

Episcopal Diocese of Western New York
Diocesan Council Meeting
September 14, 2006
Diocesan Offices
1114 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo
Minutes of Meeting

Voting members present: Bishop Garrison, Terry Bull, Enrique Cadena, Nancy Consedine, Charles Deacon, Shawn Duncan, Owen Gould, Kim Greene, Steven Metcalfe, Barbara Northan, David Noves, Catherine Way.

Voting members unable to attend: Kim Baker, Liam Doherty, Daniel Pinti, John Rupnow, Douglas Turner.

Others present: Richard Cutting, Robert Arnold, Lorraine Hapeman.

Total present: 15

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

Consent Agenda: The Consent Agenda including the minutes of the June 8, 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.

Financial Matters: Steven Metcalfe reviewed the eight month financial report. He noted that current year payments from congregations is behind by almost \$30,000.00. Other unfavorable variances in the budget are due in part to timing differences. Fair share pledges were discussed. The Bishop will contact St. Michael & All Angels to find out why they did not submit a pledge form. Shawn Duncan agreed to contact St. Paul's, Springville to find out why they have not made a pledge payment so far this year. Treasurer, Richard Cutting, reported that the Diocesan Audit has been completed.

Convention Preparations: Council members received copies of the resolutions to be presented to Diocesan Convention. Shawn Duncan reviewed the resolutions dealing with the Constitution & Canons and the Standing Rules of Order. He explained that a committee had been formed by the Bishop and chaired by the Chancellor, James Fanning, to review the Canons to bring them up-to-date and in conformity with the National Canons. For the most part these changes are grammatical and consistency of language. Canon 19 has been changed to conform to the Office of Pastoral Development's "Best Practices" used during the process to elect a bishop. There will be a pre-convention open hearing on the resolutions dealing with the Canons at Trinity, Hamburg on Sunday, September 24th at 3:00 p.m. All the churches have been notified of this meeting. Rule I of the Standing Rules of Order deals with the order of business for Diocesan Convention. The resolution deals with changing the order of business so that reports will be at the end of convention and business will be moved to early on the agenda.

The resolutions regarding health insurance were discussed. Shawn Duncan reviewed the resolutions on behalf of his Dean, Charles Whitmore, who submitted the resolutions. Robert

Arnold was present to hear the discussion on behalf of the Health Care Task Force. The discussion included the question of what is significant and far reaching policy change and how to reduce costs without reducing coverage. Bob Arnold stated that the Health Care Task Force is seeking alternative ways to keep as many benefits as possible for as long as possible and also ways for alternative ways for congregations to be able to afford the premiums. The Bishop encouraged members to discuss this in the pre-convention workshops.

Preliminary Credentials review: All parochial reports except St. Peter's, Forestville have been received. St. Bartholomew's needs to submit the necessary insurance Accord Binder. St. Bartholomew's has been contacted and this should be received in the next few days. Audits are due by October 1st. To date 31 audits have been received. The fair share pledges and audits will be reviewed at the October meeting.

A letter was received from St. Paul's Cathedral that they would not receive a draft of their audit until October 3rd and requesting an extension by Council so that the Cathedral would receive seat, voice and vote at Convention. The Bishop will communicate to the Cathedral that if the audit is in, they will be seated.

Millennium Development Goals contribution: The Bishop was hoping to report to Diocesan Convention about what has happened with the MDG but so far there has been no actions taken to date. He then read a letter from the Presiding Bishop seeking diocesan support for a conference to be held next year in southern Africa titled *TEAM: Towards Effective Anglican Mission*. This conference will bring together all the Provinces of our Communion to focus on the challenges of global poverty and the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The Presiding Bishop ask that each Diocese contribute a minimum of \$2,000. The Bishop suggested that this would be a good use for some of the money set aside for the MDG. A motion was made and seconded to send \$2,000 as a Diocesan pledge for the conference in southern Africa March 7-14, 2007 to focus on the challenges of global poverty and the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The motion carried.

AMTEK progress report: AMTEK is the Human Resources consultant that was engaged to assist us in preparing an employee handbook for diocesan staff and the churches. The handbook for the diocesan staff is complete and has been forwarded to the Personnel Committee. The first draft of the handbook for the churches is ready to be reviewed by the Bishop and staff. The diocesan staff handbook will be given to the members of Council at a future meeting for their advice.

Miscellaneous: The Futures Committee event - Forging Our Future - will be held at Trinity Church in Buffalo on Saturday, September 23rd. The Bishop asked the Council to encourage others to attend this event.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m. with closing devotions.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine B. Hapeman
Secretary

