

February 16, 2015

The meeting was opened with Morning Prayer led by Deacon Beth Drew.

BUSINESS MEETING I

The Annual Meeting was called to order by President David Morrow at 0956.

The Quorum Checklist was called and indeed, a Quorum was established by Executive Director Bill Kunkle. Please see attached signed checklist.

A very warm welcome was extended to guests Rev. Marshall Huey, Elizabeth Welch, Mary Smith, Tom McGowin and Carla Gibbs.

Bishop Gibbs and his wife Carla were presented with gifts for hosting the Mid-Year Board Meeting in the Diocese of Michigan last October.

The Mid-Year 2014 Meeting Minutes were circulated, reviewed, and minor spelling corrections were made. These were approved by acclamation and filed for the record.

The 2015 was presented and reviewed by Bill Kunkle. Please see attached report. A sincere thank you was extended to Bishops D. Smith and T. Ousley for handling the previous issues concerning Mr. Kunkle's Pension Fund.

David Morrow moved to approve the 2015 Budget as presented with Tar Drazdowski providing the second. The motion was unanimously approved.

Bishop Holguin's report followed and since he gave his mid-year report on the first ten months of this year, it consisted mainly of the highlights of the missionary life of the Diocese. Please see the attached written report. The FOCA report was reviewed the previous evening at a Board dinner hosted by Bishop Holguin. A quick update on the process for the election of the bishop coadjutor was given and questions were entertained from the Board members. Bishop Holguin was very clear that he has steered very clear from this process in order to decrease political maneuvering. Bishop Dabney Smith questioned about the number of nominees. There were 10 in all, 6 coming from within the Dominican Republic and 4 from other Dioceses. Three were then selected and presented to Convention. A second question as to whether there would be further nominations and the answer is most probably yes. Final question from Bishop Smith queried as to whether the current nominees views are consistent with the DDG mission and support. Each nominee was asked this question and it was answered in the convention report booklet given to each board member---all three answered to the affirmative on that question.

David Morrow moved to accept Bishop Holguin's Report with a second by Bishop Dabney Smith. Motion was passed unanimously.

President David Morrow gave his brief report for the 2014 year. Of utmost importance was a sincere thanks to Executive Director Bill Kunkle for all his hard work throughout this year and last. A sentiment shared by all board members and guests.

Julius Ariail proceeded with the DDG Communication's Report. Please see attached handouts and report. Much work has gone into the DDG website and a mission team roster/calendar has been created along with Karen and Patricia to allow persons wishing to join a team access to the dates, availability, and location of where they will be working. Julius hopes to get a total of four Companeros Dominicanos Newsletters out this year, but is happy if 3 are published.

Alex Romero joined the meeting at 10:45.

The morning break was taken at 10:48.

BUSINESS MEETING II

Business Meeting II was called to order at 1105 and opened with the song "Here I am Lord".

President Morrow asked for nominees to the various committees as listed on the back of the agenda sheet. Joy Holl was assigned to the Water and Sanitation, Bishop Gibbs to Endowment as well Julia Ariail.

Bill Kunkle posed the question "If the Bishop serving on a particular committee does not attend, does their representative assume their spot"? The consensus answer is yes, on an as needed basis.

At 11:15 Karen Carroll gave her Missions and School Report. Please see attached report. Ms. Carroll emphasized the fact that there are 54 teams scheduled for 2015. The Team schedule is now posted on the DDG website for perusal. Ms. Emily Gibson will be with the office for 6 months traveling with various teams to assist in translation. Her thanks go out to Patricia Martin and Charlie Nakash for all that they do to make it a highly efficient office and all the assistance they provide to her.

Please see attached Scholarship Report for details. Again, it was expressed that profiles are sent to Diocesan Offices with pictures and bios of the students requiring funding assistance.

At 11:25 Mr. Kunkle gave his Executive Director's Report. Please see attached detailed report. The "rebranding" of the DDG has been very successful and support is increasing.

2016 UTO Grant will be written by Elizabeth Welch from the Diocese of Central Gulf Coast. Multiples of grants would be sent to the Diocesan Offices in the D.R. and they would then choose which would be accepted according to their needs.

An amendment to the figures recorded in the Budget was reported. The Operations Fund line should read \$68,389.86 instead of the recorded \$81,728.38.

Discussion again ensued as to raising funds for operating expenses and the several of the Bishops state change has been initiated and that this needs to be conducted at a Bishop level.

A brief introductory discussion was presented on the proposed Vocational Schools Program. Questions of needing accreditations or certificates by local or government entities were entertained. These are not necessary at this time in the Dominican Republic. Students completing these programs would graduate with a certificate of completion in the classes they enrolled in.

In honor of holding to the agenda schedule, it was requested that this discussion be continued after the lunch intermission. This was approved by general consensus of the board members. Lunch break began at 12:40.

BUSINESS MEETING III

13:40 Meeting resumed with revisiting the proposed Vocational School Program questions. Bishop Holguin explained that there is approximately a >30% unemployment among individuals who would participate in these classes. This meaning that there is >30% with either no work or not attending higher education. These classes would be given in order to enable these individuals to be given the skills to become employed.

Accreditation: These would be certificate degrees only. No public/government entity is impacted by competition here. Bishop Holguin explained that this program is actually under the government umbrella and they actively seek their assistance with these programs. All class offerings will be selected and approved through the diocesan offices and the school administrator.

Bishop Gibbs: Are we stretching our resources too thin? Will this be drawing students out of our High Schools?

Answer: Public schools have markedly improved their programs in the years since we have had our school programs and are drawing students away. They also offer school lunches which is something we will have to offer in the future in order to keep up. We may need to find a “via media” that combines vocational schools with the high school program. There may need to be a shift in our grade 1-6 programs to vocational schools as the government comes in and funds are diverted from grade 1-6 programs.

Bishop Smith: On the record as supporting the Vocational Program, however has concerns and wishes that this effort be vetted by the legal advisor of the diocese so that no misfortune happens with a certified student that places the school and the diocese in jeopardy of legal action.

Bishop Holguin: Again, licenses are not required in the Dominican Republic. We are under the government umbrella and will continue to work with the government to gain their assistance with these issues. Regulations are completely different here in the Dominican Republic.

Final question entertained being can any student, ie: Haitian, get an education?

Bishop Holguin: Yes, no one may be denied but after the 8th grade one needs documents to attend.

At this time breakout sessions were conducted with the various committees for approximately 20 minutes.

General meeting resumed with a synopsis of the Water and Sanitation by Tar Dradzowski. Please reference the handout on “The Healthy Latrine” here. See attached.

The Diocese of Eastern Michigan purchased forms for this program and they will be in country sometime between March -June of 2015. The first team could possibly take place in early summer. The local priests will identify sites with no water for first placement.

There has been slow movement with water issues, the diocese of Georgia is heavily involved with these projects. St. Paul’s is working in El Carreton. In Bani, there is a well but no water. We are working with Water Missions International in Mosovi as a well needs to be drilled. All projects are dependent on the Diocesan offices for use and placement and all projects need resources as they go.

David Morrow on Budget presented several challenges of that committee. They need a 15 year list of expenses given to the Endowment Committee to better plan and forecast needs. The committee also suggests that the newly elected bishop coadjutor attend the

Mid-Year meeting in order to start a dialogue for planning and forecasting the future needs.

Bishop Ousley on Endowment Committee.

First and foremost we need to authorize the money to ECF to be our Capital Campaign Consultants. We also must continue to develop our data base and formulate a merging of all of the lists out there. We must also formulate a clarification of our priorities in order to “sell” the endowment fund. Bishop Ousley and Bishop Holguin will work on this issue.

Discussion on a dinner meeting at the House of Bishops Gathering in March ensued. All Bishops who have or have had connections to the Dominican Republic would be invited and a short presentation would be given. This would also assist in obtaining critical contacts.

Lastly, our internet/social media presentation needs to be consistent and up to date. It is the committee’s recommendation that the Communication Committee be invited to assist the Dominican Republic’s IT office in formulating an integrated web presence.

An official authorization was then requested by Bishop Ousley to negotiate a contract with ECF as consultants. Authorization was affirmed by general consensus.

Several discussion points were entertained as to expense amounts and how it would be shared with the DDG and the Diocese. This would be estimated at \$30,000.00-\$50,000.00.

In a separate motion Bishop Ousley moved that the board authorize David Morrow, Bill Kunkle, and Bishop Holguin to negotiate shared costs with the ECF up to no more than \$30,000.00 by the DDG. Bishop Gibbs offered a second and the motion was passed unanimously.

Time and place were set for the Mid-Year Meeting of the DDG. This meeting will be held Monday, October 19 in Western Louisiana following their Diocesan Convention, which the DDG will receive an invitation to attend.

The Annual Meeting will again be in the Dominican Republic on Monday, February 15, following their Convention dates February 12-14. Bishop Holguin would like the Convention to coincide with the upcoming consecration of their new Bishop and will attempt to get the events scheduled in this manner.

President Morrow then gave an information only update on the proposed community housing project. The goal is to raise one million dollars to build 100 houses in the

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communities in most need. This project would identify single parent homes within the church which could have home built on existing or donated lots. The project would look at 2-3 sites in each parish where a need is identified. The approximate cost of each unit is \$6,000.00-\$10,000.00. We are currently looking for funding, which is a materials only proposition, and the program will hopefully be rolled out by the end of 2015. There will be a possible motion brought before the board at the Mid-Year meeting in regards to this program.

Bishop Skilton requested a “save the date” spot on our calendars for January 23, 2016 for a celebration of the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, to be held at the Citadel Chapel in Charleston, South Carolina.

President Morrow announced that the election of officers would be held and the 2015 Mid-Year meeting.

The meeting was adjourned with and by a closing prayer offered by Bishop Holguin.

Respectfully submitted

The Rev. Deacon Beth Drew
Diocese of Western Michigan
DDG Secretary