

Diocesan Council Meeting Report  
Deanery Assembly: January 31, 2013

The Diocesan Council met over a two-day period January 18 and 19, 2013. Friday evening consisted of dinner and Bishop's time, at which I was not in attendance.

Saturday, January 19, we met at a very frigid Trinity Church, Newton Center. Trinity's new heating system had gone out the night prior and was not repaired until around noon.

Following opening prayer and approval of December meeting minutes and the agenda, and excellent presentation/proposal was made by Liz Steinhauser, Julia MacMahon about the new Non-Violence Task Force, formed in response to the resolution passed by Diocesan Convention in November to create same.

Julia, as lead organizer, presented an excellent PowerPoint presentation regarding the Task Force, with the name of "B-PEACE for Jorge Campaign" (**B**ishop's Solutions to Violence; **P**rograms for Youth; **E**mployment for Teens and Young Adults; **A**cademic Excellence in Public High Schools; **C**ommunities for Families; **E**nd to Gun Violence for Jorge).

The Task Force is targeting at least one school in each Deanery to engage directly with the program. In our deanery, Wareham High School has been targeted as most in need, but participation had not yet been confirmed at the time of Council meeting. The Cape and Islands Workforce Investment Board is the targeted agency for jobs creation, but again, participation not yet confirmed.

A diocesan book study has been suggested for Lent, with participants reading "The Rich and the Rest of Us", or another educational opportunity. Other suggested readings are "God's Tapestry," "Toxic Charity," and "The New Jim Crow."

For additional information contact Liz at [liz@ststephensbos.org](mailto:liz@ststephensbos.org). Council approved borrowing funds from TogetherNow to jump start the work of the Task Force as soon as possible.

Nest, a proposal was heard from Cameron Partridge and Marissa Egerston regarding the development of the SLAM properties for a residential community of prayer for students of theology in cooperation with Boston University. This work is in preliminary stages, but Council was very receptive and excited about the possibility of partnering with BU.

A short presentation was given by Jane Bearden on disaster relief on behalf of Michael Hamilton, Disaster Preparedness Officer, who could not be with us. Encouragement given to as many as possible in our local congregations be trained and equipped as "First Responders" in our communities, if not already.

The next orders of business were strictly “housekeeping” items; the appointment of an Assistant secretary (Strout); authorized signers on diocesan accounts; and, 2013 Housing Resolution for Diocesan personnel.

Following we heard an exciting proposal from Potomac Capital for support and expansion of St. Luke’s Church/Iglesia San Lucas, Chelsea. Three building proposals were presented for remodeling and expanding the property to better accommodate the wide range of community programs at the church. This will involve a major investment of Council designated funds (\$1.3M), which is the majority of funds available at the moment from the sale of closed churches. It will require rescinding Council’s previous formula for allocation of funds and a new policy being enacted. This will be voted on at our next meeting. I am very much in favor of this project as it is our only visible presence in Chelsea and is attracting people to the outreach programs AND religious services in amazing numbers. Council realizes that St. Luke’s may never be self-supporting, but the mission in this area is vital, and we are basically the only ‘game in town’ at this point. Community agencies and officials are very eager to partner with us here and it is an opportunity that we cannot afford to miss.

Following lunch, the heat came back on, and further discussion was had led by Canon Libby Berman regarding use of funds in conjunction with the Chelsea initiative.

Following Libby’s presentation, Joe Robinson presented a second draft of his essay on “Faith and Reason”, a paper that is being developed for wider use in welcoming lapsed Roman Catholics and others to our churches. I will share this with the clergy at our next clericus, and must say that I have worked closely with Joe on this and an adaptation of the first draft which I have used at Grace with some excellent results. Stay tuned.

Council then adjourned for The Eucharist, celebrated by our host, Father Todd Miller.

The next meeting of Council is February 28.