

REGION II MINUTES
JUNE 3, 2006

Attendance: Laura Amendola, Laura Budd, Carlyle Conrad, Susan Dusek, the Rev. Pat Gillespie, the Rev. Helen Hanten, the Rev. Barb Hauck, Steve Hauck, the Rev. David Hill, the Rev. Cannon Sandi Holmberg, Liz Lenich, the Rev. Marta Maddy, Jean Moberg, Chuck Morello, the Rev. Alice Olson, Don Pederson, the Rev. Cindy Peterson-Wlosinski, Arlene Renken, Marge Renn, Ron Renn, Carol Schultz, Craig Spellerberg, the Rev. Margaret W. Thomas, the Rev. William van Oss, the Rev. John Wilms, the Rev. Stephen Wlosinski.

Meeting started with prayer.

Introductions.

Minutes of the February 4, 2006 meeting were approved after adding Steve Hauck in attendance.

Treasurer's report approved.

All officers elected by unanimous ballot.

New officers for the Region were introduced. Dean, Chuck Morello; Sub Dean, the Rev. David Hill; Secretary, Carol Schultz; Treasurer, Cameron Hubley; Clergy Delegate to Council, the Rev. Alice Olson; Alternate Clergy Delegate to Council, The Rev. Margaret W. Thomas; Lay Delegate to Council, Susan Dusek; Alternate Lay Delegate to Council, Carlyle Conrad. Youth delegate is Eric Olson from St. Paul's Duluth.

The Rev. Cannon Sandi Holmberg, Cannon Missioner for the North, thanked the leadership of the Region.

The Rev. Bill Van Oss, new Rector at St. Paul's Duluth was welcomed.

Discussion of starting time for meetings: It was agreed that future meetings will start at 9:00 a.m. The 10:00 a.m. start time will be used for February meeting to allow time for winter driving.

The Rev. Cindy Peterson-Wlosinski did a presentation on "Polity of the Episcopal Church". The presentation for the next meeting will be "Vestries, Anglican Identity".

General Convention: The Rev. Cannon Sandi Holmberg reported on the General Convention. She has attended four General Conventions. The Presiding Bishop is elected by the General Convention. The House of Bishops nominates and the House of Deputies concurs. Every resolution presented at General Convention must go through committees.

Diocesan Convention: Nominations are due in two weeks for Standing Committee, Commission on Ministry and Trustees. The Commission on Ministry works on Lay Ministry.

Trustees, Laura Budd: Trustees handle the assets of the Diocese and make recommendations to Council regarding loans, investments and audits. Being a Trustee is a time commitment but it is important to have representation outside the Metro area. We need to have our voices heard. There is an opening for one lay person for the Trustees of Seabury Western.

Clergy Conference: Anti-racism training, all clergy and lay leaders need this training. We need to be open to different cultural perspectives. The Rev. Steve Wloinski stated that the effect of racism training is consciousness raising. The Rev. Marta Maddy: The House of Bishops prays about the seriousness of racism every time they meet. Can we do something as a Region. The Rev. Margaret W. Thomas attends MCIW meetings and has been profoundly affected. The Rev. Alice Olson: We need to start with the power of prayer. The Rev. David Hill: We need to look beyond racism to the disabled, rich vs. poor and classism. The Rev. Cannon Sandi Holmberg recommended a book entitled "The Forest Lover" by Susan Vreeland. The Rev. Bill Van Oss: Video segments were compelling. Maybe we could use them in the Region. Racism is subtle in our part of the country.

The Rev. Steve Wlosinski: The Bishop of Uganda was at the conference and made an appeal for sewing machines for women in his area to move out of the cycle of abuse.

Trustees Report, Laura Budd: Put church funds into the Pooled Fund. There is a 5% return and the fees are lower. The fund is managed by Smith Barney. Funds can be put in and taken out on a monthly basis. ACG non-payment causing problems.

Lunch Break:

Council Report - Susan Dusek and the Rev. Margaret W. Thomas: the Council did a two day workshop on family systems and response to clergy evaluation of Bishop. Budget is OK. It is actually ahead of projections by approximately \$60,000.00. The Diocesan staff will be taking a good honest look at the health of each congregation, financial, spiritual and out reach. The Rev. Alice Olson reported on the future of mission in the Metro area. Stakeholders meeting, came about as part of the revival of Gethsemane. Jim Huber will do a presentation for Regions I and II if we will listen. Stakeholders came about in the mid 1940s and examined every planning by diocese, really looking at the Diocesan system. Based on past planning, the Diocese is unable to plant churches but plants by congregations have been successful. The Rev. Cannon Sandi Holmberg: There will be a Stakeholders meeting May 20th. There will be worship, committee presentations, small group discussions. Begin to look at what to do next. A number of metro churches have closed also – not just rural depopulation. There is an overall decline in numbers, be sobered, but do not lose hope.

Laura Budd: Four churches have closed and several have gone to mission status. Gethsemane is increasing. Goal is to have a presentation at convention in October.

Total Ministry: Team ministry in the Metro area is entirely possible. Cannon Missioner Holmberg has been asked to talk about total ministry in the Metro area. There is talk of a

church planting team. St. Mark's is thinking about total ministry. Grand Rapids and Hibbing churches no longer have rectors. May 13th there will be a meeting with the East Range churches, Hibbing and Grand Rapids. The financial picture is not optimistic. How can all five churches work together? Grand Rapids has already voted to move into total ministry. Indian ministry is a collaboration of total ministry, MCIW and St. Ed's.

Cannon Missioner's Report: The Cannon Missioners are considered field reps to the Diocese, liaison or contact person. Self care is the single most important part of the job. Need daily morning prayer, to remember that God is in charge, physical exercise, family and friends to keep her grounded.

Future communications: Web page and internet. People with e-mail can get information to those who do not have it. Minutes and agenda could be put on web site.

Report

Helen Hanten reported on the Mary Brown Environmental Center in Ely. It is up and running. The Environmental Stewardship Commission is using it and St. Mary's is holding services there. There will be a sale of items in the house that are not usable, antique items and World War II memorabilia. The house is available to rent. There is only a limited amount of time to prove that the center is self sufficient. Any gifts are appreciated. Please promote in congregations as a place to hold meetings and retreats. The piano needs \$4,500 in repairs. If the repairs are completed the piano will be worth \$25,000 to \$30,000. St. Mary's service is at 5:30 p.m. on Saturdays.

Environmental Stewardship Commission: Creation season liturgy based on resolution. Spirituality of Food, not totally completed, some of it is on the web site. Harvest themes for October 1 to All Saints Day are on the web. Lake Superior day is proposed for July 16th. Chuck Morello reported that the web site gets about 1,700 visits per day.

Faith Formation: Youth from Minnesota will be going to the National Cathedral September 17th. Youth from St. Andrew's by the Lake will be going to Madeline Island and the Cities for a pilot program in confirm and not conform.

Congregational Development: No funding for follow up. No report on marketing or the sale of 1710.

Youth: The Rev. Marta Maddy moved that the Region fund a youth delegate to Diocesan Convention. The Rev. Bill van Oss, second. Motion amended to include funding for two youth delegates.

Sharing

Trinity Hermantown reported that there are two new team members. Formation will start in the fall. Annual barter sale was a huge success. Team members had a retreat at Kaleva Island.

Steve Wlosinski: St. Luke's Hospital was founded 125 years ago by St. Paul's Duluth. Many staff and volunteers are Episcopalians.

John Wilms: Is privileged to do supply at St. Andrew's Moose Lake. Ron Renn reported that they have 12 plus John. St. John's Aitken has provided gifts of money to St. Andrews.

St. Paul's Duluth: Craig Spellerberg; St. Paul's will be having a plant sale and has a new rector. Carlyle Conrad is honored to be the alternate lay delegate to council and is the new "Altar Guild Queen"; The Rev. Bill van Oss is glad to be at St. Paul's. Laura Amendola will be attending a Young Adult North America conference at the U.N. for 5 days. Her business is doing well. She just hired her 7th employee. The Rev. Marta Maddy is doing supply work at Grand Rapids.

St. Andrew's by the Lake: They are working on peace and justice issues, women and poverty and Community Action Duluth fund raiser for loans for women to start up businesses. They have space issues. The space needs to be enlarged. At Baptism they are giving little stoles. The first ordination is the most important. There is group discussion on the DaVince Code, good leadership. There will be a Solstice celebration on June 21st, sunset at 9:07.

St. Edward's: The last service will be July 9th with a closing service on July 12th at 7:00p.m.

Next meeting will be September 30th or October 4th. There is a possibility of a joint meeting with Region on September 23rd. If the meeting is September 30th, it will be at Trinity Hermantown at 9:00.

Moved and seconded that meeting be adjourned.

Cannon Missioner led closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted:
Carol Schultz