

Diocese of New Hampshire - Diocesan Council Minutes
June 13, 2013

Attendance Canon Hannah Anderson, Kate Atkinson, Gail Avery, Sue Bauer, Canon Kathryn Buttrick, Kitty Cornwell, Lucy Crichton, Richard Davenport, Becky Forbes, Betsy Hess, Bishop Rob Hirschfeld, Susan Langle, Roger Nicholls, Chris Porter, Margaret Porter (Moderator), Sue Poulin, Angie Robidoux (Guest), Carol Twomey (Scribe), Jason Wells.

Opening The meeting began at 4:04 p.m.

Introductions Bishop Rob introduced Kathryn Buttrick, the new Canon for Mission Resources. She is a member of the Church of Our Saviour in Milford, and has recently been the Development Officer for Franklin Pierce University. She will be helping with stewardship and finance in the Diocese. Also introduced was Angie Robidoux, a student at General Theological Seminary, who will be working as a summer intern in the North Country.

Devotions The Bishop led devotions on "Perseverance and Renewal" from *Daily Prayer for All Seasons*.

Discussion & Discernment

Stirrings of the Spirit Bishop Rob provided an update on the "wave of conversations" taking place around the Diocese, in places such as Hampton/Portsmouth, Dunbarton/Hopkinton, and the Lakes Region. Donald Romanik of the Episcopal Church Foundation will be speaking on Saturday, June 15, at a meeting of representatives from churches in the "west coast" of the Lakes Region.

Outreach The Outreach Commission received many suggestions for a recipient of the MDG funding. They recommend the Mabvuku Project in Zimbabwe, which enables a local parish to provide help to children and families. It is the former parish of the Rev. Tobias Nyatsambo. The Church of the Holy Spirit in Plymouth has already been involved in helping with the project. Kitty Cornwell moved that Council approve a \$10,000 MDG grant for the Mabvuku project; Sue Bauer seconded. Motion carried. The committee was thanked for their work in choosing a grant recipient.

Susan Langle reported on a recent survey of outreach activities throughout the Diocese. About 50 responses have been received so far, with more anticipated. She raised the question of whether "outreach" is the proper label for community-based ministries. The term seems to suggest taking care of the less fortunate, whereas it might be better to view these activities in terms of *partnerships*.

Ordination Manual The Ordination Manual is being rewritten by the Commission on Ministry. It reflects a new way of thinking about the ordination process. The new model will be like a "trellis," providing light support and allowing plenty of room for flexibility as growth occurs. A "trellis team" of seven people has been established to work with the Commission on Ministry on this project.

Diaconal Formation People are now being welcomed into a training process for the vocational diaconate. The first class is being established. Eventually the training program might include others from outside the Diocese. It is envisioned that the program will consider the needs of the whole diocese; it will be open to new partnerships and new ways of representing the church in the world.

Mutual Programming with EDS	Diane D'Souza, Director of Lifelong Learning at Episcopal Divinity School, would like collaborate with the Diocese of NH on some pilot programs. On July 18, there will be a "Tarry 'Til Day," a clergy retreat, at St. John the Baptist, Sanbornville. Later in the year, a similar opportunity will be available for laity. During Lent, clergy from New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine will meet to discuss the "changing landscape" of ordained ministry.
Diocesan Branding/ Marketing	Consultant Sean Tracey will meet with a small group including the Bishop, Canon Hannah Anderson, Margaret Porter, and Carolyn Fairless. They will work on trying to capture the new chapter of life in the Diocese of NH. This might involve designing a fresh logo or new tagline. It will be a yearlong process and will include an opportunity to gather ideas from around the Diocese.
Draft 2014 Budget	The 2014 budget is still being discussed. The Bishop, Becky Forbes, and Kathryn Buttrick have met to go over the draft. It is hoped that Fair Share can be slightly reduced. An attempt is being made to be more efficient and use our resources wisely. The changes in the organizational structure at Diocesan House will save money over last year. When the final budget draft is approved by the Finance Committee and ready for Council to consider, it can be distributed by email, or a special brief meeting can be held.
Kids 4 Peace	Kate Atkinson spoke about a Kids 4 Peace proposal for NH which would consist of a 10-day summer camp for kids, ages 11-12, and include Christians, Jews, and Muslims from America, Palestine, and Israel. It would provide an opportunity to learn about the lives, culture, and challenges of others. It is hoped that a camp can be held in NH in the summer of 2014, but "people power" and about \$70,000 are needed in order to make it a reality.

Action Items and Other Business

Minutes	Sue Bauer moved that the minutes of the May meeting be approved; Roger Nicholls seconded. Motion carried.
Safe Church Policy	Canon Hannah Anderson reported that there have been several revisions to the diocesan Safe Church Policy. Individuals will now be required to renew their training every three years, instead of every five. The curriculum has been expanded to include elder abuse, as well as aspects of social media. Each convocation will now have trainers, so that trainings can be scheduled locally. Meeting time will be reduced; there will be an online component that can be done ahead. (For people who are unable to work online, it may be possible to provide it on DVD.) Susan Langle moved that the new Safe Church Policy be accepted; Sue Poulin seconded. Motion carried.
Evangelism Grant Request	St. Mark's Ashland requested \$1626 reimbursement for postcards for their Come and See program in conjunction with Holy Spirit, Plymouth, held in March and April 2013. Jason Wells moved that the grant be approved; Roger Nicholls seconded. Motion carried.
Evangelism Institute	Jason Wells reported that there will be a meeting on July 2 to plan the September Evangelism Institute. Online registration will begin on July 1. More details will be available soon.
Council Retreat	The Council Retreat will be held on Thursday, October 10, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Laconia. Decisions need to be made regarding who will be invited to attend and what the format will be. Margaret Porter, Sue Bauer, Susan Langle, and the Bishop will meet to discuss plans.

Next Meeting The Council does not usually meet in July, unless there is urgent business. The next meeting will be on August 8. Lucy Crichton will provide snacks. Today is Becky Forbes' last Council meeting. She will be missed!

Closing Prayers The Bishop led closing devotions on "Love" from *Daily Prayer for All Seasons*. He updated Council on several pastoral concerns. The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Twomey
Scribe

Addendum

On August 26th, 2013, Council approved via email voting an Evangelism Commission request for \$600 from the commission budget for 3 registrations for a two-and-a-half day "Art of Hosting" conference led by Tom Brackett.

On August 5, 2013, Council approved via email voting the 2014 Budget draft for printing in the 2013 Pre-Convention Journal.

Margaret Porter, Moderator