

## **REGION II MINUTES**

### **September 30, 2006**

Meeting began with a Morning Prayer Service.

Introductions were made with each person telling the first Episcopal Church he or she attended.

Attendance: Chuck Morello, Carol Schultz, Mark Munger, the Reverend Linda Lundgren, the Reverend Bill Van Oss, the Reverend Margaret W. Thomas, Sandy Carlson, the reverend Pat Gillespie, Craig Spellerberg, the Reverend Cannon Missioner Sandi Holmberg, the Reverend John Wilms, Pam Webster, Margie Renn, Ron Renn, Carlyle Conrad, Joanne Chesser, the Reverend Barb Hauck, Steve Hauck, Susan Dusek, Cheryl Homan, Erick Olson, the Reverend Jeff Nelson, Tony LaDeaux, Joe Dusek.

Minutes of the June 3, 2006 meeting were approved with the following corrections: Cannon Missioner's report was miss-stated that self care was the single most import part of the job; service time at St. Mary's, Ely is 5:00 p.m., not 5:30 p.m.; address of Diocesan Office is 1730, not 1710.

Treasurer's report approved.

Council Report: 2007 budget was unanimously approved, the budget will be back to a tri-annual budget, audit was clean, Aron Kramer reported to Council about Gethsemane.

Joint Trustees and Council meeting: Sally Johnson reported on the structure of the Episcopal Church Laws and Cannons and the roles of the Council and Trustees.

September 5<sup>th</sup> meeting Department of Development, \$200,000.00 budget – just getting started. Health assessment of all churches in Minnesota on hold until Mission Strategy work is completed.

Mission Strategy Report:

2005 Convention appointment Bishop's Metro Mission Strategy Commission to study the decline of the Episcopal Church in the Metro area. This has now been incorporated into what is now known at the Bishop's Commission on Mission Strategy. The decline is Diocesan wide. There will be a survey of all churches. Visitation teams of possibly 3 people will go to each congregation with a set of questions about what is going well, how the Spirit is working. The Reverend Margaret Thomas will be one of the team leaders. Team leaders will become members of the Commission. Others will be on the teams. A subcommittee is putting together a mission statement. Input is needed on small church theology, Native, Latino, Hmong and Total Ministry. Ken Tovin, a former Total Ministry Mentor, was asked to be a part of this committee. Team members will go to each church in the Region to collect information. In May of 2007 there will be convocation; the results will be presented to the 2007 Convention. The Diocese has not been successful in doing mission strategy in the past. The planning is now to be from the bottom up. Everybody needs to be at the table to try to solve the problems. Decline is not only in the Episcopal Church, but all main line churches. Vestries will be given the information collected so far. There will be a formal presentation to get everybody on the

same page. The Reverend Linda Lundgren, Mark Munger, and the Reverend Jeff Nelson volunteered to be on the team. Carol Schultz and Craig Spellerberg said they would think about it. Chuck Morrello reported that the meeting of Regional Deans thought that a goal of a May convocation and 2007 convention might not be possible, that it may go to 2008. Consultant, Craig VanGelder met with Metro on October 7. He plans to meet with the north and south in late October or possibly November. Regions I and II may meet together.

Trustees: No formal report, Laura Budd not present.

Cannon Missioner's Report: Bishop Jelinek plans to call co-adjutor in 2007. Election will be a special convention in spring of 2009. Consecration would take place at 2009 convention. Bishop must leave within 3 years of naming co-adjutor. He is planning to leave mid 2010. There will be a diocesan wide search committee. Anybody can submit names. John Cowan, who works with Sheltering Arms, is looking for nominations for children's ministries award. Nominations needed within the next week. Gail Coon mentioned as a possible nominee. Cannon Missioner will be on sabbatical November 1 through February 28, Call Gary Gleason for any needs, 1-800-96-3839.

Report on diocesan budget presented by Joe Dusek, Diocesan Treasurer. 2006 update: Official forums will be October 3<sup>rd</sup> in metro area and October 4 at 6:30 in Grand Rapids. \$2.6 million should be a balanced budget, \$50,000 deficit from 2005 rolled into 2006. Finance and Budget Committee were given 3 charges.

1. Determine if ACG is fair. It was determined fair and will continue.
2. Are we a program Diocese? This is still an outstanding financial issue.
3. Recommend framing and structure of 2007 budget. Major pieces are in place. 2007 budget will be 1 year, \$2.5 million with minor structural changes. The First Stop Committee reviews case by case. It is hopeful that with Mission Strategy and communication we will be able to work together. Audits are coming cleaner every year. Budgets are much clearer than in the past, full and fair disclosure.

General Convention report: Windsor Report was very painful, variety of perspectives. House of Bishops passed a special resolution and requested that the House of Deputies please pass. The resolution calls the Episcopal Church to be a part of the Anglican Communion, pass a moratorium on gay and lesbian bishops, exercise restraint across the board until the 2009 General Convention.

Millennium Development Goals:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.
2. Achieve universal education for all children.
3. Promote gender equality and promote women.
4. Reduce child mortality.
5. Improve maternal health.
6. Combat HIV-AIDS, malaria.
7. Improve environment.
8. From a global partnership for development.

Go to website [eligr.org](http://eligr.org) for what can be done to help.

Clergy Conference Report from the reverend Margaret W. Thomas, the Reverend Jeff Nelson, the Reverend Sandi Holmberg and the Reverend Bill Van Oss: Conference was structured differently to

be more of a group and get to know each other better, made it more of a community. Participants were asked the question, if the Episcopal Church were to disappear, what would be lost? There was a lot of soul searching about what to offer and how the church works. Need to build trust. Who is making the decisions and how are they made? It was beneficial to sit and be equal with colleagues. Going to the people and bringing back findings is a good thing. Like total ministry, we all have a chance to speak. What are our values? Ministry and mission with Natives, deeper affirmation and total ministry. Bishop mentions that diversity and total ministry are bright spots in the diocese.

Other Reports:

The Rev. Margaret W. Thomas; Cass Lake Camp has been turned over to ECS. The camp has been a ramp to youth and young adult ministries.

The Rev. Sandi Holmberg: The Rev. Robert Two Bulls is now half time Cannon Missioner to DIW and half time at All Saints.

Youth, Erik Olson: TEC is alive and well in the north. TEC will be October 12 – 15 in St. Cloud. No TEC in St. Paul or south at this time. TEC is an incredible young adult community.

Diocesan Convention will be in Duluth. Region II will have a table in the exhibit hall. There will be a silent auction. Each congregation to donate something for the silent auction. Starting bids will be half of the item's value. Silent auction will close at 1:00 p.m. Saturday. Proceeds will go to Millennium Development Goals. Gail Sheddy from Ely is running for Standing Committee. Barbara Elliott from St. Paul's Duluth is running for Trustee of Seabury.

Environmental Stewardship: Mary Brown Environmental Center has had successful retreats. Contact the Rev. Helen hanten for information and upcoming events. There will be canoeing on Lake Isabella. Creation Season starts October 1 and runs for 6 weeks. There is information on website, stewardship of food production. The Rev. Pat Gillespie is using Creation Season. She and Chuck Morrello are preaching on topics from the website.

Faith Formation: Resource Center has \$6,000 to \$8,000. There is a strong effort to guild materials, lending library.

Marketing: Unfunded, may be a part of Mission Strategy.

St. Enmegaboh's: Services are 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 5:00 with feast following. There are usually 30 to 50 in attendance. Currently using St. Ed's building. Feather Meets the Cross Plan B committee working on ways to remain at St. Ed's. Possibly a cultural or community center to help sustain. Goal is to reach out to all peoples through spirituality. Open to all cultures. The Spirit is moving and the need is there. A traditional 3 day wake of a young child was held; blended family used both basement and sanctuary. Minister to families in death and dying. Tends to people on their spiritual level. Main ministry is to focus on people in time of need. Program at Lakshore taught how to minister to Native families. Native Commission progressing, attention from Federal Government, affecting spiritual movement on reservations. More women and children getting involved, a positive turn and focus on youth. Peace Church getting involved. St. Enmegabho's is very important in the community. Talks

ongoing with other spiritual leaders. Feather Meets the Cross Liturgy taken to Virginia and was well received. There will be a bus to St. Mark's Cathedral on November 19 for the feast of David Okeater.

Congregational Sharing:

Trinity is making Christmas stockings for needy and working with Feather Meets the Cross.

St. Paul's Duluth: Sunday school is workshops, not the traditional curriculum. Blessing of animals will be on October 1. Glad to be done with the search process. Full day presentation on white privilege at UMD on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Other racism projects coming up. People of color are coming together. St. Luke's Hospital is celebrating 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. St. Paul's will hold a prayer service and dinner on October 18<sup>th</sup> to celebrate St. Luke's anniversary.

St. Andrew's by the Lake: Participating in Confirm not Conform, each child has an adult mentor. Youth are sleeping out in boxes for awareness of homelessness. Having a 5K walk-run, proceeds to go to Gulf Habitat for Humanity. Advent luncheon on December 9, Proceeds to go to women and children in poverty.

St. Mary's Ely: Have spread themselves into the community sharing their gifts. St. Mary's is a service oriented small parish that raised \$6,700 last year.

St. Andrew's Moose Lake: Still have about a dozen members and are keeping head above water. The Rev. John Wilms does supply for St. Andrew's Moose Lake and St. John's Aitkin.

St. Andrew's Cloquet: alive and well. Working with the Presbyterians in sharing ministries. Shared picnic with 65 in attendance. Church's mission is to serve the neighborhood and work with youth.

Christ Church Grand Rapids: In the process of discernment for Total Ministry.

St. James Hibbing: Walt Gordon has moved to the Cities. Sr. Warden is doing visits with parishioners, trying to regroup. The 5 Range congregations want to work cooperatively.

St. Paul's Virginia is into discernment for Total Ministry.

St. John's Eveleth: Will be voting on their future on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please keep them in your prayers.

Next meeting will be February 3, 17, or 24 at St. Paul's Duluth at 10:00 a.m.

Noonday Prayer, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Carol Schultz