

EDEO Diocesan Council Meeting
Draft Minutes of the Meeting
September 6-7, 2019
St. Andrew's, Burns

Present:

The Rt. Rev. Patrick Bell, Bishop

Class of 2019

The Rev. Charlotte Wells

Beth Spell

Adrienne Brown

Class of 2020

The Rev. Jed Holdorph (SC)

Barbara Reynolds

Steve Winkle (SC)

Class of 2021

The Rev. Aletha Bonebrake

The Rev. Roy Green (SC)

Julie Reynolds (SC)

Kay Sharp

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

Gregg Henton (SC)

The Rev. Mary Lujan (SC)

Kit Morgan

Lee Kiefer, Canon for Transition Ministry

James Foster, Chancellor

Friday, May 17, 2019

The Diocesan Council was given a tour of the BioMass project prior to the meeting, led by Lori Cheek, manager of the plant, and Chris Stott, a member of St. Andrew's. The Standing Committee met from 4:00pm-5:00pm in the sanctuary of St. Andrew's.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:22pm and Beth Spell opened with a prayer and a reading from the devotional *Jesus Calling*, by Sarah Young. The bishop offered prayers of thanksgiving for Jim and Beth Spell's 50th wedding anniversary and asked prayers for The Rev. Joseph Farber's good friends who are dealing with the loss of their daughter in an apartment fire.

Agenda

M/S/C

Motion to approve the agenda as presented. (Jed Holdorph, Barbara Reynolds)

Approval of Minutes from May 17-18, 2019

M/S/C

*Motion to approve the May 17-18, 2019 Diocesan Council Minutes as presented.
(Aletha Bonebrake, Randy Heise)*

Ascension School Report

Bishop Pat introduced Ascension School's Executive Director, Amy Jayne, to give an update on the camp. Amy reported that she and her family are settling into life in Cove and she is enjoying her new role at Ascension. She reported the following information:

o Summer Camp

- There were 124 campers at camp this year, excluding Junior High Camp which was cancelled due to Norovirus.
- Ascension School provided scholarships to 24 campers, the parishes provided scholarships to 27 campers, and 30+ campers came through a scholarship from the COPY program.
- Amy reviewed the steps that the staff took with the outbreak of Norovirus at the end of Combined Camp. She noted that the Public Health Department as well as the local Health Inspector commended the way that the situation was handled and were especially impressed that the virus was contained to the camp and did not spread to the user group that was renting Kimsey Commons the same week. Because of the detailed incident reports kept by the staff, Public Health was able to trace the virus, which is spread through human contact, directly back to a camper that arrived on the bus.
- In order to make up for the cancelling of Junior High Camp, Amy will be offering a spring Junior High Retreat on March 20-24, 2020. More information will be coming soon.

o Adult Offerings

- Adult Education with Dr. Wendy Farley was a success, with 16 people attending.
- Amy plans to offer more adult formation opportunities, including smaller retreats.

o Facilities

• Coe-Kerr

- The acoustic treatments and sound equipment have been purchased and installed at Coe-Kerr.

• Barton House

- Amy and her husband, Jason, are proposing to donate the funds and labor required for the remodeling of the Barton House kitchen. They have drawn up a plan that would remove the wall that was put in sometime in the 1950's which created the space for the bathroom off of the dining room. The removal of the wall and the bathroom equipment will restore the kitchen back to its original size and make a much more usable space for the family to cook in and for Amy to be able to entertain guests that might come to Ascension School. Bishop Pat noted that an agreement is being worked on that will lay out the particulars of the donation. Diocesan Council expressed their support of the arrangement through a motion:

M/S/C

Motion to support the remodeling project of the Barton House kitchen by Amy and Jason Jayne. (Doug Harder, Aletha Bonebrake)

- Trail Project

- Amy passed out a handout that explained the work that had been done on the trail project to date, as well as the future plans for the property. Roy Green requested that Amy add the dedication ceremony at the Diocesan Convention to the project's timeline. Amy also requested that council give their support to an official name for the project:

M/S/C

Motion to name the Ascension School trail project the Tish Croom Nature Trail. (Roy Green, Adrienne Brown)

- Amy and the Ascension staff have been working with the USDA on requesting that part of the land be brought into the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) which will pay a lease to Ascension School for parts of the property that are kept in a conservation area. There was some concern that this type of lease would affect the existing water rights. Amy assured council that the agreement would have no effect on the existing water rights and that she and the staff and made sure to confirm this with the authorities at USDA.

M/S/C

Motion to approve EDEO/Ascension School entering into a 15-year CREP contract with the USDA which will not compromise the existing water rights. (Jed Holdorph, Barbara Reynolds)

- Painting

- The painting of Kimsey Commons, Barton House, and the Chapel are completed. Through the process the painters also encountered several items on the buildings that required immediate repair. Some of those items included: replacing of damaged fascia boards on Kimsey Commons, repairing the buttresses and steeple on the Ascension Chapel, and window frame and siding repair on Barton House. Several of the items that were repaired were on the site assessment that was done in 2017 and can now be marked as completed. A request for transfer of funds was reviewed which included a request from the Tish Croom funds. There was a brief conversation around the use of the Tish Croom funds that were put into the endowed account and how those funds were intended to be used.

M/S/C

Motion to approve the transfer of \$1000 from the Barth fund, \$6000 from the Powers fund, and \$42,396 from the Tish Croom funds held in the endowment fund, to cover the cost of the painting and repairs of Kimsey Commons, Barton House, and the Ascension Chapel. (Roy Green, Adrienne Brown)

- [Ascension School Advisory Board Appointments](#)

M/S/C

Motion to confirm the bishop's recommendation of Terry Rahmsdorff, Sean Kimsey, and Charlie Hammerich as new members on the Ascension School Advisory Board. (Julie Reynolds, Charlotte Wells)

Standing Committee Report

The Rev. Roy Green reported that Standing Committee has approved Ray Jeff Spreier, Prineville, to candidacy for Holy Orders and consented to The Rev. Martha Stebbins as Bishop of Montana. He also gave an update on the possible rental by a daycare facility of the church in Nyssa. Unfortunately, the space did not meet the needs of the daycare and so there was no further action taken.

Adjournment

Beth read from *Prayers for Daily Use* by Samuel L. Miller and the meeting adjourned for the evening at 7:30.

Saturday 8:00am

Beth Spell re-opened the meeting at 8:07am with a reading from the book *Laugh Your Way to Grace* by The Rev. Susan Sparks.

Financial Report

Treasurer Randy Heise began his report by indicating that he, along with the Finance Committee, will make sure that the designation of the Tish Croom funds that are currently being held in the Ascension Endowment account are placed in an account that would allow use of those funds, in accordance with Tish's will, to be accessed when needed and not be subject to the existing endowment policy.

- [Finance Committee Report](#)

Finance Committee met by phone and in person, to work on the 2020 budget and review the investment account proposal to be discussed below.

- [2020 Budget](#)

Randy reviewed the 2020 proposed EDEO budget. Some changes that were made include:

- The projected income for assessments has been lowered from \$385,000 to a more realistic \$345,000
- The Ascension School Operations Manager's benefits package has now been put into the Ascension School budget, with the goal being that their salary will also eventually become part of the Ascension budget.
- There was an increase in income from the High Desert School for Ministry
- There was a slight increase in the cost of benefits this year as well as a 2% COLA raise given to the staff.
- The proposed budget comes in with a surplus of \$242.00.

Amy presented the 2020 Ascension School budget. Some items to note:

- There are several items added to the expense line, including the position of a trail manager, that are directly related to possible income from various grants that Amy is in the process of applying for. If the grants are not received the items will be removed with no effect on the balancing of the budget.
- An additional Outdoor School as well as an increase in projected income from Adult formation events was noted.
- An addition of a maintenance reserve fund, which Amy hopes will one day help to mitigate the budgetary issues that come along with having to fix items on the aging campus.
- The addition of another housekeeping position as well as wage increases for employees.
- The proposed Ascension budget has a surplus of \$220.

Randy reminded council that the Ascension numbers are now presented within the EDEO budget when it is given to Convention and when council votes to recommend they are recommending both budgets.

M/S/C *Motion to recommend the 2020 EDEO budget to Convention. (Charlotte Wells, Roy Green)*

o [2019 SDG Designation](#)

After some discussion about creating a reserve fund for the budgeted SDG monies, that could be saved and used to help with local or national issues that honor the original intent of the fund the council agreed to form a subcommittee that will review the use of these funds and bring recommendations back to council in November. The members of the subcommittee are Kay Sharp, Adrienne Brown, and Barbara Reynolds.

o [Madras Update](#)

Members of St. Mark's Episcopal/Lutheran Church of the Good Shephard in Madras sent a card thanking council for the funds that allowed them to complete the much-needed sidewalk replacement at their parish. Pictures of the completed project were also included.

o [Fund Report](#)

The latest fund report from 7/31/2019 was handed out and Randy noted that while earnings were up from June, the market is unpredictable and it is difficult to create a realistic forecast for the investments.

o [Investment Account Transfer Recommendation from Finance Committee](#)

The Finance Committee recommended that Diocesan Council consider moving the EDEO invested funds from Wells Fargo to the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF). Randy reviewed the various companies that Finance Committee had investigated, using a comparison chart that had been created by Jerry Frazier, a member of the Finance Committee. ECF offers a competitive return, low fees, and the ability for EDEO to have more control over ethical and socially responsible investing options.

M/S/C *Motion to move the EDEO invested funds from Wells Fargo to the Episcopal Church Foundation.
(Roy Green, Jed Holdorph)*

There was a discussion around socially responsible investing and fossil fuel divestment. A straw poll of the present members of council showed an even split on the issue of divestment. Randy will immediately request that the funds be moved to ECF and council will continue the discussion about specific investing strategies when there is more time and more information is gathered from ECF.

Safeguarding Training Update

Doug Harder and Charlotte Wells gave an update on their research into the Safeguarding training program. They noted that the link to the EDEO policy on the website seems to be broken and Lisa said that she would look into that issue and send council a copy of the policy via email. Doug recommended that a Safe Church Resource Packet be provided to every parish and Charlotte stressed the importance that the parish have a policy that is posted where visitors and those who use the facility can see it. They also recommended there be Safeguarding trainings offered at Convention as either a workshop or a separate event. Amy offered to talk to anyone who was interested on the policies and standards that Ascension School adheres to and how she makes sure those policies are followed. Charlotte asked if there could be some sort of training template on the website.

Diocesan Convention Update

Roy Green updated council on the progress of the convention planning. Members from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation have been invited to participate in a blessing ceremony on Saturday and to join us afterwards for the banquet. Each convention attendee is being asked to bring 3 gifts to the blessing – earth, water, and a prayer. On Sunday the Prayers of the People are being written by Grace Chapel members and they are also recording music to be played during the ceremony. Helen Brisson is creating a banner for them which will be carried in the recessional.

- [Convention Offering](#)

M/S/C *Motion to designate the 2019 Diocesan Convention offering for the purchase of the Hear My Voice prayer books for the members of Grace Chapel and the remainder of the offering to go to the Tish Croom Nature Trail. (Roy Green, Randy Heise)*

- [Registration](#)

Lisa reminded council members that their registration and meals are covered by the diocese, but they still need to fill out a registration form. The online registration process is working smoothly this year.

- [Candidates](#)

There are currently candidates for all positions except the clergy position on Standing Committee. There are two lay vacancies on COM that need to be filled, as well. There will be an election for General Convention deputies in both orders.

- Tellers

This year's convention tellers will be Beth Spell, Jim Spell, Aletha Bonebrake, and Amy Jayne.

- Program:

Bishop Pat explained that there will be no keynote speaker at this year's convention. The program will consist of two working sessions as a group, and two workshop sessions, with business meetings in between. The Bishop asked that Diocesan Council members make sure that there is one council member at each table during the working sessions. His hope is that this will help the council to get a sense of the heart and spirit of the diocese and they can review what was heard during the November retreat.

Bishop's Report

- Future Planning

Bishop Pat handed out 2 documents from past work on the future of EDEO and asked the council members to review them before the November retreat.

- Elections

The bishop reported on the status of the bishop elections happening throughout the church. He is greatly encouraged by the number of women that have been elected to the episcopate during this time.

- Faithful Innovative Leadership Conference Update

3 of the 4 participants attended the first event in July, and all 4 members will attend the November session. The 4 members are The Rev. Marilyn Roth (The Dalles), Joann Dickson (Lakeview), The Rev. Joyce Atchley (Canyon City), and Sean Rogers (Ontario).

- HDSM

The new dean for the High Desert School for Ministry is The Rev. Holladay Sanderson who recently retired to Coeur d'Alene from the Diocese of Idaho. She attended the IONA conference in the spring and has already met with the HDSM students from last year. She will be operating the school in a one room schoolhouse style and is excited to welcome 2, possibly 3 more students to the school this fall. There are still discussions happening around the possibility of opening the school to lay participants who are not necessarily on the ordination track.

- Grace Chapel

Sean Rogers and The Rev. Janet Warner have been devoting much of their time to the members of Grace Chapel. When the bishop visited this summer, he confirmed 8 of the members. The prison ministry in EDEO is becoming more active within other parts of the diocese, reaching out to the prisoners in their midst, including Heppner and Pendleton.

o Friends of the Trail

The bishop revisited his plan to invite 100 people to contribute \$50 each year to replace the loss of income from the farm lease. There will be significant up front expenses as well, including the monies for the woodchips, trail markers, and benches. It was suggested that this donation option be added to the Donate button on the EDEO and Ascension websites.

o Co-Chair

Beth Spell, the current co-chair, will be going off council after convention and the bishop asked the members who will be continuing to think about who the next co-chair may be. That position will be filled at the November council retreat.

o Thank you to outgoing council members

The bishop thanked the following members of council whose current terms are coming to an end:

- Beth Spell – served 2 terms on Diocesan Council.
- Adrienne Brown – served 1 term on Diocesan Council.
- The Rev. Charlotte Wells- served 1 term on Diocesan Council.
- The Rev. Mary Lujan – served 1 term on Standing Committee.
- Steve Winkle – served a partial term on Standing Committee.

Adjournment

Beth adjourned the meeting at 11:51 with a reading from the book *One God Shared Hope* by Maggie Oman Shannon.