

Diocese of New Hampshire - Diocesan Council Minutes
January 7, 2015

Attendance: Kate Atkinson, Gail Avery, Michael Bradley, Ray Bonin, Richard Davenport, Bill Exner, Gloria Gallant, Bishop Rob Hirschfeld, Nancy Hunt, Joan LeBaron, Jack Lewis, Curtis Metzger (guest), Roger Nicholls, Chris Porter, Margaret Porter (Moderator), Sue Poulin, Laura Simoes, Carol Twomey (Secretary), Jason Wells.

Opening

The meeting was called to order at 4:08 p.m. Devotions were from *Daily Prayer for All Seasons*. Bishop Rob presented copies of the book to Council members in gratitude for their service.

Minutes

Roger Nicholls moved that the minutes of the November meeting be accepted as presented. Kate Atkinson seconded. Motion carried.

Snacks for 2015 Meetings

A signup sheet for volunteers for snacks during 2015 was circulated.

Diocesan Disaster Committee

Council welcomed the Rev. Curtis Metzger, Diocesan Disaster Coordinator and Emergency Preparedness and Relief Coordinator. Curtis will be leading a diocesan committee which also includes Concord Fire Chief Dan Andrus and Johanna Young. In the future, it is hoped that there will be one person from each convocation involved in the group. The purpose of this committee is to help parishes understand the roles involved in emergency preparedness, give them the opportunity to work with emergency responders, and help them to develop local plans. Curtis would appreciate knowing the names of people on the local level who might be interested in serving on such a committee. They will be developing a manual that could be made available to Convocations; Curtis is also available to speak at Convocation meetings. Also, an interactive map of resources will be produced and may be linked to the diocesan web page.

Diocesan Communications

Laura Simoes brought Council up to date with many aspects of diocesan communication. The new graphic is now available as a car decal. The website is a work-in-progress. If anyone has difficulty locating information, they are encouraged to use the "search" function or to email Laura. It is hoped that "outside" visitors to the website will feel welcome and be able to find what they are looking for. Diocesan presence on social media continues to expand. There are now about 500 followers on both Facebook and Twitter. There is also a diocesan Instagram account. Bishop Rob and Canon Hannah Anderson both have blogs (tendingthevine.org and thepurplefinch.org, respectively). There is also The Bulletin, a news blog. Diocesan eNews continues, although its appearance has changed. Emails will be shorter, but have links to information. People can sign up

for the emails at NHEpiscopalNews.org. Anyone can subscribe. To subscribe a large group, send an email to Laura Simoes or Lynn Eaton (leaton@nhepiscopal.org).

There will be some changes in the communication budget. The Episcopal Journal, which was mailed monthly to about 5300 people, will not appear as often. The wraparound NH Episcopal news was published six times a year at an annual cost of about \$4200. In 2015, ten copies of the Episcopal Journal will be supplied to each parish, with 30 more copies available at Diocesan House.

Convocation Leadership

Some convocations have recently elected new representatives to Council. Margaret requests that convocations let her know about any changes in leadership or representatives.

Finance Committee

At a previous Council meeting, members had expressed an interest in knowing more about diocesan committees and commissions. Chris Porter spoke about the Finance Committee, which consists of six or seven either lay or clergy delegates. Chris, as Treasurer of Convention, is an ex officio member. The Trustees also have an ex officio representative on the committee. Other members rotate. Half are appointed and half are elected at Convention.

Finance Officer Gloria Gallant and Canon Kevin Nichols, CFO, also work with the Finance Committee. In the spring, they bring a draft of the Diocesan Budget to the Committee. It then goes to the Diocesan Council and, from there, to the convocations for feedback. During this process, the budget may come back to the Finance Committee several times. After this slow process of continual input, it appears in the Pre-Convention Journal and is voted on at Convention. The Finance Committee is always interested in hearing what people want to emphasize, as the budget should reflect that focus. The Committee is also involved with Diocesan Advance Fund loan applications. After being reviewed by this committee, the applications are passed along to the Standing Committee for review and approval.

If Council members know of anyone who would be interested in serving on the Finance Committee, there are frequently open spots.

New Committees

Gloria Gallant reported on two new Diocesan committees: the Property Renewal Team and the Compensation and Benefits Team, Bonnie Chappell, Chair.

Mission Resources Committee

Margaret Porter and Sue Poulin reported that compliance with Fair Share continues to improve. Meetings regarding Fair Share Adjustment are held to allow local parishes to discuss their situations and be part of the process and the solution. It also allows the Finance Committee to get an idea of what the churches can realistically do. The deadline for Fair Share Adjustment applications will be in early February. Upcoming

meetings will be on Wednesday, February 11, at 6:00 p.m. and again on Saturday, February 14, at 9:00 a.m. at St. Andrew's Church in Hopkinton.

There is a rolling deadline for Mission Resources Grant applications. Churches submitting applications are asked to identify a specific focus for mission, explain what the grant would be used for, and share plans for becoming self-sustaining in the future.

Outreach Commission

Bill Exner submitted a written report noting the following recent outreach activities: (1) ongoing involvement with the people of Ondjiva, Angola, Africa; (2) planning for the use of a UTO grand designated for a Jonathan Daniels celebration, gun violence awareness, and death penalty abolition witness; (3) working with UCC, Quakers, Sisters of Mercy, and others to monitor activities of the legislature; (4) peaceful witness against the purchase of an armored vehicle for the Berlin Police Department. The Chair has been involved on a national level with the Episcopal Peace Fellowship and Committee 08 of General Convention which will be concerned with the situation in Palestine/Israel, gun violence, death penalty, and witness at the Cathedral in Salt Lake City during General Convention. Future priorities for the commission involve building the Outreach Leadership group, and working with Laura Simoes on integrating outreach resources and news on the new diocesan website.

A celebration of Jonathan Daniels will begin next month. St. James' Church in Keene is constructing a website that will list a series of events.

The Bishop reported that the Diocese has become involved in the Concord Coalition to End Homelessness. There has been publicity in the Concord Monitor. The main goal of the coalition is to obtain permanent housing for the needy.

Evangelism

A written report was submitted by the Evangelism Commission. A longer report will be available in February.

Trinity Tilton

The final service of Holy Eucharist at Trinity Tilton will be held on January 11. The Bishop will celebrate. On Sunday, February 4, at 4:00 p.m., there will be a service of Evensong to say farewell to the building. Although the "depurposing" of the building is sad for many of the parishioners, they are "incredibly grounded in reality." Conversations will continue regarding future plans. Somehow there will continue to be pastoral and liturgical presence in the region.

Announcements

The topic of this year's Trinity Institute offered by Trinity Wall Street will be "Creating the Common Good" and will focus on economic inequality. These presentations on January 23 and 24 will also be streamed to partner sites in the diocese: St. Paul's Concord, Wolfeboro, and St. James Keene. Individuals may also arrange to

participate in the program. There will be a joint Lenten program, "A Bevy of Bishops," presented by St. Paul's Church and Grace Church East Concord on five Wednesday evenings during Lent.

February Agenda

The February agenda will include more on evangelism, plus information regarding the Lay Leadership Institute to be held in May. Voting on staff housing will be done via email. The results will be included in the Council minutes.

Closing

Following devotions from *Daily Prayer for All Seasons*, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Twomey
Secretary