



Council

June 4, 2011

Oak Ridge Conference Center, Chaska

Present: Bishop Prior; Tim Hodapp, Missioner for Mission

Region 1	Emma King, Georgia Hecock	Region 6	Wanda Copeland
Region 2	Susan Dusek, Bill Van Oss	Region 7	Becky Garthofner, Rex McKee
Region 3		Region 8	
Region 4	Bill Gray, Winnie Mitchell	Region 9	Bob Sykes, Nancy Brantingham
Region 5	Pat Dibble		

Guests: Robert Two Bulls, Missioner for Indian Work and Multicultural Ministry; Roni Feit, Region 4 lay alternate; Susan Barksdale, Recorder

Executive Summary of June 4, 2011, meeting

(Details in body of minutes)

Council:

- Spent the morning session in a joint meeting with the Trustees, Standing Committee, and Commission on Ministry
- Held a short joint discussion with the Trustees concerning matters pertinent to both Council and Trustees
- Spent time in small group discussion by committee: Mission, Ministry, and Management; and heard reports from each small group
- Delayed vote on a mineral rights resolution until a summary breakdown can be sent

For the first part of the Council business meeting, the Ministry, Mission, and Management Committees gathered for group discussion. Council then convened as a whole.

As the March minutes had not yet been received, they will be approved at the September meeting.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS

The Mission Committee talked of gathering people together in mission-interest networks, presenting “hero stories” as examples and providing a vehicle for people to be connected. They liked the use of a layered map system to show how these areas overlapped with Ministry and Management, and spoke of having some network presentations at Convention. Networks should be formed from the ground up, so it is important that people tell their stories. Then the Missioners, clergy and lay leaders, faith communities, etc., can help strengthen those networks. It was stressed that these networks do not rule out geographical representation.



There was some concern about alternate Council representatives keeping up-to-date should they have to step in. Ideally, Council members are at all meetings and should focus on serving in that manner if they choose to run for membership — aligning their gifts with the relevant work of a Council committee. Alternates from some regions are trying to come to each meeting so that they will be up to speed. Social networking was discussed as a way for all to stay connected on matters discussed at meetings.

The Ministry Committee spent its time going through the Employee Handbook. It was noted that this handbook is for the Office of the Bishop and Missioners; it is recommended but not mandated for congregations. Rex McKee, who is on the committee that prepared the handbook, will take some of the Ministry Committee's questions back, especially those about leaves of absence. Other points of discussion included adaptation of letters of agreement in churches to go with this handbook, clarification of a "serious" health condition, and a deeper conversation on health insurance. The Personnel Committee was commended for its work on this document. Rex also asked about recruiting more members for the committee.

The Management Committee discussed mineral rights and recommended passage of a resolution concerning mineral rights in Montana for the benefit of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Lake City. Bishop Prior noted that similar resolutions have been dealt with by the Trustees, but the umbrella responsibility is that of Council. Bob Sykes raised a concern about voting without seeing a summary detail. A summary will be sent to Council by email, and an investigation will be done as to whether it is possible to have an electronic vote on the resolution.

The Management Committee also reviewed the April financial statement. Although the balance sheet was positive as of April 30, the total value of delinquent Mission Ministry Support (MMS/apportionment) payments creates a deficit. Some congregations are behind by only one payment, so this is likely a timing issue; Department of Indian Work (DIW) congregations are often paid at the end of the year; others are in process of MMS appeal; and the situation is not known at this time for about 10 congregations. Bill Gray noted that there is some surplus available from previous years to help cover a deficit, and the Finance Committee is looking at some possibilities if the projected MMS doesn't come in.

Council

There was a brief discussion in Council as a whole about grant-writing resources and utilization of endowment monies, and about the necessity of communication about various endowments such as Rural Ministry. Other matters discussed were a unified budget and the extra 1% assessment, which was originally designated for the Mission Strategy Network (MSN) and this year is earmarked for the Trustees.

Bill Gray asked if budget hearings are scheduled, pre-Convention. Council is no longer meeting monthly, but it must vote on the budget before hearings are held, and its next meeting is not until September. The possibility of a budget "webinar" was mentioned. Other suggestions, such as a Council blog, were mentioned as possibilities for maintaining communication between meetings.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Winnie Mitchell spoke of a November mission trip to Cuba, sponsored by St. Mark's Cathedral, and noted that there may still be spaces.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 3:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Timothy Hodapp, Missioner for Mission
(for Karen Olson, Secretary of Council)

Susan Barksdale, recorder