

**Diocesan Council Meeting**  
**Bismarck, ND**  
**June 16-17, 2023**

**Present:** Donna Pettit, Tammy Enockson, Steve Godfrey, Bishop Ely, Terry Overbo, Robert Fox, Leslie Ross, Bob Hoekstra, Kim Becker, Elsie Magnus, Stephanie Garcia, Jason Thoms, Helen Lodu, Leo Wilking, JoAnn Keehn, John Anderson, Elaine McLaughlin, Amy Morrow

**Absent:** Brandy Watson, Mark Strobel, John Baird, George Abdilnour

\* Angela Goodhouse-Mauai arrived on Saturday

**Friday June 16, 2023 Wingate Hotel**

- After dinner and lighthearted conversation, the meeting began at 6:50 p.m.
- Opening devotions – Steve Godfrey
- Bishop Ely’s opening comments acknowledged there are no major decisions to be made during our time together which provides a great opportunity for in depth conversations on several topics.
- Check-in: Something you are looking forward to this summer.
- Review of Respectful Communication Guidelines
- Discussion: Diocesan Council Matrix Goals
- Closing devotions – Steve Godfrey
- Meeting adjourned 9:04

**Saturday June 17, 2023 St. George’s**

- After a St. George’s breakfast the meeting began at 9:03 a.m.
- Morning devotions – Steve Godfrey
- Bishop Ely asked for any takeaways from Friday evening’s discussion
- Motion to accept minutes from April 2023 Council meeting submitted by Tammy Enockson
  - Moved by Elsie Magnus; Leslie Ross second
  - Motion passed
- Motion to accept minutes from May 2023 Council meeting submitted by Tammy Enockson
  - Moved by Bob Hoekstra; Robert Fox second
  - Motion passed
- July Council meeting rescheduled from the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 5:00
- Chaplain for July meeting: Bob Hoekstra
- Reporter for this meeting: Jason Thoms
- Finance Report
  - A formal welcome to Amy Morrow in her new role as Diocesan Treasurer
  - It was decided amongst the finance team (Sheila Leier, Jessica Thielke and Amy Morrow) and finance committee to switch the financial records to QuickBooks, which is more user-friendly than the current accounting system. The goal is to have the switchover complete by the end of summer.
  - Budget to May 31, 2023 Report
    - Took dividends for the second quarter
    - Sheila Leier’s position as bookkeeper is a paid position but not in the budget
    - Motion to receive Treasure’s Budget to May 31<sup>st</sup> Report subject to audit
      - Moved by Leslie Ross; Donna Petit second
      - Motion passed
- Update on WoDakota
  - 43 donors
  - Total amount pledged above \$51,000
- Update on the Exit Audit

- The results of the exit audit are as follows: the committee found no major issues. Outside of the check writer, two other authorized signers sign each check.
- Evaluation of how much the Diocese pays the Cathedral for the office space (includes rent, utility, heating & air, parking, internet etc.)
- Motion to accept the exit audit report from the Finance Committee
  - Moved by Stephanie Garcia; Donna Petit second
  - Motion passed
- Budget Requests
  - Committee chairs must submit requests by the next meeting of the Finance Committee on June 27, 2023
  - Amy Morrow asked if congregations could make budget requests.
- Bakken Fund Policy (see written report for more detail)
  - Currently royalty income helps fund the budget for the Bakken area.
  - Draft of possible changes to the Bakken Ministry Fund Policy include:
    - 50% of the income would go to the budget; other 50% would go into the reserve fund
    - Of the 50% going to the budget, 80% would go to the Bakken area with the remaining 20% used for Creation Care efforts in all congregations.
    - Evaluation of an implementation strategy for making funds available to the churches is necessary.
    - Leslie Ross & George Abdilnour to help Steve Godfrey with this evaluation
- Reports
  - Bishop - Tom Ely submitted written report
    - There is a conversation being had about the possible sale of St. Peter's Williston. At present this is not a discussion about the dissolution of the congregation.
    - If the building is sold, since the congregation holds the title to the building they will determine how the money is used. If dissolution of the congregation does occur, the money goes to the diocese. There is a church interested in the building.
  - Diocesan Minister – Steve Godfrey submitted written report
  - NW Ministry – Kim Becker submitted written report
  - Diocesan Administrator – Jessica Thielke 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
    - *At the Threshold* is the theme of the 2023 Convention
    - The team is requesting photos of church thresholds
    - The lists of delegates for each church are needed
  - 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 gave a report
    - We had budgeted for a part time position, position was created, posted and interviews were done. There has been no call at this time.
- Extended Conversations with regard to the specific ministries including observations from dMST members.
- Upcoming Meetings
  - July 23, 2023 5:00 p.m. Budget Focus Zoom
  - September 15-16, 2023 (overnight in person) **Grand Forks**
  - November 17-18, 2023 (overnight in person) **Jamestown**
- Noon Prayer – Steve Godfrey
- Break for lunch hosted by St. George's at 12:02; return 12:48
- New Season of Ministry Task Force Update
  - It is clear from visiting most of the churches of the diocese that people want to maintain the identity of the Episcopal Diocese of ND.

- The task force intends to get the final report into the hands of the delegates before Convention.
- They have visited N. Michigan
  - Teams in each congregation are trained and supported by priests
  - Online liturgy class offered to all
  - 4 delegates per congregation to Convention
- Conversations with Montana, Minnesota and South Dakota
- Thoughts on sharing with Texas our Native ministries
- Considering possible changes such as how we choose delegates for Convention and the size of Diocesan Council
- Episcopal Leadership discussion
  - Various models include: part-time Bishop Provisional with specific mission for another season, part-time Assisting Bishop (example: Bishop Keith serving two dioceses), part time Bishop with tenure, call existing full time Bishop until they leave or do something foolish, call someone who is not yet a Bishop to full time (this generally takes two years to do and requires a provisional Bishop for those two years), part-time Bishop while being part-time Rector in a congregation
  - The resources and training for Bishop's is robust and significantly more involved than those in a Diocese Minister's position
  - Canons require a Bishop to live in the diocese unless the Standing Committee gives permission otherwise
  - At 72 the Canons require a Bishop to resign and begin to take pension. A bishop who resigns before age 72 and is eligible to receive a pension can only receive the maximum compensation set by the Church Pension Fund, in addition to their pension. After age 72 if a bishop takes on other work, there is no limit to what they can receive, while still receiving their pension.
- Diocesan Finances discussion
  - Where do we invest in ministry?
  - The endowment feeds the budget as well as grants such as NDEF.
  - What do we want to try on?
  - It is possible to expand the part-time youth position to someone ordained to help with supply and ministries
  - Do we save our investments and if we save, what are we saving for?
- Closing Devotions –Steve Godfrey
- Adjournment with Blessing from Terry Overbo at 2:23 pm