

Diocesan Council  
November 10, 2016

Present: Wayne A. Blassingame, Pat Bradley, Liz Brauza-Hughes, Bruce Davidson, Cathy Dempsey-Sims, Bishop Franklin, Isaac Ihiasota, Maria Manocchio, Robert Matson, Cheri Maytum-Krull, Charlie Ohl, Ruth Palmer, Wendy Palmer, Vicki Zust

Bishop called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

The Bishop announced that is Wayne A. Blassingame's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The Bishop opened the meeting with prayer. The Council sang happy birthday to Wayne.

October minutes – Pat moved & Liz seconded the approval of the minutes. The minutes were approved.

Bishop's Report:

Welcome to new Council members.

The Bishop reflected on the election and shared a portion of the statement he had issued to the Diocese.

The Bishop reflected on Diocesan Convention and the Convention of the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania.

The Bishop shared some of his engagement with the wider church. He serves on the task force on the Presiding Bishop election. The election & nomination worked well, but the transition was rocky. The Bishop will be seeking the Council's advice for the group. He also serves on the Racial Equity Roundtable which was created by the Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo. The Roundtable will be issuing their report on November 15 and he will be going with representatives of the Roundtable to California in December to report on their work to the Kellogg Foundation. The Bishop has been appointed to the Presiding Bishop's theology committee.

The Bishop will be taking sabbatical from April 17 through July 17 and vacation through August 17. That means the Council's May and June meetings will be presided over by the vice-president of Council.

Bishop's 3 appointments: Ruth Palmer, Pat Bradley, Bruce Davidson

There is a lay vacancy on the Council. Charlie Ohl will fill the vacancy until the next Convention.

The Bishop welcomed Wendy Palmer & Isaac Ihiasota as the elected members of the Council.

The Bishop asked for people to introduce themselves with name, congregation, & one thing the Diocese does well that you would like to encourage, something you are looking forward to about being here.

Isaac nominated Liz, the nominations were closed. Liz Brauza-Hughes was elected as Vice-President of Council.

The Secretary of Council does not need to be a member of Council so members were asked to see if there was someone in their congregations who would be willing to be the secretary of Council and were asked to email suggestions to the Bishop.

The Bishop outlined the duties of the Council:

The Council develops the budget. Members of the Diocese are invited to bring ideas to the budget. The Finance Committee works with those bringing proposals. The Finance Committee brings a draft budget to the Council and then the Council works with it in May and June. The September meeting usually approves the budget that is taken to Diocesan Convention which approves it. The Council reconciles the budget with the congregational commitments and passes the final version in January.

The Council has a programmatic function. It thinks through programs like Warden and Vestry day. The reform of the Council itself came from Council.

The rules of the Council are in Canon 9 of the Diocesan Canons. Ultimately the authority lies with the Diocesan Convention and the Bishop. The Diocesan Council holds the authority of Convention between the Convention.

The calendar of the year:

January – February – finalizing 2017 budget

February – Warden & Vestry Day

March – Presiding Bishop's Visit

May & June – Review Budget

September – Finalize Budget

Some ground rules for Council.

Please read the meeting materials.

Don't talk over each other & avoid side conversations

Sub-committee work needs to be attended to.

Sub-Committees

The Council had three sub-committees last year

Finance

Structure

General Convention & Be Not Afraid follow-up

The Bishop asked the Council if they wanted to keep those three committees or do there need to be more or less or other ones.

Isaac suggested an Outreach & Community Ministry sub-committee.

Suggestion was made that the General Convention Resolutions be divided among the sub-committees.

Bob mentioned that the Council finance sub-committee felt redundant

Pat reflected that the result of the Structure committee's work was that we had congregations who wanted to build relationships with other congregations and suggested rebranding it as the connection committee to help with connections.

Liz, Carl, Bob & Maria will be part of the Finance Committee

The rest of Council will join either the Connections Committee or the Outreach & Community Ministry

Connections Committee: Pat, Cheri, Colleen, Wendy, & Charlie

Outreach & Community Ministry: Isaac, Bruce, Ruth, & Wayne

The sub-committees met briefly to choose conveners and schedule a meeting

Outreach & Community Ministry will be convened by Bruce Davidson and will meet at the Ministry Center next week. Liz will connect the Partnership Board to the Outreach & Community Ministry sub-committee

Connections Committee will be convened by Cheri Maytum-Krull and she will be in touch with the committee to set a meeting date.

Maria presented the finance report:

The format of the finance report will be changing to make it easier to read. Maria reported that there is likely to be a small surplus at the end of 2016. Through the end of October cash inflow exceeded outflow.

Bob noted that the current budget format uses contra expenses and so the 2017 report will move those to the income section of the report and will be working to show which line items for which restricted funds may be used.

Maria reported on the Council's request to look at alternatives to the Denominational Health Plan.

Maria is requesting that Liz & Cathy work with her to go through the paperwork and bring a detailed report to Council. Insurance brokers could be invited to the January meeting.

St. Luke's, Jamestown & Calvary are both doing murder mystery dinners on Saturday.

Liz requested that congregations send information on congregational events to her for the website.

The Bishop closed the meeting with prayer at 7:41 pm