



Finance Committee Report

Diocesan Synod November 2010

During the October 29th, 2009 Diocesan Council meeting, our new Bishop appointed the Finance Committee of the diocese consisting of The Rev. Bob Coon (also president of standing committee), Mr. Neal Ford (Trinity Parish, Thomasville) and The Rev. Alex Farmer (Servants of Christ Parish, Gainesville). Mr. Harris Willman serves the Finance Committee ex-officio as Treasurer of the Diocese and the right arm of Christian fellowship from this committee.

As the appointed chair of this committee, it will be my pleasure to submit this report to the Synod.

Respectfully,

Alex Farmer

The initial focus of the Finance Committee was to familiarize ourselves with the budget, expenses and income of the Anglican Alliance of North Florida and South Georgia and also the proposed budget of the new Gulf Atlantic Diocese. The committee proceeded with a request to The Rev. Ted Griswold, Certified Public Accountant, to begin an internal audit of the finances of the Anglican Alliance through 2009 in anticipation of closing down that legal entity, and transferring all assets and liabilities into the our new diocese. This audit of the AANFSG was completed on July 24th, 2010. The full internal audit from Fr. Griswold is included in this Finance Tab of your binder. The recommendations of Fr. Griswold are being implemented by Mr. Willman as described in his report to the bishop with accountability to this committee.

The next priority of our committee was to bring to the Diocesan council a working budget which would allow our diocese to compensate our new Bishop and also provide for the creation of a small support staff for the work of our new diocese. The initially proposed budget was approved by Diocesan Council with some modification and the committee moved ahead with proposals for the hiring of two employees: Mr. Harris Willman (already working as a volunteer for the Anglican Alliance for many years) and The Rev. Jim Hobby (Trinity, Thomasville).

The committee adopted a conservative view with regard to diocesan staff and budget expenses. As a result, the committee made recommendations to the council for the hiring of Mr. Willman on a part-time basis for 2010. We worked with Mr. Willman and Bp. Lebhar to develop a job description and responsibilities for Mr. Willman's employment. The committee has been extremely impressed with the effort and competence of Mr. Willman over this first full year. In addition, the committee recommended the hiring of The Rev. Jim Hobby on a part-time basis for Congregational Development and worked with the Bishop to establish an initial job description for Fr. Hobby. Both hiring recommendations were accepted by the Council, and both employees were hired as of January 1, 2010.

With these initial priorities accomplished the committee then established policies and procedures for the review of our financial accounting with Mr. Willman. The committee typically meets by Conference Call to review the financials prior to Diocesan Council meetings. We have also initiated a proposed Clergy Compensation Guide (included in this Finance Tab) and are currently working on a suggested performance review tool which will be used for diocesan staff and offered as resource to member parishes. The committee is very grateful to Mr. Arnie Fust (Church of the Redeemer, Jacksonville) for his expertise in the area of Human Resources and willingness to serve as a resource to this committee. The committee is also working with another Redeemer member, Harry Parsons, whose CPA firm has expertise in non-profit auditing and financial review. We expect to have a new comprehensive financial review plan in place for 2011 for the diocese and available for all churches to participate if they choose. Based on conversations thus far, we hope that it will significantly reduce the cost of a traditional audit for all of our churches.

As of late the committee has spent considerable time working on a budget proposal for the Synod. To that end, we have solicited input from our member parishes with regard to priorities and vision for the future of our diocese. You will see the work of this gathering which Mr. Willman has compiled in a helpful format. Based on this diocesan input along with our Bishop and Diocesan Councils approval, the Finance committee would propose the following asking budget for the calendar year 2011 (included in this Finance Tab). I would note that the significant changes to our overall budget reflects additional unrestricted salary pool for future compensation reviews, along with new funds for prospective clergy development and increased budget for work in congregational development, the very clear priority from the Vision Survey.

This asking budget will require some increase in income for 2011 which we believe will be received as our member congregations gain understanding of the vision and direction of the new diocese under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The report is submitted Oct 30, 2010.

The Rev. Alex Farmer,
Chair of Finance Committee