



**THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA
DIOCESAN COUNCIL**

Saturday, 30 Jan 2016 [transferred from 23 Jan 2016] – 09:00 AM – 12:00 noon

Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

916 S Swanson St

Philadelphia PA 19147

(215) 389-1513 – www.old-swedes.org

Those attending:

Brandywine Deanery: Rev John Sorensen, Terri Connelly

Bucks Deanery: Rev Marlee Norton

Delaware Deanery: Kim Shiley

Merion Deanery: Kim Shiley

Montgomery Deanery: Joseph Madison, Warren Wanlund

Schuylkill Deanery: Pattie Davis

Southwark Deanery: Rev D Joy Segal, Jeanette Woehr, Peggy Hatch

Valley Forge Deanery: Beverly Loftus, Mary McGinn

Wissahickon Deanery: Helen Zartarian

James Pope, Treasurer; Canon Rob Rogers, Finance; Jerome Buescher, Secretary

AGENDA

1. Call to Order The Rev. D. Joy Segal

09:05 AM

2. Host – Welcome and Scripture Reflection and Opening Prayer (*15 minutes*) The Rev. D. Joy Segal

The Rev D Joy Segal welcomed everyone to Gloria Dei, affectionately known as “Old Swedes” in remembrance of the Swedish Lutherans who founded the parish in the 1600s. The original church was a block house (log cabin – a style of building brought to this country by the early Swedish and Finnish settlers). The present church was dedicated on 02 Jun 1700 and has been in continuous use for worship since then. Jeanette Woehr, historian of the parish and a member of diocesan council, will be glad to show anyone the church after this meeting.

The Rev Segal presented 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (using the version from “The Message”) as the scripture for the day. Those present discussed the reading and it’s enumeration of the actions that characterize love – and those that are inimical to love.

3. Opening of the meeting (*5 minutes*) The Rev. D. Joy Segal

- a. Welcome and Introductions

The Rev Segal welcomed those attending and thanked everyone for their flexibility in dealing with the change of meeting date because of the snow storm on 23 Jan 2016.

b. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was presented for adoption. A motion was introduced and seconded. The motion was passed and the agenda was accepted without change.

c. Recognition of Visitors

The Rev E. Clifford Cutler, Chairperson of the Middle Eastern Study Group (MESG) , The Rt Rev Allen L. Bartlett, Jr., a founder of the Study Group, and various members of the Study Group were welcomed.

4. Minutes of the Minutes of the Nov. 14, 2015 meeting of Diocesan Council (*5 minutes*) Jerome Buescher, Secretary

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the 14 Nov 2016 meeting as presented. The motion was accepted and the minutes were accepted.

5. Presentation from The Middle East Study Group re Resolution R9 (*30 minutes*) MESG Representatives

The Rev E. Clifford Cutler made the major portion of a presentation on the Middle Eastern Study Group and it's relationship to Resolution R-09 as accepted at the Convention on 07 Nov 2015.

The Rev Cutler distributed material pertinent to the mission of the Middle East Study Group. That mission is that "Grounded in our vision of peace in the land of Christ's birth and desirous of working together with those of all faiths who share that vision, we commit ourselves to prayerful and compassionate solidarity with Christians in the Holy Land." He spoke on the history of MESG, from its establishment by Bishop Bartlett at the Convention of 1992, to the present time. He mentioned that the MESG meets about 6 times a year, at 07:30 PM in the New Conference Room of St Asaph's Church. The contact number of the church is 610-664-0966. Meetings are open to anyone interested in learning more about the current situation in Palestine/Israel , regardless of a person's religious affiliation.

He offered suggestions for activities that might be undertaken by diocesan council: (1) a significant educational conference on the topic "Christians in the Holy Land"; (2) endorse the education of the diocese about the call of Christians for justice, peace, security, and love (Kairos); (3) support educational opportunities (Kairos Palestine and Steadfast Hope offer such opportunities that Christian-Jewish Allies is prepared to offer within the diocese; and (4) encourage mission and study trips to Israel/Palestine through Christian Peacemakers, FOSNA, the diocese's Theological Institute, and solicit support from the diocesan Continuing Education Fund.

There was considerable spirited discussion after Rev Cutler's presentation. One topic was that a member of the diocese was embarrassed when a Jewish Rabbi contacted that person in alarm that the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania was critical of Israel, to the point of anti-Semitism, and that it was seen as supporting the Palestinians. The concern was that the diocese would be represented publicly in this regard because of the language in the resolution and the tone of that language.

An additional concern dealt with the call for stock divestment, expressed moderately as a call not to increase current equity investments, in companies (not named) that are seen to profit from the Israeli occupation of lands considered "Palestinian."

The point was made several times that R-09 did indeed pass at the November 2015 convention; therefore, it speaks for the Diocese of Pennsylvania whether individuals agree with that fact or not. It appears that a significant number of members of the Diocese do not like the tone of the resolution. Members of the MESG who were present

suggested continued dialogue between members of that group – speaking engagement between members of MESH and parishes and deanery groups.

6. Presentation on role of Diocesan Council in Diocesan Budget preparations (30 minutes) Adam Kradel, Eric Rabe

For this budget cycle, some of the money items in the budget, allocated in previous years by the Finance Committee, will be passed to the Diocesan Council for allocation. To facilitate this process, the Rev Greg Wilson and Peter Datos, who had been appointed to the Finance Committee by acclamation at the November diocesan council meeting, were asked to form a budget subcommittee to work on this matter: budget line items 57-73, and line items 92-100.

At the January diocesan council meeting, volunteers for service on the subcommittee were identified: Rev Marlee Norton, Kim Shiley, and Beverly Loftus. The sub-committee undertook work on the project.

[Note in advance of 16 Mar 2016 meeting: the Subcommittee has issued a first report (included in the meeting materials for the council meeting of 19 Mar 2016) and will have a 2nd report in time for that meeting. – JGB, secretary]

7. Report from Bishop Search Committee/Transition Team

George Vosburgh reported on behalf of the committees and the Standing Committee. The search team believes it has identified the five best candidates for DIOPA. Meetings among candidates and members of the diocese have been scheduled. Logistically, at each meeting place, members of the diocese will be seated in a given location and the candidates will rotate among the sites. There is an opportunity for additional candidates to arise by nomination. The timeframe that such candidates must meet in short so, if there are any such candidates, they will have had to pre-prepare some of their credential materials.

8. Executive Committee Report (10 minutes) The Rev. D. Joy Segal

a. Plans and suggestions for future presentations to Diocesan Council

i. Communications – Diocesan Staff – to be considered later

ii. Youth and Family Ministries – Andrew Kuhn, head of this group, will be asked to speak to council at the 19 Mar 2016 meeting.

b. Committees & Commissions represented on Diocesan Council

This list needs to be updated for the 2016 year. Information will be gathered at the 19 Mar 2016 meeting.

c. Schedule of Diocesan Council meeting for 2016

March 26th, May 7th, June 11th, September 24th, November 12th.

Note: Calling Convention will be on 3/12/16; Diocesan Convention will be on 11/5/16

9. Bishop's Report (30 minutes) The Rt. Rev. Clifton Daniel, 3rd

The bishop was not in attendance.

10. Treasurer's Report (15 minutes)

Mr. James Pope, Treasurer

Canon Rob Roberts had made available consolidated financial results for the year 2015 and that information will be made available to members the afternoon of the meeting.

The report presented showed that 96% of anticipated revenue had been collected.

James Pope reported that January results were good but reminded everyone that too much faith should not be put into January results.

11. Standing Committee Report (10 minutes)

George Vosburgh, speaking for the Standing Committee, noted that the Anti-Racism Commission is will to change its long-standing policy and consider the development of shorter training sessions, such as after-church sessions or evening sessions.

Committee Reports (oral and written) (10 minutes)

Joseph Madison presented an oral report on approval of a loan request for a parish.

12. Old business

There was no old business.

13. Schedule of next meeting

Jerome Buescher, Secretary

(March 19, 2016 – St. James the Greater, Bristol)

14. Reflections (5 minutes)

15. Closing Prayer

16. Adjournment

The Rev. D. Joy Segal

11:40 AM

Submitted by
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