

Draft Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Northwest Deanery of the Diocese of the
Rio Grande
Saturday March 1, 2014
Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist

The regular meeting of the Northwest Deanery of the Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande was called to order at 10am by Dean Brian Winter. Opening prayer was by Rev. Michael Drinkwater.

Welcome by Deanery of new clerk, Nicole Maxwell.

Due to scheduling, Canon Kathy McNellis's presentation on the ERD and Young Adult ministries was moved to prior to completion of visioning process. The agenda was approved. Treasurer's report was proposed and a vote for the budget was approved to take place after visioning process.

† **Young Adult Ministry and Episcopal Relief & Development**

Canon McNellis gave greeting from Bishop Michael Vono to high school age students to join in the Triannual Episcopal Youth Event July 9-13 in Philadelphia, PA at Villanova University. The deadline is March 15 and the fee to go is \$350. It is requested to see if anyone would like to donate airline miles to get the participants to help the financial burden. We "Don't want those who want to go but can't due to financial reasons to not go," Canon McNellis said. The Deanery and Diocese will help with the financial burden as well.

† **Visioning**

The visioning process was set to be completed at this meeting. Prior to breaking into groups, we were given the questions of;

- † What will be done in each situation?
- † What ministry would promote which?
- † What education opportunities are available?

The groups were:

1. Outreach (What outreach ministries do we want? 1 or 2 per year)
2. Fellowship/Relationship Building
3. Youth (City-wide, Deanery-wide youth group, camp)
4. Communications
5. Education
6. Liturgy/Worship

The groups each broke away and did the completion of the brainstorming followed by presentations of each.

1. **Communications**- decided to make a brochure with information for newcomers and anyone else who would like to know. This was given one month for completion by Nicole Maxwell. Also was decided to get bumper stickers readily available that say "The Episcopal Church Invites You". We would like to have this ready ASAP. Resources we decided were each church doing remotes in their area and doing a talents and needs sheet for Deanery so that if a congregation had someone willing to help another with something we could put them in contact with each other.
2. **Youth**-wish to schedule a May meeting with city-wide events. Resources are direct contact and a retreat with all youth leaders.

3. **Education-** would like to setup a liaison with the communities outside for the deanery.
4. **Liturgy & Worship-** do a survey of what the needs are with a day devoted to each thing this Fall. Survey will be given to participants to measure.
5. **Outreach-** Low investment/high yield and Palm Sunday offering. This group had many ideas written down, some of which are:
 - † Tithing at the grocery store
 - † Inventory of Service. Bags of toiletries, dog biscuits and bottled water. Bus passes/token and gas vouchers
 - † Home Team
6. **Fellowship/Relationship building-** Deanery-wide worship event inviting congregants. Provide relationships and spiritual food. Continue what we began: relationship among ourselves, structured (...) and a 15 minute fellowship break. Model fellowship building within the team.

After the presentations, Noonday prayer was presented and we broke for lunch where we had a couple of questions about fellowship and spirituality to guide us through lunch.

At 1pm, the meeting was called back to order with a presentation by Canon Doug Travis on the subject of Discernment. Canon Travis stated that a Common Discernment Process is in the works in order to initiate a common process for EVERY parish. He provided 2 handouts "Congregational Discernment Committee/Clearness Discernment Committee which discusses the guidelines and process of discernment. The other handout was "The Cycle of Discernment Retreats 2014-15"

The process is 9 meetings in the local parish lasting 2-2 1/2 hours each with meetings being no more than 1 meeting per month. Bivocational Priests and Permanent Deacons were also discussed (Bivocational priests are those that keep a lay job whilst working in a priestly capacity). This was included in a discussion of the IONA Initiative which costs approx. \$1500/year.

Vocation Day is set for 10a-2p Sat April 12 at the Bosque Center at no charge and is open to whoever would like to come.

If any parish has an aspirant they are requested to contact Dean Travis at deandbtravis@gmail.com.

Budget

Proposed budget of \$5000 total funds from the Diocese for 2014

- † \$1000 Camp Stoney/Youth which includes \$50 scholarships for each camper and also for other youth events. NW Deanery Week at camp Stoney is June 8-14 and assistance is needed with arts & crafts, photography, music, dance, etc. Volunteers from the deanery are needed. There was also a discussion at the diocesan level of hiring counselors for the whole summer. Grace Camp is Free and needs volunteers. It is July 13-18
- † \$1500 for education programs
- † \$1000 Outreach/Evangelism
- † \$1000 Fellowship
- † \$500 Admin/Discretionary

Lay board member Anne Marie Werner-Smith was elected and the budget was approved.

Upcoming Deanery Meeting locations

May: St Mark's (Albuquerque)

Nov: Epiphany (Socorro)

Reports

Diocesan Council is going well and is working to make sure that camp is ready. Diocese is becoming a Tens Thomas and it will be open to all and materials will be provided.

Standing committee continues to upgrade its outdoor camp TBD. They want to do a youth workday and a young adult workday also if any parish would like to do a workday.

Poverty Outreach Board meeting was today (Mar 1) at the Bosque Center with Stephanie Padilla. When we hear from her, we will know what they are up to.

Bosque Day Wed May 14 from 10:30a-2p. Steve Cadwell, chaplain for retired clergy, will be there. There will be Eucharist and entertainment. There are only 125 slots. This will be a day of fellowship at the Bosque Center.

At 2:10pm, the Regular Meeting of the NW Deanery was adjourned and closing prayer was offered. The next meeting will be May 17 at St. Mark's in Albuquerque.