

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EASTERN OREGON  
DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting  
August 13-14, 2010  
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Hood River, Oregon

PRESENT:

The Rt. Rev. Bavi "Nedi" Rivera, Provisional Bishop

Class of 2010

Laurance Kerr, S/C

The Rev. Dcn Roger Fairfield

Class of 2011

G Royes, S/C

The Rev. Alison Dingley, S/C

Susan Powers

The Rev. Dcn Stephen Schafroth

Class of 2012

The Rev. Paul Morton, S/C

Terry Rahmsdorff

Bob Thomson

Ex-Officio

Terry Joakimides, Secretary of Convention

Jerry Frazier, Treasurer

Seat & Voice

The Rev. Canon Lee Kiefer, Staff

Diane Adams, Secretary to Council

Jim Foster, Chancellor

Visitors

Jeanie Senior, Communications Coordinator

Patty Olson Lindsay, Ascension School Executive  
Director

The Rev. Anna Carmichael, Rector, St. Mark's

ABSENT

Edd Doorn, Class of 2010

Bobby Fox, Class of 2010

PolliAnne Grover, Class of 2011

Paul Steblein, S/C, Class of 2012, resigned

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**Friday, August 13, 2010**

A Standing Committee meeting preceded the Diocesan Council meeting.

The meeting was called to order in the fellowship hall of St. Mark's Episcopal Church by Co-chair Terry Rahmsdorff at 5:05 p.m. and opened with prayer and scripture reading by Bishop Nedi. Council closed the prayer and meditation time by singing "Breathe on me, breath of God."

**Approval of Minutes**

Alison Dingley moved approval of the Diocesan Council minutes of June 18-19, 2010. Sue Powers seconded the motion. The **motion passed** unanimously.

**Standing Committee Report**

Alison reported that Standing Committee has finalized the Bishop's letter of agreement and that a Baptist church has made an offer on the property in Vale and Standing Committee has made a counter offer. Alison noted that Standing Committee approved the consecration of the bishops-

elect for the dioceses of Kentucky and Utah. They also had conversation about Diocesan Canons and about possible candidates for openings on Standing Committee. Alison announced the resignation of Paul Steblein from Standing Committee due to a change in his job and pending move to Washington, DC.

### **Canon Revisions**

Alison reviewed the proposed resolution for changes to Diocesan Canons. She reported that Bishop Nedi has suggested the deletion of Canon XVI.5-6 and Alison made that addition to the proposed resolution. Nedi commented that Regions and Canon Missioners do not need to be in the Canons to be implemented, but to have them in the Canons makes them mandatory.

Jim Foster asked that Canon XVII.2.a be changed; the number of Ecclesiastical Court judges be changed to 7, 4 clergy members and 3 lay members. He explained that the new Canon requires a 7 member Disciplinary Board and the change to present Canon would allow the Ecclesiastical Court to become the Disciplinary Board when the new Canon becomes effective in July, 2011.

Paul Morton **moved** that the resolution be referred to Convention with recommendation for adoption. Steve Schafroth seconded the motion and it **passed** unanimously.

Jim distributed copies of the proposed new Canon XVII and reviewed it. He made recommendations regarding options in two of the sections. He noted that this is a single diocese Canon and that a multi-diocese Canon will be proposed for the 2011 Convention.

Steve Schafroth **moved** and Roger Fairfield **seconded** that Council refer the new Canon XVII to Convention with a do pass recommendation.

Terry Joakimides suggested a reference by footnote to the national Canons. This was added as a friendly amendment.

The motion **passed** unanimously.

Sue Powers commented on suggested principles for congregations forming from more than one denomination. She suggested leaving it for later discussion on Canon X regarding congregations.

### **Discretionary Funds Policy**

Bishop Nedi reviewed the proposed change to the discretionary fund policy requiring that all monies go through the parish general fund and that the treasurer write all checks either directly to recipient or as reimbursement to the clergy. Discussion followed. Comments were made in favor of the model of having an account for the discretionary funds in the church's name on which the clergy is a signer. Accountability and transparency were discussed. The policy was referred back to the Bishop for reconsideration.

### **Bishop's Report**

Bishop Nedi reported that she spent much of her summer in the diocese at Ascension, including being a camper at Discovery Camp. She also reported that she has been to all of the churches except Sunriver and Sumpter. She commented on the Celebration of New Ministry with St. Matthew's, Ontario and Jim Mosier, and on the consecration of the worship space at St. Alban's, Redmond. She also reported on her participation in the consecration in Navajoland

## Canon's Report

Lee Kiefer reported on his "round-robin" trip with the Bishop from Bonanza to Baker City, then going on to Boise for site visits for the summer internship program. He noted that he had been on vacation and had participated in Continuing Education Camp and had participated in the meeting with the Circuit Riders with the Bishop.

Lee made further comments about the Summer Intern program noting that they have had their wrap-up meetings and have started on their final reports. He noted that Idaho will take the lead in writing grants for the next year's internship program. Bishop Nedi commented that one person in the internship program was a college age student in discernment, one was a Candidate for Orders, one is ordained and one is awaiting ordination. Lee commented that they were disappointed that no seminarians applied but that the opportunity for those in discernment turned out to be a good thing. Steve commented that this program is something that Eastern Oregon has to offer and should be very proud of.

Regarding parishes in transitions, Lee said that Hermiston is in conversation with someone for a face to face meeting; Pendleton is in conversations towards a face to face; and La Grande is in conversation with Lee about next steps. The Bishop commented that Baker City and Aletha Bonebrake are in discernment about their relationship.

## Extended Leave Request

Bishop Nedi reviewed the request for extended continuing education leave submitted by Diane Adams. The proposed leave would be from March 29 – April 23, 2011. Bishop Nedi recommended acceptance of the request with the deletion of the last paragraph.

Alison Dingley **moved** approval of the proposal with the elimination of the last paragraph and the addition of appreciation and recognition of the work Diane has done. Bob Thomson **seconded** the motion and it **passed** unanimously.

## Financial Reports

Following a break for dinner, the meeting reconvened at 7:10 p.m. Jerry Frazier reported on the status of audit preparation saying that the 2005 financials should be audit ready by September 1. He said that the plan is to put out the bid for three years of audit when the first year is prepared. He noted that there is a letter of agreement with the firm doing the financial preparation.

Jerry reviewed the July Financial Statement. He noted that transfers of undesignated funds have not yet been made. He also noted that Clergy Support (line 65) expenses have been for the Chaplain to Retired Clergy and assistance to a clergy person in need. He noted that office expenses (line 118) are down and commended the staff.

Paul Morton noted that the unused portion of the DMP grant (line133) needs to be returned before September. He also said that he would have a report on the Trinity Family Ministries use of DMP funds before the last payment.

The assessment summary was reviewed. Diane asked about the status of Lakeview in regard to Convention. It was noted that the previous year's assessment was paid so they were okay for Convention.

Jerry reviewed the proposal to change investment advisors. Questions and discussion followed. Jerry responded that there is no cost to make the transfer.

Steve Schafroth **moved** that the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon transfer the Endowment and Non-Endowment investment accounts from Morgan Stanley Smith Barney to Wells Fargo Advisors with Roger and Jeremy Vlach as Investment Advisors. Terry Joakimides **seconded**. Jerry suggested the addition of authorized administrators named as the Bishop, the Treasurer, and Laurance Kerr. Questions and discussion followed. The motion **passed** unanimously.

Jerry distributed and reviewed a proposal to change banks for the operating and Money Market accounts. Paul Morton suggested that other banks be considered. Jerry responded that he will check with Wells Fargo, Bank of America, and US Bank. Terry J suggested the money market account could be moved to the investment advisors.

Steve Schafroth **moved** that the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon operating checking account and the money market account be transferred to a financial institution to be approved by email poll after Jerry investigates other institutions with the signers on the accounts to be Bavi Rivera, Jerry Frazier, Diane Adams, or Laurance Kerr. Paul Morton **seconded** the motion and it **passed** unanimously.

The recommendation was made to move as soon as possible.

### **Personnel Committee**

Paul reported that the committee will “remain mute” until more is known. He said that it appears the most important issue is to look at model letters of agreement for different clergy models such as part-time and half-time clergy in charge of parishes and elements linked with full-time positions. He said that the letter of agreement models will have standards that Council can agree to but still leave room for negotiation. In response to a question from Terry R regarding next report, Paul stated that pieces can be completed as the models are looked at and needs emerge and the committee can report at the wish of Council.

### **Budget**

Jerry reviewed three budget scenarios suggested by the Finance Committee. He stated that it is recommended that Council not take the loan from Foundation and budget scenarios were developed accordingly. He noted undesignated funds from which Council could decide to take monies to balance the budget. Jerry noted the recommended \$20,000 in the communications line and distributed the budget request for communications, which was \$30,445.

The first and second scenario proposed budgets are based on 25% assessment. First scenario includes line item cuts, including communications, but leaves the office staff status-quo. Second scenario reduces office staffing and outsources payroll and bookkeeping. Third scenario is based on 20% assessment and was presented as an example for information. Discussion of the second scenario proposed budget followed. In response to a question about the effect of the communications budget cut, Jeanie Senior stated that the diocese would lose the newspaper. Solicitation for subscriptions was suggested. Bishop Nedi suggested putting an income line in the budget for communications. Alison suggested increasing the communications expense line to \$30,445 and putting in an income line for communications of \$10,500.

Office staff reduction was discussed. Roger Fairfield suggested fleshing out the changes to see what the effects will be, intentional and unintentional. Jerry commented about plans for interviewing the staff about their jobs.

Finding a way to finance an alternate General Convention deputy in each order was also discussed. Nedi suggested that the budget not be changed, but that policy be changed to reduce costs, such as deputies wanting single rooms to pay the extra cost.

There was discussion of use of undesignated funds. Jerry stated that he was partial to not using Strategic Development funds.

The meeting recessed with prayer at approximately 9 p.m.

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### **Saturday, August 14, 2010**

The meeting reconvened with Eucharist at 8 a.m. The business session reconvened at 8:50 a.m. with Jerry's review of changes to the proposed budget including the change in the communications expense item and the addition of a \$10,000 communications income line item. Bishop Nedi stated that she will have conversation with staff regarding the staffing of the office. Extended discussion about the budget followed. Steve asked if Council is required to present a balanced budget to Convention. The answer was no. Council was reminded that Convention approves the budget. The bishop commented that Council needs to be very clear in their presentation to Convention about the huge cuts being made. Discussion followed regarding presentation to Convention. Terry J suggested a simplified written budget minimizing data and presenting only main categories.

Diane requested permission to speak to budget issues and commented on issues regarding communications budget and office staff budget lines. She suggested presenting one line item total for office staff. She also suggested looking at past experience with solicitation for the newspaper to help determine an effective means for doing such solicitation.

Bishop Nedi stated that the staff is her responsibility and apologized to staff and finance committee for not taking leadership sooner regarding these issues. She stated that Council could tell the bishop how much money is available for staff, but how the funds are expended on staff is her responsibility.

Alison Dingley **moved** Council accept for recommendation to Convention the proposed 25% assessment budget with office cuts, revision 1. Steve Schafroth seconded the motion. Discussion followed. The motion **passed** unanimously.

Sue Powers **moved** to leave balancing the budget to the Treasurer using funds from whichever undesignated fund he determines. Roger Fairfield **seconded** the motion. Discussion followed. It was suggested that an unbalanced budget be presented to Convention along with listing all funds available for transfer and monies that have already been used in transfers. Council members indicated agreement to such a budget presentation. A friendly amendment to the motion was suggested but not agreed to. The motion **passed** with one opposing vote and one abstention.

A motion was made regarding changing terminology from assessment to apportionment. Discussion followed. It was noted that the Canons refer to assessment. The motion was withdrawn. Alison noted that change of terminology could be considered next year if Canon VI revisions are considered.

### **Ascension School Report**

After a break at 10:00, Patty Olson Lindsey presented a report on the summer season and current status of Ascension School Camp and Conference Center. She distributed a flyer outlining the components of the summer program and noted the success of the film camp, the importance of the summer intern chaplain who provided continuity between chapel and curriculum, and the successful fundraisers and gardening efforts by campers to benefit local food banks and other programs to alleviate poverty and hunger. Bishop Nedi suggested that the DVD of films produced by film camp be shown at the banquet at Convention. Patty stated that Family Camp scheduled for Labor Day Weekend has been cancelled but will be offered again. She said that a Thanksgiving/Advent Retreat was in the planning stages.

Patty distributed a proposed canonical amendment to provide for an Ascension School Board. Bob Thomson noted that the amendment defines the role of the Board.

Roger Fairfield **moved** recommendation of the amendment to Convention with a do pass recommendation. Paul Morton **seconded** the motion. Terry Joakimides made a friendly amendment to the motion to insert the amendment at Section 7; the present Section 7 becoming Section 8. The motion **passed** unanimously.

Patty distributed year to date financial statement for Ascension School. She noted that both expenses and income are down. She said that there has been a shortage of outside rentals, no Cursillo for 2010, less diocesan rental and fewer rentals for private use such as family reunions. Discussion followed. Paul asked about capital improvements. Patty answered that there is nothing planned right now but a number of things that could be done. She said that they will soon need to replace equipment in Founders. She also said that there are no grants in process. In response to a question about staffing, Patty said that she works 20 hours/ week in the off-season and 30 hours/week during the summer. She said that her assistant, Lisa Boquist, is full time, but may reduce her hours in November/December.

Patty distributed a proposal for Ascension School to develop an annual giving campaign. She stated that Ascension does not have a maintenance person or a maintenance/repair/emergency fund. She also stated that the budgeted diocesan support and the camp fees do not cover the full cost of camps. Discussion followed.

Roger Fairfield **moved** that Council give the go ahead for development of a fund raising campaign for Ascension School. Laurance Kerr **seconded** the motion. It was noted that the School Board will come back to Council for approval of the campaign when it is planned. The motion **passed** unanimously.

### **Mission Statement**

Jeanie Senior presented a proposed Mission Statement based on the synthesis of the reports from the Missional Renaissance visits: *Being Christ's hands in the communities of Eastern Oregon and the world...No excuses!*

Alison Dingley **moved** to accept the Mission Statement. Sue Powers **seconded** the motion. Discussion followed. Friendly amendment was made for the Mission Statement to read: *We the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon believe we are called to be Christ's hands in the*

*communities of eastern Oregon and the world...No excuses!* The motion **passed** unanimously.

It was requested that the synthesis be reduced to one page. It was noted that Council also has copies of the complete reports which would be the resource for details. Discussion followed concerning presentation to Convocations and production of a PowerPoint presentation. Dates and contacts for Convocations were discussed: North Central – August 29, Bob Thomson; Southwest – September 11, Alison and Terry J; Central Oregon – September 11, Sue Powers, Terry R, Paul M; Southeast – Alison will contact Jim Mosier. Terry R asked that Council members who previously visited the parishes in the Northwest and Northeast Convocations make contact with clergy in the Convocation and set dates. Roger Fairfield said that he would be willing to coordinate with the Northeast Convocation. It was noted that the Convocation meetings and purpose need to be advertised in the congregations and noted that all are welcome. It was suggested that the PowerPoint presentation be posted on the website after the Convocation meetings have concluded.

### **Grants Committee**

Terry R distributed a report from the committee and reviewed it. Paul asked if the committee will research grants and recommend grant opportunities. Discussion followed. Steve commented that the committee presently wants to focus on mission for diocesan funds available, but listed other issues in section B so they would not be forgotten. Terry R asked if Council wanted the committee to have a broader scope. Nedi commented that recommendations of grant writers, such as Sherry Hartley, could be included. Lee commented that it would be good to have a resource process for identifying grant opportunities. Sue suggested referring section A to Council Retreat for structure. Alison suggested further defining of functions between now and the retreat.

### **Task Force on Futures**

Bob distributed and reviewed a written report from the task force. He told Council that the Rev. Anna Carmichael has been added to the task force members. In response to questions about what the task force would have for Convention, Bob and Jerry stated that there would be no firm product, but some preliminary recommendations and dialog and a possible activity at Convention. Bishop Nedi stated that the task force would come with two or three options to the 2011 Convention or a special convention. Bob noted that the term limit for the task force is November, but Council could re-charter the task force at that time.

### **Meeting Process**

Terry R asked for comments about meeting process and planning for retreat. Roger commented that it is helpful to get the information ahead of time, and asked if it would also be possible to have pre-meeting discussions. He also noted that it would be helpful to have the agenda ahead of time. Paul also commented that a pre-meeting thread for discussion would be helpful. Nedi asked if it would be possible to have a Council blog. She suggested that agenda building and descriptors for the agenda items could come from the blog topics. Later in the discussion it was asked that the blog be created and in use prior to the November meeting.

Terry R and Roger both stated that they would not be able to attend the retreat. Roger expressed frustration with the date of the retreat, noting a long-standing annual conflict. During discussion, it was suggested that the meetings be scheduled a year in advance. Council members were asked to look at their 2011 calendars and get dates of availability to Diane. There was discussion of

another January conference call meeting. It was agreed that a computer conference with white board would be helpful but video feed was not necessary. It was suggested that a November meeting date closer to Convention would be helpful.

Terry said that he hoped the retreat would have a similar format to the 2010 retreat. Alison expressed appreciation for Terry's chairing of the meetings. She also expressed frustration regarding responses to emails. She asked that emails receive a response; at least a thank you or acknowledgement of receipt, and asked that responses be made via "reply" not "reply all."

### **Convention**

Discussion of Convention programming followed. It was suggested that one session be given to the Futures task force. It was announced that Sara Miles will be the keynoter for Convention. As follow-up to the Missional Renaissance reports, workshops were suggested. Bishop Nedi suggested a build a diocese table activity. Small building materials and items such as tinkertoys, Lincoln logs, legos, and other such small items will be needed.

### **Closing**

The meeting closed with Evening Prayer at 1:30 p.m. Following worship, Roger asked if there was a reason not to post Council minutes on the website. After receiving answers that there was not, Roger made a motion to post the Council minutes on the website. Terry R stated that minutes would be posted if Council had no objections. Bishop Nedi stated that the minutes should be first sent to Council members and members should have 24 hours to notify of any corrections or changes prior to posting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

*Minutes of August, 2010 meeting prepared by Diane Adams, Diocesan Staff.*

## **2010 Meeting Dates:**

**October 1-3, Convention, Hood River**

**November 19-21, Retreat, Ascension School, Cove**