

DRAFT

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EASTERN OREGON DIOCESAN COUNCIL RETREAT

Minutes of the Meeting
February 25, 2012
Trinity, Bend

PRESENT:

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

Class of 2012

Arnold Coe, S/C

The Rev. Paul Morton, S/C

Sue Powers

Terry Rahmsdorff

Class of 2014

Julie Sarazin, S/C

The Rev. Jim Mosier, S/C

Don Dickinson

Kim McClain

The Rev. Rich Landrith

Class of 2013

Bobby Fox

Ruth Tsu

The Rev. Anna Carmichael

Seat & Voice

Diane Adams, Secretary to Council

Visitors

Jeanie Senior, Diocesan Communications Manager

ABSENT:

Laurance Kerr, S/C, Class of 2013 - excused

Jerry Frazier, Treasurer - excused

Terry Joakimides, Secretary of Convention

Bergen Bull - Legal advisor to the Bishop - excused

Neva DeMayo, Ecumenical Associate Member

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Saturday, February, 2012

Diocesan Council members gathered in the Fireside Room of St. Helen's Hall for breakfast at 8:00 a.m. Bishop Nedi Rivera opened the meeting at 8:10 a.m. by stating that the meeting would be in the context of the Eucharist. Council began the meeting with prayer and Bible study of John 17:20-26.

The agenda was reviewed and commented on. Terry Rahmsdorff announced that the agenda was adopted.

Approval of Minutes

It was **moved** by Rich Landrith, **seconded and passed** unanimously to accept the minutes of the January 21, 2012 meeting as presented.

It was requested that the DRAFT watermark not be used on minutes.

Futures Visitations/Mutual Ministry Review

A working paper regarding the proposed visitations was prepared by Anna Carmichael, Ruth Tsu, Terry Rahmsdorff, and Bishop Nedi and distributed to Council members prior to the meeting.

Council began consideration of the process by brainstorming questions related to defining the problem. The following questions were recorded:

- What do we mean by missional? sustainable?
- What does the organization structure need to do?
- How important is “branding”?
 - o What are the elements of branding?
 - o What do we have to have to be TEC?
 - o What is the essence of who we are?
- What is our inventory of assets? limitations? physical properties? ministry-mission?
- Do congregations want to partner ecumenically?
- Do we want to be EDEO?
- What are we willing to let go of?
- How can EDEO support your mission? What would it look like?
- How can a bishop make a difference? (this question needs to be asked AFTER the other questions)

Having been delayed by weather, Anna, Ruth, and Jeanie Senior arrived at the meeting during the brainstorming. Anna reviewed the futures working document noting that there are lots of questions and assumptions, but not really a defined problem. She commented on the need for Council members, as visitors to congregations, to practice listening very well; listening for holes and identifying resources; for the ministry that is really happening rather than ministry that is assumed to be happening. Anna noted that when people get into panic mode, they start looking for what is wrong, and she commented that we are looking for what we do really well. Ruth commented that it is important to leave the bishop questions until last.

Discussion followed. It was noted that the process needs to state how the diocese has moved forward, to note what has already been heard and what is known, and to not ask the same questions again. It was suggested that the list of mission/ministries that were generated at the Missional Renaissance visits be referred to and updated.

Comment was made that at least three conventions have listed resources, but little use is made of those networking possibilities. Arnold Coe asked what Council’s role might be in facilitating the use of resources and networking. Ruth spoke to the importance of meeting in convocations so that parishes have opportunity to establish relationships.

Bishop Nedi reviewed the process of Mutual Ministry Review through the use of a matrix as had been discussed on Friday evening, February 24, by Standing Committee. It was noted that the process would be offered to all members of the diocese who wish to come to convocation to meet with Council members. Discussion followed.

It was stated that the question: “what are you doing and how can we support that?” is a very different question than was asked last year. It was suggested that Council send a cover letter that gives instructions for the matrix, but also states clearly what has been

learned, what has been given up, and that the matrixes are to be brought to convocation level.

Following a break at 9:55 a.m., conversation resumed at 10:15.

Bishop Nedi suggested asking congregations to give a mission statement as a starting place on the matrix. She noted that one of the things that would come out of the matrix is a mission strategy for the diocese. Discussion followed about the information moving forward from individual to parish to convocation only through face-to-face conversation. The matrixes would act as notes for those conversations. It was clarified that individuals will complete the matrix in reference to their own parish; conversations at the parish level will result in the summation report taken to convocation. The information shared at convocation becomes the diocesan information.

Next Steps

Content of a cover letter was discussed. It was noted that it would be important to hear the stories of the congregations. It was suggested that the stories be put into a booklet with pictures that could be distributed at Convention. It was suggested that stories could be told on Friday night at Convention. A theme of "the Kingdom is Here" was suggested for Convention.

Steps in developing the process and timeline for the process were listed:

Develop

- Matrix – leave blank lines

- Cover letter – record of what has been done; Convocation meeting date

- Beginning definitions

- Summation report form – include "what else do you want to say about this"

- Collegium – Mar 13

- Congregation work - Eastertide

- Visit convocations – June/July

- Analyze & summarize data – August meeting

- Present action plan - Convention

 - Friday event

 - Theme

 - Budget

Discussion followed. It was suggested that Collegium review the process before it goes to the congregations and that Collegium set the dates for the Convocation meetings at their meeting on March 13. Conversation continued with the suggestion that the youth voice needs to be taken into consideration. Bishop Nedi suggested adding Senior High Camp as a "convocation."

Council members broke into small groups to work on the needed documents:

- Cover letter: Arnold, Anna, Don

- Matrix: Bobby, Paul, Sue, Ruth, Nedi, Kim

- Definitions of missional, truly episcopal,

 - sustainable, partnership – Rich, Terry, Jules, Jim

- Report Form: (post meeting)

The groups reported back to the whole prior to lunch. Jim Mosier reported for the definitions group giving reasoning for providing definitions, sample definitions and invitation for comment as Council looks for commonality of definition. Anna Carmichael reported for the cover letter group saying that they used the key ideas from the futures document and definitions. She stated that she will send a draft of the cover letter to the small group for review and comment. Ruth commented on the matrix stating that it will be two sided and that the boxes on the back will be bigger to allow room for logistics under Ideas and for stories. Whether the matrix needs to be signed was discussed.

Appointment of New Council Members

Jim reported that Standing Committee voted to invite Anna Carmichael to fill the open clergy position created by Christy Close Erskine's departure and that Anna has accepted.

Terry reported that this appointment creates two vacant clergy positions on Diocesan Council, Anna's and a vacancy created by Ruth Brown's resignation due to moving to Arizona. Paul Morton recommended **Roger Fairfield** to fill one position. Paul and Bishop Nedi stated that Roger is willing to accept. In response to Terry's request, **consensus to Roger's appointment** was expressed.

Suggestions were made of clergy to fill the other vacant position. It was suggested that co-chairs, Terry and Bishop Nedi, and vice-chair, Ruth, approach the suggested candidates in the order referenced. **Consensus** was expressed.

Trinity Request

A letter from the vestry of Trinity, Bend, was received by Council, requesting exclusion from assessment of revenues equaling the amount of the settlement for the Rev. Christy Close Erskine. Bishop Nedi spoke to the letter stating that she would support giving some relief to Trinity.

Paul Morton **moved** that Diocesan Council forgive diocesan assessment on revenue equaling the interim salary. The motion was **seconded**.

Discussion followed. It was noted that the interim salary is the amount that is above what the operating costs would have been if status quo had been maintained. There was comment on grants given in place of forgiveness of assessment. It was suggested that more information on those costs and input from the Finance Committee are needed.

Arnold Coe **moved** that Council table the motion until figures on interim costs are received from Trinity and Finance Committee is consulted for a report on the impact to the diocese and recommendation on how best to respond. The motion was **seconded**. Paul Morton accepted the motion as a **friendly amendment** to his motion. The motion **passed** unanimously.

The Vice-chair of Council, Ruth Tsu, was asked to call the Senior Warden and ask for details of cost for the interim and associated costs. Jim offered assistance to Ruth.

March & May Meetings

Bishop Nedi announced that Canon Chuck Robertson is available on May 18-19 to be a presenter for the first offering of Continuing Education for the Baptized. She asked Council

to provide leadership through attendance at Continuing Education. She stated that Council could meet on Friday evening and attend Continuing Education on Saturday.

Rich Landrith **moved** that Diocesan Council have an abbreviated meeting on May 18 and attend the seminar on May 19 in Bend. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

In response to a question, it was noted that Standing Committee would meet on the morning of May 18.

It was noted that the Trinity request and a report on the matrix and process will be added to the March agenda. Bishop Nedi also suggested that the report on Haiti & Here tabled. Diane Adams stated that the personnel policy will not be ready in March.

Paul Morton **moved** that the March meeting be electronic and that all paperwork be in hand by two days before the meeting, Saturday, March 10, 9 a.m.-N. The motion was **seconded** and **passed**.

Closing Business

Council members shared comments about the meeting. The meeting was adjourned following Eucharist at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Minutes of February, 2012 meetings prepared by Diane Adams, Diocesan Staff.

2012 Meeting Dates:

March 10 - teleconference, 9 a.m. – Noon

- Trinity request
- Report on Matrix and process
- Report on Convention planning
- Financial reports
- Interim report on long term communication strategy – Kim
- Rules of Order: DC, SC, Convention – Arnold
- *Report of Haiti and Here – tabled until later date*
- *Lay Personnel policy – tabled until later date*

May 18, afternoon/evening - Trinity, Bend

- Clergy standards & LoAs
- Progress report on MMR process
- Plan to stay for CE event on Saturday, May 19

August 3-4

- 2013 Budget
- Convention preparation

October 12-14, Convention, Bend

November 9-11, Retreat, Ascension School