

Report of the Executive Council to the 88th Convention of the Diocese of Eau Claire

The Executive Council of the Diocese of Eau Claire is commissioned with oversight of the missionary, educational, and Christian social service work of the Diocese and of such other works as may be committed to it by the Convention. It is also charged with the general financial administration of the Diocese between the sessions of the Convention. The Executive Council consists of The Bishop, six lay persons, and three clergy persons. For 2016, the members of the Executive Council are: The Rt. Rev. William J. Lambert, The Rev. Deacon Charles Farrell, The Rev. Peter Augustine, The Rev. Art Hancock, Ron Hall, Charlie Kell, Jenö Love, Paul Chase and Lynn Fowler. Robert Lynn resigned in September. Members with voice but no vote include: The Rev. Canon Aaron Zook (Secretary), Bob Weathers (Treasurer), and James Pelish (Chancellor). In 2016 the Executive Council met six times; monthly from January through April, then again in June and September. When matters needing immediate attention were made known to the Vice President when we did not meet, an electronic vote was taken and affirmed at the next regular meeting of the Council.

By Canon, the Diocesan Executive Council shall submit to each convention the following: a) a report of the work done under its supervision during the preceding conciliar (by means of council) year; b) reports of the Treasurer of the Diocese of Eau Claire, for the preceding year; c) a Diocesan budget for the following fiscal year, and d) a schedule of apportionments for the congregations of the Diocese.

The following is a report of the work done under its supervision. All other reports of the Treasurer shall be received as separate documents. The work of the Executive Council has fallen into certain broad areas as outlined below:

Budget 2016 (approved by the 87th Annual Convention 2015)

Income

Based on the Diocese of Eau Claire's Treasurer Reports from January 31 to October 31, 2016, the Diocese has maintained the 2016 Budget passed at the 87th Diocesan Convention. Income through apportionments and Endowment income has surpassed budgeted expectation by just over \$5000.

Expenses

Expenses continue to be kept relatively low throughout the Diocese. Several expenses have run considerably below budgeted amounts, resulting in a balance of roughly \$6000 savings over the 2016 Budget.

Diocesan Properties/Programs of Specific Interest

Diocesan Unrestricted Funds: (under the Executive Council's purview) There is a surplus of \$70,395 through October 31, 2016. In October of 2015, a motion was passed by the Executive Council to transfer \$25,000 back in to the Diocesan Endowment Fund. The Council continues to discuss transferring funds into the Endowment to recover funds borrowed from the same several years ago.

Youth Ministry: The Council remains committed to providing opportunity to attend Camp Horstick and other youth gatherings without cost to participants. In 2016, the Council approved expenditures of nearly double the budgeted amount and instructed the Trustees to draft a 2017 budget that allowed for full coverage of Camp Horstick as well as the EYE event in Oklahoma.

Teleconference Technology: The Council discussed several options for improving our ability to hold meetings with groups and individuals without requiring people to travel in inclement weather. Deacon Charles Farrell, has been approved to purchase and supervise the installation of a ‘technology suite’ in the Bishop Wilson Building to be used for Diocesan conferences. It is expected that the technology will be in place shortly after the beginning of the year.

Most of the work of the Executive Council surrounds regular approval of budgeted expenditures and helping to create a vision for the following budget. This year’s council has placed a clear emphasis on Communications and Youth Ministry as reflected in the proposed Budget for 2017. The points listed above mark some of the official actions of the group, but the informal influence over the ongoing vision of the diocese cannot be overstated. I thank all the members of the Executive Council for their efforts over the last twelve months.

Faithfully submitted,

The Rev. Canon Aaron Zook
Secretary of the Executive Council