

St. Mark's Council Meeting
July 17, 2014, 4:30 – 6:30PM

Attending Council Members: Linda Brandt, Louise Simons, Dennis Christian, Minnie Steele, Betsy Hsiao, Joanne Christ, Paul Schelin, Christopher Williams, Warren Maas, Jim Huber, Susan Lynx, Kathleen Murphy, John Nuechterlein, Christine Slater

Chaplain: Mary Farrell

Attending Clergy: Canon John Rettger, Rev. Lowell Johnson

Attending Shared Ministry Team member: Dr. Helen E. Hansen

Attending Staff: Pat Betsinger

Guests: Inez Bergquist, Louise Mattson, Mary Lusk, Susan Travis, Heidi Eales

Clerk: Iris Key

1. Opening Meditation and Prayer (Mary Farrell)

2. Minutes of Special Council Meeting, Executive Council Meeting, and June 19 Council Meeting

Introduced by Joanne Christ. ACTION: Louise Simons, Kathleen Murphy to accept the minutes of the Special Council Meeting Minutes. Accepted by voice vote.

Introduced by Joanne Christ. ACTION: M/S Minnie Steele, Louise Simons to accept the minutes of the Executive Council Meeting Minutes. Accepted by voice vote.

Introduced by Kathleen Murphy. ACTION: M/S Minnie, Linda Brandt for Kathleen Murphy to revise Special Council Meeting minutes after consulting with Rich Simons and Rich Maier, and table review of minutes to the next Council meeting. Accepted by voice vote.

Corrections requested to Council Meeting Minutes: Helen Hanson request to be listed as Shared Ministry Team, not as clergy. Linda Brandt requests correction to second occurrence of John Rettger's name; requests that Louise Simons be listed as cochair with Kathleen.

Introduced by Joanne Christ. ACTION: M/S Kathleen Murphy, John Nuechterlein to accept the minutes of the Council Meeting Minutes. Accepted by voice vote.

3. Treasurer's Report

Paul Schelin: A mid-year, short-term cash flow problem is historically common.

Jim Huber asks whether there is a plan to change or expand automatic deduction donations; Paul Schelin says that there are no plans for changing or increasing its visibility.

Paul Schelin: Each year's predictions are based on prior years' patterns, but each year has its own dynamic. However, there is no reason not to expect people to meet their pledges by the end of the year. A letter was enclosed with pledge statements, including measurable results, such as the number of meals served (Betsy will put this statistic on the website). Louise Simons requests larger type size.

The Outreach budget does not capture all expenses, such as the cost of employing the Sexton to set up and take down tables and chairs for events; the Finance Committee owns this reporting and could change it if they determine it useful. John Rettger suggests that restricted funds have been used for

expenses that do not involve the maintenance of the building; this is why sexton, for example, would not be included on cost of Outreach program.

ACTION: M/S John Nuechterlein, Minnie Steele to accept Treasurer's Report. Accepted by voice vote.

4. Warden's Reports

a. Bdote

Joanne Christ introduces guest presenter, Louise Mattson of Bdote, board member at Bdote Learning Center, a public charter school with Ojibwe and Dakota language immersion. Currently, Bdote serves Kindergarten through Grade 3, with the goal to add a grade each year, through Grade 12. School in session year-round. Current student population is 80, with goal of 100. Follows guidelines set by Minnesota Department of Education. Lease is 1 year. Current space suits young children. Next year (2015), will add a fourth grade. Susan wonders whether expansion of school could connect to the planned campus.

b. Blue Grass

Inez Bergquist shares plan for Bluegrass event on Sunday, August 3, at 11:45AM on the front lawn. Live music and food trucks will attract visitors during Loring Park Art Fair. Goal is to increase awareness of, and interest in, St. Mark's. Anticipated number of attendees: 200+.

c. Mutual Ministry Review

The report created from the Sowing Wheat process could be used for Mutual Ministry Review. Susan Lynx recommends amending it with additions from the CAT scan.

d. Administrative Support

Joanne introduces topic. The Welcoming Committee is seeking trusted volunteer administrative assistants to the Dean; there are not funds for a part-time employee.

Dennis Christian: some organizations are experiencing structural change away from admin assistants and towards communication directly from Dean, with much of the work being done by Council and other groups. Warren notes that though the coming dean is tech savvy, he will be asked to contact elected officials, and other tasks; perhaps we could hire a temporary administrative assistant.

Susan Lynx: previous Council discussions focused on the need for a receptionist, not an administrative assistant. Pat Betsinger: the reception desk is staffed Monday through Thursday, 9:00AM to 3:00PM, by volunteers. Linda Brandt: Council members could take shifts. Joanne suggests that the Council fill shifts in the schedule via email.

Minnie: the Council should develop lists of important community leaders and elected officials.

Louise Simons: Before the new Dean arrives in Minneapolis, Council members should obtain his schedule and schedule meetings with community leaders.

John Rettger: Since there is no immediate agenda to address, instead of an immediate meeting, leaders and officials could be invited to the Dean's installation.

e. Elections

Joanne Christ: In August, Council should begin to discuss elections; Council members will receive a questionnaire about how to hold elections, in order to help inform protocol. Issues with how wardens are selected and how to fill open terms.

5. Bishop's Report

ECMN Council

Minnie Steele: The June 7 meeting of elected bodies included the announcements of the 2015 mission theme, engaging in Haiti; and the local theme, hunger. The standing committee consented to election of Alan Gates as bishop of Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts. The 157th Convention of the Episcopal Church in Minnesota will take place September 26-27 in Bemidji. The Central Metro Mission Area will hold a pre-convention meeting in early September. The Central Metro Mission delegates are: Minnie Steele; the Rev. Harlan Strong, Deacon, St. Paul's, Lake of the Isles; the Rev. Lee Domenick, Rector, St. Luke's; and Andrew Szeliga, University Episcopal Community.

John Rettger asks for clarification on first revenue line for ECMN: Minnie explains that in the ECMN financial report, "MMS" was once known as "apportionment."

6. Dean's Reports

a. Interim Spiritual Leader

John Rettger was proud to present Ramona Scarpace at Breck School ordination. He commends Betsy Hsiao for continual updates of website, which is crucial to welcoming. He thanks Rich Maier for coordinating the construction schedule. Thanks to Kathleen Murphy, Linda, and Sarah for organizing cleanup on Saturday, July 12. Congratulations to the Church of England's General Synod which voted on July 14 to allow ordination of women as bishops.

b. Formation Report

Mary Lusk presents the results of two task force meetings to discuss the goals of faith formation and its structure for children, youth, and adults. She plans a regular series scheduled monthly on Sunday, to replace previous adult formation series.

Susan Travis and Heidi Eales present the plans of a group called "Tending the Holy," to "serve the seeker in each of us." Participants were selected by Bruce Caldwell and Jan Dougherty: Susan Travis, Heidi Eales, Mary Lusk, Colleen Johnson, Thelma McKenzie, Keith Davis, and Jan Dougherty. They plan to create a blog-like page on Saint Mark's website to share reflections, poems and prayers from throughout religious community, and organize retreats and pilgrimages. They will create an email list to send weekly prayer or spiritual picture.

c. Worship (Christine Slater)

d. Pastoral Care

Susan Lynx presents. Helen is excited about the Community of Hope International as an approach to pastoral care based in Benedictine spirituality, with a focus on self-development. Clergy may determine who will perform the pastoral care training developed by the Community of Hope. Helen has spoken with its New Center Startup Coordinator, Cynthia Oliphant

e. Communications

Betsy Hsiao says that Matt Meyers is overseeing communication of announcement of the new Dean. Site is getting more traffic from links on Facebook.

7. Commission Reports

a. Outreach (Christopher Williams)

b. Welcoming

Linda Brandt asks Council to consider what an expansion of inclusion could look like. She notes that the Welcoming committee no longer purchasing from Cookie Cart due to cost.

c. Cathedral Life

Betsy Hsiao: Commission will meet in early August to plan for Fall events.

8. Council Committee Reports

a. Finance

MOTION: M/S Warren Maas, Jim Huber for the Council to pass a motion, first passed in the Finance Committee, to authorize the negotiation of a loan to Paul Lebens-Englund, in the amount of \$15,000, from Foundation (Endowment), at 3.5% annual interest payback, for up to 10 years. The new Dean requested the loan for downpayment on his new house.

b. Property

Kathleen Murphy presents. Betsy asks whether stained glass windows could be cleaned while scaffolding is up. Pat Betsinger: a separate contractor would have to clean the windows, remove plastic from the windows, and would likely require use of their own scaffolding.

c. Stewardship

Louise Simons: the Committee will meet in early August to set up schedule of projects and mailings.

d. Governance

Kathleen Murphy: the Committee will collect a survey from Council.

e. Human Resources

Susan Lynx: No addition to summary on page 24 of notes.

9. Announcements and Celebrations

10. Closing Prayer and Adjournment (Mary Farrell)