**Region IV Council Meeting**

**May 18, 2016**

**Church of St. Clement**

Present:

*Christ Church*: Cindi Bartol, Geoff Giovanetti; Susan Hahn

*Church of St. Clement*: Annette Foster

*Church of the Resurrection*: the Rev. Jo Belser, Betsy Faga

*Emmanuel Church*: Barbie Frank, the Rev. Chuck McCoart (Dean)

*Grace Church*: June Huber (President), Barry Joyner

*Immanuel Church*: the Rev. David Crosby

*Meade Memorial Church*: Thomas Jones

*St. Paul’s Church*: Karen Grane, Bob Stevenson

The meeting was called to order at 7:36pm, and the president offered the opening prayer.

The president presented the minutes. Karen Grane moved that they be approved; the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Cindi Bartol recommended that, given the length of time between meetings, minutes be submitted electronically, and reviewed by two volunteers in the interim between meetings. The president accepted this recommendation. Betsy Faga and Annette Foster volunteered to review the minutes of the May 18 meeting.

**A. Reports**

***1. Dean’s Report***. The Rev. Chuck McCoart introduced himself as the new Dean of Region IV, having been asked to serve by the Bishop.

-Chuck expressed thanks and appreciation to the Rev. John Hortum (outgoing Dean) for his service.

-At the suggestion of the Rev. Robert Malm, the Region IV Clericus will be reconvened, with meeting dates and agenda to be determined. Non-parochial clergy living/working in Alexandria may be invited.

-Chuck met with June Huber, and he will send a letter to the rectors in the Region and any other clergy that reside in this region.

***2. Executive Board Report***(the Rev. David Crosby). David reported on the April 21 meeting of the Executive Board at Christ Church, Glen Allen.

-This was the first meeting since the Bishop returned from sabbatical. The Bishop emphasized the theme of reconnection, which had been the main purpose of his sabbatical. Subsequent to the meeting, it was announced that Bishop Goff had been appointed as assisting bishop of Liverpool in addition to her work as our suffragan bishop.

-The diocesan treasurer reported that spending was “on track” for 2016. Also, the diocese is considering a sabbatical policy of diocesan staff.

-The Resolution 8 Task Force will be conducting an inventory of physical assets of the diocese, including identifying underutilized sites; studying the demographic characteristics of various parts of the dioceses, and developing ideas for congregational collaboration and shared ministries.

-The Diocese had made grants to the Mustard Seed Fund and in support of small congregations, but little money remains available.

-The bishops may move to an 18-month cycle of episcopal visitations, but this would not begin before 2018.

-The next Executive Board meeting will be June 16 in Tappahannock.

-The regional presidents (including June Huber) were also at the April 21 meeting, and met with Bishop Gulick to discuss what it means to be a region. There is a working group on the future of the regions, which will be working over an 18 month period on this issue. June hopes to hear more about “best practices” from other regions.

-The Rev. Jo Belser and Cindi Bartol both stated that Region IV was functioning very well, and that the regional budget should not have to undergo another level of review by any diocesan entity.

***3. Treasurer’s Report***(Barbie Frank)

-Budget: Barbie presented the proposed budget for Region IV for 2016. The budget includes a carryover of $2386.27, and expected income of $6,253.00. Expected general expenses total $1730.00, and $500.00 will be set aside as reserves. The remaining amount available for outreach and other purposes is $6,409.27.

-Geoff Giovanetti proposed budgeting $215.00 to pay for a youth alternate (in addition to the youth delegate) to Annual Convention. June Huber proposed budgeting $1000.00 for a possible youth event.

-Cindi Bartol moved that the budget, as amended by Geoff’s and June’s proposals be adopted. The motion was seconded, and adopted unanimously. As a result, $5,194.27 will be available for outreach and other purposes. The approved budget will be submitted to the diocese.

-Report: Barbie provided the Treasurer’s report. See attached. All parishes have paid their assessments. There have no been expenditures since November 2015, and there are no pending expenses. The bank account currently has $10,169.27, which includes a reimbursement from the diocese of $525.00 (due the postponement of annual convention) and $1005.00 in proceeds from the Music for Food concert. Karen Grane moved to accept the Treasurer’s report. The motion was seconded, and adopted unanimously.

**B. Old Business**

***1. New Secretary*.** The president requested that council members consider volunteering to be the Region secretary on a permanent basis.

***2. Outreach Committee Report and Recommendations*** (Betsy Faga). Betsy presented the Outreach Committee report and recommended expenditures. See attached report. After making expenditures of $0 in 2013, $9500 in 2014 and $12,000 in 2015, the committee recommends $5000 in expenditures in 2016 based on available funds. The committee recommends that the donations to the Hypothermia Shelter at St. Clement ($1500) and the bag lunch program at Meade Memorial ($2000) be maintained at 2015 levels. The committee recommends that donations to other programs (Child & Family Network, Hunger Free Alexandria and West End Lazarus Ministry) be reduced. If additional funds become available, the committee recommends that they go to West End Lazarus Ministry.

-Karen Grane moved that the report and recommendations be adopted. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

-Geoff Giovanetti suggested that the Region IV Council inform parishes that the reductions to certain programs do not represent a lack of support for those programs, and the parishes should be encouraged to continue supporting those programs. The Rev. David Crosby emphasized the need for the Region to share with the parishes news of what the Region is doing.

-The Region currently has possession of $1005 in proceeds from the Music for Food concert. After discussion, it was agreed that these funds will be dealt with separately from the regular Outreach budget, and that Melanie Gray (coordinator of the concert) would be contacted to determine the appropriate/intended use of the proceeds. Susan Hahn volunteered to contact Melanie. Once that occurs, the proposed disbursement of the proceeds will be presented to the Council for affirmance. This will be done electronically, and in advance of the next Council meeting in September.

***3. After-Action Report on 2016 Region IV Lenten Series*** (the Rev. Jo Belser). Jo reported the Lenten Series was well-received, with increased attendance compared with the prior year. VTS is considering putting on a similar series, and Jo will be in conversation with them. She also solicited feedback from the Council, and suggested that we think about ideas for next year’s series over the course of the summer. Annette Foster suggested Star Wars and Christian Theology as a possible topic.

**C. New Business**

***1. Mission and Purposes of Regions, Especially Region IV.*** June Huber reported on the documentation she has found on the Region, dating back to 1991, including proposed (but apparently never adopted) bylaws from 2003.

-Susan Hahn and Annette Foster provided a report from the subcommittee on re-energizing the region. See attached report. The subcommittee met on May 10 for an informal brainstorming session. Among the topics raised were: Council meetings being competition with other activities for members’ time and attention; whether council meetings were too “boring;” whether they should include an inspirational component; and whether they should include greater you participation. June Huber suggested the possibility of each parish sending someone to Council meetings to talk about unique programs/ministries at that parish. Another meeting of the subcommittee will be held in the future.

***2. Another Youth Event?*** June Huber solicited suggestions for how to proceed with a new youth event put on by the Region. This is a possible topic for consideration by the regional Clericus, and the Region may send a letter about it to the parishes.

***3. Inviting Representative of Episcopal Schools and Other Clergy Resident in Alexandria to Attend Region IV Meeting?*** June asked whether representative of Episcopal schools in Alexandria (Episcopal High School and St. Stephen’s/St. Agnes), as well as non-parochial clergy resident in Alexandria should be invited attend meetings of the Region IV Council. A motion to invite representatives of the schools to attend was made, seconded and approved unanimously. The matter of non-parochial clergy will be addressed through the regional Clericus.

***4. Other New Business.***

-Annette Foster is the new alternate for St. Clement.

-Betsy Faga announced that Resurrection will host a concert by the Washington Revels on September 17, and a hymn sing on October 14 **[June my notes show the hymn sing at Resurrection, but my memory says Immanuel; do you recall which it was?] No I don’t.**

-Bob Stevenson said that St. Paul’s is working with the West End Lazarus Ministry to offer personal finance classes beginning in October.

**D. News from Around the Region**

See attached reports from individual parishes. **[June, the only report I have received since the meeting is from Annette Foster at St. Clement’s]. ME NEITHER**

The meeting adjourned at 9:33pm following a closing prayer.

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**Next Meeting:** September 21 at 7:00pm at the Church of St. Clement (Secretary Duties: St. Paul’s Church). The meeting will start with a pot-luck supper.