

Episcopal Diocese of Western New York
Diocesan Council
Thursday, March 8, 2007
Diocesan Offices, 1114 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo
Minutes of meeting

Voting members present: Rowland Brown, Sarah Buxton-Smith, Nancy Consedine, Ann Dutton, Marty Greg, Steven Metcalfe, Barbara Northan, David Noves, Colleen O'Connor, Gloria Payne-Carter, Doug Turner, Catherine Way, and Daniel Weir

Others present: Howard Gondree and Lorraine Hapeman

Voting members unable to attend: Kim Baker, Owen Gould, Isaac Ihiasota, Margaret Rose, John Rupnow, and Bishop Garrison

Total present: 14

Vice-Chair Nancy Consedine called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. Opening devotions were offered by Daniel Weir.

Consent Agenda: The Consent Agenda, including the minutes of the February 8, 2007 meeting and the Bishop's calendar, was approved as presented.

Deanery Reports: Cattaraugus and Chautauqua Deaneries are having a combined meeting on March 20th in Jamestown. Southern Erie Deanery reported that Shawn Duncan was appointed as Dean. The Northern Erie Deanery Clericus will meet the third week of March.

Other reports: There were no reports for March. Council members would like to have a report from Episcopal Community Services at the April meeting and from the Deans at the May meeting.

Partnership Grants: Steven Metcalfe reminded the Council members that \$25,000 was put aside in the 2007 operating budget as an initiative to engage the Diocese in new work. The application process and structure of the grants need to be developed. The objectives are: an opportunity to work together, church has responsibility, strengthen congregations, build trust, raise visibility of the Episcopal Church and the Episcopal Church welcomes and cares for you. The objectives need to be part of the application. The application also needs to include the articulated goal, a report back during and after the grant, and a Council member assigned as a liaison with each project. Amounts of grants should be left open. A working group should be formed to handle the applications. Steven Metcalfe will serve as Convener. Marty Greg, Dan Weir and Catherine Way will serve on the group. Steven will write an article for ChurchActs and develop another draft application including the objectives. Once the application is finalized, packets will be prepared and given to the Deans for distribution to the churches. A motion was made and seconded to organize the working group and have them move forward with the objectives. The motion carried. The deadline for applications should be October 1st so that a report can be given to Diocesan Convention.

Mission Topic: Dan Weir and Gloria Payne-Carter presented a report and led discussion on :A Broken World and a Ministry of Reconciliation”. (The report is attached to the original of these minutes.) Dan and Gloria asked Council to consider a partnership with Haiti through the Episcopal Relief and Development to support education, health and global development. They also proposed that Diocesan Council as a leadership body of the Diocese consider adopting a project in Haiti for the next year and encourage other leadership groups such as Standing Committee, Trustees, Deaneries, etc. to do the same. At the April meeting as a follow-up Council members are encouraged to bring money as a pledge. Dan and Gloria will draft a resolution for Diocesan Council to adopt and one for presentation to Convention.

There were no volunteers to lead the April mission topic discussion. It was decided to invite a representative from the General Convention Deputation to attend the April or future meeting.

Financial Matters: Howard Gondree reviewed the three documents given to the Council members - 2006 fair share payments made in 2007, 2007 budget as inputted into our system, and the January and February 2007 variances shown as timing issues.

Communication with congregations: The fair share and extra mile thank you letters have been finished. The letters to those congregations that sent letters to Council about the fair share are also finished. Congregational visits to Advent, Kenmore; Trinity, Hamburg and St. Mark's, North Tonawanda are on hold until the Bishop has an opportunity to contact them and arrange for the meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to have the Diocesan Council representatives contact their Deans to request time on a Deanery Council meeting to share information. The motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. with closing devotions offered by Dan Weir.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine B. Hapeman
Secretary