

Episcopal Diocese of Western New York
Diocesan Council
January 12, 2006, Diocesan Offices
Minutes of Meeting

Voting members present: Kim Baker, Terry Bull, Enrique Cadena, Nancy Consedine, Philip Dougharty, Owen Gould, Kim Greene, Steven Metcalfe, Barbara Northan, David Noves, Daniel Pinti, Doug Turner, Catherine Way.

Voting members unable to attend: Bishop Garrison, Robert Arnold, Charles Deacon, Liam Doherty, John Rupnow.

Others present: Tom Lunt, Dan Weir, Jay Phillippi, Diana Leiker, Ronnie Barhite, Howard Gondree and Lorraine Hapeman.

Total present: 20

Nancy Consedine, Vice Chair of Council, called the meeting to order with prayer at 6:00 p.m.

The consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the December 8, 2005 meeting and the Bishop's calendar was presented. The consent agenda was approved as presented.

The Episcopal Church Home: Mr. Tom Lunt, President of the Board of the Episcopal Church Home, came before Council to address the issue of the closing of the Episcopal Church Home. He explained the process of approval by the local and state Department of Health before any kind of an announcement could be made. The Church Home was notified of a potential strike the day after the approval for closure was approved. The threat of the strike together with the regulations governing the closing of the facility is what caused the Board to take the action they did. Other reasons for closing were the issue of the future new Peace Bridge and the loss of income from medicaid patients. There was a loss of \$37 per day for each medicaid patient. Upon the completion of the Environmental Impact Study, there is a possibility that the Home could be sold and a new project undertaken in the area that would include senior housing and a nursing home. Unfortunately, this study will probably not be completed for quite some time. The Episcopal Church Home property and buildings are being maintained and kept secure.

Partnership Day: Diana Leiker and Ronnie Barhite representing the Commission on Ministry of the Baptized presented information about Partnership Day. The event will be held on March 25th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Trinity Church in Hamburg. They are encouraging teams from parishes to dialogue and would like every deanery to participate. Information about the event will be in the March issue of Church Acts.

The Year of Community: Enrique Cadena opened up discussion on the Year of Community by asking members what community meant to them. Responses included: sharing, together, deaneries, travel, common experiences, network, and excitedness. The goal is to pull small communities into one Church. There is a need to connect people with people in other churches in their deanery. Have the Deaneries help each other. The Deans met to discuss ideas of bringing people together. One suggestion was to hold Wardens meetings. Possibly end the year with a speaker, announce what has taken place and encourage churches to continue building on the year of the community into the future. Some areas to be considered include communications within the deaneries, advertisement - what is the Episcopal Church?, new life through youth, formation, and fun.

Jay Phillippi shared a plan for the youth that includes things like a month to celebrate youth in our community, time to examine the place and role of young people, study elements made available through the Bishop Harold Robinson Society, Youth Commission and Youth Missioner. He suggested that October be the month used to celebrate youth leading to a youth event in conjunction with convention. This would help the young people have a better understanding of the larger community.

Financial Report: Howard Gondree reported that eight pledges from congregations were still outstanding. The 2006 operating budget will be presented at the February meeting. He reviewed the 2005 year end report of support of congregations. Some congregations will pay the balance of their 2005 pledge in early 2006. He will update the Council regularly on the status of pledges received. Howard also reviewed a preliminary 12 month financial statement. A copy is attached to the original of these minutes. The fair share pledges for 2006 were discussed. It was decided that each congregation that sent a letter of explanation with their pledge would receive a response from Diocesan Council. The letter would thank the parishes for writing and let them know that Council plans to review their concerns and ideas. Phil Dougharty volunteered to draft the letter and e-mail it to members for review. The Bishop and Nancy Consedine will sign as Chair and Vice-Chair of Council. It was also decided that a small committee would be formed to review the letters from congregations to prioritize their concerns and ideas. This list would then be brought back to Council in February and Council will begin a process to study them. The Committee members are Barbara Northan, Owen Gould, Nancy Consedine and Kim Greene.

Credentials: Dan Weir, Registrar, indicated that he would ask each Dean to assist with any congregation in the Deanery that had not submitted a pledge. He also reported that the Diocesan Treasurer, Dick Cutting, reviewed the 2004 audits and said that a significant number of them are not adequate audit reports. Some type of assistance to congregations in the preparation of audits is needed. One suggestion was to ask three or four church treasurers in each Deanery to serve as an audit committee for that Deanery. Diocesan Council members will contact their Deans and encourage them to find people to be trained to serve as audit committee members. A report will be given at the February meeting. Another suggestion was to ask Howard Gondree to teach

Audit Committee training classes again.

Employment Practices Liability Insurance: Continuation of the discussion held at the December 2005 meeting was held. How does Council develop the necessary training? How does Council mandate training? Howard Gondree was asked to contact our Insurance Agent and Insurance Committee about developing a plan to bring to Council at the February meeting.

April Council Meeting: Since the regular date for Council in April 2006 falls on Maundy Thursday, the meeting date has been changed to Thursday, April 20th.

Miscellaneous: Council asked that Committee reports be made in writing instead of in person. This to allow Council more time to work on business. Barbara Northan asked that members talk up the Lay Development Scholarship Fund. The application for scholarships can be found on the diocesan website.

Their being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lorraine B. Hapeman
Secretary