**Diocesan Council Meeting**

**via Zoom**

**Saturday January 22, 2022 @ 9:00 am**

***Present****: Christie Iverson, Robert Fox, Donna Pettit, Kim Becker, Tammy Enockson, Steve Godfrey, Bishop Ely, Charlotte Peterson, Stephanie Garcia, Terry Overbo, Mark Strobel, Jason Thoms, Helen Lodu, Brandy Watson, Hal Weidman, John Anderson, John Floberg, Larry Thiele, Leo Wilking, George Abdilnour*

***Missing****: Leslie Ross, Mary Ann Henry, Margaret Zaharia, Christi Iron Eyes, Angela Goodhouse*

*\*Leslie arrived @ 11:20; John Anderson gone for the afternoon.*

* Welcome by Bishop Tom & check-in by everyone sharing about their baptism
* Morning devotions: Kim
* Additions to the schedule & reminder of respectful communication
* Tom asked for a volunteer to write a summary for the Sheaf; Terry volunteered
* Motion made to accept minutes from November meeting
  + Jason moved; Christie seconded
  + Motion passed
* Financial Report presented by Charlotte
  + Repurposed funds from unused 2021 monies to General Convention, website design, and New Season of Ministry Task Force
  + Added line item for website expense under Communications
  + Added lines for New Season of Ministry Task Force (consultant, travel, etc)
  + Motion to receive YTD budget
* John Anderson moved; Terry seconded
* Motion passed
  + Williston rectory was sold for $310,000. The loan for the Williston rectory was paid off with $50,054.39 being added to the liability for the Bismarck rectory. This makes $100,000 available. A decision needs to be made what to do with the $100,000. Several options are available, including paying off Bismarck property loan, to forgo first quarter dividends from endowment and not pay off loan, reduce loan, put money in money market to be used as necessary or a combination of the above.
  + Motion made to allow the finance committee to determine whether to take dividends from endowment or not.
* Jason moved; Donna seconded
* Motion passed
  + Motion to receive updated MTD 2022 budget
* Mark moved; Donna seconded
* Motion passed

REPORTS PRESENTED

* Bishop – Tom submitted written report
* Diocesan Minister – Steve submitted written report
* Canon for Ministry – Hal submitted written report
* Northwest Ministry Coordinator – Kim submitted written report
* NDEF – Andrea Stromberg submitted written report
* Congregational Development Committee – Donna submitted written report as well as a supplemental report with a motion from the committee.
  + Motion: The Congregational Development Committee asks the Diocesan Council to approve $10,000 expenditure from the Revitalization and Renewal Fund to pay for expenses for the 2022 renewal effort with Partnership for Renewal.
* Committee moved; Leo seconded
* Motion passed
* Reconciliation committee – Larry submitted written report
  + Bishop asked Council to review the extensive and important supporting documents from the Reconciliation committee.
* Personnel Committee – Sandy Holbrook submitted written report
* NDCIM – no written report
  + Robert spoke of the COVID restrictions on the reservations that have hindered recent activity and about the UTO grant for a prayer path.
* EFMHE – no written report; nothing new
* 2022 Convention Update – no written report
  + Bishop is working on putting together a planning team and has talked to the presiding Bishop’s office and Dean Strobel
* Our Fair Share Task Force – no written report
  + Bishop is putting the team together
* New Season of Ministry Task Force – no written report
  + Bishop is looking to appoint a chair and co-chair and then will populate the team
  + Bishop is considering asking Thad Bennett to be our consultant again.
* Leo, Mark, Brandy and Hal offered positive feedback from their time working with Thad
* Communications – no written report
  + Steve showed the progress of the new website
  + Steve made a proposal to shift to a bi-weekly newsletter and the Sheaf to a high quality seasonal magazine
* Supported by Council
* Noon Devotion: Kim
* Return from lunch at 12:50
* Solveigh Barney joined the meeting to present a proposal to create a Creation Care Committee in the Diocese inspired by her time as a delegate at COP26
  + Motion made to establish a Creation Care Committee as proposed
* Christie moved; Mark seconded
* Motion passed
  + Bishop appointed Solveigh as chair and will look for a co-chair

REPORTS Continue …

* Pandemic Grants – reported by Steve
  + 8 churches have requested grant money and Steve shared their stories
  + Discussion followed: what to do with remaining money, if there should be a deadline to make grant requests and a possible second round of funding.
  + Motion to make a deadline of April 1, 2022 for application to grant money.
* Christie moved; Larry seconded
* Motion passed
  + Motion to donate $2,000 from the Pandemic Grant money to Great Plains Food Bank.
    - Donna moved; Leslie seconded
* Leo moved to amend the motion charging the Finance Committee to find an additional $3000 from available sources to bring the donation to $5000 for the Food Bank.
  + - * Leo moved; Christie seconded
      * Amendment passed
    - Motion with amendment passed
  + Bishop offered $1,000 from his discretionary fund for the donation
* Staffing – reported by Steve
  + Since the recently hired administrative assistant has quit, a decision needs to be made on how best to fill this position. A lengthy discussion followed.
  + Motion for Council to appoint working group to address the issue and report back to Council in approximately two weeks in order for the Council to make a more informed decision.
    - Leslie moved; John Floberg seconded
    - Lengthy discussion followed; Leslie called the question.
    - Motion passed.
* Working Group: Charlotte, John Floberg, Sandy Holbrooke (or Leslie), Stephanie, Robert, Bishop and Steve.
* Questions for the working group.
  + Financial implication for ongoing support for the position
  + Outline of administrative tasks
  + Exit interview personnel matters/onboarding
  + Flexibility to work in office and remotely
  + Employment histories
* Special Council meeting: Sunday Feb 6 @ 5:30 pm CDT
* Council meeting schedule update for the rest of 2022
  + - April 8-9, 2022 – In person - Bismarck
    - May 14, 2022 - Zoom
    - June 28, 2022 – Zoom (changed to accommodate Niobrara Convocation)
    - July 22-23, 2022 – In person (note: this is a change from earlier schedule)
    - September 23-24, 2022 – In person (TBD)
    - November 18-19, 2022 – In person (new Council in place) (TBD)
* Closing Devotions: Kim
* Motion to adjorn @ 2:50
  + Leslie moved; Jason seconded
  + Motion passed