

Episcopal Diocese of Montana
Minutes of Diocesan Council Meeting
March 16, 2019

The Diocesan Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Montana held its quarterly meeting at St. Peter's Cathedral in Helena, beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 16, 2019.

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

Call to Order / Adoption of Agenda. With a quorum in attendance, Vice President, The Rev. Janis Hansen, called the meeting to order. Janis opened the meeting with prayer. The agenda was distributed and accepted as presented. As this was Council's first in-person meeting of the year, Council members took a few minutes to introduce themselves to one other.

OLD BUSINESS.

Minutes of February 14, 2019 Conference Call. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Minutes of the February 14, 2019 Diocesan Council conference call were approved as presented.

Financial Reports. Barb Hagen and The Rev. Steven Yurosko presented the financial statements as of February 28, 2019. Barb stated investments are doing well, and cash flow is good. The new assessment process has been a fairly smooth transition. Most churches are paying their full amount. Steven Yurosko thanked Council members for helping the churches with this process. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously agreed to accept the February 28, 2019 Diocesan financial reports.

Brandon Costley from RBC Wealth Management. Barb Hagen announced that Brandon Costley, Financial Consultant with RBC Wealth Management is unable to join us today, but will give his presentation at Council's May 18th meeting.

Acceptance of Finance Department Minutes. Upon motion duly made and seconded, Council members acknowledged receipt of the Department of Finance meeting Minutes of March 11, 2019.

Parish Audit Report Update. All churches have submitted their 2017 Parish Audit Reports to the Diocesan office with the exception of Incarnation in Great Falls. The Rev. Janis Hansen will call Incarnation to discuss their past due audit report.

Oil and Gas Lease Information. The Rev. Janis Hansen stated her work continues to obtain information on the mineral interests in Divide County, North Dakota, previously owned by St. Matthews Church in Glendive, and with the closure of St. Matthews, said mineral interests are now owned by the Episcopal Diocese of Montana. Janis has contacted several individuals and agencies, and is waiting for return calls. It was suggested to contact Ralph Spence, a former member of St. Stephens in Billings, as he is very familiar with oil, gas and mineral leases. Also, it was suggested to contact The Rev. Michael Fay, former Rector at St. Matthews in Glasgow, to see if he has any information on the mineral interests.

Faber Fund Grant Application from St. James Bozeman. St. James Bozeman submitted a Faber Fund Application to Council in February 2019, requesting \$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. Council deferred acting on this request until St. James confirmed that the Parish had already raised 33% of the requested funds, which has now been done. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was agreed to approve this grant request.

Bishop's Search and Transition Expenses. At their February 2019 meeting, Council considered a request from the Transition Committee for additional monies to cover expenses associated with the Bishop's Search process. At that time, Council agreed to defer this matter pending additional information, which now has been received. The Transition Committee is seeking an additional \$11,300.00, to be used for candidate "walk-about" expenses, which were not included in the initial budget. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was agreed to support the Search Committee and approve the additional \$11,300.00, with the caveat to be mindful of incurring additional expenses.

NEW BUSINESS.

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 Committee continues to meet weekly via Google Hangout, and once a month in person in Helena.

(1) The Rev. Canon Bradley Wirth and The Rev. Jean Collins went to Havre on Friday and Saturday (2/15-16/2019) and met with 5 members of St. Mark's. There are approx. 10 members total with the rest snow-birding in the south. After 10 years without a priest, they are exhausted. They were buoyed by Bradley and Jean's visit and assistance from the Diocese. Their buildings are in very good shape and immaculate. They need continued support and the ability to breath for a time. The Lutheran Pastor will begin celebrating Holy Eucharist twice a month in April, and All Saints in Whitefish/Columbia Falls has offered to pay for a third Sunday every month if the Pastor is willing. Bradley and Jean provided Lenten materials, and will remain on contact with the members of St. Mark's. Council's continued support of St. Mark's is requested.

(2) Julie Sisler has resigned as Site Manager at Camp Marshall effective March 31, 2019. Her resignation has been accepted. The Standing Committee is searching for an Interim and also a permanent Site Manager.

(3) The new search process for clergy in our Diocese has been finalized and will be implemented with the next new search. Our process is now aligned with the General Church Canons.

(4) The Lake Missoula Clericus has finalized details for Clergy Conference to be held May 7-9, 2019 at Camp Marshall. This information will soon be posted on the Diocesan website.

(5) The Standing Committee consented to elections of Bishops in the Dioceses of Northern California, Maine, San Diego, and Texas.

(6) With respect to clergy participation in the election of our new Bishop, it was agreed: Retired clergy may come for Friday only at no expense providing they don't intend to take part in meals. To be eligible to vote, clergy must be canonically resident and live in Montana at least 6 months of the year. ("Geographically resident within this Diocese," in Diocesan Canon 3.2.(b), shall mean living within the borders of the Diocese of Montana for 6 months out of the year or longer). In addition, each Deanery is asked to provide a youth delegate to Convention with seat, voice and vote. The youth must be under 16 years old.

(7) The Standing Committee approved giving St. Paul's of the Stillwater rental possibility by a non-profit as long as the rental agreement is not tied to a purchase agreement.

(8) The Standing Committee is introducing a resolution to regularize through diocesan canons, the requirements concerning background checks and safeguarding. This comes at the request of Jill Sallin.

Expense Reimbursement Guidelines - 2019. Council members reviewed proposed Expense Reimbursement Guidelines for lodging, meals and travel for 2019, specifically mileage reimbursement for volunteers. The National Church states the rate for mileage reimbursement for non-employees of the Episcopal Church is 58 cents per mile. However, the Internal Revenue Service standard mileage rate for 2019 is 14 cents per mile for service of charitable organizations. Barb Hagen, while she has no voice or vote on Diocesan Council, wishes to note in the minutes that she is concerns with the comment from the Episcopal Church Treasurer, Kurt Barnes, that reimbursing 58 cents per mile for volunteers is not income. His comments are not in line with the information Barb has received from the 2019 Church and Clergy Tax Guide by Richard Hammar, or from direction from The Rev. Canon Bill Geisler, CPA and consultant for the Church Pension Group. Following discussion, it was agreed that Barb Hagen will consult with the accounting firm that does the Diocesan Audit to get clarity on the reporting procedures

needed if the Diocese pays more than the volunteer mileage reimbursement rate. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was agreed to table this issue until Council's next meeting at which time additional information will have been obtained.

Province VI. At the request of the Standing Committee, Council members agreed to send only Sandy Williams, and The Rev. Jean Collins to the upcoming Province VI meeting.

116th Diocesan Convention Committees. Council reviewed a list of proposed committee members for the 116th Diocesan Convention to be held in July 26, 27 & 28, 2019 in Bozeman. After Council approves the list, the people named to the Convention Committees will be asked if they want to serve. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Convention Committee list was approved as presented.

Deaneries - The Episcopal Diocese of Montana. Council members reviewed an updated information sheet regarding Deaneries in the Diocese of Montana. The list outlines the Vision, Organization, Officers, Officer Appointments, Meetings, and Convener's Duties of the Deaneries. No action is required of Council; this is just for informational purposes.

Resignations of The Rev. Richard Reynolds, and The Rev. Joan Yetter. Janis Hansen has offered to write a letter of thanks to both Richard and Joan for their service to Diocesan Council. Since Richard's term expires this year, therefore, no replacement will be sought to complete his unexpired term. Joan's term expires in 2020, therefore, it was suggested to ask The Rev. Carolyn Rosen, and The Rev. Wells Warren, if either is willing to fulfill Joan's unexpired term on Council.

Resolution from The Standing Committee. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the following Resolution as presented by the Standing Committee was approved.

That the membership of the Standing Committee, and the Diocesan Council, as they are currently comprised, be allowed to continue in office until December 31, 2019.

This will allow for continuity during our time of transition until the Bishop Diocesan is ordained on December 7, 2019.

General Convention Resolutions. Council members completed the following forms from the Episcopal Church – General Convention:

- Resolutions Regarding Proposed Amendments to the Constitution; and
- Resolutions Referred to Dioceses for Action or Consideration.

Each Resolution was reviewed, determining how the Diocese of Montana has acted upon each, then putting each Resolution in one of the following categories: (1) Action Completed; (2) Action Ongoing; or (3) No Action. The completed Report will be forwarded to the Secretary of the General Convention.

Future Diocesan Council Meetings.

- * Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. (conference call).
- * Saturday, May 18, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (in-person) to be held at
St. Peter's Cathedral in Helena.
- * Saturday, November 2, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. (conference call).

Adjournment. There being no further business to come before the Diocesan Council, on motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m. by Vice President, The Rev. Janis Hansen. Following adjournment, Holy Eucharist was celebrated by The Rev. Steven Yurosko in the Chapel of St. Peter's Cathedral.

Respectfully submitted,
Gayle Gallik Archey, Diocesan Secretary.