

Episcopal Diocese of Montana  
Minutes of Diocesan Council Meeting  
April 28, 2018

Diocesan Council held its quarterly meeting at St. Peter's Cathedral, beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 28, 2018

**Attendance.** Council members present were: Bishop C. Franklin Brookhart, Jr., The Rev. Richard Reynolds, The Rev. Steve Yurosko, James Hanson, The Rev. Donnel O'Flynn, Sandy Williams, Manny Hoag, Cynthia Hoelscher, Barbara Schultz and The Rev. Connie Campbell Pearson. Council member Janis Hanson participated by telephone. Council members The Rev. Randy Pendergraft, George Kimmet, The Rev. Joan Yetter and Secretary Gayle Archey were absent. Also in attendance were: Brandon Costley, The Rev. Donna Gleaves, President of the Standing Committee and Barb Hagen, Canon for Administration and Finance.

**Call to Order.** Bishop Brookhart offered the opening prayer. With a quorum present the meeting was called to order by Bishop Brookhart. The agenda was presented with changes in the order of business. A motion to approve the changes was made and seconded, motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS part 1:

The Report of the Diocese of Montana Foundation was presented by Brandon Costley of RBC Wealth Management.

OLD BUSINESS

**Minutes of January 27, 2018 Conference Call.** Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Minutes of the January 27, 2018 Diocesan Conference Call were approved as presented.

**Financial Reports.** Diocesan Treasurer, The Rev. Steven Yurosko, and Canon for Finance, Barb Hagen, presented the March 31, 2018 financial statements. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the March 31, 2018 financial statements were approved as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

**Financial Discussion.** A letter from Incarnation in Great Falls was read regarding their financial position. Foundations that are separate entities from their vestries was discussed. Barb explained that assessments are down \$27,000.00 with a portion of that being Incarnation in the amount of \$6,700.00. Barb suggested a loan from investments of

\$20,000.00 to cover unpaid assessment income through the summer. Regular assessments are behind as well.

**Deficit Budget Follow-Up Report.** The extra assessment is not coming in as expected. Twelve out of thirty-four parishes are participating. We need to come up with a plan for the June meeting to address this issue.

**Loan From Investments.** Upon motion duly made and seconded a loan of \$20,000.00 will be taken from investments to cover the assessment shortage over the summer.

**Contingency Plan.** A contingency plan to cover expenses for Camp Marshall from the investments of the Diocese in the amount of \$40,000.00 was discussed. When we meet in June we will look at a plan for this. Janis asked about camp fees covering expenses; Barb explained that there are never enough funds to cover expense. We do have good renters that come back each year, i.e. the Missoula Children's Theater in August, that help offset expense. A motion was duly made and seconded on the contingency plan. The motion passed.

**Standing Committee Report.** The Rev. Donna Gleaves reported that the committee meets monthly to ensure the transition following Bishop Brookhart's retirement is smooth. Bishop Todd Ously is in charge of the transition committee with The Rev. Ann Hallisey of the Diocese of California acting as our National Church Consultant.

Members of Standing Committee are: The Rev. Donna Gleaves, The Rev. Terri Grotzinger, Rich Hardin, Mary Mesina, Pru Randall and Greg Smith.

The transition committee led a session at Clergy Conference in regard to the expectations of the Diocese for their next bishop.

The survey sent out by the committee and collated by Holy Cow Consulting is complete.

The committee is holding listening sessions with each parish and the Togendowagan gathering.

The Standing Committee is committed to a lot of hard work over the next year.

**Acceptance of Finance Department Minutes.** Upon motion duly made and seconded, Council members acknowledged receipt of Minutes of the April 23, 2018 Department of Finance meeting held via conference call.

**Audit Report.** Canon for Finance, Barb Hagen reported that there are training videos available on the Diocesan website under "Training Options". The videos are on training treasurers and performing the parish audits. The Parish Administration page also has a

lot of good information. They had a training meeting in Kalispell which was well attended. Teams to aid parishes in completing their audits are available. Barb also reported that all of the 2016 audits are now in.

**Glasgow Property.** St. Matthew's Church in Glasgow asked to be dissolved as they lacked energy and enthusiasm. The church building is listed for sale at \$139,000.00. The farm property near Scobey that is owned by St. Matthew's is 600+ acres; acreage is selling for about \$500.00/acre which would net about \$300,000.00. There is a tenant in residence on the farm and the property is being farmed. The rent from the farm is being deposited to the Faber Fund.

**Our Saviors Joliet.** Our Saviors in Joliet has transferred to Calvary Church in Red Lodge as their last member has died. The church and another building are being used as a nursery school and those buildings are up for sale. The funds from the sale of the properties will go to Calvary Church.

**Other Church Issues.** Two churches need funding for remodeling if they are to survive. Miles City has no bathroom and St. Andrew's in Philipsburg has access issues.

**Update on the Capital Campaign for Camp Marshall.** Brewer Lodge is nearly done and is spectacular! Remodeled and expanded bathrooms with handicap access and offices are in place. We have not attained the target of 1.2 million we had hoped for; we have \$612,205.00 in individual pledges and \$650,000.00 from the Bishop Fox Fund. Only 212 people in the Diocese have pledged. More pledges with higher gifts had been expected. But giving is low all over, not just here.

**Faber Fund Grant Report.** A report on the work at St. James Dillon was distributed. The improvements to the property are very nice with a better entryway and bathrooms.

**General Discussion.** The next meeting for Council will be June 23, 2018 at St. Peter's. We will look at the budget, hopefully approve the budget and look at the loans and deficit.

A discussion on stewardship ensued. Giving is low in all avenues, people are ignorant of the meaning of stewardship and are adverse to the tithe. There is significant lack of understanding; people equate stewardship with money only. Reasons for this are largely cultural and clergy resist talking about it as they have to talk about their salary.

One parish taught a lesson on tithing to their children. They had the children bring in their Halloween candy, count out the number of pieces, then take 10% away to be brought to the altar. It was a huge success. "If kids can give 10% then we can too."

Be praying about how to get us through this budget and search process. The bishop salary that is being offered is based on a school superintendent salary in Montana.

The Canons state that the bishop can choose their own staff and the Diocese pays for it. Bishop Brookhart is understaffed; the Canon to the Ordinary is half time and the Bishop does not have a secretary or an administrative assistant.

**Adjournment.** There being no further business to come before Council, on motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned by Bishop Brookhart at 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sandy Williams, protem