

ECIM MEETING
New York, November 22, 2004

IN ATTENDANCE: Frank Oberly Chair, Bishop Carol Gallagher, Secretary, Malcolm Chun, Linda Sprote, Debbie Royals, John Floberg-representing Bishop Mike Smith, Cornelia Eaton-representing Bishop Steven Plummer, and guest. Carol Hampton-Winter Talk Design Team

ABSENT: Bishop Creighton Robertson, Robert Two Bulls, Becky Clark, Robert McGhee, and Carol Smith.

STAFF: Janine Tinsley-Roe

WINTER TALK

Winter Talk Design team (Carol Hampton, Malcolm Chun, Coke Smith, Bishop Carol Gallagher and Bishop Michael Smith) asked for a clarification of the theme for this year. Frank asked if there was any update on the ordination of Debbie Royals to the Transitional Diaconate. Debbie shared that Bishop Mark had another engagement and would like to consider a later time that 11 am at the Cathedral in Oklahoma City. Debbie and Carol had already discussed that it could be held as late as 6 pm at the Cathedral and that the issue was really the timing of the reception because of the sexton's need to prepare the hall for Sunday services. We then discussed how the ordination might look and Debbie shared that she is very willing to have the framework set up but determine the details as we see who is attending Winter Talk. We also discussed the expenses associated with transporting people from St. Crispin's to the Cathedral. Bishop Carol suggested that it might actually be better if the ordination was held at St. Crispin's because of the expense and the timing but also because it might feel more natural if the flow of the day was not broken up with transporting people. She also shared how very Native it was for her to be consecrated in a gymnasium. Debbie was asked how she would feel if the ordination took place at St. Crispin's and assured everyone that St. Crispin's would be fine. Malcolm reviewed the theme of transition and its appropriateness for this ordination. The committee will meet and begin the planning and invitations.

Winter Talk-invitations would go to the Bishops and they would make the selections. The committee would like to have it incorporated into the teaching and development of ordination and the service. The celebration would be as scheduled on Saturday night so that the reception would actually be the cultural part usually included. The numbers for the breakdown Malcolm has. Malcolm will take the lead on coordinating the committee. Bishop Carol is having a hard time with her schedule at this point. The committee members are Malcolm, Bishop Carol, Carol Gallagher and Carol Hampton. **Transitions** will be the theme and will include youth and elders. The youth identified as leaders during this weekend's activities would be included in the planning for Winter Talk and asked to attend.

Janine mentioned that ITTI expressed their willingness to coordinate the training for this event if the committee would like them to be involved.

The committee asked about the need to use MTS for travel especially since Springall had been the travel coordinator for so many years and really understands the process. Janine said that it

would not be possible to have anyone except MTS make these arrangements. Frank mentioned that ECIM avoided problems with this in the past by asking ITTI to make travel arrangements since they are not bound to the same regulations.

Janine's Installation and Youth Event

Janine came in for this part of the meeting and asked if everyone could be a St. John the Divine at 2pm for the service. She reviewed the liturgy and where she hoped each person from ECIM would participate.

Janine also shared that she is very excited about the youth event and found that there is a lot that needs to be attended to with future planning. Six youth have come forward to coordinate and lead next year's event. We encouraged her to share those names and possibly have them attend Winter Talk. We discussed the ways the youth could continue to be involved and feel included in Native Ministry in the Church.

Janine also mentioned that Bishop Arthur Williams will remain in his position indefinitely. Bishop Carol said that there are other staff changes making things a bit unsettled at this time.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES GRANT

Janine shared that she had been confused about the grant and what needed to be done. No letters or information was sent out as had been decided at the August 13th ECIM meeting. As a result we determined that there would have to be immediate action on this. Janine is to copy the form letter already developed and the criteria and distribute them to Oregon, Washington, Northern California, Arizona, Navajoland, Alaska, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Debbie volunteered to share the names of the contact persons in Washington and Oregon by email with Janine. Both Robert Two Bulls and Debbie Royals have prepared grant requests for this year. Debbie sent hers to Janine by email and Robert will be contacted for his. Cornelia also mentioned to Janine that she would apply. New Opportunities Grant letter and criteria will go out no later than the 30th of November. Janine will be in Los Angeles for their convention and since Debbie will likely be there and Robert Two Bulls is there as well we plan to meet and prepare the recommendations by conference call.

December 6 Conference call for New Opportunities Grant and Winter Talk.

AIN MEETING REPORT

The report from the AIN gathering in Hawaii was distributed and Malcolm suggested that we consider the *recommendations* in planning for events like winter Talk. The essential piece that was discussed was how important it is to talk and to listen and to share experience with each other. Without the stories we have nothing to build relationship and trust. It is also important to have a way for non-Natives to enter into this form of respecting and tradition. The ITTI Journal was discussed and the possibility that we might record and transcribe the stories-one from each elder and use this compilation for the next Journal.

Malcolm needs to know how many of the ECIM members will attend from the time of the ECIM meeting to the 15th. The editorial board for the journal should happen at the same time since we will all be in the same place.

The ABC cannot attend the AIN meeting. The PB has been invited. The bishop from LA and San Diego will also be invited. All educators have been invited and if Bishop Steven Charleston is able to attend it will include all of our Indigenous educators and theologians. So far there has also been a commitment that the Canadian delegates-5 will attend and the Maori will attend.

DECADE OF REMEMBRANCE, RECOGNITION AND ROCONCILIATION

Frank discussed the success of the Executive Council Meeting and the award of \$450,000 approved from the proposal that was submitted from ECIM. As we make plans we need to adhere to the guidelines we presented in the proposal and remember they will be the measure of our success. Main themes are “leadership, education and self-esteem among American Natives”.

Bishop Carol suggested that we consider a Native American Prayer Book that could be introduced at the Decade celebration. The date and place for the Decade celebration will mirror the initial celebration. This will be a major topic of discussion at the April meeting.

Other business

Debbie talked about the work that Congregational Development is doing with Jerry Drino and members of Province VIII in the area of cultural sensitivity in the ordination process. She also mentioned that Janine and Robert Two Bulls had attended the meeting at General during October. The committee felt that it is important to have a member of ECIM representing our interests on things like COPD. We will ask Robert and Janine for a report on the meeting and work.

Malcolm mentioned that we need to keep in mind that the make up of the board is going to be changing as terms end. As a result we should consider how this might affect our plans as we proceed.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Debbie Royals,
acting recording secretary for this meeting