

REGION VI 2016 REPORT

Region VI is comprised of 10 parishes in a compact area along the Potomac River between Alexandria and Woodbridge. It includes a contemporary congregation (Church of the Spirit Kingstown), and a Latino Ministry (San Marcos). Three parishes (Al Saint's Sharon Chapel, St. Luke's and St. Mark's) started out as missions of Virginia Theological Seminary, and one (San Marcos) is a mission of the diocese. The region seeks to facilitate communication between the diocese and the parishes and to focus our synergies for mission and ministry within our geographic area and the diocese.

The region was deeply affected by the upheavals of 2007, with four congregations either leaving the diocese or suffering wrenching divisions. Several property disputes ensued, all in Woodbridge. Even before 2007, the region recognized that the demographics of the Woodbridge area pointed to success in the establishment of a Latino congregation, and the possibility of expanding the San Marcos congregation into the recently-recovered Church Hill site seemed very promising. The diocese ultimately decided to sell the Church Hill property, but extended the possibility of utilizing the Omisol Rd site, also recovered under Dayspring, for Latino ministry. Discussions on pursuing this opportunity are ongoing.

The region also committed itself to fulfilling the goal of implementing General Convention resolutions requiring all clergy and lay leaders to receive formal anti-racism training using the Seeing the Face of God in Each Other curriculum authorized by General Convention.

At the January 14, 2016 Region VI meeting at St. Luke's:

The proposed budget for 2016 was presented and accepted, and region funds were approved to reimburse San Marcos for the cost of food and a mariachi band related to the Epiphany celebration and production of a video, all by unanimous vote.

Dean Charles Brock's report primarily recapped the Regional Deans Meeting at Mayo House in December 2015. Dean Brock also made plans to contact Ellyn Crawford and David Niemeyer about the creation of a Racial Reconciliation workshop within Region 6.

At the April 16 Race and Reconciliation Workshop meeting at St. Luke's:

Jeff Underwood of Olivet was elected leader and plans for more meetings were made.

At the May 12, 2016 Region VI meeting at St. Luke's:

Dean Charles Brock reported on the February meeting of the deans with Bishop Johnston. Topics included revision of the bishop's visitation schedule and the transition ministry process with the intention of providing more quality and value for the parishes.

Executive Committee Rep Jim Bailes reported that he was appointed chair of the Program Committee, and that the committee approved a number of Mustard Seed Grants. Also approved was a letter of intent to sell all 12 acres of the Church Hill Road property in Woodbridge.

President Doug Varner made mention of society's failure to develop a balanced approach to drug abuse involving both enforcement and treatment.

A considerable amount of discussion under the heading of New Business revolved around the Executive Board decision to sell the Church Hill property. A number of points were raised urging the diocese to dedicate the property, or at least a portion of it, to the use of a worshipping congregation, noting that local demographics are particularly favorable to a Latino congregation, and a resolution urging this path was unanimously approved.

It was also noted that Rev. Adolpho Moronta had been selected to attend a conference on Latino ministry in Arizona, and that All Saints Sharon Chapel had received a Peter James Lee Small Church Revitalization Grant for their Pray and Play program.

The Race and Reconciliation Workshop met on June 18 at St. Luke's; July 23 at Olivet, and Sept. 17 at St. Aidan's for discussion and recommitment. A group met at Pohick during the summer to study "Between the World and Me", a book by Ta-Nehisi Coates.

At the October 13, 2016 Region VI meeting at St. Mark's:

Dean Charles Brock reported that the Proposal for Regional Boundary Realignment would be presented at the joint Executive Board meeting in November at St. Mary's Arlington. There was also discussion of the new Episcopal Visitation Schedule and the intention and meaning of Confirmation. With the finalization of plans to sell the entire Church Hill property, Bishop Goff stated that proceeds from the sale could be used to support church growth and invited the region to prepare a proposal for Episcopal Latino Ministry at a property on Omisol Rd. in Woodbridge. San Marcos expressed an interest in using the Omisol Rd. property for Bible study one night a week rather than regular Sunday worship. With this in mind, follow-up work to be done before the January 2017 meeting includes:

Rev. John Weatherly will report on the costs of operating the Omisol Rd. property.

Mr. Jim Bailes will report on the plans for using the proceeds from the sale of the Church Hill property.

Rev. Charles Brock will clarify whether one night a week Bible study at Omisol Rd. would be permitted.

Rev. Adolpho Moronta offered to lead a Church Planting Task Force including Revs. Brock, Baker and Bowerfind to prepare a proposal for Episcopal Latino ministry at Omisol Rd.

President Doug Varner reported on the Region President's retreat at Shrine Mont. The work of the Regional Realignment Task Force was presented as having no impact on Region VI, and a look at the recent improvements to the camps was highly uplifting and rewarding to those who participated in the

Capital Campaign. Mention was also made of the work of the Racial Reconciliation Task Force and Rev. Weatherly made a motion that the 14 hour workshop Seeing the Face of God in Each Other be completed by all clergy, lay leaders, vestry and lay employees and it passed unanimously. Ten people completed the course at Trinity Arlington on November 4 and are planning a Training of Trainers workshop for 2017 as preparation for leading workshops within the region in 2017.

Natalie Pineda of San Marcos was nominated as the Region VI youth delegate to Diocesan Convention, and San Marcos invited the region to join them for the annual Festival Celebration of the Epiphany at 6:30 on Friday, Jan. 6, 2017 at St. Mark's on South King's Highway. After the service dinner will be served accompanied by a mariachi band, and a wonderful time will be had by all.