

Minutes of Diocesan Council Meeting | October 27, 2021, at 6 pm via Zoom

Present: Rev. Ed Beaudreau, Rev. Dennis Bucco, Mr. Jay Candon, Mr. Robert Fye, Mr. Joel Gardner, Mr. Scott Hovanec, Bishop Knisely, Rev. William Locke, Rev. Johanna Marcure, Ms. Olive Swinski, Rev. Peter Tierney, and Rev. Jennifer Zogg.

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

Excused: Ms. Sherry Bailey, Ms. Kim Cabral, Mr. Toby Field, Rev. Scott Lee, Rev. Al Marcetti, Mr. Jim Segovis, and Rev. Joyce Thorne.

Guests: Mr. Paul Wolf and Maxwell King.

Opening Devotion – Bishop Knisely offered the opening devotion, which included prayers for Ms. Kim Cabral’s father Richard.

Canon’s Report

Canon Dena highlighted additional recommendations made by the Compensation & Benefits Committee included in the October materials presented to Diocesan Council members. The additions included a salary schedule for Assistants and Supply Clergy. She also offered an update on the CFO search process.

Bishop Knisely noted that Ms. Teresa Valentine will be assuming the role of secretary to Diocesan Council in November. Ms. Valentine will be stepping in as his Executive Assistant when Ms. Liz Higginbotham retires.

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

— Elections Committee Report:

1. Confirmed Bishop’s Nominations to Committee on Compensation & Benefits, Program & Budget Committee, and Commission on Finance
2. Approved Nominations to Commission on Investments

— Approved Donor Gift Agreements

— Approved drawing down the remaining \$6,074 Global Outreach/MDG Funds to support the Episcopal Peace Fellowship Grant Request

— Approved Recommended Changes to Clergy Compensation Guide 2022

CFO Report

Report on the State of RI Department of Health Leasing of Hallworth House

Mr. Dennis Burton offered updates to his written report. The updates included information regarding the Rhode Island Department of Health’s use of Hallworth House and the potential use of Hallworth House by Dorcas to house Afghan refugees. He noted that there is a lot of synergy between the work of the Rhode Island Department of Health, Beautiful Day, and Dorcas. In addition, he noted that their use of Hallworth House would dovetail with the budget plan for next year.

Mr. Burton thanked Diocesan Council members for the unanimous confirmation via email authorizing him to sign the Purchase & Sale Agreement of Advent Church located at 1395 Nooseneck Hill Road, Coventry for the purchase price of \$325,000 based on the terms approved by the Chancellor, Rich Sayer.

Mr. Burton noted that the sale of the rectory was waiting on the completion of an insurance claim repair. He added that the sale of the church and the sale of the rectory should be completed within the next thirty (30) days.

Bishop Knisely requested a motion to affirm Diocesan Council's email ballot on the sale of the Advent Property at 1395 Nooseneck Hill Road, Coventry. The motion was moved by Ms. Olive Swinski, seconded by Mr. Jay Candon, and unanimously passed.

A motion was moved by Ms. Olive Swinski, seconded by Mr. Scott Hovanec, and unanimously passed to approve the sale of the rectory to the purchaser for \$235,000.

A motion was moved by Mr. Joel Gardner, seconded by Mr. Scott Hovanec, and unanimously passed to approve the September Minutes.

Request for Mentors for New Diocesan Council Members

There was a request for mentors for the incoming Diocesan Council members. Ms. Olive Swinski volunteered to serve as mentor.

Bishop's Time

Bishop Knisely noted that he is receiving inquiries about appropriate COVID policies as we move forward. He shared that should the present trend continue, gathering for Christmas would be fine. He added that vaccinated individuals do not need to wear a mask. However, those who remain unvaccinated should wear a mask. He also noted the complicated nature of setting policies as individual needs vary. He reminded Diocesan Council members that the Canons state that the rector, or priest-in-charge, of a parish is responsible for making decisions about worship in their parish.

He shared that there had been a thought-provoking Clergy Bible Study Preaching seminar on Advent, adding that the seminar was a result of the efforts of the clergy of South County. Dr. Dierdre Good, former New Testament Professor at General Seminary facilitated the seminar. He offered that he and Canon Dena would be seeking out other facilitators to lead a workshop in advance of upcoming Annual Meetings. More information will be forthcoming. Active clergy will receive a 'hold the date' notice.

Guest Presentation Denham Wolf | Mr. Paul Wolf and Maxwell King

Mr. Wolf offered background on his firm, introduced his colleague Mr. Maxwell King, and together they presented a comprehensive presentation regarding an appropriate example of the firm's work.

Following the presentation, Mr. Burton noted that the next step should be following the Commission on Finance's recommendation that there be more due diligence done and that the diocese should reach out to the Episcopal churches and cathedrals for whom Denham Wolf has worked. He further noted that the total engagement cost would be about \$66,000 and that the process would take about six months.

Rev. Peter Tierney noted the importance of establishing a capable team to work with Denham Wolf. Mr. Robert Fye noted the importance of the diocese discerning an optimal outcome for the Cathedral block.

The Final Presentation of the FY22 Budget | Mr. Dennis Burton, Rev. Tierney

Mr. Burton presented the FY22 Budget. Rev. Peter Tierney offered comments on the 2022 budget. Bishop Knisely thanked the members of the COF for their excellent work.

There was discussion regarding the presentation of the budget deficit at Convention. Mr. Burton clarified that there would be a generic presentation of the deficit at Convention.

A motion from the Commission on Finance to approve the Diocesan budget for 2022 as presented to Diocesan Council by the Treasurer and the Chief Financial Officer of the Diocese on October 27, 2021, as a budget totaling \$4,216,524 in revenue and \$4,474,273 in expenses resulting in a deficit of (\$255,749) unanimously passed.

Additional Bishop's Time

Bishop Knisely offered comments regarding the funding of the CFR.

Action Items

Diocesan Council affirmed moving forward with the ECC Capital Improvement plan.

Bishop Knisely share an update with Diocesan Council members received by Ms. Kim Cabral regarding her father, Richard. The bishop offered thanks to God for Richard's improvement and requested continuing prayers for his health.

A motion was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed expressing gratitude to outgoing Diocesan Council members, Rev. William Locke; Rev. Johanna Marcure, Secretary; and Rev. Jennifer Zogg, Vice-chair, for their excellent work on Diocesan Council.

A motion was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed to adjourn at 8:08 pm.