

Standing Committee Meeting Summary May 18, 2009

1. On Wednesday, May 20, Fr. Art Tripp of Holy Trinity will celebrate his 50th anniversary in the priesthood. He will celebrate Eucharist at Diocesan House at noon on Tuesday. Fr. Colin read a letter from Fr. Art in which he indicated that he and Nilah will be moving to Guatemala City to assist within that Diocese. He will resign from all ministry and positions in the Diocese of the Rio Grande effective September 1, 2009. His last Sunday at Holy Trinity will be September 6 and they will depart for Guatemala on September 7. The Standing Committee and Deans expressed their appreciation to Fr. Art for his ministry and that of Nilah for the past 17 years in this Diocese.
2. In accordance with the diocesan **Constitution and Canons**, Standing Committee calls for a complete copy of the current bylaws of all parishes. These will need to be submitted to the Diocesan House by June 30 with documentation from the appropriate meeting that approved the most recent changes.
3. Standing Committee will distribute a clarification of the Diocesan Policy on Assets held by missions. The clarification reads as follows:

All assets, including real, personal and intangible property, held by missions in the Diocese of the Rio Grande are the property of the Diocese, subject to the authority of the Bishop or the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese and to the provisions of Canon 6 of the Canons of the Diocese of the Rio Grande. All liquid assets of every Diocesan mission, including but not limited to, bequests, gifts, endowments, and proceeds from the sale of property, with the exception of funds, held in normal operating accounts, are to be deposited in the Diocesan Pooled Investment Fund, in accordance with the provisions of Canon 6 of the Canons of the Diocese of the Rio Grande.
4. Carolyn Waller was approved as the new representative to Episcopal Relief and Development.
5. The Standing Committee approved its email vote for Grace Church's call to The Rev. Rodney Hurst.
6. Update on Convocation: The program is currently being designed with workshops being offered each day of convocation. Bible study will be done in small groups. This year's convocation will run from Thursday to Saturday October 15-17, in El Paso, Texas.
7. Strategic Plan: The Standing Committee and Deans met on May 6 to develop a strategic plan for the next 12 months. Input from the New Life Retreats and the Focus Groups were examined. A vision statement was developed and 5 goals identified. Between now and the July meeting, an action plan will be developed for each goal.

Vision Statement: We, the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande, come together through prayer and worship to listen, learn, serve, and grow in our life in Christ.

The goals are:

 - 1 We will establish trust and achieve unity in diversity. *Let's come together.*
 2. We will create a comprehensive Christian and spiritual formation initiative across the Diocese. *Let's learn together!*
 3. We will facilitate the sharing and support of resources and best practices for mission and outreach ministry in the church and in the world. *Let's serve together!*

4. We will develop a Diocesan Communications System that provides accessible, timely, and transparent information that encourages two-way communication. *Let's listen together!*

5. We will develop resources and provide support for the individual needs of congregations. *Let's grow together!*

8. St. Michael's and All Angels: Members of the congregation presented an update of their building program. It is anticipated that they will break ground in October, 2009, and that the building will be completed in April, 2010. A loan for \$1,000,000 has been secured to obtain 2 pieces of property and build one building. They anticipate being debt free in four years.

9. Adequate insurance: The Budget and Audit Committee has raised the concern to the Trustees of the Property that there are some churches that may not be adequately insured. It was noted that proof of insurance is provided in the annual budget report. Follow up contact will be made with congregations not covered by the Church Insurance of Vermont and the where the Diocese does not know which insurance company is being used.

10. Bishop Frey will be responding to the Ember Day letters

11. Nominations and Resolutions Committees: The Very Rev. Tom Gray will chair Resolutions and will identify one person from each deanery to serve on the committee. Deacon Bill Lock has been appointed as chair of the Nominations Committee.

12. The 2009 Convocation Secretary will be The Rev. Canon Michael Perko.

13. Communications: The new web site will be online by the May 22nd. An email will be sent to the diocesan lists to announce when it is available.

14. Search Team: The Diocesan profile and the application, when published, will be posted on the new website. Notification will go out when it is available.

15. Transition Team: The retreat for the candidates has been moved to the middle of the walkabouts rather than at the beginning. This will allow for a rest break for the candidates.

16. Deployment Team: There are 40 to 50 people, both within the Diocese and outside, who have expressed interest in positions in the Diocese. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2009 to develop the protocol to send names to the churches with openings in the Diocese.

17. Companion Diocese: Bishop Tito Zavala visited the Diocese. There is interest in on the part of the Diocese of Chile of continuing our companion Diocese. Other considerations are the Dioceses of Western Mexico, Missionary Diocese of Navajoland and a Diocese in India.

18. We thank the House of Hope mission group from Trinity on the Hill for their presentation on their work in Juarez. The Standing Committee will continue to review the situation of violence in Mexico at each meeting.