



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA
DIOCESAN COUNCIL
Saturday, 14 November 2015 – 09:00 AM – 12:00 noon
Episcopal Cathedral
3723 Chestnut St – Philadelphia PA – 19104
(215) 386-0234 – www.philadelphiacathedral.org

MINUTES

1. Call to Order The Rev. D. Joy Segal
09:03

2. Host – Welcome and Scripture Reflection and Opening Prayer (*15 minutes*) The Very Rev. Judith Sullivan
Welcome to first meeting of Diocesan Council in cathedral space. Restrooms. Wi-Fi available.

Passage from first 1 Samuel 1:4-20. Judith's favorite passage, first reading from this Sunday. Dysfunctional family, Hannah has no status because she's childless. Prays at temple, taken as being drunk. Judith says first inner prayer in the Hebrew scriptures. Read in synagogue at New Year, birth of Samuel – new beginning, of the kingly portion, of Israel's history. Appropriate for first meeting of Diocesan Council. Prayer for work and efforts of Diocesan Council.

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

Thanks again to cathedral for use of space.

- a. Welcome and Introductions
Welcome everyone. New members. Question to be discussed: timing of first meeting. Joy asked those present to introduce themselves.
- b. Adoption of the agenda
Motion to accept agenda, second. No discussion. Motion accepted.
- c. Recognition of Visitors
Jane Cosby from Standing Committee, Rev Judith Sullivan, Dean of Cathedral.

4. Diocesan Council "101" (*45 minutes*)

- a. What is the Diocesan Council, anyway? Canonical roles and responsibilities, relationships to other leadership bodies, leadership structure of the Diocesan Council. (Mary Kohart, Esq., Chancellor of the Diocese)

Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania canon 6 (can be downloaded). Said to be convention between conventions – rather like Senate of diocese, democratic voice of diocese. Standing Committee does not have required geographic distribution.

Diocesan Council charged with seeing that charges to Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania arising from convention are carried out. Accomplishments coming out of Diocesan Council are astounding – Darby Project, Human Trafficking Committee [now Commission], Chester project. Diocesan Council has no money – another issue to be dealt with. Again – encouragement about getting deaneries to sign-off on participation.

Issue with the incorporation movement – need a body midway between Standing Committee and Diocesan Council. Diocesan Council could become "Board of Directors." Stay tuned ...

Rev Mike Sowards – question about governance structure, are there many models? Mary – yes. Governance structure at present is too complex, too murky.

Peggy Hatch – suggest asking for brief (one paragraph) from deaneries about what's going on. Joe Madison –

do deaneries have “Deanery 101”? No – from Mary, but all in canons. Rev Judith Sullivan – more careful delineation of roles of dean and deaneries would be useful.

b. Responsibilities and Expectations of Diocesan Council members (The Rev. Joy Segal)

Diocesan Council begun in 60s. Point: to focus on regional interests and concerns, then bring those to a larger body with broader orientation: Diocesan Council. So -- 2 way communication.

c. Diocesan Council Committee participation and responsibilities (The Rev. Joy Segal)

January – will ask members to participate in Commissions and Committees of the diocese. Especially – Jewish-Christian interaction – JCRC. Rev Judith Sullivan -- Interfaith Center. Council not doing anything about this at the moment. Joe Madison – voted against R9. Point – R9 large resolution, content shared with other groups of which Convention has no knowledge.

Other areas – working groups not moving off first base – stewardship, e.g., January – looking to reinvigorate those working groups. Latino-Hispanic group – again, looking for passionate interest. Rev Marlee Norton – what about new global mission at Convention? Answer – needs to work along with Companion Diocese committee, Warren Wanlund already works with that committee. May ask Rev Koshy Matthew to appear here.

Membership of Diocesan Council – see booklet.

d. Diocesan Financial Statements and Reports (Mr. James Pope, Treasurer)

Canons concerning Treasurer. Essentially – to pay attention to “plumbing” of financial operation of Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania. Grateful to Canon Rob Rogers and Earl Irby. Note: there will be a need to replace those individuals as the time of their service comes to an end. Part of the “should we incorporate” discussion. Budget is tight; we are not contributing as much as we should do national church, income not comparable to larger dioceses in south and west.

Budget process – has begun in April or May. In 2016 plan to start process in late January, to identify major sources of revenue. Then – bring those findings to Diocesan Council for advice about distribution, possibly in March. May mean defunding some programs to fund others.

Also – for 2016, if there is money found, that money will be brought to Diocesan Council for consideration of disbursal.

Rev Marlee Norton – what about national convention requirement to contribute designated amount to national church (at present, Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania contributes at a level nearly as low as Navajoland). In 3 years will be mandatory. Bishop Daniel: considers this same as utility bill, needs to be paid, no discussion; present situation is an embarrassment.

Peggy Hatch – reminder about missional goals at convention. “Communication” – nothing in budget but a mandate.

e. Communications (Jerome Buescher, Secretary of Diocesan Council)

Communication,

Ask Henry Carnes about doing some contact site (from Richard Robyn).

Motion to have secretary to explore portal for diocesan leadership. Seconded. Approved.

Invite Henry Carnes to talk about communication. Joe Madison – ask instead for presentation by Carnes and

LaFrance about what they do. Bishop Daniel: ask Executive committee to structure conversation for those two.

Rev Marlee Norton – communication is a global diocesan issue.

5. Minutes of the September 19, 2015 meeting of Diocesan Council (*5 minutes*) Jerome Buescher, Secretary

Motion to accept, seconded, approved.

6. Executive Committee Report (*20 minutes*) The Rev. D. Joy Segal

- a. Loan approved for All Saints, Rhawnhurst (documents attached)

Motion by Diocesan Council to approve. Seconded. Bishop Daniel: figures for repayment appear to be incorrect. Joe Madison: figures corrected by Rob Rogers. Accepted.

- b. Elections to Executive Committee (4)

Peggy Hatch, Muriel Rains, Rev D Joy Segal, Rev Greg Wilson (declined), Rev Richard Robyn.

- c. Elections to Clergy Compensation and Employee Benefits (2)

By acclamation – Carl Sheppard, Rev Anne Thatcher

- d. Appointment to Finance Committee (1 Lay, 1 Clergy)

By acclamation – Peter Datos, Rev Greg Wilson

- e. Schedule of Diocesan Council meetings for 2016

January 23rd, March 19th [note change, original date is Holy Saturday], May 7th, June 11th, September 24th, November 12th

March meeting – St James Greater, Bristol (Bucks Deanery)

September – St Mary's Hamilton Village (Schuylkill Deanery)

June – Christ Church & St Michael's (Wissahickon Deanery)

Note: Walkabout for Episcopal Candidates, Feb 17-20, Calling Convention will be on 12 March 2016; Bishop Daniel appreciation, some date in April 2016, Consecration of newly elected bishop, 16 Jul 2016; Diocesan Convention will be on 05 Nov 2016.

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

Attended Bishop Daniel Curry installation, began "in the hood," then "to the hill," preacher said we need to come back to the hood.

Thanks to Mary Kohart for what she does for diocese, to James Pope for what he does also, to Joy for chairing Diocesan Council for past 3 years, to Dean Sullivan for her leadership in diocese and to cathedral, to all who serve on Diocesan Council.

Clergy conference – 02-04 Dec 2015, topic is preaching.

Good convention – comments. Break-out events: time issues, should be done during convention. Better video in

cathedral. Seating in cathedral – discuss with committee. More screens on side. Oral presentations – need to be kept to time. Better push for pre-convention meetings would solve some convention issues. Possible overnight accommodations. Cut and dried reports on Friday evening. Rev Marlee Norton – best convention venue in recent years. Muriel Rains – compliments to staff of cathedral. Rev Sullivan – will share with staff. Pre-convention meetings might be scheduled with deanery plenary meetings.

Polity – diocese beginning to right itself. Good sign, healthy sign. Have proper role for Standing Committee. Proper role for Diocesan Council is convention-between-conventions and to have financial power.

Getting ready for executive council of TEC (the Episcopal Church in national sense), then meeting of church pension board. Point – bishop of diocese cares for diocese but also takes place in national church.

Bishop Daniel has met with transition committee about liturgies, etc. Moving ahead.

Invited Bishop Bennison to convention, declined. Will be invited to episcopal ordination. Candidates predecessors may be invited to be co-consecrators with presiding bishop; if happens, don't be shocked or offended. History is history, can't run away from it or ignore it.

R9 – possible role for Diocesan Council – know convention passed it but there are other sides/issues. Diocesan Council – ask committee who sponsored resolution to come and explain it, Bishop Daniel asked vice-chair to issue invitation.

8. Treasurer's Report (15 minutes)

Mr. James Pope, Treasurer

Personal items for attention: rate at which revenue being collected. No warnings or cautions known about collections. Budget revenues about \$140K over comparables. Problem with youth ministry budget – expenses listed as revenues. Analysis done. Budget maybe \$66K over. Issue: part of camp revenue comes from partner parishes. Some have announced they cannot meet pledges. Will change planning – new partners. Church house expenses – based on best guesses, turned out to be more expensive than planned. Church year – we're 2nd in size on national basis, breaks even.

9. Standing Committee Report (10 minutes)

Two reports in package. Jane Cosby – called attention to actions in those reports.

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

Jane Cosby – time to start looking in your deaneries for persons to list with nominating committee. Goal – 3 persons for each office.

11. Old business

None.

12. Schedule of next meeting

Jerome Buescher, Secretary

(January 23, 2016 – Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church)

13. Reflections (5 minutes)

Closing Prayer

The Rev. Gregory Wilson

14. Adjournment

Adjourned 11:15

The Rev. D. Joy Segal