Diocesan Council Minutes

May 14, 2022 – via Zoom

Present: Bishop Ely, Dn. John Anderson, Brandy Watson, Dn. Hellen Lodu, Donna Pettit, George Abidilnour (will be missing a couple of hours of this meeting (9:30), Stephanie Garcia, Fr. Mark Strobel, Robert Fox, Dn. Terry Overbo, Jason Thoms, Charlotte Peterson, Leo Wilking (1/2 of elected Council Members by Region)

Fr. Steve Godfrey, Diocesan Minister

Absent: Tammy Enockson, Dn. Angela Goodhouse-Mauai, Christie Iron Eyes, Margaret Zaharia, Mary Ann Henry, Leslie Ross (joined at 11:45 am central) (1/2 of elected Council Members by Region)

Jessica Thielke

* Meeting called to order at 9:05 am
* John Anderson led a devotion
  + Minutes of Previous meeting
    - April 8-9, 2022\* - “Reviewing Statements” vs. Balancing the Statements. John Baird is not a member of council so was not “Absent” – Jessica’s name should be fully spelled out.
    - Motion to approve minutes as presented by: Donna and 2nd by Mark.
    - Passed
  + Reporter for the Sheaf?
    - * Donna Pettit volunteered
* Financial Matters (Charlotte)
  + 2022 Budget to date\* (action: Receive report, subject to audit)
    - The Pension Line for Dunseith Priest is something that is catching up with two years of adjustments
    - Vehicle mileage will likely go above the budget amounts in some lines.
    - Motion by: Christie and 2nd by Donna to approve the report as present.
    - Passed.
  + Finance Committee\* Other documents provided for discussion
  + Discussion about the budget process and the idea of developing a 2-year budget
    - The committee chairs of the diocese are receiving a form to plan for two years beginning with the budget cycle.
    - This would allow the New Season of Ministry Task Force to have their plans implemented following this two year cycle.
    - Bishop Ely outlined the process of the budget process for 2023-24.
    - Motion: by Leo and 2nd by Jason – That the Finance Committee be authorized and encouraged to provide Council with a two year 2023-24 budget proposal that would be presented to Diocesan Convention with all necessary provisions for Council revisions once the budget has been approved.
  + Other
* Reports – (these reports are populated on Realm/Council)
  + Bishop (Tom)\*
  + Diocesan Minister (Steve)\*
  + NW Ministry Coordinator (Kim)\*
  + Diocesan Administrator (Jessica)\*
  + Episcopal Foundation for Ministry in Higher Education\* (EFMHE) (Jason, Robert. Leo)

The Ad Hoc Committee came to a mutual decision that the EFMHE should dissolve and all funds remaining in the care of the EMFHE should be given to the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota, with the hopes that they will be used to hire a part-time diocesan youth and young adult minister who will work directly with congregations and members of the Episcopal Church to facilitate ministry to youth and young adults, including campus ministries.

The Trustees of the EFMHE then went into official session and voted by consensus to dissolve the corporation, and to designate the remaining funds to be given to the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota, in hopes that the Diocesan Council would use the money to support the hiring of a part-time diocese youth and young adult youth minister for a term of at least three years. The mechanics of this to be worked out with the Chancellor.

All Trustees of the EFMHE were present: Thomas Ely, Leah Henderson, Jason Thoms, and Robert Fox.

Submitted by Jason Thoms

* + - Discussion of the recommendation coming from the Working Group\* - The Trustees of EFMHE has voted to disband and turn funds to the Diocese of North Dakota.
    - Information was discussed concerning the origin of these funds, the stewardship of the funding and making use of the funds into active ministries in and through congregations.
    - There is some disappointment expressed in the recommendation that has come forward. The proposal removes scholarship money from a long established practice of assisting individuals.
    - Motion: Leo with 2nd by Jason: That the Council Approve the EFMHE Working Group’s recommendation that the funds be received by the Council and the consideration of those recommendations.
    - Passed. With one “No” vote.
  + Congregational Development Committee\* (Donna Pettit)
    - 1st Session will be at St. George’s with the Congregational Development Project (June 13-14)
    - Need to lay better ground work to encourage congregations to be signing up for the project in their congregations. This is because few congregations are responding to the invitation to begin the project.
    - The Diocesan Minister has been doing more of the work to sign up congregations.
    - The $500 ask of congregations to be involved in this project has been removed with the hopes that congregations may respond more positively.
    - The timeline of the project is being expanded.
    - Diocesan Trainers: Donna Pettit, Steve Godfrey, Kim Becker, Tammy Enockson and Larry Thiele
  + Break
  + North Dakota Episcopal Foundation (NDEF) (George)
    - Bishop Tom presented NDEF’s report.
    - There are additions and corrections to the report re: St. John’s in Moorhead, Williston, White Shield and Dunseith.
  + Reconciliation Committee\* (Christie Iverson)
    - Retreat for the Committee in May for the first in person committee retreat.
    - Working on building trust
    - Determining next steps
    - Lectio Divina is being offered on 1st Thursday of the Month.
    - The theme of reconciliation finds its way into every diocesan conversation.
  + Personnel Policy\* (Steve)
    - Report is on Realm. Progress is being made (slowly) with recommendation of Policy update by July meeting of Council.
  + NDCIM (Robert)
    - NDCIM Meeting on Thursday, May 19.
  + Creation Care Committee (Robert Fox or Kim Becker)
    - Written report by Solveigh Barney in Zoom.
    - UTO Grant received by St. Paul’s in White Shield
  + 2022 Diocesan Convention Planning Team (John F., Leslie)
    - “Living into the Way of Love” is the Theme of the Convention
    - PB Curry will be with us
    - Prairie e-newsletter and Sheaf will be used for communication within the diocese
    - Leo offered this idea for a workshop: Partnership for Renewal congregational presentation.
    - Should we be providing opportunities for Zoom for all or part of the Convention? Pre-Convention meetings on Zoom?
  + Episcopal Relief and Development\*
    - On Realm
  + Commission on Ministry\* (Donna, John A.)
    - Report received from Harvey Henderson
  + General Convention (John F., Robert, Angela)
    - The GC will have an altered calendar and agenda.
  + Standing Committee\* (Mark Strobel)
    - Approved demolition of the Rectory at St. Thomas’, Ft. Totten
  + New Season of Ministry Task Force\* (Brandy, Christie, Robert, George)
    - Christie Iverson presented a report of their first meeting.
    - The Task Force intends to visit each congregation two times. One a fact finding and the other a presentation on formulating recommendations.
  + United Thank Offering
    - Coordinator still needed
  + Our Fair Share Task Force (John F. Robert, Leslie)
    - Trying to get a meeting time to work for its members.
  + Communications (Steve)
    - Web Site has a Diocesan Calendar that is maintained.
    - Sheaf has moved to being a Seasonal Publication
  + Pandemic grants (Steve)
    - Jessica will be following up with congregations re: the use of the grants.
    - There is an unused portion of these grants for $6,000 that needs recommendation/proposal for its use.
* 2023 Convention Planning
  + Recommend that the Convention be scheduled at the Baymont in Mandan. Fees waved for Convention Hall rental.
  + Only available the last weekend of October 27-28, 2023.
  + Should we begin to plan to move around the diocese? There are several other locations that can be considered.
  + Motion by: Leo with 2nd by Donna to hold Convention at Baymont in Mandan October 27-28, 2023.
    - Passed
* Action/Discussions
  + - Supply Clergy Compensation Proposal\* (Steve)
      * The proposal is on Realm.
      * This is a policy that concerns Priests, not Deacons

Moved by Donna with 2nd by George to accept the presented document as the diocesan guide for a supply priest’s compensation.

Passed.

* + Council meeting schedule update for 2022
    - June 28, 2022 – Zoom (note: this is a change from earlier schedule to accommodate Niobrara Convocation)
    - July 22-23, 2022 – In person: Proposal to meet in Turtle Mountain area, in order to share in the dedication of Saint Sylvan’s, Dunseith building on Saturday July 23rd at 4:00 PM. Jess is looking into options
    - September 23-24, 2022 – In person: Proposal to meet in Grand Forks
    - November 18-19, 2022 – In person (new Council in place): Proposal to meet in Jamestown

Moved to adjourn: Leslie and Jason with a 2nd. Passed.

12:20 pm Adjourned with Devotion by Dn. John Anderson