Diocesan Council Meeting Minutes
June 8-10, 2017
Casper, WY


Bishop Smylie called the meeting to order at 12:46

The Rev. Ed Farmer 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.

The Very Rev. Stephen Askew moved to approve the minutes from the February meeting. Roger St. Clair 2nd. No discussion. Motion carried.

Bishop’s Report:
Canon Joel Dingman gave a report on St. Benedict’s Workshop/Seminary of the South West. They are currently working on developing a Lay Chaplaincy program and it should be available soon. The Diocese of Wyoming will be the test diocese for the program.

The Bishop gave an update on the Deanery Dream Days. The Laity Dream days are almost done and a report will be given once they are all completed. He continues to have Clergy dream days and his goal is to continue to work with clergy to discover their gifts, then utilizing their personal, individual, and gifts in ministry work. He has the same goal for the laity dream days.

The Bishop reported on the Links Diocese and their visit to Wyoming in late August early September. The Bishops will begin their visit at the Clergy and Spouse conference at the end of August. Then they will travel to Cody for retreat and meeting time. The Bishop’s hope is that our diocese will develop a covenant agreement between the 5 Dioceses and that that agreement can be brought to convention for approval. Stephen asked if a Webex meeting could be setup with the Bishops. He stated that would give an opportunity for laity to connect with them as well. The Bishop stated he would look into how that might work.
The date of Pre-Convention is being moved to the 26th of August due to the great eclipse. Convention will be held in Lander on from the 6-8th of October, with the Deacons ordination on the 5th at St. James’, Riverton.

Mark Latime has been invited as the keynote speaker at Convention and will be highlighting native ministries. The theme of the 2017 Convention is “WOW.” Stephen Askew is hoping to be able to finish the quilt to display at Convention. This quilt is made up of quilt squares from the congregations around the Diocese of Wyoming.

The Bishop reminded everyone of the differences between the regions and the deaneries: Region work is business; Deanery work is collaborative spiritual work.

Regional Reports:
Region 1 Report-Shirley Wildman:
Laura Galloway read Shirley’s written report. See attached.

Region 3 Report-Tom Johnson
Tom reported that Torrington is still going strong with their food truck program. Hartville is starting the masonry work on the outside of their church. Wheatland is preparing to repair their brickwork. Glendo has a great quilt program, were women volunteer their time to sew quilts for Africa. The Bishop stated that the church in Douglas has major structural issues with the building. It is estimated to cost around $180,000 to fix. At this time Christ Church, Douglas would like to reach out the community and see how much money they can raise to repair the foundation of the building prior to the congregation coming to the FEDW with a grant request. Joel reported that Lusk has 1 person in the ordination process and that St. George’s, Lusk, is a valued community church.

ECW-Mellissa Hyde
Mellissa reported that Becca Stephens, the guest speaker at 2017 ECW conference, was a success. Rachel Held Evens is scheduled to be the guest speaker at the 2018 ECW conference. Shirley Wildman has been voted to be the new Vice President; she will be a great asset to ECW. Melissa and ECW are still looking for a representative from region 5 for their Board. Next year’s meeting is scheduled for April 27-29th.

Audit Report: McGee, Hearne and Paiz, LLP
Brandi from McGee, Hearne and Paiz discussed consolidation of the Foundation (FEDW) and the Diocesan financials. She explained that in order to be in compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) the financials should be combined. The Diocese and the FEDW meet all standards to apply this GAAP rule (See report). A discussion was held on the reasoning for or against having consolidated financials. The Bishop expressed that the
Chancellor has done extensive research and that the Chancellor sees no reason not to move forward with the consolidation.

Joe Motioned to consolidate the Diocese financials with the FEDW financials for audit report purposes only. Stephen Askew 2nd. No further discussion. Motion carried.

**Region 2 Report-Doug Wasinger**

Doug reported that Wright seems to be in a good place. Kaycee is currently working with a youth group doing an outreach program that is very positive. Sheridan has reached out into the community doing lessons and carols for Easter, and they currently have a community wide religious choir. Buffalo is planning the Harvest Hoedown and is donating a % of their income to a community outreach program. Newcastle has found a supply priest from the Diocese of South Dakota and they are still broadcasting the Forward Day by Day over the radio. Gillette is having a community picnic and using their anniversary as a catalyst for a community event to bring in people and share the good word. The Bishop reported that Sundance is very active and has a great bible study and they have a couple members that are interested in the IONA school. Doug will continue to watch for flooding in all the areas so he can reach out to help if needed.

**Region 4 Report-Peggy Hotchkiss**

St. Christopher’s, Cheyenne, grown their Mustard Seed project exponentially and now serves 104 families in one week. Their congregation has grown form 37-57 attendees. St. Mark’s Cheyenne is still working with their Little Free Pantry, with a motto of “take what you need give what you can,” and have many other great community outreach programs. Medicine Bow shares their church building with the Methodists and had their first baptism in 40 years! They still are going strong with the backpack program for children started with the poverty alleviation grant. Rawlins’s is remodeling the Kraft hall to better utilize it as the thrift store. Dixon has done a lot of maintenance on the building and runs the Amazing River Kids (ARK) program. ARK is a youth group for the community, has approximately 40 kids in attendance. They have many community outreach programs that are very successful with such a small community size. Encampment has great lay participation and they hold prayer each Sunday. They also have a community quilt program that donates the quilts to a hospice program in Colorado. Saratoga has continuing ministries and does daily scriptural posts with the most recent reaching 545 people. The vicarage is finally finished with its remodel and is being utilized to repair bikes for the Bikes for Kids program. Laramie hung a prayer cloud in the Cathedral to allow prayers to be written and then put up in the cloud. They have also recently partnered with Family Promise. Stephen noted that the Vestry is now meeting twice a month once for business and once for spirituality! (WOW).

**Region 6 Report-Dan Land**
Dan reported that the Dream Day went well and that 15-20 parishioners from Jackson attended. He stated this was a good way to begin the new deanery relationship. Jackson is currently partnered with Habitat for Humanity for their community outreach.

Financial Reports:
Jessica gave a financial report. She went over the balance sheet and budget vs. actually thru May 31, 2017.

There are multiple churches that our out of compliance in regards to Parochial Reports and assessments. Jessica is currently working with the congregations and the Bishop asked the Regional Representatives to reach out and help them if they can.

Jessica gave report of the 2018 preliminary budget. The Council asked if the 2018 draft budget could be released prior to pre-convention to give congregations and members time to review. The draft 2018 budget will be made available in early August. Each regional representative is being asked to take the budget into each of their congregations before pre convention. Then they are to report back to Jessica if there are any changes or recommendations.

**Friday:**
The Diocesan Council took a day trip to HR Camp.

**Saturday:**
Reflections on Trip to HR Camp:
The group discussed what they felt while at HR Camp. Each person gave their reflections/hopes/dreams/feelings on the experience. Was the spirit calling the Council to action? After the reflection the group decided it would be great to host deanery days at camp. Stephen Askew graciously volunteered to plan a day trip agenda for the Deaneries to take anyone/everyone to HR camp. From the discussion it was determined that some people need to grieve the past in order to envision the future. The outline for the day will allow for people to honor their experiences and memories of camp as well as time for them to explore the future use of the property. The hope is to plan and schedule as many deaneries to visit HR Camp this summer. It has been tentatively planned for the Diocesan Council, as well as the Deans, to meet face to face on Friday, September 15th to report the desires and visions of all for the future of the property known as HR Camp.

Closing Prayer provided by the Very Rev. Stephen Askew.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30

Respectfully submitted by Genie Easton