

Diocesan Council Minutes

September 28, 2022

6:00 pm via Zoom

Present: The Rt. Rev. W. Nicholas Knisely, the Rev. Canon Dena Cleaver-Bartholomew, the Rev. Jack Lynch, the Rev. Ed Beaudreau, Olive Swinski, the Rev. Beth Sherman, Joel Gardner, Susan Ursillo, Alison Huff, Vicki Escalera, the Rev. Christa Moore-Levesque, Phyllis Spaziano, Scott Hovanec, Jim Segovis, The Rev. Tanya Watt, the Rev. Dcn. Ricky Brightman, Cheryl Abney, the Rev. Al Marcetti, Bob Fye

Staff: Ed Biddle, Kristin Knudson-Groh

Also Attending: The Rev. Dcn. Joyce Thorne, Dwayne Keyes

Opening Devotion – Phyllis Spaziano

Discussion on Racial Reconciliation- Phyllis Spaziano, Dwayne Keyes, Rev. Deacon Joyce Thorne.

What is happening in the Diocese for reconciliation? The Bishop spoke about the creation of the CFR and the CFR programs. Canon Dena has been looking at anti-racism curriculum to encourage/recommend to parishes; ChurchNext.TV, Sacred Ground. Council would like regular updates from CFR. Advisory Board to meet soon.

Approval of Agenda Motion made by Jim, seconded by Vicki. **Approved**

Approval of Minutes from August 2022 meeting. Correction: Add Al Marcetti to attendee list. Motion made by Jim, seconded by Joel. **Approved.**

Compensation and Benefits Report – Susan Ursillo. 5% increase to starting salaries. ASA is no longer a useful metric for determining salary ranges. Supply \$185/per service. Mileage increase. \$25/month for Deacons assigned to parishes. 2% increase in Health Ins, \$0 increase in Dental.

Motion to approve changes to compensation, changes to medical insurance, and authorize Comp and Benefits to investigate outside sources of health insurance for next year made by Bob, seconded by Joel. **Approved.**

Staff Reports

- Canon to the Ordinary – written report submitted.
- Chief Financial Officer – written report submitted. RI Supreme Court currently seems more sympathetic to our solar farm project than has been the case previously. Suit is proceeding against PUC's blocking of alternative energy projects.
- Budget Hearing Report – online; www.episcopalri.org/about/diocesan-convention

Finance Committee Report

- Treasurer - August expenses up (3rd payroll, ECC expenditures). Audit 2021 proceeding. Written report submitted.

Action items

DRF Grant for Emmanuel, Newport \$6,620. Motion made by Jim, seconded by Phyllis. **Approved.**

Approval of Episcopal Charities Grants. Motion made by Scott, seconded by Jim. **Approved.**

Form subcommittee to discuss grant guidelines.

Need to clarify how various grants are decided upon. Formation of Grants and Loans Task Force, to be chaired by Peter Tierney when he comes onto Council after Convention. Moved by Jim, seconded by Olive. **Approved.**

Bishop's Time

Finalize budget at next meeting and forward to Convention.

Diana Butler Bass to be Convention keynote speaker and preacher.

The Bishop expressed his gratitude for Scott's years of service and leadership, particularly as Vice-President of Council.

Motion to adjourn: made by Scott, seconded by Phyllis. **Approved.**

Next Meeting: October 26