

Alexandria Regional Council
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, May 22, 2019
St. Paul's Church
228 S Pitt St, Alexandria, VA 22314

PRESENT:

- Christ Church: Susan Hahn, President, Cindi Bartol, Secretary, Betsy Hahn
- Church of St. Clement: Diana McDonald, Robin Razzino+
- Church of the Resurrection: Betsy Faga, Jo Belser+
- Emmanuel Church: absent
- Grace Church: Michael Jones, Jean Reed,
- Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill: Randy Alexander+, Dean
- Meade Memorial Church: absent
- St. Paul's Church: Karen Grane
- Guests: Bishop Bob Ihloff, assisting bishop of our diocese, Marilyn Bromley, Christ Church, and Kat Turner, Church of the Resurrection

Our gathering began at 7:00 pm with refreshments and we opened with the prayer offered by VP Betsy Faga at 7:30pm.

After introducing ourselves, the President welcomed our guest, the Rt. Rev. Bob Ihloff, and gave a brief biographical sketch about him. He shared much conversation with us:

- He hopes to visit each clericus and each regional council this year
- He has been responsible for creating a new contract for our diocesan Deacons who serve in places at the choice of the Bishop.
- Has a full staff meeting at Mayo House the last week of each month
- He often spends the night before his Sunday visitation with parishioners of the hosting church
- He has been with us much longer than initially anticipated but is enjoying what he does. The diocese hopes, in the near future, to call an assisting bishop for a 2-year stint who will be based in northern Virginia
- There might be a call for the election of a bishop diocesan at the Diocesan Convention in 2020
- The office of CEO and Secretary of the diocese will be filled in August.
- Virginia is 1 of 3 dioceses in The Episcopal Church without mandatory giving by each church for support of the diocese
- Job descriptions are being created for each position on the staff – the ebb and flow of responsibilities from one area to another with nothing specific in place makes it hard to have a yearly evaluation of expectations made and met
- The consultants' work is nearly complete
- We are looking for ways that the 3 diocese in Virginia can do more collaborative work that mirrors our very effective partnership in the education and preparation of deacons.
- What can the diocese do for us?
 - # **St. Clement's** – raved about the stewardship program materials available and the mustard seed grants
 - # **Grace** – thankful for the caring portrait that Bishop Shannon showed us in the commitment to prayerful dialogue with the rector of the CANA congregation
 - # **Resurrection** – diocesan staff needs to be more responsive requests for assistance and needed information; many times the voicemail boxes of those trying to be reached were full; staff needs to be more nimble/flexible in thinking out of the box
- we need to realize that we are not going to be the church that we once were – any place, not just in Virginia and what we might be doing more effectively through evangelism

Approval of Minutes: motion was made by Karen Grane, seconded by Michael Jones and passed, that the minutes submitted from the November 2019 meeting be approved and distributed by Jean Reed, secretary. There was no meeting in February due to snow

Treasurer's Report: the budget, distributed by treasurer Barbie Frank in advance, had as the only new expense the paying to the diocese for support of the web site (\$40.00/\$10.00 each month). She will be sending 2019 invoices to each church soon.

Dean's Report:

- At this time, Clericus meets every other month.
- Churches in the region who have more than one clergy on staff, have been supporting each other with the lending of a clergy person when a last-minute emergency happens.
- Having conversations about the shrinking of oversight structure and also the need for evangelism

Executive Board Rep report: comments by Bishop Bob in the absence of a report from Bob Steventon who was traveling:

- A sub-committee has been formed to investigate what other dioceses are doing in some specific areas
- Looking at ways to reduce the costs associated with Annual Convention – (1) one-day convention; (2) use a mega church of another denomination to hold the meeting rather than in a hotel; (3) evaluating the structure of Diocesan Convention

President's Report: The Presidents of the regions will have their annual meeting with Bishop Bob at Shrine Mont on June 14 and 15. Neither Susan nor Betsy is able to attend; Cindi Bartol who is on the mountain for Christ Church annual gathering, will attend. There will be no expense incurred by the region because of this overlap.

New Business:

- Discussion of outreach projects financial support will be taken up at a future meeting
- Please refer to the information sent about Youth Delegate to Convention and talk with the youth in your congregations. A call for nominees will be distributed electronically this summer and we, perhaps will vote electronically.
- Cindi Bartol passed out the Outreach brochure from Christ Church and asked that others gather information from their churches so that the outreach sub-committee of our region might look at where our efforts overlap but take place on different days and people from one church could support the effort at another church if the dates worked better for schedules. We would like to know what each of us is doing and how we can work together. This information can then also be put on our web site.
- A reminder to submit the **Way of Love** activities/focus times being done by our parishes to be included in our meeting reports so that we might assist the diocese with this information.
- Information about becoming a volunteer chaplain at INOVA Hospital, Alexandria, will be sent to the secretary by Michael Jones to be included with the minutes, along with a praying time he has constructed based on the **Way of Love** materials provided by the Most Rev Michael Curry, presiding bishop. All are welcome to use these materials.

The next meeting will be at Emmanuel Church, Russell Road and High Street on Wednesday, September 18, 2019

We expressed our thanks to bishop Bob for being with us and bid him safe travels to Charlottesville in the morning for a full day of meetings. A motion to adjourn was made at 9:05 pm and affirmed by all.

Respectfully,
Cindi Bartol, Secretary

WAY OF LOVE ACTIVITIES

Grace Church: Since December 2018, Grace Church's experience in the Way of Love has been from the pulpit, in articles in our newsletter *Grace Notes*, in our Sunday morning Adult Forum, and in personal prayer and study based on the seven Way of Love "little books of guidance. The Way of Love has been the focus of our five-week Monday night series in Lent, which examined each of the Way of Love steps: Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Go, and Rest, diving deeply into their importance in our individual and collective faith experience.

ONCE AROUND – INFORMATION SHARED

Grace Church:

Ascension Day Festival Eucharist, Thursday, May 30, 7:30 p.m.

Youth Sunday, June 2

Choral Eucharist with Senior Sermons and Rite 13 Ceremony, 9:00 a.m.

Choral Evensong led by the Boys and Girls Choir, 5:00 p.m.

Pentecost, June 9

Bilingual Eucharist, 9:00 a.m.

Festival Eucharist, 11:15 a.m., with Ordination of Chaplain (US Army) Marta Conway to the Priesthood by the Bishop Suffragan for the Armed Forces

Summer Service Schedule begins June 16

Holy Eucharist, 7:30 a.m.

La Santa Eucaristía, 9:00 a.m. in the nave

Choral Eucharist, 10:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist, 5:00 p.m.

Journey to Adulthood Pilgrimage to Iceland and Ireland, June 23 -29

Vacation Bible School with Christ Church and Immanuel-on-the-Hill, June 24-28

Independence Day Holy Eucharist, Thursday, July 4, 12:15 p.m.

Welcome Jason Roberson as Associate Rector, July 7

Grace Episcopal School Classes begin, September 4

Shrine Mont Parish Weekend, Friday – Sunday, 6 – 9 September