

DIOCESAN COUNCIL REPORT 2011

The Diocesan Council met nine times during the 2010-2011 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 18, 2010 (Christ Church, Needham)

- Voted to approve the 2011 core revenue budget projections; to allocate funds within the core budget expenses for increased compensation paid to diocesan staff, above the increases needed to maintain existing health insurance coverage; and to approve the 2011 core expense budget projections.
- Heard a report from the Assessment Coordinating Committee that a total of \$120,000 in 2011 assessment relief has been given.
- Voted to approve the request of the members of the church formerly known as St. Alban's, Lynn to divide its cash assets between two parishes of the diocese.
- Voted housing allowance designation for a clergy diocesan staff member.
- Heard that at their September meeting, the Executive Committee appointed the Rev. George Stevens and Ms. Jane White to the Financial Advisory Committee for terms expiring in November 2013.
- Voted to appoint Ms. Amy Whitcomb Slemmer to the Financial Advisory Committee for a term expiring in November 2012.
- Voted to approve expenditure of funds for a car for use by the Bishop.

October 21, 2010

- Heard a report on the results of the feasibility study for the comprehensive campaign and learned that the Rev. Sam Rodman has been hired as Project Manager for same.
- Heard a report from the Treasurer which included the status of assessment payments and a draft of the 2009 Audit.
- Heard that at their October meeting, the Executive Committee confirmed the Use of Proceeds Committee membership to be: Jim Daniell, Libby Berman, Claudette Hunt, Edgar Gutierrez-Duarte, Todd Miller, Amy Whitcomb Slemmer, Bailey Whitbeck, Mally Lloyd, Jim Gammill, Steve Pierce, Bishop Cederholm and Bishop Shaw; decided General Convention Deputies will design the Anglican Covenant Review as called for by the Presiding Bishop and had preliminary discussion about the future of the Urban Residents Program.

December 2, 2010

- Voted to accept the audit for the year ending December 31, 2009.
- Heard a report from St. Mary's Church, Dorchester on their strategic plan moving forward.
- Voted to approve the appointment of Malia Crawford and Tonika Farrell as the Council members to serve on the Future of Ministry in Brockton Committee.
- Voted to reappoint the current Executive Committee members (Rebecca Alden, Starr Anderson, Elizabeth Berman, James Gammill, Edgar Gutierrez-Duarte, John Iredale, Jeffrey Mello and Beverly Joy Morrison) to serve through December 2011.
- Referred a request regarding disposition of cash assets from St. Andrew's Church of the Deaf, Natick to Executive Committee for recommendation.
- Heard a report from the Treasurer's Office including a Core Budget Expense Summary through October 2010 and three assessment related reports.
- Voted to approve diocesan staff clergy housing allowances for 2011.
- Voted to approve a proposal giving non-base building payments to the diocesan staff over the course of 2011 as specified in the 2011 diocesan budget.

January 22, 2011 (Overnight Retreat at the Barbara C. Harris Center)

- Appointed Mr. Richard Strout, diocesan Chief Business Officer, as Assistant Treasurer of the Diocese.
- Authorized a revised list of signatories for diocesan bank accounts.
- Approved appointment of Mr. Theodore Ts'o to the Budget Committee for a second term ending in November 2013 and the Rev. Stephen Voysey, for a first term ending in November 2013. Designated Ms. Lisa Garcia as Chair of the Budget Committee.
- Heard a report from the Treasurer's Office including an update on the 2010 financial year and the Financial Advisory Committee quarterly meeting
- Voted to permit St. Andrew's Church of the Deaf to make contributions to the Episcopal Conference for the Deaf and the New England Home for the Deaf from funds they are presently holding.
- Voted to approve monies from the proceeds of St. Andrew's, Belmont for program support and travel with respect to the ongoing relationship with St. Peter's Anglican Church in Ndumberi, Kenya and its Mothers Union.
- Voted to approve an additional diocesan staff clergy housing allowance for 2011

February 17, 2011

- Heard a report from the Executive Committee that included a vote to modify January 2011 Council action regarding the use of proceeds from St. Andrew's, Belmont, for a project in Ndumberi, Kenya, increasing the amount by \$5000 and adding formal involvement of the diocesan Jubilee Ministry as a condition.

- Voted to establish a Fund for Congregational Vitality, a new unrestricted endowment fund to which 50 percent of net proceeds from closed churches will be dedicated, in keeping with “Guidelines for the Allocation of Proceeds from Closed Congregations” approved by Council in 2007 and revised in March 2010.
- Voted to take a normal spending policy draw from the newly established Fund for Congregational Vitality for the 2012 core budget.
- In accordance with the aforementioned “Guidelines,” authorized that three stewardship committees be established, and their membership promptly appointed, to undertake discernment and make recommendations regarding the allocation of the remainder of net proceeds from these closed churches: St. Andrew’s Church in Belmont; the Church of the Holy Trinity in Marlborough and St. George’s Church in Maynard (one committee); and the Church of St. Matthew and the Redeemer in South Boston.
- Heard a report from the Treasurer which included an assessments receivable analysis.
- Discussed the proposed 2012 assessment formula.
- Heard a report on Percept and how it can be used by congregations.

March 17, 2011

- Voted to allocate up to \$30,000 from the St. Paul’s, Brockton closing funds to support the ministry of Grace Chapel through the year-ending December 31, 2011.
- Heard a report from Jeff Tyrakowski, Chair of the Compensation and Benefits Committee, on employee health insurance funding.
- Heard a report from the Treasurer.
- Voted to adopt a 2012 assessment formula that maintains the same structure as the 2011 formula. Voted that there will be an Assessment Coordinating Committee, which is a special purpose task force with the single purpose of receiving and reviewing inquiries from parishes about their 2012 scheduled assessments.
- Heard an update on the Comprehensive Campaign from Bishop Shaw and Lynd Matt, Director of Development.
- Voted that \$150,000 be designated for the Green Grants program, based on a commitment of \$100,000 from the 2009 Annual Fund campaign, and \$50,000 from the 2010 Annual Fund campaign.

April 28, 2011

- Heard a report from the Executive Committee that included votes to transfer ownership of the Hines REIT in the name of St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church of the Deaf to the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts and to appoint Lynn Smith, Clark Warner and Libby Berman to serve on the 2012 Assessment Adjustment Committee.
- Heard a presentation from Lynn Smith on information gleaned from the 2009 Parochial Reports.

- Discussed funding for employee health insurance.
- Heard a report from the Treasurer including information on the supplemental budget and reporting procedures as well as proposed changes to the Financial Advisory Committee.

May 19, 2011

- Heard Part II of a presentation from Lynn Smith on information gleaned from the 2009 Parochial Reports.
- Elected the Rev. Todd Miller to serve on the Executive Committee.
- Heard a report from the Treasurer which included an outline of the proposed revised charter for the Financial Advisory Committee.
- Heard a report from the Assessment Coordinating Committee.
- Learned of Bishop Shaw's plan to set up a series of conversations during the next year that will address the issues raised by the health care insurance funding discussions.

June 9, 2011

- Heard a report from the Executive Committee which included updated information on the finances and ministries at St. Mary's, Dorchester.
- Voted to approve the revised charter of the Financial Advisory Committee dated May 19, 2011 as written.
- Voted to direct the Financial Advisory Committee to develop a Social Responsibility in Investments policy which defines the selection criteria so that diocesan investments will reflect the values of the diocese, will allow for screening out of investments inconsistent with those values and will support the expression of these values through proxy voting.
- Voted to authorize the Assessment Coordinating Committee to offer up to \$90,000 in adjustments to parishes needing assessment relief due to special circumstances.
- Voted to empower Executive Committee to hear petitions from the Assessment Coordinating Committee and authorize them to grant up to \$30,000 in additional assessment relief if necessary.
- Heard information about the proposed Mission Institute component of the Comprehensive Campaign.
- Heard a report from the Treasurer which included an update on the 2012 budget process and a review of the 2010 year-end financial reports.
- Voted to approve a housing allowance for a new clerical member of the diocesan staff.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Murphey

Diocesan Council Administrator