

Vision Statement: A world healed by love

DIOCESAN BOARD
Zoom – Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Standing Committee Members Present:

The Rev. Brooks Cato	Ms. Charlene Fix
The Rev. Jennifer Kenna	Ms. Beth Hallinan
The Rev. Dan Handschy	Ms. Felicity Hallanan
Ms. Cindy Adamowsky (also Board)	

Board Members Present:

The Rt. Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe	The Rev. Jon White
The Rev. Julie Calhoun-Bryant	Mr. Angie Smith
The Rev. Steve White	The Rev. Lisa Busby
The Very Rev. Christine Day	The Rev. Molly Payne-Hardin
Ms. Debra Barker	

Excused: Mr. Ronald Cole (Board), the Rev. Brad Benson (Stand. Com.)

Others Present:

Mr. Jonathan Fellows	Ms. Cathy Hobart
Ms. Martha Berry	The Rev. Cn. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent
Mr. Henry Wakefield (Board only)	Ms. Kathleen McDaniel

Opening Prayer – Bishop DeDe

Bishop time jointly with Standing Committee

The Bishop is pleased with phased plan that has been laid out; there is adaptability in Phases 1 and 2. The Covenant in place and will be required for each parish. The Governor has moved churches to Phase 4 so we are back to Phase 1 in the Diocese. The Bishop is making her decisions based on the medical community and what is best for our parishioners. Phase 2 won't begin until all five of our State regions are within the Phase 4 guidelines.

There is a lot of diversify within the Diocese across the State. The Bishop has been operating with "all for one, one for all" and will not have different Phases in place in different parts of the Diocese. That is part of community. We will look at the Covenant and make changes as more information is known.

The Rule of Life (RoL), Vision and Mission Statements have been finalized. It's time to look at the RoL to see how it applies at this time. Parishes are in a difficult place. How do we help our parishes? What opportunities does technology offer and how is ministry changing? Some parishes may need to discern how they might be able to minister in new ways that are more life-giving if they didn't have to worry about their building. Some have said they don't want to return to church; want to continue to be virtual worshippers going forward. Some of our churches are called to close so they can enable new life in other parts of the Diocese.

The Rev. Cn. Schofield-Broadbent and the Bishop will be pulling together a Task Force to look at virtual worship in our context, including everything from microphones to cameras to location (in sanctuary or elsewhere). Issues of timing for virtual gatherings, theological issues, etc. will be examined. If you are interested, let the Rev. Cn. Schofield-Broadbent know. There needs to be discussion about the theology of virtual worship. What does inclusivity mean (Zoom, cameras in church space; reaching people who don't have technology at their fingertips)? Look at different realities of what virtual worship can offer. There is a financial challenge for those who don't have computers or internet connections. There is also difficulty for those who are hearing or sight impaired.

Sunday, June 7th will be a day off for clergy as the Bishop will preside over a diocesan-wide service which will include a bit of a celebration/recognition for college and high school graduates. Parishes have been asked to submit the names of their graduates.

The clergy are being encouraged to work with their lay leadership. It is essential that they [the laity] are empowered to engage with their calling, so the church has more stability, diversify of assets including people who can lead worship online so clergy can take a break and do what they are ordained to do as pastors, teachers, proclaimers, empowering the laity to work with them during crisis. We are not bound by weather or geography, only by technology band width.

The shock of the pandemic has worn off so it is time to shift our focus to be the Body of Christ. Be engaged in our communities. People are being beaten, starving, children are being harmed. This is our lane. In the midst of all of this is institutional racism. Being the church is so very essential. Now is not the time to focus on partisan politics or conspiracy theories, which is normal; we have to have a better mind to stay with the medical community and be the Body of Christ in our communities.

We have to start envisioning an All Saints' Day that is virtual, Christmas that is virtual, not in person, if we start to picture what it will look like it will lead to creativity. Going back to big church gatherings will be easy. What will it look like if we can't have big church gatherings? What if half of our people aren't comfortable to join? How will we handle baptisms, confirmations, and ordinations? In this time, new life is being born.

The Bishop gave a “shout out” to the Rev. Lisa Busby on Sunday’s switch from Zoom to another virtual format when the Zoom platform crashed right before the service.

General discussion included input from members on what their parishes were doing/thinking about the possibility of reopening.

Diocesan Convention: have not heard back from the Presiding Bishop to see if he can join us in 2022. The Bishop has talked with Lisa Kimball at length; she will be here (virtually) for the clergy gathering in July. She may be joining us for some part of Convention and the Bishop is in conversation with the Rev. Martinichio and Ms. Kadet Sanderson to see what would be helpful and fun.

How are the Sudanese doing? We have not heard back from them.

Some things had to be removed from the revised Diocesan Budget, including funds for El Salvador. Our partnership with El Salvador is very important in the Diocese. What if, by not putting the Companion Diocese into the operating budget, it would be an intentional giving and intentional relationship-building part of the Diocese? Bishop DeDe has tried very hard to extend the reach of the Diocese with El Salvador. The Rev. Dcn. Chuck Stewart is about to retire and a lot of people on the Companion Diocese Committee are getting tired and want to step down. The Bishop tried to reach out to others but it has not been successful. Is it time for the relationship to be dormant or is there is another way to be in relationship? Could walking for El Salvador be a ministry? Has this relationship run its course or is there another way to re-energize it?

Bishop DeDe gave a brief overview of our almost thirty years of companion diocese relationship including the development of the Mission of Miracles medical mission and our support of Dr. Daniella. Discussion included ways of raising the profile of the Companion Diocese relationship, telling the stories of the people we’ve helped, new and different ways of fund raising, etc. Maybe CNY Responds would be a way to create new excitement in this ministry.

The joint session ended at this point and the Standing Committee members left the meeting.

The Rev. Jon White offered prayers for the work of the Board.

Consent Agenda

- Minutes of March meeting
- CARES Act Resolution (via email/survey vote on April 4th)

The Resolution:

Whereas the Board of the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York deems it desirable to apply for relief under the terms of the Federal Payroll Protection Program of the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York borrow an amount equal to the sum of two and one half times the average monthly payroll expense in the last year for all current employees (\$135,265) under conditions of the (CARES) Act.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Controller of this corporation (Catherine Hobart) is hereby authorized, directed and empowered to execute, for and on behalf of this corporation and in its name, any and all documents required in connection with the Loan, including but not limited to the Loan Agreement and the Note.

The Resolution was moved by Ms. Adamowsky, seconded by Ms. Barker. Approved.

The Consent Agenda was moved by the Rev. S. White, seconded by the Very Rev. Day. Approved.

Reports

- Financial
 - February and March Financial Statements

The Rev. Calhoun-Bryant moved and Ms. Barker seconded acceptance the financial statements as presented. Approved.

- Finance Committee—The Rev. Steve White
 - St. James', Clinton Audit Scholarship Request

The Very Rev. Day moved and Ms. Barker seconded acceptance of the scholarship grant. Approved.

- Finance Committee asked the Very Rev. Wanda Copeland to work with All Saints', Johnson City. They do need an assessment adjustment from \$16,130.57 to \$13,879.35. The Committee recommends approval.

The Rev. Calhoun-Bryant moved and Ms. Adamowsky seconded acceptance of the recommendation. Approved.

- Investment Committee—Mr. Angie Smith (report in packet)
 - The Investment Committee still recommends that we continue the process of moving bank accounts to the UIF long-term fund.

The following items will be held for discussion at the next meeting.

- Legal

Known sex offenders on registry. Not everyone on the sex offender list is under supervision.

- Committees & Task Forces
 - Property—Mr. Henry Wakefield (report in the packet)
Willowdale cemetery: Mr. Campbell has given names for the Board and has requested information on bylaws.
Sackets Harbor – no change
Parish Hill – closed

There are title issues with both St. John's, Whitesboro and St. Mark's, Clark Mills
Clark Mills – there is no record that the property was conveyed to the parish.
Need to go to court for this.

St. John's. Whitesboro – still haven't torn down the former rectory building. Need one more inspection and then the raising can begin.

Grace Church, Waverly – what does the Board want to do with this property?

We have inquiry form an interested party that would like to rent or purchase the property. They know what the issues are with the property (paint needed and there is water in the basement). Do we want to negotiation a sale without a realtor, use the lawyers only? We don't need to list the property to save on the commission. We need to get it appraised as this would be required by the court should we decide to sell. We a have a firm that was used for past appraisals. The interested party would like to move forward.

Mr. Smith moved that we contract for an appraisal of the property; seconded by Ms. Adamowsky. Approved.

- Safe Church Drafts (3)
- COM— TBD
- Standing Committee—Ms. Cynthia Adamowsky
- Ministry Support Committee—Ms. Cathy Hobart
- Foundation
- Vision/Mission/Rule of Life
- Long Range Planning
- Task Force on Insurance Minimums
- Canon's Report

New Business

- Finalize Revised 2020 Budget

The new Budget document is a recommendation from the Finance Committee and contains the following assumptions:

- pay for all canonical requirements
- want to retain staff at full level
- asked staff what we need resource-wise to continue to do what you do
- increased uncollectable assessments
- Convention costs remains unchanged as it is unknown what it will look like
 - Added smaller registration fee

We included no in-person gatherings for the rest of the year as well as incurring in-person gatherings in the fall.

It was noted that the Commentary information has not been changed to meet the new reality.

Discussion on various line items and whether or not ANY in-person gatherings will be allowed for the remainder of the year. Staff travel to meet with a parish (i.e. parishes in transition) is not considered a gathering. It is unlikely that other in-person gathering will take place but we

cannot make any definitive decisions at this stage. Removing in-person gatherings would reduce the bottom line request to \$15,700. This would increase the crisis reserve line to \$113,005.

Discussion on various diocesan ministry budget requests: Youth, Archives, COM, etc.

After adding some individual budget lines, Mr. Smith moved to approve the revised budget; the Very Rev. Day seconded the motion. Approved.

- Safe Church Certification

The Rev. J. White moved that we need to allow online training for first-time trainees during the time of COVID-19 when we can't gather in person. Second by the Rev. Busby. Approved.

Ms. Barker moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by the Rev. Busby. Approved.

Old Business

- **Insurance Minimum Requirements**

Adjourn & Dismissal

Items under Committee Review/Consideration

- **Finance**
 - Trinity, Elmira assessment reduction request (letter from Board in packet)
- Task Force for Parish Closure Manual Revision
 - draft prepared, in edit
- Task Force for Amendment Review
 - identified - yet to meet

Future Items to Be Addressed

- Gifts/Talents Survey

New Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 30th, 1:00 PM re: cover business that was not discussed during this meeting.

Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, August 18th 11:00 AM re: 2021 Budget

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen D. McDaniel