

**Diocesan Council**  
**December 7, 2006**  
**St. Mark's Cathedral, Minneapolis**

**Present:** Gary Gleason, Secretary of Council

*(Bishop Jelinek was in New York City, doing work for the Episcopal Church on provincial leadership.)*

**Region 1:** Carole Johnson, Lynne Orville

**Region 2:** Alice Olson

**Region 3:** Maren Kay Welsand, Randy Welsand

**Region 4:** Dottie Whipple, Paul Rider

**Region 5:** Pat Dibble, Doug Sparks

**Region 6:** Rosemary Sobalvarro, Mark Kelm

**Region 7:** Doug Rude, Frank Wilson

**Region 8:** Gary Aamodt, Rex McKee

**Region 9:** Stacy Abena, Andrew Waldo

**Guests:** Jim Pavlik, Principal Financial Officer; Karen Olson, Executive Administrator;

Jeff Langaard, Assistant Financial Officer; Susan Barksdale, Recorder

**Afternoon guests:** Joe Bjordal, Gordon Thomas, Diana Rogers

**Executive Summary of December 7, 2006, meeting**

*(Details in body of minutes)*

**Diocesan Council:**

Heard a report from the Development Committee
Received updates on various business before the Trustees of the Diocese
Unanimously passed Resolution 2006-07, approving housing allowances for diocesan employees who are clergy
Had a partial check-in on "where God is at work" in their regions
Had an initial conversation with representatives of the Millennium Development Goals Task Force
Discussed the draft of a Theological Position Paper on Mission from the Theology Action Team of the Bishop's Commission on Mission Strategy

The opening meditation was a discussion of Luke 3: 1-6: John the Baptist as a voice crying in the wilderness.

The September 21, 2006, minutes of both the joint meeting and the separate Council meeting were approved unanimously. Gary Aamodt asked about the statement, noted in those minutes, that was to be prepared by John Newton of the Church of the Messiah in St. Paul. Gary Gleason answered that the statement had been read at the Fall Clergy Conference, and is now posted on the diocesan Web site.

**STEERING COMMITTEE: STACY ABENA**

Members of new Steering Committee are Doug Sparks, Pat Dibble, Lynn Orville, Stacy Abena, and Gary Gleason. The group has met and discussed its role. It can function as an executive committee between Council meetings, but can also try to look ahead and forecast Council's time together, by planning agendas and other matters.

**FIRST STOP COMMITTEE: STACY ABENA**

The committee met on December 5 with members of Nativity, Burnsville, regarding that congregation's letter asking for substantial loan forgiveness. No conclusions were reached, but there was much good discussion.

### **STRUCTURE AND ORGANIZATION: GARY GLEASON**

Council meets next on February 15, 2007. This will be another joint meeting with the Trustees and the Standing Committee, as requested by the Bishop's Commission on Mission Strategy (BCMS). Discussion on this joint meeting began almost immediately after the last joint meeting in September 2006.

Gary noted that BCMS is a committee of Council working on a specific task, rather than another level of bureaucracy. This is similar to how a search committee functions in a parish, as a committee of the vestry. Gary added that much of the commission's work will help when the diocese begins to search for the ninth Bishop of Minnesota in 2008.

Regions 3, 6, and 9 are due for Council elections in 2007. Bishop Jelinek has asked those regions to hold their elections in January instead of February so that those new members can attend the pivotal February 15 meeting along with those who may be finishing their terms.

### **DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: DOUG SPARKS**

Doug Sparks quoted from a September 2006 resolution, noting that the new Development Committee had been formed in response to a gift given in spring of 2006 "to the Bishop for his specific designated use." Bishop Jelinek has chosen to use the gift for development of a Development Department and Development Officer. The new committee is charged with working with a consultant to develop a plan for fundraising in the Diocese of Minnesota, which will be directed by people within the diocese. To that end, the committee includes representatives from the Bishop's Commission on Mission Strategy, the Trustees, Standing Committee and Diocesan Council.

The Development Committee first met in November. Its members are Judith Goff, Jim Huber, Gailen Krug, Chris Mayr, Terry Roberts, Katherine Sedwick, and Doug Sparks. Bishop Jelinek has charged the group with creating a culture of philanthropy in the diocese that welcomes and embraces development.

The committee will coordinate all work within the elected bodies of the diocese, educate Episcopalians on the need for increasing endowments, and work with an outside consultant until a staff person is hired for development. The committee's main goal is to assist in establishing a development department for the diocese no later than December 1, 2009.

It plans to meet every two months until that time, and to work directly with the Bishop's staff and development consultant Don Taylor, who is Vice President of Development at Courage Center. At its first meeting, the committee spent time looking at various stakeholders within the diocese. It will make the minutes of that meeting available at some time to Council. The committee meets next on January 29.

### **TRUSTEES: MALCOLM McDONALD**

**1730 Clifton Place:** The current purchase agreement has been extended to March 3, 2007 to accommodate completion of certain aspects of the transaction. The Episcopal Center will most likely remain at 1730 Clifton for at least through next year (2007). If a closing should happen during that time, a number of steps must still take place, and a designated period of notice must be given. A suitable relocation space for the offices will then be identified.

**University Episcopal Center (UEC):** The property tax issue with the City of Minneapolis has been resolved, thanks to the assistance of consultant Sarah Harris, and the UEC does not have to pay the tax. Money that has been paid will be returned, perhaps with interest.

At a recent Trustee retreat, it was noted that having Stacy Abena at the Trustees' meetings as the liaison to Diocesan Council and having joint meetings are helpful in building the relationship between Council

and Trustees.

**The Pooled Investment Fund** return through September 2006 was nearly 13%, with equity up a possible 14.3%. If any congregations have money to invest, the Trustees will be happy to speak with them.

**Episcopal Community Services (ECS)** now has a Family Resource Center at 1730 Clifton. This center was formerly located at St. Mark's Cathedral. ECS is concerned at how long they will be able to remain at 1730. Malcolm noted that the Trustees wanted to be sure that the various Episcopal entities stay together, and that all contribute fairly.

#### **FINANCIAL REPORTS: JIM AND JEFF**

Last year (2005) there was a \$50,000 deficit, which was carried forward to this year. Staff members have been asked to help keep expenses down to help make up the deficit. Expenses for 2006 have been held to substantially below budget to offset the prior year deficit. Savings in certain expense categories will be applied against overages in other expense categories, as needed. Jim Pavlik's best estimate is that total revenues can still be collected and total expenses are expected to be \$10,000 less, so he anticipates being in a balanced budget situation and making up the deficit by year's end.

Some **Apportionment for the Common Good (ACG)** deficits are timing issues. Some ground was made up in November. Matters raised in discussion included a request to know who did not receive a requested reduction yet still withheld full ACG, a request from one clericus requiring accountability for churches not paying ACG, what accountability measures are in place, and a wish to know how many congregations may be withholding ACG in protest.

Jeff Langaard noted that any unpaid ACG at year's end is now being converted into a note that congregations must repay, which is a policy already in effect. Diocesan Canons state it is an option to deny lay delegates vote at Convention if their congregation has not paid its ACG, but this must be an action by Convention.

Andrew Waldo asked if there has been any planning on funds for the **Bishop Coadjutor search**. Gary answered that this matter has come up, but that auditors don't look favorably on setting money aside each year for future expenses. Jim Pavlik stated that an approved method to do this has been devised, using a separate fund. Although attempts have been made to start an "Episcopal Transition" fund, that fund has had to be removed each time in order to balance the budget.

Doug Sparks noted that in the financial statement, there is no such a thing as a **Mayo Episcopal Chaplain**. When Marty Pfab worked for the Mayo Clinic, he was on the Mayo staff. That line in the budget should be for the Episcopal Visitation Coordinator's position.

**Resolution 2007-07 (attached) is a resolution required by the Internal Revenue Service each year, allocating clergy housing allowances; passed unanimously.** It was noted that all parishes are required to pass similar resolutions.

**LUNCH**

## **DIOCESAN CONVENTION**

Gary reported that the October 2006 Convention came in under budget. Paul Rider expressed his appreciation for the diligence that kept the costs below the budgeted amount.

## **CHECK-IN BY REGIONS**

Representatives were asked to report on where God is at work in their regions.

## **MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDG): DEVON ANDERSON AND JAN DOUGHERTY**

A Millennium Goals Task Force of about eight members meets regularly and has professional help from Rex McKee and Joe Bjordal. Its most recent meeting was December 8. The group understands Council's responsibility for the disbursement of MDG funds, and it wants to have a discussion and offer itself as a resource for ideas and details for use of this money. Representatives are willing to return at a future Council meeting for further discussion.

"This is your initiative," Devon stated. Rex noted that the task force clearly wants every congregation and individual to commit to the goal of dedicating .7% to the MDG. Paul Rider reported that St. John's, Mankato, is committing .7% in 2007 and is urging all its members to do the same. Andrew Waldo said that his congregation was getting excited about this effort, and it would be good to learn which congregations are committing their .7%; diocesan seed money could possibly be paired with those funds. Congregations and the diocese could even "marry up" to national efforts.

Several other Council members reported on the excitement in their own congregations about becoming engaged with the MDG. The beauty of this, Devon said, is that it is from the bottom up and relies on individual congregations. "It breaks down in ways we can focus." The task force intends to package its MDG presentation and send it out at the beginning of 2007. It will also send e-mail to all Convention delegates.

## **BISHOP'S COMMISSION ON MISSION STRATEGY: DANIEL PEARSON AND DWIGHT ZSCHEILE**

In November 2006, the Theology Action Team of the commission prepared a Theological Position Paper on Mission, and had distributed it prior to the Council meeting. Daniel and Dwight had come to receive Council's response to the paper, which was described in its preface as an effort to encourage theological conversation throughout the diocese. The diocese is engaging in a project of renewal, the preface stated, and has been getting in touch with its history — "both our accomplishments and disappointments" — through fact finding and study "By entering into theological conversation and reflecting on Holy Scripture," the preface continued, "we seek clarity about our 'position' and identity, both of which are important aspects of missional work."

Following a PowerPoint presentation on the work of the commission, Council members were asked for their reactions to the position paper, with the reminder that it is still in draft form. Concerns were raised about the language (some saw it as theological "jargon"), the absence of deacons and lay people on the committee, and the short time frame for discussion in congregations before the next work of the commission must begin in order to be completed before the October 2007 Diocesan Convention. Some felt that leaders in each congregation could be found to help with conversation. A number enjoyed the paper and the issues it raised, such as the need to develop a "mission understanding" here at home. Several hoped that a final form could be ready for Lenten study, thus allowing time in the summer for further consideration. It was noted that the paper provides a context for why the mission strategy work is being done, that ours is a "missionary God" and not one of maintenance or of an exclusive club. It was recommended that the Bishop Coadjutor search committee study this paper before beginning its work.

Daniel and Dwight received and replied to the comments, again noting that this is still a draft version. They had also given this presentation at a recent metro clericus, and are taking all the comments under advisement. They hope to test a study guide during Lent, and also asked for recommendations of lay people to serve at this stage of involvement of the paper.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm with Eucharist, celebrated by Mark Kelm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Gleason  
Secretary of Council

Susan Barksdale, recorder