

EDEO Diocesan Council
May 6 – 7, 2016
Hood River, Oregon

Present:

The Rt. Rev. Patrick Bell

Ex-Officio

Doug Harder, Secretary of Convention
Randy Heise, Treasurer

Class of 2016

The Rev. Anna Carmichael, S/C
The Rev. Kathy Macek
Beth Spell
Charlie Cagle, S/C

Class of 2017

The Rev. Dcn. Georgia Giacobbe
Kim McClain, S/C
Marjorie Thelen
The Rev. Jed Holdorph, S/C
Bill Taylor

Class of 2018

The Rev. Aletha Bonebrake
Julie Reynolds, S/C
Vicki Mosier
The Rev. Nancy Green, S/C
Karly Nash

Absent

Lisa Boquist, Staff *
Patricia Olson-Lindsey, Asc. School Executive Director
Kim Mosier, Chancellor*

Friday

Kathy Macek led the council in prayer and called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Approval of the Agenda

M/S/C *The agenda was amended to include such items that may be offered during the session and approved. (Anna |Georgia)*

Archival Find

Anna Carmichael reported that a Tippet, given to Bishop Kimsey by Lyle French, was found in the EDEO archives and was recently given to Bishop Pat.

Approval of Minutes

M/S/C *The minutes from the March 4-5, 2016 EDEO Diocesan Council in Bend, Oregon were approved. (Anna|Bill)*

Council Norms

Bishop Pat explained that as a result of working collaboratively with staff, they had determined that in order to improve efficiencies, it was essential to make some changes in the diocesan office culture. The council worked together to establish a list of council group norms and expectations that all agree to honor:

- Treat each other with respect.
- Be careful about judging others.
- If someone has thoughts or feelings – let them express them.
- Don't monopolize the discussion.
- Listen to all opinions without judging and allow the speaker to finish speaking.
- Be careful about non-verbal expressions during discussions.
- Take the initiative to ask questions and invite questions.
- Utilize "Active Listening" (clarifying questions are always constructive).
- Use the first person – "I" sharing.
- Be present (conscious) to the common goal.
- Stay on track with the discussion and respect time.
-

Eric Law's guide for respectful communications was offered as a standard:

R = take RESPONSIBILITY for what you say and feel without blaming others.

E = use EMPATHETIC listening.

S = be SENSITIVE to differences in communication styles.

P = PONDER what you hear and feel before you speak.

E = EXAMINE your own assumptions and perceptions.

C = keep CONFIDENTIALITY.

T = TRUST ambiguity because we are *not* here to debate who is right or wrong.

Group Values

Transparency

Trust

Kindness

Honesty

Love

Courage

Vulnerability

Dedication

Hope we can be God's presence in the world

Set aside any personal agenda for the good of the whole.

Bishop's Report

[Clerk's editorial summary and characterization of Bishop Pat's statements]:

It is easy to conceptualize what our role is together making constructive changes and the task at hand can seem daunting. What is expected of me may take some time. I bring all my past applicable experiences to the job, but it is evident that we will all need to work together to be the community we are intended to be.

Time spent traveling the diocese requires working with staff (Lisa & Patty) at a level that may not be fully recognized particularly being a half-time bishop. The time requiring travel outside of the diocese is an unexpected issue and the administrative responsibility that I must place upon them will continue to play a large role in our success together. I want you all to know that Liza and Patty's dedication is absolutely stunning!

The relocation to Cove may seem distant to a few congregations. However, it is truly a remarkable place and we will continue to build upon the savings and improved efficiencies that we experience having our diocesan administrative center as part of Ascension School Camp & Conference Center. Recognizing how important our staff are in developing a new administrative dynamic and accessibility to us all, we have moved the coffee station from the center of operations. Our efforts are to refine the work we do and build upon the quality of our time together and focus on the living church we are called to be. To recognize the importance of our staff and keep them it will be necessary to revisit compensation packages.

On June 10th the Commission on Ministry will meet for ministry development that will include both the ordained and lay in addressing our efforts in further Presiding Bishop Michael's challenge to engage in the "Jesus Movement." We intend to find new ways to enhance our efforts in evangelism and with stewardship and planned giving around the diocese.

Session of Q&A

- The Office Admin/Hospitality position and some of the Communications work is currently being held by Makenzie Dyer but she will be leaving in August and we will need to consider what that position might look like in the future.
- Recognizing that Bishop Pat may need assistance with transition work, e.g., interface with national database etc., conversation with retired Rev. Lee Kiefer is taking place.
- Visitations – Bishop recognizes that 'one size does not fit all' approach may require longer visits with larger congregations, perhaps staying over on Monday and on occasion visit with a shared congregation. Each visitation will include gathering with the vestry or an appropriate group.

Ascension School Report – Bishop Pat

Discussion ensued regarding the Ascension Board's unanimous recommendation to name the new community building after the Coe's and Kerr's. Arnold and Jean have been continuous in their active support of Ascension for over fifty years. Arnold is considered the "Lifetime Chairman of the Board." Lawrence and Ava Kerr have considered Ascension a "labor of love" for years and are longtime board members and key supporters during the annual work weekends.

M/S/C *Naming new building at Ascension School: Coe-Kerr Community Center (Nancy|Vicki)*

6:10PM - Adjourned for dinner

6:50PM – Reconvened

St. Andrew's Church

High Desert Biomass Cooperative District Energy System – Charlie Cagle

St. Andrew's Church in Burns is working toward receiving thermal energy (hot water) for the church building, which would be generated from a wood chip fired boiler located behind Slater Elementary School. The thermal energy would be distributed through a district energy system, which is a system of underground pipes that circulate hot water between connected buildings. It is expected that the church will benefit by a 40 percent reduction in their heating bill. The church will be able to switch back to oil, maintained in their tank, if necessary. However, their plan as well as the co-op is to move away from the use of oil. Charlie brought this before council as an example of an environmental and economic improvement that a congregation might make. Initially the church plans on utilizing an UTO grant and perhaps additional EOEf support if necessary.

7:20PM – Adjourned

Saturday

8:00 Eucharist

8:30AM Reconvened

Treasurer's Report - Randy Heise

- Plan to move Finance Meetings from a week after to two weeks before Council Meetings to facilitate the use of a current balance and summary forecast at the meetings.
- Extensive discussion regarding use of the current audit firm and the history of not being able to bring the audits to current year. The audit firm has done an adequate job – however they have been excessively slow and have not brought the diocese audits current over a period of years.
- It is the consensus of council that a written guarantee from the firm is needed for the audits 2009 and 2010 and that by this August we are totally prepared to begin 2011 converted to QuickBooks.

M/S/C *Council authorizes Randy Heise as EDEO Treasurer to use his judgment in negotiating with the audit firm to bring the current audit process through 2010 and subsequent periods or terminate contract\agreements with the firm on August 15, 2016 if he feels that to be necessary.*

Standing Committee Report – Kim McClain

Council discussed the necessity for Bishop Pat to modify the guest room in his home to accommodate an office for the diocesan work he will need to do while not within the diocese. The plan is to consider a Murphy bed so as not to prevent the use of the room for guests. This is an expense that Pat is willing to incur but the council and treasurer determined that the transition expenses were less than anticipated and there are not other projected costs for the transition. The remodel is not an asset that will violate business practices and this expenditure would be less than other examples within the diocese in the past.

M/S/C *Council authorizes the expenditure of up to \$7,000.00 for the remodel of Bishop Patrick Bell's guest room for use of the space as a home office for diocesan work. (Randy/Anna)*

Other Standing Committee business –

- Kim discussed user agreement (601 Union St., The Dalles) with a group that want to use the space.
- The Arlington property has lost the lawn mowing services and it is not a good time to sell the property.
- Standing Committee plan on having a Closure Meeting to debrief the Search Committee, Transition Team and Standing Committee regarding the Bishop Search, Visitations, and Transition process. Kim hopes to recognize their efforts during the Convention weekend. Bishop Pat expressed his appreciation for everyone who participated in these efforts and confirmed his intent to honor these individuals at convention.

Convention Planning – Rev. Kathy Macek

- Friday evening will be held at St. Peter's La Grande.
(Registration process – dinner – activities – service)
- Saturday TBA
- ELCA Lutheran World Relief Quilts for Hunger was offered a possible fund raising and way of including our Lutheran partners in convention.
- Other discussions regarding workshops and booths included: Booth for Living Water; Quilt and Basket workshops; Silent auction ideas and a novel idea of dollar bill markings in fund raising (Charlie); as well as past success.
- Bishop Pat reported that he has a keynote speaker request out and should have more by our convention planning during our August council meeting. Pat hopes to have a dedication of the Coe-Kerr Community Center during this convention.

Discussion of Future Conventions – Bishop Pat

In August the council will consider plans for future convention site planning. The reality that many of our congregation do not have the energy or means to host a convention requires that we assess our current process. We might consider using the same convention site each year or identifying two or three sites on a rotation basis. Any decision will be brought before Convention.

It may be advantageous to establish a Committee to oversee the theme, programs and location services for each convention.

During the ensuing discussion suggestions and concerns arose:

- The ELCA, recognizing the high cost of a 3 day Synodical Assembly to small congregations is trying a new format in 2018: a one day “business” Assembly with 5 regional meetings held throughout the state. These one day regional meetings will be discussion meetings over “hot topics” in the life of the Synod. Lutherans can choose to attend any 1 of these 5 regional meetings. In 2017 and 2019 the schedule is back to normal with a 3 day Assembly.
- Some congregations might feel isolated if there are only 3 convention sites e.g., Ontario is a long distance to Bend, The Dalles, etc.
- Scholarships might need to be offered (check box on registration) to promote participation.
- There is strong support of local project(s), e.g. 1% of diocese budget equates to approximately \$3,000 (GC Res #13 – climate change).

Request to Alter the Budget – Bishop Pat

The Oregon Trail and Episcopal Journal distributed to our churches and households cost the diocese \$15K per year and the Oregon Trail wrap insert is not consistent and requires diocesan staff to do it. This duplicates the efforts by staff that go into “Connections” and other electronic media efforts.

Discussion: Episcopal Journal is available to individuals who want to subscribe for \$3 per month. It was noted that EJ content is not always of interest to Episcopalians of eastern Oregon, e.g. the April edition seem to focus on Canadian issues. Copies of EJ can continue to be sent to our church offices as well as including online addresses directing readers to the Episcopal Church web-sites. It was also suggested that pdf of congregation newspapers might occasionally be included on our on-line publications.

M/S/C *Council authorized the cancelation of the Episcopal Journal subscription contract and discontinuing the Oregon Trail.*

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 10:45AM.

Submitted by

Doug Harder