Diocesan Council Meeting  
Thursday, September 8, 2016  
Grace Church, East Concord

Attendance:  
Hannah Anderson, Gail Avery, Steve Baker, Ray Bonin, Michael Bradley, Lucy Crichton, Richard Davenport, Gloria Gallant, Bishop Rob Hirschfeld, Nancy Hunt, Terry Knowles, Janet Lombardo, Kathy Lennox, Jack Lewis, Charles Montgomery, Chris Porter, Margaret Porter (Moderator), Barbara Serafina, Robin Soller, Carol Twomey (Secretary).

Opening  
Canon Hannah Anderson led opening devotions from Daily Prayer for All Seasons. The Bishop welcomed Robin Soller, new clergy representative from the Lakes Region Convocation. Members introduced themselves by stating name, parish, Council role, and brief highlights of their summers.

Reports and Updates  
Diocesan Council Retreat: The retreat was scheduled for a little later than usual this year, and many members are unable to attend. Various dates and locations were discussed, but no final decision was made. The theme for this year’s retreat will be “Flourishing.”

Transition Ministry: Hannah reported on the various transitions taking place around the diocese. She also gave an update in sabbaticals.

Financial Review: Gloria Gallant, Finance Manager, gave a financial review and an overview of the structure of the report. Currently, we are ahead of target, but things will even out by the end of the year. Fair Share compliance is good so far, which is encouraging. Anyone with questions should contact Gloria.

Mission Resources: Steve Baker reported on the Mission Resources Committee. The committee met this week for the first time since June. There is $80,000 in the budget. About three-fourths of it is allocated; $20,000 remains. There is still time to fund ministries or missions from these grants. If congregations are starting projects now, they should consider applying. In June, a $5000 grant was given to Trinity Meredith to help with their new thrift shop. Church of the Good Shepherd, Nashua, received $3000 for their “Walking in the Light” program. Fair Share adjustment dates will be set. There will be two opportunities in January/February for applicants to meet with fellow congregations and talk about Fair Share, before any mutually decided adjustments are made.

Discussion Items  
Fair Share Resolution: After the last Fair Share Adjustment process, several clergy and delegates to Convention prepared a resolution for Convention 2016. The resolution requested that the process be reconsidered. The Resolutions Committee decided not to consider it; many felt that it would be better for the request be taken to Council instead. In the recent past, the Fair Share process has been studied extensively and has been determined to indeed be “fair.” Benge Ambrogi is asked to go back and recheck the work of the original study committee. After Benge’s research, a letter will be drafted by the Bishop, Chris Porter, Kevin Nichols, and Steve Baker. They will present it at the October meeting.

Bishop’s Time  
Bishop Rob will be attending the House of Bishops meeting in Michigan next week. He and several other bishops have been asked by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry to prepare a statement expressing “The Mind of the House” in reference to societal and political turbulence.
October Agenda Items

- Consider a response to the Fair Share Resolution letter
- House of Bishops report
- Province-wide pilgrimage from Colebrook to the sea
- Update on retreat
- Updates on Our Kids, campus ministries

Closing Prayers & Dismissal

The meeting was adjourned after closing devotions using Daily Prayer for All Seasons.

Events

No Council meeting in November
Diocesan Convention, Saturday, November 7th, Grappone Center, Concord

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Twomey, Secretary