

**Diocese of Milwaukee
Executive Council Meeting
July 25, 2013 6:00 p.m.
St. Bartholomew's, Pewaukee**

Present: The Rt. Rev'd Steven A. Miller; The Rev'd Steve Capitelli; The Very Rev'd Kevin Carroll, President, Standing Committee; The Rev'd Dr. Paula Harris; The Rev'd Gary Lambert, Diocesan Executive Secretary; Ms. Taryn Lantz; The Rev'd Gary Manning; Mr. Steve Martinie, Diocesan Treasurer; Mr. Rob Mortensen; Dr. Gust Olson; Mr. Henry Peter and The Rev'd Joan Smoke

Others present: Ms. Peggy Bean, Bishop's Assistant for Congregational Development and The Rev'd David Pfaff, Canon to the Ordinary

Absent: The Rev'd Andrew "Drew" Bunting; The Rev'd Dr. Miranda Hassett; Mr. Patrick Johnson, Trustees of Funds & Endowments; The Rev'd Carla McCook, Bishop's Assistant for Christian Formation; Ms. Giannina "Nina" Radcliffe and The Rev'd Scott Seefeldt, President, Commission on Ministry

- **Call to order/Opening Prayer – Bishop Miller**

Bishop Miller called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. and opened with prayer.

- **Additions to Agenda**

There were no additions to the agenda.

- **Approval of the Minutes from the June 27, 2013 Executive Council Conference Call Meeting**

Bishop Miller asked if there were any additions, deletions or changes to the minutes of the June 27, 2013 Executive Council Conference Call Meeting. The Rev'd Joan Smoke moved that the minutes be approved as written. The Rev'd Steve Capitelli seconded it. The minutes were approved as written

- **Information/Action Items and Reports**

Recommendations of the Commission on Global Reconciliation – Bishop Miller

Bishop Miller walked through the recommendations.

The Commission on Global Reconciliation (CRG) appealed to rectors and congregations throughout the diocese to seek grants from the funds (0.7% of the budget) that the diocese has allocated to the furtherance of the Millennium Development Goals. \$5,000.00 of those funds directly supports the Haiti project through a stipend to its director. The CRG recommends allocation of the remaining \$6,123.00

This year the CRG received 3 requests for projects connected with ongoing mission work within our diocese. All 3 projects clearly met the guidelines for funding that have been established:

1. The money will be used to directly meet one or more of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
The 8 Millennium Development Goals are:

1. *Eradicate extreme poverty & hunger*
 2. *Achieve universal primary education*
 3. *Promote gender equality and empower women*
 4. *Reduce child mortality*
 5. *Improve maternal health*
 6. *Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases*
 7. *Develop a global partnership for development*
 8. *Ensure environmental sustainability*
2. Projects selected must be recommended by an individual or group within our diocese. The CRG decided not to contribute to organizations, however worthy, that would in turn sub grant to others.
3. A continuing relationship must exist between project recipients and persons or entities within the diocese.

Per the request made by Mr. Mike Hagon in 2011, the 3 recommendations made by the CRG are listed **along with the MDGs they meet.**

The Commission on Global Reconciliation makes the following funding recommendations:

1. The Diocesan Haiti Project: Providing a safe and sustainable water source to Jeanette. The funds would enable the Haiti Project to partner with *Living Waters for the World*, which would provide a solar powered purification system and training in health and hygiene.
Recommended allocation: **\$3,000.00** used to meet all the MDG's
2. The Diocese of Haiti Project: Continuing and improving the lunch program of the school of Jeanette. The funds would add to the current lunch program that provides beans and rice by enabling the purchase of locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables. This project would nurture the students and support the local economy.
Recommended allocation: **\$1,000.00** used to meet MDG's #1 and # 2
3. Companion Diocese of Tanzania and the Upendo Sewing Project at the Lulundi Health Center: The funds would allow the purchase of 15 sewing machines and items of clothing (to use as models) The women of the Lulundi Church will make and sell clothing using the money earned to help the orphans within Lulundi and support other parish projects.
Recommended allocation: **\$2,123.00** used to meet MDG's #1, #3 and #8

Bishop Miller noted that because the recommendations are from a committee, a second is not required.

A discussion followed on how to ensure parity in the dispersal of the funds between the companion relationships: Newala and Haiti.

It was noted that:

- \$5,000.00 is automatically given in support of the Haiti project.
- The allocation of funds often depends on who applies.
- The committee may have specific requirements and limitations already set.

The Rev'd Dr. Paula Harris moved that the recommendations be approved as printed with a request from the Executive Council that the Commission on Global Reconciliation, in the future, consider parity in the distribution of funds between the two companion relationships . It was seconded by The Rev'd Gary Manning. The motion was approved with one dissent.

- **Update from the July 15th Congregational Vitality Working Committee Meeting – Ms. Peggy Bean and The Rev’d Gary Manning**
(Committee Members as of May 15th: Ms. Taryn Lantz, The Rev’d Steve Capitelli, Ms. Giannina “Nina” Radcliffe, Mr. Henry Peters, The Rev’d Dr. Miranda Hassett)

The Congregational Vitality Committee met with the Commission on Ministry and Development.

- The role of C OMD was presented.
- Viability (limited resources) and vitality (limited participation) were discussed.
- Further planning is in process and will be in place by August 10th.

- **Update from the Steering Committee – Dr. Gust Olson**
(Committee Members as of May 15th: Dr. Gust Olson, Mr. Rob Mortenson, The Rev’d Joan Smoke, The Rev’d Gary Lambert and The Rev’d Andrew “Drew” Bunting)

Dr. Gust Olson, using the outline of topics and tasks from the June 27th meeting of the Steering Committee, presented the following suggestions for consideration:

- Outline and schedule orientation /incorporation event for new EC members
- Have a light meal prior to the business meeting along with a Eucharist encouraging empowerment
- Develop a ‘job description’ for EC members
- Have a document developed at a meeting by the people at the meeting; distribute the document with the convention package
- Establish how often, and what sort of pattern, the EC should use for meetings
- Alternating sites, meeting every other month (Nov., Jan., March, May and July)
- Set the role of staff and liaisons in the work of the EC
- It was felt that no change (neither increased nor diminished) was necessary regarding the involvement of the staff and liaisons; their expertise was appreciated.
- Create a ‘vice-chair’, who, along with the Secretary, would develop meeting agendas
- It was felt that it would add another dimension of empowering the EC; the ‘vice-chair’ would, along with The Bishop, The Rev’d David Pfaff and The Rev’d Gary Lambert, prepare the agenda for the EC meeting.
- It was also suggested that the agenda be sent out at least two weeks prior to the meeting which could add to member participation and empowerment.

- **Proposed Diocesan Operating Budget for 2014 – Mr. Steve Martinie**

Mr. Steve Martinie presented the following information:

- There will be no major changes in the 2014 budget; it is essentially business as usual.
 - a. Income from assessments continues to decrease.
 - b. The effort to “hold the line” on expenses also continues.
- There are anticipated changes for 2015; the following proposed loan deduction program will discuss some of these changes.
- Adjustments to the 2014 may need to be made as further monies and bills come in.

The Rev’d Gary Manning moved the adoption of the budget with flexibility for possible adjustments. The Rev’d Dr. Paula Harris seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

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- **Discussion of Proposed Loan Reduction Program – Phase I – Mr. Steve Martinie**

Using the Confidential (Draft) Memorandum, Mr. Steve Martinie explained the Proposed Loan Reduction Program for three aided parishes (St. Aidan's-Hartford, St. Bartholomew's-Pewaukee, and Good Shepherd –Sun Prairie) offering them the opportunity of the forgiveness of a Foundation loan or a matching of their repayment of bank loans?

He indicated that the rationales for giving these congregations this opportunity include:

1. Acknowledging the diocesan role (under a previous administration) of encouraging building loans that have not worked out as planned.
2. Facing the reality that, at least to some extent, the diocese is already paying these loans gradually via parish aid and that it may be better to wrap up the process sooner than later.
3. Having helped the parishes to remove their debt burden, the parishes could then be removed from aided parish status and the diocesan aid would then be used to reduce assessments for all parishes.

He also presented pertinent decisions to be addressed.

The discussion that followed noted that:

- Mission and Development has offered successful capital campaign workshops. (Peggy Bean)
- Moving in this direction recognizes a shared responsibility for past decisions and a chance to end the entanglement. (Bishop Miller)
- Flexibility in the time table for St. Bartholomew's should be considered. (Rev'd Paula Harris)

The Rev'd Gary Manning moved the acceptance of the Proposed Loan Reduction program, allowing for flexibility, for the three parishes named in the proposal while they work in consultation with the diocesan staff. It was accepted unanimously.

Further discussion centered on when and how the information would be presented to the diocese.

It was determined that:

Bishop Miller, along with the Commission on Ministry and Development, would draft a press release, as soon as possible, delineating what is being done and why.

Though the information, by necessity must appear in the minutes, it will not be generally publicized.

Report on Recent Trip to Companion Diocese -- Bishop Miller along with The Rev'd Canon David Pfaff, The Rev'd Dr. Paula Harris, The Rev'd Dr. Miranda Hassett and The Rev'd Oswald Bwechwa) spent 12 days of non-stop activities in Newala.

The three members of the Executive Council (Bishop Miller, The Rev'd David Pfaff and The Rev'd Dr. Paula Harris) each shared his/her own personal experience in and of Newala.

In general they felt that:

- The trip was stimulating and worthwhile;
- It was rewarding to see the success of previous investments. (the cow program)
- The challenges facing the region seem daunting. (the need for a good water source)

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- The "celebration of guests" demonstrated by the people of Newala was a lesson in hospitality.

Bishop Miller wondered out loud about the possibility of a “free trade cashew” program similar to “Singing Rooster.”

- **Commission on Ministry Report – Bishop Miller**

Bishop Miller reported for The Rev’d Scott Seefeldt, that:

--There was nothing new at this time.

--The committee members are gearing up for fall gatherings—informational meetings, PMDC (Parish Ministry Discernment Committee) training and the MDW (Ministry Discernment Weekend).

- **Commission on Ministry and Development Report – Ms. Peggy Bean**

Ms. Peggy Bean noted that there was not much left to add to the previously reported information except that the committee continues to meet with parishes with the intent of building consistent relationships.

- **Standing Committee Report – The Very Rev’d Kevin Carroll**

The Very Rev’d Kevin Carroll reported the following:

--Generally the tasks of the Standing Committee consist of consents to Bishop’s ordinations and approval of candidates for ordination.

--In June, the Standing Committee endorsed a restructuring plan for Forest Home Cemetery.

--Bishop Miller asked the Standing Committee to serve as a task force for a diocesan response to Resolution AO 49—Authorize Liturgical Resources for Blessing Same Gender Relationships.

--The intent of the task force is to develop ways to move forward as a diocese regarding the blessing of same gender relationships.

--This process will be presented to the Convention in October with the hope of adapting an acceptable format in 2014.

- **Christian Formation Report – The Recorder of the Minutes**

The Rev’d Carla McCook was not able to be present at the meeting.

The Recorder of the Minutes noted the two key elements in the June 27th Christian Formation report that required Executive Council discussion and decision:

--a camp season in 2014 similar to the one just completed—one week for staff training and one week of camp

--a three-year plan for Camp Webb

Bishop Miller stated that the 2014 budget includes funding for camp. He also suggested that the discussion regarding a three-year plan for Camp Webb be tabled until after the convention.

- **Convention 2013 Report – The Rev’d David Pfaff**

The Rev’d David Pfaff gave the following information regarding the 2013 Diocesan Convention:

--It is a one day convention – October 19th.

--The business portion will be held at St. Paul’s, Milwaukee.

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--The Convention Eucharist will take place at Cathedral Church of All Saints’, Milwaukee.

- A Garden Party celebrating Bishop Miller's tenth anniversary will follow. (On the Cathedral grounds)
- The Diocesan Office has sent out hard copies and electronic copies of the registration forms, the nomination form, information on the positions open for election, a sample resolution and hotel information.
- This year we nominate deputies to the General Convention which will be held in 2015 in Salt Lake City. He emphasized that is it a two week commitment.
- The **Deadline** for Nominations and Resolutions is **August 20th**.
- Pre-Convention meetings are September 30th, Cathedral Church of All Saints', Milwaukee; October 1st, St. Luke's, Madison and October 5th, St. Anskar's, Hartland.

The Rev'd David Pfaff concluded that the convention is open to ALL and that the Convention Eucharist and the Garden Party are free events.

Final Items:

Bishop Miller expressed his appreciation to all have served and who continue to serve on the Executive Council. He recognized those members whose term is ending: The Rev'd Gary Manning, The Rev'd Andrew "Drew" Bunting, Dr. Gust Olson and "Nina" Radcliffe. He noted that their service was invaluable and that he hoped they would consider running again in order to ensure continuity.

Bishop Miller listed the future tasks of the Executive Council:

- reviewing steering committee proposals
- establishing a 3-year plan for Camp Webb
- a press release for a loan reduction program

The next meeting is the October 10th convention.

The Rev'd Steve Capitelli moved and The Rev'd Joan Smoke seconded the adjournment of the meeting. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev'd Margaret M. Kiss
Deacon
Recorder of the Minutes