**Alexandria Regional Council**

**May 23, 2018**

**Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was opened in prayer.

**Members Present:** Christ Church

 Geoff Giovanetti

 Cindi Bartol

Melanie Gray

 Betsy Hahn

 Emmanuel Episcopal Church

 Chuck McCourt

 Grace Episcopal Church

 June Huber

 Jean Read

 St. Clement’s

 Robin Razzino

 Annette Foster

 St. Paul’s

 Alyse Viggiano

 Bob Steventon

 Church of the Resurrection

 Joe Belser

 Betsy Faga

**Minutes Approval:** The minutes of the last meeting of the Council on November 15, 2018 were approved by those present.

**REPORTS**

**Outreach Report & Budget:** The Outreach Report was presented by Betsy Faga and Melanie Gray. The report summarized all activities in which the Regional Council is involved, with special emphasis on West End Lazarus as operated from Church of the Resurrection. Handouts were provided to the Council entailing sources of funds, types of Lazarus client requests for

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assisstance, frequency of client visits, and demographic and geographic breakdowns of the population served. During 2017, West End Lazarus assisted 500 clients with a total distribution of $92,468.10 in emergency funding. That same amount of funds was raised through parish contributions in the Alexandria Region, a grant secured by Christ Church, and individual donations. In 2019, it is anticipated that the total funds secured will be down by $37.5K, since the grant secured by Christ Church in support of the program will no longer be available. Therefore, funds will need to be raised through other means. The council will look into initiating a “hymn fest” event to include Episcopal and other denominational choirs. Hopefully, this event can be held at VTS. Other issues discussed included advocating for the return of security deposits to clients of Lazarus when they move to new housing and assisting unaccompanied immigrant minors with housing and living expenses. Assistance for unaccompanied minors may be provided through a parish lay committee format, to be discussed at the next Council meeting.

The Outreach Budget was distributed to and approved by the Council, with the proviso the amounts spent will be contingent on the level of funds available.

**Dean’s Report:** The next Clericus meeting will be held on June 5 at noon, at Emmanuel Episcopal Church. The guest speaker will be Aisha Huertas, Director of Mission, Outreach and Diversity, Diocese of Virginia. Her focus will be on the outreach work of the Diocese.

**Vestry of the Diocese (VOD) Report:** Since the Committee did not meet during the Winter, two VOD reports were presented: from 02/15/18, Orange, VA and 04/12/18, Winchester, VA. Copies were distributed to members present and were posted on the Alexandria Region website.

Key elements from the Orange report included the following: the strategic direction of the Diocese, definition of the roles of the Program Committee and the Finance Committee, election of the executive committee of the VOD, approval of the Empowerment Resolution of the Diocesan Canon, a presentation by Virginia Diocesan Homes, and the Treasurer’s Report. The Treasurer’s report stated that the Trust of the Funds (TOTF) balance for the year (2017) was up by 15.05% for a balance of $149.8 million. January saw an additional 3.2% increase for a balance of $151.3 million on January 31, 2018.

Key elements from the Winchester report included the following: an update on the suffragan bishop search, which closed for applications on April 29; update on the 79th General Convention which will take up the issues of revisions and updates to TITLE IV of the Canon (i.e., disciplinary actions), communion of the un-baptised, and whether the President of the House of Delegates should be a salaried position; a report on the Committee on Congregational Mission (CCM) in support of seven mission churches in the Diocese which is the second largest line item in the budget at $83,550; the approval for developing a strategic plan for the Diocese to be headed by the Very Reverend Ian Markham (VTS); the Secretaries report on the Episcopal

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Service Corps Program at Grace-on-the-Hill in Richmond; and the Treasurer’s report citing that 95% of estimated revenues were collected in the 1st quarter of 2018 and 97% of the estimated expenses were incurred. The working group discussions (finance, program, and regional presidents) focused on the following: status of non-ecclesical real properties own by the Diocese, awarding of $11,000 in Mustard Seed Grants and $9,000 in Peter James Lee Small Church Revitalization Grants to parishes in the Diocese, and coping with issues resulting from re-districting regions in the Diocese (specifically the Culpepper and North Fairfax regions).

**Treasurer’s Report:** No report was submitted.

**OLD BUSINESS**

* New regional website is <http://alexandria.thediocese.net/default.asp>
* Status on the Suffragan Bishop search was distributed to Council by the Council President and is posted on the regional website.
* At this time, there is no youth delegate or youth alternate delegate for the November convention. No one has been nominated, so an “all parish call” will go out this week.
* April 28 Opioid Crisis meeting: no one from this council attended.
* Lenten Series Report: participation reached 40-50 people at each event and was deemed a success. The question of what to do next year was raised and tabled until the September meeting.
* Resurrection construction & development project was discussed. All entities in city government that had approval authority over this project approved unanimously. The city has committed $9.0 million to the venture. The tax credit process is currently in the “challenge stage” and the next project rankings will be issued on May 31. The final vote on the issuing of tax credits by the Virginia Housing & Redevelopment Authority will be made public on June 13, 2018.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Retirement community residents and letters of affiliation were briefly discussed and will be held until the September meeting. **The next meeting of the Council will be held on September 19,** **2018, at 7:30 in Christ Church and will be a potluck dinner**. The meeting schedule for 2019 is as follows:

February 18, 2019 Grace

May 22, 2019 St. Paul’s

September 18, 2019 Emmanuel

December 4, 2019 St. Clement

**Meeting Closed**