

Diocese of New Hampshire - Diocesan Council Minutes
May 9, 2013

Attendance Benge Ambrogi, Kate Atkinson, Gail Avery, Sue Bauer, Kitty Cornwell, Lucy Crichton, Pete Cross, Richard Davenport, Becky Forbes, Betsy Hess, Bishop Rob Hirschfeld, Susan Langle, Anne Milne, Roger Nicholls, Margaret Porter (Moderator), Sue Poulin, Rob Stephens, Carol Twomey (Scribe), Jason Wells.

Opening The meeting began at 4:03 p.m. The Bishop led devotions on “Perseverance and Renewal” from *Daily Prayer for All Seasons*.

Discussion and Discernment

More Stirrings of the Spirit The Bishop reported that talks continue among the five churches in the western part of the Lakes Region Convocation. A second summit meeting is planned for June 15. It is hoped that Donald Rominik of the Episcopal Church Foundation can be present. The Bishop’s office and clergy continue to work with laity, asking questions, and trying to determine what would work and what a new type of community would look like. There seems to be a good level of engagement and commitment, as evidenced by many factors, including good attendance at the last meeting of the Lakes Region Convocation.

The Bishop plans to continue the tradition of making an official Sunday visit to each congregation about once every other year. On the alternate years, he would meet with the Vestry. He would also like to attend a meeting of each convocation once a year. He reported that conversations about cooperative ventures are taking place in many other parts of the diocese besides the Lakes Region.

Province 1 Gail Avery reported that the recent meeting of the Synod included lay and clergy delegates, as well as three bishops from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Maine. They discussed the relevance of the Province and how it can best serve dioceses and local congregations. The formal network function that the Province once had has changed; instead, communities of practice are emerging. The Province needs to determine how to support these communities in a fluid way, perhaps by making better use of technology.

Diocesan Identity Project Margaret Porter reported that she and Canon Hannah Anderson recently met with the Bishop to discuss the need to develop a diocesan identity. There is money in the budget to cover work with consultant Sean Tracey, who specializes in branding. This project will be mentioned in convocations in the fall of 2013, and will be presented at Diocesan Convention in a way that will allow creative participation. Work will continue throughout 2014, allowing for involvement by Council and local congregations. The project will be completed by the 2014 Convention.

Financial Report Becky Forbes, CFO, gave the Financial Report for the first quarter of 2013. She reported that there have already been two interviews for the new position of Canon of Mission Resources and two more will be held. It is hoped that the hiring can be done in June to allow time to work with Becky. The new person will have some input into the hiring of a new financial officer/bookkeeper.

Teens Encounter Christ Kate Atkinson gave an update on Teens Encounter Christ. Five members of St. Paul’s Concord, including three teens and two leaders, recently attended a three-day event in Minnesota. They were inspired and energized by it and would like to bring the program to New Hampshire. Youth

from Minnesota are willing to come here to help establish it. St. Paul's will be contacting the Task Force for Children, Youth, and Young Adults.

- Outreach Susan Langle presented the Outreach Commission report for Bill Exner. The Outreach budget has been submitted. The MDG Committee will identify a program to receive this year's MDG funds and bring the recommendation to Council in June.
- Lay Leadership Institute In the absence of Judith Esmay, Canon for Lay Leadership, Margaret Porter reported that the Lay Leadership Institute held on May 4 was attended by about 160 people. In addition to the basic course, there were graduate seminars that were also filled. The Institute will be held again next year on the first weekend in May.
- Council Retreat The Council retreat will be held in October at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Laconia. Volunteers are needed to help plan; Susan Langle and Sue Bauer volunteered. It was suggested that Trinity Meredith might be interested in catering; Gertie McGlinchey will be contacted. The retreat will be held on the regular Council meeting day, but will run for a longer time.

Action Items and Other Business

- April Minutes One correction was made to the April minutes. (The final paragraph under "Stirrings of the Spirit" should read: "Kitty Cornwell announced that the Seacoast Convocation *is considering* holding a Come and See program throughout the convocation.") Rob Stephens moved that the minutes be accepted as corrected; Sue Bauer seconded. Motion carried.
- Evangelism Institute Grant Application A grant request was received for expenses for the Evangelism Institute to be held in September. A total of \$4121 was requested to cover food, use of the room, and audio-visual equipment. Jason Wells moved that the request be approved; Kate Atkinson seconded. Motion carried. The agenda for the day is being planned. It will include a "speed evangelism" segment, a report on some of the Come and See programs, a panel discussion, and a discussion about the changes in the Lakes Region Convocation.

Upcoming Events

- Dinner There will be a celebratory dinner honoring Charles LaFond at St. Paul's Church, Concord, on Sunday evening, May 19.
- June Meeting The agenda for the June 13 Council meeting will include approval of the Outreach MDG proposal; presentation of a draft budget for 2014; a report from the Safe Church Committee; and a report from the Commission on Ministry regarding revision of the ordination manual. Kitty Cornwell will provide snacks.

Closing

- Prayer The meeting ended at 6:03 p.m., following a brief liturgy entitled "Love," from *Daily Prayers for All Seasons*.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Twomey
Scribe