

DRAFT

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EASTERN OREGON
DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Meeting
March 11-12, 2011
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, The Dalles

PRESENT:

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

Class of 2011

G Royes, S/C

The Rev. Alison Dingley, S/C

Susan Powers

The Rev. Dcn Stephen Schafroth

Class of 2012

Arnold Coe, S/C

The Rev. Paul Morton, S/C

Terry Rahmsdorff

Bob Thomson

The Rev. Dcn Ruth Brown

Seat & Voice

Diane Adams, Secretary to Council

Jim Foster, Chancellor

Class of 2013

Laurance Kerr, S/C

The Rev. Christy Close Erskine, S/C

Bobby Fox

Ruth Tsu

The Rev. Anna Carmichael

Ex-Officio

Terry Joakimides, Secretary of Convention

Visitors

Jeanie Senior, Communications Coordinator

Patty Olson Lindsey, Ascension School

Lisa Boquist, Ascension School

The Rev. Roger Fairfield,

Organizing for Mission coordinator

ABSENT

PolliAnne Grover , Class of 2011

Jerry Frazier, Treasurer

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Friday, March 11, 2011

A 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 Tayler Hall, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, The Dalles. The meeting began with Evening Prayer led by Terry Rahmsdorff. During the time for reflection, Council broke into small groups to share stories of a time when they were called to compassion and action. Council reconvened for business at 2:00 p.m.

Terry R asked for approval of the agenda as presented. It was noted that there would be no report from the personnel committee and no report from Christy on the Reggie McNeal conference.

Alison Dingley **moved** approval of the January 13-14, 2011, Diocesan Council minutes. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Bishop's Report

Bishop Nedi reported that since the last meeting she has done celebrations of new ministry in Baker City and Pendleton, as well as a house blessing at Redeemer. She has also done transitions ministry work with St. Peter's, La Grande. She noted that she will also be doing work with St. Andrew's, Burns in her new role of transitions ministry.

She commented on beginning her February diocesan time by taking part in the Haiti and New Orleans mission work sponsored by St. Paul's, The Dalles. She shared some of her experiences in Haiti.

She noted that she has received the required permission, because she is retired, for the increase of her work.

Ascension School

Patty Olson Lindsey and Lisa Boquist joined the Council meeting to discuss plans for endowment and annual fundraising. Patty introduced the enabling resolution for the proposed endowment, commenting that she received the format and advice for structuring the document at the Episcopal Church and Conference Center meeting which she recently attended. She raised the question of whether this would be a separate endowment or whether it would be maintained as a fund within the diocesan endowment investments. In response to a question, Jim Foster confirmed that Diocesan Council has the authority to pass the resolution. It was acknowledged that the enabling resolution was not yet ready for presentation as Jim will need to review it and assist in answering some of the questions that remain within the document. Patty also noted that an endowed scholarship fund already exists and that it needs to be better publicized.

Patty said that the next steps would be the distribution of the one page announcement of the endowment appeal which was included in Council pre-meeting packets and to begin talking about the endowment appeal. She noted that the annual fundraiser appeal has begun with the Ascension newsletter that was recently mailed.

It was agreed that Jim Foster will review the enabling resolution. Jim will guide Council through a discussion of the enabling resolution at their May meeting. He suggested Council consider taking the enabling resolution to Convention for approval.

Jim commented on the relationship between Diocesan Council and the Ascension School Board and the history behind the appointment of a School Board. He noted that the property was gifted to the diocese with contingency that it be a school and that a portion be farm property. He stated that the property reverts back to the French family if the property use does not comply with the terms of the gift.

Lisa noted that the promotional materials for camp have been sent to the parishes and that the new website is up. Patty commented that people will soon be able to register online. Nedi commented on the Lenten Retreat and Ministry Weekend programs. She said that all of the 2011 adult programs will have a theme of being fed.

Standing Committee

Alison Dingley reported on the Standing Committee meeting. She stated that an offer has been made by Bully Creek Baptist Church for the Holy Trinity property in Vale. Bishop Nedi read the letter of offer to Council. She stated that in light of the offer and the amount

of work that needs to be done to make the building usable, a resolution was passed by Standing Committee to gift the property, as is, to the Bully Creek Baptist Church, thus allowing the property to continue as a church. Jim Foster will follow up with the gift instrument letter. Standing Committee hopes to transfer the property within a month.

In regard to another property action, Alison reported that Standing Committee is considering leasing a portion of Ascension School property to the Cove School District. The piece of property lies between the creek and the highway, across the highway from the Ascension School campus. The school district proposes to use the property for outdoor environmental education.

Alison reported that Standing Committee is also in conversation about best uses for the diocesan office property in The Dalles as the diocese moves forward.

It was reported that Standing Committee has given the diocesan car to Ascension School for whatever purposes Ascension chooses.

Mutual Ministry Review

Alison commented that another role of Standing Committee is "Council of Advice to the Bishop." As such, the Standing Committee initiated the Mutual Ministry Review survey to invite input from the people of the diocese. She stated that Standing Committee had spent a large portion of their meeting time reviewing the results of the survey. Summaries of the results of the surveys were included in Council meeting packets. Alison invited Council to divide into their small groups, each group taking a summary of one question, and discuss the results in the following way:

- What struck or surprised you?
- What one to three things does Council need to know from what was said?
- Suggestions for how Council can provide leadership.

Following the small group discussions, Council reconvened and the small groups reported back to the whole. The suggestions for how Council can provide leadership were recorded.

- Question 1: "What was the best work of the church . . . ?" Suggested action:
 - Budget/actions clearly presented
 - Visitations - need secretarial support, copious notes for feedback
 - Support communications in the budget
 - Good Convention in 2011
- Question 2: "What do you want more of?" Suggested action:
 - Need to go back to the congregations with an explanation of what Council has learned
 - Explain the roles of Council, Standing Committee, Bishop and the interconnectedness of the church
 - Suggested format for parish visits: "This is what we've heard -----; this is what we're doing; this is the role of Standing Committee, Council, Bishop, staff, etc.; your role is -----(voice at Convention, support of other parishes and projects through prayer, funding, attendance, and just paying attention)"
- Question 3: "What are your concerns?" Suggested action:
 - Be clear about future of EDEO
 - Set expectations of leadership in congregations (see Question 2, points b&c)

- Question 4: “Any random comments?” Suggested action:
 - Let people know better where we are and what the plan is
 - Let congregations know that responses were studied carefully and taken seriously
 - Continue conversations regularly with congregations and report progress
 - By Convention have alternatives to offer and the pluses and minuses of each option
- Question 5: “What is your “great idea” . . . ?” Suggested action:
 - Council needs to be checking in with the parishes
 - Create opportunity for community building
- Question 6: “What is your one ‘gripe?’” Suggested action:
 - Visitations
 - Formal response about Futures needs to be done soon
 - Provide trainings, etc.

Discussion about planning visits to the parishes followed. Christy Close Erskine suggested that half of the visit time be presentation and the other half needs to be listening. It was agreed that the visits should be made by a Standing Committee member and a Council member together. It was agreed that the summaries of the responses to the survey would be posted on the website. There was discussion regarding the pros and cons of anonymity in regard to the survey responses. It was agreed that responses that should go to the clergy at Collegium would be highlighted. It was agreed that a letter of response would be written by Standing Committee thanking people for their input and letting them know that Council does want to respond. Christy agreed to draft that letter.

The Council meeting recessed for dinner at about 5 p.m. following Evening Prayer led by Anna Carmichael.

Financial Reports

The meeting reconvened at 6:45 p.m. for the financial reports. Meeting packets included a written report from Treasurer Jerry Frazier, the current assessment report, and a modified 2011 budget. The written report concerning the status of audits, the bookkeeping transition, and the investment portfolio was reviewed. Nedi noted that she has committed to having Tiiu Vahtel, Business Manager, work an additional day per week for four months to complete the audit preparations and assist in the bookkeeping transition. Questions were raised about the assessment report showing that five parishes had not yet paid assessments in 2011. It was noted that some parish budgets may have been approved as late as the end of January, that one or two small parishes pay assessment quarterly, and it was known that two assessment payments were in the mail.

Bishop Nedi reviewed the proposed modifications to the 2011 budget. No changes were made to income. An increase was proposed for the Bishop’s compensation (line 113) as she moves to half time and an increase to staff compensation (line 126) to compensate the additional day of work for the Business Manager. Nedi noted that the amount of an additional four months of one extra day per week has been set aside in case additional time by the Business Manager is needed.

In addition, line items were added under “Direct Ministry Support” to allow compensation for consultants or facilitation of programs as follows: line 57, increase Youth line to \$5000

to provide for a coordinator for youth ministry; line 58, \$2600 for a facilitator for a group for clergy in new cures; line 59, \$5000 to bring in trainers for Safeguarding God's People and diversity training or to train trainers within the diocese; line 60, \$5000 to provide for conferences to facilitate training in other areas, and line 61, \$6500 to bring consultants and Convention speakers to the diocese. Nedi proposed that the funds for attending conferences be dispersed as continuing education scholarships are, on a 1/3, 1/3, 1/3 basis.

Nedi raised a question about continuing the expectation of fundraising for communications (line 19), given the additional money available and the fundraising that is already planned for Ascension.

Arnold Coe **moved** to delete from the budget line item 19, \$10,000 for communications. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Terry Joakimides **moved** to change line 26, from proceeds of Property sales, to \$23,637, to end with a 0 balance on line 134. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

Stephen Schafroth **moved** approval of the modified budget as presented and amended. The motion was **seconded** and **passed** unanimously.

General Convention Resolution

Christy asked the bishop to review the steps for presenting a resolution to General Convention and noted that she needed to know the date the resolution is due. Bishop Nedi consulted the Canons and determined that the due date would be in March, 2012.

Christy reviewed the names of the persons that were appointed to draft the resolution, asking if she had the full list. After consulting the Diocesan Convention proceedings, the list consisted of Christy, Anna Carmichael, Trina Sherman, Scott Cooper, and Rustin Kimsey.

Discussion followed concerning title for the resolution. It was noted that Open Communion refers to shared communion with the Methodists and others. "Open Table" was suggested. It was also suggested that the resolution was "to remove encumbrances from coming to the table."

It was agreed to review the resolution at the May meeting.

Question was raised about reporting the results of congregations' conversations about the Anglican Covenant back to General Convention. Diane Adams was asked to notify congregations to submit their responses before December.

The Council meeting recessed at 7:35 p.m. with Compline led by Arnold Coe.

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Saturday, March 12, 2011

The meeting reconvened at 8:00 a.m. in the Common Room for Holy Eucharist with Bishop Nedi celebrating and Roger Fairfield preaching as he showed slides of his recent mission trip to Haiti.

Organizing for Mission (OfM)

Following Eucharist, Roger shared more of his experiences on his mission trip to Haiti and the need to rebuild infrastructure in Haiti. Roger stated the goals for the proposed Organizing for Mission project:

- Participate in the Rebuild Our Cathedral Complex in Haiti program to help raise \$10 million. Success at the diocesan level to be measured by the number of people contributing to the project. The leadership is looking for 2000 participants.
- Develop lay leadership within the diocese by executing a short term project. Proposed project to be determined by a discernment committee comprised of a minimum of two members from each of the six convocations. Move the congregations in this diocese from inwardly focused to outwardly, mission focused by selection of one project to be done by all congregations jointly.

Roger stated that he will be going to the congregations with his Haiti presentation as presented to Council. He stated that the proposed next steps are to get the leadership team together to clarify a diocesan project. Ruth Brown commented that the project would begin to satisfy need for unity in the diocese.

Discussion continued about the support structures that the cathedral complex offers and the effect on the infrastructure of Haiti. Discussion was also about possible local projects and the effect of the Haiti project on local projects. There was also conversation about ways to offer time and talent outside the congregations. It was suggested that if there be a work project within the diocese, the project be on a weekend so that workers worship in that location. General guidelines or criteria for choosing a local project were suggested including: a project that gets people together and something that teaches about outreach. Paul Morton suggested that Council approve the concept then a small group be formed to set the criteria for a project.

Bobby Fox **moved** that Council accept Organizing for Mission as proposed by Roger Fairfield (see goals above) and move ahead with the proposed discernment committee with a report back to the May Diocesan Council meeting. The motion was **seconded** and discussion followed. The motion **passed** unanimously.

Nedi commented that the smallness of the diocese allows the agility to respond to this kind of proposal. She also commended the graciousness of Council in reconsidering the proposal and changing their decision from that made at the January meeting.

Canons

Jim commented that there are still some inconsistencies in the diocesan Canons concerning definitions which need to be addressed, particularly those that define voting clergy and those that define who can serve on committees and commissions.

Jim also noted that he had reviewed the Ascension endowment documents and some revisions are needed in terms of policies and functions. He will bring the revised document to the May meeting.

Sue Powers and Alison noted that the Canons on Ministry and Congregations need revision, as well. Jim reminded Council that the new disciplinary Canon goes into effect in July. He

stated that he will be meeting with the chancellors of neighboring dioceses in May at the Chancellors Conference regarding a multi-diocesan disciplinary canon.

Work Plan

Bob Thomson reviewed the proposed work plan for Diocesan Council.

Vision Statement

Bishop Nedi commented that the diocese seems to have accepted "Being Christ's hands in the world" as a diocesan vision statement. She suggested that as a result of previous discussions, Diocesan Council's vision statement is: Being Christ's hands in the world; no excuses. Building capacity for mission.

Work Plan discussion

There was agreement that visitations to congregations will be made before the August Council meeting. Discussion continued regarding development of a script for the visits. It was suggested that a team representing Standing Committee, Council, and the Futures task force put together the script. It was agreed that a PowerPoint presentation would not be helpful. Discussion continued regarding the value of a script as a guide. Information needed for the script includes: Finance Committee information on how the diocese can afford a bishop and if financed by dipping into reserves, how long can it be done; steps for moving forward; plan for Ascension School. Council agreed that they need a fact sheet on diocesan finances so that they will be prepared to answer questions. They would like the fact sheet for the May meeting.

Committees were formed as discussion about tasks proceeded:

- Script/Feedback: Christy, Ruth T, Bob T
- Timeline : Standing Committee: Alison, G, Nedi
- Letters of Agreement
 - Priest compensation: Anna, Ruth T
 - Deacon's Letter of Agreement: Stephen, Ruth B
 - Lay personnel policy: Diane, Sue; others suggested: Patty, Lisa, Jan Stalker

Council recessed for Noonday Prayer and lunch at Noon and returned to discussion following lunch.

As discussion continued on the Work Plan, it was noted that Standing Committee and Council members should be present for Celebrations of New Ministry, if they are able. Diane will send schedules for these events to Council members. Terry R suggested that a Council member might do articles for the newsletter; Jeanie Senior agreed that such an article would be a welcome addition. It was suggested that congregations be invited to provide a potluck meal for Council's Friday evening meal at meetings; members of the congregations would join Council for a time of conversation during the dinner break.

Closing Business

Nedi reviewed the process for "Public Narrative" noting that the small group experience during the meeting was the beginning of that process.

Council members reviewed the meeting process noting that they appreciated starting the meeting earlier and encouraged a similar schedule for the next meetings. It was also noted that the spirit of the meeting was similar to that of the retreat.

The meeting adjourned with Evening Prayer at 2:45 p.m.

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

2011 Meeting Dates:

May 13-14, 1:00 p.m., Church of the Redeemer, Pendleton

- Canon revisions
 - Canon X – congregations and associated Convention canons (Canon V)
 - Canon XVI – Ministry
 - Multi-diocese Canon XVII (Title IV)
 - Resolve inconsistencies in other Canons
- General Convention resolutions referred to dioceses
- Open Communion resolution for General Convention
- Ascension endowment
 - Jim’s review of enabling resolution
 - Council and Board responsibilities
 - Decision re: approval of resolution – Council or Convention
- Finance Committee report on Ascension School
- Finance information re: audits, etc.
 - Report on how we afford a bishop and for how long
- Futures timeline
- Script for visits
 - Feedback on script and report form
 - Make visitation appointments
- Preliminary report on The Dalles property use
- OfM report
- Convention planning

August 12-13, 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
 - OfM ingathering
- 2012 Budget

- Timeline committee
- Compensation policy updates
 - Clergy minimum standards
 - Letters of Agreement
 - Lay personnel policy
 - Rework staff job descriptions

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

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