

Diocesan Council Report to Convention

November 2020 through October 2021

November 18, 2020 – Actions Taken

Approved transferring from DIT Fund #504 all residual units approximating 406.96 units reflecting residual funds approximating \$27,463.94 as reported on 8/31/20 in the Band of America Fund Activity Quarterly Report to DIT Fund#581 – Hallworth House Replacement Fund/HH Property Reserve Fund subject to legal review and approval by the Chancellor and reporting to Diocesan Council.

Approved allocating \$20K from the existing DRF allocation for A/V grant requests.

Approved the unexpended 2020 A/V grant funds be swept back into the DRF fund and that the same amount of \$20K from the DRF be made available for A/V grant requests in 2021.

Approved reducing the listing price of Church of the Advent, Coventry from \$495,000 to \$459,000.

Confirmed the appointment of The Rev. Bettine Besier to fill the unexpired term (2022) of The Rev. Greta Getlein on the Commission on Finance.

Approved the election of The Rev. Susan Wrathall to fill the open Presbyter's seat on Standing Committee.

Elected Dr. Rebecca Silliman by a vote of 9 to 4 to fill the one open seat on Standing Committee.

December 16, 2020 – Actions Taken

Approved a grant for Church of the Holy Spirit, Charlestown for \$20,000 from the Diocesan Resource Fund.

Approved a loan of up to \$46,000 from the Revolving Loan Fund to Church of the Holy Spirit, Charlestown. This will be a 5-year loan at a rate of 1.5% interest. They will use their unrestricted funds in the DIT to secure the loan.

Approved that \$31,500 from the Hallworth House settlement be transferred to the Edwards Homes General Fund (DIT#108) and that the remainder of the settlement, \$132,750, be transferred to the Hallworth House Reserve Fund (DIT #581).

Approved the appointment of Ms. Theresa Moore to fill the open position on the Program and Budget Committee through October 2021 (possibly longer if willing).

Approved the signatories for 2021 bank accounts as follows: For Church Beyond the Walls and Amazing Grace (at ACI): The Rev. Canon Dena Cleaver-Bartholomew and Ms. Joan DeCelles; For the A.A. Gammel Fund Accounts: The Rev. Canon Dena Cleaver-

Bartholomew, Ms. Joan DeCelles and Ms. Liz Crawley Higginbotham; For all other Diocesan bank accounts and DIT accounts: The Rev. Canon Dena Cleaver-Bartholomew, Ms. Joan DeCelles, Mr. John Candon and Mr. Dennis Burton.

Approved the signatories for 2021 diocesan contracts as follows: The Rev. Canon Dena Cleaver-Bartholomew, Mr. Dennis Burton and Mr. John Candon.

Designated the following amounts of cash compensation to be clergy housing allowance for 2021 in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code (Section 107).

The Rev. Canon Meaghan Brower	\$ 40,000
The Rev. Canon Dena Cleaver-Bartholomew	\$ 26,000
The Rt. Rev. W. Nicholas Knisely	\$ 10,000
The Rev. John Lynch	\$ 27,500
The Rev. Sean Manchester	\$ 9,726
The Rev. Mary Ann Mello	\$ 20,000

Approved the allocation of all available funds from the 2021 income from the MacSparran-Lee Fund to a restricted fund to be drawn down at the Bishop's discretion.

Elected Rev. Jennifer Zogg as Vice President, Rev. Johanna Marcure as Secretary, and Ms. Kim Cabral and Mr. Scott Hovanec as Diocesan Council Representatives to the Executive Committee.

Approved the rubric as developed by the Technology Task Force for Technology grants.

Approved the adoption of the Safe Church Policy as amended by the Safe Church Policy Task Force.

Approved all Episcopal Charities Annual Grant donations be given as additional grants to already approved non-profit agencies focused on meeting the basic human needs of our at-risk children and elders.

Approved all Charities NOW donations go to feed our neighbors in need as additional grants to our church feeding programs and/or local food pantries.

January 27, 2021 – Actions Taken

Approved a Resolution to empower the Diocese to accept and hold monies paid either by a parish, a mission, or the Diocese to be used for the continuing education of Deacons.

Approved a Resolution to consent to the bishop's appointment of The Rev. Linda Griggs to the Commission on Ministry for a 3-year term.

Approved revisions to the Audio/Visual Grant Policy.

Approved granting permission to the Congregational Development Commission to approve Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 Audio/Visual grants without having to come back to Diocesan Council.

Consented to the Bishop's appointment of The Rev. Mary Canavan, Mr. Stan Schofield, and Mr. Gregory deRoot to serve for another term in 2021 was moved, seconded, and passed.

February 24, 2021 – Action Taken

Approved using the 2020 surplus dollars to pay the assessment to The Episcopal Church (\$22K), make repairs at May House (\$30K) and make repairs at ECC (\$50K) and that Diocesan Council delay decisions about spending the remaining \$211K surplus until there is more information about the 2021 apportionment income.

Approved the adoption of the Safe Church Audit Checklist as presented.

March 24, 2021 – Actions Taken

Affirmed the plan for camp as presented.

Passed a motion to not assess the second round of PPP loans.

Affirmed the Executive Committee's decision that contingent upon the approval of the Chancellor, the Purchase & Sale Agreement for the sale of Church of the Advent, Coventry, RI be signed by Mr. Dennis Burton.

Affirmed the Executive Committee's decision that the Hallworth House Lease with Beautiful Day.

Approved, pursuant to a favorable legal review, that the Diocese approve the establishment of a line of credit with Thrivent. And, that the initial policy be that this money should be used exclusively to finance the loans made from the Revolving Loan Fund – including the current balance and future loans – up to the amount of \$1 million.

Approved mission congregations that apply for an AV grant will receive money from the Commission on Congregational Development (CDC) Mission Surplus Fund. Any parish congregation that applies for an AV grant will receive 50% of the grant from the CDC Parish Surplus Fund, and 50% from the Diocesan Resource Fund.

Approved the assignment of \$80K from the Diocesan Resource Fund be used to give grants to congregations in 2021

April 28, 2021 – Actions Taken

Approved setting May 14, 2021, as the deadline for congregations to submit their requests for a 2021 apportionment adjustment; and to use 2019 income following the existing Apportionment Calculation process if the deadline is missed.

Approved AV grants for churches be used to cover dedicated audio visual hardware,

software, installation, and training purchased between March 1, 2020 and December 31, 2021 and that the total amount given to each church during this period may not exceed \$3000.

Approved offering a promissory note up to \$100,000 to CFR funded from the Revolving Loan Fund to give CFR adequate funding thru 2021, with the condition that CFR will meet and work with COF to present a financial plan supported by specific action items to minimize the Diocesan subsidy.

Approved empowering the Executive Committee to populate a sub-committee within two weeks time to offer a proposal which considers all the elements the Commission on Finance has identified concerning the DRF funds and report back to Diocesan Council at its June meeting.

Approved a grant be given to Church of the Epiphany, Rumford of \$20,000 from the Diocesan Resource Fund, with the understanding that if there is a change in the policy Epiphany may reapply.

Approved St. Mary's Home for Children, North Providence, be allowed to apply for a loan from the Revolving Loan Fund with the same terms that are given to churches.

Approved a loan of \$25,000 from the Revolving Loan Fund be given to St. James, Woonsocket and that the loan be considered a Corona relief loan with no interest and no payments until July 1, 2021.

Approved accepting the following Parochial Report Amending Policy: If a congregation discovers an error in the financial data they reported to the Diocese to calculate their apportionment assessment for a given year, they may apply for a corrective adjustment of their apportionment, retroactive for up to three calendar years from the current year. The congregation should submit their corrected financial reports to the Diocesan finance office for review and recalculation of the apportionment amount(s) by the Parochial Report Review Committee. Any resulting appointment adjustment will be applied to the congregation's current year apportionment assessment, in a manner agreed upon between the Diocesan finance director and the congregation.

Approved a Global Mission Fund grant of \$2,874 be given to the Diocese of West Buganda to help fund completion and maintenance of two well projects in West Buganda that will be used primarily as a source for clean drinking water for the community and support of the BeeKeeping project funded last year.

Approved Bishop Knisely be directed to explore with the Diocese of West Buganda the possibility of a Companion Diocese relationship.

Approved the Safe Church guidelines, for this year only, be extended to December 31, 2021.

Approved including the Chancellor's Opinion Letter in the Safe Church Policy.

May 26, 2021 – Actions Taken

Approved authorizing up to \$40,000 be spent from the ECC Capital Improvement Fund to hire an engineer and architect (Peter Lofgren) to prepare engineering and architectural schematic drawings/plans facilitating contractor bids for restoration of the barn at ECC.

Approved authorizing the Chancellor, Rich Sayer, and the CFO, Mr. Dennis Burton, to move forward with the negotiating of the sale of Advent Church for \$340,000 subject to terms that are acceptable to both the Chancellor and the CFO.

Approved a grant be given to St. Luke's, East Greenwich in the amount of \$20,000 from the Diocesan Resource Fund.

Approved a grant be given to Emmanuel, Newport in the amount of \$18,780.53 from the Diocesan Resource Fund.

Approved a grant be given to Ascension Wakefield for their hearing loop system in the amount of \$1,602.85 from the Mudrak Fund.

Approved affirming the COF revising the 2009 church merger policy and specify that if congregations merge, 100% of the proceeds from the sale of church-owned buildings will be given to the merged congregation.

Approved recommending to the Committee on Canons that the wording found on page 50 of Diocesan Council's May materials merging the Commission on Finance and the Program and Budget Committee by adopted.

Approved a grant be given to St. Peter's and St. Andrew's be given in the amount of \$8,300 from the CDC Mission Fund.

Affirmed the Strategic Plan and Staffing Goals of the CFR Board passed unanimously.

Approved the Executive Committee begin populating a Global Partnership subcommittee.

June 23, 2021 – Actions Taken

Approved a grant be given to St. Thomas, Greenville of up to \$3,500.00 for financial planning assistance.

Approved Epiphany, Rumford's request for \$15,000 for chairs to support the development of a creative worship program.

Approved deferring the interest and repayment of COVID-19 loans for San Jorge, Central Falls and St. James, Woonsocket until January 1, 2022.

Approved deferring the interest and repayment of COVID-19 loans for St. Peter and Andrew, Providence until January 1, 2022.

Approved the following Charities Now grants:

1. Church-based programs:

- Church of the Redeemer, Providence – \$1,000
Collaboration with Community Health Innovations of RI to teach Mt. Hope teens food prep utilizing the kitchen at Redeemer.
- St. Thomas, Greenville – \$1,000
Continued support of their ministry to City Campers by providing snacks and meal ingredients for 100 families of City Campers.

2. Church-partnered programs – Food for children and seniors:

- North Kingstown Food Pantry \$1,000
- East Bay Food Pantry, Bristol \$1,000
- Jonnycake Center in Peacedale Food Pantry \$1,000
- Martin Luther King Community Center Food Pantry, Newport \$1,000
- Central Falls Self-Sufficiency Foundation Food Pantry \$1,000
- Camp Street Ministries Food Pantry, Providence \$1,000
- Dorcas International – \$2,500
Emergency Basic Needs Grants for refugee and immigrant families of children in their at-risk and Head Start programs

Approved amending the Diocesan Employee Handbook to incorporate the recommendations concerning accrued PTO owed to a former employee and contained on page 44 of the June 23 Diocesan Council Materials.

Approved confirming the appointment of The Rev. Dante Tavolaro as 3rd Delegate to Service on Province I Governing Body and then to be elected formally at the fall convention.

Approved the appointment of Rev. Norman MacLeod as Diocesan Creation Care Coordinator.

August 4, 2021 – Actions Taken

Approved surplus money from the ECC Gala in the amount of \$46,476 be moved into the ECC capital improvement fund, and that Diocesan Council endorse the capital improvement plan at ECC using the funding sources that were outlined in the presentation, with the stipulation that any funding shortfall will be paid for from the Diocesan Investment Trust cash account.

Approved deferring the interest and repayment of the Corona loan for Emmanuel, Cumberland until January 1, 2022.

September 22, 2021 – Actions Taken

Affirmed the appointment of Chris Schillaci as co-chair of the Creation Care effort and designate \$13,000 be taken from the MacSparren-Lee fund to support the work of the Creation Care Committee.

Approved the distribution of \$3,852 from the Global Outreach Fund to support the West Buganda COVID-19 Community Relief Project 2020.

Approved \$13,000 be taken from the MacSparren-Lee fund to support the work of the Creation Care Committee.

Approved the 2021-2022 recommendations as presented from the Clergy Health Plan and Compensation & Benefits committee.

Approved authorizing the CFO and Chancellor, Rich Sayer, to finalize a Purchase and Sale Agreement to sell Advent Church (the former St Mathias Church) located at 1395 Nooseneck Rd, Coventry, RI for the price of \$325,000 on an 'As Is' cash basis with no contingencies to the proposed buyer, World Mission Society Church of God.

Approved authorizing the CFO to sign an engagement letter with Elizabeth Manchester, J.D., Chair, Charitable and Non-Profit Organizations Practice Group, Partridge, Snow and Hahn, to perform a legal review and provide a legal opinion on the Diocesan restricted endowments with an initial scope of Episcopal Charities, Congregational Development, and Widows, Orphans and Clergy endowments (approximately 30-40 endowments) for an estimated expense of \$10-15,000 was made by Mr. Scott Hovanec, seconded by Mr. Jim Segovis, and passed unanimously.

Delegated authority to the Executive Committee to approve a lease for floors 3 and 4, and possibly the 2nd floor to the State of Rhode Island Department of Health to be used as a step-down unit for homeless COVID-positive patients to be managed in conjunction with West Bay Community Action.

Approved a grant be given to St. Peter's & St. Andrew's in the amount of \$15,870.00 from the CDC missions fund.

Passed a resolution that a note expressing gratitude and appreciation be extended to Ms. Susan Ursillo for the good work accomplished by the Compensation & Benefits committee.

October 27, 2021 – Actions Taken

Confirmed Bishop's Nominations to Committee on Compensation & Benefits, Program & Budget Committee, and Commission on Finance.

Approved Nominations to Commission on Investments.

Approved Donor Gift Agreements.

Approved of 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.

Approved recommending to Diocesan Convention the Commission on Finance Diocesan Budget for 2022 as presented by the Treasurer and the Chief Financial Officer of the Diocese to Diocesan Council on October 18,2021 as a budget totaling \$4,216,524 in revenue and \$4,472,273 in expenses resulting in a deficit of (\$255,749).

Approved the sale of Church of the Advent/former St Mathias to the Faith Fellowship Assembly of God church at a sale price of \$325,000 less realtor fees and legal expenses based on terms approved by our Chancellor, Rich Sayer.

Approved the sale of the Church of the Advent/Former St Mathias Rectory at the sale price of \$235,000 less legal expenses.