

**Diocesan Council Meeting**  
**via Zoom**  
**February 28, 2023**

**Present:** *Hellen Lodu, Donna Pettit, Tammy Enockson, Steve Godfrey, Bishop Ely, Charlotte Peterson, Stephanie Garcia, Terry Overbo, Brandy Watson, Robert Fox, Leslie Ross, Mark Strobel, JoAnn Keehn, Bob Hoekstra, John Baird, George Abdilnour, Hal Weidman, John Anderson, Jessica Thielke, Kim Becker, Elaine McLaughlin, Leo Wilking, Elsie Magnus*

**Absent:** *Angela Goodhouse-Mauai, Jason Thoms*

- Bishop welcomed all present and made an addition to the agenda: 2024 Convention date & location
- Opening prayer: Bob Hoekstra
- Check-in: What do you like about winter? Or What helps you get through the end of winter?
- Bishop reminded everyone about Respectful Communication Guidelines
- Motion to accept minutes from January 2023 Council meeting submitted by Tammy Enockson
  - Moved by John Baird; Bob Hoekstra second
  - Motion passed
- Chaplain for next meeting April 21-22: John Anderson
- Reporter for this meeting: Donna Pettit
- Financial Matters
  - Budget: Charlotte took questions
  - Motion to receive the Budget to date (thru January)
    - Bob Hoekstra moved; Mark Strobel second
    - Motion passed
  - Endowment update: Charlotte took questions
  - Audit 2021 update
    - Summary is that there is a need for more participation, there are no major issues and things are in order
    - Motion to accept the Audit for 2021
      - Elaine McLaughlin moved; Terry Overbo second
      - Motion passed
  - IRS: \$46, 482 correction that we have been waiting for since December 2018.
- Reports
  - Bishop - Tom Ely submitted written report
  - Diocesan Minister – Steve Godfrey submitted written report
  - NW Ministry – Kim Becker submitted written report
  - Diocesan Administrator – Jessica Thielke submitted written report
  - NDEF – Andrea Stromberg submitted written report
  - Congregational Development – Donna Pettit submitted written report
  - Personnel Policy – Sandy Holbrook submitted written report
  - Creation Care Committee - Solveigh Barney submitted written report
  - 2023 Diocesan Convention Planning – Tom Ely gave an update
    - Looking for members; Leslie Ross & Bob Hoekstra volunteered
    - October 27 & 28 2023
  - Commission on Ministry – no written report
    - Meeting scheduled for March 4
  - Standing Committee – Mark Strobel submitted written report
  - New Season of Ministry Task Force – John Baird submitted written report
  - United Thank Offering - Vanessa Strobel & Mary Massad submitted written report

- Youth/Young Adult Minister Search – Steve Godfrey submitted written report
  - Posting the position soon
- WoDakota Annual Appeal – Tom Ely gave an update
  - The Council’s financial commitment to the appeal will not be published
- Companion Relationship with Diocese of Texas – no written report
  - Bishop is looking for anyone who is interested in this partnership.
- Convention 2024
  - Considering Jamestown
  - Looking at the Gladstone, U of Jamestown, Civic Center
  - Motion to say yes to Jamestown & schedule as soon as possible
    - John Baird moved; Bob second
    - Leo Wilking suggested seeing more option such as Grand Forks & Minot
    - John Baird withdrew the motion
    - Plan is to come to the April meeting with more than one option
- Safe Church Policies
  - Two main objectives: adopt policies & decide who pays for background checks
  - Intake officers are Sandy Holbrook & Zanne Ness
  - Many people through their profession are mandated reporters such as counselors, teachers, doctors etc; within the church, clergy are also mandated reporters.
  - Motion to adopt these policies as specifically developed for the Diocese of ND
    - Leo moved; Stephanie second
    - Motion passed
  - Lengthy discussion concerning who will pay for the background checks as we try to get the Diocese of ND in compliance with these polices.
    - Congregations or the diocese
    - Motion: The first year of background check costs to be paid by the diocese with help from congregations and individuals who are able and willing to share that cost.
      - Donna Pettit moved; Brandy second
      - Motion passed unanimous
    - Although not in the motion, discussions concluded that after this initial year the Council would assess the situation.
- Upcoming Meetings: **NOTE THE ADDITION OF A POSSILBE JULY MEETING**
  - April 21-22, 2023 (overnight in person) ***Minot***
  - 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 prayer led by Bob Hoekstra & adjournment @ 9:27