

**Episcopal Diocese of Montana**  
**Minutes of Diocesan Council Zoom Media Meeting**  
**April 7, 2022**

The Diocesan Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Montana held a video meeting via Zoom Media, beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 7, 2022.

**Attendance.** Council members present were: The Rt. Rev. Marty Stebbins, The Rev. Stephen Day, Rick Harden, Hank Tuell, Keith Kuhn, Leo Schuman, The Rev. Heidi Jones-Magee, The Rev. Jaime Leonard, The Very Rev. Scott Anderson, The Rev. Randy Pendergraft and The Rev. Mary Alice Jones. Council members: Hope Stockwell and Jean Buer-Mott were absent. Also in attendance were Mark Dvarishkis, Diocesan Treasurer; Barb Hagen, Canon for Administration and Finance; and Gayle Gallik Archey, Diocesan Secretary.

**Call to Order / African Bible Study.** With a quorum participating, Bishop Marty opened the meeting by reading verses 14-32 from Matthew 25: The Parable of the Talents. Following the reading, Bishop Marty asked “What is God calling us to do, or to be?”

**Montana Diocesan Council Working Vision Statement.** Council members discussed possible revisions to the 2021 Working Vision Statement to include more definition and clarification, and also to expand Council’s vision.

Suggestions:

- Include “without guarantee.”
- There is nothing to be measured.
- It is beyond us to know the Big Picture.
- Understanding and how we communicate – need to show, not just tell.
- Whatever we do, if we do it in faith, it will have its own rewards.
- Spirituality can mean “finding meaning in life,” and nothing to do with God.

**Distribution of TEC Relief Funds, and Farm Land Sales Proceeds.** In March 2022, Council members approved the allocation of \$1,000 of The Episcopal Church (“TEC”) Relief Funds for an Indigenous Committee. Council members continued their on-going discussion as to how to use the remaining \$39,000 of TEC relief money, together with \$495,737.06 the Diocese recently received from the sale of farmland by Glasgow, both of which total \$533,737.06.

Possible uses of these funds include:

- Deacon’s compensation.
- Medical debt assistance.
- Re-start of Church in Havre (3 years of assistance).
- Solar roof on Diocesan House.
- Diaconal Education Endowment Fund.
- Racism Awareness Training.

- Immigration issues.

Bishop Marty posed the question: If you had unlimited funds, how would you use it?

Ideas included:

- Nurturing leadership across all orders: Lay, Diaconal & Priestly.
- Education – early childhood and parental.
- Youth Ministry and Camp
- Scholarship Fund for education and assistance.
- Support Education For Ministry (EFM).
- Training for future Priests.
- Gift to Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD).

Council members agreed most of these ideas fall into two categories: Formation and Education. Therefore, the next step is to investigate:

- How can we do Christian Formation and be heard?
- Are we called to go deeper?
- We need to be in conversation where we are doing most of the listening.

Bishop Marty requests Council members be in conversation with their fellow parishioners and individuals from around the Diocese by asking:

1. What are you hungry for?
2. What are we being called to do?
3. What can we do that someone else is not doing?

Council members are asked to think of other questions to ask, then send them via email to Gayle Archey, who will compile all questions on a single list.

Upon motion duly made by Keith Kuhn and seconded by Stephen Day, Council members agreed to deposit the entire \$533,737.06 until a decision can be made on how to spend the monies. Council further agreed the monies will be deposited into three separate accounts, as follows:

- \$39,000 TEC Relief Funds in short-term account
- \$294,737.06 in short-term money market account, and
- the remaining \$200,000 in long-term investments.

**Adjournment.** Upon motion made by Rick Harden and seconded by Keith Kuhn, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m. with prayer lead by Bishop Marty.

Respectfully submitted,

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Gayle Gallik Archey, Diocesan Secretary