



**Diocesan Council
August 14, 2021
Minutes**

Present: Tom Ely (Facilitator), John Anderson, Kim Becker, Hal Weidman, Steve Godfrey, Terry Overbo, Charlotte Peterson, Dan Rice, John Floberg, Christie Iverson, Robert Fox, Peter Mading, Donna Pettit, Leo Wilking, Joshua Floberg, Angela Goodhouse, Amy Phillips (Scribe)

Absent: Mark Strobel, Larry Thiele, Quinn Palmer (resigned), Margaret Zaharia, Mary Ann Henry, Elaine McLaughlin, Tammy Enockson

Motions in bold italics.

I. Opening devotions (Hal Weidman)

II. Welcome, Announcements, Reminders (Tom Ely)

- a. *Welcome and Overview of the meeting agenda*
- b. *Scribe for the meeting* – Amy volunteered.
- c. *Diocesan office administrator* -- Tom reported that an office administrator has been hired and will start September 7. More details will be forthcoming.
- d. *Reporter for The Sheaf* – Amy volunteered to send a summary of this meeting to John Floberg who is editing the next issue of the Sheaf.
- e. *Quick Check in* – Everyone present provided a brief report on something important to them that has occurred so far this summer.
- f. *RESPECT Conversation Guidelines* – Reminder provided by Tom.
- g. *Previous meeting minutes of 6/26/2021* – No minutes available to approve. Tom will reach out to Quinn Palmer to see if she can provide them.
- h. *Previous meeting minutes of 7/20.2021* – Donna noted that she still needs to add housing resolutions to the 7/20/21 minutes. ***Motion by Dan, second by John A., to approve minutes. Motion carried without dissent.***

III. Reports – The following reports were summarized, with some Q&A, and are available on Realm.

- a. Bishop's Report and comments (Tom Ely)
- b. Canon Missioner's Report and Comments (Hal Weidman)
- c. Diocesan Minister Report and Comments (Steve Godfrey)
- d. Northwest Ministry Coordinator Report and Comments (Kim Becker)

IV. Financial Matters

- a. *2021 YTD Financial Report* -- presented by Charlotte Peterson (document in Realm). ***Motion by Leo second by Dan, to receive the 2021 YTD Financial Report, subject to audit. Motion carried with no dissent.***
- b. *2022 Proposed Diocesan Budget and Notes* -- Charlotte Peterson presented the proposed 2022 budget and notes (documents in Realm). The following items were discussed:

- i. Peter requested that the East African scholarship funds be released to St. John's in Moorhead. Tom indicated that the request needs to come as a resolution from the vestry. Peter will speak with the vestry about forwarding the request to Tom.
 - ii. Steve noted that there are no line items for congregational development and reconciliation. Tom responded that no budget requests had been made by those committees. Christie commented that the racial reconciliation committee is doing planning work with Shaneequa Brokenleg and a budget request may come later. Donna Pettit said the congregational development committee is soon having its first face-to-face meeting and does not yet have a budget.
 - iii. Donna recommended a budget line for the Congregational Development committee and Tom said that the reconciliation committee may need one too. No decision made.
 - iv. John F. recommended a program budget line for the Diocesan Minister for reconciliation, congregational development, youth ministry, and other programs. No decision made.
 - v. Dan noted that the Episcopal Foundation is another source of funding. Tom responded that Northwest parishes are being encouraged to look at those funds.
 - vi. John F noted that the travel line, 56-600, being reduced by 6000. Tom indicated that NDCIM would need to decide on any adjustment to this item and inform Council of rationale for changes.
- c. *Executive Council \$40,000 Diocesan Relief Fund Discussion and Action.* Several recommendations were made for how to use this money. Discussion paused for lunch break.

Lunch break – 12:05-12:35

V. Convention Covid Protocol

- a. John Baird joined the meeting and reviewed the Convention Covid Protocol (document in Realm). Dan asked about a back-up plan in the event of a virus surge. John Baird responded that the virus make-up is different this time and sending vaccinated delegates and having all masked should help provide a safe convention. Tom indicated that the convention planning committee will determine if Convention needs to be cancelled/adjusted (depending on virus surge).
- b. Hal suggested that clergy also be part of the covenant that attendees be vaccinated. Tom added that guests should also be vaccinated. John B. noted that children should have limited exposure to the group since they can't be vaccinated.
- c. John B. asked that convention documents be distributed to all delegates ahead of time. Tom said these will be posted on the Convention website and distributed directly to clergy and delegates for whom we have emails.
- d. *Motion by Christie, second by John A. to adopt Convention Covid Protocol for distribution as modified according to comments above. Motion carried without dissent.*

VI. Financial Matters (continued)

- e. *\$40,000 EC Covid Relief Fund* – After further discussion, *motion by Peter, second by Donna, to divide the \$40,000 Covid Relief fund between 20 congregations (\$2000 per congregation) for the purposes outlined in the Episcopal Church Executive Council memo. Motion carried with no dissent.* Details will be worked out on how funds will be distributed and shared with Diocese.
- f. *Additional covid relief funds* – *Motion by Dan, second by Amy, to donate \$10,000 from Diocesan trust funds to Great Plains food Bank in the name of the Diocese to support citizens in crisis. Motion failed 7-5.*

- g. *Addressing \$40,000 deficit in the 2022 budget. Motion by Amy, second by Donna, to increase T&E transfer to 4% from 2%. Motion carried with no dissent.* This will cover 2022 budget deficit and provide a surplus of \$12,044 in the budget.
- h. *New line item in 2022 budget – Motion by Joshua, second by Peter, add a new budget line item of \$12,044 under Program Expenses entitled “New Season of Ministry.” Motion carried with no dissent.*
- i. *Approval of 2022 budget – Motion by Joshua, seconded by Amy to recommend the 2022 Diocesan Budget to Convention. Motion carried with no dissent.*
- j. *Additional financial matters reported by Tom:*
 - i. *It is the intention to use a portion of the 2021 budget line item for Office Administrator to conduct a Communications Audit and implement recommendations for improved communications in the diocese (See MMR Matrix)*
 - ii. *\$43,000 pending refund from IRS from Bakken Oil Fields*
 - iii. *House in Williston for sale will have financial implications going forward that will be presented to Council when ready.*

Comfort Break for 10 minutes

VII. Mutual Ministry Review Matrix

- a. *Mutual Ministry Review Matrix – Motion by Amy, Peter seconded, to approve MMRM dated August 14, 2021. Motion carried without dissent.* Joshua recommended minor edit on last page; Tom made change. JF made recommendation to include SC under responsibility on COM. Tom will add.
- b. *NSM Resolution for Convention – Motion by Amy, seconded by Terry, for Council to approve the Resolution for Convention related to the establishment of a New Season of Ministry Task Force. Motion carried without dissent.*

VIII. Committee Reports

- a. *Youth Ministry Committee (John Anderson, Joshua Floberg) – Joshua asked Steve and Kim to ask people to join the Committee. Tom reminded that potential committee members should be referred to the Bishop for appointment.*
- b. *Reconciliation Committee (Christie Iverson) – Christie reported earlier in meeting that the committee is meeting with Shaneequa Brokenleg.*
- c. *Congregational Development Committee (Donna Pettit) – reported earlier*
- d. *NDCIM (Elaine McLaughlin) – John F. reported that St. Gabriel’s camp help 3 camps that summer.*
- e. *Transition Committee (Peter Mading) – no report*
- f. *Commission on Ministry (Donna Pettit) – Donna reported that the COM will be doing a workshop on discernment at Convention. COM is also planning of School of Ministry event.*
- g. *Standing Committee (John Floberg)*
- h. *Communications (Quinn Palmer) – no report*
- i. *Episcopal Ministry in Higher Education (Tom) – no report*
- j. *North Dakota Episcopal Foundation (Tom) – no report*

IX. Next meeting

Tom proposed an in-person meeting November 19-20, 2021. Location TBD. All approved.

X. Motion to adjourn

Motion by John F. to adjourn, seconded by Joshua.

XII. Closing devotions (Hal)