

Diocesan Council Meeting
via Zoom
February 24, 2024

Present: Donna Pettit, Steve Godfrey, Robert Fox, Bob Hoekstra, Kim Fox, Elsie Magnus, Stephanie Garcia, JoAnn Keehn, John Anderson, Mark Strobel, Beth Lipp, Susan Lisok, Rachel Schmidt, Bishop Brian Thom, Tammy Enockson, John Floberg, and Amy Morrow

Absent: Jason Thoms, John Baird, George Abdilnour, Elaine McLaughlin, Leo Wilking

Action Items from February 24, 2024 Council Meeting

- Elsie will report on this meeting
- Bishop Brian will recruit people for property & communications advisory committees
- Bishop Brian & Steve will complete Diocesan Missioner position description
- Bishop Brian will ask Jess to find real estate policy
- Office/Bishop will consult with leaders of committees etc. concerning reporting expectations
- Bishop Brian will contact the chair of the Canons Committee regarding consideration of structural changes
 - Intends to bring changes to 2025 Convention

Bishop Brian called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. and invited the chaplain John Floberg to lead Morning Prayer.

Financial Matters

- Bishop Brian called on Amy Morrow to go over the YTD Finance Report (1.31.24)
 - For our revenue we are accessing the additional 2% from investment
 - December giving to Stewardship Share posts in mid January
 - Some lines in the budget will move to make things more clear and full names will be included.
 - Motion to accept YTD Finance Report from the Finance Committee
 - Moved by Beth Lipp; Rachel Schmidt second
 - Motion passed
 - Due to the number of motions from the Finance Committee at the November meeting, accepting the YTD Report was overlooked. Motion to accept Nov YTD Finance Report given at Jamestown meeting.
 - Moved by Bob Hoekstra; Donna Pettit second
 - Motion passed

Check-in

- Bishop Brian asked the Council to answer the question, “Why are you Episcopalian?” citing that this question is the foundation of our work for the next three years.

Business Session

- Recorder for this meeting – Elsie Magnus
- We will be creating an action item list that will be sent out to Council after each meeting – Steve Godfrey

10 minute break

- Bishop Brian reviewed Respectful Communication Guidelines
- Motion to accept the Minutes from the November 2023 meeting in Jamestown submitted by Tammy Enockson.
 - Moved by Beth Lipp; Bob Hoekstra second
 - Motion passed
- Discussed how we are going to hear reports from the Shepherds for New Season Goals we identified in the November meeting.
- Property Advisory Committee
 - Discussed the purpose of this committee - offer advice/consult/assessment
 - As of this date potential committee members have not been contacted
- Communications Committee
 - At this time Steve Godfrey & Jessica Krzewina make all decisions on what is and what is not communicated to the diocese.
 - The committee would be a support creating general policy and be available to help when decision-making is required.

Reports

- Diocesan Missioner - Steve Godfrey submitted a written report
 - There has not been much progress for the remaining Missioner position
 - Prayers requested for Williston as they sell their church and discern their life as a community.
- Missioner for Reconciliation, Creation Care and Cong Ministry- Kim Fox submitted a written report
- Commission on Ministry – no written report; Donna Pettit gave an update
 - Zoom meeting soon
 - Organizing/making adjustments to the focus of the committee
 - Preaching workshop in April
 - Ordination manual complete
- Standing Committee – Mark Strobel submitted a written report
- NDEF – Beth Lipp submitted a written report
- Congregational Development Committee – Donna Pettit submitted a written report
- Reconciliation Committee – Stephanie Garcia submitted a written report
- Personnel Committee – Leslie Ross & Sandy Holbrook submitted a written report
- Creation Care Committee – Solveigh Barney submitted a written report
- United Thank Offering – Vanessa Strobel & Mary Massey submitted a written report
- Diocesan Administrator – Jessica Krzewina submitted a written report
- Bishop – Bishop Brian gave a report
 - He has made two visits to the diocese and during those visits attended Randy Keehn’s celebration of life, celebrated over Ash Wednesday service in Bismarck, had a Standing Rock tour, worshipped with Dickinson and was privileged to meet Salem Sue.
 - Numerous Zoom meetings, correspondence and phone calls.

Final Business

- Fort Totten applied and received two grants for young adult ministry
- Williston
 - Sale of the building was delayed several times but closing date is set for 4.22.2024
 - All furnishings will be removed
 - There is a Lutheran parish that needs furniture for a new building
 - Some items will be kept as the Williston congregation will continue to meet
 - Cartwright extended an invitation for the Williston congregation to worship with them
- Bishop Brian is meeting with the Canons Committee for changes that will be brought before the 2025 Convention
- Bishop Brian is recruiting 2024 Convention Committee and will ask previous members first
- WoDakota Appeal is moving forward

John Floberg closed the meeting with devotions recommending a book called God Giveth the Increase: The History of the Episcopal Church in North Dakota.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Upcoming Meetings

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| ○ April 19-20, 2024 | (in person) | Fargo |
| ○ May 21, 2024 | @ 7:00 pm | Zoom |
| ○ June 14-15, 2024 | (in-person) | Minot |
| ○ July 30, 2024 | @ 7:00 p.m. | Zoom |
| ○ September 20-21, 2024 | (in-person) | Bismarck |
| ○ November 22-23 | (in-person) | Jamestown |