

DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA FINANCE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2013, CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER, BRYN MAWR

Present: The Rev. Kirk Berlenbach, Chair, Nora Adelman, The Rev. Frank Allen; Ann Booth-Barbarin, The Rev. Dr. Charles Flood, Bruce Givnish, Jo Ann Jones, The Rev. Adam Kradel, The Rev. George Master, Eric Rabe; George Vosburgh

Ex officio present: The Rt. Rev. Clifton Daniel, Bishop Provisional; Norman McClave, Treasurer; James Pope, Church Foundation

Ex officio not present: Robert Rogers, Canon for Finance

Opening Prayer (6:30 pm) – Bishop Daniel

Reflection: How will what we are doing affect or involve people living in poverty? (6:32 pm)

For Action: (6:33 pm)

- Consent Agenda – Approved (Motion by Eric Rabe, seconded by Adam Kradel, to approve the consent agenda - all in favor, none opposed or abstaining)
 - o Minutes of September 24th

Discussion: (6:38 pm)

- Seating parishes at Convention which are behind on payment – Bishop Daniel noted that he would announce an enriched Committee on Constitution and Canons at Convention, with a charge of comparing the DioPA Canons ones to national church Canons, so that DioPA Canons can be revised and refined. There is currently no process in place for parishes which do not/cannot pledge, or do not/cannot/will not pay assessments. For this year, all will be seated without debate as is customary. The Constitution and Canons Committee, Diocesan Council, and the Diocesan Consultation Team will be asked to study and create a Canon on imperiled congregations so that they can be approached in a pastoral way. In Canon 7.4 currently, there is a structure in place for parishes that are behind in assessments – any parish that wishes to be seated must make application to Finance Committee no later than 60 days before Convention. This has not been applied in the past, and the discussion needs to include how to go forward short- and longer-term. Convention calls parishes into being, and Convention is the body that will close parishes (not the Bishop). Many factors will be taken into account – parishes that cannot, and those that will not/choose not to pay assessments.
- Clarifying the process for sale of closed parishes and parish assets (6:53) – Part of the Finance Committee charge is to oversee real property. Several situations have arisen that have not used Finance Committee for analysis of situations. The Chancellor has suggested questions to be raised and information to be shared. Ideally, a clear process will be articulated by Finance and Standing Committees – including sales of land and sales of sacred spaces. Both kinds of property are under the purview of Standing Committee and the Bishop, who are the decision-makers. The Chancellor has suggested this does not require a Canonical change, but rather would be helped by clarity of process. The Property Subcommittee is the logical group to begin to outline a process. Other points of the discussion included the

suggestion to use the Deanery structure, and parishes in neighborhoods, to suggest use of funds; the advisory and referral role of the Diocesan Consultation Team; and the role of vestries in maintaining assets to further the mission of the church. **(Motion by George Master, seconded by George Vosburgh, to charge the Property Subcommittee with the task of outlining a clear process for sale of closed parishes and parish assets – all in favor, none opposed or abstaining).**

- 2014 Pledge updates- highlighting success stories (7:13) – Kirk Berlenbach noted that pledges for 2014 are coming in, and parishes are stepping up in faith and ways that were not expected.
- Elections and succession planning (7:18) – The only committee members who are not subject to election or reappointment are the Bishop, Treasurer, and Canon for Finance. Between now and the November 26 Finance Committee meeting, the current officers and members are in place. Knowing that Kirk will not be elected to Finance at Convention, if either Eric Rabe or Nora Adelman is reelected, he/she/they will function as officer(s) at the start of the November committee meeting. Church Foundation, Diocesan Council, and Standing Committee appointees will be named by those bodies in their next meetings following Convention. The Bishop’s appointee will also be named.

Discussion of Written Reports/Updates: (7:23 pm)

- Treasurer – Norman McClave, Treasurer – report distributed electronically in advance – There were no significant differences between budget and actual. There are two issues for attention: still low on numbers of churches pledging for 2013 (the gain was in dollars, but not in numbers of churches – 22 nonpledging churches does not include 10 which pledged zero). The other issue is that at the moment there are not audited financial statements – the Diocese, Church Foundation, and Wapiti Land Corporation are done and in draft form. The Diocesan Health and Welfare Benefits Trust actuarial calculations have not been completed, which estimates potential liability. There were material deficiencies in the DHWBT last year, so this year’s performance is of particular interest – a significant financial stewardship concern. The change in the insurance program may address this issue, and committee members urged the Treasurer to explore using a different actuary.
- Financial Statements – Rob Rogers, Canon for Finance – Financial statements were distributed electronically in advance of the meeting. Assessment and pledge payments are coming in, some from unexpected sources.
- Standing Committee- The Rev. Frank Allen/Ms Jo Ann Jones – Standing Committee approved selling a building (not the church) at Holy Trinity Lansdale – no further report
- Diocesan Council- The Rev. George Master/ Mr. George Vosburgh – no update – The next meeting is on November 16.
- Church Foundation- Mr. James Pope – The next meeting is on November 13. There is cautious optimism that the consolidation of small funds will be completed.
- Subcommittees:
 - o Budget – The draft is being fine-tuned for Convention. The past practice of a year-to-date actual would be confusing due to the new form. Committee members suggested a snapshot of the year-to-date might be appended to the budget. The Treasurer’s report

will include year-to-date totals for revenues and expenses, and the verbal presentation on the budget will follow on the agenda.

- Diocesan Audit – covered earlier in the meeting
- Insurance – trying to deal with St. Philip's and issues in the building
- Investment – no update
- Parochial Relations – Evaluations from the October 5 finance workshop suggested many ideas for additional programs.
- Property – Subcommittee minutes are in the packet. The Diocese is putting a procedure in place to assure that when a church is looking at closure, there is an inventory of items that are the church's property so that important items are not misplaced.
- Gathering of Diocesan Leaders – At last week's meeting, the group discussed whether to continue to meet. The future of the group will be discussed at the next meeting on January 9, 2014.

Other business: (8:03 pm)

- Nora Adelman encouraged lay members of the committee to attend the Anti-Racism program facilitated by Crossroads – more sessions are scheduled for 2014.
- **By unanimous consent on October 10, 2013, the committee approved the housing allowance for the Rev. Lucy Ammerman, recently appointed as Canon to the Ordinary for Pastoral Care in the amount of \$43,800 for 2013 and subsequent years until changed.**
- Church House is getting ready to move to another location for two years until the Cathedral office space is available. The location will be shared at Convention, and the Bishop assured the group that it meets the criteria of city location, accessibility to public transportation, availability of some parking, safe, and reasonably priced. He asked for patience during the move, since there will no doubt be a period of time from mid-December until early January that phone and internet services might not be fully functional.

Reflection: How will what we are doing affect or involve people living in poverty? (8:05 pm)

- Perception is that budgets are in good shape and enable us to serve those who live in poverty
- Awareness of who is being affected by imperiled parishes
- How far removed some of us are from the realities of those who live in poverty with daily challenges
- The more that we look at empowering parishes to be part of their communities, the more we serve those who live in poverty

Kirk Berlenbach expressed appreciation to all for work this first year of the new Finance Committee – it has been challenging and rewarding, and the group has worked well together. Committee members thanked Kirk for his leadership of the Committee.

Closing Prayer (8:10 pm) – The Rev. Kirk Berlenbach

The Rev. Kirk Berlenbach
Chair, Finance Committee

Nora Adelman
Secretary