

DRAFT

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EASTERN OREGON
DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting
May 13-14, 2011
Church of the Redeemer, Pendleton

PRESENT for part or all of the meeting:

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

Class of 2011

G Royes, S/C

The Rev. Alison Dingley, S/C

Susan Powers

Class of 2012

Arnold Coe, S/C

The Rev. Paul Morton, S/C

Terry Rahmsdorff

The Rev. Dcn Ruth Brown

Class of 2013

The Rev. Christy Close Erskine, S/C

Ruth Tsu

Ex-Officio

Jerry Frazier, Treasurer

Visitors

Jeanie Senior, Communications Coordinator

Patty Olson Lindsey, Ascension School

Bill Taylor, Church of the Redeemer

Seat & Voice

Diane Adams, Secretary to Council

ABSENT

PolliAnne Grover , Class of 2011 - *resigned*

The Rev. Dcn Stephen Schafroth, Class of 2011

Bob Thomson, Class of 2012

Laurance Kerr, S/C, Class of 2013

Bobby Fox, Class of 2013

The Rev. Anna Carmichael, Class of 2013

Terry Joakimides, Secretary of Convention

Jim Foster, Chancellor

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Friday, May 13, 2011

Standing Committee meeting from 9:00 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. preceded the Diocesan Council meeting. Diocesan Council gathered at 1:00 p.m. in the Elizabeth Room, Church of the Redeemer, Pendleton. Terry Rahmsdorff explained that because the meeting would lose quorum by evening, the agenda had been rearranged. Bishop Nedi stated that Friday's business would be wrapped in the liturgy of the Eucharist. The meeting began with the Ministry of the Word and Bible study.

Finance Committee Report

Jerry Frazier distributed and reviewed a document titled "Future Diocesan Funding Resources" listing funds from which monies could be taken, should Council so decide. The

document also listed 2011 budgeted income. Jerry noted that the assessment income is trending down. Bishop Nedi commented on the amount that has been taken from savings to support her half-time position salary which is on the low end for bishops' salary. She raised the question of whether there are sufficient funds available to sustain having a bishop for a minimum of 5-10 years. She also noted that the Eastern Oregon Episcopal Foundation (EOEF) has funds that Council needs to be aware of, though those funds would not make a major change in the financial outlook.

Discussion followed. Jerry noted that Finance Committee is looking at the origins and purpose of EOEF. He also commented on properties owned by the Diocese that Standing Committee might consider selling at some point.

Comments were made about best use of funds; what proportion of assets to use; what proportion of a bishop's time to invest in; what is the best use of funds for parishes and diocese. Terry asked for a list of assets, including property assets and notes on which assets are restricted. Paul Morton asked for clarification from Finance Committee in the form of an annual type budget that includes a full-time bishop, reduced assessments, and other factors that could be foundational for projecting eight years into the future.

Following the Ascension School Report, Jerry returned to the diocesan investment policy. He distributed and reviewed a summary of the policy. In answer to a question, he noted that investment and spending policies are best reviewed and re-adopted periodically. However, with the change in investment managers from SmithBarney to Wells Fargo, it is necessary to adopt a new investment and spending policy. Questions, answers and discussion followed.

Jerry Frazier **moved** acceptance of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon Investment Policy Statement of March 18, 2011 as prepared by the Vlach Wealth Management Group of Wells Fargo Advisors. The motion was **seconded**. Discussion followed. Arnold noted that the motion comes at the recommendation of Finance Committee. The **motion passed** unanimously.

A policy form was passed for signatures of the voting members of Council.

Ascension School Report

Patty Olson Lindsey reviewed the proposal, distributed in pre-meeting packets, asking for Council approval of funding, not to exceed \$10,000, to replace the dishwasher in Founder's Hall. Arnold noted that counter replacement work is also needed with the installation. Discussion followed. Patty explained that the \$10,000 cost was for the purchase of the dishwasher and that they had researched the models and costs. She stated that the funds for installation would come from the Ascension School maintenance reserve.

Alison Dingley **moved** to approve the purchase of a dishwasher for Founders' Hall and funding of up to \$10,000, and that Council authorize the Ascension School Board to do the work needed to obtain the dishwasher and have it installed, and to consult with the Diocesan Treasurer as to funding from diocesan capital funds. The motion was **seconded** and discussion followed. The **motion passed** unanimously.

Patty reported that plans for summer camp programs are coming together and that the owners of the swimming pool have committed to having it available. She stated that they are feeling confident about outside rentals.

Arnold commented on the endowment policy noting that the policy regarding investment and spending is redundant to the diocesan policy. He stated that the policy will refer to diocesan investment and spending policies, noting that the Ascension endowment fund will be a line item in the diocesan investment folder and that the monies will be co-mingled. Diane Adams noted that the policy was in the meeting packets that were distributed and was for members to study for discussion at the August meeting.

Patty noted that \$1300 in annual giving funds have already been received because of the article in the recent Circle.

General Convention Resolution

Christy Close Erskine reported on progress regarding the open table resolution to go to General Convention. She stated that Anna Carmichael, Jeanie Senior, Trina Sherman, Scott Cooper, and Rustin Kimsey along with herself are researching and doing preparation work for the resolution. She stated that they hope to do the writing of the resolution and she committed to having something for the August Council meeting. She also stated that Jeanie will do an article about the resolution. Christy noted that the committee is looking for the earliest submission date for the resolution because they want to check with other dioceses who would like to be part of that submission.

Standing Committee

Alison Dingley reported on the work of Standing Committee. She noted that they are developing norms for the functioning of Standing Committee. She stated that much of their time together was spent on the Mutual Ministry Review visits and on timeline for diocesan future.

In regard to timeline, Alison stated that Standing Committee will probably extend Bishop Nedi's contract from expiration in March, 2012 to expiration in October, 2012. She noted that in Standing Committee's role in the visioning process and as council of advice to the bishop, Standing Committee sees its position as helping to keep the process on track. As such, Standing Committee believes that it is necessary to hold the timeline loosely and transparently rather than being driven by a timeline. She stated that the timeline for the next few months is to complete the visits to the congregations; receive feedback; receive the budget recommendations; then decide what needs to be accomplished prior to a bishop election.

Mutual Ministry Review Visits

Christy reviewed the work of the script writing committee. Notes from the script committee meeting and documents outlining the charge, process, and findings of the Futures Committee were distributed and reviewed. Christy reviewed the three purposes of the visits as listed on the notes of the script committee: 1) give feedback about the MMR process; 2) spend most of the time on the Futures work; 3) to introduce Haiti and Here.

Ruth Tsu commented on questions for discussion that have been developed for the visit and process for using the questions. The questions were distributed and Council members

broke into pairs for the process. Following the exercise, the questions and process were discussed.

Jerry reviewed the Futures documents that were distributed. It was noted that Bob Thomson was working on having the chart of Futures options as a storyboard for the visits. Questions and answers followed. It was noted that the traditional model of full-time bishop was not on the chart. It was also noted that the model of Missional Bishop needs to be specified on the chart. Discussion continued concerning the Futures models and the work of the script committee. Appreciation was expressed for the work done by the script committee. It was agreed that Diocesan Council now owns the work of the Futures Committee.

Christy moved the discussion to what data was hoped to be brought back to Council from the visits. Responses included getting a clear response to a model; response regarding best use of available funds; face the reality of not being able to fund the traditional model; people of the diocese feel part of the process.

At 5 p.m., Council moved into the second part of the Eucharist with the reading of the Gospel and the Prayers. Following the Peace, Council recessed for dinner.

After dinner, Council reconvened to continue discussion of the visits. The pieces still needing completion and consideration included: How to address the financial piece; additions and changes to the storyboard; the MMR piece from Standing Committee; and decision on how to handle Haiti and Here. Haiti and Here considerations included dropping the "Here" part for now; lowering expectations; how to move forward with mission emphasis; and any other considerations.

Discussion continued concerning the Haiti and Here program. Alison reported on response to Roger Fairfield's presentation in the Southwest convocation. Ruth Tsu commented that there was no downside to the Haiti and Here program unless it is seen as a fundraiser, in which case trust might be broken down. She noted that clarity in the presentation is important. Suggestions were made that Convention could incorporate the model from Sisters as Roger described it at the March meeting. A poster or handout providing information about the project was suggested.

It was noted that in making appointments with the parishes, every attempt should be made to make them as convenient as possible for the parishes to encourage attendance. Christy reminded that the visits are an opportunity to build relationships and that they should be fun.

Ruth Tsu asked about information desired for the FAQ sheets. The following items were listed:

- ✓ Assessment
- ✓ What does a full-time bishop cost
- ✓ Timeline regarding Bishop Nedi's timeline for leaving and having a new bishop at that time
- ✓ Key functions of a diocese
- ✓ Key functions of a bishop
- ✓ Ascension – can it be sold

Preference for talking points rather than script was expressed in discussion. Christy summarized what was suggested for inclusion in the packet for the visits:

- A single sheet summarizing the MMR
- Storyboard of Futures options – storyboard for Standing Committee members only?; letter-size copies for distribution?
- Questions for discussion – copies for distribution?
- Respectful communications guidelines
- Haiti information sheet – front and back – copies for distribution
- FAQ sheet – copies for distribution?
- Charge to Futures committee
- Specific financial data
 - Cost of a full-time bishop
 - Amount to expect in 2012 with a 25% assessment
 - Amount available to draw from investments
 - Amount available based on lowered assessment
 - General cost for each model

Discussion continued regarding time needed for preparation and when responses from the visits would be needed. Agreement was made that the visits would take place June 15-July 31.

The meeting recessed with the Great Thanksgiving and Eucharist at 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 14, 2011

The meeting reconvened at 8:10 a.m. with prayers led by Christy and reflection on seed breaking open. Reflection and discussion of the Holy Currency article by Eric H.F. Law followed using the dialogue process included with the article.

At 8:45 a.m. discussion of the visit process continued. Christy listed the items she heard regarding the process:

- ✓ Process needs to be simple
- ✓ Not top down
- ✓ Transparency of finances
- ✓ Focus on relationships, awe and joy
- ✓ Rooted in who we are – breaking of bread, prayers, and fellowship
- ✓ Be there to listen

Suggestion was made that there be an invitation to prayer around the visits; that congregations be invited to ask for specific prayers and that they be invited to pray for Standing Committee and Council. Comment was made that the attitude of listening needs to be made clear by sitting down with the group rather than standing as if to lecture. Jerry asked about behavior of Council or Standing Committee members who attended a visit as a member of the congregation. Suggestion was made that they act as listeners or “another pair of ears” for reporting back. Alison responded that it had worked well for her to be a recorder of conversation at the Missional Renaissance conversations at St. Paul’s.

Christy revisited the items to be done and who had volunteered to do them:

- ✓ Simplify question 3 of the process questions – Ruth T
- ✓ Financial information – Jerry
- ✓ Storyboard simplified – Christy and Bob T
- ✓ FAQ – get questions to Diane to generate answers; questions and answers will go to Ruth T and Paul for write-up
- ✓ What does a bishop do? – Diane
- ✓ Haiti and Here – Roger Fairfield
- ✓ MMR summary – Alison
- ✓ Letter to congregations regarding upcoming visits – Diane will draft
- ✓ Timeline
 - Everything to Christy by June 1
 - From the script committee to Diane by June 6 for copying and mailing
 - Mail packets to Standing Committee and Council by June 9
- ✓ Connections that need to happen to bring absent Council members up to speed:
 - Conversations between those present and those who live near them
 - Conversations between the members of the visiting teams
- ✓ Send visit assignments as listed on newsprint to Council and Standing Committee members - Diane

It was noted that there are connection advantages to doing more than one visit with the same person. It was also suggested that visiting teams need not be limited to two people. Members were encouraged to sign up to visit a parish if they felt drawn to do so, even if two people are already signed up.

Christy commented that she was wondering if these visits were not about the outcome of the future of the diocese, but about seeds being planted for a new model of Church. Further comment was made about approaching the visits with words such as “we are here to hear what God is doing in your community so we can do it with you; so we, as leadership, can provide infrastructure for what you are doing.”

Canon Revisions

Proposed revisions to Canons X and XVI were distributed in the meeting packets. Alison noted that there will be further revisions prior to the August meeting. Diane asked that revisions be proposed in the Convention Canon to address voice and vote at Convention for non-canonically resident interims and for clergy from other denominations who are in charge of an Episcopal parish. She commented that additional consideration might need to be made to such a Canonical revision as it might affect voice and vote at a Convention for the election of a bishop. Alison asked Diane to draft such revisions.

Convention Planning

Diane reviewed the draft Convention agenda as distributed in the meeting packets. Discussion followed concerning elements of Convention. The following suggestions were made:

- ✓ Inclusive Community workshop recommended to be Wednesday evening – Friday morning in Hermiston
- ✓ Suggestion that there might be something Convention can do to “leave a mark” so people of the local community know that the Episcopalians have been there.
- ✓ Theme suggestion – “God’s Feet are Moving”
 - referencing Futures work, Holy Currency, seed meditation
 - contra-dancing as part of the banquet program
 - Suggestion of using a picture of the seed story as a meditation for the visits
 - Potentially related to the Appreciative Inquiry chart from 2006
 - Bible study tie-in: God is doing a new thing
 - Tie-in to Haiti visual of shaking the cathedral down and building it again
- ✓ Anglican Covenant – should there be a resolution addressing it that comes to Convention?
- ✓ St. John’s planning committee
 - Ask if they need help – express Council’s desire to support them in the work
 - Make Standing Committee/Council visit to Hermiston as early as possible
- ✓ Draft open table resolution ready for Convention
- ✓ Haiti and Here ingathering
 - Can the Haiti ingathering be substituted for the MDG ingathering? Conversation with St. John’s is needed.
- ✓ Appreciative Inquiry charted results from 2006 Convention was requested to be brought back to Convention in 5 years – should it be brought this year and if so, how should it be dealt with?
 - Send the written summary of the chart to Council before the August meeting
 - Bring the chart to the August meeting
- ✓ Committees of Convention to be considered at August meeting
- ✓ Friday evening plans – Ruth T offered to help with planning and suggested small group work based on Eric Law’s work

Financial Reports

Jerry presented information about the current finances. He stated that the 2005 and 2006 financial records are in format ready for audit and 2007 and 2008 records are progressing. Jerry said Edd Doorn will be asking for bids for the 2005 and 2006 audits, noting that Edd recommends doing the audits only two years at a time to make sure that all parties are satisfied with the audit process. Jerry further stated that the 2007 and 2008 records are progressing.

The transition of bookkeeping was reviewed. Jerry said that the bookkeeping service, Tiiu Vahtel, and Ascension staff are still working on consistency in coding. He reported that online integration between the offices will not be available until the coding issues are resolved. Jerry also reported that the Quickbooks format for financial reports does not yet agree with the Diocesan budget format, so financial statements are not yet available. He said that Tiiu is shadowing the financial recording for a while to be sure that balances are correct on the financial reports from the bookkeeping service.

The assessment report which was distributed in meeting packets was reviewed. Jerry noted the significant change in Bend’s assessment amount due to Council excusing an amount of assessment in 2011 equal to overpayment in 2010. Jerry again noted the

downward trend of assessments suggesting that assessment income may be 10-15% below budget. He also noted a typo on the Enterprise line, 10-Feb-12 should read 10-Feb-11.

Closing Business

Terry asked for a review of the meeting process. Comment was made regarding disappointment with attendance at the meeting, and question was raised about efforts to make attendance through technology possible. Comment was made about the amount of work that was done because of the small size of the group and suggestion was made that more tasks be given to small groups. Satisfaction with the time of meeting was expressed, Standing Committee on Friday morning and Diocesan Council beginning at 1 p.m. Request was made that key agenda items be put at the top of the agenda when members are most alert.

There was further discussion of Ascension School Board as a committee of Diocesan Council and whether there is need for Ascension to have a Constitution and By-laws.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m. with closing prayers and thanks extended to those who were present for the meeting.

Minutes of May, 2011 meeting prepared by Diane Adams, Diocesan Staff.

2011 Meeting Dates:

August 12-13, St. Paul's, Klamath Falls

- Visits done prior to meeting dates
 - Finalize Convention plans
 - Canon Changes
 - Convention agenda item – report on visits – Task 3 in response to visits – assign committee to report to Convention
 - Haiti and Here ingathering
 - Convention committees
 - Convention voting process (*from Parking Lot*)
 - PMRs (*from Parking Lot*)
 - 2012 Budget
 - Timeline committee
 - Ascension Endowment Policy
 - Compensation policy updates
 - Clergy minimum standards
 - Letters of Agreement
 - Lay personnel policy
 - Rework staff job descriptions
 - Reimbursement Policy – amount for mileage

October 14-16, Convention, Hermiston

- Plan for Future (Main Focus)
 - Timeline

- Big OfM do
- Clergy Standards

November 11-13, Retreat, Ascension School

- Procedure Manual

Parking Lot

- Long term communications strategy
- Alternative music for congregations
- Assessment/grants review
- The office in The Dalles
- Grants Committee
 - Criteria
 - Recommendations for distribution