

DIOCESAN COUNCIL REPORT 2010

The Diocesan Council met eight times during the 2009-2010 program year. On a regular basis the Council received reports from the Bishops and updates from committees and task forces.

The following are particular issues Council considered or discussed at each meeting. All meetings were held at the Diocesan Center at 138 Tremont Street, Boston, unless otherwise noted.

September 12, 2009 (St. Mary's Church, Dorchester)

- Heard an update on Mission Strategy from the Rev. Canon Mally Lloyd.
- Approved recommendation of the proposed 2010 Core Operating Budget to the 224th Annual Session of Diocesan Convention.
- Heard a report from the Treasurer's Office which included financial reports for the first six months of 2009.
- Voted to extend the deadline for application for remaining House of Mercy Funds from September 30 to November 30, 2009.
- Voted housing allowance designation for a clergy diocesan staff member.
- Approved the nomination of Ms. Rebecca Alden as Lay Member of the Ecclesiastical Trial Court, to be elected at the 224th Annual Session of Diocesan Convention.
- Heard that at their September meeting, the Executive Committee appointed the Rev. Jane Bearden to a three year term on the Budget Committee.
- Heard the Executive Committee also approved the Report of the Congregational Development Grant Committee on the sixth year of Phase I Grants.
- Ms. Rebecca Alden and the Rev. Rob Hensley shared their impressions of General Convention and discussed resolutions which will have a direct impact on the diocese, including the denominational health care mandate and changes in the lay pension plan.

October 22, 2009

- Voted to refer the proposed Green Grant Initiatives to Executive Committee.
- Appointed a nominating committee for open positions on the Executive Committee.
- Heard a report on the H1N1 virus and discussed possible diocesan policies related to same.
- Heard that at their October meeting, the Executive Committee voted a change in housing allowance designation for Bishop Gayle Harris.
- The Rev. Phil Jacobs volunteered to fill the unexpired term of the Rev. Liz Steinhauser as Clergy Delegate to the Province One Synod.

December 3, 2009

- Voted to establish a reserve on the financial books of the Diocese in support of the change in accounting, from a cash basis to an accrual basis, for the payment of the voluntary ask to The Episcopal Church as provided by the 2010 diocesan budget as approved by Convention on November 7, 2009.
- Approved creation of a diocesan Green Grants Initiative Program.
- Voted to approve diocesan staff clergy allowances for 2010.

January 23, 2010 (Overnight Retreat at the Barbara C. Harris Center)

- Heard report on the program, facilities and finances of the Barbara C. Harris Camp & Conference Center from its Executive Director, John Erdman.
- Heard a report from the Treasurer including updates on payments of 2009 assessments, church closing expenses and proceeds and projected final numbers for 2009.
- Agreed to reconsider the Guidelines for the Allocation of Proceeds from the sale of Diocesan Owned Property and Closed Churches in light of actual experience regarding same.
- Heard a request from the Boston Harbor Deanery regarding allocation of the proceeds from the sale of property formerly known as Saint Matthew and the Redeemer Church, South Boston.
- Elected Ms. Rebecca Alden, Mr. John Iredale and Ms Beverly Joy Morrison to the Executive Committee.
- Heard that at their January meeting, the Executive Committee voted to give authority to James Gammill, Treasurer of the Diocese, to execute listing agreements with brokers for the properties previously known as St. David's Church, Halifax and St. Alban's Church, Lynn; to give authority to James Gammill, Treasurer of the Diocese, to execute and deliver purchase and sale agreements and any other needed documents to accomplish sale of these properties; and to request the advice and consent of the Standing Committee and Diocesan Bishop to authorize sale of these properties at competitive market prices.
- Heard that also in January, the Executive Committee voted by email to approve a change in the amount designated as housing for Bishop Gayle Harris for 2010.

February 25, 2010

- Heard preliminary plans for a Capital Campaign from Bishop Shaw.
- Discussed proposed changes in the "Guidelines for the Allocation of Proceeds from the Sale of Diocesan Owned Property and Closed Churches" in anticipation of a vote on the amended version in March.
- Heard a report from the Treasurer including updates on sales of closed churches, the 2009 audit and 2009 assessment collections.
- Discussed the proposed 2011 assessment formula.
- Held further discussion on the Dorchester ministry and property maintenance needs at St. Mary's Church.

- Heard that at their February meeting, the Executive Committee voted to re-appoint Ms. Angela McConney and the Rev. Patrick Gray to the Commission on Ministry through Convention 2010. Through an oversight, this was not voted at the 2009 Diocesan Convention.

March 18, 2010

- Voted to support a diocesan-wide Capital Campaign to begin in fall 2010.
- Voted to authorize the treasurer to take \$55,420 from the general funds of the diocese to cover the cost of hiring an architect for roof replacement of the church and parish hall and replacement of the heat and hot water systems at St. Mary's Church, Dorchester.
- Voted to adopt the 2007 Guidelines for Allocation of the Proceeds from the Sale of Diocesan Owned Property and Closed Churches as amended March 18, 2010.
- Voted to adopt a 2011 assessment formula that maintains the same structure as the 2010 formula. Voted to charter an Assessment Coordinating Committee, which is a special purpose task force with the single purpose of receiving and reviewing inquiries from parishes about their 2011 scheduled assessments.
- Heard a report from Canon Lloyd and Mr. John Brodeur, a consultant, who has been working with staff and others in the diocese on creating a phrase or phrases that reflect who we are and what we are about as a diocese.

April 27, 2010

- Voted to accept the amended draft financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2008 as presented by the Audit Committee.
- Heard a report from the Treasurer's Office including updates on Budget Committee work and regional budget hearings, Assessment Coordinating Committee plans and the status of property sales.
- Heard a report on progress of building repairs at St. Mary's, Dorchester.
- Heard a report on Title IV changes passed at General Convention 2009 and necessary diocesan response to same.

June 15, 2010

- Voted to endorse the action by St. John's, Saugus to hire a full-time clergy person. Said endorsement taking the form of a one year commitment to funding not to exceed \$100,000 to be drawn from the proceeds of the sale of the St. Luke's, Malden properties.
- Voted to endorse the effort by the Church of the Good Shepherd, Watertown to develop a plan for a family ministry pilot that would include, if the diocesan leadership team concurs, the hiring of a clergy person. Said endorsement taking the form of a one year commitment to funding not to

exceed \$125,000 to be drawn from the proceeds of the sale of the St. Andrew's, Belmont properties.

- Voted to authorize roof repairs at St. Mary's Church, Dorchester for an amount not to exceed \$400,000. Said funds to be drawn from the proceeds of the sale of the St. Matthew and the Redeemer, South Boston property.
- Appointed Lisa Garcia to the Budget Committee for a three-year term.
- Appointed Becky Alden, the Rev. Karen Coleman, Terry Hofmann, Jeff Johnson, the Rev. Karen Montagno, Lois Murphey, and Lynn Smith to the Task Force on Slavery and Reconciliation called for by the resolution passed at the 2009 diocesan convention.
- Voted to approve six petitions for assessment adjustments for 2011. Authorized the Assessment Coordinating Committee to offer another \$100,000 in adjustments to other parishes which they are in conversation with.
- Voted to approve the Green Grant Initiative's plan for fund raising and the granting process for those funds as submitted.
- Voted to encourage the Diocesan Loan Committee to forgive Stokes Loans to Christ Church, Hyde Park so as to enable the emergence of a multi-cultural congregation consistent with the mission strategy goals of the diocese.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Murphey

Diocesan Council Administrator