

DIOCESAN COUNCIL

JANUARY 19, 2017

6:00 PM

Present: Bishop Bill Franklin, Wayne Blessingame, Liz Brauza-Hughes, Bruce Davidson, Cathy Dempsey-Sims, Isaac Ihiasota, Cheryl Maytum-Krull, Colleen O'Connor, Charles Ohl, Carl Otis, Wendy Palmer, Vicki Zust, Maria Manocchio, and Bob Matson.

Meeting opened with prayer by Bishop Franklin.

Approval of November 10, 2016 minutes – Motion moved, seconded and carried.

Bishop's time: The Bishop introduced Judy Elliott as Secretary to the Diocesan Council. He explained that diocesan canons state that the Diocesan Council shall elect by majority vote a secretary who need not be a member of the Council. Bishop Bill nominated, and Carl Otis seconded Judy's election as secretary – carried.

Sub-Committee reports:

- a. Connections committee: Cheri – meeting postponed due to illness. Future meeting planned.**
- b. Outreach and Community Ministry: Bruce – met in November; survey to be distributed to congregations to determine what works for them in their community. Wendy suggested this be brought up at the Wardens and Vestry Day in February.**
- c. General Convention resolutions: Charlie – committee is working on the resolutions and our dealing with them in our diocese**
- d. Trustees: Bob – reported on projects at Ascension, Forestville and Ellicottville sales, and future use of the Church of the Holy Communion in Lakeview. Also the beginning discussion on a "Legacy Society." Point of interest, Bob met with the treasurer of the diocese of NW Pennsylvania.**
- e. Finance committee report: Carl – reported that the committee will begin meeting in late March/early April to prepare the 2018 budget which will be sent to Diocesan Council in May for review, and June for approval. The budget will then be presented to Diocesan Convention at the end of October. NOTE: Council is asked to give final approval for the 2017 budget at the February 2017 meeting. Carl named the members of the Finance and Budget Comm. Besides himself and Bob Matson, there is Maria, Bob Firestine, Liz Brauza-Hughes, Pete Dempsey-Sims, and Judy Elliott.**

Wardens and Vestry Day – Vicki and Cathy reporting. Set for February 25, 2017 from 10AM – 4PM at the Diocesan Ministry Center. Agenda will include opening remarks by Bishop Franklin, three workshops and tracks, and a delicious lunch. Each congregation is asked to send their Warden, and 3 vestry members. Help will be needed from Diocesan Council members for coffee making, hospitality, lunch and clean-up. Please offer your help to Vicki and/or Cathy.

Health Insurance: Maria reporting. A meeting with Independent Health is set up for 2/1/17 at 6PM for their reps to explain 6 different plans they offer based on a person's finances and what the benefits would be. This would be in addition to the Medical Trust Plan already in existence. Carl made a motion, seconded by Liz, to table any further action until Bishop Bill consults with the Chancellor, Cheryl Fisher. Carried.

Year End Financial Report: Maria presented the 2016 year-end 12 month report, and reviewed the main points. She also prepared a report showing which churches are delinquent in sending in their Full Share pledge for 2017. They will be contacted.

National Church Pledge: Maria reporting. After discussion, Carl made a motion to keep our pledge at 13%. Seconded by Cheri. Carried.

Upcoming Events:

- Jan. 21, 2017 – Explorer's Day at the DMC
- Jan. 22, 2017 – Feast of Lights at St. Paul's – 3:30PM
- Feb. 25, 2017 – Wardens and Vestry Day at DMC – 10AM
- Feb. 9, 2017 – Retirement Party for Jerre Feagin 4PM
- March 3-5, 2017 – Visitation by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry
- March 5, 2017 – Visitation of Presiding Bishop Michael Curry to St. Paul's Cathedral in celebration of the 200th Anniversary of the Cathedral

- **No Lenten book study this year. Instead, “A Space for Grace” (booklet) will be available containing 5 weeks of scripture readings plus a discussion guide for small group and parish adult education study.**

Bishop Franklin closed the Diocesan Council meeting with this prayer at 7:45PM:

O GOD, YOU HAVE BOUND US TOGETHER IN A COMMON LIFE. HELP US IN THE MIDST OF OUR STRUGGLES FOR JUSTICE AND TRUTH, TO CONFRONT ONE ANOTHER WITHOUT HATRED OR BITTERNESS, AND TO WORK TOGETHER WITH MUTUAL FOREBEARANCE AND RESPECT, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN

Respectfully submitted,

**Judy Elliott Secretary
Diocesan Council**