

**Diocesan Council Meeting**  
**via Zoom**  
**April 22, 2023 Earth Day**

**Present:** *Hellen Lodu, Donna Pettit, Tammy Enockson, Steve Godfrey, Bishop Ely, Terry Overbo, Brandy Watson, Robert Fox, Leslie Ross, Mark Strobel, JoAnn Keehn, Bob Hoekstra, John Baird, John Anderson, Kim Becker, Elaine McLaughlin, Elsie Magnus, Angela Goodhouse-Mauai, Jason Thoms*

**Absent:** *Stephanie Garcia, George Abdilnour, Leo Wilking*

- Bishop Tom called the meeting to order at 9:03 expressing regret that we could not meet in person and enjoy the hospitality of All Saints Minot.
- Morning devotions: John Anderson
- Bishop Tom shared the Earth Day video from our Creation Care Committee
- Check-in: Highlight from the Easter season
- Bishop Tom announced the recent engagement of Kim Becker & Robert Fox.
- Bishop Tom reminded everyone of the Respectful Communication Guidelines.
- Chaplain for next meeting May 23, 2023: Brandy Watson
- Reporter for this meeting: Leslie Ross
- Motion to accept minutes from February 2023 Council meeting submitted by Tammy Enockson
  - Moved by John Baird; Donna Pettit second
  - Motion passed
- WoDakota Annual Appeal
  - As of this date, 16 Council members have made pledges to the Annual Appeal.
  - \$31,000 raised already!!
  - Bishop Tom shared the video that he & Jason Thoms made for the Appeal.
- New Season of Ministry Task Force
  - Welcomed special guests Carmine Goodhouse & Harvey Henderson from the New Season of Ministry Task Force.
  - John Baird, co-chair, shared highlights of what the Task Force has been doing (see report).
  - The next two hours were devoted to discussion about reports and materials from the Task Force.
- Noon Devotions: John Anderson
- Lunch break @ 12:10 for 30 minutes
- Finance – Bishop Tom led the discussion
  - Charlotte Peterson resigned on March 5, 2023.
  - Immediate need for a treasurer to be part of a team that includes Jessica Thielke & Sheila Leier. It is a volunteer position.
  - The responsibility to appoint the Treasurer falls to the Council in lieu of a Convention election.
  - Nothing has been taken from the endowment.
  - Motion to receive the YTD budget report subject to audit
    - Moved by Jason Thoms; Mark Strobel second
    - Motion passed
  - There will be an Exit Audit, which is standard practice after a treasurer resigns.
  - Functional Expense Policy motion: The Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota elects to waive categorizing its expenses by function of either “Program” or “Administration” for the purposes of the annual audit of the Diocese. The written reports of the Diocesan Ministry Support Team which are currently, and will be in the future, presented to every regularly scheduled meeting of the Diocesan Council will be accepted as an explanation of how the ministries of Diocesan employees is dedicated to the function of “Program” or “Administration.”
    - Robert Fox of the Finance Committee brought forth the motion.
      - Motion passed

- 2022 Audit
  - A signature from a Council member is required to stay with current company.
  - Mark Strobel as Vice President of the Council will do this.
- Resolution to offer our thanks to Charlotte Peterson as follows:

The Diocesan Council of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota, meeting on this 22nd day of April 2023, recognizes and gives thanks for the ministry of Charlotte L. Peterson, who has faithfully served as Treasurer of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota since 2019. We give thanks to God for her steadfast devotion to this ministry and her guiding wisdom in helping us manage our diocesan financial resources during this challenging time of transition. Her willingness to go above and beyond the normal responsibilities of Diocesan Treasurer has been a valuable gift to us, and we now pray that she will find time to attend to other important interests in her life, not the least of which is her beloved horse, Scots. For this and all the many ways in which Charlotte has served the church she loves so much, we give thanks and say, “servant, well done.”

- This will be presented by Steve Godfrey with a gift when he is in Grand Forks.
  - Moved by Donna Pettit; John Baird second
  - Motion passed
- Reports
  - Bishop – Tom Ely submitted written report
  - Diocesan Minister – Steve Godfrey submitted written report
  - NW Ministry - Kim Becker submitted written report
  - NDEF – Andrea Stomberg submitted written report
  - Congregational Development Committee – Donna Pettit submitted written report
  - Reconciliation Committee – Christie Iverson submitted written report
  - Creation Care Committee – Solveigh Barney submitted written report
    - The Bishop’s response to the committee concerning their requests of Council:
      - Council could adopt a Resolution; the committee needs to draft it.
      - The committee would be responsible for hosting a workshop event.
      - The use of the Bakken Funds is set by Council and currently it is set for use in the Bakkens.
    - Kim Becker noted that the committee would like to be involved with UTO projects.
  - 2023 Diocesan Convention Planning - Bishop Tom gave an update
    - The Planning Team has made a good start thinking through themes, looking at NSMTF report, considering workshops & worship.
    - Do not have a chair for the Team at the minute
  - Episcopal Relief & Development – Andrea Stomberg submitted written report
  - Commission on Ministry – Harvey Henderson submitted written report
  - NSMTF – John Baird submitted written report
  - UTO – Mary Massad & Vanessa Strobel submitted written report
  - Youth – Steve Godfrey gave an update
    - The position has been advertised, they have received inquiries and interviews will start soon.
  - WoDakota Annual Appeal– Bishop Tom gave an update
    - For those who have made a pledge to the campaign, payment expected by Pentecost.
  - Companion Relation with Diocese of Texas – Bishop gave an update
    - NSMTF found several people who are interested to engage with this relationship.
  - Safe Church – Bishop Tom gave an update
    - Currently deciding who needs training
  - Diocesan Administrator – Jessica Thielke submitted written report
- White Stone Hill
  - Elaine presented good news concerning plans for a monument to honor those massacred or sent to POW camps at White Stone Hill.
- 2024 Diocesan Convention update

- There was a motion at the last meeting to present several possible options for Convention. Three sites were presented: Jamestown, Minot & Grand Forks.
- The recommendation for 2024 Convention: Jamestown, accommodations at the Gladstone & events across the street at the Civic Center the fee for which is waived if accommodations are held inside Jamestown.
- Recommendation for 2025 Convention: Minot
- Motion for the 2024 Convention to be held in Jamestown October 25-26, 2024.
  - Moved by Mark Strobel; Elsie Magnus second
  - Motion passed
- Upcoming Meetings: **NOTE THE ADDITION OF A POSSIBLE JULY MEETING**
  - May 23, 2023 (7:00 PM Central Time) Zoom
  - June 16-17, 2023 (overnight in person) ***Bismarck***
  - July 25, 2023 (TBD) Zoom
  - September 15-16, 2023 (overnight in person) ***TBD***
  - November 17-18, 2023 (overnight in person) ***Jamestown***
- Closing Devotions – John Anderson
- Meeting adjourned 1:47 p.m.