



A Word from Council

From Diocesan Council
August 26, 2009

Diocesan Council met in The Dalles, August 21st and 22nd. The meeting opened with prayer led by Bishop Rivera. Council heard an upbeat report on the summer at Ascension School. While the Rev. Dcn. Sherry Hartley was missed, both staff and campers reported a great camp experience. Executive Director Patty Olson Lindsey reported attendance was higher than last summer. Many campers were delighted to go on field trips. Others learned about bird habitat and made bird houses which are now placed around the facility. Ascension hosted 25 “caring and sharing” campers this summer. These are children who have a parent either in a correctional institution or who have a parent who is deployed with our armed forces. This number is slightly higher than last year as well. These children fit into camp beautifully and greatly appreciated the opportunity to be at Ascension. Discussions about programs for next year’s offerings are already underway.

Council heard a presentation and proposal from Bob Thomson and Jeanie Senior about an updated website and increased communication. Many improvements are available on websites since our current website was created. The proposal allows for substantial flexibility, but will recognize that many of our users utilize dial up connections.

Treasurer Jerry Frazier led the group through our current year finances. There are some shortfalls, interest income is well short of estimates, but overall, the diocesan income and expenditures are within a reasonable range of our current year’s projection.

The presentation of the finance committee’s proposed 2010 budget drove home the impact of the economic situation. The diocese continues to close out funds that have been available for “rainy days”. Other funds are listed as “under water” meaning that the current principal is below the amount originally invested. Despite the concerns, a balanced budget will be presented to convention in Klamath Falls in October.

Saturday’s session opened with a Holy Eucharist celebrated by the Bishop.

Canon Lee Kiefer reported with great pride about the work of our summer intern, the Rev. Shelly Fayette. The Rev. Dcn Fayette graduated from Union Theological Seminary in New York earlier this year. She spent the summer housed at Ascension School where she served as a resource person for the camp staff. The Rev. Dcn. Fayette spent the bulk of her time under the tutelage of the Rev. Frank Moss serving the congregations of Redeemer, Pendleton and All Saints, Heppner. The project was so successful that the diocese will seek to replicate the success next summer.

The Rev. Canon Roy Green announced that the Circuit Rider Program is doing well and awaiting structural revisions from Bishop Rivera who intends to provide more connection between the parishes and circuit riders. Canon Green announced that he has accepted a new position with hospice in Washington County while he remains living in Sunriver. This change will limit his time with the circuit rider program.

Attendees at the recently concluded General Convention of the Episcopal Church regaled Council with stories and photos of a positive convention. Several noted that the focus on service far exceeded the sexuality issue for the first time in many conventions.

Bishop Rivera told of her plans to leave the Diocese of Olympia at the end of January, 2010. We were also shown pictures of her family and the beautiful home she and her husband have purchased near her family in Cincinnati. We were given a tentative schedule of her time in our diocese. Between now and the end of January, we will see a bit less of her; but, beginning in February, we will have more of her time;

Council spent considerable time preparing to respond to the resolution passed at the last regularly scheduled convention directing Council to look at an intentional model of diocesan-wide stewardship. In previous meetings, Council worked at developing a mission statement, identifying our “customers” and telling our stewardship stories. The complexity of the issues made it difficult to come to a quick closure on the issue. A committee will continue to develop a response.

Please keep Council, our staff and bishop in your prayers!

Diocesan Convention in Klamath Falls begins October 9th. See you there!