



**THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA
DIOCESAN COUNCIL
Saturday, June 18, 2016 – 09:00 AM - 12:00 noon
Christ Church & St Michael's
29 W Tulpehocken St
Philadelphia PA 19144
215-844-7274**

MINUTES

Attendance

Brandywine Deanery: Rev John Sorensen, Jeff Dean, Elizabeth Curtis Swan
Bucks Deanery: Rev Marlee Norton, Dave Dixon, George Pollitt
Delaware Deanery: No representatives present
Merion Deanery: Stephen Krouse, Christopher Hart
Montgomery Deanery: Rev Mike Rau, Warren Wanlund, Joseph Madison
Pennypack Deanery: Rev Richard Robyn, Peter Datos
Schuylkill Deanery: Rev Mariclaire Partee Carlsen, Renae Rutherford Lowe
Southwark Deanery: Rev D Joy Segal, Jeanette Woehr, Peggy Hatch
Valley Forge Deanery: Beverly Loftus, Mary McGinn
Wissahickon Deanery: Rev Emmanuel Mercer, Rose Marie Rains, Helen Zartarian
Rev Jarrett Kerbel, Rector, St Martin in the Fields; George Vosburgh, Standing Committee representative;
Rev Paul Adler, Rector, St Alban's, Roxborough; James Pope, Treasurer; Jerome Buescher, Secretary

1. Call to Order The Rev. D. Joy Segal
09:05 AM

Host – Welcome – information about parish (10 minutes) Muriel Rains

Rev D Joy Segal welcomed everyone and introduced Muriel Rains to introduce Christ Church and St Michael's parish. The Mission of Christ Church and St Michael's is to "worship the Lord joyfully, to grow in Christian faith daily, to share our blessings openly, and to proclaim the gospel faithfully."

This building was Beekman Potter's home. Christ Church was low Episcopal in ritual, St Michael's was high Episcopal in ritual. Merger occurred in 1933. One of the early churches to espouse integration. Strong tradition of outreach to community. Usual Sunday attendance is about 35. Strong support from Daughters of the King chapter who make up a dedicated core of support for this parish. Activities bring in persons who are not regular church attendees.

2. Scripture Reflection and Opening Prayer (10 minutes) The Rev. Greg Smith

Morning prayer, commemoration of Bernard Mizeki, and a reading from Luke 12:4-7

3. Opening of the meeting (5 minutes)

The Rev. D. Joy Segal

a. Welcome to members, diocesan staff, introductions

Rena Rutherford Lowe, new representative from Schuylkill Deanery; Jeff Dean, new representative from Brandywine Deanery; Elizabeth Curtis Swain, new representative from Brandywine Deanery, Christopher Hart, new representative from Merion Deanery

b. Recognition of Visitors

Rev Jarrett Kerbel, Dean of Wissahickon Deanery, Rev Paul Adler, Rector, Church of St Alban's, Roxborough

c. Adoption of the agenda

Motion to accept, seconded, no discussion; approved.

4. Minutes of the May 7, 2016 meeting of Diocesan Council (5 minutes)

Jerome Buescher, Secretary

Motion to accept, seconded, no discussion; approved.

5. Presentation: Wissahickon Deanery plans for grant included in 2017 budget (20 minutes) The Very Rev. Jarrett Kerbel

Some handouts – original application attached as example.

An asset-based community development (ABCD) program. Consultant had background at Partners for Sacred Spaces.

Churches involved: Christ Church & St Michael's, St Alban. The Memorial Church of Good Shepherd was directed toward another program, a CAT study in July and they will begin that in July.

Procedure: Went through the parishes and listed assets. Emphasis: not what's wrong with the church or any individual church, but what are the assets. Next, "neighborhood walks." Primary way parishes die is to lose contact with their neighborhoods. Next, asset-mapping meeting: invite all neighborhood stakeholders. Making ABCD a part of deanery goals – reaching beyond church walls. Battle against congregational Darwinism: strong will survive, weak will die, and no help to the weak.

Helen: Who is funding the Church of the Advocate: Answer – has separate funding line from diocese, will begin to work with them.

Joy: Delaware deanery situation (large number of congregations with part time clergy or supply clergy, has Jarrett presented this approach to Deans' Council? Answer – yes, and have already approached incoming Bishop. Muriel: Jarrett hasn't mentioned assistance from the program to struggling parishes. Jarrett: making St Martin's a resource parish.

Jarrett: two other grant programs – there's program within the national church (i.e., the 815 2nd Ave people) Darby mission is applying there.

6. Parishes that grow are connected with their community.

Peggy Hatch – suggestion to make this effort part of convention breakout sessions.

7. Presentation/Update from the Anti-Racism Commission (ARC) (20 minutes)

George Vosburgh

Handout presented. See mission statement on H/O. Report appended at end of these minutes.

Jarrett: real goal is to get out to congregations. Note URL for DIOPA. Jarrett: ARC is about training for the purpose of bringing change – things that need to be changed in diocese, people we need to be allies with; would you please give contact info of experiences training people to ARC? Joy: has ARC talked about expanding scope of ARC to other –ism groups. Problem: making it about all forms of “other-ness” takes group off its point, its balance. Other issues need to be addressed no doubt, not sure it’s ARC job to do that. Joe Madison: re-bringing up year-old proposal: ARC should become anti-discrimination commission. Jarrett: repeated his previous message – people should organize around those issues, ARC is oriented to race issues, otherwise it will die of dilution.

8. Update from DC sub-committee and FC on 2017 Budget (20 minutes)

Peter Datos

Memo from Eric Rabe, part of materials distributed ahead of meeting. Peter: Finance Committee (FC) is grateful for Diocesan Council (DC) input into budget issues. Needs to be done – sub-committee needs to communicate back to grant requesters. Joe Madison: what happened with vicar being recruited for Norristown? Joy: Nancy Deming not here, no additional info available at the moment. George: additional historic point – old split between episcopate budget and program budget.

Joy: bringing forward line from Executive Committee about spending UNA principals. Question about spending those. Against in principle (FC), among others: earthquake protection, loss of earned income. Others: time is now to do this (the earthquake is here).

So: proposal to send back to FC – Norristown in great position, has own rental income, has own endowment income, has good facilities. Joy recommendation: DC should send back to FC proposal to have diocese support this, not the individual largesse of a bishop. Joe Madison spoke in favor of that. John Sorensen – has personal understanding that spending UNAs is a death knell. Peggy Hatch – St Peter’s 3rd & Pine did this to good result. Joy – Old Swedes did this. James Pope, Treasurer: UNAs – what are they? Three types of assets: Those for a specific purpose, those for a specific time, and those that are unrestricted (i.e., UNAs) – essentially, savings of the diocese from the past or unrestricted gifts. At present, in round numbers, \$20M in UNAs. Taking out \$100K is relatively small proportion. James Pope’s personal view: using UNA is better thought of not as spending principal but as investing in the future.

With regard to the Norristown mission: Joy: wants to hear not “if it becomes available” but that “it will be funded.” Mary Clair Partee Carlsen – concern about oversight, monitoring of such a venture. Mary McGinn – collegial relation between DC and FC, correct? Yes, no enforcement power here. Jarrett Kerbel: had experience in Chicago with 38 granted congregations, would be happy to share that experience. Suggests recommending spending UNAs.

After continued discussion a recommendation from Diocesan Council was framed: to fund fully the Norristown Mission for \$105K each year for three years.

The question was called and voted upon. The results were an overwhelming number of “ayes,” no “nays,” and one abstention. The recommendation was passed.

9. FC suggestion about DC activity concerning Parish Pledges (20 minutes)

Peter Datos

About parish pledges. 3 ways this diocese gets income: (1) episcopate assessment, retired clergy medical, etc.; (2), return on investments, and (3) pledge income, covers just about everything else; purely voluntary; in prior years, parishes were asked for about 7-8% of their income. This practice was changed about 2007 to an assessment of 10%. Everything unraveled; total giving went down to about 5% and has stayed there; great variance among parishes; mean is 1% across all parishes [handout is not updated from last month], the pledge may net about \$700K for 2016.

Question: how is this 1% rate to be addressed? FC thinks it should be DCs work – because the pledge giving goes to fund programs and diocesan council sees oversight of programs as part of their role.

Survey about these issues was created and distributed. [The survey report and a more detailed PowerPoint analysis of the survey were e-mailed following this meeting to each person participating in Diocesan Council.]

John Sorensen: had 2 conversations with large parishes that don't pledge. Suggests revision of the spreadsheet: illustrate 10% on as a "difference" column; show previous year actual (vs. pledge). Joe Madison seconds these changes but would like the list arranged by deanery. Peter – good suggestions, will change spreadsheet to reflect that. James Pope – used last meetings discussions to rant at his parish meeting. Universal response: I didn't know what that money went for. "Communication" issue, once again.

Joy: two issues: (1) does DC want to take on this responsibility; and (2) how will we do it if so?

Dave Dixon – DC doesn't do any marketing to deans, deaneries, parishes (what we're doing here is marketing)

Dave Dixon – willing to work on this but not sure he's willing to chair. People willing to work on this matter volunteered: Dave Dixon, Peter Datos, Peggy Hatch, and Elizabeth Curtis Swain.

Marlee Norton – some additional insight about the pledge – parishioners ask "what are they doing for us?" Old hurts about lack of help in past circumstances arise again and again. "Communications" issue again.

Report from Bishop Transition Team (10 minutes)

Kim Shiley

- a. George Vosburgh filling in for Kim Shiley: Consecration of Bishop-elect July 16, 2016. Last task of Transition Committee. Very complicated, many moving parts, committee has no direct authority over some of those parts. Appears to be on track, appears to be great venue.

10. Executive Committee Report (15 minutes)

The Rev. D. Joy Segal

- a. DC's request for list of diocesan unrestricted assets (UNAs) and projection of lost income if principals are used for new mission and ministry in the diocese. – [Dealt with earlier under Item No. 7]
 - i. Treasurer information: \$4,345.00 of income lost per every \$100,000.00 of principal spent.
 1. Discussion re possible Diocesan Council resolution to spend a portion of unrestricted net assets (UNAs) to support new mission work.

- b. Plans and suggestions for future presentations to Diocesan Council
 - i. Communications – Diocesan Staff
 - ii. Latino/Hispanic Ministry Committee
 - iii. Global Mission Commission
 - iv. Darby Mission (*scheduled for September 24th meeting*)

Person to fill Rev Greg Wilson's position on FC till convention. Peter Datos, a layperson, is already a representative, other person must be clergy person. Rev Mike Rau volunteered.

Appointment to this position – by acclamation.

- c. Committees & Commissions represented on Diocesan Council
- d. Schedule of Diocesan Council meetings remaining for 2016

September 24th, November 12th (Diocesan Convention: November 4 & 5, 2016)

11. Bishop's Report / Bishop-elect's Report

No report

12. Treasurer's Report (*10 minutes*)

Mr. James Pope, Treasurer

[Diocesan financial statement though May 2016 distributed ahead of this meeting in a separate mailing (late arrival.)] Income side – doing well. Assessments about 75% paid. Income totals \$2.5M vs. budget of %1.9. Summers are slow, payment appreciated. Expenses are over budget by a bit (bishop transition). Another piece of good news – diocesan audit completed, will be qualification in auditors' report but the same qualification occurs each time because of diocesan financial organization.

13. Standing Committee Report (*5 minutes*)

George Vosburgh

New bishop on minds of SC. A retreat with Bishop Gutierrez is scheduled in August.

14. Committee Reports (oral and written) (*5 minutes*)

Please read the Rev Mike Sowers report that was distributed.

Oral report: The Anti-Human Trafficking Commission will send 4 members to Rev Becca Stevens place, Thistle Farms, to investigate possibility of engaging in this work in the diocese of Pennsylvania. Have ideas for 3 places in DIOPA that could house this kind of work.

Christopher Hart – the nominating committee is actively seeking nominees for every position in the diocese. Information at <http://www.diopa.org/nominations/>

John Sorensen: Global mission committee (new) met on Tuesday 14 Jun 2016. Would like to make presentation at September meeting. Joy stated that requests for new presentations at the September meeting are taken under advisement pending arrival of Bishop Gutierrez.

15. Old business
No business presented

16. Schedule of next meeting

Jerome Buescher, Secretary

(September 24, 2016 – St. Mary's, Hamilton Village, Schuylkill Deanery)

From Rev Mariclaire Partee Carlsen – specific directions will be sent before the meeting, use of public transportation strongly suggested because of parking situation.

17. Reflections (5 minutes)

George Vosburgh: good to see attendance at this level, will inform Standing Committee of that. Lots of encouragement in this meeting, voiced by Renae Rutherford Lowe, Jeff Dean, and Christopher Hart.

18. Closing Prayer

The Rev. Richard Robyn

19. Adjournment
12:10 PM

The Rev. D. Joy Segal

Respectfully submitted,
Jerome Buescher
Secretary of Diocesan Council

Following – Report on functions of Anti-Racism Commission