

Diocesan Council
May 20, 2010
St. Clement's, St. Paul

Present: Bishop Prior; Karen Olson, Secretary of Council

Region 1 Georgia Hecock	Region 6 Mike Anders, Richard Matthews
Region 2 Terry Hoopman, Bill Van Oss	Region 7 Doug Franzen, Rex McKee
Region 3	Region 8 Gary Aamodt, Marlene Jacobs
Region 4 Bill Gray, John Robertson	Region 9 Bob Sykes, John Peters
Region 5 Pat Dibble, Doug Sparks	

Guests: Jim Pavlik, Chief Financial Officer; Jim Delamater, Trustees of the Diocese, Inc.; Wendy Johnson, Director of Communications; Richard Tostenson, Liaison to the Bishop; Richard Norman, Dean of Region; Susan Moss, Dean of Region 7; Susan Barksdale, Recorder

Executive Summary of May 20, 2010, meeting
(Details in body of minutes)

Diocesan Council:

- Spent the morning session with a presentation and discussion on Innovating a Mission-Shaped Church, facilitated by the Rev. Dwight Zscheile
- Heard reports from Bishop Prior, the Finance Committee, and the Trustees
- Heard an update from the Millennium Development Goals team, presented by the Rev. Devon Anderson, including news of adaptations of the Minnesota pilot MDG project by other dioceses and regions
- Heard a report on the past and current work of the Department of Communications, presented by Communications Director Wendy Johnson, and discussed possibilities for the future

The minutes from the April 22, 2010, meeting were approved unanimously.

BISHOP'S REPORT

Area mission meetings are going well, with good turnouts in Duluth, St. Cloud, and Excelsior. There will be an ongoing need for conversations about how to move forward with what we learn from these gatherings.

Some of Bishop Prior's recent activities:

- Meetings with Sheltering Arms and Episcopal Community Services
- Sesquicentennial celebration at Calvary, Rochester (also attended by Garrison Keillor)
- Lunch with retired clergy
- Minnesota Council of Churches conference call on immigration
- Meeting with members of Trustees on endowments
- Afternoon at St. Barnabas Apartments in downtown Minneapolis
- Meeting with supporters of Diocese of Jerusalem
- Spring Clergy Conference
- Debriefing with Bishop Transition Committee (in hopes of documenting this process just concluded for the sake of corporate memory)
- Regional confirmations (with more than 175 confirmands in the three most recent ones)

- Several regional gatherings
- Visit to Seabury-Western Theological Seminary
- Baccalaureates and Commencements at Breck and Shattuck/St. Mary's Schools
- A number of visitations and other meetings with congregations

Richard Tostenson's title is now Liaison to the Bishop.

Plans for the 2011 Diocesan Convention are well underway. It will take place Friday and Saturday, October 29-30, in Duluth.

Andrew Waldo, Bishop-Elect of Upper South Carolina; former Rector of Trinity, Excelsior; and former Council member, sends greetings. Bishop Prior will be at Andrew's consecration on May 22.

In answer to a question, Bishop Prior reported that Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois, has sold its property to Northwestern University and is now renting space. Although the seminary is ending its resident MDiv program, it will continue its DMin program and still offer some courses and workshops.

FINANCE: GARY AAMODT

Summary of report:

- Revenue is slightly ahead of budget and expenses are slightly over as well. However, this time period included an overlap of bishop salaries and other expenses related to the episcopal transition, so there is nothing of particular concern.
- Final numbers on the Bishop Search and Transition should be received soon and will be reported in July.
- There are some remaining Mission Strategy Network monies left from 2009, as well as other money for mission from the .5 assessment for mission in 2010.
- Some churches are currently behind in their apportionment payments, but they tend to catch up by the end of the year.
- Bill Gray noted that the Finance Committee is beginning to look at ways to express the budget in terms of resources provided or to be utilized, showing how we really use the budget for mission and ministry.
- Jim Pavlik will try to put together a forecast for the rest of the year after May. Such a forecast will be somewhat difficult this year because of the unusual transition circumstances noted above.
- As the diocese is still in transition, the 2011 budget will probably still be a one-year rather than a three-year one.
- New Council members for the Audit Committees will be considered at the July meeting.

TRUSTEES' REPORT: JIM DELAMATER

Summary of report:

- There are currently no major problems or economic disasters.
- The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe has taken over management of Cass Lake Episcopal Camp, although there has been some delay on a few issues.
- The Pooled Investment Fund is doing well.
- The Trustees continue to be proactive in identifying missions with particular challenges in real estate and similar issues.
- The Trustee budget will be presented soon to Council.

- Communication remains good between Council and the Trustees.

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs): DEVON ANDERSON

For several years, the diocese has committed 0.7% of its annual budget toward alleviation of global poverty, staying committed to this cause even when things were financially lean. These funds were used in various ways in those years, the most notable being a pilot project for congregations. This pilot project transformed \$14,000 from the 0.7% MDG line item over two years into \$119,00 invested in seeding ongoing MDG projects in congregations around the diocese, and the project is being adapted in other dioceses and regions of the Episcopal Church. Devon noted that the report does not take into account the thousands of additional MDG dollars raised within congregations that were not part of the pilot project.

Bishop Prior suggested celebrating this important work at Diocesan Convention. Bill Van Oss noted that the pilot project's success hinged largely on leadership development, and wondered aloud how the Episcopal Church in Minnesota could continue to expand this in other ways. John Robertson reminded those gathered that eliminating poverty is just one of the eight Millennium Development Goals, and that need can be next door as well as in other parts of the world. Devon replied that all such work can be part of a Mission Portfolio.

Council members expressed their appreciation with applause.

COMMUNICATIONS: WENDY JOHNSON

Communication work during the past year was taken up with the search and election of the new bishop, so Wendy noted that this was not a true example of new strategy. An ad hoc Communications Committee made up of people from around the diocese has begun to meet in order to look at a communications plan.

Basics continue, such as the website and other electronic means of communication, including the Weekly News. Exploration is beginning to discover ways "to give folks the capacity to receive what we're sending out" such as Internet capacity, websites, etc. Although such work may sound simple, it is quite time-consuming. For example, it is thought that about 40 congregations have no internet presence.

Media workshops will be tacked on to the end of upcoming area and regional gatherings; the first one will be in Detroit Lakes. People are asked to be proactive and call those churches who should send people to these workshops. It will be most helpful for regional representatives to have conversation with others in their regions and urge them to attend.

Wendy is informally identifying communication contact people in various congregations, and hopes that the Communications Committee can help provide support to them. As she noted, the Department of Communications is working "to provide support to build up our ability to talk to each other."

Bob Sykes noted that communication is key element in everyone's discussion, but that coordination is another word, and noted that part of Wendy's job is to coordinate the input. She replied that her work will be determined in part by what Council decides to invest in communications, and in what communication areas.

Bishop Prior expressed appreciation for Wendy's work, and Council responded with applause.

Regional Dean Susan Moss welcomed Council to its meeting in Region 7.

The meeting closed with prayer, and was adjourned at 2:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Olson, Secretary of Council