

**Diocesan Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, October 13, 2022 4 PM**  
**Via Zoom**

**Present:** Bishop Rob, Margaret Porter, Chris Porter, Joyce Johnson, Shelley Kesselman, Vickie Haines, Gregory Anderson, Terry Knowles, Susan Eibner, Emily Drake, Alanna Van Antwerpen, Katie Clark, Teresa Gocha, Shelli Gay, Bengé Ambrogi, Tina Pickering, Kathy Boss, Lauren Tennett, Gloria Gallant

**Call to Order and Opening Prayers.** At 5.05 PM, the Bishop opened the meeting with prayer

**Bishop's Time**

In this busy time in the diocese, with stresses and concerns in congregations, we hold on to the hope of God and in God we put our trust.

*Diocesan Convention/ Preparations.* The Presiding Bishop will be present for the first part of the business meeting, including the Bishop's convention address. Friday night is a Zoom meeting, 170 already registered, and over 400 have already registered for Saturday in-person at the Capital Center.

*St. Paul's Church, Concord.* The bishop enlisted prayers for the parish and for its rector as she enters a period of medical treatment. There is discussion with a retired priest, newly arrived to area, who has skill in transition ministry.

*Faith Church, Merrimack.* Bishop will meet with them to discuss what new shape that ministry will take.

*White Mountain School.* With change of board leadership, there is much work, please hold them in prayer. The young people, from all over the world, have hearts of gold.

*Christ Church, Portsmouth.* There is no longer a Seacoast Shared Ministry. On the Sunday of Bishop Curry's visit, Bishop Rob will meet with Christ Church about new development of that ministry, and God's mission at Little Blessings Daycare Center. The vicarage continues to house an Afghani family.

**Community Engagement & Digital Mission**

Alanna Van Antwerpen described commission's grant process. Earth Care, Reconciliation, and Our Kids provide funding assistance for community partnerships and ministries, and congregations can apply. Information is on the website, and an email went out in September.

*October 18.* NH Council of Churches and other groups host a Zoom webinar on the state of public education in NH, an informative conversation with supportive groups. Please share with lay ministers and clergy.

*Digital Mission.* The Indigenous People's Day celebration was held this past Sunday and can be accessed on the diocesan YouTube channel.

**Diocesan Convention & Presiding Bishop Budgeting**

Bengé Ambrogi explained that when putting together the 2022 diocesan budget, we knew the Presiding Bishop was coming but not the magnitude of the event or the security requirements. The budget of \$14,000 doesn't cover the actual expenses, which are over \$30,000. Because we had budgeted for a lay leadership event that didn't take place, Council is asked to re-appropriate those funds to Diocesan Convention. As justification: Michael Curry is essentially providing a lay leadership event. Shelley Kesselman moved approval to overspend Convention budget and allocate the lay leadership funds to make up the difference. Greg Anderson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Convocation Reactions to 2023 Draft Budget**

Benge reported visiting 4 of our 6 convocations so far, receiving good feedback and good support on Resolutions 1 and 2.

### **Capital Campaign Update**

Results from the feasibility study are being compiled for sharing Friday night at Convention. In January we enter the final phase of campaign, the ask.

### **Open Discussion**

*Joyce:* A year or so ago we talked about evaluating the School for Ministry, with an evaluation or report, that would be great. *Kelly:* Can share at December meeting, discuss curriculum and participation, and her experience on TEC Interim Body on Formation.

Diocesan Council retreat in 2023? Will discuss at future meeting.

### **Other Business**

Teresa moved approval of September 2022 meeting minutes, Emily seconded, motion passed.

There will be a post-convention survey to determine the nature of our 2023 convention—budgeting, online or in-person, how to do formation and celebratory events for a broader community.

**Next meeting:** December 8, via Zoom, 4 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,*

Margaret Porter, Secretary

**2023 Diocesan Council Meeting Dates** (subject to change as necessary):

January 12, February 9, March 9, April 13, May 11, June 8, July 13, August 10, September 14, October 12, November 9, December 14