

## Council Minutes

March 12, 2011

Oak Ridge Conference Center, Chaska

**Present:**

Bishop Prior

Tim Hodapp, Missioner for Mission

<b>Region 1</b>	Vicki White, Georgia Hecock	<b>Region 6</b>	Mike Anders, Wanda Copeland
<b>Region 2</b>	Susan Dusek, Bill Van Oss	<b>Region 7</b>	Becky Garthofner, Rex McKee
<b>Region 3</b>		<b>Region 8</b>	Gary Aamodt, Marlene Jacobs
<b>Region 4</b>	Winnie Mitchell	<b>Region 9</b>	Bob Sykes, Nancy Brantingham
<b>Region 5</b>	Doug Sparks, Pat Dibble		

**Guest:** Susan Barksdale, Recorder

### Executive Summary of March 12, 2011, meeting

*(Details in body of minutes)*

**Diocesan Council:**

- Spent the morning session in a joint meeting with the Trustees, Standing Committee, and Commission on Ministry
- Unanimously affirmed the appointment of Pat Dibble as First Vice President of Council
- Continued an ongoing discussion of the goals of Diocesan Council
- Chose areas of interest within Mission, Ministry, or Management, broke into small groups, and then summarized their discussions to Council
- Heard reports from Bishop Prior and the Finance, Audit, and Personnel Committees

The morning was spent in a joint meeting with the Trustees, Standing Committee, and Commission on Ministry. Council's individual business meeting convened following lunch.

**The agenda was approved unanimously**, with the rearrangement of a few items.

### **BISHOP'S REPORT, PART I**

A new First Vice President was needed to replace Doug Franzen, who was not reelected to Council. Bishop Prior proposed Pat Dibble; affirmed unanimously.

Bishop Prior expressed the hope that the four groups would continue discussion of their goals at the next joint meeting in June, including how the various groups' goals intersect with each other. He added that there is a need to think about joint committees on mission and finance.

The Bishop's Area Gatherings have been going well. Gatherings have been held thus far in Region 5 and the west metro area, with more to come.

Karen Olson is now attending the meetings of the Commission on Ministry. Council work is now part of Tim Hodapp's responsibility as Missioner for Mission.

**The minutes of the December 16, 2011, were approved as corrected** (Bill Gray was present that meeting).

#### **DISCUSSION OF GOALS**

Tim Hodapp facilitated a continuation of the ongoing discussion of Council's goals, which have developed from work sessions in several previous Council meetings. Tim invited members to choose an area within Mission, Ministry, or Management in which they felt an interest and calling. Those who had signed up for each area then gathered in small discussion groups, and then each group reported back the entire body. Tim will contact those who had signed up in each area before the June meeting.

#### **BISHOP'S REPORT, PART II**

Two new groups have been assembled. The first group is reviewing structure, including how Trustees and Council relate to each other. This group has been doing good work, including talking to other dioceses across the country. Greater collaboration is needed around mission and mission areas (not just in the area of property), the bishop said, asking what the ministry need is for that area.

The other new group is working with finances. This work is more complicated, and the group is trying to get a better handle on the issue of transparency. The bishop hopes that a joint committee on finance can be formed, with the potential of the development of a unified budget.

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE: DOUG SPARKS**

A document was presented and discussed that is similar to the draft of a unified budget. Areas were pointed out in which some aspects are handled by Council and some by Trustees, and where having a unified budget could lead to more clarity. Bishop Prior noted that careful attention is being paid to the matter of preparing a unified budget for two different legal entities (Diocese and Trustees).

Doug went through various departments in the balance sheet, noting those that had come in under budget (including Diocesan Convention 2010!). The Finance Committee is attempting to take this information and determine payment of the national church apportionment based on "real" funds.

The Finance Committee has effectively become the First Stop Committee. Four congregations have applied thus far for apportionment relief. Their requests total more than the relief funds available, and the Finance Committee is meeting with each of them. The committee is also following up with those congregations that have not paid their complete 2010 apportionments (total unpaid is \$55,000). Doug and the Finance Committee were thanked with applause.

#### **PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: PAT DIBBLE**

The Bishop's Staff is now at full strength. The committee continues to work on an employee handbook. The final Personnel Committee material will be applicable to all faith communities in the Episcopal Church in Minnesota.

#### **AUDIT COMMITTEE: BILL VAN OSS**

The 2010 audit engagement letters were sent to Virchow Krause on February 14, and the committee will do an RFB for the 2012 audit. The committee is also seeking someone to take David Nordling's place in the group.

**NEXT MEETING**

Bishop Prior noted that between now and the June 4 meeting Tim Hodapp will work on the group signups that had happened in today's meeting and contact people about their preferences for work areas. There may be more on a unified budget by that time as well. In answer to a question from Wanda Copeland, the bishop said that discussions on possible restructuring of regions might take place in one of these groups.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 2:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



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

Susan Barksdale, recorder