**REGION IV COUNCIL**

Regular Meeting

September 20, 2017

Meade Memorial Episcopal Church

PRESENT:

* Christ Church: Geoff Giovanetti, Betsy L. Hahn, Susan Hahn
* Church of St. Clement: Annette Foster, Robin Razzino
* Church of the Resurrection: Betsy Faga
* Emmanuel Church: Very Rev. Chuck McCoart, **Dean**
* Grace Church: Michael S. Jones
* Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill: Rev. Randy Alexander, Hance Haney
* Meade Memorial Church: Rev. Collins Asonye, Thomas Jones
* St. Paul’s Church: Bob Steventon
* Guests: Doris Ablard (St. Paul’s), Yvonne Folkerts, Nelson E. Greene, Jr. (Meade Memorial), Joseph E. Royster, Sr. (Meade Memorial), Rose Royster (Meade Memorial)

Our gathering began at 7:32 pm with our collective reading of the opening prayer as listed in the agenda.

Approval of Minutes:The minutes from May 24, 2017 were approved as distributed.

Guest Speaker: Yvonne Folkerts, Chair of the Alexandria Tutoring Consortium, and Doris Ablard, Board Member, explained that the Consortium is a 501(c) nonprofit organization that works in the Alexandria public schools—in partnership with Alexandria’s faith community—tutoring kindergarten and fist grade students to read at grade level by the second grade. The need for volunteer tutors is great, and they ask that we place announcements in our parish bulletins and/or newsletters. They will draft and supply an announcement we can use. Volunteers receive training and lesson plans from professionals and do not require a background in teaching. Tutoring is for 30 minutes twice a week with the same student in their school during normal school hours throughout the school year.

The Alexandria Tutoring Consortium suggests that we use the following announcement in our bulletins and/or newsletters:

*The Alexandria Tutoring Consortium is a 501(c)3 organization that is looking for community volunteers to tutor kindergarten and first grade students enrolled in the Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS).  Students identified for this program, which uses a curriculum called "Book Buddies" developed by the University of Virginia's Curry School of Education, are considered "on the bubble" in that they are just below reading on grade level and need help to end the year on or above grade level.  The organization will train you as a tutor and guide you throughout the year with lesson plans.  Each student is paired with a community volunteer for  two, 30-minute session every week.  Tutoring will begin in the following schools around October 16:  Cora Kelly Elementary School, John Adams Elementary School, Lyles Crouch Elementary School, Maury Elementary School, Patrick Henry Elementary School, James K. Polk Elementary School, and William Ramsay Elementary School.  Please consider signing up and helping a child learn to read!  It's easy to do:  go to alexandriatutors.org and you will see a sign-up button on the home page.  The organization will follow up with you and help you become a tutor!*

Dean’s Report: The Deans met last week and had two hours of conversation with the Bishop.

* The restructuring of the regions has generally received very positive feedback.
* He still feels “ten feet off the ground” as a result of the Presiding Bishop’s visit to Charlottesville about two weeks ago. He thought that Michael Curry was “magical, amazing” and that his visit was incredibly helpful.
* The Diocese planned to take a slightly more low key approach in regard to the rally that occurred this past Saturday—the demonstrators called themselves the “Confederate State of America II”—and apparently it was fairly sane compared to the earlier rally.
* The Intercultural Summit had been relocated from Epiphany, Herndon to Richmond in anticipation of the most recent rally, and the Bishop hoped that the summit would be a big success.
* The upcoming convention will be a one-day convention at Christ Church, Glen Allen (parking on the grass will be permitted). Registration is open, and every parish needs to select delegates. There will be two gatherings—a council and a convention—as we transition to a new schedule.
* The new visitation schedule is taking root. It emphasizes quality over quantity, and the few parishes that have had their visitations so far seem to appreciate more face time with the Bishops.
* Bishop Gulick will retire on Dec. 31st. The Dioocese will elect another Suffragan Bishop. The process will begin at convention and could take a year to complete.

Executive Board Rep Report: Rev. Collins Asonye (see attached written report)

* Father Collins welcomed the Region IV delegates to Meade Memorial Church, to the room where the Meade Memorial Church Bag Lunch Program takes place with assistance from Region IV.
* The Meade Foundation is now up and running.
* Bright Mind Preschool—which gathers at Meade Memorial Church—passed a followup inspection as part of its license renewal with flying colors, and the Region IV Council letter (see May 24, 2017 minutes) is appreciated. Students are needed—four are signed up so far.
* Region IV will become the Alexandria Region following the convention in November.
* The visit of the Presiding Bishop was an inspiration. He said some of the problem we have across the nation and even in local churches is that we do not take enough time to learn each other and hear each other’s story, and when the relationship is not deep enough people find different avenues to express their anger or the words they could not have in their relationship. He said that we should all go back and hear the story of one another in our local parishes.

Treasurer’s Report: Barbie could not be present, but her written report was received. The two uncleared checks were briefly discussed. Father Randy will follow up with Immanuel-on-the-Hill’s treasurer.

Old Business:

1. Rebecca Shannon was unanimously elected as Region IV’s Youth Delegate. Her letter is attached. Support for appointing both a delegate and an alternate at the same time was expressed. However, there were no nominations for an alternate this time around.

Bill Martin, Assistant to the Secretary and the “guru” of all things Diocesan Convention, says the Diocese is still receiving Youth Delegate certifications and if a church has a nomination that we could consider for the alternate spot, it is not a problem. But the sooner the better.

Information on Youth Delegate is located at: https://www.episcopalchurch.org/posts/publicaffairs/applications-now-accepted-official-youth-presence-episcopal-church-general

1. Susan Hahn has agreed to manage our Region IV website and make sure the posting of minutes and other information about us and our activities is up to date. She can be contacted at susanlhahn17@gmail.com.
2. June Huber’s written report from the Regional President’s Retreat, June 16-17, was received (see attached). There were no questions or comments.
3. June Huber’s written report from the Meeting with the Presideing Bishop, September 7, was received (see attached). There were no questions or comments.

New Business:

1. Annual Convention scheduled for November 4, 2017, at Christ Church in Glen Allen, VA. One day only. Council members who plan to attend must register at <http://www.thediocese.net>.
2. Nominations (including self-nominations) of Lay Delegate to the Executive Board for a 3-year term starting Jan 2018. Election will take place at the November meeting. Send electronic nominations to June Huber at junehuber@verizon.net. Whoever is elected can go to the Executive Board December meeting with The Rev. Collins Asonye.

**Our next meeting will be 7:30pm Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at Emmanuel Episcopal Church 1608 Russell Rd, Alexandria, VA 22301 (Secretary: Emmanuel Episcopal Church)**

**Region IV meeting Secretary responsibilities 2017-2018:**

February 8, 2017 Meade Memorial

May 24, 2017 Christ Church

September 20, 2017 Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

November 15, 2017 Emmanuel

Feb 21, 2018 Resurrection

May 23, 2018 Saint Paul’s

September 19, 2018 Saint Clement

November 21, 2018 Grace

**Region IV meeting host church responsibilities 2017-2018:**

\*Wednesday, February 8, 2017 Grace Church

\*Wednesday, May 24, 2017 St. Paul's Church

\*Wednesday, September 20, 2017 Meade Memorial, including potluck dinner

\*Wednesday, November 15, 2017 Emmanuel

\*Wednesday, February 21, 2018 Saint Clement

\*Wednesday, May 23, 2018 Resurrection

\*Wednesday, September 19, 2018 Christ Church, including potluck dinner

\*Wednesday, November 21, 2018 Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m. following our saying of the closing prayer from the distributed agenda.

Respectfully,

Hance Haney – Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

Secretary for this meeting

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**ONCE AROUND – INFORMATION TO SHARE / PUBLICIZE**

Christ Church – Cindi Bartol

Church of the Resurrection – Betsy Faga

Church of St. Clement – Annette Foster

Saint Clement Thrift and Gift Shop (new name) is open Fridays and Saturdays 10AM to 1PM.  Your contributions of new or gently worn clothing, shoes, accessories, jewelry, toys, books, housewares, and small appliances may be dropped off during shop hours.  Please ensure items are clean and unbroken.

Saint Clement parishioner and certified Yoga instructor teaches free yoga classes in St. Clement children’s chapel Wednesday nights 6:30-7:30. All are welcome. Bring your own mat!

Emmanuel Church – Chuck McCoart

Grace – Jean Reed and June Huber

Immanuel church-on-the-Hill – David Crosby

Meade Memorial Church – Collins Asonye

St. Paul’s – Karen Grane