

Diocesan Council Highlights - June 19th and 20th, 2009 -prepared by Janet Hatt-Executive Secretary

The first meeting of the newly elected Diocesan Council was chaired by the Rt. Rev. Sue Moxley on June 19th and 20th in Binney Hall at the Diocesan Centre.

The meeting began at 7pm at which time the members were welcomed and introductions took place.

Worship was led by Bishop Ron Cutler.

Following worship, Diocesan Council participated in a time of **Orientation** led by staff members.

The Executive Secretary reported on the following pieces of correspondence

- Letter from South Shore Clericus pertaining to the allotment rate. Received
- Letter from Diocesan Church Society-PEI pertaining to Diocesan Budget cuts. Received
- Anglican Journal-Information received as requested by the Diocesan Council regarding distribution of mailing lists and Privacy of Information policy-Received
- Anglican Foundation- letter confirming that 2 grants were approved (Justice Camp and Liturgical Dance (2010). Received

Reports were circulated and received from Bishop Sue, Bishop Ron and G. Redden.

Highlights from Bishop Sue's report included:

- her trip to the ACC in Jamaica.
- Pastoral opportunities that arise in the fulfilling of the office
- Synod 2009

Bishop Ron talked briefly to his report. Highlights included:

- Recent trip to Bishop's College and the many topics covered there.
- Pastoral visits throughout the region
- Discernment and formation activities

Executive Director, Gordon Redden spoke to his report.

- He noted that a sizable amount of his time is spent with parishes and clergy, assisting them with their questions regarding canons and guidelines.

The next item of business was **the Budget Process**. Bishop Sue referred to the handouts and asked people to review these prior to the morning session.

A. Carras was introduced and addressed the Diocesan Council on matters of the Budget. He gave a lengthy report on the process of preparing the budget and the necessity of cutting funds. He indicated that this was a difficult and challenging time for the Council and the diocese.

P. Fleming -Controller spoke briefly to his report and highlighted "EFT" Electronic Fund Transfers.

The meeting concluded shortly after 9pm.

The meeting reconvened on **Saturday at 9am** and worship was led by Bishop Ron.

Following the approval of the agenda, the minutes of the previous meeting of Diocesan Council were approved.

Items arising:

1. **Organizational Effectiveness Report**-An update was given on the canonical changes to Canon 11 passed at Synod which permitted changes in the membership of Diocesan Council. Some time was allotted to discussing the expectations of membership and reporting back to Regional Councils.
This was followed by a summary of the comments collected by J. Marshall from Synod delegates (2009) on the subject of the Diocesan Vision and Ministry.
2. **Property Redevelopment**-Bishop Sue gave an update on the progress of the project. It was noted that the initial proposal was denied and as a result an appeal is taking place. The hearing by the Utilities Review Board (HRM) will take place on July 23rd, 2009.
3. **Emergency Preparedness**-The Diocese is continuing to work on a Pandemic Plan .We will hear more as the Task Group continues their work.
A pamphlet on Eucharistic Practices was distributed. It was noted that the pamphlet was produced by the National Church and can be found on their website.
4. **Meeting time of Diocesan Council** was discussed and there will be no change at this time.

Budget discussions were next on the agenda.

An extensive and detailed discussion regarding allotment rates was held. The following **motion** was presented:

Moved by B. Spence and seconded by D. Hannam "that we maintain 19.25% allotment rate but initiate a study/process and education to the Diocese. "

Amendment to the motion- moved by E. Sitemen seconded by R. Moore “that we maintain our 19% allotment rate for the 2010 Budget but initiate a Diocesan wide study process and education program to the Diocese.” carried

The Council then reviewed the budget presented to them, and provided input.

A **motion** was moved by W. Murley and seconded by K. Quirk “that the amounts noted on the Expenditure Reduction Options document be included in the budget process as agreed upon.”

This information was to go back to A&F for further discussion in preparation for a draft budget to be presented at October’s meeting.

The following Standing Committees reported

1. **Ministries** – C. Fraser reported that they are working on “gaps in ministry.”
2. **National and World Mission**-R. Moore reported that the Committee was presently focusing on Justice Camp and Refugee Sponsorship.
3. **Archives Report** was received.

Bishop Sue then commented on the progress of the **Annual Appeal Campaign**.

It is expected that there will be further information ready for distribution in September.

General Synod Representative to COGS- P. Townsend reported and requested that his report be circulated electronically.

Next meeting date: **October 16th and 17th, 2009**