

Minutes of the Meeting of the Diocesan Council

25 September 2010

Members Present: Lay: Kevin Warren (Western); Cindy Keck (Central); Bill Munn (Eastern), Jon Adamson (Diocesan Administrator); Doug Kroll (Finance Committee); Clergy: Andrew Hanyzewski (Western); David Hyndman (Western), Richard Lightsey (Central); Daniel K. Layden (Eastern); Bill Munn (Central); Susan Haynes (Central); John Schramm (Secretary); and Bishop Little.

The meeting was called to order by Bishop Little at the Diocesan Conference Room, at 1007, with prayer.

Secretary's Report

The minutes from June 2010 were approved as printed—thanks to Kevin Warren who took minutes in the absence of the secretary.

Treasurer's Report

In Sharon's absence Jon Adamson presented the report. The report was accepted as printed.

Wawasee Center

It is necessary to raise the rates of the center to cover increased expenses. Sharon Katona proposed a 3% increase. This request was moved, seconded, and passed.

Sharon also requested the appropriation of \$8700 for repairs to the roof of Wawasee. This request was also approved.

The Property and Loan Committee

In order to assist the Standing Committee make their determinations in regard to encumbrance in property matters, there is now a standing committee of persons to make recommendations to Standing Committee and other bodies that have to make such decisions.

Assessment Reduction: St Paul's, Munster

The parish was represented by Barbara Zuniga, member of the vestry. The parish is still dealing with falling pledge income and falling rental income. There was a deal negotiated with the bank that holds the mortgage and council earlier approved the reduction of assessments during the time of the negotiated agreement. The parish is in the process of losing their rector, due to inability to fund a full-time clerical position. The request was for the full assessment as agreed to last year but reaffirmed yearly.

Assessment Reduction: St Andrew's, Michigan City.

The parish was represented by Marilyn McKay, former vestry member, Tim Vale, Jr Warden, and Fr Andrew Hanyzewski. The parish is in talks with regard to joining into one congregation with Trinity, Michigan City, so there is a chance that the budgeted will be altered in the future. The parish is in deficit now and that amount is increasing. The parish is also in arrears now, in the current year, and is asking for a complete assessment reduction. The parish, other things being equal, is about two years out from closing.

Assessment Reduction: Trinity, Michigan City

The parish was represented by council member, Kevin Warren, former Sr Warden. The parish is asking for a 20% reduction in assessment, which is a 20% increase from last year. Since talks about

union with St Andrew's are ongoing, council has to take into account the separate status at the present time. There are some endowment funds, but those are committed as collateral for present loans to upgrade the heating system.

Assessment Reduction: St Alban's, Ft Wayne

The parish was represented by Fr Dan Layden, member of council, and Eric Miller, member of the vestry. The parish was given a \$12,000 reduction for the present year and is requesting a reduction of \$10,500 for the next year. The rector's wife got a job last year and moved the health care costs to her position, thus saving the parish considerable money.

Assessment Reduction: St Paul's, LaPorte

The parish was represented by Margie Bender and Jan Winters, Sr and Jr Wardens. The parish is requesting a reduction of 25%, which would make it roughly the same as this year. The parish is economizing and selling some properties, hoping to gain a little interest income on the money invested. This will buy a little time for the parish. There is a lot of work going on with the intention to make the congregation more aware of the needs of the parish. Pledges seem to be growing some.

Assessment Reduction: St Thomas, Plymouth

The parish was represented by Fr John Schramm. The asking is for the same amount as last year: \$8000. The situation is much like last year when the reduction was given, particularly oriented towards the Latino congregation development.

Assessment Reduction: St Andrew, Kokomo

The parish was represented by council member Richard Lightsey, rector. The presentation included projections which indicated that the income trends will lead to lesser amounts of income in the future and a conflicted use of the trust funds. The parish is asking a \$5000 reduction.

Assessment Reduction: Conclusions

Amounts requested:

St Paul's, Munster: \$26,135

St Andrew, Michigan City: \$8564

Trinity, Michigan City: \$4874

St Alban's, Ft Wayne: \$10,500

St Paul's, LaPorte: \$6000

St Thomas, Plymouth: \$8000

St Andrew, Kokomo: \$5000

Total requested: \$69,073

After considerable discussion, it was understood that St Paul's, Munster, needed to have its assessment reduced in total by prior arrangement with the bank that holds its loan. This means that there would have to be found enough to accommodate \$42,938. \$34,939 remains available from the budgeted amount. If 80% of this amount were spent there would be around \$6000 remaining to fund other expected short-falls.

Council decided that the remaining parishes will receive 80% of their asking with Plymouth's request being funded from CR&D for Latino ministry, with the proviso that LaPorte receive \$1200 now and the \$3600 remaining when members of the parish begin attending CDI in February. All concurred.

Retired Clergy Health Insurance Premiums.

Following up from the last council meeting, the following was presented:

Resolved, That Common Policy Principles for Medical Insurance Benefits for Retired Clergy and Spouses be revised as follows:

Any Presbyter or Bishop (or their spouse) establishing canonical residence after October 23, 2010, will not be eligible to receive diocesan payment of their Medicare Supplement upon retirement from the diocese.

Explanation: The policy currently provides the benefit of payment of the Medicare Supplement for Presbyters or Bishops (and their spouses) if they retire with ten (10) years of continuous or bridged service as an active stipendiary clergy person in the diocese. The cost of continuing this policy is no longer sustainable based upon the trajectory of our diocesan finances. Many dioceses have ceased paying this benefit altogether. As noted above, this resolution only pertains to those clergy establishing canonical residence after this Convention. Clergy already resident will not be affected.

Bishop's Remarks

The Bishop spoke about significant troubles at Howe School. There are also some very positive things happening.

The initiative about creating one parish from the two Michigan City parishes began several months ago at the instigation of Trinity. Both vestries have now met and recommended this process. Parish meetings will happen this week.

Fr Dan Martins has been elected Bishop of Springfield.

Fr John Schramm is finishing many years as secretary. Fr Jim Warnock will be undertaking this responsibility.

There being no further business, council adjourned with prayer at 1348 by Bishop Little.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev'd Canon John E. Schramm
Secretary of Convention