

Diocesan Council

Minutes

April 21, 2016

Members present: Bishop Franklin, Patrick Bradley, Cheri Maytum-Krull, Colleen O'Connor, Charlie Ohl, Gloria Payne-Carter, Ben Thiesen, Kim Rossi

Others present: Maria Manocchio, Finance Office, Canon Cathy Dempsey-Sims, Bob Matson, Treasurer

Opened with Prayer at 6:02 pm

Minutes from March approved.

Bishop's report

- May 15th Pentecost Sunday the new diocesan website will launch. It is more user friendly and will have mobile capability.
- regional projects are already being talked about (in response to the surplus decision last month)
- Sept 9, 10 Invite, Welcome Connect---teaching people how to invite people to church welcome them and connect them. Good timing at the beginning of the program year
- Yesterday trustees talked about having another vestry warden day as we continue to find ways to connect with one another.
- Discover Sunday May 15 at Chautauqua
- Food Truck Rodeo June 14th
- Family Camp Labor Day weekend
- Episcopal Day at Darien Lake Sept 11
- Bishop Malone and Bishop Franklin will be presented with an award for Ecumenical action by the New York Council of Churches on May 12 in Albany. This recognition shows that our work is noticed by those beyond our own Diocese
- Genesis Center at St. Simon's is opening ---food pantry, dental and mental health clinic, etc.
- Eaton Camp resumes in July. Need volunteers.
- Hope Center is growing and expanding. Will have an open house in the next few months.
- Collaboration with NWPA continues to develop. RWF will speak at their convention and some of us will go. Some of Bishop Sean Rowe's people will come to our convention

Sub-Committee reports ----

Deanery Restructuring will meet with reps from Standing Committee on May 4 to discuss deanery restructuring. Some conversation on email. Moving ahead.

Colleen: with upcoming transition for Bishop---is it still feasible that we be a stand alone diocese? She has heard this from a number of people. Bishop: these conversations are going on now.

General Convention Resolutions

focusing on ministry to people with mental illness. NAMI is giving Charlie information. Not all counties have NAMI, but they do have mental health coverage. Important to give parish's resources for mental health care, will gather resource document for our parishes that are related to their specific area.

Finance

Kim—Finance subcmt met with The Diocesan Finance Cmt regarding budget submissions. Accepted all but one of the budget requests.

Update on Diocesan Building Projects

Important that we find uses for our excess space that will serve the communities **and** the parishes. Lockport: congregational discord led to the project not getting necessary zoning variances (diocese has filed an appeal) and foundations have asked for \$250,000 back. And other foundations have withdrawn their pledged financial commitment. Their advice: do the project in the church but don't come to us until the church has some semblance of reconciliation. Appointed Deacon Pete Dempsey-Sims to spearhead reconciliation and now they've called an interim with whom Pete will work. Foundations are giving us 4-5 months. Important to remember that the project began with members of the congregation. Importance of getting the congregation behind a project.

Another project: Ascension Church. Church support for this from the beginning of the project. Of course parish voted to move out because the space allocated by the architects for church services was too small. Diocese in collaboration with Episcopal Church Home for affordable senior housing using the parish house and new construction. Mayor very supportive and positive.

St Simon's Genesis House project is moving forward---they followed the idea of the Grace project, but have made much more progress. They raised money for the building, but they need operating expenses covered. The Bishop has pledged to help find foundation or other support.

St Andrew's Rectory being used for the anti-violence project to offer help to bullied youth.

St Stephen's Olean has a Genesis House project that is going forward.

Review of Statement on Surplus edits were made----see hard copy. Council must come up with an application very quickly after the announcement and that will have language about restrictions on funds, including frequently asked questions. Send out letter Pentecost, at May 19 meeting approve application form for funding process. The application ----Will we require a budget, will we require measurable outcomes? We must have this nailed down.

Full Share committee made a recommendation about not seating parishes at convention who are not in compliance, instead of opening it up on the floor. Discussion followed. In the C and C of the diocese, Qualifications for Lay voters Article III.3.. Convention has final say, it must be brought to the floor of convention.

First 30 report applications received for positions. Interviews will begin. The need for a resource person appears less than originally thought, so that position may not be filled. Depending on the schedule of those interviewed, the event manager position may

be a shared position so that all events can be covered. Colleen expressed concern about the use of the funds related to First 30. It was reported that all of these funds have been accounted for in the 2016 budget.

Update on 2017 Budget Process

Finance Committee will meet May to provide the May Council Meeting with a preliminary 2017 budget. Budget vote in June.

Finance Report.

1st quarter report. Short fall---1/3 of parishes behind in pledges, 10 haven't paid anything yet. Audit begins May 15.

New Business—

Kim Rossi report on Genesis House St Stephen's Olean. Been in existence for many years. Only homeless shelter in Olean—other attempts to open other shelters have been shot down through mis-information. Working hard at opening a second shelter. Because the demand is so great they have to spend \$\$ to put people up in hotels because they do not have enough rooms. Young people live in their cars and some camp all year round. The homelessness is very wide spread and the resources in Olean are stretched terribly thin.

Old Business none

Adjourn and prayer 8:06 pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, May 19, 2016

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Dempesy-Sims