

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

The Diocesan Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Montana held a video meeting via Zoom Media, beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 7, 2022.

Attendance. Council members present were: The Rt. Rev. Marty Stebbins, The Rev. Stephen Day, Rick Harden, Hank Tuell, Keith Kuhn, Leo Schuman, Jean Buer-Mott, The Rev. Heidi Jones-Magee, Hope Stockwell and The Rev. Mary Alice Jones. Council members, The Rev. Jaime Leonard, The Very Rev. Scott Anderson and The Rev. Randy Pendergraft 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 / Adoption of Agenda. With a quorum participating, Bishop Marty offered the opening prayer. The agenda, as previously distributed, was accepted. Leo Schuman led an African Bible Study by reading John 4:23-26 (Dame Julian of Norwich day). Following the reading, Leo asked, "What word or phrase from the reading speaks to you?"

Introduction of Alan Johnson, V.P. from Church Insurance. Alan Johnson from Church Insurance Co. joined the meeting via Zoom and presented a short video outlining who Church Insurance Co. is, and what they do. Alan stated he plans to visit every Episcopal Church in Montana. Alan reported that churches are re-valued every 3 years to determine the amount of insurance coverage needed to maintain 100% replacement cost.

OLD BUSINESS - REQUIRES VOTE.

Minutes of March 12, 2022 and April 7, 2022 Meetings. Upon motion duly made by Rick Harden and seconded by Leo Schuman, Minutes of the March 12, 2022, and Minutes of the April 7, 2022 Diocesan Council meetings were both approved as presented.

OLD BUSINESS - RECEIVE INFORMATION.

Financial Statements – March 31, 2022. Council members reviewed and acknowledged receipt of the Diocesan financial statements ending March 31, 2022. Barb Hagen stated a few Churches paid the wrong assessment amount for the first quarter of 2022. Additionally, a couple Churches are behind in their assessment payments to the Diocese. Investments are down substantially.

Insurance Review Subcommittee Update. Volunteers are still needed to serve on an insurance review team, who will review commercial and liability insurance to ensure adequate protection of the Diocesan buildings. Mary Alice Jones stated she knows an insurance agent in Butte who might be willing to assist. Barb Hagen will reach out to him.

Follow-up to Questions Raised at Council's April 7, 2022 Meeting. Council members continued discussions regarding their responses to the following questions presented at the April meeting:

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?

It was determined that most answers focus on Formation, more specifically:

1. Support Camp Marshall
2. Diocese support of Retreat Ministry.
3. Childcare assistance for retreats.
4. Involve youth.
5. Financial assistant with Deacon's School.

Alternative questions/comments discussed:

1. Might we be able to seed programs with endowments?
2. Do we have people willing to lead Formation programs/retreats/etc.?
3. Consider making Camp Marshall more handicapped accessible. Bishop Marty said they are working on this – doing a few updates at Camp.
4. Is it possible for the Diocese to offer matching grants to parishes to help with specific projects?

It was noted that Connie Campbell Pearson received a UTO Grant for climate concerns, specifically to be used for the purchase of low-flow toilets. Connie also received a Roan Ridge Grant - working with Montana Inter-faith Light and Power to be used for training.

Follow-up on Safeguarding Policies. Sub-Licenses will be created for Churches or by Deanery, which will include a memorandum of understanding outlining the expectations of required Safeguarding classes and tracking. Each Church will have their Parish Administrator or a volunteer, keep records of those individuals participating in Safeguarding, and how many hours of the on-line training each person has completed. Classes are for anyone. The basic training is approximately 18 hours.

Council member, Leo Schuman, had to leave the meeting.

Report of Subcommittee: Long Term Financial Health of the Diocese. On behalf of the Subcommittee established to consider possible alterations to Diocesan financial statements and financial and budget reporting, Keith Kuhn and Mark Dvarishkis presented the following recommendations to Council:

1. Change the Diocese's financial statements for financial reporting for Camp Marshall includes all direct costs associated with the camp. No longer divide Diocesan Assessment revenue between the Administrative and Program financial reports in order to balance the Program budget.
2. Produce a Budget Summary Report that provides a one-page summary of the diocese's budget in a 5-year context. The report would present the budget along with the prior 2 year's actual results and a forecast of results for the subsequent 2 years.
3. Produce an Available Funds Report that would report the funds available to the Diocese and operating deficits are to be funded or surpluses directed. The Report would provide both Finance Department and Diocesan Council a way to evaluate the magnitude and sustainability of operating deficits.

Keith Kuhn suggested these recommendations be forwarded to the Finance Department for their review and comments. In addition to Keith Kuhn and Mark Dvarishkis, other members of the Subcommittee include: Doris Gerstner, Barb Hagen and Manny Hoag.

Bishop Marty stated in prior years, assessments used to be split into 2 parts: Administration (required), and Program (voluntary). Over time, this did not work. Bishop does not recommend splitting Camp budget from Administration budget. Bishop Marty stated such a split has been the demise of several church camps from other dioceses around the United States.

NEW BUSINESS - REQUIRES VOTE.

Faber Fund Application from Emmanuel Church – Miles City. Council members reviewed a Faber Fund Application in the amount of \$1,367.00, submitted by Sharon Hatley on behalf of Emmanuel Church. The requested funds will be used for a new sidewalk to the side door of the Church, which will provide handicapped accessibility to the Church. The Finance Department recommends approval of this grant. Upon motion made by Rick Harden and seconded by Hank Tuell, Council unanimously approved Emmanuel's application.

Funds for New Roof on Diocesan House. Council members re-visited the possibility of using The Episcopal Church ("TEC") Relief Funds to install a solar roof on Diocesan House. A bid has been received from Sun Power for \$20,899.76, and Barb Hagen is trying to obtain a second bid for the roof. The estimated cost of using 50-year shingles is \$21,550.00, and \$19,000.00 for 15-year shingles. Upon motion made by Keith Kuhn, and seconded by Stephen Day, Council members unanimously agreed to replace the roof on Diocesan House, and also to install solar panels on Diocesan House. Monies to pay for this project will come from TEC Relief Funds, and from the sales proceeds of the Glasgow land. If the current roof on Diocesan House is damaged, perhaps an insurance claim should be filed. A suggestion was made to consider using metal for the roof instead of asphalt shingles. A subsequent motion was made by Rick Harden and seconded by Mary Alice Jones to table this discussion until additional information can be obtained from

the insurance company and regarding roofing materials. The motion was unanimously approved. Bishop Marty then appointed Keith Kuhn, Stephen Day, Heidi Jones-Magee and Hope Stockwell as members of a newly formed Subcommittee to review the roofing issues/questions.

NEW BUSINESS - RECEIVE INFORMATION.

Vocational Deacon's Housing Allowances. Council members acknowledged receipt of a Statement of Grant Accounting submitted by Archdeacon, Dorcie Kafka Dvarishkis, for expenses related to the recent Deacon's Retreat. It was noted that all Vocational Deacons who are receiving a housing allowance of \$25.00 per month need to be employees of the Diocese, and therefore be issued an IRS Form W-2.

Personal Update from Bishop Marty. Bishop Marty stated she continues her visitation schedule of parishes around the Diocese. Several churches in the Diocese are looking for Interim clergy. Kalispell is interviewing for a new Rector. This month, Bishop Marty will attend her final "Baby Bishop's School." General Convention is scheduled for October in Missoula. Following General Convention, Bishop Marty will attend Lambeth Conference.

Upcoming Diocesan Council Meeting Dates for 2022.

June 11 – **9:30 a.m.** - in person (budget meeting)

at Perkins Restaurant on Cedar Street in Helena.

August 20 - 10:00 a.m. - via Zoom

October 15 – 10:00 a.m. - via Zoom (New member orientation/
possible extra Council meeting)

November 12 – 10:00 a.m.- via Zoom (assessment abatement for 2023)

Adjournment. Upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m. by Bishop Marty.

Respectfully submitted,

Gayle Gallik Archey

Gayle Gallik Archey, Diocesan Secretary