

**Minutes of the
Our Diocesan Council
The Episcopal Diocese of Newark
Diocesan Council Meeting
Episcopal House**

Wednesday, January 9, 2019

Present: Mrs. Sheila Barcus, Mr. Robert Bogert, The Rev. Tim Carr, Mrs. Debra Cook, Susan Godar, The Rev. Dcn. Nancy Hansen, Ms. Carol Harrison-Arnold, Nathan G. Huddleston, The Rev. Canon Gregory Jacobs, Mr. John A. King, Ms. Sue Morgan, The Rev. Margaret Otterburn, Mr. Dennis Piccirillo, Mr. Samuel Reckford, Ms. Elizabeth Rundquist, Diane Sammons Esq., Ms. Kathleen Simon, Ms. Lynn B. Tyler, The Rev. Diana Wilcox, Mr. Timothy Wong

Guests:

Absent: The Rev. E. Michael Allen, Mr. Stuart Christie, Dale Ellis, Mr. Bert Jones, The Rev. Juan Rosario De La Cruz, The Rev. Susan Saucedo Sica

Business Session

The meeting began at 6:34 PM

Episcopal Communications

The Rt. Rev. Carlye J. Hughes

The Bishop greeted everyone after the holidays.

Continuing to make the rounds meeting the congregations. Current goal is two clergy per week. Getting to know the Diocese takes time.

It a typical 3 year process to meet with each congregation.

The thing that has the Bishop has found most energizing has been the face to face time. The church is organized around Bishops, and

Developing some Saturday short visits with the Bishop. Over the course of Saturdays in the weeks after the Convention hosted in congregations that aren't currently slated for visitations.

Excited and energized for Convention, particularly on the theme of Gifted, Called and Sent, as an in roads to developing leadership.

The Bishop hopes that people who come to Convention invite more people to come to the Saturday Diocesan Service.

Agenda

The agenda was approved without modification

Moved, Seconded & Approved

Minutes

Moved By: The Rev. Margaret Otterburn

Seconded By: Susan Godar

Diocesan Budget Discussion & Adoption

Mr. Samuel P. Reckford

Pledges came in and there were 54 churches that increased, with 22 decreases, about 88 pledges are in at this time. The rest are pledges that based on historical data, are fairly predictable, and any change in their pledge amounts will not have a demonstrable impact on the projections within this budget, we feel very confident with the final pledge revenue numbers.

even with our largest pledging unit dropping \$30000 due to circumstance beyond there control, we still are up \$45000 on the

year.

Some adjustments to the staff compensation line item. This is due in large part to the uncertainty around the position of the Canon to the Ordinary. (the departure of the current and hiring of another and any transition overlap)

The Bishop is encouraged and grateful by the increases that we have seen, and credits that to talking about the situation in which the diocese was so reliant on a very small number of pledges. Having a conversation that is difficult to have, but it has an impact.

Moved, Seconded & Approved

Moved By: Ms. Carol Harrison-Arnold Seconded By: The Rev. Nate G. Huddleston

Steering Committee

Convention Offering Designation

Engaging Action Team

Moved By: The Rev. Diana Wilcox

Seconded By: Mr. Robert Bogert

Dwelling in the Word

Two Willing Volunteers (Male & Female Voices)

Debra Cook & Dennis Piccirillo read from Romans 12 : 1 - 2

Action Team Time

The Bishop introduced a task for the Council to deal with during the Action team times, is to develop questions around re-visioning districts.

The topic of districts needs to be engaged by multiple committees and groups and there should be a greater effort for visioning the diocese. However a visioning conference is not in the immediate future, but to begin to discern some ways forward would be helpful, so Council could start to formulate a path forward.

Action Team Report Out

Questions:

What is the value of the Diocesan Council? Infrastructure is based on the districts.

How should they be comprised

What are the benefits of being apart of a viable districts

What is the value of the districts currently?

Are we putting up more barriers by utilizing districts

IS there an act of being elected that elevates the desire to be on Council? is it a popularity contest?

How can we lift up the ministries we perform so the need for elections becomes moot.

What other similarities aside from geographical districts? What affinity? and what would we want them to be for?

as the C between C, we should look more like the Convention itself demographically

Shared stories of why council mattered, and need to lift them up more.

DO we encourage the districts that working, how much encouragement should we give them to continue.

What is the role of the larger churches? They haven't been supportive.

Some districts did actually meet to due to electing members of the Bishop's search. What common purpose that could bring the churches together.

Rivalries between local churches, cultures are different - no connections.

Are the boundaries that we have actually good boundaries.

Margaret & Bob, Nate, Carol, Dennis, Sue Godar, Diana (interested in the Council makeup question)

Engaging: LEAMNJ Advocacy
Equipping dealt soley with the
Empowering
April Workshop & presentation at Convention
more workshop ideas for the future

An Appreciation and Celebration of Ministry

A resolution of appreciation was given to Tim Wong as he concluded his term on the Council.

Adjourn & Compline

meeting adjourned at 8:25

Empowering Action Team