

Trustees of the Diocese

The Trustees of the Diocese of Vermont meet quarterly throughout the year, generally in January, April, July and October. The membership includes Laurel Broughton, Michael Huffman, Neal Robinson, Ron Calise, Franklin Sanders and Carolyn Fouts. Our by-laws provide that the Bishop is an Ex-Officio member of the Trustees, and we also include the Diocesan Treasurer at our meetings when he is available.

The two primary areas of responsibility of the Trustees are the investments of the Diocese and real estate. Franklin Sanders serves as the chair of the Investment Committee, with Ron Calise and Neal Robinson also serving on this committee. Michael Huffman also sits in on their meetings. The committee meets at the end of each quarter with Hickok and Boardman Financial Advisors for a review of the portfolio position, how the position fits within our established investment policies, and what changes in investments to present to the Board of Trustees. They also bring before the Board the proposed quarterly dividend to be paid out at the end of that quarter.

The Real Estate Committee, with Steve Reynes, Laurel Broughton and Carolyn Fouts (Chair) serving, meet to consider any real estate transactions which have come to our attention for the Board's consideration. These may be issuing a Quit Claim Deed on old Diocesan lease land, boundary adjustments, property encumbrances, or sale of property. Since a number of property transactions (encumbrances, sale, boundary adjustments), require the approval of the Bishop, the Trustees and the Standing Committee, during the past two years we have established a collaborative working relationship with the Standing Committee. I have attended a number of their meetings to present real estate items, and a member of the Standing Committee, Alice Winn, is a liaison to the Trustees' Real Estate Committee.

During the past year the Trustees and Standing Committee held a joint meeting to discuss the future of the buildings at St. John's, East Poultney, and Trinity Church, Poultney. The Parish had voted to sell all of the properties and was seeking Diocesan permission, which we granted. Subsequent to that December, 2009 meeting, efforts have been made to save both church buildings from sale and possible destruction. We have been working actively with Preservation Trust of Vermont to find alternatives to save these two historic buildings. Meanwhile, the rectory in Poultney has been sold.

It has been an honor for me to serve as a Trustee of the Diocese for the past seven years, and President for the past five years. I appreciate the knowledge, wisdom and experience that each of the members brings to the Board. I thank them for their time and energy. I also thank the Diocesan Ministry Support Team for all of their communications, and directing of paper flow, between meetings. Also, my thanks to both Diocesan Treasurers with whom I have had the pleasure to work over the past seven years: Steve Smith and Wally Good.

Respectfully,

Carolyn Fouts
President