**Region IV Council**

September 16, 2015

Church of St. Clement

PRESENT:

* Christ Church: Rev Heather VanDeventer, Geoff Giovanetti, Susan Hahn
* Church of St. Clement: Very Rev John Hortum, Annette Foster
* Church of the Resurrection: Rev Jo Belser, Betsy Faga, Beth Wiggers
* Emmanuel Church: Rev Chuck McCoart, Vonda Delawie, Barbie Frank
* Grace Church: June Huber
* Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill: Rev Randolph Alexander, Rev David Crosby, Kerry Kelly
* Meade Memorial Church: Rev Collins Asonye
* St. Paul’s Church: *none*

President Beth Wiggers opened the meeting, with a blessing on the pot luck dinner.

Diane Charles, Executive Director of ALIVE! updated us regarding their activities:

ALIVE! is the largest safety net group in Alexandria, having been in operation for 46 years and composed of 43 churches and religious groups. They serve over 2000 people on the last Saturday of each month from three food distribution sites: Old Town, North Alexandria, and West End.

ALIVE! has provided financial assistance totaling $311,000 to 1,298 people. ALIVE! is now part of “Hunger-Free Alexandria”, and linked by the city to all food pantries. They also provide a full-day preschool program (2-1/2—5 years old), serving 35 children in three classes.

ALIVE! operates ALIVE! House, a shelter for women and children, providing temporary family housing and stressing parenting skills, education, career development, and financial independence. Volunteers provide a furniture program, collecting and delivering $112,000 of donated furniture to 312 in-need families.

Ms Charles concluded her presentation by mentioning that current ALIVE! needs are shown on their website, but specifically mentioning money for financial assistance, laptop computers for their three locations, and book donations for distribution in late October.

Minutes of the May 20, 2015 meeting: Approved as written.

Treasurer’s Report: The Treasurer’s Report is attached, and was approved as presented, with the comment that Outreach checks were sent out on September 11.

Old Business: Revs Alexander and Crosby presented updates on the youth gathering proposed at the February meeting. The event will be a large bonfire at Immanuel-on-the-Hill Church on October 25, bringing together all of the Region’s youth groups (6th through 12th grades) for pumpkin carving, food, and a service of Compline.

New Business: Rev Belser led a lengthy discussion on the Region’s Lenten Series options. The Region chose the Harry Potter series for 2016.

Rev Asonye announced that the consecration of Michael Curry as Presiding Bishop is scheduled for noon on November 1 at the National Cathedral. Meade Memorial will host live streaming of the consecration for those unable to obtain tickets. Please let Meade know if you plan to attend.

Rev Asonye indicated Irene Bender will be responsible for Meade’s bag lunch program, which will also feature a computer training and repair programs.

Also he mentioned that Rev Nathan Baxter will lead a Lecture and Conversation on Race Relations at Mead Memorial on November 8 (9:45 am Service). There will also be an activity at Meade on November 7th.

Dean’s Report: Dean Hortum advised that the bishops were in the process of revising their visitation program for the coming year. They wished to be more creative about their visitation, to include weekday and Sunday afternoon visits. Bishop Shannon is on sabbatical.

Executive Board Rep report: Rev Crosby indicated that bishop visits had been visiting each parish once a year, but will begin in 2017 to visit all 81 parishes on an 18-to-24-month rotation. Bishop Susan will speak June 2016 at the Diocese of Liverpool. 2016 Council will address racial reconciliation.

Rev Crosby said the Alcohol Task Force guidelines will be presented at Council.

Geoff Giovanetti presented a report on Child and Family Network Centers (attached).

President Wiggers reported the Region needed to recruit among our delegates to stand for nomination as the Region’s officers. All officers will be subject to change after Council. Barbie Frank indicated willingness to continue as Treasurer. We will also need to select a Youth Delegate to Council.

**November 18 will be the next Region IV Meeting**, which will feature election of Officers. Resurrection will provide the secretary.

There being no further business, June Huber moved to adjourn, which was seconded and approved by all.



Respectfully, Geoffrey N. Giovanetti

Secretary for this meeting



**Report to Region IV Episcopal Churches**  *September 16, 2015*

We began this year’s full school year with nine classrooms serving 148 children and their families. This is down from the last school year—*not because the need is any less*—but because our resources have been reduced and will only support those nine classrooms.

Foundations which had been contributing in the past removed support because of reasons beyond CFNC’s control (one example is Freddie Mac’s cessation of grant funds, down from $100,000+ per year previously). Total revenue shortfall was over $200,000, which required immediate action to continue our mission.

We have decided to enroll a limited amount of children whose parents would pay full market rates for preschool, as a means to bring in additional income to pay for programs. CFNC has two classrooms at the Charles Houston center, a neighborhood where the demographics have rapidly changed. While we are still serving our at-risk population in the Houston neighborhood, it has become an ideal location to reach out to parents who can pay market rates for top-notch preschool.

Paring teachers and staff is the other part of the equation required to keep our budget in balance. We expect this year’s personnel reductions will enable us to better meet our goals in this and in subsequent years—without significantly diminishing services to our core families.

We are acutely aware that CFNC is dependent on the local community for its financial support. We are grateful for the continued generosity of Episcopal churches and their parishioners. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Geoffrey N. Giovanetti

Region IV Designate to the CFNC Board

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**ONCE AROUND THE CHURCHES**

*Reports were received from the following churches:*

**Immanuel-on-the-Hill** will have a Blessing of Animals on September 27. IOH will be selling pumpkins prior to Halloween, and encouraged all to support.

**Saint Clement**:   
The Saint Clement Thrift Shop is open Friday and Saturday 10AM-1PM.  
The Saint Clement School is back in session.  
The Saint Clement Vestry will meet with The Rev Mary Brennan Thorpe, Director of Transition Ministry on Tuesday, 22 September. The Very Rev. John Hortum will retire Fall 2016.   
The Northern Alexandria Native Plant Sale will be held at Saint Clement on Saturday, September 26.  

**Christ Church:**

\* Friends of Mengo Hospital mission support group have a table in the churchyard on Sunday mornings through October 4 to purchase chances to win not one, but two pair of tickets to Redskins home games. The drawings will be held on October 4 for the Washington/Cowboys game on December 7 and for the Washington/Giants game on November 29. Email one of our Region IV reps if interested.

\* Chris Hamby, our MRP resident who graduated from Virginia Theological Seminary last May, will be ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests in the Episcopal Church on Saturday, October 3, at 11:00 a.m. Chris's bishop, the Rt. Rev. Douglas Hahn, will preside along with members of Chris's family, special guests from the Diocese of Lexington, Kentucky, where Chris was raised, and other guests from near and far. We hope that many members of Christ Church who have come to know Chris and his wife, Mandy, will be present for that great celebration and the reception that follows in the Auditorium.

\*The first Choral Evensong of the season at the 5:00 p.m. service on Sunday, October 4. Works by Charles Stanford, John Barnard, Orlando Gibbons, and Kevin Siegfried will be sung. A reception will follow the service in the Meade Room. All are welcome.

\* Christ Church welcomes Matthew A. Welsch as Director of Children’s Ministries.

\*We welcome back The Rev. Ann Gillespie from her 6 month sabbatical.