

Summary of the Diocesan Council Retreat meetings November 19-21, 2004

Diocesan Council and Standing Committee met at Ascension School Camp and Conference Center from Friday, November 19 – Sunday, November 21 to plan for implementation of the “MITs” (Most Important Things) determined at Convention and to plan for the coming year. Bible study, worship with the Daily Offices, and celebration of Holy Eucharist were integral parts of the weekend.

Business began with a review of the 2004 Diocesan Convention. Council members commented that the process of Convention worked very well with delegates being very engaged and involved in their table groups. It was reported that a number of delegates commented to Council members that they appreciated being in assigned table groups for the entire session and having the opportunity to interact with members of the Diocese they had not known before. Council members also commented that they felt very positive about visiting congregations with the Bishop during the year and they felt that contributed to a positive response to moving forward on a major funds campaign.

Other comments were made about the past year, including:

- Convocations worked well with an activity that encouraged involvement and interaction among those who attended, and increased the flow of information between Diocesan leadership and the Houses of the Diocese.
- Celebrations of New Ministries have included all the ministries of the House, rather than being just clerically oriented, with an exchange of symbolic gifts back and forth.
- Appreciation was expressed for the work of the Canons with vestries and Houses in the Diocese
- Programs such as the treasurers’ workshop, stewardship workshop, and Ministry Weekend were commended
- The Church Attorney, Chancellor, and Vice-Chancellor were commended for their work.

Things listed as areas to build on included:

- Identifying gifts and transitioning persons into roles of leadership
- Recognize that the Diocese has gone through the normal developmental process of transition from the previous Episcopacy to the current, and build on coming out of that transitional period into the ongoing relationship
- Transformation teams and building on the connectedness of the Houses; taking advantage of and initiative in creating opportunities to connect
- Theme of unity presented in the Windsor Report
- Fiscal accountability, responsibility, and beginning a Capital Funds Drive
- Council members attending Visitations with Bishop Gregg
- Monitor and nurture beginning programs

In a discussion of what needs to be “pruned,” Council members suggested consideration of more efficient and effective ways of sharing resources and delivering programs. A mid-year assessment of how things are going and what might need pruning was suggested.

Most Important Things – Plan of Action:

Communication

Communication Audit – Diocesan and Houses:

What communication vehicles are already in place? How effective are they?

What new communication vehicles need to be developed?

- a) Audit instrument will be developed and implemented in January
- b) Analysis and recommendation of implementation plan will be presented at Council meeting in April.

Youth, Young Adults and Young Families

Beginnings of a Youth Task Force

Outreach/Reaching Out

Audit of current House outreach in community – report to Council in April

Latino Ministry Task Force

Education

Continue Ministry Development course offerings and workshops; encourage participation by anyone interested

Encourage substantive Scriptural study in Houses

Offer training in group facilitation

Share resources between Houses

Budgeting for these items was considered within the \$56,000 Ministry Development portion of the budget approved by Diocesan Convention.

Other business of the Retreat included:

- Resources and work Council needs to do as a Transformation Team
- Discussion of leadership readings
- Major Funds Drive planning
- Discussion of the Windsor Report
- Treasurers' Report
- Approval of the August minutes
- Reports of the Bishop and Canon on their activities and ministries since the last meeting
- Bishop Gregg's Sabbatical plan for May 1 – Sept. 1, 2005 was approved
- Lindsay Simmons was elected Vice-Chair of Council
- Amy Martinez was elected representative to DMP
- Bisbee Grants were awarded to various programs sponsored by Houses of the Diocese when funds become available.