

Diocesan Council
July 26, 2007
St. Mark's Cathedral, Minneapolis

Present: Bishop Jelinek; Gary Gleason, Secretary of Council

Region 1	Carole Johnson, Lynn Orrville	Region 6	Martha Beckwith, Jerry Doherty
Region 2	Susan Dusek, Margaret Thomas	Region 7	Roxie Markie, LeeAnne Watkins
Region 3	John Husband	Region 8	Gary Aamodt, Rex McKee,
Region 4	Paul Rider	Region 9	Stacy Abena, Andrew Waldo
Region 5	Pat Dibble, Doug Sparks		

Guests: Karen Olson, Executive Administrator; Jim Pavlik, Principal Financial Officer;
Cara Spaccarelli: Region 8 clergy representative-elect; Susan Barksdale, Recorder

Executive Summary of July 26, 2007, meeting
(Details in body of minutes)

Diocesan Council:

Discussed July draft of a document from the Bishop's Commission on Mission Strategy (BCMS)
Defeated a motion calling for the Finance Committee to construct a new 2008 budget at the 2007 figures
Passed a motion recommending approval of the 2008 budget, adding a caution that freezing or cutting expenses is not prudent during this time of transition.

The business meeting was chaired by Stacy Abena, First Vice President of Council.

The minutes were approved unanimously with several corrections as to attendance.

BISHOP'S TIME

Bishop Jelinek read a document (attached) he had prepared concerning his reasons for calling for the election of a Bishop Coadjutor rather than a direct Diocesan Bishop successor.

BISHOP'S COMMISSION ON MISSION STRATEGY: JIM HUBER; MEMBERS OF THE BCMS TASK FORCE

Mariann Budde presented the July draft, which she described as "still a draft but the result of our work to date." Jim Huber expressed the hope that when this document goes to Diocesan Convention, it goes "as a joint document from all of us." He also said the task force hoped to present its final document to Council in September. The remainder of the morning session and the beginning of the afternoon session were spent in discussion of these questions and other parts of the document. Council members offered many concrete suggestions which the BCMS representatives recorded and expected to incorporate into the body of the document.

LUNCH

FINANCE: JIM PAVLIK

Revenue is about \$106,000 below projection based on the Apportionment for the Common Good (ACG) summary. Jim said that three to four congregations are in significant arrears. In the first six months of 2007, there was a \$93,000 deficit, but Jim said that there was the expectation and hope that this would be collected. However, due to expenses lower than projected, the budget is off by just \$196.

DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2008: ANN LANOUE

Ann Lanoue presented the most recent draft of the diocesan budget for 2008, noting that there were only minor modifications from the document that Council saw in June. Once again, she said, this is a one-year budget, as the diocese is in a period of transition with BCMS and is also moving into the process of electing a new bishop. Again this year the lack of revenue necessitates providing no funding for the seven ministry priorities. The budget includes a 3.6% Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) based on the Consumer Price Index and the Employment cost Index from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. It also includes a 15% benefit increase for health insurance benefits, which is the increase anticipated for 2008.

The line item that shows a contribution toward bishop transition is not the entire bishop transition budget. Stacy reminded Council that this line item has been in the budget every year, but has been removed in order to balance the budget. It was noted that this budget line item is similar in form to the money put aside each year to save for General Convention expenses.

There was some discussion on funds available from endowment money, and Jim Pavlik noted that there are detailed statements in the finance section on the diocesan Web site for all the funds for both the diocese and the Trustees.

Gary Aamodt noted that the 2008 budget is 6.8% higher, and compared that increase with the BCMS report noting limited resources. **He moved to keep the 2008 budget the same as 2007 and asked the Finance and Audit Committee to construct a budget to those figures;** second by Andrew Waldo.

In the ensuing discussion, it was noted that the motion had been made without knowing the details of the analysis and decision making that the Finance/Audit Committee used to develop the budget submitted to Council, and that the anticipated ACG revenue would cover this increase. Council members also noted that the proposed budget is very tight and that further reductions could mean cutting people. There have been continuing budget reductions over the past few years, and although the concept of reducing the budget may appear attractive, such a reduction would be premature before implementation of the BCMS plans and any potential adjustments stemming from it. **The resolution was defeated.**

Andrew Waldo then moved the following: **That the Draft 2008 Budget submitted by the Finance/Audit Committee be approved, with a notation expressing Council's recognition that the current expense levels will be reviewed in 2008 as BCMS recommendations are implemented, and adding a caution that freezing or cutting expense is not prudent during this time of transition.** Rex McKee added this friendly amendment: **Council has approved for the second consecutive year a one-year budget allowing the BCMS process to move ahead, and to recommend the changes that might be made consistent with the complete BCMS recommendations. Council is committed to maintain a close watch on expenses through the year. The resolution passed.**

BISHOP'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Bishop Jelinek announced that a demonstration was scheduled this afternoon at the Episcopal Center regarding Lynn Bauman, a registered sexual offender from outside the Diocese, who has been hired to lead a retreat at the House of Prayer in Collegeville. He added that the circumstances of the retreat were carefully set up and that no one has been put in harm's way. A statement from the House of Prayer about this matter is attached.

The meeting was adjourned at 3.10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Gleason
Secretary of Council

Susan Barksdale, recorder

A letter to the Diocese from Bishop Jelinek

At the suggestion of Diocesan Council, I am writing a piece on my thinking about calling for the election of a Bishop Coadjutor for the Diocese rather than the election of a successor who would begin to serve as I hand over the crozier (the symbol of jurisdiction) and walk out the door.

Due to some financial constraints in 1993, Bishop Anderson left the office on 31 July, with a month of vacation in August. I began on the payroll and in the office on the first of September as Bishop-elect and was consecrated in late October. It is my estimate that I averaged at least two hours a day working for the diocese from the date of my election (May 1) until September, without salary. That was one of the realities of transition. During that first year, I was fortunate enough to have the continuing services and counsel of the Executive Officer, Margo Maris, Suffragan Bishop Sandy Hampton and Chancellor Sally Johnson. Nevertheless, this was no mere learning curve, like an airplane taxiing and taking off. It was much more like a rocket blasting straight into the air. While trying to get to know people, especially the key leaders in each of our diocesan organizations, I had questions coming at me from every side, like “what do you want to do about this?” Well, I did not know some of those entities even existed, much less whether one course of action was better than another. When I was not with people in meetings, I was being briefed or reading minutes, purpose statements, histories, etc., of these various bodies, both congregations and organizations. The schedule was generally seventy hours a week or more. It was taxing on Marilyn and me, and I am not sure what it would have been like if we had had children at home. I want to be clear that this was all very exciting, because I was loving what I was doing, and still do, but that does not take away the level of stress that is a constant in this ministry, coming both from the complexity and the pace.

It is my hope for us as a diocese to give my successor something that, in retrospect, I wish I had had: time. Most importantly, the bishop will need time to get to know you as people, your longings and aspirations, your fears and concerns, your personalities and what helps you to want to come together from all over the diocese to work in groups, and what gets in the way of that. During that time, the staff and I will continue to run the diocese and implement the work that is coming out of the Bishop’s Commission on Mission Strategy, work which will continue to unfold for some time if we become as committed to it as I believe we will.

Some may consider this time a luxury that we cannot afford, but I think of it as a necessity we cannot afford not to offer. Circumstances will be different than they were in 1993 because a number of experienced leaders and key staff have indicated their intentions to conclude their ministries at some point during the Episcopal transition. Canon Gleason is intending to leave the staff sometime before I do. Bishop Swenson will not be on staff during that overlap. I am hoping that both Chancellor Leonard Addington and Archdeacon Irma Wyman will be willing and able to serve until the beginning of the coadjutor period, but I am sure they, too, will leave before I do. So the new bishop, in addition to getting to know the continuing staff and considering how best to work with each of them, will have at least three key appointments and the matter of needing an assisting bishop to address during that time. We also have many people in formation for commissioning or ordination. I shall continue to work with those I shall ordain in 2010, and the new bishop will have opportunity to work with those s/he will ordain later. Primarily, this time will give the new bishop opportunity to visit in each region of the diocese, meeting with people from all of our congregations.

The diocesan family is very large, much larger than all but a few people realize, because only the bishop has responsibility for interfacing with and/or overseeing all the various parts.

We currently have 108 congregations and some other ministries. The primary work of the bishop is with them, and with both the Diocesan Council and the Trustees (which the bishop chairs) and the Standing Committee and the Commission on Ministry, with which the bishop meets regularly. In addition, we have two schools (Breck and Shattuck-Saint Mary's), the House of Prayer, Episcopal Community Services, University Episcopal Center, and two cathedrals - the boards of all of which the bishop chairs. The bishop sits on the board of Seabury-Western Theological Seminary and the Minnesota Council of Churches, and works with Cass Lake Episcopal Camp, Episcopal Homes, and the Sheltering Arms Foundation. The new bishop will be given committee responsibility in the House of Bishops and perhaps the Province soon after consecration, and will be expected to participate in the College for Bishops (a week a year for the first five), which is a very helpful series of courses that was first developed in the early 1990s.

A few years ago, we began describing the diocese as a "complex adaptive system," and it truly is. Given the many things that have happened among us since 1993, it is more complex than it was then. The diocese is ninth largest geographically, and in the top third by number of congregations, members, and budget. That combination, Bishop Hampton used to say, made the diocese one of the more complicated to serve in The Episcopal Church. You all know as I do the many varieties of congregations we have, in so many different settings. This wonderful variety and diversity sometimes make it difficult for us to understand or appreciate each other, as we have learned well in the BCMS process.

I do want to say a few words about that process. We have been working hard, and when I say "we," I mean the well over a thousand people who have been participating. That is more than anyone can remember being engaged in this sort of thing in this diocese. I trust that what we shall receive, engage, and approve at our next diocesan convention shall be the first steps of a phase of work that we shall be doing for some time, amplifying and revising it as needed in the future. I trust that this process itself is helping us work through and get over some of our disagreements and mistrust and regional differences. I also believe that this will be a large part of the description of the work we shall be calling my successor to do with you during his/her episcopate. I expect the Search Committee will make this very clear during the search and election process. You will have every opportunity to check out the attitudes, skills, and intentions of each of the candidates. One difficulty for the person elected to serve as bishop, is that s/he will not have any real way to check you out, as to whether the diocesan convention vote on mission strategy is merely a vote or is really what you are committed to for us as a whole. The time we give to a coadjutor bishop will allow him or her to see if you are true to your word (the vote), excited, energized and committed - and, to quote that wonderful motto from the early days of Gethsemane: "The people had a mind to work."

Lastly, I want to put this in historical perspective. This diocese has elected a coadjutor in every episcopate except the last one. Unfortunately, Bishop Whipple's coadjutor, Bishop Mahlon Gilbert, died a few months before Bishop Whipple did, and the diocese did not have time to elect another coadjutor before Whipple's death. So Bishop Edsall and I are the only two Bishops of Minnesota who followed Whipple who were consecrated and instituted as diocesan (or Ordinary — the one around whom a diocese is "ordered") on the same day.

I want to do a brief review of the process. I shall call for the election at this year's diocesan convention, and then the Standing Committee will take responsibility for the process, appointing the Search Committee and the Transition Committee, keeping the Diocesan Council and the Trustees well informed. The Search Committee will work with a consultant, and will work similarly to the search committees we have in congregations. They will announce the names of three to five finalists sometime in the early part of 2009, and the election will take place in May of that year. The new Bishop

Coadjutor-elect will begin working within the diocese in the fall, with consecration scheduled for the time of our convention. I shall retire sometime in the summer of 2010 and hand over the crozier to my successor.

This is a very exciting time for us as a diocese. We are developing new ways to work together as God's people, the Church, and we are re-committing ourselves to mission, God's longing for the spread of the Gospel and the healing of the brokenness of the world. My successor and you will have wonderful opportunities to "do a new thing," as Isaiah likes to say. And in the meantime, as the search goes on, we shall have the profound experience as a diocese of being transformed by the Holy Spirit, which is what all the work of the Bishop's Commission on Mission Strategy is leading us to. Let us enjoy this time fully.

The Rt. Rev. James L. Jelinek

VIII Bishop of Minnesota
24 July 2007

A Statement from the Episcopal House of Prayer

A special board meeting was called in mid-March to review prior decisions and arrangements concerning long-time retreat facilitator Lynn Bauman's work with the House of Prayer. On March 15, 2007, the full board, including Bishop Jelinek, passed the following resolution:

“Resolved: Having listened carefully to concerns expressed by others, and supporting healing and reconciliation at all levels, and wanting to be as helpful to retreatants as possible, the Board of Directors of the Episcopal House of Prayer, after prayerful consideration, ratifies previous decisions to permit Lynn Bauman to serve as a retreat facilitator at the Episcopal House of Prayer and reaffirms the Episcopal House of Prayer's relationship with Lynn Bauman as a retreat facilitator, subject to existing terms and conditions established for his participation in retreats, and subject to the further requirement that all who register for retreats with Lynn Bauman will be informed in writing of his background as part of the registration process.”

The board's vote on this resolution was unanimous, the result of much listening and prayer.

While it is correct that Lynn Bauman is a registered sex offender, the event occurred more than a decade ago and Lynn Bauman has followed every requirement of his probation. He registers with the local law enforcement authorities whenever he comes to Minnesota. His retreats are for adults, he does not have any contact with children or youth, and he overnights with his brother, Ward, who serves as director of the House of Prayer.

Based on the board resolution, those who register for retreats at the House of Prayer with Lynn Bauman have received a written description of his background as part of the registration process. This will permit anyone who prefers not to attend to withdraw the registration or to select another retreat. This summer Lynn Bauman is participating in two week-long retreats, together with two other guest retreat facilitators. There are no plans to change the faculty for the retreats.

Media contact:

Mary Lilja,
Lilja Inc.

mcl@lilja.com
952.893.7140