

Episcopal Diocese of Western New York  
Diocesan Council  
Calvary Episcopal Church, Williamsville  
May 18, 2006  
Minutes of Meeting

Voting members present: Bishop Garrison, Nancy Consedine, Charles Deacon, Shawn Duncan, Owen Gould, Kim Greene, Steven Metcalfe, Barbara Northan, David Noves, Daniel Pinti, John Rupnow, Douglas Turner.

Voting members unable to attend: Kim Baker, Terry Bull, Enrique Cadena, Liam Doherty, Philip Dougharty, Catherine Way.

Others present: Richard Cutting, Howard Gondree and Lorraine Hapeman.

Total number present: 15

The Bishop called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Opening devotions were offered by Owen Gould.

The Consent Agenda including the minutes of the April 20, 2006 meeting and the Bishop's calendar was presented. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried.

Health Care Issues: A response was received from the Southern Erie Deanery about the changes to healthcare for employees indicating that there may be more beneficial and cheaper plans available. The Deanery also feels strongly that items such as health insurance coverage should be presented at Convention for final action. They are preparing a resolution to present to Convention. The Health Insurance Task Force is continuing to study additional possibilities. It was suggested that the Southern Erie Deanery and the Task Force work together on strategy and a plan to bring back to Diocesan Council.

The 2007 Diocesan Operating Budget: Steven Metcalfe, Chair of the Finance Committee, presented the 2007 budget. There has been little change from the 2006 budget. The issues continue to be mission and ministry initiatives and the fair share wish list. The Finance Committee set aside \$25,000 in the 2007 budget for a developmental initiative and asked Council to discuss what this initiative should look like. Suggestions included building up the deanery structure, evangelism and stewardship at the deanery level, a mechanism to let the Diocese know about the funds and for Council to have responsibility for it, a model similar to the Partner in Ministry (PIM) grants used by ECS could be designed and monitored by Council, an evangelism event sponsored by Council to get other people involved, have Council take a leadership role to help churches and deaneries, review priorities from The Episcopal Church budget for suggestions, and have larger congregations help support smaller congregations. It was recommended to have some members of Council meet with the Finance Committee to formulate plan. The Finance

Committee review the information gathered and return to the June meeting with a budget to review and approve in preparation for Diocesan Convention.

Four Month Financial Report: Howard Gondree reported that current year pledges are \$35,000 short of the budget in the first four months. He explained that most variances in income and expenses are the result of timing differences.

A list of income and expenses for the 2005 Diocesan Convention was received as a matter of information. The result is that Convention, with the current registration fee system and cuts in expenses, is almost self-sustaining.

Shawn Duncan shared that the Diocesan Steering Committee for the Katrina partnerships would be bringing information and a resolution to the June meeting.

Catherine Way submitted the draft of the article on the work of Council she wrote for ChurchActs. She will be advised of corrections and then it will be submitted for publication.

The Council commended the Finance Committee for their work. Steven Metcalfe was thanked for hosting the Council meeting and providing dinner.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. Closing devotions were offered by Owen Gould.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine B. Hapeman  
Secretary