Meeting of the
DIOCESAN COUNCIL
Diocesan House at the Bosque Center, Albuquerque, NM
August 14, 2019, 10:00 a.m.

Members Present:
The Right Rev’d Michael Hunn, President (via Zoom)
Mr. John Perner, Treasurer (via Zoom)
Mr. Tony Sarconi, Vice Dean, Northeast Deanery (via Zoom)
The Very Rev’d Kristin Kopren, Northwest Area Dean (via Zoom)
The Very Rev’d Laurie Benavides, Southwest Area Dean (via Zoom)
Mr. Derrick Washington, Vice Dean, Southwest Deanery (via Zoom)
The Rev’d Dale Plummer, Convention 2019 (via Zoom)
Mr. Tim Kruse, Convention 2019 (via Zoom)
The Rev’d Jim Gordon, Convention 2020 (via Zoom)
The Rev. Jan Hosea, Liaison from the Standing Committee (via Zoom)
The Rev’d Canon A. Raymond Raney, CATO & Recording Secretary (via Zoom)

Members Absent with Cause:
The Very Rev’d Christopher Adams, Northeast Area Dean
The Very Rev’d Alan Brockmeier, Southeast Area Dean
Dr. Anne Marie Werner-Smith, Vice Dean, Northwest Deanery
Ms. Cathy Bailey, Vice President, Convention 2020
Mr. Frank Gallegos, Vice Dean, Southeast Deanery

Bishop’s Report
Bishop Hunn remarked on the facility of working by Zoom.
Bishop updated Council on diocesan activities in El Paso. He has spent a number of days in El Paso. Even by Sunday the community had begun to come together. The community of El Paso and Juarez was evident. A community meeting Thursday launched efforts on deciding how churches will work together. Mr. Washington, whose daughter was asked to share her reactions to the community, remarked on the efforts in the community to come together and grasp the meaning of the events. “El Paso Strong” has become the motto of the community, and there seems to be little if any resentment of those who are not Latino or Hispanic. The attendance of Bishop Hunn in El Paso is much appreciated. Bishop noted at a cousin of a parishioner at St. Christopher’s was killed in the attack. Bishop related his three-week Spanish immersion in Costa Rica. He and Canon Lee Curtis are working out ways of communicating in Spanish.

2020 Proposed Budget Review
Bishop opened the discussion on the budget roadshows, and outlined the ways in which the budget process has changed from the ways in which the process was done in the past. This is a shift on how the Diocese talks about money. Reports were received concerning each of the Deanery presentations.

Comments from Northeast: Concerns expressed about the youth missioner position, aided congregations, questions about the Bishop’s School for
Ministry. The questions was on small matters. Elimination of POB funds was criticized. This may note a resident distrust under a new Bishop doing something different.

Comments from Northwest: The main topics were: POB, questions about diversity, questions about staff, youth minister’s job description. Several written responses were also sent to Council. Issues also were raised about adding staff. The underlying issue is lack of trust based on the history of the Diocese even in the positive response to the new Bishop. Bishop Hunn noted the Youth Minister was a reaction to expressed needs by congregations.

Comments from Southeast: Concerns raised were similar to the other deanery concerns, including staff job descriptions, the POB funding, etc. Concerns also were raised about aid to congregations, and no understanding about what the curate pilot program would involve. Option raised was downsizing POB rather than eliminating it. There is a question of trust and faith.

Comments from Southwest: There was little concern about the POB. Concern was raised about Borderland funding, Native American funding, Hispanic/Latino ministry refocus. The value moving forward would need to be that the deanery leadership brief the budget to their deanery. Bishop Hunn expressed shared concern for clarity in lines of effort and goals for ministry.

Strategy moving forward: Bishop Hunn summarized the needs: Money with sense of what will happen without POB; Support on how to grow congregations in ministry; Trust – desire for trust but not sure on trust for decision making and expensing; POB concern about paying in and asking back to provide for congregations’ needs – how to shift to build trust; Time to adapt to the new way of doing things so they know they have been heard; Communication clarity such as youth minister job description; provide clarity on what staff does – multiple jobs for little money; how convention is funded; Inform congregations this is first year going forward; Need to show diversity in future years.

Addressing the Needs: Summary document on the budget process and a response to concerns and possible ways of moving forward, including allocating funds for a modified POB program.

ACTION: A motion was approved to end the Poverty and Outreach Board and to establish a new approach to provide “venture capital funds” for ministry and outreach.

ACTION: A Task Force was established to define the “venture capital” approach and establish criteria for distribution. Appointed: Chair Laurie Benavides and members Derrick Washington, Jan Hosea and Canon Lee Curtis.

ACTION: The Treasurer was tasked to determine the amount that would be available for the fund from the 2020 draft budget with a target of $40,000.