

Present were Bishop Carol Gallagher, Steve DeHart, Donna & Glen Gleaves, and Marcia Lauzon. Gary Waddingham participated by phone; Dorcie Dvarshkis joined the meeting (by phone) after it started. The Bishop opened the meeting with prayer.

#### Corrections to Notes from the last meeting

Gary was present on phone last time.

*These are notes, not minutes. Discussions have been summarized, and items may appear by grouping rather in the sequence in which they were discussed.*

#### Racism awareness in our nation

- Racism and hatred continue to appear in the news. Having had an African American President (and now, Presiding Bishop) hasn't really changed things. Our awareness of how deeply into America racism goes is sharper.
- Last Thursday the Senate passed a bill giving federal recognition to six tribes in Virginia who were those who welcomed the first European immigrants. These tribes have been fighting for federal recognition for over 20 years. At a certain point in Virginia history, people could only be listed as "colored" or "white" on their birth certificates, effectively erasing natives out of existence. Thus native people weren't recognized thru the BIA because legally they didn't exist. We need to highlight how important these things are.

#### Togendawagan

- Carol led the service last week; 32 people attended. There were 70+ people on Christmas Eve.
- Bill Felton has provided some articles about Togendawagan for St. Peter's newsletter; this helps to build awareness and rapport with the parish.
- It is critical that the Cathedral's next dean be someone who is committed to native ministry. Graham Smith, the new interim dean, began at St. Peter's on December 1. He has attended several Togendawagan services, and has a better than average sensitivity about native issues.
- Carol will ask Bill if the Togendawagan group might be available occasionally (quarterly?) to visit various parishes in the diocese. This would increase awareness.

#### Outreach from our diocese

- Joan Yetter is going to Wintertalk, a national gathering of native people in the church. That is within the next week. We got information about this quite late.
- In March, Carol will attend the United Nations Committee on the Status of Women. The opening part of a Togendawagan service will be presented there (at the U.N.) and also at the Church Center.
- By taking these things to Church Center and the U.N., Montana will be recognized as a forward-thinking place in native ministry.

#### Understanding of native needs in a white diocese

- Many people continue to respond positively to the presentation and service at Convention, so we know there would be interest in more information.

**Task: If anyone has stories that can be included in the diocesan newsletter or website, please submit them.**

- There was a continued discussion throughout the meeting about the difficulty of making needs and concerns of native Montanans clear to white Montanans. Many white parishioners have no concept of native life or the challenges and difficulties – or indeed the rewards – that native people encounter. Much discussion centered around ways to build that awareness.
- Bishop Carol is not on a regular bishop’s visitation rotation in our diocese. She will visit any parish, but must be asked to come. We need to make this better-known among the clergy.
- Carol said there are few in the national church who are aware of native issues. She is “always educating the House of Bishops” about native concerns.
- Glenn urged the use of a range of media to convey concepts: not only language, but also visual, auditory and even tactile means. People have a range of learning styles and we should use multiple avenues to reach them. Using a range of senses will increase understanding of native language, stories, people, and culture. Carol suggested we find a way to use Glen’s photojournalism skills.
- We need some sort of annual accountability in the diocese.
  - ❖ What attention is being paid to native issues across our diocese?
  - ❖ Who will monitor this?
  - ❖ Who will present an annual report and update, on an ongoing basis, and to whom?
  - ❖ We should tell the Bishop Search Committee about this concern.
  - ❖ Donna suggested we refer this reasonable request to the Standing Committee. For one thing, it should be included in Anti-Racism Training (new name forthcoming is “Racial Reconciliation”).

#### State budget cuts – impact on native peoples

- Steve reported that in Beaverhead County, all mental health facilities, the unemployment office, and public assistance office have been closed because of cuts to the state budget. In Butte (the nearest larger city), case managers have been cut from eighteen to three. There is at least a two month wait to see a therapist or case manager. These budget cuts are going to cost the state a lot more money in the long run.
- Carol said the native population are “already at the edge,” and many are not near the Indian Health Service, so the county is their only resource. Someone needs to have a public and potentially dangerous breakdown to get immediate assistance. Steve said the police are not trained in crisis management. In Dillon (as surely other places), police will take someone in acute mental distress to jail. The county has one of the highest suicide rates in the state. We will see such problems increase.

#### Education through liturgy

- Some years ago, Marcia visited a church in Washington state which used a liturgy (approved by their bishop), focused on the environment. Is it possible for us to develop a temporary-use liturgy, or perhaps craft a version of Prayers of the People, that would raise awareness of the needs of all Montanans?
- An extended discussion took place on this topic. Ideas included:
  - ❖ Marcia will request a copy of the environmental liturgy from the church she visited.
  - ❖ Glen suggested Mountains and Deserts might have a resource.
  - ❖ Carol suggested starting the POP rather than a eucharistic liturgy.
  - ❖ What we create can be offered to parishes without requiring them to use it.
  - ❖ We need to avoid language of “we (whites) victimized the natives” and instead focus on our all being here together, belonging to the land, and lifting up our common life.

- ❖ Carol mentioned the church of St. Andrews and St. Matthew in Wilmington, Delaware. One parish was white and dwindling, but had a building; one was black with a robust congregation but needed a better building. The parishes joined and it's going well for them. They have a website with some good resources.
- ❖ Seasons of Creation has some specifically Anglican things, including a Eucharist.
- ❖ Remember the issue of various styles of learning. Appeal to multiple senses could be integrated. The passing of the Burden Bundle at the diocesan convention was tactile, and participation was enthusiastic. Smoke (or just the presence of sage or sweetgrass), photos, and music are options.
- ❖ Carol has written some hymns. Recordings of flute music might be used. In addition to famous native flute players, there are some recordings from native Montanans.

Task: Everyone look around for resources! At our next meeting we can see about drafting something. Lent is too soon, so perhaps have something ready by fall. Please review the following.

Follow up from Gary: Here is a list of liturgical resources for Anglicans from the Season of Creation website that perhaps can be used. Of course for a Eucharist, the bishop's permission is necessary.  
<https://seasonofcreation.org/prayer-resources/>

Follow up from Carol: Here are two others:  
<http://www.ssam.org/season-of-creation/>  
<https://seasonofcreation.com/worship-resources/liturgies/>

#### Doctrine of Discovery update

- Dorcie said it's important that people don't to lose sight of the resolution we passed in 2016. How can we help our diocese live into that resolution?
- The diocesan page for Native American Ministries is under construction. An update is planned but is still in development. Having a page as a "landing place" will help.
- We need some discernment around the best ways to help people understand. A variety of resources is available. What we choose depends on how we want to proceed.
  - ❖ A group who can go different places and speak?
  - ❖ A forum with a panel and Q&A?
  - ❖ Or?
  - ❖ A recording of Carol discussing this, explaining the impact.
- The Indigenous Ministries page of TEC has a 14-minute video, explaining why the church opposes the Doctrine. Carol assessed this as somewhat helpful but not really in depth. Carol will put a link to the video on the diocesan website now. More can be added later

Task: Everyone please review this video. At our next meeting we will discuss how we can use this.

Go to this page, and scroll down to find the video called *The Episcopal Church Exposes the Doctrine of Discovery*. <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/indigenous-ministries>

#### Native clergy needed

- A long-term goal is to have a native person (ideally, someone from within Togendawagan) raised to ordination. Carol advises we need more than one. She is still the only native woman among 190 bishops. Where will we find our candidate pool?

- How can our task force facilitate this?
  - ❖ Carol will talk to Clark, and ask him to talk to students at MSU who were in Denise's group.
  - ❖ We should also talk to Bill Felton and Ray Brown.
  - ❖ Joan Yetter in Billings should be consulted. At St. Luke's there are a number who are part native; though Carol is aware of no one suitable for ordination.
  - ❖ We can begin by committing ourselves, as part of our individual daily prayer, to ask God to help us discern and raise up native clergy in Montana.

Task: Pray daily for discernment of native clergy.

#### Bishop Carol's tenure in Montana

- Bishop Carol serves at the behest of Bishop Brookhart, affirmed by diocesan convention. When Bishop Brookhart retires, she would be expected to resign, so the future of this effort is unclear. We must be realistic about possible changes. Gary said it is important for us to ask bishop candidates about their support for native ministry.
- Today's task is to discuss what can we do in the next weeks and months for the future of native ministries in the diocese.

#### Our 2018 goals:

Based on this meeting, here are our goals for this year.

1. Ongoing diocesan education about the Doctrine of Discovery.
3. Crafting a liturgy, such as Season of Creation, and have it ready by fall.
2. Search for Native clergy. For now, please pray for this daily.

Our next meeting is Thursday, March 1, 11:00 - 3:00 at Diocese House.

Gary offered a closing prayer.

#### REVIEW: Tasks before next meeting:

1. If anyone has stories about native concerns that can be included in the diocesan newsletter or website, please submit them.
2. Look for liturgy resources. To be discussed at next meeting. Begin by reviewing the following.  
<https://seasonofcreation.org/prayer-resources/>  
<http://www.ssam.org/season-of-creation/>  
<https://seasonofcreation.com/worship-resources/liturgies/>
3. Review the Doctrine of Discovery video on the national church website.  
Go to this page, and scroll down to find the video called *The Episcopal Church Exposes the Doctrine of Discovery*. <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/indigenous-ministries>
4. Pray daily for discernment of native clergy.