

Diocesan Council
March 15, 2007
St. Mark's Cathedral, Minneapolis

Present: Gary Gleason, Secretary of Council

Region 1: Carole Johnson, Lynn Orville

Region 2: Susan Dusek, Alice Olson

Region 3: Maren Kay Welsand

Region 4: Paul Rider

Region 5: Pat Dibble, Doug Sparks

Region 6: Margaret Beckwith, Jerry Doherty

Region 7: Doug Rude, LeeAnne Watkins

Region 8: Gary Aamodt, Rex McKee

Region 9: Andrew Waldo, Stacy Abena

Guests: Jim Pavlik, Principal Financial Officer; Karen Olson, Executive Administrator; Joe Bjordal, Acting Communications Director; Susan Barksdale, Recorder

The agenda was accepted unanimously with one addition.

The February 15, 2007, minutes were approved unanimously.

Executive Summary of February 15, 2007, meeting
(Details in body of minutes)

Diocesan Council:

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| Defeated, with one abstention, Resolution 2007-01, recommending that the \$38,000 currently designated in the 2007 Budget as grant funds under the Department of Congregational Development be designated instead for the Bishop's Transition fund. |
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| Unanimously defeated Resolution 2007-02, recommending that any budget surplus from 2006 (approximately \$22,000) be designated to supplement the \$50,000 currently budgeted for 2007 Diocesan Convention. |
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| Unanimously passed a resolution to establish a working group to articulate a particular mission for Cass Lake Episcopal Camp |
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The meeting was chaired by Stacy Abena, First Vice President of Council.

A sample handout was distributed of a new bulletin insert from the national church newspaper: *Episcopal Life This Week*. This is available free online.

BISHOP'S REPORT: GIVEN IN THE BISHOP'S ABSENCE BY GARY GLEASON

Bishop Jelinek reported that his recent trip to South Africa was wonderful. He is now preparing to leave for the House of Bishops.

Former Bishop Suffragan Sandy Hampton fell last week and broke his ankle and has been receiving care at a facility in Anacortes, WA..

Call for Candidates: Council members have a major role in helping to secure candidates for elections at Diocesan Convention. Such help can make the work of the nomination committee much easier.

Vestry 101: About 110 have attended the various “Vestry 101” events, representing 33 congregations. A session for Region 9 will be added on March 29.

LeeAnne Watkins noted that the General Convention 2006 deputation of the diocese will meet next week to prepare a statement regarding the future of the Anglican Communion, and asked for input from Council. Gary noted that a deputation serves until the election of a new one, now scheduled for Diocesan Convention 2007.

STEERING COMMITTEE: PAT DIBBLE

The Steering Committee has discussed the need to work on structure, the decision-making process, and the overall dynamics of Council. The committee is trying to build a more positive community. It is important that each region have a voice at each meeting, and there is a need for clarification of how alternates attend Council; the committee will be discuss this matter further. Stacy reminded all that Council meetings are open unless an executive session is called.

GUIDELINES FOR COUNCIL MEETINGS: STACY ABENA

Stacy reviewed the guidelines and added a few explanations. She reminded members that each region’s Diocesan Convention delegates should be elected for three-year terms in the same years that they hold their Council elections. A few suggestions were offered for additions to the guidelines.

FINANCE: JIM PAVLIK

The financial reports were abbreviated this time, as the Finance Department was still finishing up 2006 and inputting the 2007 budget numbers into the system. Expenses were reported to be on or below budget in each category.

The January ACG amounts collected are significantly larger than those collected during this month in past years, and they include some payments of pre 2006 ACG amounts as well.

Resolution 2007-01, from the Diocesan Finance/Audit Committee, recommended that \$38,000 currently designated in the 2007 Budget as grant funds under the Department of Congregational Development, and that these funds be designated instead for the Bishop’s Transition fund.

Jim stated that this resolution was discussed and debated thoroughly by the committee; which noted that the diocese will need to budget for a bishop search and transition. As BCMS work is still in process, using this money for grants may not be best use of funds at this time; if divided among mission priority areas, none would get a significant amount and there is not a process in place to determine how grants would be made.

A discussion followed in which Council members voiced a number of concerns, including the fact that some congregations and regions are not waiting for BCMS but are already proceeding with plans for mission and ministry projects and were hoping to apply for grants, worries about diverting money from mission and ministry to support structure, and the difficulty that mission priority funds had had to be cut but that there will be the need for monies in a few years for a bishop search and the salaries of two bishops for a time.

Stacy noted that she was hearing a need to send the resolution back to Finance/Audit and have it brought back in May, and suggested that Council vote on the resolution so that Finance would know that it needed further clarification. **The resolution was defeated with no Ayes, one abstention, and the rest Nay votes.**

Resolution 2007-02, also from the Diocesan Finance/Audit Committee, recommended that any budget surplus from 2006 (currently at approximately \$22,000) be designated to supplement the \$50,000 currently budgeted for 2007 Diocesan Convention.

Jim Pavlik noted that in recommending a use for this surplus, the Finance/Audit Committee looked for areas within the budget for places that may incur additional expenses. One area was the Diocesan Convention. Metro area conventions are always more expensive, and the last St. Paul convention went considerably over budget. Several Council members spoke against the resolution, noting that the Convention budget be examined instead and that perhaps the diocese could scale down the “bigness” of Convention. **The resolution was defeated unanimously.**

LUNCH

“GOD IN THE REGIONS”

Council representatives shared the following news on happenings in their regions.

Region 1: The new Regional Dean is the Rev. Carol “Coke” Smith; the Rev. John Rock was in a serious automobile accident in Duluth, but is now out of intensive care; there is concern and talk in the region about Cass Lake Episcopal Camp; the Rev. Lynn Orville has resigned from St. Bartholomew’s, Bemidji.

Region 2: In February there was a lot of discussion on socially responsible spending and the Theology paper from the Bishop’s Commission for Mission Strategy; Laura Amendola of St. Paul’s, Duluth, recently went to Africa with Bishop Jelinek and others, and it is hoped she will speak around the region about her experiences there; St. Andrew’s by the Lake, Duluth, is nearing its centennial; St. Paul’s, Duluth will host Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) this weekend; the new St. Enmegahbowh congregation in the former St. Edward’s, Duluth, building is doing well.

Region 3: The region’s regular meeting had to be rescheduled; there was a joint Evensong in Sauk Centre and a similar one in Paynesville; there is a new priest at St. John’s, St. Cloud.

Region 4: The churches in this region are quite disparate in terms of distance; the region’s two Total Ministry teams in Luverne and Marshall are doing well; the region is looking forward to its July gathering in Faribault with Region 5.

Region 5: Region 5 meeting minutes were distributed, along with a proposed 2007 budget for the establishment of the Migrant Ministry in Montgomery as a specialized mission called San José Obrero (St. Joseph the Worker); there are beginnings of a cooperative initiative between St. Luke’s, Rochester, and St. Peter’s, Kasson; there is a southern youth this Saturday (March 17) in Austin, and all regional churches are participating; there will be a gathering in Faribault in July with Region 4.

Region 6: Region 6 met on January 29, and the Rev. Neysa Ellgren was elected the new Regional Dean.

Region 7: There are many churches close together in much of the region, but some are small, so the region wants to cooperate in youth and outreach efforts; people also want to get together more often as a region.

Region 8: Robert Two Bulls is doing much as vicar of All Saints, Minneapolis — the mission is now publishing a newsletter and is looking to do soup kitchen work; Louie Crew, a nationally-known Episcopal figure, is coming to speak at the Department of Indian Work; the Rev. Devon Anderson is leaving St. John the Baptist, Minneapolis, in April; the Rev. Penny Warren is leaving St. Paul's, Minneapolis, sometime in May; the region has discussed the Primates' Letter.

Region 9

Neil Willard has accepted a call as the new rector at St. Stephen's, Edina; Jim Cook has left St. David's, Minnetonka, for his new ministry in Florida.

TRUSTEES: MALCOLM MCDONALD

1730 Clifton Place: The Trustees have extended the opportunity to the building's prospective purchaser Dan Hunt in return for payment.

There are a number of **real estate matters** than will be taken up at the next Trustee meeting. These will include some prospective sales of properties that can't sustain themselves and so will be sold rather than continuing the drain on expenses.

The Loan Committee is working with the First Stop Committee, which is fulfilling the purpose for which it was designed.

Investments have done well, with 13.17% growth for last year. This is a good "pitching" opportunity to congregations to participate in the Pooled Investment Fund.

BCMS UPDATE: JIM HUBER

The Bishop's Commission on Mission Strategy (BCMS) was created by a resolution of Council and by the bishop, so it is important for a representative to come and report on its work. The Commission began as a Metro mission strategy group, but then all felt the work should be diocesan-wide, so it was expanded.

The group is making progress, Jim noted. In Region 5 it is moving to having meetings with individual congregations, and hopes to extend these to Regions 1, 2, and 4.

BCMS is planning a convocation on May 5 at St. John's, St. Cloud, and will need some scenarios by then, even though it may not yet be "up to speed" in greater Minnesota. Jim stressed the importance of bringing people together at that time. The Commission will then have all summer and part of the fall to formulate something to bring to Diocesan Convention.

After a short discussion, it was requested that time be allowed for more BCMS discussion at Council's May retreat.

CASS LAKE EPISCOPAL CAMP (CLEC): FRANK VARDEMAN

Frank Vardeman is Executive Director of Episcopal Community Services (ECS), which has assumed management of the camp. For a variety of reasons, the Diocese of Minnesota found it difficult to administer the camp from the Metro area. In the summer of 2006, Bishop Jelinek asked ECS to take oversight of managing CLEC. The camp is 15 miles from the ECS facility in Bemidji, which has a large maintenance crew that can help at the camp as well. Frank noted that ECS would try this arrangement for one year.

ECS is willing to provide light maintenance, check the camp over the winter, and keep the camp licensed. It is also running a “sober camp” there in summer. Although 2007 will be the fifth summer without a diocesan program at CLEC, individual congregations do rent the facility for their own events.

Frank noted that there are issues about mission and responsibility. It is a documented fact, he said, that a major factor in many clergy calls is camp experience. He stated that ECS cannot provide programming for the diocese, adding that if the diocese wants programming, ECS has a program committee that people can work with. In the summer of 2007, there will probably be a chance for youth to interact with Native youth at CLEC.

Frank Vardeman stated that ECS has been working with the Real Estate committee of the Trustees. “We realized we are really talking about mission,” he said, “and the mission of diocese belongs here.” He added that it is a little out of the ECS mission to run a camp and conference center, but ECS can help with maintenance and similar matters. “We want to be involved, but it is not our role to run the camp as a mission of the diocese.”

Doug Sparks moved that a working group be established with a representative from Council in relationship with the Trustees and the ECS Board to articulate a particular mission for CLEC; passed unanimously. This matter will be referred to the Steering Committee.

CHURCH OF GETHSEMANE: ARON KRAMER AND LOU SCHOEN

There has been significant growth at Gethsemane; membership was up to more than 200 in 2006 (from 192 in 2005). Two members were sent to St. Bartholomew’s church growth conference in New York City. The pews on one side of the nave have been removed to allow for children’s activities. Pledge income has increased. The stewardship committee is broadening its focus to gifts discernment, and is working on stewardship all year. Total revenue in 2006 increased by 18%. The church gym is well-used and is generating some income. Deacon Sandy Obarski is coordinating justice and outreach ministry. Gethsemane has established a relationship with Youthlink, which has used Gethsemane’s great hall and labyrinth. There are now monthly concerts at Gethsemane in conjunction with Augustana Lutheran Church.

Although the congregation is pleased about its growing numbers, the leadership realizes that it has some catch-up work to do in some areas of strategic planning. The planned rental income has not happened because the diocese did not need the office space, per the original plan. The money that is coming in now from the diocese’s Gethsemane Plan will not be there forever, some of plan may have to be reworked A group has been gathered to talk about staffing for growth, although nothing more can happen until there is more revenue. The group is excited and passionate about looking at this plan. There are currently two fulltime equivalents at Gethsemane.

As part of the ensuing discussion, Doug Sparks encouraged assistance in the revisioning process, noting that there are lay and ordained colleagues who would be very willing to meet Gethsemane on this matter.

UNIVERSITY EPISCOPAL CENTER (UEC): PAUL ALLICK AND JIM JACOBSEN

Paul is the UEC chaplain and Jim is president of the Board of Directors.

The campus ministry at the University of Minnesota's Minneapolis campus is now 92 years old. Jim noted that his first encounter with UEC was nearly 55 years ago, when he was a freshman, and the facility was known as St. Timothy House.

UEC does not own the new building that opened in 2003, only the land. It rents space on the first floor. The upper floors are university housing. Currently two of the UEC's first-floor apartments, as well as its meditation space, and being rented out to the university for office space. This rental income pays the mortgage but not the staff. The contracts of the chaplain and the administrator expire at the end of May 2007. With the help of the Trustees, UEC hopes to be relieved of the space in a building it cannot afford.

"The shape of our ministry will be predicated not by where we are but what we do," Jim Jacobsen said. UEC has reached out to nearby congregations. Gethsemane, Minneapolis, is the only one that has responded, and UEC has a regular Eucharist with college students and Gethsemane young adults. The UEC peer ministers are being trained in Gospel-based discipleship so they can possibly start cell groups. "Flyers don't attract, but relationships do."

Paul Allick noted that the UEC Board would still be there following his departure, and that UEC is thinking of hiring a part-time coordinator. Jim Jacobsen added that some new site possibilities are still under negotiation.

Jim Jacobsen added his concern about the slipping away of campus ministry. At the University of Minnesota's Twin Cities campus, for example, only four ministries remain: Episcopalian, Lutheran, Baptist, and Jewish. "This age group is both profound and vulnerable," he said; "if the Church doesn't offer them anything realistic, they'll find something else."

In conclusion, Paul Allick stated that the UEC's future would work if people step forward to do the work.

The business meeting was adjourned at 2:50 pm. A Eucharist followed, celebrated by Paul Allick.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Gleason
Secretary of Council

Susan Barksdale, recorder