Lebanon, to be considered for postulancy. Subsequently the Bishop, upon recommendation of the Commission, granted Postulancy to the Rev. Mr. Gillette and Ms. Viggiano.
- Ministry Exploration Day was held on April 12, 2014, at St. Paul’s, Mt. Lebanon. This year the name was changed to reflect the broader scope of the event. Approximately 30 people participated, including potential nominees for Holy Orders with spouses and clergy.
- Commission member Jessie Hipolit continued her work on encouraging and supporting lay ministry with the Commission, clergy, and parishes of the Diocese.

Carolyn R. Booker, St. Stephen’s, Wilkinsburg, was elected at Convention to serve a three-year term on the Commission. The bishop appointed Bethany Hamill, Christ Church, North Hills, to serve a three-year term as member of the Commission. We welcomed the Rev. Cathy Brall, Canon Missioner, as staff participant in the Commission. Nancy Lapp and Robert Goode concluded their terms as members of the Commission, and we are grateful for their faithful service.

I thank Bishop McConnell for his leadership and support, and each member of the commission for their service during the year: the Rev. Lenny Anderson, St. Francis-in-the-Fields, Somerset; Carolyn Booker, St. Stephen’s, Wilkinsburg; the Rev. Lynn Chester Edwards, retired priest; Robert Goode, Redeemer, Squirrel Hill; Jessie Hipolit, Emmanuel, North Side; the Rev. Tim Hushion, Trinity Cathedral; Nancy Lapp, Holy Cross, Homewood; the Rev. Kris McInnes, St. David’s, Peters Township; Steve Stagnitta, St. Andrew’s, Highland Park; the Rev. Ann Staples, St. Thomas, Northern Cambria; Daryl Walker, All Saints, Brighton Heights; and ex officio as staff, the Rev. Scott Quinn, Canon to the Ordinary, the Rev. Jay Geisler, Canon for Formation, and the Rev. Cathy Brall, Canon Missioner.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Louis B. Hays, Chairperson

COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND CANONS

This year, the Committee on Constitution and Canons addressed functional revisions to Canon VIII, pertaining to Appointments, Committees and Program Units; and Rule of Order B.3.a., pertaining to Nominations. These amendments are proposed to this Diocesan Convention.

The Committee also deliberated how to address issues in the canons regarding transitional and mission parishes. In the coming year, the Committee suggests promoting dialogue on the topic within the diocese and among those potentially affected by recommended amendments before formally proposing anything to the Diocesan Convention.

A vacancy on the Committee was created by the resignation of the Rev. Richard Pollard. An appointment will be made to complete Fr. Pollard's term. The completion of the consecutive terms at the end of this year of Dr. Joan Gundersen and the Rev. Lou Hays create a lay vacancy and another clergy vacancy for election at this Convention.

Other members of the Committee include Michael Braxton (chair); the Rev. Charles Hamill (secretary); Randy Amis and Andy Roman (ex officio).

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

DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND ARCHDEACON

I began my work as Director of Administration on August 1, 2014. Bishop McConnell charged me with the following areas of responsibility:

- a) oversee the day-to-day functions of the diocesan office;
- b) review the communications infrastructure and organizational design of the diocese to bring our structures more fully into alignment with our mission;
- c) assist the Rev. Canon Dr. Cathy Brall and the Rev. Canon Dr. Jay Geisler with the duties of the Canon to the Ordinary; and
- d) assist the Bishop and the Canons with clergy deployment.

As I write this report in mid-August, I am in the process of meeting with staff and discovering and documenting the details of these functions. I welcome your questions and input. I am working on a half-time basis and the best way to reach me is via email at jchess@episcopalpgh.org.

I look forward to sharing a report of findings and planned next steps with you in the future.

The Ven. Jean Chess, Archdeacon
Director of Administration

GROWTH FUND COMMITTEE

The Growth Fund Committee consists of six persons, two each appointed by the Board of Trustees and by Diocesan Council, and two elected at Convention. In addition, the Bishop, a designated Assistant to the Bishop and the Chancellor are ex officio members.

The Board of Trustees is the custodian of the Fund. Administration of the Fund is governed by a Declaration of Trust and Guidelines. Under the Declaration of Trust, the objectives of the fund are, in summary, (1) to assist in the establishment of new church work, (2) to revitalize existing church work, and (3) to alleviate emergencies, all within the Diocese. As a practical matter, most Growth Fund grants and loans are used for renovations and improvements.

The principal of the Fund (now approximately \$1.5 million) may be loaned to Parishes of the Diocese, and granted only in emergencies if approved by the Bishop. Earnings of the Fund, which are determined based upon the income distribution percentage approved by the Board of Trustees, are available for grants. Grant funds are, of course, limited.

Funds are awarded based upon an application, the form of which is available on the Diocesan website. Although each application is considered individually, as a general rule, the Committee will consider stand alone grant requests not exceeding \$5,000; suggested guidelines for grant requests in connection with larger applications should not exceed 1/3 of the project cost, with the balance coming from a loan and funds raised by the Parish.

During the past two years, the Growth Fund has approved financial assistance to the following parishes: Nativity, Crafton; St. Peter's, Brentwood; St. David's, Peters Township; Emmanuel, North Side; St. Paul's, Kittanning; All Saints, Brighton Heights; St. Peter's, Blairsville; St. Thomas, Northern Cambria; and Church of the Atonement, Carnegie.

Michael A. Donadee
Chairperson

THE STANDING COMMITTEE

This report covers business of the Standing Committee from November 2013 through August 2014. In accordance with the canons of the Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Pittsburgh, the Standing Committee took the following actions:

Granted consent for Episcopal elections to be held in the following dioceses:

- Diocese of Southwest Florida for a Bishop Coadjutor
- Diocese of West Texas for a Bishop Coadjutor
- Diocese of the Dominican Republic for a Bishop Coadjutor

Gave consent to the Episcopal elections of:

- Matthew Alan Gunter as Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Fond du Lac
- Allen K. Shinn as Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of New York
- Alan M. Gates as Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Massachusetts

Approved for Candidacy for Holy Orders:

- Herbert Daly, Jr.
- John Feuerstein

Approved for Ordination to the Diaconate:

- Herbert Daly, Jr.

Approved for Ordination to the Priesthood:

- Benjamin DeHart
- Eric McIntosh
- William Ogburn

Filled the following vacancies in diocesan offices:

- Courtney Harter, District 3 representative to Diocesan Council
- John Adams, Standing Committee

Other actions:

- Consented to the restoration of the Rev. Andrew Ray as a priest of the Diocese of Pittsburgh
- Consented to the reinstatement of the Rev. Dr. Jonathan A. Linebaugh to ministry in the Episcopal Church
- Consented to the release of the Rev. Dr. Peter Davids from ordination vows in the Episcopal Church

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Leslie G. Reimer, President
Annis Rogers, Secretary

TREASURER

It has been my privilege to serve as Treasurer since November 2013. My first official duty was to attend the 2013 Convention. Since then, I've worked diligently overseeing the accounting systems, ensuring that all financial transactions were and are properly recorded (the Treasurer's position was vacant from June, 2013 through October, 2013), and providing financial assistance to parishes and other organizations within the diocese.

Accomplishments since the 2013 Convention include:

- The audit of the 2013 financial statements has been completed and an unqualified opinion rendered by our auditors, Maher Duessel.
- Disbursed Growth Fund grants of \$46,383 for 2013 grants and \$30,160 for 2014 grants. Disbursed Growth Fund loan of \$5,000 in 2014.
- Applied for and received \$6,500 from the Society for the Advancement of the Episcopal Church for the Advancement of Christianity in Pennsylvania to defray the cost of two Growth Fund grants awarded in 2014.
- Implemented a stock donation liquidation process through Morgan Stanley whereby stock donations are liquidated for parishes with no commission fees.
- Assisted parishes experiencing financial difficulty by offering recommendations and requesting competitive bids for cost savings to lower operating expenses.
- Completed review of diocesan comprehensive insurance by property resulting in savings of \$7,000 for 2013 and 2014.
- Added the Empire High Option Medicare Secondary Payer Plan to the diocesan menu to enable diocesan employers and eligible employees to take advantage of cost savings associated with the MSP plan.
- Provided \$203,000 in financial support to seven diocesan parishes in need of aid.
- Provided \$27,000 in Community Outreach Grants as well as \$20,000 to Sheldon Calvary Camp Capital Campaign.
- Visited four parishes to discuss financial concerns and determine how the diocese can best assist parishes who are experiencing temporary or long-term financial hardship.

Current projects include:

- Creation of a Treasurer Training program to include topics such as financial reporting, clergy compensation, parochial report preparation, planned giving, etc.
- Develop and adopt formal written policies and procedures relating to accounting and fiscal matters, employee handbook, investment policy, and fraud.
- Update the *Parish Guide to Grants and Loans* to assist parishes in locating funding for building projects, mission projects, and new programming.
- Financial Software survey to determine what software best meets the needs of small, medium, and large parishes.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathi Workman