

Report to the 224th Annual Diocesan Convention
Diocesan Council

Regular meetings of Diocesan Council were held during the past year. Minutes of these meetings are on file in the Archives at Diocesan House and are available for reference.

All financial actions of the Diocesan Council are included in the reports of the Treasurer of the Diocese and written reports of the committees and departments represented by members of Diocesan Council are attached to the minutes.

Highlights from the Diocesan Council meetings held January – December, 2007 are as follows:

- Approved the Preliminary 2007 Budget, the Proposed 2007 Budget, and the Preliminary 2008 Budget.
- Adopted a resolution concerning the Harriet Procter Matthews Fund.
- Received a report describing the work of the Diocesan Visioning Committee and detailing plans for presentation of the vision at the Diocesan Convention.
- Approved the request for grants for St. Luke and All Saints, Union and St. Clement's, Belford to have building inspections.
- Approved funding to St. Augustine's, Atlantic City, for 2007.
- Received a report from the Board of Missions - St. Luke's, Westville and Holy Spirit, Bellmawr have agreed to merge their congregations.
- Approved funding for St. Stephen's, Mullica Hill, and All Saints', Highland Park, for building inspections.
- Approved funding for St. Augustine's, Camden, for repairs to the roofs and remediation of the mold problems.
- Received and endorsed a report from a joint meeting of the Hispanic Commission and the Board of Missions that outlined a plan for encouraging the development of multicultural ministry in all 160 congregations in the Diocese of New Jersey, in furtherance of a goal articulated by Bishop Council at the last Diocesan Convention.
- Established new budget lines for the Diocesan Youth Choir in Cape May (\$2,500) and the Detention Center in Elizabeth (\$3,000) in the 2007 budget, that the funds for these ministries be funded from line items 120 and 121 (HPM Fund) in 2007, and that they be referred to the Finance and Budget Committee for funding with the regular budget in 2008 and in subsequent years.
- Made the following appointments for the 2007-2008 year:

Visitation Committee Chair:	Ms. Donna Devlin
Recording Secretary:	Mrs. Mary Ann Rhoads
Corresponding Secretary:	Mrs. Kathy O'Hagan
Finance & Budget Committee:	Ms. Annette Buchanan and Mr. Jay Ham
Board of Missions:	Mr. Felix Estepa
Audit Committee:	Mr. Charles Perfater and Mr. Morris Anderson
- Received a report from Fr. Terry Rosheuvel, President of the Standing Committee, that detailed the efforts that the Bishop and Standing Committee are making to secure the services of an Assistant Bishop, which was approved as part of the budget at the last Diocesan Convention. The Council expressed its support of the efforts.
- Supported the report from Fr. Phil Kasey, of the Campaign for Fair Share Partners subcommittee, for the Fall convocation meetings that is designed to focus on items the diocese list as priorities; such as the Assisting Bishop and various programs.
- Heard a report from Ms. Annette Buchanan regarding the Right Onward Visioning Committee's work to incorporate the Visioning Statement in various diocesan events, such as the clergy day, and received copies of the Right Onward Visioning Committee's

DVD, which was presented at Convention and is intended for distribution throughout the Diocese, from Canon Cynthia McFarland.

- Authorized \$10,000 from the HPM Fund for the Diocese of New Jersey's donation for Katrina Relief to be given by Bishop Council at the House of Bishops meeting.
- Offered thanks to Mr. Hausman for his dedicated years of service as Treasurer of the Diocese of New Jersey.
- Moved to retain the Hammonton property as we continue to look into the assets and turn our attention to this area for future ministry.
- Authorized Bishop Council to appoint a committee, in consultation with the Convention Arrangements Committee, to plan the 225th anniversary celebration of the Diocese and for this committee to set a budget, which includes the production of a commemorative booklet.
- Welcomed Bishop Romero to the Council and received a report on his first month of ministry in New Jersey.
- Authorized \$20,501 in the Millennium Development budget line be sent to ERD to provide insecticide treated nets in Zambia.
- Received a report from the Visioning Committee on the status of the Vision DVD that was shown at the last Diocesan Convention. Copies of the DVD will be sent to each cleric and warden in the congregations – one that can be viewed on a TV and the other for video projection.
- Accepted the Report of the Board of Missions recommending Mission Assistance Grants for 2008 and 2009.
- Request that the Finance and Budget Committee consider the allocation of at least \$1,000 seed money for Asian ministry.
- Recommended to use the \$10,233.27 refund from the Riverfront Episcopal Team Ministry to pay Fr. Ramon Liz's pension to bring it up-to-date. This check will be sent directly to the Church Pension Fund.
- Approved the recommendations of the Camden Strategy Group to designate funds from the sales proceeds of Church of Our Saviour, Camden and Holy Trinity Church, Delair, for the work on St. Paul's, St. Andrew's and St. Wilfrid's, Camden.
- Agreed to establish a schedule under which all of the entities that receive support from the diocesan budget would be invited to attend meetings of the Council to report on their work.
- Approved plans to assist Grace Church, Elizabeth, in settling delinquencies in the payments for the Vicar's benefits.
- Heard a report from Bishop Romero offering suggestions for the development of a vision for Hispanic ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Rhoads
Recording Secretary