



*Diocese of Missouri*  
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*Making Disciples  
Building Congregations  
For the Life of the World*

**TRUSTEES OF THE CORPORATION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MISSOURI**

**Meeting as**

**DIOCESAN COUNCIL**

**Trinity Episcopal Church  
Jefferson County, MO:  
25 April 2009**

Members Present: Bishop Smith, Richard Braznell, Patricia Glenn, Dana Houchins, Mary Jane Kuhn, Norman Moenkhaus, Harry Richter, Beverly Van Horne, Bob Towner, Sharon Hoffman, Mary Ann Cook

Ex Officio members: Tom Hedrick

Staff Present: Beth Felice

After determining a quorum was present, the Bishop called the meeting to order at 9:00 and opened the meeting with a prayer.

The minutes of the February 7 meeting were approved as presented.

Financial Report: Tom Hedrick gave a report of the Finance Committee, which met on April 13<sup>th</sup>. The Committee made the following recommendations:

1. We need to place energy on the revenue side of the budget that will promote payment of full assessments by congregations. We cannot just keep focusing on cutting expenditures. The Bishop, staff, and Council need to establish closer relationships with vestries and congregations to encourage mutual financial support of the various ministries. This will require scheduled visits to select congregations.

2. Commitment to change the process going forward in 2010. Must start now to plan on how this will be done.
3. Every single discretionary item needs to be reviewed by the staff with the objective of reducing it by 10%.
4. With the three above conditions, the Finance Committee recommends approval of the deficit budget that is a result of the reduced assessments for 2009.

There was discussion on the report and the anticipated process for moving forward which includes a minimum/maximum budget for the future. There was discussion regarding the giving to the national church, how relationships at the parish level impact involvement in the church and financial giving.

Norm Moenkhaus moved and Mary Ann Cook seconded to accept the budget as it stands. The motion passed unanimously.

Bishop Smith asked the Finance Committee to draw up a process to move forward for next year.

Bishop's Report: Bishop Smith reported on the conversations he has been having with the clergy (3) and laity (6). The informal meetings with the laity are in groups no larger than 20 for a shared meal for which the Bishop brings the bread. There are minutes taken at these meetings and at the end of June, which will complete the first cycle, these minutes will go to the Standing Committee and the Design Team.

Bishop Smith reported he withheld his consent for the consecration of Kevin Thougher Forester. He gave five issues for the basis of his decision.

1. The search process was flawed in that it resulted in only one candidate who had been involved in the process itself.
2. There is an attempt to change the nature of the episcopacy.
3. This individual has had a lay ordination as a Zen Buddhist.
4. This individual has significantly changed the liturgy of the church to meet his own needs.
5. This individual has voiced a position in his trinity sermon, which the Bishop feels is heretical.

The Standing Committee will meet on Tuesday to vote on this request.

The Bishop announced he is chair of the Legislative Commission on the Prayer Book, Liturgy and Music for General Convention (July 5-19). He will be in Anaheim next month as the chairpersons meet in preparation for the duties for convention.

There was discussion regarding the expenses for General Convention including the fifth member of each order. Bob Towner moved and Mary Ann Cook seconded that beginning with the 2011 budget the General Convention line item reflect expenses for the bishop and eight (8) deputies. Beverly Van Horne amended the motion to read that the first alternate delegate will not be sent. Motion Passed.

Written cluster reports are included in the packets. Beth Felice gave a report on the communications within the Diocese. She is hoping to obtain more feedback from the parishes to put in the *I Seek*.

Bob Towner presented a motion and Beverly Van Horne seconded that:

Resolved that the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of Missouri recommend to the General Convention deputation that they submit the following resolution to General Convention 2009.

Resolved that the Episcopal Church Assessment formula be decreased, beginning FY 2011, by 1% in each of the ensuing ten years, until , by FY 2020, each diocese will be assessed 12% of the sum of the actual giving of the parishes and missions of each member of that diocese. Motion passed unanimously.

Bishop Smith reported that the Making All Things New – New Ventures in Community Ministry granting process has begun. Applications are being accepted. It was noted that there was good distribution of materials for this.

The following request from the Aged and Infirm Clergy Fund was presented:

RESOLVED, that upon the recommendation of the Bishop as President of the Corporation of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri, the Diocesan Council does hereby confirm and approve the following corporate action of COEDMO: that a grant in the amount of \$3,976.70 be awarded from the Aged & Infirm Clergy Fund to assist a clergyperson in paying his mother's medical expenses not covered through an insurance plan.

Pat Glenn moved and Bob Towner seconded that the request presented for the Aged and Infirm Clergy Fund be approved. Motion passed unanimously.

Bishop Smith appointed a committee to review the applications and make recommendations for the Church Assistance Endowment Fund. The applications are to be in the Diocesan office by April 30<sup>th</sup>. Approval will be at the June Council meeting. Pat Glenn is to chair the committee, Richard Braznell and Dana Houchins are members.

Norm Moenkhaus gave a report on the Episcopal Endowment Committee. He reports there is a good team with good ideas. One of the problems is how to present this information and disseminate it to parishes at a low cost.

Bishop Smith adjourned the meeting at 11:25 for the Eucharist and lunch.

Bishop Smith reconvened the meeting at 12:25pm.

Members of the Council review the *Diocesan Council Structure and Rules*. Bob Towner moved and Mary Jane Kuhn seconded that the *Diocesan Council Structure and Rules* be approved. Motion Passed.

Convocations:

Kemper: Minutes included and meeting May 9 at Calvary Louisiana.

Metro II: Minutes included.

Metro III: Minutes included and next meeting is May 9. Beverly reported on a discussion in Metro III about having some form of clergy exchanges in order for congregations to hear different voices.

Metro IV: Has not met since last Council meeting.

West: There is work ongoing to establish meetings.

South: There is a meeting scheduled before the next June Council meeting.

Other Business:

Bishop Smith presented a request from Teresa Mithen asking the Council to endorse the initiative *Missouri Health Care for All*. After much discussion, it was moved by Sharon Hoffman and seconded by Beverly Van Horne to support this issue. The vote was affirmative with one abstention.

Bob Towner reported on the renewed interest in the Cadigan Fellowships, which provide individuals with opportunities to explore local mission in the bootheel of Missouri and in north St. Louis. It has been organized by Jan O'Neil. There are two likely candidates for this summer.

There were some questions raised about the Episcopal /Presbyterian Trust Foundation. The Bishop reported that there is reorganization ongoing.

Concern was expressed regarding the graduates of the various programs of ESM. It was felt that the talents that many of these graduates have developed are not being used fully.

There was a question addressed by the Bishop regarding the reconstitution of the various break away dioceses. The Primate is reconstituting four dioceses. It is probable that they will be joined with other dioceses because of size issues.

Bishop Smith announced he would not be present at the June meeting and that Bob Towner will preside.

Bishop Smith adjourned the meeting at 1:20pm.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Glenn, secretary pro tem.