

Diocesan Council Report

April 8, 2018

Since Dave Fredrickson has gone on Sabbatical, I am doing the report this Assembly.

As reported at our last Assembly, the Diocesan Council retreat was held in January at the Barbara C Harris Camp & Conference Center. It was my first introduction to Council, its membership, its meetings and functions. One thing is very clear: The Diocesan Council expects its members to actively participate on projects and committees in addition to the monthly council gatherings.

On to February-April Council doings...

In February, Council meetings were available for us to join online for the first time. Using the new conferencing mechanism in place at the Diocese, those of us unable to be in Boston for a meeting are able to join the meeting and see and hear each other and those at 138 Tremont Street. For your Council representatives, this is a welcome development. Both Dave and Helen joined online for the February Council meeting.

February Summary:

Received a letter of retirement from the secretary of the diocese, Leon Brathwaite, and voted to appoint Sister Kristina Frances, SSM as secretary pro-tem.

Heard a report on the regional canons listening sessions.

Heard a treasurer's report, including end-of-year budget results for 2017 and selection of an auditing firm to conduct the 2017 audit.

Voted to amend and approve a charter for the Mission Strategy Committee and to appoint Louise Gant as the chair of the working team on the Indaba conversation project and Hilary Greene as chair of the working team on the Mission Match asset mapping project.

Heard a report from the Strategic Ministries Committee on the site visit and evaluation process that is underway. Each member of Diocesan Council is paired with another to visit at least 2 of the Strategic Ministries of the Diocese in an effort to educate ourselves about these programs: 'appreciative inquiry'.

Welcomed Tom Ferguson as ecumenical officer and Tom Phillips as a new member of Council from the Concord River Deanery.

March Summary:

In March, Dave was able to attend in person. Helen attended online. We heard a treasurer's report from the chief business officer, Gerry Sullivan, that included the proposed 2019 assessment formula to be voted on at the April 19 meeting.

Heard an Audit Committee report from committee member Lynn Smith regarding selection of a firm to conduct an internal controls audit and voted to transfer a sufficient amount--approximately \$50,000--from invested agency funds to the operating budget to pay for said audit.

Heard a report from coordinator Chris Meyer on the work of the diocesan Congregational Consultants.

Held a discussion in executive session and voted to provisionally approve the North Shore Mission Hub's draft budget, with conditions to be met by June 1 and a requested report to Diocesan Council at its June 21 meeting.

Received an update from the Strategic Ministry Committee and heard initial site visit reports. We are to finish up all our visits before the April Council meeting so that we can share what we have learned with the Council at that time.

Our next meeting is April 19th.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Gordon