

Diocesan Council
June 21, 2007
Trinity Church, Excelsior

Present: Bishop Jelinek; Gary Gleason, Secretary of Council

Region 1	Lynn Orville	Region 6	Martha Beckwith
Region 2	Susan Dusek, Margaret Thomas	Region 7	Roxie Markie, LeeAnne Watkins
Region 3	John Husband	Region 8	Mark Makowski, Rex McKee
Region 4	Paul Rider	Region 9	Stacy Abena, Andrew Waldo
Region 5	Pat Dibble, Doug Sparks		

Guests: Jim Pavlik, Principal Financial Officer; Susan Barksdale, Recorder

Executive Summary of June 21, 2007, meeting
(Details in body of minutes)

Diocesan Council:

Heard an update from Doug Sparks on the beginning of the work of the Development Committee.
Heard and discussed a report and a FAQ document from the Standing Committee on the search process for a bishop coadjutor
Heard a report from Robert Two Bulls, Director of the Department of Indian Work.
Saw a draft version of a one-year budget for 2008.

The day began with a brief tour of Trinity's renovated worship space, followed by Eucharist with Trinity's rector Andrew Waldo as the celebrant and preacher.

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

The minutes were approved unanimously with one change on p. 3, item 5. This should read: "We still have systemic issues within the diocese that could hinder the forward movement of the outcomes from BCMS if we do *not* pay attention to them. It is critical to give every opportunity we can to make this strategic mission plan be fruitful and successful."

Stacy asked all around the table to introduce themselves and to note what they were looking forward to at today's meeting. Margaret Thomas reported that Alice Olson had been very ill with a collapsed lung and infection; she is back home now and just starting to go out again.

STEERING COMMITTEE: LYNN ORVILLE

The committee discussed Rex McKee's motion from the May meeting on the bishop coadjutor election; preparing an edited version of the resolution for today's meeting, if warranted. The committee also discussed the coadjutor election process itself — including communicating with the Standing Committee, the budget for the search and election, etc. — in an effort to work to speak with a united rather than a fractured voice. The committee noted that the search, election and transition will be covered in a separate budget.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: DOUG SPARKS

The committee met in May and June. The May meeting was with development consultant Don Taylor and others (including representatives from the Bishop's Commission on Mission Strategy) to discuss the possibility of moving the process along to hire a Development Director. The committee has divided into subcommittees. One will develop a one-year plan. The other, headed by Doug Sparks, is the communication committee, which has been charged, among other things, with identifying specific communication vehicles.

STANDING COMMITTEE: FRAN BLY AND DEBBIE BROWN

The Standing Committee, as the ecclesiastical authority of the diocese in the absence of a bishop, is the group responsible for setting up the bishop search. The committee has met with Bishop Clay Matthews from the national church, who is a consultant for bishop searches. As Secretary of Diocesan Council, Gary Gleason represented Council at that meeting. The chairs of Standing Committee and Diocesan Council, Fran Bly and Stacy Abena respectively, have also met. They hope that their working together will ensure that there is a good working relationship between the two groups.

Fran stated that the process between the Standing Committee and Diocesan Council will be a collaborative one. She noted that Council has regional representation, unlike the Standing Committee; and expressed the hope that this will make it easy for Council members to answer questions in their own regions.

It was very clear from the meeting with Bishop Matthews, Fran added, that this bishop search process is not something Minnesota has to design itself. There are a number of manuals and other materials available for assistance. The national church office also receives regular feedback on the process from others who have had elections, and can also make that available.

Fran distributed a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) document that addressed questions that have come to the committee thus far, and invited further questions and responses from Council. The National Canons are silent on this process, but Minnesota (and other dioceses) are following what Bishop Matthews calls the "normative process." The search and election process usually takes about 18 months. If the committee waited to begin its work until after Convention's vote on approval of the election, there would be a substantial delay, so it is starting now. Fran emphasized that the Standing Committee is NOT the Search Committee; it merely sets up that committee and the process. Debbie stressed that the 18-month process is just for the search and election. The period of time that the two bishops' terms overlap will be additional.

Council members asked a number of questions. Several concerned the nature of the vote at the October 2007 Diocesan Convention. It was explained that the diocesan bishop calls for a particular election; in this case it is for a bishop coadjutor. Convention either approves or rejects this call in a simple "up or down" vote; it may not change the bishop's request to another type of election.

Fran and the Standing Committee planned to make slight changes to the FAQ document as a result of the discussion. The revised document is attached to these minutes.

LUNCH

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN WORK (DIW): ROBERT TWO BULLS

Robert noted that this was one of his first official presentations since becoming DIW director. He said he was Lakota and a “preacher’s kid.” He has had ten years on his journey, with three different bishops, all supportive of Native American ministries.

His first nine months have been a very pleasurable experience. Things have been complex with ups and downs and many challenges and expectations.

Robert serves part time as vicar of All Saints Indian Mission in Minneapolis, and the rest as DIW director. This division “is demanding on my time and my psyche as both deserve full-time work,” he said. All Saints has gone through many changes, turmoil, and growth; he sees it now as being in a time of resurrection. The mission hopes to open its soup kitchen in the fall, and he is currently looking for volunteers.

Robert noted that it is difficult to schedule his work. All Saints needs to have continuity, but Robert needs to go to other places as well, and he is troubled that he has not yet been able to visit every DIW mission. In answer to a question on how Council can be of help and support, Robert asked them to be aware of what is happening in DIW and on the reservations, and to get to know the clergy and laity there. He added that the few bishops he knew who have worked in Indian country have found that the work has informed their sermons and strengthened their journey.

We are all looking for the same monies out of the same pool, he said. We must have vision and be creative, even looking into sources outside the church. DIW has recently received \$24,000 in “New Opportunities” grants. One of these is to continue the Duluth ministry of The Feather Meets the Cross. There is a struggle with overhead expenses and making ends meet, and Robert is working with the Trustees on these issues. Another provides funds for an Ojibwe culture and traditions program for child and youth. The third grant is for the development of burial and vigil liturgies for DIW. This work could have national implications.

DIW is really crisis ministry, Robert noted, so there is little time to do program work. Robert’s father, who is also a priest, used to do about one a week on the Pine Ridge reservation, and Robert and other DIW priests in Minnesota conduct many funerals as well.

Robert noted that the Trinity, Excelsior, partnership with St. John’s, Onigum, has been resurrected. Andrew Waldo said he and other Trinity representatives were impressed with the excitement there on their recent visit.

Robert was thanked with applause, and he issued an invitation to all to come to the annual Convocation in Prairie Island.

BISHOP’S TIME

Bishop Jelinek noted that Robert’s DIW ministry is really a front-line ministry, with frequent funerals and very heavy pastoral work. The bishop listed his recent meetings, visitations, ordinations, commencements, and other events. He recently attended the funeral of Bishop James Kelsey of Northern Michigan, and will be the celebrant at the upcoming funeral of Bishop Fred Putnam.

Bishop Jelinek noted the recent painful decision by the board of Episcopal Community Services (ECS) to close its Gilfillan Center facility in Bemidji. ECS director Frank Vardeman and others have worked carefully on the consequences of this decision. They have held a job fair for the staff and found

outplacement for residents. ECS is also getting a number of inquiries for use of the property. One conversation is with some of the area tribes, and Bishop Jelinek has spent a good deal of time with the ECS board, tribal leaders, and others.

At the Episcopal Center, Rachel Swan has left the staff to accept a position at St. Mary's, St. Paul. Joe Bjordal has left for personal reasons.

Bishop Jelinek expressed his gratitude for the morning's discussion, noting that the diocese is dealing with much anxiety at the moment, and hoping that it will not be pulled in too many directions. In the Anglican Communion, he continued, "we have the possibility and gift to be called to be in relationship with one another; to be one with one another whether we agree or not." In Minnesota, he feels that the Episcopal Church has gained more parishioners over the consecration of Gene Robinson than it has lost.

Stacy commented that hearing about all the bishop's recent activities emphasizes the need for a coadjutor, so that the person can learn the dynamics of the diocese and not be thrown directly into too many complicated situations without preparation. Bishop Jelinek added that his position holds some dimensions he did not expect. He hopes to be able to include his view of the job description as part of the interview process, so as not to set up his successor for failure.

The Bishop's Commission on Mission Strategy (BCMS) will bring another draft document to the July Council meeting, and will present its final document in September. The September meeting will be at St. Mark's Cathedral instead of St. John's, Mankato. A resolution concerning the ACG proposed by St. Mark's Cathedral and St. Stephen's, Edina, has been withdrawn. Rex thanked Andrew for his "wonderful note of response" to this resolution, asking the sponsors to wait and see what is proposed by the BCMS.

2008 BUDGET – FINANCE/AUDIT COMMITTEE: ANN LANOUE

The committee is proposing another one-year budget, as the diocese is still in the midst of the BCMS process. Such a budget will continue necessary mission and ministries of diocese while the BCMS work continues.

The ACG is the diocese's main source of revenue. If a congregation has not sent a 2006 parochial report, its apportionment is based on the previous year's data. Ann went through a summary of the draft budget. She noted that it shows a slight deficit, but the committee will work on showing a zero deficit before it is submitted to Council. As the committee does not know what BCMS will propose, any necessary adjustments will be done by resolution to Council after Convention.

In answer to a question from Rex, Stacy said that Council need not pass a resolution charging the Finance/Audit Committee to do another one-year budget, but simply accepts the recommendation for a one-year budget.

Jim Pavlik noted that this is still a draft document. Adjustments will be sent out before the July 26 Council meeting.

There was a question on following the canons denying Convention representation to the churches that have not filed parochial reports. A list of these churches will be sent to the Council representatives for each region.

FINANCIALS: JIM PAVLIK

Total revenue is down from the budget, but this is not unusual for the first quarter. In addition, there are timing issues for some budget items. The net effect through the first quarter of 2007 is a deficit of \$13,000. The Finance Department is currently putting together materials regarding apportionment, including which churches have been granted relief.

There was considerable about a question that had arisen in March about disbursement of a surplus sum of \$38,000. Council did not pass a proposed resolution to use that money for the bishop search, and Stacy asked if the Finance/Audit Committee wished to make another recommendation at this time. No conclusion was reached, and it was suggested to wait and see whether that amount was still available at year's end.

TRUSTEES: BISHOP JELINEK ON BEHALF OF MALCOLM McDONALD

The Pooled Investment Fund continues to perform better than other benchmarks. Council is encouraged to get the word out about this good performance, and the fact that congregations who join would still have control of their funds.

A notice has appeared in the Minneapolis *Star Tribune* about the proposed development on the 1730 Clifton Place site. This is part of a promotion to let people know that units are now for sale. The Episcopal Center building has not yet sold and will not be sold until the Developer has financing which typically does not happen until half of the units are pre-sold. Gary Gleason is working with a professional realtor and the Trustees to find a place for the offices to move. Gary noted that some pressure is eased by the fact that the move would have to happen within four months after notice is given, rather than four months after the closing.

The meeting was adjourned at 3.10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Gleason
Secretary of Council

Susan Barksdale, recorder

Coadjutor Election Process Diocese of Minnesota

Bishop Jelinek has stated that he intends to retire in 2010. In accordance with Canon III.11.10 of the Episcopal Church, to ensure an orderly Episcopal transition, Bishop Jelinek has called for the election of a bishop coadjutor. He has designated the Standing Committee as the Election Supervisory Authority.

FAQ

Why is the Standing Committee in charge?

The Standing Committee is the ecclesiastical authority in the absence of a diocesan bishop. It is the only body that is elected by the full convention, and represents clergy and laity equally. It is the “normative process” to have the Standing Committee in charge of elections – it has been so for the past ten years over greater than a hundred elections in the Episcopal Church in the United States.

The Standing Committee has twelve members – six clergy (The Rev Judy Hoover, The Rev Lisa White Smith, The Rev Deborah Brown, The Rev Janet Wheelock, The Rev Devon Anderson, and the Rev James Wilson) and six lay persons (Frances Bly, Scott Crow, Myra Hill King, Judith Goff, Beverly Johnson, Gail Sheddy). Four members are elected to a three year term at each Convention.

What happens in October at Diocesan Convention?

The convention responds to the bishop’s call for election of a bishop coadjutor. Should the election be approved, the process which the Standing Committee has put in place will move forward toward an election convention in May, 2009. Should the election not be approved, Bishop Jelinek will determine what action to take for an orderly transition.

What is the timeline for major milestones in the election process?

October, 2007 – Call for election
November, 2007 – The Search and the Transition Committees are appointed
January, 2008 – Committees meet in retreat with the Standing Committee to accept their charge.
Spring, 2008 – Diocesan Profile is finalized and printed
Summer, 2008 – Candidates are solicited and screened
Fall/inter, 2008 – Search Committee interviews, visits candidates and selects nominees
Spring, 2009 – Petition nominations are accepted by Standing Committee; all go on walk-about
May, 2009 – Election Convention
October, 2009 – Consecration

How is the Search Committee selected?

The Search and the Transition Committees will consist of eighteen members each; nine will be selected by the Regions and nine will be appointed by the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee will appoint co-chairs for both the Search and the Transition Committees. Details regarding committee member criteria will be further defined prior to the Regional meetings in August/September.

How will the Bishop and diocesan staff be involved in the election process?

By design they will not. The Standing Committee is the election supervisory authority. The Search Committee is responsible for candidate selection. Confidential administrative support for the search and transition committees will be outside of the diocesan office. The Standing Committee is requesting that staff of Episcopal Homes be engaged to provide necessary support.