Board of Trustees Meeting, August, 2025

Margie Harrison-Smith

At the August meeting, the Board of Trustees reviewed the financial reports for the Diocese for the first half of the year. In addition, we reviewed a draft of the 2026 budget. The Board voted to take the $174,620.54 from our Employee Retention Credit from covid and apply it towards lowering the amount of reserves we need to draw from in the 2026 budget. The finalized budget will be presented at the pre-convention meetings (formerly known as Convocation) in October.

The Diocese is responsible for helping maintain the properties of our missions. The Board voted to approve paying 50% of the cost to replace 16 windows and 1 door that are 50 years old at St. Luke's in Calistoga.

Canon Julie reported that we are receiving applications for the Curacy program. The Curacy program create 3 pairs of churches (pairing a larger mentor congregation with a smaller partner congregation). The mentor congregations would receive ¾ time clergy (3 Sundays and 3 days a week) for the cost of 40-45% of fulltime clergy. The partner congregations would receive a ¼ time priest-in-charge (who is mentored by the rector at the larger congregation) and pay 5-10% of the cost of Curate/Associate's package. The diocese will pay 50% of the compensation package for the three Curate/Associate positions. The Curate (recently ordained clergy) or Associate (ordained within 5 years) would commit to a 3-year time-frame and would receive experience at a larger church as well as being a priest-in-charge at a smaller parish. The program begins in 2026. Those interested in participating **click here.**

Canon Julie also updated the Board on the work of the Migrant Support Network. Formed in January, the Migrant Support Network has hosted workshops for congregations assist migrants as the ICE raids have increased in the Sacramento Metro and western side of the diocese. Look for more information about their projects at Convention.

Kati Braak reported that we have had 21 churches respond with interest to the newly created bookkeeper position. Once the new bookkeeper is hired, we will start with 4-5 churches and plan to expand to 20 churches served by the diocesan bookkeeper.

The Board also heard about the final service for St. John's in Marysville. The community celebrated with a beautiful service led by Canon Julie Wakelee, Rev. Rik Rasmussen and Rev. Ken Erickson. After the sale of the church property the members of St. John's distributed the proceeds as follows: $50,000 the Food Shelf program they had run for years that Grace Wheatland will now manage; $25,000 each to St. Timothys in Gridley, St. Stephens in Colusa and Bishop Megan's discretionary fund. The final monies were split between Grace Church in Wheatland and St. James Jerusalem in Yuba City. Those churches have already received $100,000 each and will receive more once the accounts are settled. St. John's was a gift to Marysville for many years, and their generous donations will continue to be a gift for the years to come.