

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EASTERN OREGON
DIOCESAN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting
March 15-16, 2013
St. Paul's, The Dalles

PRESENT:

The Rt. Rev. Bavi "Nedi" Rivera, Bishop

Class of 2013

Laurance Kerr, S/C
The Rev. Anna Carmichael, S/C
Charles Cagle
Ruth Tsu
The Rev. Kathy Macek

Class of 2015

Ann Havill, S/C
The Rev. Dan Gardner, S/C
Doug Boone
Karla Nash
The Rev. Dan Lediard

Class of 2014

Julie Sarazin, S/C
The Rev. Jim Mosier, S/C
Don Dickinson
Kim McClain

Ex-Officio

Doug Harder, Secretary of Convention
Jerry Frazier, Treasurer

Seat & Voice

Diane Adams, Secretary to Council

ABSENT (*all excused*)

The Rev. Rich Landrith, class of 2014
Neva DeMayo, Ecumenical Associate
Member
Bergen Bull, Legal Advisor to the Bishop

Visitors

Jeanie Senior, Diocesan Communications Manager

* * * * *

Friday, March 15, 2013

A Standing Committee meeting preceded the Diocesan Council meeting. The Diocesan Council meeting was called to order by Bishop Nedi with Evening Prayer at 5:10 p.m. Council Members joined in sharing of their Lenten experiences. Dinner followed at 6:20 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 7 p.m. Group norms were reviewed. The agenda was reviewed and accepted with no additions.

Minutes of January 26, 2013

Karla Nash **moved**, and it was **seconded** and **passed** to accept the minutes of the January 26, 2013, Diocesan Council meeting as presented.

Financial Report

Jerry Frazier reviewed the 2012 year-end financial statements for Ascension and the diocese. Jerry commented that Ascension closed the year close to their budgeted income and that they balanced the diocesan support line. On the diocesan financial statement, he

noted that assessment income was about 10% below budget. He noted that expenditures in the category *Direct Ministry Support* were only about 50% of the budgeted amount.

Jerry noted that he has requested the valuations of parish insurance levels from Church Insurance.

Question was raised regarding having someone on Diocesan Council to report for Ascension School. Bishop Nedi responded that Patty Olson Lindsey, Executive Director, can be available to Council meetings when needed and that Laurance Kerr is a school board member.

General Convention Resolutions

Bishop Nedi initiated conversation regarding the Five Marks of Mission as an introduction to discussion of the General Convention Resolutions referred to dioceses.

Bishop Nedi noted that there may be timing considerations for some resolutions. She also commented that an acceptable response to the General Convention on some resolutions may be that resources are not available in Eastern Oregon. It was stated that response to the resolutions is due Dec. 1, 2014, and that Council will return to the resolutions at future meetings.

It was noted that Doug Harder, Secretary of Convention, will need to read Resolution A059 to the Diocesan Convention in October. Creative ideas for reading the resolution were suggested.

Discussion continued until recess of the meeting on Friday and resumed on Saturday morning. The following resolutions were discussed and decisions regarding action are noted:

A025: Challenge Congregations to Develop Websites - referred to **Jeanie Senior**.

A035: Commit to Continued Interreligious Engagement - to be considered at another time.

A037: Approve and Commend Guidelines for Ecumenical Shared Ministries – in process in various congregations in EDEO.

A049: Authorize Liturgical Resources for Blessing Same-Gender Relationships –

Kim McClain **moved**, in the spirit of Open Table, that Diocesan Council ratify General Convention Resolution A049 as diocesan policy. The motion was **seconded and passed** unanimously.

A073: Establish Diocesan Mission Enterprise Zones – noted that the opportunity to apply for such grants is available.

A096: Reduce Barriers to Participation in Church Leadership and Governance – ongoing in the Diocese of Eastern Oregon.

A125: Recommit to the Work of Anti-Racism and A127: Recommit to Being Anti-Racists for the Next Three Triennia – noted that EDEO is lagging behind in training which needs to be scheduled. Broadened diversity training was recommended. A need for visibility in the community was also noted. **Ruth Tsu** volunteered to work on diversity training issues.

A128: Direct Diocese to Examine Impact of Doctrine of Discovery and A131: Express Solidarity with Indigenous People – a curriculum is being developed and the resources may be offered as Continuing Education for the Baptized.

A139: Gender Violence – encouragement to participate in awareness and campaigns. Acknowledged that diversity training encompasses gender, in addition to race and ethnicity and will be included in the work that Council does with diversity training.

A140: Advocate for Maternal and Infant Health – no action taken at this time.

D003: Gun Free Zones – conversation is needed in congregations from a theological perspective. **Ann Havill** and **Julie Sarazin** agreed to work on conversation starters for congregations and will have a draft for Council's review by the end of April.

D022: Churchwide Response to Bullying – **Karly Nash** volunteered to work on opportunities for training and ways to encourage the partnerships listed in the resolution.

D050: Clergy Call to Action on Economic and Racial Justice – Bishop Nedi will distribute the "Prophetic Clergy Call to Action" as prescribed by the resolution.

D067: Dream Act – it was noted that Oregon has passed a tuition equity act. **Jim Mosier, Ruth Tsu and Ann Havill** offered to contact school districts about how they are responding and to identify scholarship opportunities in each community and ways to encourage application.

D069: Social Media Challenge – ongoing in EDEO.

It was suggested that the resolutions be linked to the diocesan website and that congregations be made aware that the link is available. Diane Adams noted that the resolutions will be included in the pre-Convention Journal.

Kim McClain and **Jim Mosier** offered to track the resolutions for future action and reporting.

The meeting recessed at 8:40 p.m. Doug Harder was excused from Saturday's meeting.

* * * * *

Saturday, March 16, 2013

The meeting reconvened at 8:00 a.m. with the celebration of Holy Eucharist. Business resumed at 8:50 a.m.

Staff Resignation

Bishop Nedi told Diocesan Council of Diane Adam's decision to retire from her position as Executive Secretary to the Bishop by Dec. 31, 2013. Discussion followed. Diane recommended that a new person be hired by September 1 in order to attend the Episcopal Business Administrator's Conference in New York at the end of September, and to be involved in preparation for Diocesan Convention.

Charles Cagle **moved** that the position Bishop's Executive Secretary be advertised and a person be hired by September 1, 2013. The motion was **seconded**. Discussion followed. The motion **passed**.

Review of Responses to 2012 Mutual Ministry Review

At 10:55 a.m. following the continued discussion of General Convention resolutions and a break, Council discussed how to respond to needs expressed in the Mutual Ministry Review and where leadership is needed.

- It was noted that 2013 parish visits need to be very different from the past two years.
- Leadership in how to partner for ministry in the community.
- Communication about outreach programs is needed. A blog for sharing ideas, knowledge and for asking questions was suggested. Jeanie Senior indicated that this might be possible as part of the new website design. A column dedicated to outreach in the Oregon Trail Evangelist or in Ministry Matters was suggested. Bishop Nedi suggested that a congregation send an article to Bob Thomson to get the Ministry Matters column started.
- Work on use of internet for workshops and meetings.
- Consider Convention changes – using Ascension; hosting by Convocation; biennial Convention.
- Help members and congregations understand that communication is two-way.

Prior to lunch break, Bishop Nedi shared about her recent trip to the Diocese of Wau in South Sudan in the company of people from the Deanery of Poole from the Diocese of Salisbury in England.

2013 Congregational Visits

Planning for 2013 visits was begun after lunch. In discussion, it was determined that the visits will have a clear purpose of Council listening to the parishes; focus on one or more General Convention resolutions; and possibly to teach use of new blog. **Jim Mosier** offered to work with Bishop Nedi to design a process for visits. Council members were asked to bring their calendars to the May meeting to schedule visits.

Standing Committee Report

Julie reported for Standing Committee that they gave consent to two episcopal elections. They discussed Diocesan House and will reduce the requested rent to \$900 per month and will request a loan from the Eastern Oregon Episcopal Foundation for exterior painting and shingle repair. Standing Committee will enter conversation with Haven, The Dalles, regarding possible use of the house. A request to rent diocesan property in Klamath Falls was received and Standing Committee will seek further information about the request. They also discussed some sharing with the ELCA Synod.

Diocesan Council meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m. with the reading of the picture book, God's Dream by Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Minutes of March, 2013 meeting prepared by Diane Adams, Secretary to Council.

2013 Meeting Dates:

May 11, Adobe Connect

- Report from sub-committee on draft design for parish visits
- Report from sub-committee on D003 conversation starters
- Prepare for parish visits
 - o Schedule parish visits
- Look at GC resolutions referred for consideration or information

August 9-10, begin at 3 p.m., Trinity, Bend

- Debrief parish visits
- Feedback from 2012 resolution in Response to Bishop's Address
- 2014 budget
- Convention planning

October 11-13, Convention, Ontario

November 15-17, Retreat, Ascension School

- Group Norms
- 2013 MDG distribution
- Bisbee Grants