

Diocesan leadership meeting (including Diocesan Council, Trustees of the Property and Camp, and Conference Center Board) held on **June 10 and 11, 2020** via Zoom

Day 1: Canon Lee Curtis welcomed us and explained our purpose was to take a look at our financial realities and in particular our **current financial standing for Bosque Center and Bishop's Ridge.**

Next, the Bishop framed the picture for the next portion of the meeting. Reminded us of how the Diocese looked pre-Covid. We were hopeful that progress could continue to be made but we were facing the realities of nationwide mainline decline, congregations struggling to afford their clergy, and in DRG, we are working on healing the past, and the unique situation of having 40% of the Mexican border. We had to cut our budget 10% last year. We had some dreams, we figured we had 3-5 years to decide on the future for Bishop's Ridge and Bosque Center. But Covid hit, all income from those 2 properties stopped but maintenance expenses continue.

The DRG growth fund is currently being used to pay for the ongoing maintenance expenses. Is that the best use of those funds?

Day 2: Bishop Hunn framed our conversation for today and began with a **review of the retreat from January.**

Our mission is to love god and love neighbor. How?

(1) helping congregation thrive---whole point of being a diocese

(2) teaching young people

(3) borderlands—constantly changing, constantly ours

(4) indigenous ministry

(5) Latino Hispanic ministry—if we are not engaged, we're keeping the blinders on

Doesn't mean we take the budget and divide by 5. Need to create lines of effort, need to move the needle, number one priority is to help congregations thrive.

Then the Bishop reviewed role clarity---we're not here to make all the decisions.

The Bishop as pastor of the diocese has oversight, manages the staff. Trustees manage the property and make all decisions re property. Standing Committee handles personnel and policy issues. Council makes decisions re budget, actions to take about managing budget. Camp and conference Center Board also present.

Today is about big picture strategy which will then be implemented in a coordinated way.

We need to be of one mind about what we're trying to do. We need to share our thoughts with the diocese; to communicate. We also need courage to do what is right

Sometimes even though you don't get to pick what reality you're in at any given moment, you do get to pick which problems you want to work with

Guided discussion groups were formed to answer 2 questions: (1) Where do we go from here? And, (2) What is needed to move us along in discerning the vision and priorities of this diocese given our current financial realities?

Groups came back together and presented a summary to the Bishop. A subcommittee was formed to work on a presentation that could be given to upcoming deanery meetings. Then Leadership Group will reconvene, review, get ready for presentation to convention.

Summary Nancy Gregory, Vice-Dean SW Deanery