

Diocesan Council
May 3, 2007
Calvary Church, Rochester

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	Doug Rude, LeeAnne Watkins
Region 3	Maren Kay Welsand	Region 8	Gary Aamodt, Rex McKee
Region 4	Paul Rider	Region 9	Stacy Abena, Andrew Waldo
Region 5	Doug Sparks, Pat Dibble		

Guests: Karen Olson, Executive Administrator; Susan Moss, Sandi Holmberg, Robert Two Bulls and Bronwyn Clark Skov, Missioners; Jim Pavlik, Principal Financial Officer; Susan Barksdale, Recorder

Executive Summary of May 3, 2007, meeting
(Details in body of minutes)

Diocesan Council:

Heard from Bishop Jelinek and discussed the plans for the episcopal succession and the beginnings of the bishop search process.

Heard a presentation from the Bishop's Commission on Mission Strategy (BCMS), and offered responses and suggestions to the committee's draft document for the May 5 BCMS Convocation.

The meeting was chaired by Stacy Abena, First Vice President of Council.
The March 15, 2007, minutes were approved unanimously.

This meeting was part of Council's annual spring retreat. The previous afternoon (May 2) had been spent in discussion with Bishop Jelinek and the program staff. Several Council members expressed the opinion that the discussion time had been quite valuable, and had allowed people to get to know each other better as well as sharing their views on the topics discussed. Social time and dinner had followed in the evening

Bishop Jelinek began by summarizing some of the matters discussed during the previous afternoon's session. He noted that topics had covered the past and present of the diocese, and that the meeting this day would look from the present into the future, covering such matters as the coadjutor election process and the episcopal succession, as well as the work of the Bishop's Commission on Mission Strategy.

THE EPISCOPAL SUCCESSION

Bishop Jelinek presented several options for succession and offered his reflections on the need for a bishop coadjutor to serve with him, and then succeed to the episcopate upon Bishop Jelinek's retirement.

1. We have historic precedence in the Diocese of Minnesota with six of the eight bishops being called as coadjutors.
2. While there are financial considerations in the overlapping of two bishops, these costs are bearable with advance planning.

3. The diocesan bishop is charged with the responsibility to provide an orderly transition between episcopates.
4. The diocesan bishop assigns a portfolio of responsibility and jurisdiction to the bishop coadjutor and this is spelled out clearly for all to understand.
5. We still have systemic issues within the diocese that could hinder the forward movement of the outcomes from BCMS if we do pay attention to them. It is critical to give every opportunity we can to make this strategic mission plan be fruitful and successful.
6. It is extremely important for an incoming bishop to have the opportunity to partner with someone who has corporate memory, otherwise everything has to start all over again and it takes 3-5 years for the new bishop to really begin to understand the system and his/her ability to be a shepherd within it.

The process unfolds by Bishop Jelinek calling for a bishop coadjutor at the Diocesan Convention in October 2007. To help prepare for that call, the Standing Committee sets up the standards for the search and procures funding from Council/Convention. The Search Committee takes care of the search and Bishop Jelinek and Council continue to run the diocese.

Bishop Jelinek added some of the responsibilities of the Search Committee, noting that it could receive a consultant and other assistance from the national church. There would most likely be another transition team to help with moving, welcome, setting up travels around the diocese, etc.

Several Council members who had experienced bishop searches elsewhere offered their responses, including Lynn Orville, whose husband had been chair of a bishop search in another diocese.

There was some discussion of various possibilities for episcopal oversight in this geographically large diocese. There was also a discussion on the roles of Council and the Standing Committee in setting up the bishop search. Bishop Clay Matthews, a consultant from the national church, will be meeting soon with the Standing Committee. In answer to a question about this visit, Gary Gleason noted that he was told by the national office that every time a diocese is preparing for an episcopal election, Bishop Matthews first comes and meets with the Standing Committee of that diocese.

Paul Rider stated that he felt the discussion had been good and that Spirit was talking. "I feel that Council is at a point in our history where we want to say that we want to be part of a real decision-making process in the diocese," he said. "The bishop has set out a process that canonically he can do. What we as Council can do is to be 100% sure that we communicate with both the Standing Committee and the BCMS on a regular basis on what we see as what is important for the diocese and our mission together."

Rex McKee suggested a motion concerning the Council's commitment to involvement in the BCMS process and the diocesan discernment process for the election of a bishop.

He outlined:

1. Diocesan Council is committed to the work of the BCMS, its process, vision, and implementation,
2. Diocesan Council is committed to appropriate involvement around the diocesan discernment process for the election of a Diocesan Bishop,
3. Diocesan Council calls upon the Council and Standing Committee, Search Committee, and Transition Committee to meet regularly regarding the search process.

Council then adjourned for Eucharist, with Bishop Jelinek celebrating and preaching, followed by lunch.

BISHOP'S COMMISSION ON MISSION STRATEGY

The afternoon portion of the meeting was given over to a presentation of the work of the Bishop's Commission on Mission Strategy (BCMS), led by member Mariann Budde and BCMS consultant Craig van Gelder. The commission wanted to make Council aware of what would be done at the diocesan BCMS Discernment Convocation, to be held on Saturday, May 5, in St. Cloud. Mariann presented a draft document based on the work of the BCMS, and invited responses and discussion from those present. Some of the responses were incorporated into the next version, which was presented at the May 5 convocation, and would be further discussed at the Spring Clergy Conference, May 7-9. The current version of the document can be viewed on the diocesan Web site at www.episcopalmn.org.

Council thanked the BCMS with applause. Rex McKee suggested sending a letter of gratitude to the commission for its work and courage.

The meeting was adjourned at 3 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Gleason
Secretary of Council

Susan Barksdale, recorder