

DIOCESAN COUNCIL RETREAT

11-13 November 2016, Ascension School

Minutes of the Meeting

Present:

The Rt. Rev. Patrick Bell, Bishop

Class of 2017

The Rev. Georgia Giacobbe
The Rev. Jed Holdorph (SC)
Kim McClain S/C
Marjorie Thelen

Class of 2018

The Rev. Aletha Bonebrake
The Rev. Nancy Sargent Green (SC)
Karly Nash
Julie Reynolds, S/C

Class of 2019

Adrienne Brown
The Rev. Mary Lujan (SC)
Mary Link (SC)
Beth Spell

Seat and Voice

Lisa Boquist, Secretary to Council
Patty Olson-Lindsey, Executive Director,
Ascension School

Ex-Officio

Doug Harder, Secretary of Convention
Randy Heise, Treasurer

Absent

Bill Taylor
Viki Mosier

A Standing Committee Meeting at 3:00PM preceded the Diocesan Council Meeting

Friday

Work Session 1

Beth Spell opened the meeting in prayer at 6:30 pm.

Co-Chair and Vice-Chair

Bishop Pat announced that nominations for Co-Chair and Vice-Chair of Diocesan Council would be open until Saturday morning at 9:00.

Approval of the Minutes

M/S/C *motion to accept the August 2016 Minutes as presented.
(Aletha Bonebrake, Nancy Green)*

Approval of Agenda

M/S/C *motion to accept the Agenda as presented. (Georgia Giacobbe, Nancy Green)*

Ascension School

Patty Olson-Lindsey addressed the council regarding her decision to resign as the Executive Director of Ascension School Camp and Conference Center.

Bisbee Grant

The council reviewed St. Andrew's, Burns Bisbee Grant application requesting \$1,500 for a new energy partnership with the High Desert Biomass Cooperative Energy System, which would replace their current heating system and would reduce their carbon footprint as well as save them money on their heating costs. The council requested that Lisa explore the possibility of increasing the amount to \$10,000 and reporting back on Saturday morning.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10PM

Saturday

Work Session 2

The council reconvened at 9:00AM

Council Orientation

The following Group Norms were establish by the group:

- Honor another person's ideas and thoughts. If you offer something different, offer in a way that doesn't deflate what the other person has said.
- Treat each other with respect and dignity.
- Let someone finish their thoughts.
- Use "I" statements not "You" or "We" statements.
- Make sure that every voice in the room feels welcome and has an opportunity to speak.
- Anyone who feels that they need to stop or step away from a conversation is able to do so.
- Observe confidentiality.
- The process is internal; results are public.
- You are responsible for your own self care

Bishop Pat also reviewed the roles and responsibilities of Diocesan Council and Standing Committee

Bisbee Grant

M/S/C *Motion to grant \$10,000 from the Bisbee fund to St. Andrew's, Burns for their partnership with the High Desert Biomass Cooperative Energy System project to replace their current heating system. (Karly Nash, Mary Link)*

2017 Meeting Schedule

The following 2017 dates were presented for future Diocesan Council and Standing Committee Meetings:

2017 Meeting Dates:

- February 4 – Online Meeting
- April 28-29 – Burns
- August 4-5, Ontario
- October 13-15-Diocesan Convention in Bend
- November 17-19-Ascension School

M/S/C *Motion to accept the meeting schedule as presented. (Mary Lujan, Georgia Giacobbe)*

Bishop's Schedule for 2017

The bishop has set his schedule so that he will be in the diocese the first and 3rd weekends of the month in the office 3 days before and Monday after each visitation. This may be adjusted at certain times when he has other ecclesiastical duties.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

M/S/C *Motion to elect Beth Spell as Co-Chair (Mary Lujan, Adrienne Brown)*

M/S/C *Motion to elect Nancy Sargent Green as Vice-Chair (Mary Lujan, Adrienne Brown)*

Ascension School Future Planning

Bishop Pat informed council on the 2 steps that are being taken to ensure that Ascension School will continue to be successful both during the interim between Patty's departure and the hiring of a new Executive Director and beyond.

- He is currently working with Joel Bigelow to evaluate the facilities of Ascension School and prioritize maintenance issues as well as facility usage. This includes possibly bringing in consultants to assist with evaluating the way that things are currently being budgeted.
- An Executive Director job description and scope of work is being developed and he hopes to have the job posted by the end of the year. The position will be posted diocesan wide as well as with the Episcopal Camps and Conference Centers jobs board.
 - o During the interim the Executive Director's job duties will be distributed among current paid staff as well as volunteers.

Introduction to EDEO Finances

- Randy handed out a P&L and a Balance Sheet and informed council that he plans to provide them with these reports at each meeting. He also plans to budget for the future, rather than budgeting from the past.
- There was discussion about investing the funds that are being held at CB Financial in The Dalles but no consensus was reached.
- There was a short discussion regarding the possibility of lowering parish assessments since the national assessment will now be lower. Bishop Pat explained that although the nation assessment has been lowered, the provincial assessments have gone up so there is actual no saving for the diocese.
- Randy reported that he had received notice from Wells Fargo that some of the diocesan investments that are related to the environment may be adversely affected by the election. He is going to meet with them and will report to council any information that they pass on to him.

M/S/C *Motion to approve the Resolutions for Signature Authority*
Resolved that the authorized signers on the Diocesan US Bank checking account be: Randy Heise, Diocesan Treasurer; Arnold Coe, Finance Committee Member; Kathryn Macek, Rector of St. Peter's, La Grande, and Patrick Bell, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon.

Resolved that the authorized signers on the Diocesan CB Financial checking account be: Randy Heise, Diocesan Treasurer; Kathryn Macek, Rector of St. Peter's, La Grande, and Patrick Bell, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon. (Adrienne Brown, Doug Harder)

M/S/C *Motion to approve the Resolution on Housing Allowance:*

WHEREAS, section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code permits a minister to exclude from gross income a church-designated allowance paid to him or her as part of his or her compensation for services as a minister, to the extent used by him/her for actual expenses in owning or renting a home; and

WHEREAS the Rt. Rev. Patrick Bell is employed as a minister of the Gospel by the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon which does not provide a residence for him, Diocesan Council resolves that of the total compensation received during 2017, \$896.67 per month shall be designated a parsonage allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the IRS Code of 1986.

The Diocesan Council also resolves that the amount designated as housing allowance shall apply to 2017 calendar year and all future years unless amended by the Diocesan Council. (Adrienne Brown, Georgia Giacobbe)

Council Adjourned at 11:55 for Noonday prayer and lunch.

Work Session 3

The council reconvened at 1:00

Review of 2016 Convention

- Council discussed the 2016 Diocesan Convention that was held at Cove. The following topics were discussed regarding the 2016 Diocesan Convention that was held in Cove:
 - o Distance from La Grande to Cove.
 - o Disappointment that the assigned book wasn't discussed at all.
 - The idea of reading a book is a great idea for future conventions.
 - o More workshops needed.
 - o Not enough structured or unstructured discussion time
 - Entertainment after dinner – complicated and hard to schedule- but also a benefit for the entertainment. Is it worth it?

Future Diocesan Convention Planning

- Council discussed the following topics regarding future conventions.
 - o What are our needs/wants as a diocese:
 - Do we need Friday through Sunday?
 - Suggestions for Keynote Speakers:
 - ELCA Bishop David Brauer-Rieke.
 - Report from EMO Director Jan Elfers.
 - Bishop's Charge on Friday night was nice.
 - Ways to reduce costs.
 - Different ways to determine what workshops to offer.
 - Cost of sending delegates on their own dollar is expensive.

Harney and Grant County, Standing Rock Updates

- Marjorie Thelen and Beth Spell shared updates on the current political and social situations currently creating tension in their counties.
- Bishop Pat also spoke of his time with Sioux Nation at Standing Rock in North Dakota.

Ascension School Memorial Garden Policy

M/S/C *Motion to accept and approve the Ascension School Memorial Garden policy (Jed Holdorph, Adrienne Brown)*

Diocesan Convention Committee

The council discussed the formation of a Diocesan Convention committee. The following are suggestions that were discussed:

- The rotation of membership should be long enough so that people will rotate on and off ensuring they serve long enough to have one cycle of service. (4 years)
- A list of what the actual work of the committee should be created and include:
 - Location/space negotiation
 - Blocking of hotel rooms
 - Scheduling and management of meals/catering for all events
 - Acquiring/ensuring professional IT support and the appropriate AV equipment is available.
 - Contacting nearby parishes for:
 - Homestays
 - Break food
 - Hospitality
 - Organizing registration
 - Assisting the Bishop with the planning Worship
- The committee should consist of 6 people, 2 people will rotate off every 4 years and will be appointed by the bishop.
- The committee will meet at least 2 times in person, and can supplement with conference calls or online meetings the rest of the year.
- The committee should be formed no later than March. Bishop Pat asked Council members to send in names of those that they think would be able and willing to serve the diocese in this capacity.
- Jed reported that they have had to begin planning for the 2017 Diocesan Convention in Bend. He is hopeful that it will be held at Trinity.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:00

SUNDAY

8.45 The Rev. Nancy Sargent Green presided at the Eucharist with the Council and Fall Youth Retreat attendees.

Work Session 4

The meeting reconvened at 9:30AM

Diocesan Dreaming

- Bishop Pat asked that Council members think about their dreams for the diocese and bring their ideas to the next meeting.

SDG's

M/S/C *Motion to send the 2016 Sustainable Development Goal contribution to GreenFaith.org. (Doug Harder, Julie S. Reynolds)*

Archive Resolution

- Council discussed the status of the archive project and how it will go forward.
 - o Georgia Giacobbe will come up with a plan on how she can continue and what she will need to do that. Her plan will include a budget and job description for a diocesan historian. Bishop Pat will take any financial request to the EOEF for their consideration.

Standing Committee Report

- Kim McClain gave the Standing Committee report
 - o Kim McClain was re-elected as Standing Committee president.
 - o Jed Holdorph was re-elected as Standing Committee secretary.
 - o Standing Committee approved and signed 2 consents:
 - Consent to the election of Carl Walter Wright as the Bishop Suffragan for the Armed Forces and Federal Ministries.
 - Consent to the election of a Bishop Co-Adjutor for Haiti.
 - o Standing Committee discussed renting the property in Nyssa to a Head Start program. They are looking into the tax implications and if they would be able to charge enough rent to cover any costs that those implications may produce.
 - o Standing Committee is requesting that Lisa will make a list of all properties under Diocesan Control.

UTO and Convention Offering

Randy reported that \$3471.20 was sent to UTO from the Ingathering at Diocesan Convention. ERD and Koinonia House in La Grande each were sent \$ 835.52 from the Diocesan Convention offering.

Other Business

Doug reported that there would be a Let's Talk Diversity Coalition meeting in Madras on December 1 at 3:30. The meeting will be held at the Madras Performing Arts Center. For more information contact carolynh@bestcaretreatment.com

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:09AM.