

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF SPOKANE
Diocesan Council
May 16-17, 2008
Minutes

Voting Members Present:

Bob Alexander
Anne Barton+
Patton Boyle+
Bob Firman (Saturday)
Margaret Fisher+
Roger Gence
Paul Lebens-Englund+
David Marshall+
Jan McCall
Brian Prior+
Pam Clark Rothwell
Bob Runkle
Holladay Sanderson+, Vice President
Stanalee Wright+
+Jim Waggoner, President

Voting Members Absent:

Pia Longinotti

Ex Officio Members Present:

Jan Griffin+
Jane Jett
Peggy Johnson, Secretary
Mary Beth Rivetti+
David Walker+

Diocesan Staff Present:

Libby Beck, Finance Officer
Mary Beth Jorgensen, Communications
Bryan Krislock, Operations
Chase Shields, Camp Cross & Youth Ministries

Diocesan Staff Absent:

Kristi Philip+, Canon to the Ordinary

Guests

Terry Novak (Friday)
Scott Miller, Vice Chancellor (Saturday)
Darcy James (Saturday)

Call to order, welcome, and approval of minutes

Bishop Waggoner called the meeting at The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, Spokane, to order at 6:45 p.m. on Friday, May 16. He extended a special welcome to Terry Novak who would be joining Administration and Finance for the evening to discuss the draft Personnel Policies Handbook. Bob Alexander asked for a moment to thank the council for their prayers for his son Jason, who is doing well after two serious surgical procedures.

Council members broke into small groups to engage in Bible dialogue on Acts 2:1-12 and the action of the Holy Spirit in our diocese.

Budget Process Preview

On behalf of the Administration and Finance committee, Bryan Krislock reviewed the various documents Council had received via email or as handouts.

1. **Diocesan Organizational Chart**, reflecting current relationships between diocesan bodies
2. **Diocesan Council Guidelines** (draft), which is to be read and commented upon by Council members, as it will be reported out of A&F at the next Council meeting in September (Attached).
3. **Budget and Goal Setting Work**, from the previous Council meeting.
4. **Budget Worksheet**, arranged by Council Committee responsibility

5. **Budget Request Form**, which Council was asked to review and advise Margaret Fisher of any suggested revisions, as it is to be sent out by Wednesday, May 21.

Recess

Council recessed at 8:10 P.M. to the four Council committees to review funding goals as represented on the Budget Worksheet and to prepare to bring before Council any items requiring a vote.

The evening concluded with Compline led by Bryan Krislock.

Morning Prayer and Committee Meetings

The Council gathered at 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning with Morning Prayer. Jan Griffin officiated and Bishop Waggoner delivered the homily. Committee meetings then continued. Bishop Waggoner also offered a reading suggestion – “Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times” by Peter Steinke.

Committee meetings continued until lunchtime.

Business Agenda

Council reconvened at 12:45 a.m. for the business meeting portion of the agenda.

Constitution and Canons Briefing

Scott Miller, Chancellor of the Cathedral and Vice Chancellor of the Diocese, gave an update on proposed revisions to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese. He detailed the needs for the proposed changes and described the process such proposals must go through in order to be enacted. The Committee is also suggesting two major structural changes. The first change involves changes in the deanery structure, which would result in more lay responsibility. The second major change involves a merging of the Diocesan Council and the Directors. Current lines of responsibility and reporting in the Diocese resemble a complex spider web and the proposed changes will do much to simplify these relationships. Scott then showed a much simplified organizational chart. He also observed that nothing is set in concrete at this point and that the process is open to discussion. Several observations were made by Council in the way that the various bodies interact with each other, which comments resulted in a few modifications to the new chart.

Approval of Minutes

Brian Prior moved acceptance of the minutes of the February meeting. **Motion carried.**

Committee Reports

Administration and Finance

Libby Beck led off with a report on the Askings. The vast majority of congregations are up to date in their payments. Those few congregations which are not are either in transition and expected to catch up within the next year (Kellogg/Wallace and Sandpoint/Dover) or are experiencing some difficulties (Grangeville and Roslyn). The amount of 2009 Askings was tabled until all parochial reports are in. (See attached financial reports.)

Margaret Fisher discussed the draft Employee Handbook for the Diocese and Congregations with Staff. There continue to be a few issues which need to be clarified. The most prominent among these is the disparity between lay and clerical employees with respect to medical and pension benefits. Council will receive the document in September after further work has been done.

Margaret also presented a simplified budget request form, which should be both more concise and easier to fill out. Margaret also noted a few changes made to the A&F portion of the budget in the sinking fund, funding for the General Convention delegation and to diocesan staffing and staff structure.

Mission Strategy

Bob Alexander reported that **Mission Strategy** is focused on the goal of mission-directed operation for the Diocese within the next five years. They are working on a cover letter to explain this. It will be ready by July 20. He also reported on Nuestro Salvador/Church of Our Saviour in Pasco and the potential sale of the Pasco facility. The two names represent two distinct populations. The desire is for Nuestro Salvador to have a real pastoral presence for the Hispanic population in this area. The other group is studying the possibility of a new church start west of the current area. Both groups have made clear in meeting with the Bishop that, while they wanted to stay together, neither is attached to a building. Paul Lebens-Englund is serving as the congregational development staff and Council liaison in these discussions

Social Justice and Outreach

Pam Rothwell reported for **Social Justice and Outreach**, including a summary of the activities of the Social Justice and Outreach Commission. The new committee on environmental concerns has changed its name to the Environmental Sustainability Committee. The Commission approved Pat Bell's report on the exploration of a companion diocese relationship with either Colombia or Ecuador as well as the allocation of MDG funds as proposed by Char Mills. Pat Bell has been appointed to chair the Diocese of Spokane Recovery Ministries. Finally, Bob Runkle gave a report on the Province VIII Peace and Justice Network meeting which he attended, and at which he was appointed to the governing committee.

Darcy James, chair of the Anti-racism Task Force, spoke on the Training Implementation Guidelines and noted that we now have a corps of qualified trainers. The training is designed to be specific for our diocese. Questions and discussion followed. It was moved (Pam Rothwell) and seconded to approved the Training Implementation Guidelines as recommended by the Commission. Mary Beth Rivetti moved and Holladay Sanderson seconded that section 1.e.1 be shifted to be included under section 2.c (short course). (Attachment)

Amendment approved. Motion approved as amended.

Bob Runkle noted that of the thirty-three parochial reports reviewed so far, fourteen congregations have adopted the MDG commitment, with \$14,000 committed to the MDGs.

Pam Rothwell moved adoption of the domestic MDG resolution as recommended by the Commission in their May meeting. The justification for the resolution, to allocate one percent of the diocesan operating budget to eliminate poverty in the Diocese of Spokane, came from

questions the Commission has received about why we aren't addressing local needs in the MDGs. Discussion followed.

Motion defeated.

Formation for Ministry

Holladay Sanderson reported for the **Formation for Ministry** committee that all their procedures are in place to be able to make budget recommendations.

Camp Cross Commission: Holladay introduced the proposal for a Commission on Camp Cross and moved that the Council accept this new commission. She yielded the floor to Chase Shields to speak on the motion. Bob Runkle offered an amendment to substitute the word "committees" for "subcommittees" in the proposal.

Motion carried. The main motion was approved as amended.

Bishop Waggoner recommended appointment of the following people as members of the new commission:

Paul Carlisle, All Saints', Richland
Brendan Wiechert, St. David's, Spokane
Phil Mixer, St. James', Pullman
Kate Dolan, St. Luke's, Coeur d'Alene
Patrick Maher, St. David's, Spokane
Bobbie Rollins, Resurrection, Spokane Valley

Recommendations approved.

Women in Ministry: Jane Jett, Women in Ministry coordinator, reported on the successful conference held at the cathedral May 2-3, and said another meeting is being planned for October.

Bishop's report

Province VIII Synod September 8-11, California. Bishop Waggoner proposed that we be represented at that meeting by him and three others, who will be there already in other capacities. The three are Bob Runkle, Bryan Krislock and Kristi Philip.

Proposal approved; representatives elected.

St. Paul's, Walla Walla: Bishop Waggoner noted with pleasure that St. Paul's has called **T. Birch Rambo**, from the Diocese of Lexington, Kentucky, as their new Rector.

Diocesan Convention, October 17-19. The theme for the convention, which will be held at the cathedral, is "Living a Scandalous Gospel." Our keynote speaker will be Frank Wade, author, recently retired rector of St. Alban's in Washington D.C., and faculty member of General Theological Seminary in New York City.

Lambeth Conference: The Bishop distributed a fact sheet on the upcoming Lambeth Conference. (See attached.)

Camp Cross: Bishop Waggoner asked Chase Shields to speak on the programs being offered at Camp Cross this season (see website, www.campcross.org). He also asked Peggy Johnson to speak on the Cathedral renovation, which involves a new Welcome Center and renovated youth and choir space. It will be ready for all to see at Convention in October.

Bishop's sabbatical: Due in large part to the timing and cost of Lambeth (which has been driven up by the weakness of the dollar in Europe), he will defer his sabbatical until at least 2009. Jan Griffin asked that A & F consider establishing an ongoing Sabbatical Fund, similar to the General Convention fund, which would allow the costs to be spread over several years.

Reports and action items

Margaret Fisher moved, on behalf of **Administration & Finance**, the approval of the recommended **2008 budget adjustments**; Council **approved unanimously**.

Bishop Waggoner reported that the **Directors** approved a **loan** from the Bishop's building fund to **St. Mary's, Bonner Ferry**, to create handicap access to the building. Purchase of a **relational database** – Blackbaud Raiser's Edge – was also approved by the Directors, using funds from several sources, including Camp Cross, the Foundation, and Communications Program funds.

Calendar

July 16-August 3 – Lambeth Conference and Spouses Conference, Canterbury, England

September 26-27 – Diocesan Council, Holy Trinity, Spokane

October 17-19 – Diocesan Convention, Cathedral of St. John

November 21-22 – Diocesan Council retreat, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center

Peggy Johnson, Secretary

Attachments:

- A. Budget Comparison
- B. Askings Report
- C. Diocesan Council Guidelines (draft)
- D. Anti-Racism Training Guidelines (as adopted)
- E. Lambeth Fact Sheet