

Deanery Assembly Minutes

Date: 6 January 2019

Host Parish: St. Peter's, Osterville

Parishes Present: St. Mary's, Barnstable; St. Peter's, Buzzards Bay; St. Peter's, Osterville; Church of the Holy Spirit, Orleans; Christ Church, Plymouth; St. Mary's of the Harbor, Provincetown; St. John's, Sandwich; St. David's, South Yarmouth; Church of the Good Shepherd, Wareham; Church of the Messiah, Woods Hole.

1:00: Soup Luncheon courtesy of our hosts. Delegates were encouraged to sit with someone they didn't know.

1:45: Assembly called to order

Opening Prayer: Terry Pannell, Dean and Rector of St. Mary's Provincetown.

Minutes: September minutes were accepted.

Reports:

Co-Convener (Andi Taylor): The awarded grant to Amazing Grace received supplemental funding from the diocese.

Diocesan Council (Helen Gordon and Dave Fredrickson): There have been two meetings since the last Assembly.

October 25: Bishop Gates introduced Martha Gardner, Missioner for Networking and Formation and the Rev. Stephen Voysey, who has agreed to serve as diocesan treasurer and was elected at the November Convention. Two new Regional Canons have arrived and will have started work by the November Convention. There were more personnel changes announced also.

Bishop Gates also spoke about those in the Merrimack Valley Deanery who were affected by the gas explosions. \$30,000 was raised for those affected from 37 congregations, Episcopal Relief and Development, the Society of St. Margaret, the Society of St. John the Evangelist, the Diocese of Western MA, and 120 individuals/households.

There were no further details about the legal case involving the Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center, which is still pending in New Hampshire court. The camp is doing extraordinarily well and bookings for 2019 are at an all-time high.

The Diocesan Council voted unanimously to endorse the Diocesan Alcohol policy and also the alcohol policy template for parishes. Use of the template is not recommended, although not mandatory. The new alcohol policy and the template will be sent to the deanery email list.

December 6: Bishop Gates announced personnel changes. He also spoke at length about the divisiveness in the culture spreading to congregations. He talked about the

importance of pushing back in constructive ways. A number of clergy, and deans in particular, reported that divisiveness in the form of escalation of misbehavior and incivility seems to be infiltrating our churches and communities. He said to think of the church as an agent of civility.

Convention Debrief: There was a lot of thoughtful discussion of what happened at the Convention around the Budget. What does it mean to have a consensus-driven budget? Transparency is important and more information is necessary on how staff salaries are calculated. The process of discussion with input should start earlier in the year. The Compensation and Benefits Committee should look at salaries to see if they are in line with other dioceses. A suggestion was made that the committee is out of touch with parishes.

Next year's Convention will be two days, with legislative business on both Friday and Saturday.

There have been 9 congregations who have signed up to participate in the Indaba process. Many congregations expressed concerns about hosting people in their homes.

Diocesan Liaison: Libby Berman is no longer our Diocesan Liaison. Our Regional Canon, Kelly O'Connell, will be our Diocesan Liaison.

Dean's Report: Terry reported that most of the discussion was about transitions. A number of congregations have had turnovers.

Treasurer: Jared had nothing to report. Each deanery has \$400 to be used for programs.

Communication: Dicky apologized to all for the late minutes and asked all to be sure to sign in. The new delegates will need name tags and email announcements and reports, so be sure the communication team (Helen and Dicky) have that information.

Program

The Rev Canon Kelly O'Connell, Canon for the Southern Region, introduced herself and talked about her journey to this job and the nature of the job itself. She was ordained here and will be focusing on transition ministry, clergy health and wellness, and lay leadership and support. There are 56 parishes and four Deaneries in the Southern Region and right now she is focusing on getting to know parishes and clergies and wardens and deaneries. She talked about transitions and retreats and church growth and stewardship. She is going to be very responsive to what the parishes need and want and how she might be able to help. She makes note about how welcoming a parish is. One or two delegates were very vocal about the important of first impressions and being welcoming. She talked about starting a series of YouTube videos as TheRevKAO. These videos will tackle social media and the web.

Her job is continuing to develop. She has come to understand that the Cape feels very far away from Boston sometimes and she is going to create connections to mitigate that feeling. The saving grace of Zoom and webcasting was mentioned as a way to be a part of something without the requirement of a physical presence.

Her presentation was followed by a lively and passionate discussion and many questions. Parishes with part-time priests, assessments and what the money is used for were some of the topics up for discussion. The discussion around assessments gave the new Canon a pretty good idea of what some parishes think about diocesan finances and the relationship between the Cape and Islands and Boston. Communication and *being known* seemed to be key.

Libby Gibson talked about how wonderful it was to have Kelly come and share her ministry with the congregation at St. Mary's.

Kelly said she has noticed that the deaneries have their own character and their own needs. She also noticed that there are incredibly ministries from some parishes. They are continually asking the question: How can we serve? She also noticed that Climate Change is an important topic on the Cape.

Hilary Greene mentioned that Asset Mapping and sharing resources is another way of being connected to other parishes. Use technology to get connected.

Kelly ended by saying that we all have her card. Her email is on there. Let her hear from us. Let her know what is on our mind.

Announcements

Hilary talked about Disaster Preparedness. Every parish needs a coordinator and the diocese offers training.

She also talked about the Asset Map. This lists the ministries you offer and the resources you are able to share and is a great way to be connected to other parishes.

Eucharistic Visitor training was Feb. 9 in Somerset. If folks in Osterville want one, it can be scheduled.

Next Deanery meeting: Thursday evening in Provincetown, March 14.

Keep Amazing Grace Camp in your hearts and prayers. This summer the program starts on 20 August.

3:18 Closing Prayer: Andi Taylor, Clergy Co-Convener and Rector of St. David's, South Yarmouth