

Episcopal Diocese of Montana
Minutes of Diocesan Council Meeting
May 18, 2019

The Diocesan Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Montana held a meeting at St. Peter's Cathedral in Helena, beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 18, 2019.

Attendance. Council members present were: Cathy Morris, Cynthia Hoelscher, The Rev. Dorcie Dvarishkis, George Kimmet, The Rev. Janis Hansen, Manny Hoag, The Rev. Randy Pendergraft, Sandy Williams and The Rev. Wells Warren. Council members Jerry Southwood and The Rev. Canon Clark Sherman were absent. 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 and offered the opening prayer. The meeting agenda was adopted as presented. A welcome was extended to The Rev. Wells Warren from St. James' Church in Dillon, who will serve a one year term on Council to complete the term vacated by The Rev. Joan Yetter.

Presentation by Brandon Costley, Branch Director of RBC Wealth Management. Brandon Costley reviewed RBC's role managing the Diocesan investments, and gave a performance summary of all investments contained in the Diocesan portfolio. Brandon stated the Diocesan Investment Policy Statement is reviewed quarterly with the Diocesan Foundation Board.

Funding Request for Disaster Services. Council members welcomed The Rev. Mary Alice Jones and The Rev. Jim Jones, to the meeting. Mary Alice serves as the Disaster Coordinator for the Diocese, and comes before Council to request a line item be included in the 2020 Diocesan budget for Disaster Services. Mary Alice also requested, if possible, the line item for Disaster Services be funded to pay expenses associated with travel and conducting Asset Mapping workshops in parishes throughout our Diocese. Asset Mapping is a process that focuses on hope and what we do have, not what we don't have. Thanks were offered to Jim and Mary Alice for coming before Council with their request.

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes of April 9, 2019 Conference Call. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Minutes of the April 9, 2019 Diocesan Council conference call were approved as presented.

Financial Reports. Barb Hagen and The Rev. Steven Yurosko presented the financial statements as of April 30, 2019. Upon motion made and seconded, it was unanimously agreed

to accept the April 30, 2019 Diocesan financial reports. The Rev. Wells Warren stated St. James in Dillon is unable pay their 2019 monthly assessment amount. As the new Rector at St. James, Wells asked for guidance. It was suggested that he talk with the Vestry and the Treasurer of St. James, and come up with a plan to present to Council to request a reduction in their monthly assessment amount. Additionally, Incarnation in Great Falls has communicated with Barb Hagen the inability to pay their 2019 monthly assessment. Barb stated Incarnation is making arrangements to come before Council to request a reduction in their assessment amount.

Parish Audit Report Update. Barb Hagen stated Incarnation in Great Falls is 2 years past due submitting their Audit Reports to the Diocesan office. 2017 Audit Reports from all other parishes have been received. It was noted the 2018 Audit Reports are due September 1, 2019.

Update Oil and Gas Lease in Divide County, North Dakota. The Rev. Janis Hansen stated her investigation continues into the mineral interests in Divide County, North Dakota the Diocese now owns. Janis is searching for ownership records (i.e., deeds) for the mineral interests which will hopefully provide additional information.

Update on Church Visits.

1. St. Paul's Virginia City. Janis Hansen visited St. Paul's Church. They have a new Treasurer. Janis will provide notes from the visit when completed.
2. St. Paul's Fort Benton. Janis and Dorcie visited with the parishioners of St. Paul's Church on May 17, 2019. The parish is having challenges with future transitions and changes in management. The Church building is owned by the City of Fort Benton. When Janis has completed her report, she will provide it to Council members.
3. St. Mark's Big Timber. Janis Hansen, Manny Hoag, and Warren Wells plan to visit St. Mark's in the near future.

How can Council help and assist to enable Churches to stay open? It was noted that 19 churches have closed in the Diocese of Montana over the last 18 years. Other items noted for future discussions were installation of fire alarms and other safety equipment in all Churches, and safety issues for Sanctuary Churches.

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

1. Anna and Tony Hudson, parents of Wyatt Hudson (age 19), who died in a car accident on Dec. 27, 2018, are donating a school bus to Camp Marshall in memory

- of Wyatt. The bus is automatic, air conditioned and seats 24 with a lift mechanism for wheelchairs. The bus will be delivered to Camp Marshall by the first week of June. Camp Marshall was important to Wyatt. Sue LaRose recently met with Wyatt's family in Stevensville.
2. The slate of candidates for Diocesan Bishop was announced to the Diocese on May 1, 2019. No individuals petitioned into the 2-week Petition Process. The Standing Committee is very grateful to the Nominating Committee for their work, and three outstanding candidates.
 3. The Standing Committee continues to work with the Transition Committee to work out details of the Walkabouts, and the ordination of our next Bishop.
 4. A very successful and fun Clergy Conference was held at Camp Marshall on May 7-9, 2019. The Conference was planned and implemented by the Lake Missoula Clericus, and supported by the Standing Committee. Items to come from the conference included a Montana Clergy Closed Facebook page, intentional community building by pairing interested ordained folk in the Diocese for the next year in order to become better acquainted with one another, and the beginnings of a clergy directory which includes what gifts we have that we are able and willing to share in the Diocese. Thanks were offered to Council for their financial support for this endeavor. It was the best clergy attendance, with the possible exception of when Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, was present with us.
 5. A priest from Calgary, Alberta, Canada, The Rev. Bryan Beveridge, is moving to Big Timber after a year-long process to complete his immigration. All congregations in the Diocese now have clergy, with the exception of The Rev. Carolyn Rosen, who announced her resignation as Rector of St. Stephen's in Billings effective August 1, 2019. Carolyn's husband, Aaron, has accepted a position at Wesley Theological Seminary, and will be moving to Washington, D.C. for this position, and to be closer to aging and infirmed family members.
 6. Mark Clemow began work as the new Camp Marshall Site Manager on April 1, 2019. The Standing Committee thanks the Council for financial support in repairing the electrical outlets in the Site Manager's home, and the purchase of new appliances.

2020 Diocesan Budget. Barb Hagen and The Rev. Steven Yurosko, presented the proposed 2020 Diocesan Budget prepared by the Finance Department, which is comprised of three separate budgets: Administration, Program and Camp Marshall. The 2020 Budget is based on a 19% assessment, calculated on an average of each Parish's Parochial Reports for the prior 3 years. 2020 will be the second year the Diocese has used this assessment calculation. Barb Hagen stated there were reserve funds from the 2019 Budget to be used for the 2020 Budget, and the 2020 Budget utilizes \$29,029.00 from the 2019 budget reserve funds. The camp assistance line item of the Camp Marshall budget has been increased from \$12,000.00 per year to \$27,000.00. The additional amount represents the \$15,000.00 savings in health insurance from family coverage to single for the new camp site manager, which will be transferred to help fund the camp assistance budget.

Following review and discussion, Council amended the line item for salaries, and also added a new line item for Disaster Services for \$1,000.00. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the 2020 balanced Budget was approved as amended. The Budget will next be presented to the Diocesan Convention delegation in July for acceptance.

Grant Report from St. James in Lewistown. Council members acknowledged receipt of the 2nd Statement of Grant Accounting from St. James in Lewistown. The report is an accounting of the \$3,906.89 balance remaining from the Vicker's Fund grant St. James received from the Diocese for their Youth Choir.

Convention Attendance. A discussion was held on whether members of Diocesan Council and the Standing Committee will be able to vote at Convention. Additionally, it was noted that each of the four Deaneries will send one youth delegate (under 16 years of age), to Convention.

Books and Vestments. Barb Hagen invited everyone to the Diocesan office to look through a collection of books and vestments, all of which are free for the taking.

Future Diocesan Council Meetings.

- Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. (conference call);
- 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 made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned with prayer at 2:15 p.m. by Vice President, The Rev. Janis Hansen.

Respectfully submitted,
Gayle Gallik Archey, Diocesan Secretary.