

**Report of the Diocesan Council
to the
227th Convention of the Diocese of Pennsylvania
November 6, 2010**

The Diocesan Council, comprised of thirty-three elected deanery delegates (One Clergy, Two Laypersons) and other ex-officio members as described in the Canons of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, including the Bishop, the Treasurer of the Diocese and the Secretary to Convention, met the work of the year with a sense of mutual purpose and commitment to God's mission in the Diocese of Pennsylvania. Between meetings of the Convention, the Diocesan Council is responsible for carrying out the program and budget priorities established by the Convention and attending to responsibilities as defined by the Canons. In this capacity, the Diocesan Council is also responsible for electing two members (1 clergy, 1 lay) to the Committee on Clergy Salaries and Pensions each year and for electing individuals to fill vacancies due to unexpired terms on the Committee on Finance and Property.

In its normal course of organizing business in November, 2009 and January, 2010, the Diocesan Council welcomed the Rt. Rev. Rodney Michel, Assisting Bishop, as its chair. At its meeting in September, 2010, the Diocesan Council thanked Bp. Michel for his time as Assisting Bishop and Chair of Diocesan Council; the Rt. Rev. Charles Bennison returned as Bishop Diocesan and Chair of Diocesan Council.

Each member of the Diocesan Council was appointed to serve on one or more Diocesan leadership groups either by virtue of their election to such bodies or due to their interest in the mission and ministry of the particular group. The Executive Committee was elected as follows:

- The Rev. Kathryn Andonian, Vice-Chair, Church of the Holy Spirit, Valley Forge Deanery
- Mr. Jeffrey Moretzsohn, Church of the Good Samaritan, Brandywine Deanery
- Ms. Patricia Smith, St. Luke's, Germantown, Wissahickon Deanery
- Ms. Candace Woessner, Christ Church, Pottstown, Valley Forge Deaner
- Ms. Jeanette Woehr (Secretary to Council), Gloria Dei/Old Swede's, Southwark Deanery

In accordance with its Canonical responsibilities, the Executive Committee appointed the Rev. Kirk Berlenbach, Wissahickon Deanery, as chair of the Program Budget Committee and a committee representative of the Diocese. Other members appointed to the Program Budget Committee included:

- The Reverend Judith Beck, Finance and Property
- Ms. Deborah Brown, Diocesan Council
- Mr. Mike Mayer, Finance and Property
- Ms. Arlene McGurk, Standing Committee
- The Rev. Glenn Matis, Standing Committee
- Mr. Barry Norris, Diocesan Council, Youth Council

- Ms. Patricia Smith, Diocesan Council
- Mr. Robert Swartz, Finance & Property
- Mr. George Whitfield, Diocesan Council

Ex-Officio

- The Rt. Reverend Rodney Michel, Assisting Bishop
- Mr. John Loftus, Assistant Treasurer
- The Reverend Paul Mottl, Canon for Administration & Communication
- Mr. Robert Rogers, CFO

Each month, Diocesan Council works to ensure that the decisions made by Convention are implemented and that it is responding to its responsibilities as described in the Canons. Diocesan Council meetings include the following: a report on Diocesan issues and activities by the Bishop; a report by the Diocesan Council Executive Committee; a review of the status of the Diocesan Program Budget by the Treasurer and CFO of the Diocese, including the status of pledges; a review of the work of the Program Budget Committee for the upcoming year; an update regarding the work of the Committee on Finance and Property; a report on the work of various Diocesan committees by Council members appointed and/or elected to those committees, including: Diocesan Consultation Committee, Camp Committee, Diocesan Youth Council, Stewardship Commission, Wapiti, Interfaith Coalition, Campus Ministry, Cathedral Chapter, Anti-Racism Commission, Black Aspirant Recruitment Consultative Task Force and the Mission Strategy Committee.

Among the notable actions taken by Diocesan Council in 2009-2010 were the following:

- Continued stronger communications by placing a meeting summary on the Diocesan website (under the “News” section) after each meeting and including articles in other Diocesan publications.
- Worked with the Standing Committee, in its role as the Ecclesiastical Authority, to secure a commitment that up to \$175,000 in unspent Nunn’s Fund monies be made available, if necessary, to augment the 2010 Program Budget in case of a deficit. As of October, 2010, no Nunn’s Fund dollars had been requested. We will not know until early 2011, when all 2010 pledges are collected, whether or not the 2010 Program Budget has experienced a deficit.
- Through the work of the Program Budget Committee, crafted a lean and realistic Program Budget for 2011. The proposed Program Budget was unanimously approved (June, 2010) and forwarded for consideration and approval at the Diocesan Convention. It was presented at all of the Pre-Convention meetings by a member of the Program Budget Committee.
- Worked with the Program Budget Committee to send a letter to the clergy and lay leaders of the Diocese describing the need for parishes to continue their pledges to the 2010 Program Budget and the 2011 Program Budget in order to live into our common life together in mission and ministry in the Diocese of Pennsylvania (October, 2010).
- Through the Diocesan Youth Ministry, ensured the ongoing vitality of the summer youth camping program in cooperation with the Diocese of Delaware and

in our Diocese with the well-attended City Camp that provides ministry and service to the local community.

- Worked in cooperation with the Diocesan Convention-approved Mission Planning Commission as it began its work. Several members of the Diocesan Council were appointed to this Commission, including the Rev. John Sorenson as its chair. The Commission will seek to “encourage the Bishop and Standing Committee to appoint a Diocesan Mission Planning Commission, broadly representative of the Diocese, to review Christ’s mission and ministry through the people of the diocese of Pennsylvania; engage and consult diocesan leadership groups in an evaluation of these ministries, make recommendations for the future, and begin a process of reconciliation to help us move forward together in Christ.” The Diocesan Council also voted to approve a resolution to be presented to the Diocesan Convention to continue both the work and the funding of this Commission. Diocesan Council also requested that the Diocesan Convention include a place on the agenda for an introduction of the consultant group working with the committee, a review of its work thus far, and a “conversation” opportunity that reflects the work of the Commission.
- Worked with the Committee on Canons to ensure that there is an appropriate procedure to address mid-year vacancies of unexpired terms on the Committee for Finance and Property
- At its meeting in May, the Diocesan Council engaged a discussion of the upcoming Diocesan Convention in particular, the establishment of an increased registration fee to cover the costs of lunch, snacks and beverages, and other associated costs. There continued to be strong support voiced for the change of venue for the Convention and the plans to hold a lunch where attendees will be able to participate in conversations with one another. There was also a general acceptance of the need to request a reasonable registration fee as is typical in other Dioceses and in recognition of our limited Program Budget funds to cover the costs of Convention. A \$75/per person registration fee was unanimously approved. Bp. Michel committed to making available a grant fund to assist individuals or parishes unable to cover all or part of the registration fee. When concerns regarding the cost of Convention were brought to the June meeting, the Diocesan Council once again affirmed the need for the fee and its commitment to ensuring that grant funds would be available.

The Diocesan Council looks forward to another productive year as we seek to represent the needs, concerns and hopes of the members of the Diocese.

*Respectfully Submitted by the Diocesan Council Executive Committee
November 6, 2010*