

## **DIOCESAN COUNCIL REPORT FROM NOVEMBER 2018–OCTOBER 2019**

### **November 28, 2018- Actions taken**

- Voted to refer the safe church policies of The Episcopal Church adopted by General Convention 2018 to the Standing Committee and Chancellor of the diocese for their study and asked that they send recommendations for action back to Diocesan Council by February 2019.
- Approved the Congregational Development Commission grant in the amount of \$1200 for a Christian formation series at Church of the Epiphany, Rumford.
- Approved the appointment of the Rev. Peter Michaelson to the Supplementary Benefits Committee.
- Approved the appointment of the Rev. Andrea Wyatt as the chairperson of the Commission on Congregational Development.
- Agreed that Diocesan Council would go “paperless,” as much as possible. All documents will be distributed electronically.

### **December 19, 2018- Actions taken**

- Approved Consent Calendar from Executive Committee which revised the Rules of Order for Diocesan Council.
- Elected the following members to the Executive Committee: Vice President- the Rev. Nathan Humphrey, Secretary of Diocesan Council-the Rev. Bettine Besier, Other members of Executive Committee- the Rev. Peter Tierney, Ms. Kim Cabral, Mr. Scott Hovanec.
- Elected the following people to these committees of Diocesan Council: For Supplementary Benefits Committee, each with a 1 year term- Mr. Bob Batchelor, Mr. Bob Fye, the Rev. Scott Lee. For Compensation and Benefits Committee, with a 3 year term- Mr. Bob Fye. For Diocesan Sponsorship and Partnership Committee, each for a 1 year term- the Rev. Ed Dean, Ms. Aimee Robinson, Mr. Toby Field, Mr. Scott Hovanec.
- Approved the appointment of the Rev. Anita Schell as the chairperson of the Creation Care Task Force.
- Approval of the designation of the following amounts of cash compensation to be clergy housing allowance for 2019 in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code [Section 107]: the Rev. Gillian Barr, \$20,000; the Rev. Meaghan Brower, \$46,000; the Rev. Canon Linda L. Grenz, \$112,364; the Rev. W. Nicholas Knisely, \$6,000; the Rev. John Lynch, \$26,500; the Rev. Sean Manchester, \$9,568; the Rev. Mary Ann Mello, \$25,000; the Rev. John Reardon, \$25,000; the Rev. Cara Rockhill, \$3,000.
- Approved the signatories for 2019 bank accounts as follows: For Church Beyond the Walls and Amazing Grace (at ACI)- Linda Grenz and Joan DeCelles. For the A.A. Gammel Fund Accounts- Linda Grenz, Joan DeCelles and Liz Crawley. For all other Diocesan bank accounts and DIT accounts- Linda Grenz, Joan DeCelles, Bob Batchelor and Dennis Burton.
- A motion was made to approve the signatories for 2019 diocesan contracts as follows: Dennis Burton and Bob Batchelor.

## **January 12, 2019- Actions taken**

- Accepted, with deep regret, the resignation of Mr. Bob Batchelor as treasurer of the Diocese-effective February 13, 2019.
- Voted to appoint Mr. John “Jay” Candon III, as the treasurer of the Diocese effective February 13, 2019.
- Approved the appointment of Mr. John Candon as a designated signator on the following active accounts of the Diocese: (1) Citizens Bank (General Operating Checking Account) (2) Bank of America (Episcopal Charities Operating Checking Account) (3) Bank of America/ US Trust (DIT Account) (4) Morgan Stanley Investment A/C (to facilitate gifts to the Diocese in Securities form).
- Approved the following appointments: the Rev. Joan Testin as chairperson of the Resolutions Committee; the Rev. Bettine Besier as chairperson of the Elections Committee; the Rev. Ed Dean as chairperson of the Sponsorship and Partnership Committee; Ms. Susan Ursillo as chairperson of the Compensation and Benefits Committee.
- Approved the allocation of the estimated 2019 income in the MacSparren-Lee fund of \$31,536 to support the following: \$10,000 towards the Instituto Ecuménico; \$7000 towards the support of our Young Adult Missioner; \$5000 for continuing education grants and \$9536 to support Diocesan young adult programs.
- Requested that the newly formed Creation Care Task Force prepare an outline for the scope of its work and provide a list of names to serve as task force members in time for the February 2019 Diocesan Council meeting.

## **March 27, 2019- Actions taken**

- Approved the Commission on Congregational Development grant for \$750 to pay for two discernment training days to be held in Lent.
- Accepted the recommendation from the Commission on Finance/Program & Budget Committee to approve a grant of \$3700 from the Diocesan Resource Fund to St. George’s, Central Falls to replace their fire alarm system.
- Accepted the recommendation from the Commission on Finance/Program & Budget Committee to approve a revolving loan to St. George’s, Central Falls in the amount of \$14,600 for a duration of 10 years.
- Accepted the recommendation from the Commission on Finance/Program & Budget Committee to approve a grant of \$25,000 from the Diocesan Resource Fund to St. David’s on the Hill, Cranston for strategic redevelopment.
- Approved the following appointments to the Episcopal Conference Center board: Mr. Steve Evans (2021), the Rev. Scott Lee (2021), Ms. Christine Losea (2021).
- Approved the following appointments to the Committee on Canons: the Rev. Michael Pearson as chairperson (2021), the Rev. Virginia Heistand (2020), Mr. John Hines (2020), Mr. Robert Larder (2021), Ms. Cindy Southern (2020).
- Approved the following appointments to the Committee on Resolutions: Ms. Susan Newkirk (2021), the Rev. Dante Tavolaro (2021), the Rev. Susan Wrathall (2021).
- Approved the following appointments to the Diocesan Audit Committee: the Rev. Mary Canavan (2020), Mr. Gregory A. deGroot (2020), Mr. Stan Schofield (2020).

- Approved the following appointments to the Commission on Congregational Development: the Rev. Julie Hanavan (2021), the Rev. Rob Travis (2020),.
- Approved the following appointments to the Committee on Elections: the Rev. Grace Swinski (2021).
- Approval of the following appointments to the Disciplinary Committee: Mr. John Bracken (2019), Mr. James Grayshaw (2021).

#### **April 24, 2019- Actions taken**

- Approved the Consent Calendar that included one item- the revision of the Diocesan Council Rules of Order.

#### **May 22, 2019- Actions taken**

- Approved the recommendation from the Commission on Finance/Program & Budget Committee that a line of credit for \$100,000 from the diocesan revolving loan fund be given to St. Mary's Home for Children, North Providence for a period of 3 years at 0% interest rate.
- Approved the recommendation from the Commission on Finance/Program & Budget Committee that the dividend income associated with the revolving loan fund Diocesan Investment Trust account be disbursed quarterly for use in funding apportionment funded expenses in the diocesan operating budget effective July 1, 2019.
- Asked that the Executive Committee come up with a way to provide architectural advice for churches that request such input.
- Accepted the policy change recommended by the Elections Committee which states that the terms of office for all elected and appointed positions to committees/commissions/task forces under the supervision of Diocesan Council shall follow these guidelines: The term of office shall begin with the close of the Diocesan Convention concurrent with the designated term or until the successor is elected and qualified. No individual who has served two consecutive full terms shall be eligible for election or appointment to the same committee/commission/task force until one year after the second term has expired. A vacancy in either clerical or lay representation of a member elected by Convention shall be filled by election by Diocesan Council for a term until the next annual Convention.

#### **August 14, 2019- Actions taken**

- Approved the Consent Calendar that included these items: the appointment of Mr. Chris Schillaci as the Chair of Creation Care Task Force; the appointment of Mr. Andrew Faulkner (2020) to the Commission on Finance; authorize the Rev. Canon Dena Cleaver-Bartholomew to be a signer on Citizens & Bank of America checking accounts; approve the 2019 clergy housing allowance for the Rev. Canon Dena Cleaver-Bartholomew in the amount of \$10,000.
- Approved the Commission on Congregational Development grant for \$1300 for a Russian icon exhibit at All Saints', Providence.
- Authorized the spending of up to \$425,000 to build a new boys' bathroom and nurse's station at the Episcopal Conference Center.

### **September 11, 2019- Actions taken**

- Met as the members of the Episcopal Housing Foundation. Adopted the new by-laws for Hallworth House. Elected the following members to the board of directors of Hallworth House (date of term end in parentheses): Mr. Colby Cameron (2020), Mr. John McJennett (2020), Dr. Denny Scott (2020), Mr. Jim Segovis (2020), Mr. Robert Bergstrand (2021), Ms. Susan Kostas (2021), the Rev. Scott Lee (2021), the Rev. Peter Tierney (2021), Mr. Toby Field (2022), Mr. Robert Fye (2022), Mr. David Monroe (2022) Dr. Patricia Nolan (2022). The ex-officio members of the board are Bishop Knisely, Mr. Jay Candon and Ms. Stephanie Igoe.

### **September 25, 2019- Actions taken**

- Approved the recommendation of the Compensation and Benefits Committee concerning the health insurance plans being offered for 2020 and that the financial responsibility of this be 17% to employees and 83% for employers.
- Approved the request from the Commission on Congregational Development that they may authorize grants up to \$2000 without seeking approval from Diocesan Council.
- Approved the recommendation from the Commission on Finance/Program & Budget Committee that the diocese receive the funds for the Edwards Homes that are being transferred out of the Episcopal Housing Foundation and put on onto the diocesan balance sheet.
- Approved the appointment of Mr. Dennis McLeavey to fill an unexpired term (2021) on the Commission on Investments.
- Voted to send \$12,918 from the diocesan Global Outreach budget line to dioceses that are helping people in the Bahamas recover from the recent hurricane.

### **October 23, 2019- Actions taken**

- Approved the recommendation that the 2020 diocesan budget, as presented at the October 2019 Diocesan Council meeting, be presented at the diocesan Convention.
- Approved the recommendation from the Episcopal Charities Advisory Board for 2019 grant distributions in the amount of up to \$264,985 to be awarded in priority order based on the availability of funds.
- Approved the recommendation from the Episcopal Charities Advisory Board for grants totaling \$28,438 from the earned income of the Susan Hudson Memorial Fund.
- Received the recommendation from the Compensation and Benefits Committee regarding 2020 guidelines for clergy salaries.
- Approved the Commission on Congregational Development grant for \$3420 for a Laundry Love ministry at St. Michael's, Bristol.
- Approved the Commission on Congregational Development grant for \$5000 for a new worship service with alternative music at St. David's on the Hill, Cranston.
- Nominated the following persons for the Diocesan Investment Trust Committee to be elected at Convention-each for a 3 year term: Ms. Ellen Abell, Ms. Vicki Escalera, the Rev. Mitch Lindeman.
- Approved the appointment of the Rev. Peter Tierney to the Commission on Finance for a 3 year term.

- Confirmed the nomination of the Rev. Veronica Tierney to the Compensation and Benefits Committee for a 3 year term.
- Appointed the Rev. John Reardon to the Commission on Congregational Development to complete the unexpired term (2020) of the Rev. Susan Carpenter.
- Confirmed the following appointments made by the Bishop- each for a 3 year term:  
the Rev. Della Wager Wells to Committee on Canons; the Rev. Bettine Besier,  
the Rev. Grace Swinski, the Rev. Dante Tavolaro to the Committee on Agenda;  
Mr. Neal McNamera, Mr. David Whitman to the Committee on Resolutions;  
Mr. Toby Fields to the Committee on Elections; the Rev. Ed Beaudreau, Mr. Joel Gardner to  
Diocesan Council.
- Met as the members of the Episcopal Housing Foundation and elected Mr. Bob Batchelor to the board of Hallworth House.