

**Report of the Diocesan Council
to the
226th Convention of the Diocese of Pennsylvania
November 14, 2009**

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 renewed sense of mutual purpose and commitment to God's mission in the Diocese of Pennsylvania. In its normal course of organizing business in November, 2008 and January, 2009, the Diocesan Council welcomed the Rt. Rev. Allen Bartlett (ret.), Assisting Bishop, as its chair. In the Spring, the Diocesan Council thanked Bp. Bartlett for his time as Assisting Bishop and welcomed the Rt. Rev. Rodney Michel as Assisting Bishop as chair. As a reminder, 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.

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. Joe Merlino, Church of the Holy Comforter, Conestoga Deanery
- Mr. Jeffrey Moretzsohn, Church of the Good Samaritan, Brandywine Deanery
- Ms. Patricia Smith, St. Luke's, Germantown, Wissahickon Deanery
- 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. Other members appointed to the Program Budget Committee included:

- Ms. Deborah Brown, Schuylkill Deanery, Diocesan Council
- Mr. Barry Norris, Valley Forge Deanery, Diocesan Council
- Ms. Patricia Smith, Wissahickon Deanery, Diocesan Council
- Mr. George Whitfield, Delaware Deanery, Diocesan Council
- The Rev. Judith Beck, Committee on Finance and Property
- Mr. Robert Swartz, Committee on Finance and Property
- Ms. Arlene McGurk, Standing Committee
- Mr. William Powell, Standing Committee
- The Rt. Rev. Rodney Michel, Assisting Bishop, ex officio
- The Rev. Canon Paul Mottl, Bishop's representative (non-voting)
- Mr. Robert Rogers, Canon for Finance, ex officio (non-voting)

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: 2020 Committee, Camp Committee, Diocesan Youth Council, Stewardship Commission, Wapiti, 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 2008-2009 were the following:

- Welcomed the Rt. Rev. Rodney Michel as the Diocese's new Assisting Bishop and Chair of Diocesan Council (March-May, 2009)
- Initiated stronger communications by placing a meeting summary on the Diocesan website (under the "News" section) after each meeting.
- In the face of a significant Program Budget deficit, approved approximately \$100,000 in program budget cuts as recommended by the Committee on Finance and Property (March, 2009).
- Crafted and sent two letters to the clergy and lay leaders of the Diocese describing the Program Budget deficit, announcing the program reductions and encouraging renewed support of the mission and ministries in the Diocese of Pennsylvania (March and May, 2009).
- Clarified and approved the designation of All Saints, Darby as a mission church (March, 2009).
- At the request of the Camp Committee, chaired by the Rev. Alexander Graham, Conestoga Deanery, approved a new model of summer youth camp whereby we would partner with the Delaware Diocese at Camp Arrowhead (March, 2009).
- Approved a six-year extension of "The Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry at Temple University," (LECM) under the leadership of the Rev. Gregory Wilson. The mission of this program is "to minister in the name of Jesus Christ to both Episcopal and Lutheran students, other students, faculty and staff at Temple University, and to seek to proclaim and live out the Word of God as a public witness to the love of God in Christ" (March, 2009).
- Voted to encourage parishes in the Diocese of Pennsylvania to observe an annual "Sea Sunday" on the first Sunday in October (or on another Sunday during the year) to promote awareness and support of Seamen's Church Institute (March, 2009).
- Approved concept of and drafted, in collaboration with the Standing Committee and the Mission Strategy Committee, a resolution on "Reconciliation and Planning" to be presented to the Diocesan Convention in November, 2009. The Resolution 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” (May-November, 2009).

- Through the work of the Program Budget Committee, crafted a lean and realistic Program Budget for 2010. The proposed Program Budget was unanimously approved (June, 2009). The Diocesan Council also approved an amendment that any funds received in excess of the Program Budget be directed to Mission/Congregational Development planning (June, 2009).
- At its meeting on September 17 the Diocesan Council engaged a discussion of the upcoming Diocesan Convention; in particular, the establishment of a \$20/per person registration fee to cover the costs of the lunch. There was 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 to cover the costs of lunch; however, the Diocesan Council recognized that this departure from past practices could create concerns for some in the Diocese. In response, the Diocesan Council voted to make the 2009 Diocesan Convention registration fee voluntary; costs for the lunch not covered by the voluntary fee will be met through otherwise unexpended funds in the 2009 Program Budget.

Respectfully Submitted by the Diocesan Council Executive Committee, November 14, 2009.