

Minutes of
Region II Meeting
St. James Episcopal Church, Hibbing, MN
February 9, 2008

Attendees: Laura Budd, Sandra Carlson, JoAnne Chesser, Claudia Golen, the Rev. Barb Hauck, Steve Hauck, Kathy Hoopman, Terry Hoopman, the Rev Marta Maddy, Malcolm McDonald, Chuck Morello, the Rev Doug Morrison-Cleary, the Rev Jeff Nelson, the Rev Alice Olson, the Rev Cindy Peterson-Wlosinski, Joe Piette, Gail Sheddy, Sue Stromquist, the Rev. Ken Toven, the Rev Stephen Wlosinski, the Rev. Bill Van Oss, Emily Vos

The meeting opened with prayer from the Rev Marta Maddy.

Carol Schultz was not able to attend this meeting. Sandi Carlson volunteered to take minutes.

Minutes of the October 2008 meeting were approved.

Steve Wlosinski gave a financial report that reminded many that they had not paid its 2008 dues. Later in the meeting Marta Maddy suggested that \$300.00 be taken out of the Region II account and given to support the next TEC which will be happening March 28-30 at St. Paul's Duluth. The vote, in favor of doing this, was unanimous.

Alice Olson gave her report from the Diocesan Council meeting held January 16, 2008. One of the items discussed was the election and transition of the next Bishop of Minnesota. There are about 10 pages of minutes from this meeting that are available on line.

Involved in the search for the IX Bishop of Minnesota are two people from our region. They are Laura Budd (Search Team) and Judy Harvey (Transition Team).

\$23,080 from the Millennium Development Goals fund was given to six congregations and eight organizations that are working in the areas of the eight millennium goals.

Chuck Morello read a note from the Rev Canon Sandi Holmberg since she was unable to attend the meeting. Her job description has changed, however, she will still try to make Region II meeting.

Episcopal Polity was discussed by Trustees Malcolm MacDonald. Most of the churches in northern MN are missions and the Trustees oversee them. They manage the affairs of these mission churches and work to strengthen and unite the Dioceses. The Trustees are a separate entity governed by Articles of Incorporation. To change how the Trustees invest, their Articles of Incorporation would have to be changed.

Socially responsible investing was discussed at length with Malcolm with nothing being resolved. It is an important issue that will continue to be discussed. Following Malcolm's presentation and departure there was discussion about if and how to continue discussion about Trustees' investments. After discussions about the potential for corporate guilt if the Diocese

should invest in something not socially responsible and about looking at how to hold the Trustees responsible, the general feeling was to continue the dialog on this matter at future Region II meetings.

Chuck Morello followed up on the desire expressed at the last meeting to lower the age of the Youth Delegate. He found out that the Canons of the Episcopal Church, USA, have set the minimum age for Youth participation at 16. In order to be able to change the Canons of the Diocese of Minnesota to a lower age, the national canons would have to be changed first. Chuck also put out an appeal for Youth Delegate nominations by the May meeting.

The Mary Brown Environmental Center can be used as a personal retreat or a family vacation and it is not just available for Episcopalians. The cost is \$30 per person per night or \$500.00 per week for a group and it sleeps eight.

The Rev. Bill Van Oss was elected as an Alternate Representative to the Diocesan Council for one year to fill out the position held by the Rev. Margaret Thomas. Lay Delegates were asked to consider volunteering to be the Alternate Lay Representative to Diocesan Council. Chuck Morello will put out a reminder note with a deadline for submitting names.

The Bishop has declared Easter Season, 2008, to be a time for congregations to celebrate creation. The Environmental Stewardship Commission has put together downloadable materials for congregations to use. Chuck passed around some samples.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation is sponsoring a conference - Opening Our Doors, Opening Our Hearts titled "From the Inside Out: A Denominational Look at Faith Equality" April 4 and 5. The Keynote Speaker is the Rev. Keith Kron from the UUA Office of GLBT concerns.

The meeting closed with prayer led by Marta Maddy

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Carlson