The Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming  
Diocesan Council Meeting Minutes  
February 17-18, 2017  
Noon-Noon Casper, WY


The Rev. Doug Wasinger provided opening prayer.

Bishop Smylie welcomed the group to the meeting.

Bishop Smylie called for any changes or additions to the agenda. There were none.

July Minutes were approved via e-mail.

Bishop’s Report:
Bishop Smylie gave a report on what was happening around the Diocese. He stated that the property in Fort Bridger was a cash sale and had been closed. The church building in Hanna was sold under a contract for deed. The bell from the church in Hanna is on loan to the museum in Hanna.

He continued by talking about the clergy dream days and the laity dream days. The clergy dream day is a 4-hour retreat designed to assist the clergy to live into their dreams. These days are for reflection, to help discover obstacles and God’s dream for their ministry. The laity dreams days will be discussed in more depth tomorrow.

Review and revisions to the Canons will be brought to the Diocesan Convention in Lander. There is a group working on updating the Diocesan Canons to be more in line with how the diocese is currently operating and also be in line with TEC canons.

St. John’s, Jackson has purchased a condo. The condo will be used by the clergy serving the Chapel of Transfiguration. During the winter months, Jackson will rent the condo out to help offset the costs.

The Standing committee approved to sell a portion of land between Lander’s church building and the river. This land sold and the profit went to the church of Lander.
The Diocese was granted $65,000 from the Sargent Foundation to explore possible renovations to the properties in Ethete. Canon Dingman and Jessica are working with local groups to put together a plan for the circle.

Roxanne Friday will be ordained to the priesthood the 26th of May. She will be the first Native woman from the reservation ever ordained as a priest.

Kate Miller, Communications Liaison, just had a baby and is on maternity leave. We have hired Genie Easton as the Administrations Assistant for the Diocese and the Foundation as well as to help cover communications while Kate is on leave.

The Bishop went over the roles and responsibilities of council members.

Elect Officers:
A motion was made for Stephen Askew to serve as the Vice President of Council. 2nd. The Bishop asked for any other nominations; there were none. Motion carried.

A motion was made for Lin Davenport to serve as Secretary of Council. 2nd. The Bishop asked for any other nominations. There were none. Motion carried.

Episcopal Relief and Development and Disaster Coordinator:
Tom Fiske gave a report and update for training and preparedness in this area. A resolution created by Joel and Tom was presented. Motioned to take resolution off the table, seconded, Motion Carried.

Tom believes that all the parishes should have training. The goal is to have the representative from each region, and someone from each parish (possibly Jr. Warden) to meet twice per year to mitigate against disaster. Regional representatives would populate committee; Tom Fiske would work with regional representatives on training and coordination. Joel stated that they are working with the Seminary of the Southwest to offer CPE course for a broader class to help anyone in the diocese. Lin expressed that the focus should be on anyone who may fall through the cracks. The Disaster Control Initiative would be accountable to this council.

Motion to approve Consent Resolutions of the Diocesan Council of the Episcopal Church of Wyoming, A Disaster Control Initiative, seconded. Further discussion, Motion to amend the second paragraph in the resolution to now read as follows: “The Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) Representative will be appointed by the Bishop to the Disaster Control Initiative,” seconded, Motion carried. Further discussion, each new council member will also retroactively become a Diocesan ERD representative for their region. Motion to end discussion, all approved. Motion to approve the Amended Resolution. Motion carried.
The Diocesan Council held an executive session.

**Report on HR Camp:**
Bishop Smylie stated that a property committee has presented council with a need to do an in-depth study on what can potentially be done with HR Camp. Council at that time wanted to take a little more time before they decided to do the study. After some discussion, it was decided that in order to make an informed decision, the Council needed to visit HR Camp. At the next Council meeting the Council will take a day trip to the camp.

The Bishop stated that 2017 is the end of our three-year agreement with the Diocese of South Dakota and Thunderhead camp. Kay Flores gave a report on Thunderhead. Motioned to continue the partnership with Thunderhead in South Dakota. 2nd. Bishop added that SD is 1 of the 4 Dioceses that is aided and we help their Diocese with this partnership. Motion carried.

**Region 1 Report-Shirley Wildman:**
Cody-Building a Brighter Future Today, just finished their first 16-week class graduation. Will be kicking off Lent with QPR suicide prevention workshop.

Worland-the sewer system is finally complete! Born Again thrift store is moving to expand and continue their outreach endeavors. Looking forward to confirmation classes for 5 young people in the community.

Meeteetse-there is current discussion on re-starting the church school. Sponsoring a dinner and presentation on a Suicide Prevention/Awareness coming in March.

Basin-backpack program in Basin “Totes of Hope” began with the poverty alleviation grant.

**Saturday:**
Bishop Smylie asked the group to add an extra day for Council Meeting on Thursday, June 8th, to allow for a visit to HR Camp. Prospective agenda would be to have the budget review on Thursday, HR camp Friday and the remainder of the meeting on Saturday at the Diocesan office.

**Deanery System- Canon Joel Dingman:**
Canon Dingman gave a report on the Deanery system. The Deaneries will be about the relational and spiritual development with God and one another and the system is currently in the listening stage. We do not want to interpret at this stage what the needs will be. We do not want to lock down the lines of what this system will offer. A report will be ready a month or two after the last Deanery Dream Day in June.
The current feedback and conversation at the Dream Days is how much different parishes have in common. People are talking about similar wishes. Even though each church takes on a personality of its own, people are finding that as a church they are not alone in rural Wyoming. Their ideas are changing, upholding each other and learning from others’ strengths, as a “family” would do, building a bridge and pulling together for Christ.

Church of Our Savior, Hartville, following a Dream Day in Douglas decided to get together with some of the other parishes in their deanery. The Dream Days are uplifting and creating excitement. Hartville hosted the gathering initiated by the lay and Dean Tom Ketner and Reg. Rep. Tom Johnson were able to attend and explore ministry development. It was a great crossover opportunity making the function of the Diocesan Counsel smoother because parishioners will also now be able to gather under the Deaneries.

Financials-Jessica Reynolds:
Reviewed the 2016 and 2017 budget extensively with an in depth look at the Balance Sheet. Assessments were up in 2016. Jessica will share more in depth information on healthcare and insurance costs and the impact of those costs at the next meeting.

Finance committee will now reflect the new regional representatives Tom and Peggy, will replace Wendy Owens and Taimi Kuiva.

Doug provided the closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40

Respectfully submitted by Genie Easton