

Minutes of Diocesan Council Meeting | May 25, at 6 pm via Zoom

Present: Bishop Knisely, The Rev. Ed Beaudreau, The Rev. Beth Sherman, The Rev. Christa Moore-Levesque, The Rev. Ricky Brightman, The Rev. Jack Lynch, The Rev. Al Marcetti, The Rev. Peter Tierney, The Rev. Tanya Watt, Mr. Scott Hovanec, Ms. Phyllis Spaziano, Mr. Jim Segovis, Mr. Robert Fye, Mrs. Vicki Escalera, Mr. Jim Segovis, and Ms. Cheryl Abney

Staff: Mr. Dennis Burton, Mr. Ed Biddle, Rev. Dr. Canon Dena Cleaver-Bartholomew, and Mrs. Teresa Valentine

Excused: Ms. Olive Swinski

Opening Devotion – The Rev. Deacon Dorothy (Ricky) Brightman

Bishop Knisely moved that the consent Agenda be approved. The items included on the consent agenda, listed below, passed unanimously.

- ◆ Approve of April Agenda
- ◆ Approve April Diocesan Council minutes
- ◆ Sale of Rectory in Coventry – Affirm Finance Commission recommendation to deposit proceeds into the Diocesan Resource Fund

Canon's Report

Canon Dena announced and explained that during The Council Workday she will have what she calls a “Show and Tell” section as an icebreaker. Council members are invited to bring an object that helps inform others about who they are as a person. Canon Dena thanked Deacon Ricky, Mr. Bob Fye and Mrs. Phillis Esposito for their work on the Work Day Team.

Canon Dena did not have any updates and no questions were asked

CFO Report

- ◆ Mr. Biddle let the committee know, that he will be a full-time employee with the Episcopal Dioceses of Rhode Island starting in mid-July. The Chief Financial Officer transition is going extremely well, and he wanted to thank Dennis and the rest of the Dioceses team for being very welcoming and handling the transition well.
- ◆ Mr. Biddle gave a PowerPoint presentation that showed a 50,000 foot overview of next year's budget. It is the result of work that was done with the Committee on Finance.

- ◆ Mr. Burton shared with the committee The State of Rhode Island will continue to rent Hallworth House through October of 2022. ECC capital improvements project such as restoring the barn and Carriage House is delayed due to the illness. He also gave a report on the most recent meeting of the directors of the Diocesan Investment Trust (DIT).
- ◆ Mrs. Escalera reported on her activities since Council last met, including a reunion with our former Diocesan treasurer for 25 years, Bob Batchelor, and the communication of recommended changes to the Canons' descriptions of the treasurer's and chief financial officer's respective roles and the oversight responsibilities of the Audit Committee to encompass risk management. She mentioned meetings with the external auditors who have started their audit of the Diocese's 12/31/21 financial statements; participation in 2023 budget planning; seeking ways to support churches via cost-effective options to meet their financial administration needs; and her ongoing interest in experimenting with the design of a more streamlined format for the financial reports Diocesan Council receives. The financial reports for April 2022 show a positive budget variance for the month and year-to-date, although a deficit by year-end is still projected.

Action Items

Resolutions regarding Board restricted Endowment Funds. **Motion passed with wording from Attorney Liz Manchester unamended. (Attached)**

- Moved by Mr. Jim Segovis
- Seconded by Mr. Scott Hovanec

West Buganda request - **Motion passed to send \$4K from (WHICH FUND)?**

- Moved by Mr. Scott Hovanec
- Seconded by Mr. Jim Segovis

Bishop Time

Bishop Knisely reported on his most recent meeting with the Bishops and Episcopal and Lutheran clergy of New England regarding shared ministry in the region.

General Convention 2022 has been shortened from 7/7/22 - 7/11/22, however Lambeth Conference is still taking place as scheduled.

We received a letter to discuss Anti-Racism work with Diocesan Council. After a lively discussion, Mrs. Phyllis Spaziano suggested an Ad-Hoc group and has offered to help convene the group.

A motion was passed, to adjourn at 7:30 pm.

- First Motion made by Mr. Jim Segovis

- Second Motion made by Deacon Ricky