

Diocesan Council Meeting
Gethsemane Cathedral Fargo, ND
April 19-20, 2024

Present: Donna Pettit, Steve Godfrey, Robert Fox, Robert Hoekstra, Kim Fox, Elsie Magnus, John Anderson, Mark Strobel, Beth Lipp, Susan Lisok, Rachel Schmidt, Bishop Brian Thom, Tammy Enockson, John Floberg, Jason Thoms, George Abdilnour, Leo Wilking, Elaine McLaughlin.
Amy Morrow present on Friday

Absent: Stephanie Garcia, John Baird, and JoAnn Keehn

Action Items from April 19-20, 2024 Council Meeting

1. Acquire Line of Credit from Bremer Bank
 - a. Finance Committee will identify the procedure after signing the line of credit such as what this line of credit will be used for and who are the peoples responsibly for approving its use etc.
 - b. The Chancellor and others will look into the canons to see if the Standing Committee would need to be involved in the acquisition of the line of credit
2. Revisit funds for Missioner position to put into reserve account (by September).
3. Sheaf report on 2023 Stewardship Share. Report will show % rather than amount.
4. Bring the latest Stewardship Share report to the May meeting in the new format.
5. Narrative about the Endowment Funds: when they started, what they were for etc.
6. Leo will investigate mileage.
7. Find records about the Real Estate Fund.
8. Review of the Real Estate Policy by June.
9. Bishop will continue to recruit for the Property Management Advisory Group & the Real Estate Advisory Group.

Friday April 19 @ 7:00 pm

Opening business

Bishop Brian called the meeting to order with a welcome and called on chaplain Beth Lipp for opening prayer.

We are short one member since Brandy Watson moved. There is no canon for replacing Council members.

Bishop Brian asked everyone present to check in with their name and where they worship. As a group we read aloud the Mission & Vision of the Council, the Land Acknowledgement and reviewed Respectful Communication Guidelines.

Reporter for this meeting: Beth Lipp

Bishop Brian reviewed the Action Items from the last meeting

Motion to accept the Minutes from the February 2024 meeting submitted by Tammy Enockson.

- Moved by Robert Hoekstra; Donna Pettit second
- Motion passed

Financial Matters

- Bishop Brian called on Amy Morrow our Treasurer
 - YTD report through March 31, 2024
 - Added Percentage line for Actual vs. Budget

- The transfer of the additional 2% has taken longer than 3 months to receive, which caused difficulty meeting payroll.
- Consider taking a line of credit with Bremer Bank
- Motion for the Finance Committee & the Treasurer to pursue a line of credit from Bremer Bank for \$50,000.
 - Moved by Leo Wilking; Elsie Magnus second
 - Lengthy discussion (see below)
 - Motion passed
- Discussion included by not limited to the following:
 - The Finance will come up with procedure after signing the line of credit.
 - The monies should be paid off as soon as the endowment money comes in.
 - Chancellor and others will look into the canons to see if the Standing Committee would need to be involved
 - Specify what this line of credit will be used for.
- Line 2580 in YTD: this line will increase with the audit this summer
- Line 2600 in YTD: Amount spent for Mary Johnson to be in Fort Totten for a week. This work would have fallen under the Missioner position.
- Revisit funds for Missioner position to put into reserve account by September.
- Bishop Brian has spent more on lodging because he has stayed more nights than Bishop Ely. Another added expense is taking clergy out when visiting churches.
- Motion to accept the YTD budget as presented
 - Moved by Robert Hoekstra; Jason Thom second
 - Motion passed
- Motion to accept Designated and Donor Restricted Funds report
 - Moved by Donna Pettit; Jason Thom second
 - Motion passed
- Diocesan Stewardship Share Report
 - Should this be shared publicly or held confidentially
 - Change OFS (Our Fair Share) to DSS (Diocesan Stewardship Share)
 - Lengthy discussion on how the report should be presented as well as who should see this information: percentage vs. amount, present at Convention or in the 1st Sheaf of the year to celebrate the previous year's report.
 - Decision to report on the 2023 Stewardship Share in the Sheaf with percentages and to bring the report to the May meeting for the Council to review.
- Bishop Brian asked for a narrative about the Endowment Funds: when they started and what they are for.
- Question about how much mileage the Diocese pays in reimbursement. Leo Wilking will investigate.

Beth Lipp led Vespers before Council recessed for the evening @ 8:48

Saturday April 20 @ 9:15 am

Bishop called on chaplain Beth Lipp to lead Morning Prayer.

Real Estate Policy & Committee

- Created in 2005
- A church could participate in the fund by asking for money for a project and by so doing would be subject to the clause of the policy that if their building were ever sold the proceeds of the building would go to the fund.
- This policy is connected to the delineation of all churches to congregations vs. parish & mission
- Someone will find records of which churches have participated in the policy.
- Bishop Brian asked the Canons Committee to review the policy even though it is not a Canon. Leo Wilking accepted the request on behalf of the Canons Committee. This will be done by June.

- Creating a Real Estate Advisory Group and a Property Management Advisory group is still in the works. Bishop Brian is recruiting from around the diocese.

Communications Committee

- This group would help collect articles
- Kim Fox helps by taking pictures of what is going on around the diocese
- Will investigate congregational newsletters to find events and articles that could be shared around the diocese.

Reports

- Diocesan Minister – Steve Godfrey submitted a written report
 - All but two parochial reports are in and Steve hopes to get the others done soon.
 - Data is good but very time consuming. Beth Lipp commented that doing the report helps the congregation keep track of what has happened throughout the year. This data is also used to determine delegates for Convention.
- Missioner for Reconciliation, Creation Care & Cong. Ministry- Kim Fox submitted a written report
- Diocesan Administrator - Jessica Krzewina submitted a written report
- Standing Committee – Mark Strobel submitted a written report
- Commission on Ministry – no written report
 - Bishop Brian gave a report on Peter Mading's process
- ND Episcopal Foundation – Beth Lipp submitted a written report
- Reconciliation Committee – Stephanie Garcia submitted a written report
- Creation Care Committee – Solveigh Barney submitted a written report
- UTO – Vanessa Strobel & Mary Massey submitted a written report
- Bishop's Report –no written report
 - Bishop Brian reviewed his visitation schedule and his hopes and expectations for congregational visits
 - Living Waters Cooperative in partnership with Living Stones is having a Conference in September in Minneapolis

Morning break 10:30 – 10:53

Convention 2025

- Deciding between Minot or Standing Rock
- Motion to have 2025 Convention in Minot
 - Moved by Elsie Magnus; second Leo Wilking
 - Discussion: John Floberg noted that a Convention has not been on NDCIM territory for a number of years.
 - Motion defeated
- Motion to have Convention 2025 at Prairie Knights Casino on Standing Rock October 24 & 25 2025 with a commitment to look at Minot for Convention 2026
 - Moved by Leo Wilking; second Beth Lipp
 - Motion passed

WoDakota 2024

- Bishop Brian's intention is for the campaign to launch on May 2, 2024 with videos & brochure
- Discussion about what ministries these monies would support: consensus was to continue with the theme of the Convention and the New Season of Ministry Initiatives
- Discussed the matching funds from last year's campaign
- Bishop Brian asked for Council commitment
- Bishop Brian is looking for other large donors from the congregations with the understanding that this gives people opportunity to give on a different level if they so choose.
- Beth Lipp asked about using Stewardship language in the brochure.

- Jason Thom expressed concern about the timing of the campaign. He suggested alternative dates: Pentecost thru Father’s Day.

New Business

- Title change for Diocesan Minister position
 - Title will change to Diocesan Missioner in July.
 - The language in the letter of agreement with address “position creep” clarifying the limits of the position. The position focuses on program development and gifts not property management.
- Diocesan Administrator, Jessica Krzewina, is moving to St. Cloud but will continue in her position commuting to Fargo a few times a month or as needed.
- NDCIM needs to reorganize. The last scheduled meeting did not happen; the next meeting is set for May.

Lunch break 12:07 – 12:54

- Land acknowledgement resources for all congregations can be found Episcopal Indigenous Ministries website. <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/indigenous-ministries/>
- Circulation of newsletters
 - Prairie has 200 digital copies sent; looking to expand
 - Sheaf has 450 physical copies; looking to expand digital distribution
- Online Donation Platform
 - Discussed the options available
 - There is no place under designated/donor restricted to designate where monies should go
 - Ask vendor about options
- Chaplain for next meeting – Leo Wilking
- Recorder for next meeting – Mark Strobel
- Secretary for June meeting – Donna Pettit is willing to serve
- Prayers for Williston as they sell their church and have their final service on April 28th

Beth Lip led the singing of the Doxology and meeting adjourned @ 1:57 pm

Upcoming Meetings

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