

Minutes of Diocesan Council Meeting | August 26, 2020 at 6 pm via Zoom

Present: Bishop Knisely, Ms. Sherry Bailey, Rev. Ed Beaudreau, Mr. Jay Candon, Mr. Robert Fye, Mr. Joel Gardner, Mr. Scott Hovanec, Rev. Scott Lee, Rev. William Locke, Mr. Jim Segovis, Ms. Olive Swinski, Rev. Joyce Thorne, and Rev. Jennifer Zogg, Ms. Kim Cabral,

Staff: Rev. Canon Dena Cleaver-Bartholomew and Mr. Dennis Burton.

Excused: Rev. Johanna Marcure, Rev. Al Marcetti, Rev. Dennis Bucco, and Mr. Toby Field.

Opening Devotion – The Rt. Rev. Nicholas Knisely, Bishop

Action Items

- Approval of the Rev. Michael Horvath, Rector of St. Michael's, Bristol to serve on the Board of the Center for Reconciliation

A motion to approve the Rev. Michael Horvath to serve on the Board of the Center for Reconciliation was moved, seconded and unanimously passed.

- Approval of Commission on Finance recommendations to Diocesan Council:
 1. To approve a \$14,500 Diocesan Resource Fund Grant to cover cost of repairs for Emmanuel Church, Newport to fix water damage to their building from a leaking roof line.

A motion to approve this recommendation was passed unanimously.

2. Diocesan Council form a committee to reassess the future strategic purpose, role, and direction of Episcopal Charities. Commission on Finance recommends the creation of a 10-year Episcopal Charities model going forward.

The Bishop will the COF recommendation to a meeting with Canon Fornal and this is matter will be referred to Executive Committee for further discussion after the conversation with Canon Fornal.

The Minutes of the July Diocesan Council meeting were unanimously approved with one correction: Mr. Scott Hovanec should be listed under "excused/absent" and not under "Staff".

Bishop's Time

- Old Narragansett Church
 - o Bishop is working with them to sort out the role of Bishop in oversee that property, its legal status under the diocese and its historic relationship with St. Paul's, Wickford.
- RI Council of Churches

- We are considering eliminating our financial support from this organization. We are the last denominational body still to support them. The loss of our funds will likely cause them to close as an organization. However, their effectiveness is minimal and their mission unclear. A decision on the issue was referred to Executive Committee.

Reports

- Rev. Canon Dena Cleaver-Bartholomew offered highlights of her written report. There will be a leadership event coming up with the Rev'd Susan Beaumont about her book *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going*. The webinar will take place the second week of January.
- Mr. Dennis Burton offered highlights of his written report. It was noted that conversation with Thrivent regarding a Line of Credit have gone very well and is now being negotiated. The 2020 Budget is on track for an estimated \$600K surplus. Audit is moving along well. Christ Church, Lonsdale unexpectedly sold their LaFarge windows and no longer needs the DFR grant for which they had applied.

COF has working group to address how the forgiven PPP loan income to individual parishes should be treated relative to diocesan apportionment assessments in 2021. This group will report back to Council next month.

The 2021 Draft Budget was presented. The five-year forecast continues to positive with surpluses expected. A survey of churches was undertaken to ascertain income erosion due to COVID and 20 churches responded with two-thirds of those receiving PPP loans.

It was reported that the Center for Reconciliation is now being incorporated into the diocesan umbrella. As of 1/1/21 they will be incorporated under the diocesan 501(c)3. They currently have a significant budgetary shortfall and the diocese will need to brainstorm ways to help them reach a balanced budget. The Council was supportive of the idea to create a small endowment that would support them into the future.

- Mr. Jay Candon reported that the Diocese was in good shape and the financials are on track.

Correspondence

A letter was received from the Rt. Rev. Henry Katumba requesting additional funds to repair their damaged cathedral. The matter was not acted upon. The Council wondered if there would be a possibility for a companion diocese relationship.

Discussion

St. Peter's by the Sea, Narragansett submitted preliminary branding materials for use widely in the diocese. This was the deliverable from the grants issued them by Council earlier in the summer to work on branding and marketing.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:10 pm.