

Episcopal Diocese of Montana
Minutes of Diocesan Council Conference Call
February 14, 2019

The Diocesan Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Montana held its quarterly meeting via conference call, beginning at 7:05 p.m. on Thursday, February 14, 2019.

Attendance. Council members participating were: Sandy Williams, Cynthia Hoelscher, The Rev. Janis Hansen, The Rev. Randy Pendergraft, Manny Hoag, The Rev. Dorcie Dvarishkis, Jerry Southwood, The Rev. Canon Clark Sherman and Cathy Morris. Council members The Rev. Richard Reynolds, George Kimmet and The Rev. Steven Yurosko, Diocesan Treasurer, were absent. Also participating in the call were: Barb Hagen, Canon for Administration and Finance; Gayle Gallik Archey, Diocesan Secretary; and The Rev. Jean Collins, Liaison from the Standing Committee. It was noted The Rev. Joan Yetter has resigned from Diocesan Council.

Call to Order. Vice President, The Rev. Janis Hansen, began the conference call with prayer. With a quorum participating, the conference call meeting was called to order. The agenda, previously distributed via email, was accepted as amended.

OLD BUSINESS.

Minutes of January 26, 2019 Conference Call. The paragraph of the Minutes entitled "Sale of Church Building in Glasgow," was corrected to reflect the church building was sold on December 19, 2018. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Minutes of the January 26, 2019 Diocesan Council conference call were approved as revised.

Diocesan Website. Cynthia Hoelscher stated the results of a survey taken about the Diocesan Website indicates the website is not well used, other than to access information about Convention and Camp Marshall. Other items are hard to find on the website, and remote access is usable but awkward. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was agreed to hold off on the website update until our new Bishop is in place.

Responses to Churches Requesting Lower Assessments in 2019.

St. Mark's Anaconda. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was agreed to accept the proposal from St. Mark's Anaconda to pay a monthly assessment of \$375.00 for 2019. Dorcie and Clark will draft a letter letting them know their request has been approved.

St. Mark's Big Timber. A motion was made, seconded and approved to allow St. Mark's Big Timber to pay the same monthly assessment amount in 2019 as they did in 2018, until a visitation can be made to the Church to gather more information and talk to parishioners. Dorcie will write a letter to St. Mark's. Additionally, Janis and Sandy will plan a visit to the Church.

St. Paul's Fort Benton. Upon motion made and seconded, St. Paul's Fort Benton request was granted to allow them to pay \$945.00 for 2019, which is the same assessment amount they paid in 2018. Dorcie will draft a letter advising the Church that their request has been approved. Also, Dorcie plans to visit the parish.

St. Paul's Hamilton. A motion was passed to approve the request of St. Paul's Hamilton to reduce their 2019 Diocesan Assessment by \$6,000.00. Dorcie and Clark will work together to draft a letter to St. Paul's to let them know their request has been approved.

St. Paul's Virginia City. Upon motion made and seconded it was agreed to allow St. Paul's Virginia City to pay the same assessment amount in 2019 as they did in 2018. Dorcie will write a letter to St. Paul's, and Janis plans to visit the Church and talk with the parishioners.

Report of the Standing Committee. The Rev. Jean Collins, Liaison from the Standing Committee to Diocesan Council, gave an update on the work of the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee is meeting weekly via Google Hangout, and once a month in person in Helena. Jean stated better communication between Janis and the Diocesan Council, and Donna and the Standing Committee would be very helpful during this time of transition.

(1) The Rev. Canon Bradley Wirth and the Rev. Jean Collins will go to Havre on Friday and Saturday (2/15-16/2019) to meet with the members of St. Mark's to discuss the future of their Church.

(2) The Committee continues to work with the Rev. Canon Chris Roberts on the congregational search process for clergy in our Diocese, so to align it with the General Church Canons.

(3) On February 5, 2019, a letter was drafted to all congregations of the Diocese to discuss a resolution that was approved at General Convention last summer. The resolution is for a 3-year suspension on the Canon that places a time limit on initiating proceeding in cases of clergy misconduct against adults. The Standing Committee requests the letter be printed and posted in a public place in all our congregations. In addition, a new poster has been designed for churches to post entitled "Harassment and Pastoral Relationship - What you should know about harassment in a church setting."

(4) The Rev. Carolyn Rosen has been elected and is serving as Rector at St. Stephen's in Billings, as the Rev. Joan Yetter has retired.

Oil and Gas Lease. Janis Hansen stated she has obtained additional information on the offer from LoneTree Energy & Associates, LLC to lease the mineral interests in Divide County, North Dakota previously owned by St. Matthews Church in Glendive. With the closure of St. Matthews, the mineral interests are now owned by the Episcopal Diocese of Montana. Janis stated this is a private lease, not through the Bureau of Land Management. The Diocese

owns the mineral interests on 160 acres, but does not own the real property. Janis stated her research on this continues, and she will report back to Council when she learns more.

NEW BUSINESS.

Faber Fund Grant Application - St. Mark's Havre. Council members reviewed an Application for Faber Fund Grant from St. Mark's in Havre, for the repair of the Church furnace. St. Mark's is requesting \$1,341,50, and the Finance Department recommends approval of the Application. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously agreed to approve the Faber Fund Grant to St. Mark's Havre.

Faber Fund Grant/Loan Application from St. James Bozeman. St. James Bozeman has submitted a Faber Fund Application for \$10,000.00 to upgrade the Church organ, the organ pipes and related carpentry work. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$48,000.00 to \$53,000.00. It was noted a requirement of the application process is that the church must have raised 33% of the funds prior to making application. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was agreed to defer acting on this request until St. James Bozeman can confirm they have already raised 33% of the funds. Council will revisit this matter at their March 16, 2019 meeting.

Bishop's Search and Transition Expenses. The Transition Committee has requested another \$9,350.00 to cover expenses associated with the Bishop's Search process. It was agreed to defer acting on this request until Council's March 16, 2019 meeting, at which time additional information should be available to make a decision.

Expense Reimbursement Guidelines - 2019. Council members reviewed proposed Expense Reimbursement Guidelines for 2019, which has been approved by Finance Department and the Standing Committee. It was decided to defer this matter and discuss it in-person at Council's meeting on March 16, 2019.

Future Diocesan Council Meetings.

Saturday, March 16, 2019 (in-person) to be held at **St. Peter's Cathedral in Helena.**

Saturday, May 18, 2019 (in-person) to be held at **St. Peter's Cathedral in Helena.**

Saturday, November 2, 2019 (conference call).

Conference calls begin at 10:00 a.m. In-person meetings are from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment. There being no further business to come before the Diocesan Council, on motion duly made and seconded, the conference call was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. by Vice President, The Rev. Janis Hansen.

Respectfully submitted,
Gayle Gallik Archey, Diocesan Secretary.