

Minutes of Diocesan Council Meeting | March 23, at 6 pm via Zoom

Present: Bishop Knisely, Father Alvin Marcetti, Rev. Beth Sherman, Rev. Christa Moore-Levesque, Rev. Ricky Brightman, Mr. Joel Gardner, Mr. Scott Hovanec, Ms. Olive Swinski, Ms. Phyllis Spaziano, Mr. Jim Segovis and Mrs. Vicki Escalera

Staff: Mr. Dennis Burton, Mr. Ed Biddle, and Mrs. Teresa Valentine

Excused: Rev. Jack Lynch, Rev. Dr. Canon Dena Cleaver-Bartholomew; and Mr. Robert Fye

Opening Devotion – Bishop Knisely

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

- ◆ Approve February Diocesan Council minutes with a spelling correction - Denham Wolf
- ◆ Approve the Agenda
- ◆ CDC Grants
 - St. Ann by the Sea
 - St. Peter's by the Sea
- ◆ CFR State Annual Report – Change the purpose of the report to state “Work of Racial Justice and Reconciliation”

Diocesan Council Appointments - Rev. Beth Sherman; Rev. Christa Moore-Levesque, Rev. Tanya Watt, Ms. Alison Huff and Ms. Cheryl Abney - **Motion Passed**

Canon's Report

Canon Dena has reached out to Bishop Knisley and notified him that he people we thought we had a chance at calling to Rhode Island have subsequently taken other calls.

CFO Report

Mr. Bidle, Mr. Burton, and Mrs. Escalera were in a launch of the budget forecast meeting earlier today and updating the 2022 forecast and are working on 2023. We have a scheduled meeting with the endowment attorney, tomorrow, Liz Manchester to continue the process of evaluating the orphan, widows and clergy fund and a follow up of other endowments, specifically the episcopal charities. We can currently only use \$6k out of \$135 dividend income and \$129k will be put back into endowment and it will accumulate.

Mr. Bidle and Mr. Burton had a meeting with our consulting group, Denham Wolf, and the team. They continue to make satisfactory progress on the Diocesan block project. We are working on capital improvements at Camp. There are three (3) buildings, the barn, carriage house and the new bathhouse, the bathhouse may be postponed due to construction delays until after the camp season. However, we are on track with fund raising, approximately \$840k has been raised of \$1M needed.

There will be an increase for property insurance at about 14.8% for the Dioceses buildings.

Mr. Biddle stated that his reception at the Diocese has been extremely warm and constructive, and he wants to thank everyone he has met and is looking forward to meeting everyone else.

Mr. Burton said he has put together the analysis and it has notes in the column for the member's review. We have approximately \$57K that were favorable but keep in mind \$40k is a grant received from the Episcopal church. Camp also came out on top financially. We had budgeted a deficit of \$255k this year and it will be our toughest year post pandemic, but the forecast is coming on track with the budget of \$255k. We will continue to improve each month with the budget. Bishop Knisely asked to be careful of spending line items.

Action Items

Corona Revolving Loans – 4 churches took out revolving loans during the pandemic. CoF recommended converting those to grants, refunding payment to the one church that had started repayment. **Motion passed.**

Revolving Loan Fund – CoF recommends two changes to the Rules for Participation. 1) CoF has authority to act on loans up to 10% of the market value of the Revolving Loan Fund, and 2) To receive a loan, churches must be current with their Parochial Report and Audit. **Motion passed**

There were two grant requests that did not have supporting documentation available for the Diocesan Council meeting. After discussion, it was moved & seconded they be sent to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will hold a special meeting during the next week to discuss and vote on the grant requests. **Motion passed.**

Diocesan Council workday will be in person on June 11, 2022, from 9am – 1pm at the Diocesan office.

Bishop Time

Bishop Knisley asked the committee to introduce themselves to the new members. Bishop Knisely just returned from the House of Bishops conference (HOB) and stated it was a great meeting and it was the first one in three years. The Cathedral book study is going well, we have participants from all over the world. Bishop Knisely and Ms. Teresa Valentine is working on redoing the work week for Bishop Knisely and the Bishop mentioned he is speaking at Ukraine vigil at the State house on 3/25/22.

The General Convention is from July 4th to July 16th in Baltimore and the plan is to be in person. Lambeth Conference is from July 26th to August 8th in England.

A motion was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed to adjourn at 7pm.