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**Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota**

**Joint Meeting of Standing Committee, Diocesan Council and Diocesan Discernment Task Force**

**St. Paul’s, Grand Forks**

**August 21, 22, 2020**

Meeting called to order Friday evening after supper.

DDTF presented its report. Official record of these minutes should really have the report of the DDTF. Or at least somewhere we need to archive the DDTF report.

Treasurer Charlotte Peterson presented its proposed budget and the report of the Finance Committee. Official record of these minutes needs to have these attached.

**Motion 2020.08.01** Moved (by report of Finance Committee) to add to the diocesan **Trust and Endowment Fund Spending Policy** the following paragraph to 2. SPENDING POLICY:

The Finance Committee will utilize quarterly dividends up to a dollar amount determined each year during the preparation of the budget, to support the budget. If necessary an additional 2% of the portfolio value can be withdrawn. [See determination of portfolio value below.]

Draft of entire policy attached. . Hal, you will have to get a copy of the policy without DRAFT printed over it.

Second: Dan Rice?

Motion passed

We ended Friday evening’s deliberations with prayer just before 9 pm.

We resumed Saturday morning at 8:35 am with prayer led by Bishop Keith.

Roll Call followed and is summarized below:

**Present Via Zoom:**

Christie Iverson (Standing Committee)

Bart Davis (DDTF)

Tammy Enockson (Diocesan Council)

Mark Strobel (Standing Committee)

Brandy (DDTF)

John Floberg (Standing Committee)

Dan Rice (Diocesan Council)

Josh Floberg (DDTF)

Robert Fox (Standing Committee)

Larry Thiele (Diocesan Council)

Carmine Goodhouse (DDTF)

**Present at St. Paul’s**

Don Henderson (Standing Committee)

Donna Pettit (Diocesan Council)

John Anderson (Diocesan Council)

Terry Overbo (Standing Committee)

Mary Johnson (Diocesan Council)

Terry Overbo (Standing Committee)

John Baird (DDTF)

Keith Whitmore (assisting bishop)

Leo Wilking (chancellor of diocese)

Charlotte Peterson (treasurer)

Thadd Bennett (our consultant)

We were invited, under the leadership of Thadd Bennett, to raise any questions that arose from the Council on each of the sections of its report.

**1.** **Overview, Charge, and Process**

**2. What the Data is Telling Us**

**3. Priorities for Mission and Ministry**

Questions about the approval of funds for racial reconciliation consultant. Should there be budgetary support added for this person?

**4. Diocesan Structure**

How are authority and responsibility shared between diocesan minister and Provisional Bishop?

What happens if there is no appropriate candidate for Diocesan Minister?

**5. Diocesan Leadership**

**6. Options for the Future**

**Timeline pp. 24-25**

Dan Rice: Concern about the timeline being too long. Things will be in transition too long and the diocese will “die on the vine.” The demographics of TEC point towards loss of more congregations, lower attendance in the churches that remain. Dan Rice: “Now’s not the time to think small or to think slow.”

Angela Goodhouse: Was this timeline created before the pandemic? It is probably going to need to be extended.

Bart Davis: This is urgent. What we do will enable the church to be there for the leaders

Carmine Goodhouse: People in the congregations felt terribly disconnected from the diocese. If we don’t do something, we will lose some unique and faithful people. This work is urgent.

John Floberg: We are doing diocesan things that stabilize the diocese so that in 3 years, from a place of stability, we can make a good decision. Five years is a realistic time.

Thadd Bennett summarized the 3 final concerns for us to deal with:

1. **Council of Elders/Diocesan Council**

Straw Poll 9-4 in favor of maintaining Diocesan Council.

Leo: Diocesan Council is now 12 members, 6 from each region, plus 6 members of Standing Committee. (Bishop may appoint up to 3 additional members)

DDTF report can be revised to say: “Council is encouraged to create a structure that has more representation from individual congregations and honors the wisdom of elders from each congregation.”

1. **Suggested Enabling Resolution**
2. **Salary Package for Diocesan Minister**

discussion of pros and cons of raising salary package by $20k to make it more competitive

**Motion 2020.08.02 Enabling Resolution**

**RESOLVED**, **that the 50th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota accept the report created by the Diocesan Discernment Task Force (DDTF) as adopted by the Standing Committee and Diocesan Council, and adhere to the plan laid out by the DDTF for the diocese.**

EXPLANATION: On October 20th, 2018, at the 48th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota, Bishop Michael Smith announced his plans to resign on May 1st, 2019. This announcement sent the diocese into an interim period of turmoil and discernment. During this period, the Diocesan Discernment Task Force (DDTF) was created and tasked with discerning *What God is up to in North Dakota* and to report their findings to the Standing Committee, Diocesan Council, and the Convention by the 50th Annual Convention in 2020.

After diligent data gathering and discernment, through pandemic and fierce North Dakota winter, the DDTF presented their final report to a joint meeting of the Standing Committee and Diocesan Council on Saturday, August 22nd, 2020. Both the Standing Committee and DIocesan Council fully support this resolution.

**Moved: ?**

**Seconded:?**

**Passed with 1 dissenting vote**

**Motion 2020.08.03 Gratitude to DDTF for their hard work in creating an informative and helpful report for Council to consider.**

Moved:?

Seconded: ?

Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion 2020.08.04 to request the Finance Committee to find up to $75,000 in the 2021 budget for a contingency fund to: a)provide funds to enable St. George’s to transition its Rector, Hal Weidman, to full time status; b) strengthen the compensation package available for the proposed Diocesan Minister; and c) fund the engagement of a consultant for the Diocese to work toward reconciliation of the differences the DDTF report identified, in particular racial reconciliation.**

 **Moved Christie Iverson**

 **Second Don Henderson**

 **Motion carried.**

**Motion 2020.08.05**

**Pass budget as presented with the addition of the request from Motion 2020.08.04.**

**Moved:Don Henderson**

**Second: John Anderson**

**Motion carried.**

**Motion 2020.08.06**

**Motion to authorize Treasurer, Secretary of Council, and President of Standing Committee to accomplish the paperwork to move our banking to Bremer Bank.**

In an effort to reduce banking service charges and refinance rectory loans, the finance committee now motions we move our banking business to Bremer Bank, and ask the Council to authorize the Finance Committee follow the necessary steps to accomplish this. We also ask the council to authorize the Treasurer of the Diocese, currently Charlotte Peterson; the Bishop Diocesan, currently vacant; and in the absence of a Bishop Diocesan, the President of the Standing Committee, currently The Rev. John Floberg to exercise the paperwork on behalf of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota to enable the change in banks. These same Diocesan officers will also provide for appointing and authorizing the signatories on our accounts.

**Moved by Finance Committee**

**Seconded:Christie Iverson**

**Motion Carried.**

Thadd, our consultant, reported on the designation and work of a Pre-Convention Design Team

The Standing Committee has appointed an Interview Committee to work with the Presiding Bishop’s office as they make available to the Diocese of North Dakota any candidate(s) for Provisional Bishop. This committee will consist of members of Diocesan Council, Standing Committee, and the DDTF. So far the Standing Committee has appointed: John Anderson, Elaine McLaughlin, Christie Iverson and Mark Strobe, and has asked

John Baird, as chairman of DDTF, to appoint 3 persons from DDTF.

Diocesan Virtual Convention Diocese is in conversation with engaging a company to do a

virtual convention. Cost of convention would be $4500.

Convention needs to make decisions for itself. Can we canonically do this? Robert’s Rules (mentioned in our Canons) has a provision for doing a virtual meeting. Someone needs to challenge this decision. Call on Leo as Chancellor, who says it is right and proper to do so.

Challenge Chair’s opinion.

Ask Convention to support Chair’s ruling.

Everything is approved of by the Convention.

Suggestion: find an evening to “practice” the electronic elements.

**Motion: 2020.08.07 to proceed with a Virtual Diocesan Convention for 2020, according to the Video Production proposal submitted by AE Productions (attached), with the expenses of $4550 to be covered by the savings from not needing to provide mileage, meals or accommodations to delegates.**

**Moved: Mary Johnson**

**Second: Terry Overbo**

**1 Nay**

Canon Missioner, Hal Weidman, gave a report (Hal, please attach).

**Motion: 2020.08.08**

**Thanks to Charlotte as Treasurer of Diocese, and recognize her remarkable service**

**Moved: John Baird?**

**Second: Mary Johnson**

**Motion carries**

Prayer by the Bishop

Dismissal by Deacon John Anderson at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary P. Johnson

24 August, 2021