

**The Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota
Minutes Diocesan Council 2019
All Saints', Minot, ND
December 6-7, 2019**

1. Introduction of Members

Called to Order with prayer at 17:15¹

Present: The Rt. Rev. Keith Whitmore (Assisting Bishop); John Floberg (Chair, Standing Committee); Hal Weidman (Canon Missioner); Duffy Williams (Treasurer); Peter Mading; Tammy Enockson; Andrea Stomberg; Robert Fox; John Anderson; Elaine McLaughlin; Mary Johnson; Don Henderson (standing committee); Terry Overbo (standing committee); Donna Pettit.

Present Friday only: Bart Davis.

Present by Zoom: Christie Iverson (standing committee)

Present Saturday by Zoom: Dan Rice

Present Saturday only: Margaret Zaharia

Absent: **NAMES????**

2. Organization of the Council

2a Elected as Vice Chair: John Anderson

2b Elected as Secretary: Mary Johnson

2c Appointment of the Finance Committee

Motion 2019.12.1

Motion to approve the following members nominated to the Finance Committee at Diocesan Convention in November

Andrea Stomberg andrea.stomberg@yahoo.com

Robert Fox rfox@uttc.edu

Dan Rice danielroyrice@gmail.com

John Baird jbaird01@gmail.com

John Floberg jffloberg@gmail.com

Charlotte Peterson peteroncl@ameritech.net

Bart Davis jbdavis@daktel.com

Moved: Duffy Williams

Second: Elaine McLaughlin

Motion carried

¹ Numerical references in **Large Bold** are to the Diocesan Council Agenda for this meeting.

3. Rules of order

3.a.

Motion 2019.12.2

Recognize Bishop Keith Whitmore as Chair of Council acting on behalf of the Standing Committee

Moved: Donna Pettit

Second: John Anderson

Motion carried

3.b use of electronic meetings

i) for whole Council

ii) individual members unable to attend

Discussion: John F: a) if decision must be made between meetings, appropriate authority could put forward a motion and decide by email. b) our Zoom meetings have been informational only. We only make decisions IF a decision on a planned topic is announced ahead of time.

Don H: official meeting can be scheduled and then there can be a vote

Duffy: Do people attending electronically contribute to the quorum? Yes, if there is a vote.

John F. : There must be sufficient advance warning for meetings.

Donna: A distinction must be made between un-excused vs. excused meeting attendance.

John F: by canon Council must meet a minimum of 3 meetings per year.

3.b.i

Motion 2019.12.3

Diocesan Council shall have the option between regularly scheduled meetings to use email to inform and invite to Zoom or other electronic session to consider matters requiring a vote. The vote shall be taken at the scheduled Zoom (or other electronic) session.

Moved: Mary Johnson

Second: Don Henderson

Motion Carried.

3.b.ii

Re: Individual members unable to attend regular meetings. Let's try it.

John Floberg observed that Friday night we were missing half of the West, half of the East and 1/3 of the Standing Committee.

Motion 2019.12.4

Allow members unable to attend regularly scheduled meetings in person to attend electronically with voice and vote

Moved: Duffy Williams

Second: Robert Fox

Motion Carried

Motion 2019.12.5 Request that Canons Committee draft rules about unexcused absences from Diocesan Council and present at Diocesan Convention 2020.

Moved: Duffy Williams
Second: Don Henderson
Motion Carried

In his remarks to the Council, Bishop Keith made it clear that he wants diocesan leaders to know he is available to be consulted by telephone, text, or email, and gave us the following contact information:

Bishop Keith Whitmore's telephone Number: 715-577-2759
principal Email: khwhit2759@gmail.com

5. Finance Committee

5.a and 5b

Motion 2019.12.6 Appointment of Duffy Williams as Diocesan Treasurer:
Duffy Williams accepts appointment as Treasurer. He nominates Charlotte Peterson as Assistant Treasurer, to assume the role of Treasurer when the Diocesan Discernment Task Force renders its report next summer, at which time Duffy will retire.

Moved: Duffy Williams
Second: Don Henderson
Motion Carried

5.d.i Getting good work done because of Sustainability Grant for NDCIM property projects.

Motion 2019.12.7 Approve 2020 housing allowances for John Floberg and Duane Fox (attached)

Moved: Duffy Williams
Second: John Anderson
Motion Carried

5.e Policy Review Supply Clergy Mileage Reimbursement

Motion 2019.12.8 It is the sense of the Diocesan Council that congregations should pay mileage for supply clergy who lead worship in their congregations. Congregations may petition the Council at a subsequent Council meeting if they believe this to be a hardship.

Moved: Mary Johnson
Second: Peter Mading
Motion Carried

6 Report of the Standing Committee

There has been no change to Standing Committee membership.
Bishop Whitmore is fully in place and engaged as Assisting Bishop
DDTF is well underway.

Friday 20:55 ended our meeting until Saturday morning

Saturday 9:15: resumed our meeting

John Floberg introduced and explained the notion of a TEAMS (Theological Education and Ministry Support) approach to ministry

6.c Congregational Development and Support

Motion 2019.12.9

See p.6 of the document John Floberg submitted (attached), in support of establishing a TEAMS (Theological Education and Ministry Support) approach to congregational support, with \$5000 to fund this endeavor

Moved: John Floberg

Second: Don Henderson

Motion carries.

Two postulants: Joe Hubbard (to transitional diaconate) and John Anderson (to vocational diaconate) have been approved for Candidacy.

7. Report by Assisting Bishop

The Bishop reiterated that he wants to be available to all congregational and diocesan leaders, and that, while there is a division between the administrative tasks retained by the Ecclesiastical Authority (Standing Committee), and the pastoral and liturgical roles he will fulfill as Bishop, the distinctions aren't always iron-clad.

8. Canon Missioner's Report. St. Paul's, Grand Forks is well on the way in their search for a new rector.

He is Working with Cartwright, Williston, Dunseith, Minot. They may have significant overlap in the future.

Jamestown is working out details to share coverage with Valley City.

The Rev. Jamie Parsley will be installed as Rector of St. Stephen's at 11 am tomorrow.

St. John the Divine, Moorhead—Canon Hal is working with them.

Canon Hal is attempting to clean up the email listing for the Diocese. Please contact him if there are changes, additions, removals for this list. Please provide him with email lists from each congregation.

St. John's, Dickinson—nothing to report.

The work of the Reconciliation Committee is underway. Carmine Goodhouse and Michelle Weidman are co-chairs. They have met in Bismarck.

The Canon Missioner also offered diocesan leaders his contact information:

Hal Weidman's contact information

605-390-3570

9. Convention Review and Planning Report

Motion 2019.12.10

In the case of the need to postpone Diocesan Convention due to weather or other reasons, Diocesan Council names Gethsemane Cathedral as a secondary venue and Diocesan Convention will take place the week after planned date of Diocesan Convention

Moved: Mary Johnson

Second: Don Henderson

Motion carries.

The Council would like the **Canons Committee** to look at all relevant canons concerning off-site participation in Diocesan Convention, e.g., electronic participation.

10. NDCIM Report.

Elaine McLaughlin gave us a report on the activities of:

10.a Niobrara Convocation (June 26 weekend) takes place on Standing Rock, hosted by NDCIM.

10.b 5 slots open for Winter Talk. A gathering for Native congregations around the country for training, communication, team-building, fellowship. ML King weekend Saturday-Wednesday

10.c Mary Crist, a priest from PB's staff, is doing the Theological Formation work that takes up where Bishop's Native Collaborative left off. Met with academic dean of Sitting Bull College, which has a general studies Bachelor's degree. Upper division is pretty wide open as electives. Episcopal Church offering 8 course offerings corresponding to the 8 canonical areas.

11. Report of the Commission on Ministry

Mary Johnson reported that:

11.a at the direction of the Standing Committee, the members of the Commission are contacting all diocesan clergy who are retired, serving outside the Diocese, or on leave, so we know their status and all conform with the canons of the Episcopal Church about their ministry. This means that we will make clergy over the age of 72 aware of their need annually to renew their letters of agreement with congregations in which they serve. COM members will report to the Standing Committee on each of these clergy by Maundy Thursday, 2020.

11.b The Commission on Ministry at our meeting December 6 voted to strongly recommend Joe Hubbard and John Anderson for candidacy to the diaconate. We are also planning to contact each person who has formally made application for Holy Orders to understand where they are (and where they wish to be) in the process.

11.c Canon Hal Weidman presented us with a list programs in the Episcopal Church and elsewhere, that can prepare people for ordained ministry. Members of the COM will be reviewing these programs and recommending ways to ensure that we are helping lay leaders to prepare for various licensed lay ministries.

11.d We are planning for a Clergy and Lay Leaders' Conference at Assumption Abbey, Richardton, on February 7-9. Bishop Keith will be working with us on the content and, we hope, putting us in contact with The Rev. Dr. Doug Zscheile, author of *The Agile Church* as a potential speaker.

Further, the COM met with the Rev. Paul Zaharia, who brought syllabi and grade reports of his online work at Fuller Theological Seminary. COM determined that he has fulfilled the expectations

that Bishop Michael Smith had communicated to him, requiring the equivalent of a year of full time seminary study to be considered for stipendiary positions.

12 Community of Deacons Report Terry Overbo

The goal is to resurrect a community for deacons, and intentionally to be more active and supportive. Terry is Co-chairing with Sloane Floberg. Goals would be support, further education for people exploring a call to diaconate and also continuing education for deacons. Discussion followed about how an experience like Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) might be made available in this diocese. There are no venues in North Dakota for CPE, and traditional CPE programs often require 12 weeks to an academic year of full time study and practice, which is difficult for people who are breadwinners. Bishop Keith offered ideas about how to accomplish this goal.

John Floberg observed that Burleigh County Commissioners recently held a meeting to talk about whether or not their county will accept immigrants for re-settlement. Issues like that are ones that we hope the Community of Deacons would listen to and alert people in our diocese to. Also, e.g., connect with Lutheran Social Services.

13 Grants Committee Of the people in attendance at our Council meeting, Andrea Stomberg, Margaret Zaharia, and John Floberg are on the committee. Leo Wilking is planning to get the group together. The goal is to identify projects and match them with funding through grants from United Thank Offering, Sustainability Grants, Episcopal Church Grants, ND Episcopal Foundation and Higher Education grants, etc.

Jack Chase, Priest in Diocese of Texas who joined us for Diocesan Convention, informed Hal about possible grant opportunities through Diocese of Texas.

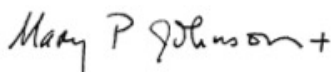
We discussed Dates for future meetings of Diocesan Council:

March 6-7 Prairie Knights Casino

2nd weekend of August (7-8 August) Grand Forks

At 11:20 we adjourned to celebrate the Eucharist together.

Respectfully submitted,



The Rev. Mary P. Johnson