

## Deanery Assembly Minutes

**Date: 13 September 2018**

**Host Parish: St. John's, Sandwich**

**Parishes Present:** St. Mary's, Barnstable; St. Peter's, Buzzards Bay; St. Barnabas, Falmouth; St. Peter's, Osterville; Christ Church, Plymouth; St. John's, Sandwich; St. David's, South Yarmouth; Church of the Messiah, Woods Hole.

**6:45: Assembly called to order**

**Opening Prayer:** Tom Ferguson, Rector of St. John's Sandwich

**Minutes:** June minutes corrected and accepted.

### **Reports:**

**Co-Convener (Andi Taylor):** On behalf of the Dean:

- Will Mebane is now the rector in Falmouth. We welcome him and hope to see him at the next assembly.
- Katherine Ragsdale (interim at Christ Church Harwich) has accepted a job part-time in Washington, DC. and she will be coming and going between here and there for a while.
- Vineyard Haven is close to calling someone.
- This is a fabulous time for us to be cheerleaders for each other. South Yarmouth is going to the Diocesan-wide Ministry Network Showcase Sept. 22 and will be cheerleaders for Cape Cod ministries and will be proposing an arts ministry. We will be happy to take brochures of Outreach ministries to share.

January meeting at St. Peter's Osterville on Epiphany. Soup at 1 pm.

**Diocesan Council: Helen Gordon and Dave Fredrickson.** Some Points from the June Council Meeting and the September Council Retreat were:

- Libby Berman is now Interim at Good Shepherd in Watertown.
- Barbara Harris will have a book signing and Hymn sing in October.

- Amy McCreath will be installed as the new Dean at the Cathedral, Sept. 29.
- Financial audit: No findings.
- Management audit: Will be done.
- Diocesan staff changes.
- Gayle Harris apologized to the Council for her mis-interpreted remarks at General Convention. Also at General Convention: Bishop Alan was deeply moved by Cuba's re-admission to The Episcopal Church (TEC). (Fredrica's report on the General Convention later in the minutes.)
- Budget for upcoming Convention approved. There was a long conversation on strategic ministries and aligning them with our new mission strategy.
- The new three regional canons will be in place by the Diocesan Convention in November. Our regional canon is the Rev Canon Kelly A. O'Connell who will serve as regional canon for the Southern Region, comprising the South Shore, Taunton River, Mt. Hope, Buzzards Bay, and Cape and Islands deaneries. O'Connell will be relocating from the Diocese of Los Angeles, where she has served for the past six years as the rector of St. Stephen's Church in Santa Clarita. Her anticipated start date is Oct. 1. Martha Hubbard is Canon for the north region. Rt. Rev. Carol Gallagher (a retired bishop) is Canon for the western region.
- There are positions still open on the Diocesan Convention ballot. Contact the Diocese if interested.
- The closest pre-convention meeting to our Deanery is in Middleborough on Oct.23. Helen will go and broadcast back to us.

Q: What conclusions came out of discussion on assessments and abatements? Connie is on the Assessment Abatement Committee and said the committee meets year round and can address ongoing concerns. They will also look at those parishes where the assessment increased by more than 10%. Thirty parishes fall into that category.

Dave: The Diocese just changed the assessment formula last year and we need time to live into it as parishes. The result is less money going to the diocese and that led to structural changes in ministries and the establishment of three regional canons.

Helen is on the Strategic Ministries Committee and explained there are three types of diocesan strategic ministries: Aided congregations, programs, and chaplaincies. With limited budgets, how do we get more bang for the buck, how can we support things and how can we evaluate how things are going? Presentations will be made at pre-convention meetings.

**Diocesan Liaison: none yet.**

**Dean's Report** No Dean (see Co-Convener report above)

**Treasurer:** No report

**Communication:** Dicky talked about email, name tags, and communication in general.

## **Program**

Natalie Finstad along with her co-worker, Dax, presented the work of the Episcopal City Mission (ECM) around immigration issues and what ECM does. Natalie reminded us that Jesus calls us to follow him into the streets.

The presentation was riveting with a great question and answer period. ECM people are available to come to our parishes to talk more about the work of ECM and immigration and how we can help.

Fredrica Harris Thompsett reported on The General Convention. She has attended since 1979 and said this one was the best one ever for people working together. She specifically talked about climate change, Michael Curry's Jesus Movement, Cuba, visiting the detention center with prayer and song, the reduction in the TEC assessment, and alternative and expansive language in Eucharistic Prayers A, B and D. Same-sex marriage is now officially sanctioned in all dioceses. She talked about the service where bishops read personal accounts of abuse within the church. Fredrica remarked that she couldn't imagine those conversations 10-12 years ago.

Deb Warner took a moment to thank Fredrica for carrying our hearts with her heart.

## **Announcements**

Barbara Peterson: Parkinson singing group meets weekly.

November 4<sup>th</sup>, St. John's Sandwich will be hosting a conversation and next steps on Climate Change in partnership with the Woods Hole Research Center.

Indaba weekends. Marilyn McMillan introduced the pilot program for Indaba Weekends. This is part of our new diocesan mission strategy: Building Our Relationships.

Connie: EV training Sat.Oct. 6, St Pauls, Boston

Deborah Warner suggested a way for our youth in the Diocese to come together: to clean up our beaches. Oct. 13 was a suggested date. Contact Deb if interested

Next gathering: Oct. Pre-convention Forum Oct.23.

**0830: Closing Prayer: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.**