

Diocesan Council Minutes September 15-16, 2023 Grand Forks

Members present: John Anderson, Leslie Ross, Elsie Magnus, Amy Morrow, Mark Strobel, Stephanie Garcia, Bob Hoekstra, John Baird, Donna Pettit, George Abdilnour, Robert Fox.

Others present: Steve Godfrey, Kim Fox

Deacon John Anderson served as Chaplain.

Donna Pettit served as Secretary.

Dean Mark Strobel chaired the meeting in the absence of the Bishop and the Rev Steve Godfrey led some of the discussions.

We met at the Country Inn in Grand Forks for dinner and the evening session. After the meal and evening prayers, we each checked in discussing our feelings about the future of the diocese and our reaction to learning about Bp Tom's diagnosis.

The rest of the Friday session was spent discussing and evaluating our progress on the Diocesan Council Matrix Goals. This is the last meeting before Convention and the beginning of a new year for Diocesan Council. We went through the goals one by one and evaluated our progress or the lack of progress for each one. The final record of this is appended to these minutes.

Deacon John closed the meeting with prayer.

Saturday, September 16 at St. Paul's

Jason Thoms joined the group.

After prayers, the minutes of previous meetings were approved:

June 16-17, 2023 Moved by Bob Hoekstra; seconded by Elsie Magnus

July 23, 2023 Moved by Amy Morrow; seconded by John Baird

Discussion of New Season of Ministry Task Force Final Report was led by John Baird. John discussed the history, plan, main 5 points, how to present to Diocesan Convention, and zoom meetings planned for diocesan members.

There was a motion by Leslie Ross, seconded by Jason Thoms to endorse the New Season of Ministry Task Force Final Report and accept the resolution for Diocesan Convention action. Motion approved.

Next business was the financial update. The 2023 Budget to date (August 2023) was discussed showing no problems. Bob H moved and Elsie M seconded receiving the report. Approved.

There was a discussion held and answers given to questions about the Stewardship Share update, restricted/reserve funds and endowment funds. No problems but we all understand these funds better. The Finance Committee suggests we take the 3rd quarter dividends.

The 2024 Budget was presented and discussed. Leslie Ross moved and Bob Hoekstra seconded accepting the 2024 budget and presenting it to Diocesan Convention. Motion approved.

There was an opportunity to ask questions about any of the committee reports submitted. The more questions we ask the better we all understand the work of each committee.

Somewhere in here we ate lunch.

The last business was an extended conversation about the work of the Council this past year and some looking forward to a new year. The exercise was called Rose, Thorn and Bud. We each listed a Rose (something that went well for us on Council this past year); a Thorn (something that was a challenge or struggle in Council); and a Bud (something that holds promise for the future of Council and the Diocese). The Roses mostly appreciated the added planning and purposefulness of Council work during the past year. Council felt like it had purpose and a plan. Thorns often showed as impatience at not moving more quickly. The Bud showed a sense of readiness to move forward, approval of the plans being made, and a general sense of possibility and hopefulness.

The next Council meeting will be in person in Jamestown, November 17-18, 2023 as we begin a new year of moving forward.

We prayed and sang our way out of the meeting and adjourned.

Donna Pettit, Substitute Secretary

Mutual Ministry Matrix Council Review: September 2023

These goals were approved by Diocesan Council January 17, 2023, and reviewed by Diocesan Council September 15-16, 2023.

- *What do we celebrate?*
- *What can we let go?*
- *What do we want earmark for future growth.*

Goals set in January	Assessment as of September
Clarify roles and responsibilities of the Diocesan Minister	Celebrate and let go
Broaden circle of leadership	Celebrate (e.g. Finance) and earmark
Maintain & improve sacramental support for small congregations	Celebrate and earmark
Fulfill potential of Northwest Ministry project and determine future sustainability	Celebrate and let go to the New Season of Ministry recommendation for new focus
Clarify relationships among the various communities that worship at St. John's, Moorhead to seek direction for the future of St. John's and those associated with it.	Celebrate (e.g. Peter Mading in seminary) and earmark
Achieve measurable Congregational Development	Earmark
Identify or develop leadership teams in all congregations	Earmark, define, teach/discuss/discern
Improve and effectively promote School of Ministry and other offerings for ministry formation to support team leadership in all congregations	Celebrate discernment, earmark, define, discern, refocus
Develop Youth (and Young Adult) Ministry	Earmark for New Season of Ministry
Increase communication across the diocese	Celebrate and continue mostly, e.g. e.g. cycle of prayer, online payments, map; earmark Realm dissatisfaction and need for shared Zoom resources
Heal Divisions/ Reconciliation	Celebrate Owaste Wakan, convention workshops; Earmark generally
Improve Stewardship	Celebrate & earmark – need clarity re DSS, consider time & talent, need committee – Donna Pettit, Amy Morrow & Leslie Ross volunteered
Explore ways by which the diocese might provide administrative support for small congregations	Earmark – gather people, survey
Develop fuller understanding of wider church & diocesan funding for ministries within the diocese	Transparence & understanding in Council better, wider diocese?? Need to publicize NDEF deadlines
Increase transparency in diocesan financial matters	

Goals set in January	Assessment as of September
Complete & document the \$2K pandemic relief grants from the \$40K grant from the Executive Council of TEC	All but 2 churches participated; report almost ready
All Canonical Obligations will be met.	Celebrate & earmark for regular review
Articulation of a sustainable New Season of Ministry for our diocesan future (2023-2025 and beyond) in the spirit of <i>Living the Way of Love</i> in our parishes, our communities, our state, and the world. See this web page and particularly the video on the page about the Way of Love: https://www.episcopalchurch.org/way-of-love/	Celebrate!

Diocesan Convention

October 27-28, 2023

Baymont Inn & Suites - Mandan, ND

Theme: At the Threshold!

Convention Website: www.ndepiscopal.org/2023-diocesan-convention

On September 15, 2023, Diocesan Council received and endorsed recommendations and resolutions from the New Season of Ministry Task Force. The full New Season of Ministry Task Force report can be found on our [website](#). What follows is the resolution to be considered at Convention on October 28, 2023.

Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota

Diocesan Convention Resolution submitted by the New Season of Ministry Task Force and endorsed by the Diocesan Council

September 15, 2023

Resolved, that the 53rd Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota, meeting in Mandan, North Dakota on October 27-28, 2023, gives thanks to the New Season of Ministry Task Force for its faithful work throughout this past year and for the excellent and informative Report presented to this Convention, and be it further,

Resolved, that this Convention adopts the five recommendations from the New Season of Ministry Task Force, as follows:

A. Invest in remaining one diocese:

1. Maintain identity as the Episcopal Diocese of North Dakota
2. Elect a part time Bishop Provisional for another 3 years with specific mission charge to:
 - a) Support goals
 - b) Support dMSTeam, evaluate and discern future staffing needs
 - c) Support collaborations/cooperation with other dioceses
 - d. Prepare for election of Bishop Diocesan (part-time or full-time TBD) no later than the end of 2026

B. Invest in Goals/Priorities for the next 3-5 years and evaluate on an annual basis (at a minimum):

1. Develop Youth/Young Adult Ministry
 - a) Establish presence on college campuses
 - b) Cultivate youth leadership pathways
 - c) Raise awareness and support local congregational efforts for youth/young adult ministry initiatives.
 - d) Pursue ecumenical connections (e.g., Young Life)
 - e) Address liturgical opportunities to more fully engage youth/young adults.

2. Develop Native American Ministry
 - a) Address local/diocesan needs for leadership
 - b) Connect to church-wide initiatives related to Boarding Schools and other issues.
 - c) Identify Indigenous perceptions of church
3. Develop Congregational Ministry
 - a) Identify members of our diocese with gifts and skills to be ordained for sacramental ministry on a diocesan-wide basis.
 - b) Identify and support locally trained, ordained, and commissioned ministers, especially for small congregations.
 - c) Explore possibilities for local ministry team development.
4. Develop Reconciliation and Creation Care Ministry
 - a) Continue building on current efforts and communicate more widely.
 - b) Expand education related to these areas (e.g., Doctrine of Discovery, Dismantling Racism, Indigenous creation teachings, resources for environmental awareness, liturgical resources, sustainable energy opportunities)
 - c) Encourage connections between congregations

C. Invest in Staffing to Align with Goals and review structure annually:

1. Continue funding for full-time Diocesan Administrator
2. Commit to 3-Year funding for a full-time Diocesan Missioner (formerly Diocesan Minister) for Diocesan Ministry Development and Administration in advance of the election of a Bishop Diocesan.
3. Commit to 3–5-Year funding for a full-time Missioner for Youth/Young Adult & Congregational Ministry Development. This position will support and serve various long-term goals, including sacramental support for congregations, youth/young adult ministry, Native American ministry (in particular Saint Thomas, Fort Totten) and other congregational development.
4. Commit to 3-5-Year funding for a full-time Missioner for Reconciliation, Creation Care & Congregational Ministry Development. This position will support and serve various long-term goals, including sacramental support for congregations, Native American Ministry, in particular Saint Paul's, White Shield and Saint Sylvan's, Dunseith, and Reconciliation, and Creation Care. This is a refocus of the Northwest Ministry experiment, based on what we have learned these past two years, and builds on the ministry of the current Northwest Coordinator.
5. Reallocate General Convention block grant funding and increase annual budget approximately \$150,000 by making strategic use of additional withdrawals from trust endowment; use of other diocesan assets such as designated reserve funds; use of other funds invested in NDEF such as congregational renewal and revitalization, and contributions from congregations benefitting from these ministry positions.

D. Invest in collaboration/cooperation with other dioceses:

1. Continue to explore and engage in opportunities for cross-diocesan collaboration and cooperation in mission and ministry (e.g., youth EYE participation with Minnesota, South Dakota Racial Reconciliation efforts, Companion Relationship with Texas.)

E. Invest in structural/organizational changes:

1. Request that Diocesan Council address the following:
 - a) Delegates to Diocesan Convention (proportional or equal representation?)
 - b) Eligibility of canonically resident clergy to vote at Convention.
 - c) Scope and functions of regions, if any?
 - d) Consequences of non-participation in Diocesan Stewardship Share
 - e) Ways to encourage larger congregations to partner with smaller congregations