



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA
DIOCESAN COUNCIL
Saturday, 28 March 2015, 09:00 AM – 12:00 Noon
Trinity Episcopal Church
708 S Bethlehem Pike
Ambler PA 19002
215-646-0416 – www.trinityambler.com

Attendance by Deanery

Rt Rev Clifton Daniel 3rd, Bishop
Brandywine Deanery – Rev Carolyn Huff
Bucks Deanery – Rev Ernest Curtin, Dave Dixon, William Atkinson
Delaware Deanery – Rev Gregory Wilson
Merion Deanery – Rev Ryan Whitley, George Vosburgh
Montgomery Deanery – Rev Keith Marsh, Elise Bowers, Joseph Madison
Pennypack Deanery – Dr. Carole Baxter
Schuylkill Deanery – Rev Angelo Wildgoose, William Berry
Southwark Deanery – Rev D Joy Segal, Jeanette Woehr, Peggy Hatch
Valley Forge Deanery – Beverly Loftus
Wissahickon Deanery – Rose Muriel Rains

Mary Kohart, Chancellor; James Pope, Treasurer; Rev Nancy James Deming, Canon; Jerome G. Buescher, Secretary

AGENDA

How will what we do or say here today affect the lives of those living in poverty?

1. Call to Order The Rev. D. Joy Segal
09:05 AM
2. Host – Welcome and Scripture Reflection (15 minutes) The Rev. David A. Canan
Church built by wealthy asbestos magnate. Burned down in 1986. 25th anniversary this year of rebuilt church.

Scripture reading ...

1st reading – asked those attending to listen for word or phrase that jumped out – “from that day forward”

2nd reading – asked those attending to listen for what the reading is saying to us – Jesus the scapegoat, fear and faith in message, need to protect status quo, disciples came with Mary

3rd reading – asked those attending to hear what this diocesan council is being called to do, to be, or to change – role of church to gather the dispersed, what are we to do since signs are being performed, not to be so concerned about our preservation but what we need to do, that council acts on faith and that is scary, that we’re afraid of change, power and control vs right.

Concluding prayer – God thank you for council, words of scripture, we embrace faith and fear come together, bless our work.

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

a. Prayer

The Rev. Keith Marsh

Lord, we gather on the threshold of Holy Week. Remember those are prevented from practicing their faith

b. Adoption of the agenda

Large packet distributed. Are there additions or deletions needed? There were none. It was moved, seconded, and approved to accept the agenda.

c. Recognition and introduction of visitors

James Pope, the new Treasurer of the Diocese, was introduced. Two members of the Standing Committee, Deborah Brown and Jane Cosby, were present. A delegation from St. Paul Elkins Park was present.

4. Minutes of the January 24, 2105 (actual date of meeting – 31 Jan 2015) meeting of Diocesan Council (*5 minutes*)
Jerome Buescher, Secretary

A motion to approve the minutes was moved, seconded, and approved.

5. Presentation – St. Paul's, Elkins Park Project (*20 minutes*)

The Rev. Paul DeWitt Reid and Committee

Committee members included: Rev Paul Reid, Rector; Sandra Farmer, Vestry; Erica Moten, Vestry; Ruth Kwarteng, Project Manager; Candace Majors, Rector's Warden; Ernest L. Bailey III, Vestry; K. Bailey, Administrator; Bob Lockyer, Finance Committee

St. Paul's plans to celebrate on 06 December 201 (2nd Sunday of Advent) – the 150th anniversary of the end of slavery. St. Paul's is an interesting place, truly a multicultural place. Not at beginning – in the mid-1800s, it was a white privilege church. At the present time, the congregation is about 50-50 white-black makeup – people of West African descent, Caribbean descent, and African Americans.

At the present time, St. Paul hosts visits by school children to see its Tiffany windows and the architecture. Abolitionists and civil war buffs, on the other hand, have no visible presence. The church wants to make the sanctuary open to those aspects of its history with professionally done portable displays – Lucretia Mott, Harriet Tubman, for example, are understood to be parts of the church's history but are not evident. Besides St. Paul's itself, there is a need to celebrate as a diocese the end of slavery. The 2nd Sunday of Advent (Dec 6) St. Paul's wants to celebrate and commemorate the 150th anniversary of the end of slavery with a musical work. Episcopal church has much not to be proud of and much to ask God's forgiveness for regarding slavery. The Episcopal Church church needs this project.

Ruth Kwarteng – talked about how St. Paul's is organizing for this project. There is much talent at St. Paul's. There is a management team charged with oversight of displays and the underground railroad room. There are experts on board – a history team from Irish Philadelphia. Donald Scott, professor, expert on Camp William Penn, presented at Temple a seminar on Underground Railroad. Bill Daley – ceramic artist. There is a team of architects and designers. There is a publicity team featuring Deborah Freese, a published author & poet.

St. Paul Elkins Park presented two resolutions to Diocesan Council and asked approval of those resolutions by Diocesan Council. The resolutions are:

Resolution 1 – Resolved, that the Diocesan Council request that the Standing Committee grant and allocate \$12,500 to St. Paul's Elkins Park to be used for their Underground Railroad display in celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the end of the abomination of slavery in the United States on the Second Sunday of Advent,

December 6, 2015.

Resolution 2 – Resolved, that the Diocesan Council suggest to the Bishop and Standing Committee, that the Diocese call upon all our parishes to consider financially supporting our project according to their means; and that all of us in the Diocese specially celebrate the weekend of Sunday, December 6th; giving thanks to God for the end of the abomination of slavery in the United States, and asking God's forgiveness for the ways, by action and inaction, knowingly and unknowingly, that our church and its members have supported the slave trade and racial discrimination.

Council members had questions about the presentation.

Rev Ernest Curtin – what will the \$12,500 buy (out of \$50,000 total). Answers: Printing for distribution, publicity, infrastructure improvements to basement. Question: Is that an estimate or a guess. Answer: Church has bids on infrastructure. Question: Storage of materials once created? Answer: Core will stay in sanctuary.

Question: the connection seems to be build on “oral tradition;” is there any corroborating history? Answer: Jay Cook who built the church had abolitionist leanings, Lucretia Mott was a member of his bible study group. Letters to family indicated a connection to abolitionist movement. There is a bronze plaque referencing church as stop on the underground railroad. Question: Is there a school or group interest? Answer: Already an interest but we will develop. The Bishop reminded everyone of a parallel to the holy land: This is the place where we remember what happened and that makes it holy.

Joe Madison – whatever’s left is being over-built, it’s important to memorialize what is still there.

Muriel Rains – Offered her knowledge of an African group to which she can provide a connection. Offer accepted by St. Paul’s committee.

Peggy Hatch – infrasture work? St. Paul committee – stairway improvement needed. Additional items – is there a budget? St. Paul – no, it will grow as fundraising progresses.

Rev Ernest Curtin – funds, and from where? Answer: from various sources.

Resolutions – 2 resolutions have been presented. The resolutions were moved and seconded. Discussion. Elise Bowers – supported resolutions. Rev Keith Marsh – for diocesan support, need better budget, better concept that can be shared. Bishop Daniel: again, pointed out the strangeness of present diocesan finance structure. Funding such endeavors belongs to purview of Diocesan Council that has no money and no authority to spend money.

Request to call the question – on the 2nd resolution, the motion was passed (approved).

On the 1st resolution, motion to table to time certain, the May Diocesan Council meeting. St. Paul’s will re-present their proposal with more detailed plans and budget. Motion passed (approved).

6. Bishop’s Report (45 minutes)

The Rt. Rev. Clifton Daniel, 3rd

Follow-up discussion of the Bishop’s request to consider diocesan missional goals for the next 2-3 years.

Fire for the Mission, part 2 – Bishop wants this year’s activity to be done in Chester PA. Appropriated sum of \$10K, gave charge to determine how to spend that amount to invigorate the mission of the Episcopal Church in Chester PA. Calendar: Sat 30 May 2015, St. Paul’s Church, Chester PA, 09:00 AM – 04:00 PM. \$10. per participant, lunch included. Speaker: Rev Thomas Brackett, missionary for new churches, from Michigan.

Darby Mission Project – proceeding, led by Rev Doris Rajagopal, seeking to ensure the meaningful continuing presence of the Episcopal Church in the Darby community. Project going into the 2016 Diocesan budget. Primary goal: to determine how the Episcopal Church can best serve this community in the Diocese. If that means a new church, fine; if not, but will take another form, that’s fine also.

Formation of an *ad hoc* committee to identify Diocesan Council recommendations of missional goals

By the end of 2017, a sense of what we would like to see this diocese accomplish? Looking for mid-range goals – the Darby Project is one, a sense of mission for Chester County is another. Candidates for bishop of the diocese will want to know: What is the diocese about? What does the diocese want to do, accomplish? Some answers –

- Anti-human trafficking initiative and effort
- Diocesan communications improvements; DIOPA website is one area
- Average American is now 24 YOA. How are we dealing with that (look at our congregations)
- Facebook – number of dioceses or equivalents have Facebook presence, DIOPA does not. [Actually, as of at least 17 Apr 2015, DIOPA does have Facebook page -- <https://www.facebook.com/EpiscopalDioceseOfPennsylvania>]
- Lack of attention to Sunday school, the diocese might have an institute for Sunday school teachers. Bishop: better term for this activity is “Christian formation.”
- Crucial goal – find a new bishop, incorporate that person into the life of this diocese, dealing with at least the following issues:
 - Deal with troubled parishes
 - Purpose of the deaneries, as central repository of talent pool. Deaneries as “best practices” centers, bishop has asked Deans to do that.
 - The great commission: preach, baptize, teach, and serve.
 - College chaplaincies.
 - Role for deacons.

Bishop Daniel – formed a sub-committee to winnow down this list to 3 or 4 items for intensive work. Volunteers for that sub-committee: Peggy Hatch, Bill Atkinson, Joe Madison. Charge – to report back to Diocesan Council at the May 2015 meeting.

7. Follow-up discussion of point #8 from DC Task Force for DTT Action Items (15 minutes) The Rev. D. Joy Segal

Value that needs to be absorbed – support the most vulnerable among us. Rev Greg Wilson – what are theological underpinnings. Rev Joy Segal – not only value but also action item. Remember – workshop a couple weeks ago about volunteers, working to go forward. Bill Atkinson – request for money in 2016 budget, judge against relevancy of request to #8. Bishop reminder – current youth & young adult operation is most active part in the diocese. Rev Greg Wilson suggestion – amend antipoverty awareness statement to concern for downtrodden and disadvantaged. Greg will bring back a revised statement to next meeting.

Reminder about needing to afflict the comfortable. Counter-reminder about judging who’s comfortable.

8. Executive Committee Report (15 minutes) The Rev. D. Joy Segal

- a. Letter to Finance Committee – request for budget line for Diocesan Council beginning 2016 (attached). First response from budget committee meeting –Bishop: we have a strange configuration, Standing Committee more in charge of finances than District Council. Another missional goal – work out those kinks,

more responsibility for District Council.

If May budget draft has line item, then District Council needs to form subcommittee to manage requests.

Issue about source of funds from finances. Bishop – in other dioceses, he never saw Standing Committee regarding finances. Diocesan Council did what needed to be done.

Jane Cosby: Suggested beginning a Hallelujah Fund. Ask each Deanery to ask each parish of the Deanery to pick a Sunday between Easter & Pentecost to make a contribution to funding this line item for the Diocesan Council. Perhaps then ask Diocese to match or contribute.

- b. Cover letter to Standing Committee and Finance Committee – with District Council report on DTT Action Items (attached)

Standing Committee will send formal letter in response.

- c. Diocesan Council Committee participation and responsibilities:

- i. Review/discussion of committee volunteer opportunities and DC coverage.
- ii. Thoughts on possibilities for new committees.

- d. Schedule of Diocesan Council meetings for 2015 - May 9th, June 13th, September 19th, November 14th.

Date problem w/ 13 June 2015. Is 20 June 2015 OK? Answer: Yes – change schedules. Need to find venue.

9. Treasurer's Report (10 minutes)

Mr. James Pope, Treasurer

Financial statement circulated with Diocesan Committee materials. James Pope – receipts are slightly up in relation to budget, but it's early in the fiscal year. From Church Foundation – dollars in funds up but percent that can be drawn is down. Percentage is at 4.3%, Foundation would like to get to 4.0%.

Announcement likely in next week about Andrew Kellner replacement.

Looking at insurance situation. Some buy into Sovereign, some buy outside. Rob Rogers has to deal w/ the non-users (forgotten issues, non-compliant issues). Needs to be regularized.

10. Standing Committee Report (10 minutes)

Deborah Brown, Jane Cosby

No report, except letter coming from Standing Committee regarding budget request.

11. Committee Reports (oral and written) (10 minutes)

CCCEB report – late-arriving report. Needs language qualification. Commission to CCCEB regarding language in 7 & 9, and reference to canons relevant. Joe Madison will help find relevant canons.

Written report from bishop search committee – April 18, April 23, Apr 30, May 3, May 6, May 11 – first of the Holy conversations at the parish level.

Finance comm helping parishes deal with city real state tax exemption proof. [Issue has become moot after meeting; City of Philadelphia has dropped requirement for churches to re-certify their tax exemption yearly.] Vestry training session in planning.

Rev Ernest Curtin – cathedral renovations nearly complete.

George Vosburgh – anti-racism commission, subcommittee working to develop a local training program. Bishop selection committee will participate in anti-racism training.

Rev Ryan Whitley (chair of convention committee) – next convention will be 1.5 days, Friday evening service and dinner. Details being arranged. Dates – 06 and 07 Nov 2015.

Rev Ryan Whitley – Religious leaders of the interfaith council have remarked in explanatory fashion on anti-muslim ads on SEPTA vehicles.

12. Old Business

The “Re-Membering Sessions” – recommended that they be discontinued, have accomplished what was sought. A reminder – they proved a good model, maybe another use another time.

Mary Kohart – working to deal with Act 31 issues (mandate for screening all personnel working with children for child abuse issues). Burdensome and expensive.

13. Schedule of next meeting

Jerome Buescher, Secretary

May 9, 2015 – Trinity Church, Oxford

14. Reflections (10 minutes)

St. Paul presentation. Good conversation about diocesan goals. Good picture of need for deanery roles.

15. Closing Prayer

Rt Rev Clifton Daniel 3rd, Bishop

16. Adjournment
12:00 noon

Rev D Joy Segal