

Some highlights of the July 14th Council meeting via Zoom.

Treasurer reported that while total contributions from the parishes are 22% lower than the budget predictions, the total revenues to date exceed expectations due to a foundation grant and a CARES Act PPP distribution. Based upon the budgets approved by the parish Vestries in January a new estimate of parish contributions has been calculated which is about \$84,000 lower than the Diocesan budget approved at Convention last fall.

The changes in personnel this year is the primary factor in the slightly over-budget of expenses (9%) to date. The report notes that should all revenues and expenses remain about the same for the remainder of the year we will end the year even or “with a slightly positive net balance”.

The Canon for Transition Ministry’s report noted that a new Manual for transition processes has been developed, is being reviewed, and should be ready for use in the fall. Also, a new Manual for Congregational Discernment is being developed and a final revision is also expected to be in use by parishes working with the Congregational Discernment Committee to help parishes consider “whether to renew/revitalize, restructure, or close – and how” to proceed from there. Canon Auburn has identified five parishes in this discernment process, four others facing clergy transitions, and possibly others.

The Canon for Cultural Transformation’s report was an overview his current work in several of the areas in his portfolio, specifically formation, racial justice, and creation care. A few of the specifics included meeting with individuals in the ordination process, preparing a project on racial justice for the Diocese, and working on the fossil fuel survey requested by Convention.

The Bishop’s report centered around materials and timeline for presentation of the revisioning of the diocese to ensure sustainability and viability. A newly created Task Force will be charged to report to the Convention in November; a more unified financial structure is being developed per our consultant’s recommendation; and conversations within

and external to the Diocese of Vermont will be initiated to address these and other issues.