

Episcopal Diocese of Western New York
Diocesan Council
October 11, 2007
Diocesan Offices, 1114 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo
Minutes of Meeting

Voting members present: Bishop Garrison, Kim Baker, Nancy Consedine, Ann Dutton, Owen Gould, Marty Gregg, Isaac Ihiasota, Steven Metcalfe, Barbara Northan, Colleen O'Connor, Catherine Way, and Daniel Weir.

Voting members unable to attend: Rowland Brown, Sarah Buxton-Smith, Gloria Payne-Carter, John Rupnow, and Douglas Turner

Others present: Howard Gondree, Richard Cutting and Lorraine Hapeman

Total present: 15

The Bishop called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Opening Devotions were offered by Catherine Way.

A report from the Futures Committee was added to the agenda.

The Consent Agenda, including the minutes of the September 13, 2007 meeting and the Bishop's calendar, was presented. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried.

Deanery Council meeting reports: The Eastern Erie and Genesee Deaneries held pre-convention workshops earlier in the week. The Niagara, Cattaraugus and Chautauqua Deaneries will meet during the next week for their pre-convention workshops.

Catherine Way submitted a letter of resignation from Diocesan Council. She has to resign due to work constraints. The Bishop thanked her for her service to the Council.

Mission Topic: Kim Baker did a brief report and discussion on ministry to and by older people. Her focus was that a church can thrive with people with grey hair.

Millennium Development Goals: There was \$7,653.00 available to be used for MDG's. The following groups were approved to receive funding:
\$500.00 for Salvator Sabushimike from Burundi, Africa to start a business. Salvator is connected with St. John's-Grace Church, Buffalo.
\$500.00 for US Fund for UNICEF. UNICEF focuses on education, emergencies, HIV/AIDS, immunization and malnutrition.

\$1,000.00 for Carpenter's Kids in Tanzania. The dioceses of New York and Central Tanganyika formed partnerships to help transform the lives of AIDS orphans in Tanzania.

\$1,000.00 for Oikocredit. Oikocredit is a cooperative established by the World Council of Churches to offer microfinance in developing countries.

\$1,000.00 for Episcopal Relief and Development earmarked for Haiti. ERD is improving the quality of life for the people of Haiti.

\$1,500.00 for the Diocese of Swaziland to assist AIDS orphans.

\$1,500.00 for Ethiopia Reads to provide library books for the children of Ethiopia.

\$653.00 to be used as seed money to support training resources and materials for the support of the MDG's.

Partnership in Ministry Grants: The Niagara Deanery hired a Youth Missioner - Sarah Harrington. Dan Weir will serve as contact person with Sarah and the Niagara Deanery.

Diocesan Convention Credentials Report: A copy of the Credentials Report is attached to the original of these minutes. Dan Weir made a motion that Diocesan Council recommend to Convention to seat with voice and vote any church that did not submit its 2006 audit by the October 1st deadline if its audit is submitted by the close of business on October 24, 2007. The motion carried. Those churches include: St. John's, Ellicottville; St. Peter's, Forestville; St. Peter's, Eggertsville; St. Paul's, Harris Hill; St. Martin's, Grand Island and St. Paul's, Stafford.

Dan Weir made a motion that Diocesan Council recommend to Convention that St. Peter's, Forestville not be seated with voice and vote because they did not submit a parochial report or an audit. The motion carried.

Dan Weir made a motion that Diocesan Council recommend to Convention that any congregation that has not paid at least 50% of the amount pledged by the close of business on October 24, 2007 not be seated with voice and vote. The motion carried. Those congregations include: Christ Church, Lockport; St. Stephen's, Niagara Falls; St. Paul's, Stafford and St. Bartholomew's, Tonawanda.

Dan Weir will write letters to each of the churches with credentials issues.

Council members discussed establishing a policy statement that Diocesan Council requires a signed pledge form be on file with the Diocese.

Financial Statement: Howard Gondree presented the nine-month financial report. He reported an unfavorable variance of \$29,610 in revenue and the favorable variance of \$38,575 in expenses. Most of the variances are due to timing differences. Council can expect to see a 20% increase in medical premiums for 2008.

Futures Committee - Recruitment Team: Barbara Northan explained that the Recruitment Team will discern how to populate the other teams. Earle King and Lois Carter have been asked to serve as Co-Chairs of the Recruitment Team. Council was asked for approval to constitute a recruitment team. Each Deanery is being asked to find a representative to serve on the

recruitment team by Diocesan Convention. A motion was made and seconded for approval to constitute a recruitment team. The motion carried.

Communication with congregations: A letter was received from St. Paul's Cathedral regarding their 2008 fair share pledge. It was suggested that Council members attend a Vestry meeting at the Cathedral.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine B. Hapeman
Secretary