

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF SPOKANE
Diocesan Council
September 27-28, 2007
Minutes

Voting Members Present

Anne Barton
Patton Boyle
Pam Clark
Bill Ellis
Margaret Fisher (9/27)
Paul Lebens-Englund
Robin Lundwall
Jan McCall
Jane Nelson-Low
Bob Runkle
Jim Waggoner

Voting Members Absent

Bob Alexander
Patricia Harrison
Matt Kellen
Pia Longinotti
Stanalee Wright

Ex-Officio Members Present

Bob Firman, Finance
Jan Griffin, Snake River Dean
Peggy Johnson, Secretary
Mary Beth Rivetti, Clearwater Dean

Diocesan Staff Present

Libby Beck, Business Manager (9/27)
Mary Beth Jorgensen, Communications (9/28)
Bryan Krislock, Communications
Kristi Philip, Canon to the Ordinary (9/27)
Holladay Sanderson, Canon for Min. Development
Chase Shields, Camp Cross & Youth Officer

Call to Order

The Diocesan Council met at St. Michael's Church in Yakima, September 27-28, 2007. The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer by Bishop Waggoner at 1:25 p.m. Bishop Waggoner thanked the Rev. Ernie Harrelson for the church's hospitality in hosting both Diocesan Council and the Anti-racism Training this weekend. Introductions were made, and Chase Shields was introduced as the new interim staff officer for Camp Cross and Youth Ministry.

Council members then broke into their four Council Committees for Bible dialogue on Matthew 5:21-28 and then committee meetings.

Bishop's Report

When Council reconvened, Bishop Waggoner reported on the meeting with the House of Bishops in New Orleans. This body meets two times yearly. The Archbishop of Canterbury and members of the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) also attended, as well as various primates. Saturday was a workday in the hurricane-damaged community. On Sunday, Bishop Waggoner preached in a church in Mobile, Alabama. Monday, the bishops went into executive session and discussed:

1. Public blessings of gay unions
2. Incursions of foreign bishops. Three Councils of the Church have spoken clearly against this: Nicaea, Chalcedon and Ephesus
3. Bishop Gene Robinson's presence at Lambeth next year

Archbishop Rowan Williams spoke on “Common Discernment” and the allowance for autonomy in every province. The question was, “How do we do common discernment?” And, if we are practicing common discernment, how can we exclude our gay members? Bishop Waggoner observed that the primates have assumed more authority than is actually theirs, and in doing so, have taken authority away from the ACC. The most encouraging thing about the conference was that there was a lot of very deep listening on the part of all attendees. The ACC is to make a report to the Archbishop on this meeting.

Bishop Waggoner next reported that the Endowment Campaign has shifted to the work of the Diocesan Foundation. Teri Mathis has been brought on board to work on materials. Both Dave Walker and Teri are going into the Diocese to talk about charitable trusts, planned giving and so on. Steve Woolley is now Chair of the Foundation.

The Growth and Development Committee is in place. Doug Jacobs is Chair, with Gaye Witherspoon as secretary and members Bob Alexander, Steve Goheen, Tony Green, Dottie Leland, Dave Otto, and Mary Beth Rivetti. They will decide on the criteria for and allocation of moneys.

Finally, Bishop Waggoner spoke about his sabbatical plans for next year. Plans are still being formed to work around Lambeth. He wants to work on “capacity building” – what is involved and how do you maximize diocesan human, spiritual, and financial resources for mission? Dates are still under review.

Congregational Updates

There is a lot going on around the Diocese.

Paul Lebens-Englund was installed as Vicar at Holy Trinity, Spokane. The church is receiving financial support from the Directors of the Corporation in the form of a \$30,000 grant to upgrade its kitchen and restrooms. Work is proceeding with the help of Cathedral partners to repair the exterior of the building. Attendance numbers are strengthening. Their most recent Sunday had thirty attendees in the morning and twenty-five in the evening – an increase of about 1000% over attendance seven months ago. Young adults are moving into the rectory and will do some work in the neighborhood in preparation for the internship there next year. Finally, there is a group working on a proposal for the cathedral to have a formal relationship with Holy Trinity.

The Emmanuel Church building in Kellogg, Idaho, has been sold, with the last service to be held on October 14. This congregation is combining with Holy Trinity in Wallace. Jane Nelson-Low will be going to full time status at Holy Trinity. There is a renewed spirit of optimism with an emphasis on church growth and development.

St Paul’s, Cheney, is undergoing change with the departure of Vicar, Barrett Lindsay.

The new church in Sandpoint (actually Dover), Idaho, was commissioned in July as the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit.

Steve Woolley will retire as rector of St. Paul's, Walla Walla, in January 2008.

Finally, Margaret Fisher will become the new Associate at the Cathedral in January, as Paul Lebens-Englund moves to full time at Holy Trinity. This creates an opening at Grace Church in Ellensburg.

Council Committee Reports

Mission Strategy had a retreat August 15-16 at which they discussed mission and vision. Their report to Council includes a list of characteristics of dynamic and growing faith communities, as well as committee goals, with a "to do" list. The motion to accept the report was adopted.

Social Justice and Outreach Committee: Bob Runkle, Chair, reported the committee recommendations for funding three specific projects as responses to the Diocesan MDG budget commitment. They are Episcopal Relief and Development to achieve universal education, ABC (Alternatives for Burmese Children), and Kiva.com microfinance loans. Bob also reported the committee recommendation that the remaining balance in the budget line item be allocated by the SJOM Commission at subsequent meetings in the 2007 calendar year. Bob also reported on the June SJOM Commission meeting in Lewiston, at which MDG options were discussed. The commission also heard from representatives from congregations in the Clearwater Deanery about their outreach programs.

On behalf of the Committee, Bob moved to approve the recommended MDG allocations.

Motion adopted.

On behalf of the Committee, Bob moved to approve the appointments and reappointments of the following individuals to the Commission:

Nancy Macduff, St. Paul's, Walla Walla – Term expires Jan 1, 2010

Evita Krislock, Church of the Resurrection, Spokane Valley - Term expires Jan 1, 2010

Kate Burns, St. James', Pullman - Young Adult – Term expires Jan 1, 2009

Paula Stephenson, Holy Trinity, Wallace – Reappointment – Term expires Jan 1, 2011

Pam Clark, St. Paul's, Kennewick – Reappointment – Term expires Jan 1, 2011

Motion adopted.

Formation for Ministry: Chair Jan McCall reported. This committee has focused on trying to stay in touch with the different diocesan groups under their umbrella. They received a report from Young Adult, Youth and Children's Formation and a report from Camp Cross, where it was noted that youth camps were going strong and increasing in size. The Camp Cross Transition Team is looking at future opportunities for Camp Cross. In particular, they are looking at obtaining resources to bring Camp Cross to the next level. Camp Cross is under new leadership, as is the Cursillo movement in the Diocese. Jan mentioned that three or four members in the committee are not enough to keep track of all the ministries under their umbrella.

Commission on Ministry: Kristi Philip reported that the COM had a planning retreat this summer. They came away with a new resolve to clarify the discernment process. Meeting again, they approved an ordination process, which has been in flux since the 2003 General

Convention. There is also a vast improvement in the congregational discernment process. Currently competencies for licensed ministries in the Diocese, such as worship leader, Eucharistic minister and Eucharistic visitor, are being clarified.

Directors of the Corporations: Bishop Waggoner reported that the Directors have agreed to allocate \$30,000 toward mission. The capital is to go to the operating fund to help fund the internship program to encourage young clergy to stay in the Diocese. This will be used for David Marshall at St. Luke's, Coeur d'Alene.

Standing Committee: No report.

The meeting recessed for dinner at 5:10 p.m., and reconvened at 7 p.m.

Administration and Finance: Libby Beck led the Council in reviewing the diocesan budget year-to-date. Income, expenditures, and askings are on target.

On behalf of the Administration and Finance Committee, Chair Margaret Fisher moved adoption of the draft 2008 Budget. The budget process is moving from the Mission and Budget Committee, which standardized the process, to be in the hands of the chairs of the Council committees next year. Much gratitude was expressed to Mission and Budget for their work. The funding for the commissions on Young Adult, Youth, and Children's Formation and Social Justice and Outreach has been budgeted in blocks for final allocation by the Commissions. There was discussion about where in the 2008 Budget the MDG number came from and what pledge income is based on. A request was made for future budgets to show subtotals by program areas.

The theme of congregational development is strong in this budget. The budget reflects some rearrangement of diocesan staffing structure to match more closely program priorities as understood by the committees of Diocesan Council. This was recommended by Mission and Budget three years ago so that the Diocese can be staffed strategically for mission. This budget shows an Operations Officer position, which is new. The Bishop's Assistant/Communications Coordinator position will be responsible for arranging conferences, etc.

Motion to adopt the Budget passed unanimously.

After Compline, the meeting recessed at 9 p.m.

Council reconvened at 8:30 a.m. Friday. June minutes were approved as presented.

Women in Ministry: Bishop Waggoner and Mary Beth Jorgensen presented a report on Women in Ministry. The bishop has appointed Jane Jett as coordinator to lead an assessment of potential new life for this ministry after a period when there was no diocesan leadership for ECW. Following the expiration of the term of the former ECW treasurer in 2005, and the resignation of the ECW board president in 2005/2006, the ECW funds and records were transferred to the diocesan office by Mary Beth, staff liaison to the former ECW. Libby Beck is tracking the funds in their own separate category within the diocesan accounting system. Jane Nelson-Low noted that women's ministries in future will probably be more project oriented.

Diocesan Convention

The theme of Diocesan Convention this year is “Bread for the World.” Council got a sneak preview of The Pre-Convention Reports, showing the breadth of activity throughout the Diocese. Bonnie Anderson, President of the House of Deputies and keynote speaker, will be doing workshops, and we will celebrate the Endowment Campaign at the banquet.

Camp Cross

Bishop Waggoner and Bryan Krislock reported that Camp Cross is in a transition mode, exploring different possibilities for operating the camp and concentrating resources on mission and ministry. We are looking at a possible administrative partnership with Lutherhaven, which is less than a five minute boat ride away. Lutherhaven is very successful today, after facing closure 15 years ago. The two strategies to consider are: 1) Short term – how to get through the next few years; 2) Long term vision for Camp Cross. The Camp Cross Transition Team is working on both. The Bishop thanked Bobbi Rollins for her leadership. Bob Runkle moved that Council support the exploration between Camp Cross and Lutherhaven; the motion was adopted.

Chase Shields, Diocesan Youth and Camp Cross Officer, was introduced again. In his new position, he is working on getting acquainted with congregational youth ministers around the Diocese and helping to get young adults and college students plugged in.

Calendar

The next Council meeting will be the Diocesan Council Retreat December 7-8 at Immaculate Heart Retreat Center. It will also be the first meeting of the new Diocesan Council. There will be an orientation and a Mutual Ministry Review of the new Diocesan Council structure. Bishop Waggoner thanked those members who are retiring this year.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Submitted by

Peggy Johnson, Secretary