

Present:

Jon Anderson +
Darren Armstrong, President
Wren Blessing +
Kate Bradsen +
Melissa George +
Nancy Jones, Diocesan Treasurer
Kym Lucas, The Bishop of the Diocese of Colorado +
Chip Page
Karla Schapansky, Recording Secretary
Bill Stanton, Vice President +
Chuck Theobald

Absent:

Donna Colville

The meeting was called to order at 9:12 a.m. by President, Darren Armstrong.

Kate Bradsen resigned as vice president of the committee. Bill Stanton was nominated to serve as vice president. Kate made the motion, and it was seconded by Wren. Bill was elected vice president unanimously.

Darren thanked Kate for her service as vice president and welcomed Bill. The members of the committee expressed their appreciation as well.

Karla led the Formation and Check-in time. She referenced a scripture from Isaiah regarding "Let our Light shine" through this Epiphany Season and beyond.

Jon opened the meeting with a prayer.

A motion was made to approve the agenda by Bill, seconded by Chip and approved unanimously.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the December 13th, 2023 meeting by Chuck, seconded by Karla and approved unanimously.

Karla reported that the December meeting minutes were posted on the Diocesan website. Darren asked Karla to ask Mike Orr, Communications Canon, to mention that the minutes are now posted in the Diocesan Newsletter.

Nancy Jones, Diocesan Treasurer, made the Treasurer's Report

Financial Report:

We are on track for income to come in as expected at year end. There are two major areas where expenses are over budget. The first is the moving expenses line item. This is due to covering the moving expenses of both Rev. John Hill, Vicar and Executive Director of Cathedral Ridge and Rev. Jon Anderson, Canon for Mission and Administration. The other area that is over budget is Repairs and Maintenance because there have been several events at the diocesan office that required repairs that were not budgeted.

Congregational giving is still strong.

The balance sheet is still in good shape in terms of Unrestricted Reserves.

Bishop Kym told the committee that she was going to send a communication reminding all congregations that it is Canonically required that each congregation send 10% of their income to the Diocese. She will get the correct convention information and the letter will be reviewed by Jon Anderson, Nancy Jones, and Mike Orr before it is distributed.

Since 2020 parishes have been asked to send monthly payments to the Diocese. The amount of the monthly payment should be 10% of the previous month's income. The letter is expected to go out in February.

To be noted that the Northwest Region is responsible for this financial commitment and pays quarterly.

The Bishop's used Subaru was sold and the paperwork is complete.

Nancy told the committee that the present Audit Company is not meeting expectations for completing our audits timely. After an upcoming meeting with this company, if there isn't a satisfactory re-commitment, a search for a new company will be made.

Nancy reported that the CO Trust indicated last year that the projected amount to be received in 2024 is \$950,000. The exact amount of the 2024 Grant should be known by the end of March. Payments are made quarterly beginning with Q1 at the end of March.

There is a new insurance carrier for Cathedral Ridge. The refund from the prior company will be \$27k.

Bill asked when we would have December financials and she said she was hopeful to have them by the March meeting. Darren thanked Nancy for her report.

The Property Committee recommended a Resolution be approved for Grace & St. Stepehns, Colorado Springs. The project total is \$90,000 and the State Historical Society is providing \$50,000 of the project funds as a grant. Approval of the resolution involves no use of Diocesan funds. Bill made the motion to approve the resolution and Kate seconded. Chuck abstained. The Resolution was passed with one abstention. It should be noted that Melissa was very timely with her vote.

A document was provided requesting approval for the Housing Allowance for Clergy. A motion was made by Chuck and seconded by Chip to approve the Housing Allowances as presented. The motion was passed unanimously.

Bill asked about the status of our Canon review and Common Call. Chuck asked if there are impediments now that require the updating, or can we wait? It was the consensus of the committee to pause the Canon review until after the Imagining meetings and then create an infrastructure to move ahead.

Nancy asked for feedback from the committee for Jay Swope's presentation in November. Please send feedback to Nancy.

During Bishop Kym's time, Jon reported that Our Merciful Savior is closed. There is the matter of security for the property. The Service Corps house is closed as well. The outcome for Ascension, Pueblo, will be determined by the Bishop and The Standing Committee.

Dennis Kearney is currently managing the Diocesan properties. A question to be answered, do we sell Our Merciful Savior?

Jeremiah Williamson's Consecration as the Bishop of Albany is Saturday, February 24th. Bishop Kym is participating in the ceremony.

The ELCA Advocacy position will not be funded in 2024.

The Mutual Ministry Review document has been distributed to The Standing Committee. Darren explained that the MMR provides the opportunity to offer feedback for the Bishop and the Office of the Bishop. It's also a tool to identify opportunities to support the Bishop and her office. Darren suggested that we have a retreat to develop our answers and thoughts. There wasn't a consensus to do this at this time. Wren and Chuck asked how we can engage the Regions to participate in the MMR and schedule interviews for the Standing Committee and the Regional Executive Committees? How do we represent the Standing Committee to parishes and interact with the regions?

Darren introduced the idea of forming prayer partners during the Imagining meetings, and perhaps, during the MMR. This is an open item which we will talk about further at our next meeting.

Our next monthly meeting has been changed to Tuesday, February 13th at 9 a.m. This is to avoid meeting on Ash Wednesday.

Melissa closed the meeting with prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karla Schapansky,
Recording Secretary