

Episcopal Diocese of Western New York
Diocesan Council
April 20, 2006
The Diocesan Offices
1114 Delaware Avenue
Minutes of Meeting

Voting members present: Bishop Garrison, Kim Baker, Terry Bull, Enrique Cadena, Nancy Consedine, Philip Dougharty, Shawn Duncan, Steven Metcalfe, Barbara Northan, David Noves, John Rupnow, Douglas Turner, Catherine Way

Voting members unable to attend: Charles Deacon, Liam Doherty, Owen Gould, Kim Greene, Daniel Pinti

Others present: Howard Gondree, Richard Cutting

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

The consent agenda including the minutes of the March 9, 2006 meeting and the Bishop's calendar was presented. A motion was made and seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried.

Certification of General Convention Deputies as Provincial Synod Deputies: Several years ago the Province II Ordinance was changed to have Synod meet once every three years and that the other years would be a theme based Provincial Convocation. It is recommended that the General Convention Deputies be appointed as the Provincial Synod Deputies since General Convention will be the focus of the Synod. Our Diocesan Canons currently call for the election of Provincial Synod Deputies each year. The Canons are being reviewed and will be updated to coincide with the current Provincial Ordinance. A motion was made and seconded that Diocesan Council certify the General Convention Deputies as Deputies to Provincial Synod. The motion carried.

Millennium Development Goals: Diocesan Council needs to devise a system of how to distribute money that is in the Diocesan Budget for the Millennium Development Goals. There is about \$4,000 in the budget. Forming a small task force with a member of Council as the chair was discussed. A posting could be sent to see if there are other persons in the Diocese that might be interested in serving on this task force. The Bishop would like to have a plan of action ready to report at Convention and hopefully have the plan implemented by the end of the year. Philip Dougharty offered to serve as Chair as long as others could be found to assist.

Financial Report: Dick Cutting reviewed the report on the summary of invested funds that was prepared by Howard Gondree. There are restricted and unrestricted funds. The income available from these funds is usually 5% of the three year market value. All funds are monitored by the

Trustees of the Diocese. The first quarter financial report was reviewed. There is about a \$50,000 shortfall from congregational support. Thirteen congregations have not made a fair share payment during the first quarter of 2006 and there are eleven that are one month behind in payments. Fair share payments still outstanding from 2005 total \$27,000. Discussion was held regarding those congregations that still have outstanding balances from 2005 and are also behind for the first quarter of 2006. Deanery representatives will continue to be in contact with congregations in their deanery that are behind in pledge payments.

The Role of Council: The Bishop reviewed the Guidelines for the Role of Diocesan Council as approved by Convention in January 2005 as part of the revision of Canon 9 (Diocesan Administration). Discussion was held about the meaning of “significant and far-reaching policy actions.” Convention needs to decide what is significant and far-reaching. Council needs to continue their work and to be empowered to act between conventions. There is a need for a better way to communicate with and work with the deaneries. The Futures Committee is holding meetings with members of the Diocese that should be of help to Council and Convention.

Update on work with AMTEK: The Bishop, Bruce Gillies, Kathy Williams and Lorraine Hapeman met with Jackie Milne. Jackie is our AMTEK consultant. The Diocesan employment practices were reviewed as a beginning step in the process. She will prepare a draft for our review in the next couple of weeks. The final result will be a handbook to be used at the Diocesan level and one to be used as a model for the congregations. The staff also met with the Diocesan Personnel Committee to review the draft of Diocesan Personnel Handbook. The Personnel Committee is working on revisions.

Letter from St. Martin’s Church, Grand Island: Diocesan Council received a letter from Earle King of St. Martin’s Church about their parochial report being received late (March 16th) and what Council’s recommendation to Convention would be. A motion was made and seconded that no adverse affect about being recommended for seat at Convention would apply to St. Martin’s, Grand Island because their parochial report was received on March 16th as long as the other canonical submissions and deadlines were met. Discussion followed. The motion carried unanimously. A response will be sent to St. Martin’s Church.

The Bishop asked whether convention packets should be made available to those congregations that are not in compliance. Discussion followed. It was agreed that this would not a good idea. How is the Diocese informed about the process used for credentials. Church Acts is a good way for this to happen. Catharine Way volunteered to write something and share it with the Council members before submitting it for publication.

The Bishop will take responsibility for corresponding with Earle King in response to his letter. The Northern Erie Deanery representatives will also be in contact with Earle.

Steven Metcalfe talked about the May Council meeting. It will be a working session on the 2007 budget. Part of the discussion will include regionalism/deaneries and the years of community.

There is a need for congregational strengthening and development. This will also be part of the budget discussion.

The May meeting of Council (May 18th) will be held at Calvary Church, Williamsville. A light dinner will be provided. Barbara Northan will post the change on the Council listserv.

Following closing devotions, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorraine B. Hapeman
Secretary

(The minutes were taken by Nancy Consedine and transcribed by Lorraine Hapeman)