

**Minutes of the
Diocesan Council Meeting
Episcopal House**

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Officers: The Rt. Rev. Mark Beckwith [*President*], Mr. John A. King [*Secretary*], Mr. Paul R. Shackford [*Treasurer*], Diane Sammons Esq. [*Chancellor*]

Present: The Rev. E. Michael Allen, The Rev. William Allport, Mr. Robert Bogert, The Rev. Rosa Brown, The Rev. Tim Carr, The Rev. Kevin Coffey, Mrs. Debra Cook, The Rev. Virginia Dinsmore, Ms. Janelle Grant, The Rev. Charles Hatfield, The Rev. Canon Gregory Jacobs, Ms. Roxanne Johnson, Mr. George Kooney, Ms. Kay R. Lark, Ms. Dunstanette Macauley, Ms. Sue Morgan, Ms. Nina Nicholson, The Rev. Margaret Otterburn, Ms. Laurie Piccirillo, Ms. Elizabeth Rude, Ms. Mary Sunden, Mrs. Suzanne Willian

Absent: The Rev. Sheelagh A. Clarke, The Rev. Deborah Rucki Drake, Ms. A. Lorraine Jones, The Rev. William Charles Thiele,

Episcopal Communications - Bishop Beckwith

Met with the Religious leaders of NJ Coalition

Stuart Radner NJ Supreme Court spoke with group – He spoke about the continuing upward trend of Sovereign Citizen groups – filing frivolous lawsuits against the states starting to infiltrate New Jersey legal system

Attended a meeting in NYC working with Liberia Crisis council – medical tents have been removed in Monrovia – 30 schools and 1 university and no teachers have been paid in the past 6 months.

Cathedral – has gone through a series of priests – The Bishop has advised the congregation that he will not appoint a priest to serve at Cathedral – proposed a team of clergy to serve for a 6 month period.

The Cathedral has rejected that proposal. The deacon will be reassigned. The Bishop has determined that the pressure of being the Cathedral itself may be too much for them to bear. Chapter will take a year to determine the best course of action. There will be Sunday supply made available to them.

Diocesan events - The Confirmations will be held at the Cathedral again this year, they do a great job hosting this event there, however, Clergy Renewal of Vows will be at Grace Church in Madison.

141st Annual Convention Feedback

Task Force on Convention – no recommendations that required any votes.

Logistics – District Caucuses - how will this work?

Portable Wi-fi worked well.

Need more laity as Chalice bearers at Eucharist.

More prayerful convention, No major resolutions.

Morning prayer table discussions.

Al Roxburgh was great.

One observation was that this was the First Convention that people left inspired.

Mission Minutes – John Rollins & Jan Paxton do a great job

Alleluia Fund presentation was really great.

Nutley Senior Housing Board – Trustee

The President called to Order the Annual Meeting of the Nutley Episcopal Senior Housing Corporation.

It was moved that the following nominees be elected for the terms noted to the Board of Nutley Episcopal Senior Housing:
Thomas DaCosta Lobo

Moved, Seconded & Approved

Motion: It was moved and seconded to adjourn the Annual Meeting of the Nutley Episcopal Senior Housing Corporation.
The motion was adopted.

Notes from the Engaging Action Team

- Identify a liaison for the advisory board?

Chuck asked the Bishop to speak about this. The Bishop described the makeup of the board and suggested that there are 2 women on from the Justice Board and maybe it might be best to select a man from the Engaging team of the council. Chuck and Michael will divide the responsibilities.

- Morris County Historic Preservation Grants

The Bishop brought the mobilization of the Morris County Religious community regarding the proposed legislation withdrawing religious buildings from eligibility for County Preservation Grants.

- Louis Schwartz and the convention workshop on Mental Wellness

Chuck said that about 22+ people attended the workshop. Lou did a great job and once the ice was broken.

- Anti Racism Workshop

The Diocese is challenged in offering this training on periodic basis and in a manner that is convenient for all. Tim mentioned the offerings of Trinity Wall Street as an option and the Bishop asked Tim to convey the information to Canon Jacobs.

- Is there a ministry to Police Departments in our Diocese?

The Bishop brought up ministering to the police. Is this something we should be involved in?

- Stigma Free Zones

Mary Sunden brought up that Paramus has stated that they are working toward being a “Stigma Free Zone.” Chuck read the interpretation of the title “stigma free” and the responsibility. Mary brought up that it heavily depends on the racial construction of the municipality. The ministries of the local religious institutions also affect the “stigmas” within the local community. The town is reaching out to all constituencies for inclusion in this effort.

Notes from the Equipping Action Team

Because there were several new members, we reviewed the 3 principal areas in which the Team has been engaged over the past two years:

- District 10 Grant Funding request and specifically, their failure to present a program for Hispanic/Latino ministry in accordance with the 2012 plan submitted to Council.
- Our ongoing work with the diocesan Hispanic Ministry Commission
- Our oversight of the Jersey City Area Ministry funds

We also briefly acknowledged the need to take up the work of planning and executing the Vestry University program as a result of Kitty Kawecky’s retirement. There was agreement that we should explore and discuss this further.

Notes from the Empowering Action Team

Time was devoted to getting to know the action team as there were several new members.

We reviewed the Cross Roads Convention workshop which was well attended and well received. Thanks to Janelle, DJ and the entire team for all of their efforts in making a successful workshop.

We also began discussions on working on the Empowering the Laity summer forum.

Adjourned

The Meeting was adjourned into compliance at 8:27pm

Respectfully Submitted,

John A. King
Secretary of Council