

**EDEO Diocesan Council Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting
October 31-November 2, 2019
Ascension School, Cove**

Present:

The Rt. Rev. Patrick Bell, Bishop

Class of 2020

The Rev. Jed Holdorph (SC)
Barbara Reynolds

Class of 2021

The Rev. Aletha Bonebrake
The Rev. Roy Green (SC)
Julie Reynolds (SC)
Kit Morgan
Kay Sharp

Class of 2022

The Rev. Charlotte Wells
Adrienne Brown
Steve Winkle (SC)

Ex-Officio

Doug Harder, Secretary of Convention
Randy Heise, Diocesan Treasurer

Seat and Voice

Lisa Boquist, Secretary to Council
Amy Jayne, Ascension Executive Director

Absent:

The Rev. Joseph Farber
Ellen Nesbitt
Lee Kiefer, Canon for Transition Ministry
James Foster, Chancellor

Thursday, October 31, 2019

A Standing Committee Meeting Preceded the Diocesan Council Meeting on Thursday at 4:00pm.

Business Session 1

Call to Order

- Bishop Bell called the meeting to order at 5:01pm and opened with a reading from Hildegard on Bingen.

Election of Co-Chair

M/S/C *Motion to elect The Rev. Aletha Bonebrake as Diocesan Council Co-Chair. (Jed Holdorph, Randy Heise)*

Approval of Minutes from September 6-7, 2019

M/S/C *Motion to accept the minutes from September 6-7, 2019 as presented. (Jed Holdorph, Barbara Reynolds)*

Bisbee Grant Committee Formation

- The following council members volunteered to be on the Bisbee Grant committee and will report their recommendations to council at the February 2020 meeting:
 - The Rev. Charlotte Wells
 - Adrienne Brown
 - Barbara Reynolds
- Council agreed to keep the application process open until the middle of December.

Standing Committee Report

- The Rev. Roy Green reported on the Standing Committee meeting:
 - Gregg Henton has resigned from his position on Standing Committee.
 - Standing Committee certified Ray Jeff Spreier for Ordination to the Transitional Diaconate.
 - The Standing Committee report that was presented in the Pre-Convention Journal will be amended for the official Journal of Convention to include corrections to the report in the election of the Diocese of Kansas, as well as the inclusion of the election in the Diocese of Taiwan.
 - Standing Committee officers elected for 2019-2020 are:
 - The Rev. Roy Green, President
 - The Rev. Jed Holdorph, Secretary

Diocesan Convention Review

- Bishop Pat invited council to give their feedback on their experiences at Diocesan Convention. He also invited The Rev. Janet Warner to sit in to hear the discussion as she is the new Chair of the Convention Committee. Some comments and suggestions included:
 - Have a liturgy book signed by all members of Convention to send back to Grace Chapel.
 - Give more time for meals.
 - Place display tables in a more prominent location, perhaps wherever breaks will be.
 - The prayers before convention were too long, redundant, and created a burden for priests on Sunday morning. Not enough instructions were provided on ways to use them.
 - Perhaps send them all at once instead of weekly to have more time to prepare to have them in the liturgies.
 - It was nice to not have a keynote speaker.
 - The feeling was very collegial, and a lot of ideas came out of the discussions.
 - Having council sit at different tables was helpful.
 - Juli Stratton's workshop was very well done.
 - There was a level of safety and acceptance that had not been felt before.
- Comments on the Saturday liturgy:

- Bobby's participation made the service very special.
 - There was a sense of something special happening.
 - Being inside together and then going out in singleness to the outside worked very well.
 - The sound was better inside.
 - Touching the bags of seed was so special.
- The clergy photo could have been better planned. It was hard for some of the clergy to walk out to the field.
- There were comments from the people from Klamath Falls and Lakeview who would like to have convention in their area.
 - There are possibilities to change the current type of rotation. It has proved to be very expensive in the Gorge and Central Oregon.
 - Since there is a committee it might be feasible to move it out into other places again. The committee would take much of the responsibility from the local parishes.
- There are many who have concerns about the 2020 convention being at Wildhorse in Pendleton.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned for the evening at 7:45pm with the reading of a prayer written by John Oh Donahue.

Friday, November 1, 2019

Bishops Session 1

- Diocesan Council reconvened at 8:57am for a visioning session with the bishop.
- Julie Reynolds read a meditation from Richard Rohr.
 - The council reflected on the meditation and then moved into discussion around what the values of Diocese of Eastern Oregon are.

Business Session 2

- Ascension School Report
 - Bishop Pat introduced Amy Jayne to give the Ascension School report and mentioned that Amy will be participating in a MDiv/MBA program at NorthPark University in Chicago. Amy updated council on the following items:
 - The Barton House kitchen remodel is well underway, and they are hoping to have it completed by the end of the year.
 - The Trail Project
 - ✓ Weed abatement is completed.
 - ✓ Planting is currently happening.
 - ✓ The CREP contract is signed and the income will be double what was anticipated, in addition to a \$5000 incentive payment.

M/S/C

Motion to approve an additional \$8600 from the Tish Croom fund to cover the final cost of the painting project for Kimsey Commons, Barton House, and the Chapel. (Doug Harder, Adrienne Brown)

- The budget is looking good for projected end of the year numbers.
- Amy is exploring the possibility of better maintenance contracts so that we are keeping up with annual maintenance issues to prevent such big repair needs in the future.
- Bobby will be transitioning to a new role as Habitat Manger and the maintenance and grounds work will be given to hourly workers including Matt Witten and Jason Jayne, both of whom have been assisting with those duties already. Most of the grounds work will be given to high school students.
- The staff is working through the book *Story Brand* by Donald Miller. The goal is to learn how to tell our story well and recognizing who our audience is.
- Programing
 - The Circle will come out in November and will announce the 2020 camping season.
 - It will be a traditional camping season although Discovery Camp will be transitioning it to a more family camp style.
 - The Backpacking camp has been removed from the schedule and replaced with a senior high retreat and junior high retreat to take place during the school year.
 - Amy is In conversation with a local farming group to offer outdoor farming camp. They would do the programming and Ascension would offer the facility. The details of the partnership are still being worked out.
 - There is also a women’s backpacking trip being discussed for August 2020, which will not interfere with Adult Ed.

The council took a break for lunch at noon and reconvened at 2:00pm.

Business Session 3

Resolution on Housing Allowance:

M/S/C *WHEREAS, section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code permits a minister to exclude from gross income a church-designated allowance paid to him or her as part of his or her compensation for services as a minister, to the extent used by him/her for actual expenses in owning or renting a home; and*

WHEREAS the Rt. Rev. Patrick Bell is employed as a minister of the Gospel by the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon which does not provide a residence for him, Diocesan Council resolves that of the total compensation received during 2020, \$1500.00 per month shall be designated a parsonage allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the IRS Code of 1986.

The Diocesan Council also resolves that the amount designated as housing allowance shall apply to 2020 calendar year and all future years unless amended by the Diocesan Council. (Roy Green, Randy Heise)

Finance Report

- Randy Heise presented the following report on EDEO's finances:
 - Funds Explanation
 - Randy gave a brief overview of a handout that included all the funds that are included in the Diocesan books. Those funds include approximately 1.796 million in invested monies.
 - Audit
 - The audits are currently behind 3 years. The auditors are confident they will have them up to date by April 2020.
 - Current Budget
 - The budget is on track, with a lower expected income and a corresponding lessening in expenses.
 - Investment Portfolio Proposals
 - Randy reviewed a handout which detailed the transition process of moving the invested funds from Wells Fargo to the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF).
 - ECF will be reviewing EDEO's investment policy and will give recommendations on any changes that might be needed. Lisa will be a secondary on the accounts so she will receive statements and can review the accounts but will have no authority to withdraw funds.

- Bishop Pat discussed that the retirement of The Rev Canon Lee Kiefer as Transition Officer at the end of the year will free up his salary that was budgeted for 2020. The plan for that position is to contract with the Diocese of Idaho's Transition Officer if needed or handle the need on a case by case basis. The bishop and Amy talked about the possibility of allocating some of those funds to support the Habitat Manager position if hoped for grant monies do not go through. By contributing to the funding of this position it would allow that person to expand the knowledge and work of environmental justice beyond Ascension School into the diocese at large.

M/S/C *Motion to allocate \$12,000 from the Transition Minister contracted services line in the 2020 budget and apply it to the Habitat Manager position at Ascension School. (Roy Green, Adrienne Brown)*

2019 Report from SDG Committee

- Kay Sharp reported on the work that the Sustainable Development Goal Committee has done in researching possible funding opportunities within EDEO. They would like to focus on programs that would serve children of incarcerated parents. There is a possibility of a new program being developed by The Rev. Jean Cupp in Pendleton that would work with children in that area. That program is not yet organized but the committee is hoping that the funds in future years could be given to assist that venture. They recommend that the 2019 funds be designated to Ascension School to offset the cost of the bus charter needed to transport campers from Central Oregon, many of whom are part of the COPY program.

M/S/C *Motion to designate the 2019 SDG funds of \$3,000 to offset the cost of the bus for the 2019 summer camping season. (Barbara Reynolds, Kay Sharp)*

Disaster Relief Committee Report

- Bruce Barnes has established a small group of people to respond to disasters in the diocese. The bishop passed out a sheet to council members with a phone tree list of members to contact in case of local disasters. The names on the list so far are:
 - Bruce Barnes - Pendleton
 - Julie Reynolds – The Dalles
 - Judy Warren- Bend
 - Randy Heise- Sunriver

M/S/C *The Council voted unanimously to affirm the important work of the Disaster Relief Committee and support their efforts.*

2020 Meeting Dates

- The 2020 Diocesan Council meeting dates and locations are as follows:
 - February 7, 2020 Online
 - May 15-16, 2020 Redmond
 - August 28-29, 2020 The Dalles
 - October 29-31, 2020 Cove

Bishop Report

- Bishop Pat reported on a few updates from around the diocese:
 - HDSM is back up and running for the new school year with 6 students. He is planning on attending the November session and Bishop Thom will be here in February.
 - Conversations about the possibilities of a shared bishop between two dioceses are still happening. The bishop has been talking with Bishop Sean Roe, who is currently involved in a very similar scenario, and who has offered very wise council.
 - The staff will be traveling with the bishop to Lakeview, Bonanza, and Klamath Falls from November 3-7.

Eucharist

- The Rev. Charlotte Wells presided over Eucharist and council was adjourned until Saturday morning.

Saturday, November 2, 2019

Bishop's Session 3

- The council reconvened at 9:00am to continue the visioning discussion and to work on a vision statement for the diocese.
- After reviewing information and input gathered at the Diocesan Convention the council agreed upon the following statement:

M/S/C *The values of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon are that, as followers of Jesus, we are working towards unconditional love, through human dignity, creation care, and spiritual formation. (Charlotte Wells, Aletha Bonebrake)*

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20am.