

Diocesan Council Highlights-from February 19th and 20th, 2010-prepared by J.Hatt-Executive Secretary of Synod

The Diocesan Council was called to order by Bishop Moxley at 7pm in Binney Hall. Following the welcome, worship was led by J. Hatt.

The first order of business was to receive the results of **the survey which had been prepared and circulated by the Budget Sub Committee**. Debra Burleson spoke to the survey and made the following points:

- That 115 surveys had been returned
- Not all questions were answered on the survey
- The results “seemed polarized” and that no clear direction was discerned from the results
- Unable to make a statement that the survey is a fair picture of priorities desired.
- Many of the participants in the survey took an opportunity to voice their opinions on various topics.

Both A. Carras and D. Burleson answered questions and a discussion followed. The main focus was on education to the parishes regarding the work of the Diocese, and the necessity of a clear sense of vision for the Diocese.

Bishop Sue reported back from **the joint meeting of the Archdeacons and the Regional Deans held in Debert**. Much of the report dealt with trying to find ways to help the parishes in the Diocese to become stronger, healthier and more vibrant.

Regional Presentation- D. Burleson and E. Keeping gave the Council a presentation on the work and life of parishes and ministry on the Eastern Shore. Much discussion was held on innovative models of ministries.

Saturday began with a call to order and worship.

The minutes of the December 2009 meeting were approved with corrections.

Update on Organizational Effectiveness-Bishop Sue gave the Council an update on the new Diocesan Structure. C. Fraser assisted with providing a draft graphic of what the new organizational chart looks like. Discussion followed and comments to be taken back to Committee for further work.

Bishop Sue reported on **the Bishops' Action Appeal** and encouraged the representatives to make sure to publish the appeal in the regions and the parishes. Cards and information were passed out and are also available at Synod Office.

Reports were received from **P. Flemming, Controller**. Electronic mailings are still being worked on, and T3's T4's and T5's have been mailed out. Discussion followed on Parish allotments and rate of compliance. Discussion followed on getting 100% compliance. No decision was made as to the best method of getting 100% compliance. Also noted was that there is a salary freeze for Diocesan Staff and that there is an 8% increasing in the medical plan.

Clair Sudsbury was welcomed to the meeting to discuss the findings of **the Audit Committee**. His main concern is that the establishment and their allotment system are not keeping pace with the budget.

A lengthy discussion was held on establishing budget priorities. The Council reviewed the documentation that had been previously circulated and raised the concerns around vision, strategic planning for 3-5 years, and resource allocation.

Back to Church Sunday-Bishop Sue introduced "The Back to Church Sunday Program". Discussion was held as to whether the Diocese would endorse the program and find monies to assist parishes with obtaining the information kits etc. There was a consensus to endorse a Diocesan wide program and set a date for a Sunday in September. Also there are monies available through the "healthy congregations' fund (Capital Campaign) .The task of was delegated to the Ministries Committee.

J. Hatt had reported that she had collated and prepared a job performance for the Diocesan Bishop's position. This is one of the tasks associated with Executive Secretary.

Ministry Committee-Bishop Ron indicated that they are working on a conference for October 22nd and 23rd, 2010 with Nick Brotherwork, Fresh Expressions.

National and World Mission- R. Moore reported that \$1.8 million had been raised for Haiti.

A&F- A. Turner reported that the medical plan has been ratified and is increased by 8% without any changes, HR will review travel rates, survey was completed, and that Parish Relations need new members. Also a motion was passed to receive an interim policy regarding the extension of loans to parishes from the church extension fund.

Archives Report- G. Redden spoke to the report of the Archives Committee. They are requesting that the Council accept their proposed plan for the upcoming move to a temporary facility. The plan was outlined in great detail. The move will begin in May/June. It was noted that the archives would not be available during the move and then following the move they will be limited to what they can actually do. There was a consensus to accept the plan as presented.

Property Redevelopment is still moving ahead and we are awaiting the outcome of an appeal to be held on April 6th. The Council moved to accept the letter of intent between the parties involved in the development.

Youth Ministry Coordinator, Susan Naylor reported that she was busy travelling the Diocese and making contacts with the regions and parishes. She noted that there would be a Children's festival at the Cathedral on June 19th from 11:15-3-15pm.

Meeting adjourned at 3pm.

Next meeting date: April 16th and 17th, 2010