

Diocesan Council Meeting

via Zoom

May 23, 2024

Present: Donna Pettit, Steve Godfrey, Robert Fox, Kim Fox, Elsie Magnus, Stephanie Garcia, JoAnn Keehn, Mark Strobel, Beth Lipp, Susan Lisok, Bishop Brian Thom, Tammy Enockson, George Abdilnour, John Baird, Leo Wilking and Amy Morrow

Absent: Robert Hoekstra, John Anderson, Rachel Schmidt, John Floberg, Jason Thoms, Elaine McLaughlin

Action Items

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. Narrative about the Endowment Funds: when they started, what they were for etc. ??? Did we get this already?
4. Find records about the Real Estate Fund.
5. Review of the Real Estate Policy by June.
6. Bishop will continue to recruit for the Property Management Advisory Group & the Real Estate Advisory Group.
7. Steve Godfrey will give a report concerning his conversations with churches and leadership at the June meeting.

Opening Business

- Bishop Brian called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm opening with prayer offering condolences to John Baird with the passing of his brother.
- George Abdilnour gave an update from Williston.
- Bishop Brian offered congratulations to Stephanie Garcia on her engagement.
- Reviewed Respectful Communication Guidelines
- Reviewed Action Items
- Motion to accept the Minutes from the April 2023 meeting in Fargo submitted by Tammy Enockson.
 - Moved by Beth Lipp; Donna Pettit second
 - Edits: Mary Massey to Mary Massad under UTO report and change “in partnership with Living Stones” to “formerly Living Stones”
 - Motion passed with edits

Reports

- Diocesan Administrator – Jessica Krzewina submitted a written report
- Missioner for Reconciliation, Creation Care and Cong Ministry- Kim Fox submitted a written report
- Diocesan Minister – Steve Godfrey submitted a written report
- Commission on Ministry – Harvey Henderson submitted a written report
- UTO – Vanessa Strobel & Mary Massey submitted a written report
- Standing Committee – no written report
 - Mark Strobel noted the Standing Committee has not met since last the last Council meeting.
- Reconciliation Committee – no written report
 - Also have not met since last Council meeting. Stephanie Garcia mentioned that she and Kim Fox had a fruitful conversation about the direction of the group.
- Episcopal Foundation - no written report

- Beth Lipp noted that the Foundation has approved a grant to Cartwright.
- Congregational Committee – no written report
 - Donna reported that the committee is figuring out how to do the work that needs doing while coordinating with other committees like the Commission on Ministry. They need to follow up with churches.
- NDCIM – no written report
 - Robert Fox mentioned that White Shield gratefully received some items from the Williston sale.
- Bishop – no written report
 - Met with Lutheran pastor about having shared service in Minot.
 - Went to Dunseith with Robert & Kim Fox, met with senior warden, had a tour of St. Sylvan's cemetery
 - Help is needed as the building project there has been going on for a long time. They need funds. They have not had a service for 5 months yet when they had an event 30 people showed up. They also had a funeral and the entire town showed up.
 - Visited St. James & St. Peter's for affirmations and baptism.
 - Received a history of NDCIM from Robert Fox and John Floberg
 - Worked on the WoDakota Annual Appeal which has begun. Shorter time frame this year.
 - Attended Province XI Bishop's retreat.

Financial Matters

- Bishop Brian called on Amy Morrow to review finances
- They are working on the line of credit
- Quarter one endowment and additional 2% are coming only 6 weeks late.
- Looked at the 2024 (January – April) DSS with %'s. Final report from 2023 will go out in the next Sheaf.
- Council asked to see these numbers quarterly
- Motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented
 - Motion by Donna Pettit; Mark Strobel second
 - Motion passed

Change in Ministry Support Team

- Steve Godfrey has accepted a post in Northern Michigan; he will work until the end of July
- Steve presented a question to the Council that he will be asking churches in his last two months: What have we learned in the last 3 years?
- Bishop Brian asked Steve to report back to Council at the June Meeting what he discovers talking to churches and leaders that he visits in that time.
- Bishop Brian excused the Ministry Support Team and the remaining Council discussed Steve's departure.
- Bishop Brian encouraged the Council to take the next few weeks as a time of discernment.

Beth Lipp led closing prayer
Meeting adjourned @ 8:34