

22 MAY 2021 DIOCESAN COUNCIL ZOOM MEETING MINUTES

Meeting convened at 10:07 AM.

Attendees: Bishop Marty, Barb Hagen, Cathy Morris, Dorcie Dvarishkis, Hank Tuell, Jamie Leonard, Keith Kuhn, Mark Dvarishkis, Rick Harden, Scott Anderson, Stephen Day, Jerry Southwood, and Brandon Costley, RBC.

Absent: Clark Sherman, Mary Alice Jones, Gayle Archey, and Hope Stockwell.

Annual Update from Brandon Costley, RBC

SUMMARY: The market was extremely volatile last year. We are having a good rebound at this time. There were big moves by many big stocks. April was a good month. May has been volatile. The bond market is negative and interest rates are going up.

A lot of new money has come into the market. Expect the next 10 - 15 years to be pretty good. Likely to see a peak in 2024. The Fed. Has stated they do not plan to change the Fed. Funds Rate. Should remain the same until 2023/2024.

Current accounts are up 4K and the outlook is very good. There are no account managers on the "watch list" at this time.

Old Business:

Requires Vote:

1. Approval of minutes from March 13 and April 17, 2021.
There were no corrections or additions to either minutes. Hank moved acceptance and Kathy 2nd of March 13 minutes; motion passed unanimously. *Keith moved acceptance and Hank 2nd acceptance of the April 17 minutes; motion passed unanimously.*

2. Website updates - Bishop Marty. Discussed later in mtg.

3. RFP Policies (audit and investment)- Dorcie and Keith. The committee met on 8 April and drafted two (2) policies. The 1st Policy: Outlines a process of routinely rotating the audit partner overseeing the audit, and, when required, conducting a thorough review of services and cost of qualified auditing service providers. *Keith moved the policy be approved and Dorcie 2nd the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

The 2nd Policy: Periodically the Foundation Board shall conduct a review of investment advisor services (including cost) available from qualified firms. The review shall be conducted not less than every seven (7) years. The Board may conduct such

review if the Board or Diocesan Council becomes dissatisfied with the quality or cost of the services provided by the incumbent. *Keith moved the policy be approved and Dorcie 2nd the motion. The motion unanimously.*

4. Subcommittee report on guidance on: stewardship plan, evangelism 18-month plan and 5-year plan - Mary Alice and Stephen. *These issues were tabled. Scott and Hank will help with this issue.*

5. Strategy follow up from vision work. *Tabled until August.*

Receive Information:

1. Receive updated financial reports as of 12/31 and reports as of 3/31/2021.

2. Receive Finance minutes (April 29).

3. RFP Status Report. - Keith and Dorcie. Nothing further to be added.

4. Havre update. - Bishop Marty. Bishop Marty deconsecrated the building and hopes to not have to do the same again. She has hope for the future. The building roof needs some work. The furnace is turned off; every level has a smoke alarms; there is a CO2 monitor in the building now; and the fire department has the key to the building. AA still uses the building for its meetings.

5. Review financial summaries from churches with abatements. Livingston is now caught up and Incarnation's audit has been completed. Information received from both has been good. A meeting will be held in the future with Incarnation to discuss being an impaired congregation.

6. Compliance checklists for churches with abatements. All have complied.

New Business:

Requires Vote:

1. 2021 convention - hybrid or in person only? *Dorcie moved to have the 2021 convention be in person with the option to zoom (with extenuating circumstances) and the price for attendance will be the same. Stephen 2nd the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.*

2. Supply clergy rates. Finance recommends that the current rate is \$150 for the first service and \$50 for each additional service on the same day plus expenses and Saturday night is considered same day if the Biblical readings are the same as the Sunday readings. Mileage would be the current IRS rate. *Stephen moved the recommendation from Finance be approved and Hank 2nd the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.*

3. Clergy minimum process. *Tabled, awaiting further information.*

4. Volunteer reimbursement understanding form. Finance approved the form. *Council approved the form.*

5. Flathead Electric Cooperative information. The Diocese receives a check from the Cooperative because the church in Libby was a member and so we are receiving credits they earned. Once they closed, the diocese paid their bills and now receives the annual check. As long as we remain a member, we will continue to receive a check. *Stephen moved the check be deposited in the Faber Fund and Jerry 2nd the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.*

6. New copier. Parts for the copier are no longer available. Finance has reviewed the received proposals and recommends up to \$8,100 to be used from the endowment income funds and a copier be purchased, not leased. *Council approved the recommendation from Finance.*

7. *Cathy moved that Manny Hoag, from Ennis, be a new member of Finance and Jaime 2nd the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.*

8. Diocesan Relief Grants from TEC. "A plan for use of the funds is not required in order to receive the relief grant or as a way of expediting the distribution of funds. Rather, diocesan leadership is invited through prayer and discernment to determine how God is calling that diocese to be the church it needs to be today...All dioceses may request a relief grant, regardless of whether they are current with their assessments or have, or have not, received an assessment waiver." Bishop Marty stated she saw no downside to applying for the grant. *Stephen moved to ask for the funds and for the Council to decide how to use the funds, Keith 2nd the motion. The motion passed unanimously. It was suggested to further discuss the use of funds in July.*

9. Appoint Investment Advisor RFP Council member. Scott volunteered to be the Investment Advisor from the Council.

10. New dollars program for Partners for Sacred Spaces. Bishop Marty stated the advisors would come to Montana September/November. She would like the Diocese to underwrite the cost for the smaller churches. 20k-30k would be the cost to bring the advisors out to Montana. There is a grant program for this program. It was discussed to limit the cost to 20k and to look at getting the funds from the Vickers or Faber Funds (or a combination). Bishop Marty stated that she is looking at doing this at St. James, Bozeman and doing this may help getting a grant from Sacred Places. *Stephen moved not to exceed 20k for the program and get the funds from Vickers and possibly Faber, Keith 2nd the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

Receive information:

1. Review and acknowledge receipt of Diocesan Report to GC office and 2020 diocesan audit. The Diocesan Report to GC office is still in progress, but the 2020 audit is complete and on Teams. *Stephen moved to acknowledge receipt the 2020 diocesan audit: Rick 2nd the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

2. Create a Zoom video for recruiting new council members - see who is interested in participating. Information will be coming concerning the video.

3. New Endowment WHB (Wet, Heavy, Broken). This new endowment fund has been created by Bishop Marty.

4. Recap info for Minutes.

5. Personal update from Bishop Marty. Bishop Marty stated upon their return from Texas they found a lot of snow on their vehicle and their bags were still in Salt Lake along with their coats.

Stephen moved to adjourn the meeting and Jerry 2nd. Motion passed.

Closing Prayer

Upcoming meetings -

- o July 10, 2021- budget meeting only - in person - St. Peter's
- o August 14, 2021 - Zoom or in person?

oOctober 23, 2021 - Zoom, orientation meeting with new members.

oNovember 13, 2021 - Zoom - Assessment abatement discussions for 2022.

oItems tabled until August meeting:

oInvestment Survey update - sent info to Foundation board 10/29 - Survey info on Teams - let Barb know if you want the link to read all of the surveys.

oHandbooks, manuals, audit forms review

oDeeds listing

oCouncil member to serve on the Camp Marshall 75th anniversary planning for 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rick Harden
Secretary Pro-Tem