

COUNCIL MUTUAL MINISTRY REVIEW (January 2008)

Diocesan Council has begun the practice of an annual mutual ministry review. Its second such review in January 2008, produced the following reflections:

What has Council accomplished in the last year?

Welcomed a new bishop and new chief financial officer. Finance Committee created. The budget procedures were revised. Adopted revised personnel policies for diocesan employees. Established Civil Unions Task Force and received its report. Received Title IV revisions. Health insurance report received and reviewed. Working with other governing bodies, Standing Committee, DIT and Trustees. Representation on the Role Clarification Task Force and the Joint Property Task Force that produced a revised property guide. Work on the bishop's letter of agreement. Analysis and report on the closing of Trinity Church in Montclair.

What gifts have we seen exhibited in Council in the last year?

Willingness to listen and work with the new bishop. Grateful to the dedication of members to their work and the commitment of time and talent to work group tasks. Sense of humor. Hospitality, friendliness. Dedication. Collegiality. Professionalism. Insight and clarity, such as the health insurance report. Diocesan staff. Steering Committee evolution.

What needs doing or doing differently in the next year?

Deeper connections to larger institutions within the diocese. Review the current work groups. Continue collaboration with other governing groups. Healthier food - fewer spices and greener vegetables. Rotate locations for meetings (accessible places). Streamline the meetings; Consider doing Bible study during meals. Covenant if meeting time going over agenda schedule. Clearer sense of council beyond logistics. Improve understanding of the protocols and how items are brought to Council. Don't skip orientation (last year's was canceled due to severe weather).

What do people need to know to function well on Diocesan Council?

Sense of humor. Orientation for all members. New staff configuration and how it relates to the work groups. How council works with Episcopal House, Trustees, Standing Committees and other groups in the diocese. Eventually you get it after some time on the Council; "will catch on." Provide minutes from some previous meetings for new members.