

DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 12, 2014
CHRIST CHURCH RIDGEWOOD

Officers Present: The Rt. Rev. Mark Beckwith, President, Mr. John A. King, Secretary, Mr. Paul R. Shackford, Treasurer,

Present: The Rev. Rosa Brown-Autry, Mr. Thomas Bisdale Esq., Mr. Robert Bogert, Mr. Alan W. Bowen, Mr. T. Donald Cairns, The Rev. Tim Carr, The Rev. Sheelagh A. Clarke, The Rev. Deborah Rucki Drake, Ms. Janelle Grant, The Rev. Charles Hatfield, Ms. A. Lorraine Jones, Mr. George Kooney, The Rev. Thomas E. Mathews Jr., The Rev. Dr. Allison Moore, The Rev. Paul V. Olsson (by phone), Ms. Martha Reiner, The Rev. Robert Rhodes, The Rev. William Charles Thiele, The Rev. Diana Wilcox

Staff Present: The Rev. Canon Gregory Jacobs, Ms. Kathryn Kawecki, Ms. Kay R. Lark

Absent: The Rev. Kevin Coffey, Ms. Dunstanette Macauley, Ms. Barbara Piccirillo,

The Meeting was called to order after dinner starting at 6:30pm. The Bishop extended greetings to The Rev. Greg Lisby who welcomed Council to Christ Church, and gave a brief introduction and history of the Parish.

DWELLING IN THE WORD: *Mark 6:30-46 Don Cairns and Kay Lark read the passage from the NRSV*

Signs of Gods Grace were shared.

Requests for additional items or time adjustments to the agenda were requested, there were none and agenda was adopted for the evening.

The MINUTES of the February 12, 2014 Council meeting were *moved, seconded and approved.*

EPISCOPAL COMMUNICATIONS - *The Rt. Rev. Mark Beckwith*

Gay Jennings, President of the House of Deputies completed the Mutual Ministry review for the Bishop. Over 50 conversations across two days. In April, she will present a report to the Bishop, Standing Committee and Diocesan Staff.

Christ Church Belleville has sold and there are still outstanding expenses to be resolved. Gross proceeds were \$920,000,

Maggi Dawn will be at the Cathedral this Sunday the 16th to lead an Evensong.
Ecumenical Gun Violence Sabbath will be this Sunday.

FINANCE REPORT for FEBRUARY 2014 Mr. Paul Shackford
Diocesan Council Finance Report for the Year-to-Date Period Ended February 28, 2014

Summary of Significant Matters

The proposed 2014 budget, which had been approved by the Council at its December 2013 meeting, was adopted without change at the Annual Convention in January 2014.

There are a number of variances in actual results as compared with the budget, but all are considered to be timing differences at this point.

Details of Information Reflected on the Financial Statement

Income

Pledge Revenue (line 1)

The methodology used to create the monthly budget was to base estimated 2014 monthly pledge income on the actual pattern of pledge receipts in 2013. Historically, a significant portion of the full year's pledges occurs in December of the year as well as in the subsequent months of the following year. For the two-month period, we are \$9,667 behind budget.

Alleluia Fund (line 2)

We received donations to the Alleluia Fund in January and February of \$12, 194, and are currently \$10,712 ahead of budget. The Advisor to the Bishop for Fund Development is preparing information that will be used during the Alleluia season (Easter to Pentecost) to promote giving to this fund.

Missional Church Initiatives (line 9)

We will receive income from the New Ministries Initiatives Fund and the Marge Christie Congregational Growth & Vitality Fund to pay the Missional Church Initiatives expenses in 2014, which are included in line 17. Since we have spent less thus far this year, the required income is also less.

Development Department (line 10)

We will receive income from the New Ministries Initiatives Fund to pay the expenses relating to the Advisor to the Bishop for Fund Development and related costs, which are included in line 18. Since we have spent less thus far this year, the required income is also less.

Lay Pension Plan Contribution (line 11)

The 2014 budget includes \$75,000 from the sale of property in 2012 which is used to reduce the underfunded lay pension plan liability (the related expense is included in line 52) and \$26,000 of current contributions for active employees (the related expense is included in the Staff Compensation lines).

Search & Call of Next Bishop (line 12)

The 2014 budget includes \$30,000 from the sale of property in 2012 which is to be added to the fund for the future costs related to the search and call of our next bishop; the related expense is included in line 59.

Expenses

In general, variances of actual expenses as compared with budgeted amounts represent timing differences. We will monitor all variances in the upcoming months.

Staff Compensation (lines 16, 23, 33, and 50)

Compensation expense, which includes salaries and benefits for employees at Episcopal House, is slightly higher than budget due to the timing of the payment of certain benefits.

TEC 2008 Pledge Arrears (line 35)

The annual budgeted amount of \$10,000 will be paid in quarterly installments.

Domestic and International Outreach Grants (lines 36 and 37)

The budget assumes that these grants will be paid later in 2014, as a significant portion will be funded by Alleluia Fund receipts.

Post-Retirement Insurance (line 51)

The negative variance of \$3,205 is a timing difference that will reverse in future months, as certain individuals for

whom insurance premiums are paid will reach age 65 in 2014 and will no longer be eligible for diocesan support.

Lay Pension (line 52)

As noted above, this line item reflects a contribution of \$75,000 to the lay pension plan fund to reduce the underfunded pension liability, using income from the sale of property in 2012 (which income is included in line 1).

Search & Call of Next Bishop (line 59)

Also as noted above, this line item represents a contribution of \$30,000 to the fund that was created in 2013. This and future annual contributions to this fund are intended to provide funds to pay the expenses which will be incurred in the search and call of the next bishop. This \$30,000 is funded by a portion of the income from the sale of property in 2012 (which income is included in line 12).

Net Result

It is too early in the year to determine if there are any significant permanent variances from the budget that was adopted by Convention in January. At this point the favorable and unfavorable variances are considered to be timing differences. Based on the lower than budgeted expenses, the bottom line reflects a favorable variance of \$10,726 as compared with budget.

Other Matters

The final total amount of pledge income in 2013 included an accrual of \$70,000, which represented the amount of 2013 pledges that were expected to be collected in 2014. By the end of February 2014, we have already collected that amount.

The Financial Report was Moved, Seconded and Approved.

Parochial Reports were due March 1st. About 50 reports are complete at this time.

Audits are still coming in, Paul Strongly recommends finishing 2013 Audits as soon as possible, good feedback on the guidelines. Contact Paul with any additional

Stewardship Web Conference Saturday April 5th at Episcopal House & Grace, Madison. 3 speakers, Mary Macpherson, Tim Daumbech & Gerry Kucher will each speak regarding stewardship. Interactive Q&A & small group discussions. Cost is \$10 per person.

Treasurer's workshop on Thursday May 1 & Saturday May 3rd. "What should treasurer present to the Vestry." An Opportunity for networking and discussion.

STEERING COMMITTEE AGENDA –

Jersey City Area Ministry & Incarnation Ministry Plan – Mr. Alan Bowen (2nd Reading)

On Monday March 10th, 7 Equipping team and 5 from Incarnation met at Episcopal House to review the financials on the project. Mr. Bowen also presented a summary of events that have led to this point. Including events from the past year – JCAM funding guideline revisions, the JCAM Bus Tour where members of the Trustees, Standing Committee & Council met with JCAM churches and GSECDC.

Incarnation has been moving ahead with exploring new ways of ministry. In an effort to adapt to new ideas, Incarnation moved their main Sunday service to 3pm. Not one parishioner has left because of that change. Incarnation "blew the roof off" of Convention with their spirited presentation. They are currently negotiating with a Hispanic Congregation to rent the facility.

Alan Bowen moved the proposal to fund the JCAM requests and to also fund the ministries from 2014-2016.

Proposal #1 Incarnation \$213,838

Proposal #2 St. Paul's & Grace Van Vorst funding \$130,000

Motion to separate the two proposals by The Rev. Tom Mathews – Reasoning: Council subsidizing Jersey City churches. District 1 has churches that have dwindled in size without similar subsidies.

Mr. Paul Shackford responds JCAM monies are for the ministries specifically Jersey City. This opportunity is before us now because of the commitment of the two clergy called last year. The Rev. Tom Murphy and The Rev Laurie Wurm have enabled the situation to move ahead, because of their skills and experience with these sorts of ministries. Both proposals are intertwined. Convention made a commitment to three strong congregations in Jersey City. This would be a reaffirmation of the Convention Resolution from Convention 137. Incarnation was tasked with coming up with a design and a financial blueprint to support that plan. They have met these obligations and we are here this evening to discuss that commitment.

All three churches need the complete funding as presented to make the plan succeed.

Have the other two congregations endorse the plan? Yes. Clergy, Vestries & JCAM board all are in agreement.

Because of JCAM existing – clergy salaries support is there. This is unique and not available elsewhere.

The Rev. Tom Mathews: This proposal now involves funds from the “2/3rds” as well as the “1/3” which had been the previously only available portion.

Vote to separate the 2 proposals. 4 ayes and 15 Nos. Motion to separate fails.

This could be considered a rollback of the Equipping group's work to have the JC congregations agree to lesser funding of the 1/3 amounts.

Other churches in diocese have to pick and choose ministries that need to be let go and do so without subsidized funding (whereas JCAM isn't faced with this decision)

Diana- Impressed and trusts in the work of the JCAM board to wrestle and monitor the financial plan. What are the action plans and how is Council going to assist them in being successful? Do they have the capability in 8 months to handle the monies appropriately they are about to receive?

Greg: These are not 3 unhealthy dysfunctional congregations. The money is not a band aid to cover over financial issues. Greg and Paul have spent a lot of time reviewing the financials. Convention in 1997 made this commitment to the 3 congregations. Council in 1998 formed the JCAM board to fund programs in Jersey City. The concept of New Ministry has evolved to the understanding that the three congregations are linked and interdependent on each other.

The Rev. Chuck Hatfield: January 2017 Convention – what is the goal at the Convention at that time? There is nothing wrong with putting the money there, but how is it managed? The Rev. Canon Greg Jacobs answered that this is the broad metric of strong congregations in Jersey City: All three congregations will be in constant dialogue regarding how to strengthen the ministries there. There are proposed quarterly meetings to gauge the accountability of the three congregations to work together.

Mr. Don Cairns asks if there is a call process going on at Incarnation at this time? Canon Jacobs: the work is ongoing to build the ministry and program to then show down the road prospective clergy candidates who they are as a faith community.

Council vote 18 ayes & 2 nays. No abstentions. The joint proposal passes.

Bishop Beckwith states that the proposal as passed funds Incarnation at 1 year and the other 2 for three years. The Bishop hopes to cap the 2/3 endowment going forward. It is venture capital with the intent of funding these ministries. The exciting aspect is the three congregations are working together.

Convocación al Nuevo Horizonte – The Rev. Canon Greg Jacobs (Announcement)

For 10 years the diocese has been discussing the latino ministry. Without any real momentum. There is now the time to host a summit Nuevo Horizonte to understand what the ministry is. How to best share resources. April 5th at St. Elizabeth's Ridgewood. Anthony Guillen.

Location of Council Retreat – The Rev. Sheelagh Clarke (informal poll) Cross Roads Retreat vs. Sacred Heart in Newton. The results of the straw poll show that further investigation is necessary by the Secretary.

8:00pm ACTION TEAMS - DISCUSSIONS

8:20pm ACTION TEAMS - REPORT OUTS

Equipping – CFO to track successes with JCAM funding and structuring accountability / Hispanic Summit
Goal is to have every district represented. Wish is for each congregation.

Empowering – eFm as a spiritual autobiography::a journey into discipleship (spiritual speed dating)

Engaging – Working to put out a flyer for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (April 6th – picking days to live on \$4:38 a day.) The team will collaborate to design a flyer for Sunday bulletins.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned into Compline at 8:27 PM which was led by the *Engaging Action Team*

Respectfully Submitted,

*John A. King,
Secretary to Council*