



*Diocese of Missouri*  
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

**MINUTES OF THE  
TRUSTEES OF THE CORPORATION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MISSOURI  
Meeting as  
DIOCESAN COUNCIL  
Church of the Ascension  
4520 Lucas and Hunt Rd.  
St. Louis, MO 63121  
St. Louis, MO  
February 6, 2010**

**Members Present:** Bishop Smith, Thom Gross, John Martin, Patricia Glenn, Robert Daniels, Donald Esbenshade, Mary Ann Cook, James Furgason, Norman Moenkhaus, Sharon Hoffman, Richard Braznell, Alisa Barnes, Mary Jane Kuhn, Robert Towner, Claudia Svoboda

**Ex Officio Present:** Tom Hedrick

**Staff Present:** Desiree Viliocco, Dan Smith

**Guests Present:** Jerry Cooper

Bishop Smith called the meeting to order with prayer at 9:00am. He welcomed the Council to Church of Ascension.

It was moved and seconded to approve the Minutes of the October 2009 meeting of the Council. Passed by voice vote.

It was moved and seconded to approve the Minutes of the December 2009 meeting of the Council. Passed by voice vote.

**Financial Report** - Tom Hedrick

- a. 2009 Year End: We expected a \$200,000 deficit. In fact, the deficit was about \$150,000. Tom shared with the Council information concerning income in 2009, and went through the highlights of the expense side of the 2009 budget.
- b. Dan Smith reported to the Council about the sale of the property located at 14<sup>th</sup> street and Park Avenue in St. Louis.
- c. Tom led discussion on the 2010 assessments from the congregations. We have commitments from all but two congregations, All Saints, St. Louis and Trinity, St. Charles.

**Bishop's Report:** Bishop Smith gave an update on the Youth Missioner. He reported that he has a job description and has interviews set with potential candidates. He hopes to have the position filled by March 1. Approximately \$3,300 has been collected to fund the Youth Missioner position.

Bishop Smith also reported to the Council about an extended sabbatical in 2013. He will take a four month sabbatical with a mix of pilgrimage, travel, study, and retreat. It was moved and seconded to support the planning of a four month sabbatical for 2013. Passed by voice vote. There was discussion about how to fund that sabbatical.

Bishop Smith described the two month sabbatical he is taking this year. March of this year will be spent in Texas. He will connect with family and spend some time on Padre Island. He will conclude the month by attending the House of Bishops meeting. He hopes to be with some type of religious community for Holy Week and Easter. He will spend the rest of the month of April studying and writing.

Bishop Smith reported on the plans going forward with the Diocese of Lui. No mission trip planned for the spring because of the political situation in Sudan. This leads to an uncertain environment for travel.

He also reported on the Episcopal School for Ministry. The School is looking at what the Office of the Dean might look like in the future. They are also looking at whether or not the School can stand alone in terms of funding. This has led them to explore the possibility of a capital campaign. Bishop Smith called on Mary Ann Cook to speak for the Episcopal School for Ministry board. Bishop Smith asked for feedback after noting that a Bishop can only do one capital campaign during an episcopate. The importance of the School was noted by the Council. Conversation was held on the general idea of development not only for the School, but for endowments for parishes. This type of funding comes most often from assets which is usually estate funding. It was noted that it is best not to piece meal capital fundraising.

**Bishop's Appointment:** The Bishop deferred his appointment to Council until a later date.

### **Congregational Matters:**

**Searches:** Dan Smith updated the Council on the current openings within the Diocese and where those congregations are in the search process. It was noted that Father Jon Hall began his ministry as Rector this week at St. Martin's. St. Barnabas has issued a call for a

new Rector. Holy Cross, Poplar Bluff is ready to interview final candidates for a Rector. Calvary, Columbia has completed their profile work and is ready to solicit names for a Rector.

**Diocesan Investment Trust Presentation**– Bishop Smith introduced Jerry Cooper, Chair of the DIT. Jerry briefed the Council on the work of the Board and the trust agreement that governs the life of the Board. Jerry provided some history of the Board and explained the restructuring in 2006. There are seven trustees, two are ex officio, the Bishop and the treasurer, plus five members nominated by the Board and elected by the Council. He told how the portfolio was also restructured at the time. The restructuring allowed the DIT to enter into a socially responsible fund. Questions were asked about what services are available to the individual parishes. The board is working to determine what service could be available to congregations.

**Assessment Task Force Presentation:** The Task Force presented a written report to the Council. The proposal is for a confidential listening process completed by the Task Force, and a review of findings, also by the task force. The Council would then make recommendations for responding to concerns. The Bishop's staff would provide for the implementation of the strategies. The amount of time and energy required of the staff to do this work was discussed. There was discussion about how to go about the listening process and what type of issues might be encountered. It was noted that how questions are framed will be vital to the process. It was noted that the Council agrees that the listening sessions need to take place. It was also agreed that the questions, as they are currently written, need some work.

The Council recessed for Eucharist and lunch.

**Convocations:** Reports:

- i. Kemper: did not meet
- ii. Metro II: has met, turned in minutes
- iii. Metro III: has not met
- iv. Metro IV: Submitted a written report. Their meeting was mostly organizational, planning the year, and particularly getting ready for convention.
- v. West: has not met
- vi. South: Did not meet. Meeting on Feb. 27.

Other Business: None

Open Question/Comment Time: Bob Towner thanked the Council for the informal lunch conversation about youth programs in the Diocese.

Bishop Smith was asked if there was help he needed to be ready for sabbatical. He indicated the issue is being able to finish essential tasks.

A report was given about the missional model congregations.

There was a motion to adjourn and the Bishop adjourned the meeting with his blessing at 12:30pm.

Attachments: (Diocesan Council Task Force to Discuss Parish Assessments and Commitments)