

Minutes of Diocesan Council Meeting | November 17, 2021, at 6 pm via Zoom

Present: Rev. Ed Beaudreau, Mr. Robert Fye, Mr. Joel Gardner, Mr. Scott Hovanec, Bishop Knisely, Ms. Olive Swinski, Ms. Phyllis Spaziano, Rev. Jack Lynch and Rev. Ricky Brightman

Staff: Mr. Dennis Burton, Rev. Dr. Canon Dena Cleaver-Bartholomew, Liz Higginbotham, and Teresa Valentine.

Excused:

Guests:

Bishop was reminded of his consecration as Bishop nine years ago.

Opening Devotion – Bishop Knisely offered the opening devotion and asked to start opening the meeting with the mission statement

Guest presentation No guest presentation in November

The committee introduced themselves

Scott Hovanec was nominated to serve as Vice President of Diocesan Council and will also sit on the Executive Committee of Council

Motion made and passed unanimously

Canon's Report

Canon Dena offered an update on the CFO search process. She has interviewed each candidate to assess additional skills and cultural fit and have recommended three finalists to the Bishop and Search Committee. We are in the process of scheduling in person interviews for the finalists in early December. Our hope is to have the next CFO begin work in January, then work alongside Dennis Burton until he retires at the end of March 2022.

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

- Approved October Diocesan Council minutes
- Approved Donor Gift Agreements
 - G. Wheelock
 - R. Silliman

CFO Report

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

Mr. Dennis Burton stated DOH is interested in leasing the 2nd and 4th floor of Hallworth House as a place to house individuals who have either tested positive or have been exposed to COVID-19. The lease is approximately six months and Mr. Burton has a meeting with the Chancellor, Mr. Sayer, and the State of RI attorney to finalize one term that has been holding up the lease signature, which is indemnification, and the state has effectively sovereign immunity, but we want the state to wave sovereign immunity and go fully to indemnify. In addition, he noted that the use of Hallworth House would dovetail with the budget plan for next year. In addition, we

have some discussions that are developing quickly with Dorcas International, to house refugees from Afghanistan and other countries after the state program.

Mr. Dennis Burton met with the Endowment Attorney, Liz Manchester, to review some of our Endowment to better understand the restrictions tied to them and how to use the principle in the future and hope to have it wrapped up by early next year.

Mr. Dennis Burton stated that we are anticipating a deficit this year of 111k.

Action Items

Diocesan Council moving forward with the Cathedral Block project

Approve Thrivent Line of Credit

Two Executive Committee members were elected, Rev. Ricky Brightman and Mr. Joel Gardner

Authorization to add and remove names authorized to sign diocesan accounts, including the Gammell Fund.

A motion to move forward with the Cathedral Block project was moved by Mr. Jim Segovis, seconded by Rev. Ricky Brightman, and unanimously passed.

We are not going to take the line of credit because we will need to do a legal review of the document and it is more complicated than expected

A motion to elect two Executive Committee Members was moved by and unanimously passed.

A motion to change authorization signatures on diocesan accounts was moved and unanimously passed.

Council liaisons for standing committees will be appointed at a later date.

Additional Agenda Items

Mr. Dennis Burton notified the committee, a grant was received to assist female residents of Edwards Homes in compliance with the grant restrictions that the funds be used for supporting Protestant needy women.

Bishop's Time

Bishop Knisely noted that has received a request from Bishop Henry in West Buganda to donate \$8k to the girls' school, Bishop Knisely asked to be in conversation early next year when we have the budget

Bishop Knisely mentioned we still have six empty seats on the Diocesan Council committee and asked the committee members to recommend some names. Also, the bishop's goal for the next few years is to focus on leadership development and lift people in the diocese who have not served on Council but may have been industry members somewhere.

The COVID 19 numbers are increasing.

A motion was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed to adjourn at 7:00 pm.