

Deanery Assembly Minutes

Date: 9 May 2019

Host Parish: Church of the Messiah, Woods Hole

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

6:00: Brown Bag supper. As in all Assemblies, delegates were encouraged to sit with someone they didn't know and NEW delegates were asked to check in with Helen Gordon to make sure their emails were in the list.

6:45: Deb Warner, Rector of Church of the Messiah, introduced the new space in which we were meeting: The Parish and Community Center (PCC). This building is the result of a successful capital campaign.

Because this is only the second Assembly since most parishes held Annual Meetings, new delegates were introduced.

Assembly convenes with Opening Prayer by Deb Warner.

Minutes: March minutes were reviewed and approved.

Reports:

Co-Conveners (Connie Melahoures and Andi Taylor): This year's meetings:

- Sept. 19: St. Christopher's Chatham (6:30 pm)
- Oct. 8 (Pre-Convention forum): Christ Church, Plymouth (7:00 pm)
- Jan. 19 OR 26 (depends on which Sunday is NOT the annual meeting): St. Peter's, Osterville (2:00 pm)
- March 26: Church of the Holy Spirit, Orleans (6:30 pm)
- May 7: St. Barnabas, Falmouth. (6:30 pm)

Grants or loans:

- St. Mary's of the Harbor in Provincetown received a Stokes Loan for much needed repairs.
- St. David's in South Yarmouth is applying for a matching Sending and Serving grant for their Paper Pantry in the amount of \$1500. [The parish has to match the requested money. Last year they raised \$1615] The

Cape and Islands Deanery passed a motion to support the grant application.

- House of Mercy Grant for Amazing Grace Camp (see below for presentation)

Andi Taylor reported on the meeting of deanery leadership where a question was asked: **What are ways Deaneries can be more helpful?** She also mentioned that the Cape and Islands Deanery is one of the most active deaneries in the Diocese.

Dean's Report (Terry Pannell):

- Concerns continue about the financial and congregational viability of a number of parishes throughout the diocese
- Anxiety over parishes transitioning from full time to part time clergy. How can we be supportive to congregations in times of transition and uncertainty?
- Issues were raised regarding clergy wellness and stress amid social/political and structural changes in the church. I would add that vestries are experiencing stresses of change and need to be supported.
- Questions were raised regarding Safe Church guidelines for Eucharistic visitors.
- Discussions on UMC's (United Methodist Communion) recent decisions and how Episcopalians can be supportive of ongoing dialogue between the two churches
- There are concerns over violence targeting worshippers and discussions around taking measures to make our churches safer
- Amy McCreath talked about staff transitions going on at the cathedral
- Revised organizational chart for diocese and cathedral presented
- Unresolved issues are surfacing around Bp. David Johnson
- Need more chaplains for retired clergy
- Supply clergy dwindling as priests age out and are no longer available. Geographically isolated areas are finding it more difficult to secure clergy for Sunday services
- Co-conveners, Deans and Regional Canons met during Spring Clergy Conference to discuss current state of deaneries. Some like the Cape and Islands are functioning better than others. Questions came up concerning the purpose of deaneries and conversations were held about evaluating current diocesan canons to bring them in line with current realities

Regional Cannon Report: Kelly O'Connell, the Canon for the Southern Region, reiterated what the Deans were discussing. There continue to be a lot of parishes in

transition. There is a shortage of clergy who can fill in for short stints. 40% of Episcopal clergy are over 55.

Diocesan Council (Helen Gordon): At its April 25 meeting, the Diocesan Council:

- Heard an update from the Mission Initiatives Committee about the grant application process for 2020 funding.
- Heard an update from the Leadership Development Working Group about its plan to reduce barriers for serving in leadership roles and to communicate open positions across the diocese.
- Heard a treasurer's report about factors that contribute to surpluses and losses in diocesan financial reports.
- Heard an update from the Audit Committee about the controls review that took place in April.

Treasurer: No report. No changes to the Deanery treasury.

Communication: Helen and Dicky repeated their request for anyone who is a new delegate to make sure we have their email and/or nametag request.

Nominating Committee and Elections: Everyone currently holding office has agreed to serve another term, with the exception of the Nominating Committee. Becky Alden and Ed Outwin will no longer serve as the nominating committee, so if you are interested in being part of the process and serving on the nominating committee, please let one of the Co-Conveners know. Good news: We have a YOUTH REP!!! Donovan Tavares is going to be a Junior at Rising Tide Charter School in Plymouth. He has been very active in St. Peter's, Buzzards Bay and has also attended Diocesan youth events, including BCH Camp. Welcome Donovan!

Program

Amazing Grace Camp: Julie Lytle, the Director of Amazing Grace Camp, put handouts on the table and gave an update on Amazing Grace Camp to the assembly. Amazing Grace needs campers, funding, and mentors. The budget is \$70K and it's harder and harder to raise the money. There is a second camp, Amazing Grace II, for children who have aged out of Amazing Grace I. Amazing Grace II is for young people aged 12-15. They have been given an endowment for scholarships and have been promised \$10K if they can raise \$5K. They are applying for a Kelly Grant in addition to the House of Mercy Grant.

Julie showed us a great film that RISD made showing what happens to families when one of them is incarcerated.

Here is the House of Mercy Grant Motion:: Be it resolved that the Cape and Islands Deanery support the work of the Amazing Grace program for the children of the incarcerated in August 2019 at Camp Burgess, Sandwich, in the amount of \$2,660 or the maximum available.

If additional funds are available after the initial round of grants have been made, we'd like to have them for Amazing Grace. Motion carried.

Narcan Training: Natasha Stewart, the Priest-in-Charge at St. Luke's in Scituate, gave a presentation on the Opioid Crisis and the movement started by Friends of Emmett to de-demonize addiction. (Emmett overdosed on heroin in 2016 and his parents refused to hide the cause of his death.) Addiction Policy Forum is the organization who sponsors the Narcan Training. Their goal is to end addiction as a health problem. Addiction is a disease that has a name: Substance Use Disorder. It is not a choice. <https://www.addictionpolicy.org/> has great resources including videos and contacts.

Announcements:

- Richard Stone of St. Barnabas distributed handouts and information for registration for a May 31st training being held at St. Barnabas called Safety and Security for Places of Worship.
- Marilyn McMillan talked about new Global Mission grant opportunities. The former Mission Tithe Matching Grants, funded by the Together Now campaign, have ended after a longer-than-predicted six-year run. Two new grants have been established: **Sustainable Development Grants** (deadline for application: March 15) and **Mission Tithe Relationship Grants** (deadline for application: April 29). These grant opportunities are for parishes seeking to deepen their mission commitment and both are competitive.
- Sunday, May 19, there is a presentation on **Connecting Faith and Science for a Healthy Planet and a Hopeful Future**. Speakers are Dr. Wayne Walker from the Woods Hole Research Center and Rev. Deborah Warner.
- Any parish that wants to host Eucharistic Visitor training in the Fall, let Connie Melahoures know.

8:39: Closing Prayer: Deb Warner, Church of the Messiah.