

**Minutes of the
Diocesan Council Meeting
Church of the Saviour, Denville
Wednesday, June 10, 2015**

Officers: The Rev. Diana Wilcox (Presiding); Ms. Kay Lark (Secretary du Jour); Mr. Paul R. Shackford (Treasurer), Diane Sammons Esq. (Chancellor)

Present: The Rev. E. Michael Allen, The Rev. William Allport, Mr. Robert Bogert, The Rev. Sheelagh A. Clarke, the Rev. Deborah Rucki Drake, the Rev. Canon Gregory Jacobs, Mr. George Kooney, Ms. Sue Morgan, Ms. Nina Nicholson, The Rev. Margaret Otterburn, Ms. Laurie Piccirillo, Ms. Elizabeth Rude, The Rev. Kevin Coffey, The Rev. William Charles Thiele, The Rev. Charles Hatfield, Ms. Mary Sunden, The Rev. Virginia Dinsmore,

Absent: The Rt. Rev. Mark Beckwith, The Rev. Rosa Brown, Ms. Janelle Grant, Mr. John King, Ms. Dunstanette Macauley, Ms. Suzanne Willian, The Rev. Tim Carr, Mrs. Debra Cook, Ms. Roxanne Johnson, Ms. A Lorraine Jones,

Welcome: The Meeting was called to order at 6:34pm. The Rev. Diana Wilcox explained the absence of the Bishop and John King due to health issues and offered an opening prayer, especially for the speedy recovery of the Bishop and Mr. King.

Episcopal Communications: Canon Greg Jacobs reported on clergy transitions. There will very soon be 5 clergy positions open in this diocese.

The Bishop asked the Canon to bring before the Council a report on the hopeful installation of an Hispanic missionary. This will be a part-time position and will hopefully connect with a church for the other half, therefore this might indicate an ordained person.

An update on a ministry that has been forming in Newark with Christ Church Short Hills, St. Paul's Chatham, House of Prayer, Apostles House, Newark ACTS, GTS and the Bishop's office. Two initiatives are in the works. First is to engage seminarians from GTS, one of whom is coming on board Monday for the summer. Then 2 students will be placed in the fall as "field ed." or "wisdom year" – intended to engage the student fully in the life of a parish. The second initiative is a GED program to be run out of House of Prayer, for local residents and possibly for released prisoners.

Blessings for the Summer will be offered by the Bishop in Newark on June 17. Clergy and lay may join him on at 8am at Newark Penn Station and/or at St. John's soup kitchen at 11:30am.

Dwelling in the Word: Luke 10:1-12 was read by the Rev. Sheelagh Clarke and Mr. George Kooney. Discussion ensued.

Business Session:

The Agenda was adopted without revision.

The Minutes from the May 13 meeting

Moved, seconded and unanimously approved

Financial Report – Mr. Paul Shackford, Treasurer

The Treasurer reported on the Finances for the month of May 2015.

**Diocesan Council
Finance Report
for the Year-to-Date Period Ended May 31, 2015**

Enclosed is the financial report for the five-month period ended May 31, 2015. The budgeted amounts reflect the budget that was adopted at the Annual Convention in January 2015.

Details of Information Reflected on the Financial Statement

There are a number of variances in actual results as compared with the budget.

Income

Pledge Revenue (line 1)

The methodology used to create the monthly budget was to base estimated 2015 monthly pledge income on the actual pattern of pledge receipts in 2014. 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.

Through May, pledge receipts are \$17,756 ahead of budget.

Alleluia Fund (line 2)

We have received donations to the Alleluia Fund in the first five months totaling \$36,626 which is \$17,776 ahead of budget. The initial promotion of this fund was from Easter through Pentecost. It is expected that we will also promote the fund during the fall and end of the year.

New Ministry Initiatives Fund (line 7)

This is the source of funds to pay the expenses related to the Missional Church Initiatives (included in lines 14, 15 and 16) and Fund Development (in line 18). We have spent \$10,575 less in these areas than we budgeted, the result of the favorable variances in the corresponding expense line items.

Missional Church Grants (line 8)

The budget includes two grants that will be used to fund a portion of the compensation of the Coordinator for Missional Church Strategy which is included in line 14. One grant was received in February and, together with the second grant, will be used to pay the compensation expense.

Proceeds from Sale of Properties (line 10)

The 2015 budget includes \$69,000 from the sale of property in 2012 and 2014 which is used to reduce the underfunded lay pension plan liability (the related expense is included in line 53), \$7,000 for current contributions for active employees, and \$27,000 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 60)

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 14, 23, 33, and 51)

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

Missional Church Initiatives (line 15)

Spending in this area is \$9,877 below budget through the first five months of the year.

Fund Development (line 18)

We are ahead of budget by \$698 in this area.

TEC 2008 Pledge Arrears (line 35)

The annual budgeted amount of \$10,000 is paid in quarterly installments; the first quarterly installment was paid in March.

Domestic and International Outreach Grants (lines 36 and 37)

The budget assumes that these grants will be paid in fourth quarter of 2015.

Lay Pension (line 53)

As noted above, this line item reflects a contribution of \$69,000 to the lay pension plan fund to reduce the underfunded pension liability, using income from the sale of property in 2012 and 2014 (which income is included in line 10).

Search & Call of Next Bishop (line 60)

Also as noted above, this line item represents a contribution of \$27,000 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 \$27,000 is funded by a portion of the income from the sale of property in 2012 and 2014 (which income is included in line 10).

Net Results

Through the end of May, the favorable variance between actual and budgeted results is \$45,995.

Paul R. Shackford
Treasurer of Convention

Moved, Seconded and Approved

Reminders: Audits from 2014 are past due. E-giving online through Vanco has had several takers but many have not – such a good deal, donations have been proven to increase – set-up fee is waived through July.

Steering Committee actions

The Marge Christie Fund 2015 Cycle Recommendations from the Empowering Action Team were presented by the Rev. Deborah Drake. After several meetings with applicants and all grants were recommended for approval. Several groups received more money than was originally requested at the discretion of the Board. There is a spending rule of 4% and there was a grant that had been returned from a previous year. Moved that the second reading requirement be waived, seconded, unanimously approved.

Moved, Seconded and Approved with three abstentions.

A report was received from the Rev. Sheelagh Clarke regarding the establishment of a Task Force on Grant Appeals. Need to formalize the purview of the Council and a procedure vis-à-vis appeals from denied grantseekers. The task force will consist of three Council members, three Board members (ACTS/VIMS/Alleluia, Ward Herbert and Marge Christie) and John King. This comes as a result of an appeal that was addressed at last month's meeting. Diane will be ex-officio. Kevin Coffey, Michael Allen, Margaret Otterburn volunteered to serve.

The Summer Authorization Resolution from the Engaging Action Team was presented by Chuck.

Moved, Seconded and Approved

At this point in the meeting, the Rev. Canon Greg Jacobs took over presiding the meeting.

The Diocesan Council Resolution on District 10 Funding from the Equipping Action Team was presented by the Rev. Diana Wilcox. A 46-page packet of information was emailed regarding this Resolution was summarized by the Rev. Wilcox. Discussion ensued around the propriety of taking funds from a church sale in District 10 for use in a Diocesan format. Discussion was tabled until September and the issue has been returned to the Equipping Action Team for further study.

At this point in the meeting, the Rev. Wilcox returned to presiding the meeting.

Action Team reports were received – discussions went from 8:00-8:30pm

Equipping Team: The Equipping Team presented for discussion a resolution on plans for Hispanic ministry in District 10. Fervent discussion was held, and the Equipping Team will now revise this resolution and then forward said revised resolution to Council members shortly.

The Equipping Team, through a Vestry University Planning Committee, is continuing to draw up a roster of courses, with the committee's next meeting scheduled for June 25, 2015.

Empowering Team: The group continued planning the July 29th Lay Formation event around "Liturgy: The Work of the People". The Rev. Kevin Coffey will coordinate the Advent Meditations that will "go live" as of Nov. 29th.

Engaging Team: Very Raw Notes from the Engaging Group from the 6/10/15 Council Meeting in Denville.

Main subject: The joint Lutheran-Episcopal advocacy program, LEAMNJ (Lutheran Episcopal Ministry of New Jersey) **THEY ARE ON FACEBOOK**. The formal kickoff meeting will be on Tuesday, June 16 at the Trenton Soup Kitchen with the three Bishops (Diocese of Newark, Diocese of NJ and Lutheran Synod of New Jersey) with media present. A PR firm has been engaged. Equal numbers of Episcopal and Lutheran members will constitute the committee, which will meet for times per year. (Sept., Dec., Mar. and Jun.) Sara Lilja will be the chair person and The Rev. Chuck Hatfield and the Rev. Michael Allen serve jointly as a single voting member from our Diocese. It is hoped that NJ will be a model program for other states.

Drugs, alcohol, dependency, suicides, mental health are additional priorities of this Team. Stigma Free Zones are growing among towns that have passed resolutions. We need a plan to encourage parishes to participate, with training by larger regions that can amortize the costs of trainers and have critical mass of supporters.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm for Compline prepared by the Equipping Action Team.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay R. Lark
Secretary du Jour