

EDEO Diocesan Council Retreat
Minutes
November 9-10, 2017
Ascension School Camp and Conference Center
Cove, Oregon

Present:

The Rt. Rev. Patrick Bell, Bishop

Class of 2018

The Rev. Nancy Sargent Green (SC)

Karly Nash

Julie Reynolds, SC

The Rev. Aletha Bonebrake

Class of 2019

Adrienne Brown

The Rev. Mary Lujan (SC)

Mary Link (SC)

Beth Spell

The Rev. Charlotte Wells

Class of 2020

The Rev. Joseph Farber

The Rev. Jed Holdorph (SC)

Gregg Henton (SC)

Ex-Officio

Randy Heise, Treasurer

The Rev. Lee Kiefer, Canon for Transition

Seat and Voice

Lisa Boquist, Secretary to Council

Absent

Vicki Mosier

Kim McClain

Barbara Mayo

Doug Harder

Call to Order

Bishop Pat opened with prayer and called the meeting to order at 5:18pm. Special prayers were said for those who could not attend the meeting.

Election of Co-Chair and Vice Chair

*MSC Motion to elect Beth Spell as Co-Chair of Diocesan Council.
(Charlotte Wells, Nancy Green)*

*MSC Motion to elect Joseph Farber as Vice Chair of Diocesan Council.
(Nancy Green, Charlotte Wells)*

Consent Calendar

- Approval of Minutes from August 4-5 in Ontario
- Approval of 2017 Convention Proceedings
- **Resolutions for Signature Authority**

October 27, 2017

***Resolved** that the authorized signers on the Diocesan US Bank checking account be: Randy Heise, Diocesan Treasurer; Kimberly McClain, Executive Director of Ascension School, Scott Findholt, member of St. Peter's, La Grande, Val Royes, Treasurer from 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; Jerry Frazier, Eastern Oregon Episcopal Foundation Treasurer; and Patrick Bell, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon.*

- **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 2018, \$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 2018 calendar year and all future years unless amended by the Diocesan Council.

*MSC Motion approve the consent calendar.
(Jed Holdorph, Adrienne Brown)*

Group Norms

The bishop briefly reviewed the group norms with council members.

Formation of Bisbee Grant Committee

A Bisbee Grant Committee was formed. The committee will review grant applications and will report to council in January with award recommendations. The committee members are: Karly Nash, Chair, Charlotte Wells, and Adrienne Brown.

Ascension School

Two requests from Ascension School were reviewed and voted on.

Tish Croom Estate distribution

M/S/C *Motion to move \$150,000 from the Tish Croom Estate funds to the endowment account at Wells Fargo. (Julie Reynolds, Nancy Green)*

Founders Hall Kitchen .

M/S/C *Motion to use \$7,860 from the liquid funds available from the Tish Croom Estate funds to pay for the new cooling system in the Founders Hall kitchen. (Gregg Henton, Mary Link)*

2018 Meeting Dates

The 2018 Diocesan Council meeting dates will be as follows:

January 20th	9:00AM	Online Meeting
January 27th	9:00AM	Online Meeting
April 14th	9:00AM	Online Meeting
August 24-25		Ascension School
November 9-11		Ascension School

Standing Committee Report

Mary Lujan, president of Standing Committee, gave a report on the Standing Committee meeting that preceded the council meeting. Standing Committee discussed the current status of the offer that was received by St. Andrew's, Prineville for the purchase of their church. They also reviewed The Rev. Dcn. Chuck Barnes request for ordination to the priesthood.

Dinner

Dinner was served at 6:00PM and council reconvened at 7:00PM.

Visioning

The Bishop invited council to enter a period of visioning for life together in EDEO. The council was divided into 3 separate groups. The following is a list of the questions that were proposed to those groups. Responses from the three groups are listed below each question .

What three practices related to your spiritual life would you desire to strengthen? Why these? What steps might you take to begin that practice?

- No responses were recorded.

What would you desire to strengthen in the diocese? Why these? What steps might you take to begin that practice?

- Ascension School
- Strength of small parishes
- Creating a welcoming place for the LGBTQ+ community

What is your passion, or “fire in the belly” for our Diocese?

- Ascension School
- Empowering people to serve one another
- Becoming vessels to....

List what you see to be the three to five “best” things about our Church in Eastern Oregon...

- Strength and vitality of our rural congregations (lay led worship)
- Providing leadership to help us grow as people and as congregations
- Practicing “Radical Hospitality”
- Outreach
- Small congregations
 - Deep bonds with one another
 - Sense of history
 - “Communion of Saints”
- Ascension School
- Room for multiple denominations
- Visionary Bishop
 - Empowering vision
 - Pastoral Bishop
- Community presence beyond the walls
- Ecumenical Ministry
 - Fixing what is vs. imagining what could be
- Outreach by example
- Open minded Bishop who encourages innovative practices/thinking
- Alternative Gospel
 - Inclusion
 - Sanctity of creation
 - Social/gospel justice
- Truth telling and listening

Your greatest desires for the Episcopal Church in Eastern Oregon are....

- Flourishing in a variety of incarnations
- Value of ministry
- Timely/Relevant
 - Youth Gathering
 - Service
 - Safe place for youth to discuss sex, ask questions
- Family of God
- That the Gospel is heard as “good” news
- Expanding inclusiveness
- Relevant to family life and daily life
- We will be known by our fruit
 - Outreach to those who are prevented from regular participation
 - Presence in the wider community
- Fully thriving congregation with full time rectors
- Consistent sacramental presence
- Intentional community building
- Spiritual growth
- Episcopal presence in Eastern Oregon.

Your greatest fears for our church are....

- No legacy
- Cease to exist as a diocese
- Lose heart in the struggle to survive
- Losing relevancy
- Losing the gospel to the fundamentalist
- Resource pools evaporate before we can realize our goals
- Financial sustainability
- The Numbers Game
- The Youth Game
- Tribalism

Three action steps you would envision us taking over the next three years to strengthen our corporate witness to Jesus Christ in our Diocese.

- Changes in language used, use of different prayer books, liturgies
- Intentional about being ecumenical
- Take what you have that isn't working well and making something new and innovative. Take 2 models (SCF and Transfiguration) and try to implement those things in other communities.
- Imagine what can happen by looking at what has already been done.
- Community of people became the church not the walls.
- Ecumenical work

Adjournment