

**Diocesan Council Meeting by Zoom
Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota
Tuesday, December 17, 2019, 7 pm**

Present: The Rt. Rev. Keith Whitmore

Diocesan Staff: Canon Hal Weidman

Standing Committee Members: John Floberg, Terry Overbo, Christie Iverson, Don Henderson

Finance Committee Members: John Baird, Bart Davis, Charlotte Peterson

Council Members: John Anderson, V.P.; Tammy Enockson; Mary Johnson, Secretary; Donna Pettit.

The meeting was called to order by 7:10 pm, and John Anderson offered a prayer.

Canon Hal Weidman presented a proposal for a diocesan staff Support person, to be largely funded in 2020 through a grant—attached— in the amount of \$9500 from the North Dakota Episcopal Foundation. (The Foundation has agreed in principle to respond favorably to this application prior to its regularly scheduled March meeting.) The person whom Hal has in mind to fill the position is the recently hired half-time administrative assistant at St. George's Church.

The Council notes that it will be important to remember that this position is part-time, provisional for 1 to 1.5 years during our time of transition, and there is no expectation of continuing employment. These facts will have some bearing on whether the position is considered employment by the Diocese or Contract work.

After discussion, the Council considered the following

Motion: 2019.12.11

To support this Grant application and submit it to the North Dakota Episcopal Foundation, with the understanding that the Standing Committee is responsible for the hiring of an appropriate person.

Moved: Donna Pettit

Second: Don Henderson

Motion Carried (unanimously).

The Finance Committee presented a proposal to engage the accounting and bookkeeping services of Haga Kommer, at approximately \$20,000 per year. After discussing what things the firm would do (and what payroll, insurance, and Church Pension responsibilities will have to be covered some other way), Council Considered the following

Motion: 2019.12.12

To authorize the Finance Committee a) to contract for services with Haga Kommer; and b) to make decisions about the accounting software that will need to be in place to utilize these services.

Moved: Don Henderson

Second: Christie Iverson

Motion carried (unanimously).

John Baird also reported that he has created the address Finance@ndepiscopal.org for the purpose of submitting forms, etc. This address will automatically forward email submitted to the appropriate persons.

John Floberg brought the members of the meeting up to date on the problems that St. Peter's, Williston has had this fall with mold and moisture in the church building. John Floberg had forwarded a Damage Assessment Report from HVAC Inc. The conclusion of the report was that the damages were not covered by Church Insurance. The best guess is that remediation and repairs would cost about \$25,000.

John Baird also presented a proposal of the Finance Committee to recommend the sale of the Church House in Williston (unless the rectory is an integral part of plans for future ministry in Williston), in order to use the proceeds (after repaying the Diocesan Real Estate Fund) to pay for HVAC repair at the Church building. If the equity from the sale of the house does not fully cover these costs, the balance could be obtained from the Bakken Ministry Fund.

After discussion, it was determined that we should de-couple proposals about the Rectory and the Church building, resulting in two motions:

Motion 2019.12.13 To recommend to the Standing Committee that the Rectory be sold

Moved: Donna Pettit

Second: John Anderson

Motion carried unanimously.

Motion 2019.12.14 To allocate \$25k to be spent for repairs of St. Peter's Church, at the discretion of the Standing Committee and under the guidance of the Canon Missioner, who will take all reasonable steps to determine the right time and circumstances to do that repair work.

Moved: Don Henderson

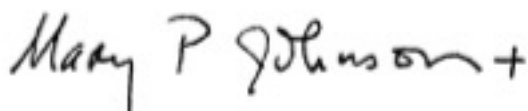
Second: Donna Pettit

Motion Carried.

The Council heard a report from John Baird and Bart Davis about the work of the Diocesan Discernment Task Force. The DDTF has met both in person and by Zoom, and has engaged in prayer and Bible study to listen to answers to the question: What is God up to in North Dakota? DDTF members expect to visit all congregations between Epiphany and Easter, and have set up a day in Jamestown to hear from clergy next month. They hope to have recommendations for the Standing Committee by summer.

Bishop Keith led us in prayer, and the meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary P Johnson +".

The Rev. Mary P. Johnson, Council Secretary