

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 2016 Annual Convention, Council has met six times: December 6, 2016, and February 7, April 4, June 13, September 12, and October 3, 2017. Minutes of these meetings are or will be available from the diocesan office. In addition, Council acted under Section 9 of Canon XVII (electronic voting) as follows: 1) in December 2016, to allocate \$25,000 from the Miriam Moyer Trust to Parish Mission Grants for mission projects that promote evangelism and/or racial reconciliation, and to amend a previously approved clergy housing allowance; 2) in March 2017, to elect the Rev. Jean Chess to fill the unexpired term (through 2017) of the Rev. Carol Henley as Secretary of Council; 3) in May 2017, approved a mission grant application for \$3,000 from St. Brendan’s, Franklin Park, and a mission grant application for \$3,100 from Church of the Advent, Jeannette; 4) in June 2017, amended the 2017 diocesan budget to provide \$5,129 from the Campbell Foundation income to cover the cost of hiring a diocesan staff person for clergy communications; 5) and in August 2017, approved a mission grant application for \$1,000 for Trinity Cathedral.

Council meetings consist of reports from the Bishop, Canons to the Bishop, President of the Standing Committee, President of the Board of Trustees, Chancellor, Treasurer, and the chairs of various diocesan committees and organizations, and action items as needed.

December meeting: Council approved the following amendments to the 2016 budget: add budget line for Presiding Bishop’s visit expenses of \$5,000 to Formation and Mission budget; increase Technology – Hardware, Support, and Training budget from \$6,000 to \$7,000; and decrease the amount allocated for Legal Expenses by \$6,000, from \$50,000 to \$44,000. Council also provided St. James, Penn Hills, with \$3,000 in emergency funds to repair a roof leak. Council approved 2017 housing allowance resolutions for six clergypersons and amended the 2016 housing allowance resolution for one clergyperson. Council elected the officers for 2017 as follows: the Rev. Lou Hays, President; the Rev. Charlie Hamill, Vice President; and the Rev. Carol Henley, Secretary.

February meeting: Council approved the Bishop’s request that Kathi Workman’s job responsibilities and title be changed to Treasurer and Director of Administration. The following budget amendments were approved by Council: \$20,700 of the 2016 net operating income of \$67,450 to be carried forward to 2017; increase income to reflect Campbell Foundation Grant Income by \$44,871; increase expenses by \$44,871 for addition of Canon for Evangelism and Faith Formation; increase Website/Database expense by \$5,600; and increase Total Returned Properties – Net Expense by \$15,100 for maintenance/repairs committed to in 2016 which were not able to be completed due to contractor delays and winter weather. The following requests for relief from assessment were approved: the total assessment for St. Stephen’s, Wilksburg, was reduced by 10% from \$21,032 to \$18,929; the assessment for All Saints, Brighton Heights, of \$3,987 was reduced by 24% from \$3,987 to \$2,847 with a Growth Fund assessment of \$199 for a total assessment of \$3,046. The following request for a Parish Mission Grant was approved: \$1,000 for St. Peter’s, Blairsville, to start a ministry in a local laundromat modeled after a program called Laundry Love. Council approved a housing allowance resolution for the Rev. Canon Natalie Hall.

April meeting: Council approved two requests for 2017 Diocesan Mission and Faithful Remnant Grants

from the same parishes and for the same amounts as in prior years: \$22,000 for Emmanuel, North Side, and \$12,000 for the Church of the Good Shepherd, Hazelwood. Council approved a request for relief from assessment of \$1,990 for St. Thomas, Oakmont, due to a recently discovered error in income that should not have been included as Normal Operating Income on their parochial reports for the past three years. Council approved a request for a \$1,000 Mission Grant from St. Francis in the Fields, Somerset, for connecting two outreach groups. Council approved a revised housing allowance resolution for the Rev. Canon Natalie Hall.

June meeting: Council approved a request for relief from assessment submitted by Trinity Cathedral, reducing its 2017 assessment by 40% from \$44,872 to \$26,923.

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

Committees of Diocesan Council

The following committees have continued to function over the past year: Budget and Assessment Working Group, chaired by Kathy Baird of St. Peter's, Blairsville; Social Justice and Outreach, chaired by Marianne Novy of Redeemer, Squirrel Hill; Resolutions, chaired by Terlene Brown, Holy Cross, Homewood; Nominations, co-chaired by the Rev. Nancy Chalfant-Walker, St. Stephen's, Wilkinsburg, and Russ Ayers, Calvary, East Liberty; and Compensation, chaired by the Rev. Lou Hays, retired priest. Sheila Stagnitta, St. Andrew's, Highland Park, serves as Judge of Audits, and Kathy Baird serves as Judge of Assessments.

Report of the Social Justice and Outreach Committee

Members of the Social Justice and Outreach Committee include: Colleen Sari, Calvary, East Liberty (until June); Marianne Novy, Redeemer, Squirrel Hill/PIIN; Patricia Eagon, St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon; Bill Farra, Community of Celebration; Elizabeth Duckstein, ECW/St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon; Patricia Kennedy, St. Andrew's, Highland Park; the Rev. Michael Foley, Redeemer, Squirrel Hill; Erin Morey, St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon; Linda Schneider, St. Brendan's, Franklin Park; Anne Robb, Calvary, East Liberty; the Rev. Garrett Yates, St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon; and Nancy Lapp, Holy Cross, Homewood.

The committee's recommendation for the diocese's 2016 Lambeth Funds, accepted by Diocesan Council, was to distribute \$3,523 as follows: International: Episcopal Relief & Development, designated for Syrian Refugees, \$1,000; Regional: Highland Education Project (part of Appalachian Ministries), \$1,000; Local: Operation Safety Net, \$750; Jubilee Soup Kitchen, \$773.

The committee began 2017 by thanking Nancy Lapp for her outstanding service as chair of the Social Justice and Outreach committee since close to its beginning in 2009. Nancy is dedicated, thorough, diplomatic, and informed about a wide range of issues, and the committee urged her to continue as a member.

As a result of a presentation to our committee by Thaddeus Popovich of St. Brendan's, Franklin Park, in April, the committee arranged a film, panel, and discussion on social justice and petrochemical factories, generously hosted by Calvary, East Liberty, and introduced by the Rev. Ted Babcock. The film, *Fenceline: A Company Town Divided*, about the impact of the Shell plant in Louisiana, was followed by talks about the likely impact of the factory that Shell is planning for Beaver County, with an emphasis on health effects and better alternatives. Several among the approximately 70 attendees have discussed planning a similar event for their own congregation.

In July, the committee took on responsibility for coordinating the "Walk-in" ministry at Trinity Cathedral, part of a collaboration with four other downtown churches. Every fifth week, Trinity is the go-to church

for individuals with emergency needs (food, referrals for ID, bus fare to medical appointments, etc., or just someone to talk to). In addition to receiving help from several members of the cathedral staff, there are now six volunteers from St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon; Calvary, East Liberty; and Redeemer, Squirrel Hill. The schedule alternates so that there are always two volunteers present from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday, during the assigned week. Additional volunteers would be welcomed.

The committee supported community gardens at six congregations, all renewals. The grants went to St. Brendan's, Franklin Park; St. David's, Peters Township; St. Andrew's, Highland Park; Holy Cross, Homewood; Redeemer, Squirrel Hill; the Community of Celebration; and Shepherd Wellness Community. Several individual and church donations have generously supplemented the money in the committee's budget for this purpose.

Participation in packing days at the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank continued this year. Between November and April there were 52 volunteers. They came from Calvary, East Liberty; Christ Church, North Hills; Holy Cross, Homewood; Redeemer, Squirrel Hill; St. Brendan's, Franklin Park; St. Peter's, Brentwood; St. Thomas, Oakmont; and the Episcopal Student Association at the University of Pittsburgh. The Committee also has urged the parishes of our diocese to support Bread for the World, which helps citizens advocate for legislation to fight hunger domestically and internationally. Marianne Novy has gained information from several Pittsburgh meetings and the National BFW Lobby Day in Washington DC, and can help parishes who want to host an Offering of Letters.

The Social Justice and Outreach Committee arranged and publicized several events dealing with racism and mass incarceration, identified as key concerns by the Episcopal Church. Brittany Buttry-Watson shared information about the mentorship program of Foundation of Hope, which works with individuals who are incarcerated or recently released, to reduce the chance of their returning to jail. The committee publicized the documentary *Thirteenth*, shown at Redeemer, Squirrel Hill on March 2, about the connection between slavery and incarceration, as well as Redeemer's Great Issues series of panels on Race in Pittsburgh. The committee also encouraged people to attend the 19th Annual Summit against Racism, held at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary on January 21. Race and incarceration are current concerns of PIIN (Pennsylvania Interfaith Impact Network) Southwest. The diocese and seven parishes (Calvary, East Liberty; Emmanuel, North Side; Holy Cross, Homewood; Redeemer, Squirrel Hill; St. James, Penn Hills; St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon; and St. Stephen's, Wilkesburg) are members of PIIN, and several committee members have attended PIIN's events dealing with these topics.

The committee also wrote a letter publicizing various kinds of Episcopal support of refugees and immigrants, and suggested several ways people could help refugees locally. Currently, St. Brendan's, Franklin Park, and Calvary, East Liberty, have ESL (English as a Second Language) classes, parishioners of Redeemer, Squirrel Hill, have helped refugees and immigrants get their green cards and citizenship, and St. Paul's, Mt. Lebanon, participates extensively in immigration assistance through the Northern Area Multi-Service Center.

With the help of Andy Muhl, we have updated our website, with lists (and brief descriptions) of Episcopal organizations working for social justice through advocacy and service, service organizations that parishes and the diocese have worked with, and advocacy organizations with members in the diocese working on justice issues of concern to the Episcopal Church.

We are grateful, as always, to Council for its support, as well as especially to Nancy Lapp for her guidance in the work of our committee.

Respectfully submitted, Marianne Novy, Chair

Report of the Resolutions Committee

As of the time of submission of this report, no resolutions have been offered. The Committee will take appropriate action on any resolutions presented 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: Kathy Baird, St. Peter's, Blairsville, Chair; the Rev. Charles Hamill, Christ Church, North Hills and All Saints, Brighton Heights; the Rev. Lou Hays, retired priest; Kevin Hipolit, Emmanuel, North Side; and the Rev. Vicente Santiago, Advent, Jeannette.

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 Charlie Hamill, Vice President, and Carol Henley and Jean Chess, Secretaries.

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