

Diocesan Council
April 17, 2008
The Church of Gethsemane, Minneapolis

Present: Gary Gleason, Secretary of Council

Region 1 Carole Johnson, Lynn Orville

Region 2 Terry Hoopman, Alice Olson

Region 3 John Husband

Region 4 Bill Gray, John Robertson

Region 5 Pat Dibble, Doug Sparks

Region 6 Martha Beckwith

Region 7 Doug Franzen, Rex McKee

Region 8 Gary Aamodt, Tom Eklo

Region 9 Stacy Abena, Andrew Waldo

Guests: Bronwyn Clark Skov, Canon Missioner; Wendy Johnson, Director of Communications; Jim Pavlik, Principal Financial Officer; Jeff Langaard, Assistant Financial Officer; Malcolm McDonald, Vice President of the Trustees; Susan Barksdale, Recorder; Phyllis Rowley, Nativity, Burnsville.

Executive Summary of April 17, 2008, meeting
(Details in body of minutes)

Diocesan Council:

Heard updates of activity in the regions of the diocese.
Heard an update of the Gethsemane Project from Aron Kramer and took a tour of the church building.
Heard an update from the Mission Strategy Network.
Heard a report from Wendy Johnson, new Director of Communications.
Heard an update on plans for the Bishop Search from Debbie Brown and Scott Crow of the Standing Committee.
Unanimously passed Resolution 2008-04, accepting an annuity gift of approximately \$37,000 from Mary Ann Carter, to be used toward the St. Barnabas Project for Homeless Youth.
Heard a report from Malcolm McDonald on recent work of the Trustees.

The meeting opened with Morning Prayer, led by Stacy Abena.

Thanks were given to Mike Noble, owner of the Normandy Inn, for providing free parking to Council members and guests.

REGION UPDATES

Region 1: Carole Johnson: There were no clergy at the last region meeting, and only a few elected delegates present. Carole found herself anxious, as “we’ve talked about regional strategy, but it seems that we never have people present to do that.”

Lynn Orville: St. Peter’s, Warroad, is “perking along”; Lisa White-Smith is on sabbatical; Doyle Turner had been elected Council clergy representative but was not able to serve, so Lynn is back on Council. Lynn is doing occasional supply work. She has also passed the two-year cancer point and has had three consecutive cancer-free CAT scans. She thanked Council for their prayers.

Region 2: Alice Olson: The congregation of St. Andrew’s by the Lake, Duluth, is still “displaced” at St. Edward’s during their building repairs; Terry Hoopman: Moose Lake had “a remarkable Good Friday and a wonderful Easter”; St. Paul’s, Duluth, has a new music director who will perform half her organ masters recital at St. Paul’s on April 17.

Region 3: John Husband: There has been a good spirit to the region meetings; the next one will be in

Bemidji for the Lay Leader Seminar; region members have been mutually supportive; St. Helen's, Wadena, had a labyrinth for Lent and Holy Week which was open to the community for three days a week during Lent and every day during Holy Week.

Region 4: Bill Gray: The region is doing well considering the small number of churches in a large geographical area; Total Ministry is reporting growth; Winnie Mitchell is the new priest at St. Martin's Fairmont; St. John's Mankato, is growing in budget and membership.

John Robertson: A "fairly decent communication" has been established among clerics in the region. "It is working well because we're having fights already."

Region 5: Pat Dibble: The focus is primarily on the good news exploring shared ministry of St. Luke's Rochester and St. Peter's Kasson; Justin Chapman, who will be ordained priest in July, will serve as curate and priest in charge under Doug Sparks

Region 6: Martha Beckwith: Paul Shaffer is the interim at Ascension, Stillwater; Several Region 6 members are serving on either the Bishop Search or Bishop Transitions Committees; there has been no participation from Trinity, Anoka, at the last several region meetings; The Commission on Ministry COM will meet April 28 in Region 2 for Spirit of the Lakes Total Ministry; the University Episcopal Center will probably now be known as the University Episcopal *Community*, even though its legal name is still legally University Episcopal Center; UEC will hold a centennial celebration on May 4.

Region 7: Rex McKee: The region met three times in 2008; at its last meeting members worked on "purpose and identity" from Mission Strategy; the region is committed to spending as much time possible on Goal 1 of the Mission Strategy plan; they are creating electronic groups and doing a lot of sharing of events.

Region 8: Gary Aamodt: The region is committing itself to meeting four to five times a year; it is meeting later in April to discuss worship styles.

Tom Eklo: Region 8 clergy are committed to meeting once a month; Theo Park is on sabbatical from St. James on the Parkway, Minneapolis.

Region 9: Andrew Waldo: Region 9 has decided to meet monthly to discuss each goal from the Bishop's Commission on Mission Strategy; they are unclear "where to funnel what all has come out"; three Region 9 churches are in transition: Nativity, Burnsville; St. David's, Minnetonka; and St. Edward's, Wayzata; more people are coming to regional meetings, although they have not seen Nativity for some time (Stacy noted that Nativity members have come to the lay leader meetings).

The agenda was approved unanimously.

The minutes of the March 13, 2008, meeting were approved unanimously.

GETHSEMANE PROJECT: ARON KRAMER

Aron distributed a chart of Gethsemane's financial situation from the last several years. He expressed relief and gratitude for the church's new boilers, noting that boiler rental cost had been \$1000 a week until they were installed. Aron's report concluded with a tour of the church, inside and out, including a visit to Sober Corps, which has an office in the building.

MISSION STRATEGY NETWORK: JIM HUBER, BRONWYN CLARK SKOV

Jim distributed and read material from the Mission Strategy Network (MSN). He noted that not all entities are represented yet in this group, but work is still in process to round out its membership. Rex McKee is the Council representative. Although the start had been slow, Jim said that the group is moving into “much more hope-filled stuff.” “Things are happening all over the diocese in hope and renewal,” he added. “Please send them to us!”

Bronwyn Skov reported that she had done the first coordinating meeting this past week with diocesan staff. She noted that there are “two trains on parallel tracks, and we have to have just one without stopping either.” The Bishop and the bishop’s staff have significant responsibilities for many things on a daily basis as well as that which is legally or canonically mandated to do.

Lynn Orville expressed concern about receiving late notice of meetings. There was extensive other discussion on alternative and electronic ways to meet. John Robertson noted that there needs to be something of substance to move toward Goal One. It was noted that we in the diocese are in the midst of spiritual transformation and discipleship and are getting ready to welcome a new bishop.

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS: WENDY JOHNSON

A Communications Summit in January 2008 noted the need to have staff, including a communications director, and a plan to insure that communication work is not just reactive. Wendy is working on getting feedback before doing a communication plan. This plan will be designed to dovetail with development.

Wendy spoke of the newest form of the Internet, Web 2.0. She noted that in its work of establishing networks, the Mission Strategy Network is also talking of this, perhaps without knowing it. Andrew Waldo spoke of a CREDO video he had seen called “Shift Happens” and its sense in which communication becomes more relational but leaves some people behind. Wendy answered that no one need be left behind, as everyone knows somebody who is connected and each one can keep track. Churches, for example, know who can’t get to church on Sunday morning. She added that structures don’t move as fast as the Internet does. The world has changed and is decentralized now. The Church understands well how we live in community but it wants to be personal. In addition, leadership does not equal authority. How do we moderate without being censors, and how do we grant the new bishop the authority? Doug Sparks also spoke of being intentional in designing communication hubs in the diocese.

LUNCH

COUNCIL RETREAT

The summer Council Retreat will be Wednesday and Thursday, June 4-5, at St. John the Evangelist in St. Paul. The retreat will begin at 3 pm on Wednesday with a meeting with Sarah Strickland regarding the mutual ministry review with Council and Gethsemane. Dinner will be at the Jelineks’ home that evening, and there will be an all-day business meeting on Thursday. Hotel information will be available for those needing overnight accommodation.

STANDING COMMITTEE: DEBBIE BROWN AND SCOTT CROW

Debbie began with some background information. As the 2007 Diocesan Convention decided against calling a Bishop Coadjutor, the Standing Committee has changed its focus to the calling of a Bishop Diocesan. The committee received a letter from Bishop Jelinek in January, stating his intention to resign in 2010 on the date of the consecration of the next bishop. This was the starting point for The Standing Committee to begin the process leading to the election of the Ninth Bishop. The Standing Committee has given a budget presentation to Council and the Trustees. Paul Nancarrow has written a theological statement, and the Liturgy and Music Commission has prepared a prayer. These materials, along with committee descriptions and applications, were posted on the diocesan Web site (www.episcopalmn.org).

Debbie thanked Susan Barksdale for her help with this process and added “huge thanks” to Devon Anderson and Lydia Brown of the Liturgy and Music Commission.

The Standing Committee has asked the Rev. Ron Clingenpeel, dean of Christ Church Cathedral in St. Louis, to be the search consultant. The committee has formed two new committees: a Search Committee and a Transition Committee so that the diocese would be widely represented from border to border. Each new committee includes one person elected from each of the nine regions, plus nine other appointees selected from applications received. Rosters of both committees are posted on the diocesan Web site.

A commissioning retreat will be held April 19 for the Standing Committee, the Search Committee, and the Transition Committee. Consultant Ron Clingenpeel will also be present. Debbie offered thanks to St. Edward’s, Wayzata, for hosting this retreat. The Search Committee will begin its work after the April 19 retreat. The Transition Committee will probably start its work around September 2009.

Another role of the Standing Committee is to offer support to diocesan staff over the next few months. In order to keep boundaries separate, staff from Episcopal Homes will provide administrative support as needed during the search process. A compensation package must be put together as well. This will probably be completed in the spring of 2009. The Standing Committee continues its willingness to explain the search process to groups who wish more information.

In answer to a question, Debbie said that calling for nominee suggestions is the job of the Search Committee. Information will be provided to the diocese at the appropriate time. Debbie, Scott, and the Standing Committee were thanked with applause.

FINANCE: JEFF LANGAARD

Jeff presented this report as Jim Pavlik’s sabbatical begins in May.

The First Stop Committee’s work is nearly completed for the year. Although 28 congregations are presently in arrears, 19 of these are just one payment behind. Jeff forecasts a balanced budget by the end of the year.

Stacy Abena stated that people wanted to clarify discussion from the March meeting on distribution of salary and benefit information. She took this matter to the Finance Committee, which has made a commitment to highlight this information as a part of the reporting whenever any numbers change. To preserve privacy, the committee will make that information a tab on the finance report. Jim Pavlik noted that there is no change in numbers, but there is a title change from Chaplain (in Rochester) to Hospital Visitation Coordinator. He added that a note can be made on the tab itself when there are any changes.

Resolution 2008-04 (attached) dealt with an annuity gift of approximately \$37,000 from Mary Ann Carter, which was left to the diocese to be used toward the St. Barnabas Project for Homeless Youth. A formal resolution accepting this gift was needed, The resolution was moved and seconded; passed unanimously.

A list was distributed of endowment funds along with their descriptions and restrictions, plus the fund activity through 2007. In answer to a question from Andrew Waldo on funds showing no distribution, Jim Pavlik said that some have very particular restrictions, and that some years no one applies for them. Lynn Orrville asked about re-designation of funds for Gilfillan Center in light of its closing. Jim also confirmed that the Harrington Fund is being used for expenses of the bishop search in 2008

Unless noted, all these funds reside in the Pooled Investment Fund. Jim noted that there is not a simple way to show information on funds, restricted or not, as the diocese and trustees are two separate corporate entities. In answer to a question from Doug Sparks, Jim said that decisions on disbursements are made by whichever decision-making body has control of funds or whatever body handles that area. In some cases, decisions are split in a specific manner.

Andrew Waldo said he was going to put the fund information into a spreadsheet

REPORT FROM CANON MISSIONER: BRONWYN CLARK SKOV

Bronwyn opened with the same prayer she has used in her Lay Leader Seminar sessions, to “show this is not just a business.” She is offering a second round this year, but expanding it to include other church leaders and is calling it Lay Leader Seminars. These events are happening around the diocese in April. Every congregation that attends will receive a vestry resource guide. One guide will also be mailed to congregations that do not attend the seminars.

Bronwyn gave an overview of the seminar and breakout sessions. She noted that it is a good thing that some regions are combining the seminars with their region meetings. Regions 1 and 5 are doubling up with Safe Church sessions.

Bronwyn explained the province system of the Episcopal Church (Minnesota is in Province 6). She is the Province 6 youth coordinator. This is the year for the national Episcopal Youth Event (EYE), which will be held July 8-13 in San Antonio, Texas. There are already seven young Minnesotans planning to attend, including several from Holy Apostles, St. Paul, and two from All Saints Indian Mission in Minneapolis. Bronwyn said she would love to fill the rest of the roster. In addition to Bronwyn, adults traveling with the group include Mindy Boynton from Ascension, Stillwater, Director of Indian Work Robert Two Bulls (who will also do workshops at the event), and Letha Wilson-Barnard of Holy Apostles, St. Paul. Other Minnesotans involved are Joren Skov (Bronwyn’s son) and Zibby Allen of Northfield (Gary Gleason’s niece), who are both on the design team. Rachel Quednau of St. Mark’s Cathedral is on the media team.

REPORT FROM THE TRUSTEES: MALCOLM McDONALD

Malcolm began on a personal note, saying that his wife is making great progress on the Whipple book to be published by Afton Press. A new book, called *To Be Free*, is now in preparation.

There are nine Trustees, with three elected or re-elected each year. They meet monthly in one form or another, either as the entire group or in committees. The Trustees are intent on working with Council on finances so that all are in agreement and comfortable with each other.

Recent highlights:

The Trustees have sold the Pipestone church property. Money from that sale goes back to reimburse accounts, so very little will be left over.

The Trustees have agreed to sell the St. Edward’s, Duluth, building.

Attempts are being made to sell the church in Hutchinson. However, when the property was given to the diocese, a clause was included which said that if it was to be used for anything other than an Episcopal church, it would revert to the family. The Trustees are now searching for family members.

St. Thomas, Minneapolis, and St. Philip's, St. Paul, are merging their congregations. They plan to sell their buildings and buy a new one.

Work is ongoing with Episcopal Community Services (ECS) on managing Cass Lake Episcopal Camp. Some buildings there need work, and a waterfront always raises liability issues. As neither the Trustees nor ECS have the money to deal with these issues now, the Trustees have voted to close the use of the camp for this year only.

The Trustees are working with ECS on moving down one floor at 1730 Clifton Place so that the building's first floor can be rented out.

The Trustees are working to increase their involvement with Robert Two Bulls in regard to Native American property and issues.

There was a good update on the University Episcopal Center (UEC). Consultant Sarah Harris was successful in removing a tax assessment that the city of Minneapolis had attempted to levy on the property. The UEC has now moved out and leased its former quarters to the University of Minnesota to use for international students.

Malcolm distributed the Trustees' financial summary, noting that the Trustees want to help all to understand which funds the Trustees may make decisions on. The Pooled Investment Fund is the only source of income the Trustees have now. Council members can help by urging their congregations to invest in the fund. Forty-six of the Pooled Investment Fund's 159 funds are owned by the diocese and the trustees; funds from churches and other entities make up the rest. Last year's returns were 14.9%, which is a very good performance record.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Gleason
Secretary of Council

Susan Barksdale, recorder

**RESOLUTION OF THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL
OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MINNESOTA**

Mary Ann Carter Annuity Gift

WHEREAS, The Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota (the “Diocese”) has been named as beneficiary under Annuity Account 9106597 that Mary Ann Carter held with MetLife Insurance Company of Connecticut (“MetLife”) (formerly Traveler’s Insurance Company) with said funds to be used toward the St. Barnabas Project for Homeless Youth; and

WHEREAS, at the time of establishing the Annuity Account, Mary Ann Carter provided instructions that upon her death the funds were to be disbursed to the Diocese with said funds to be first applied to offset any outstanding balance of the St. Barnabas bridge loan with the remainder to be used for the purpose of assisting residents of the St. Barnabas residents, preferably for practical life skills education; and

WHEREAS, MetLife has notified the Diocese that Mary Ann Carter died on March 8, 2008 and the annuity valued at approximately \$37,000.00 would be disbursed to the Diocese upon MetLife’s receipt of an Annuity Claim Form and a corporate resolution authorizing acceptance of the annuity funds; and

WHEREAS, the Finance/Audit Committee has made a recommendation to Diocesan Council for the Diocese to accept the annuity funds with the understanding that upon distribution of the funds, the funds will be transferred to the Trustees of the Diocese of Minnesota, Incorporated as required under the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Minnesota and to be held for their designated purpose.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Finance/Audit Committee, Diocesan Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota agrees to accept disbursement of funds from Annuity Account 9106597 established by Mary Ann Carter with MetLife Insurance and upon receipt of said funds authorizes transfer of the funds to the Trustees of the Diocese of Minnesota, Incorporated to be held by the Trustees for the purpose of assisting residents of the St. Barnabas Project for Homeless Youth.

Date: _____
Secretary

April 4, 2008