

**Diocese of Milwaukee
Executive Council Minutes
June 3, 2017 10:00 a.m.
St. Mary's, Dousman**

Present: The Rt. Revd. Steven A. Miller; Mr. Clyde Bachand, Diocesan Treasurer; The Rev'd Seth Dietrich; Ms. Jill Heller via phone; The Very Rev'd Andy Jones, Vice-President of the Executive Council; Mr. Peter Larson; The Rev'd David Simmons, President of the Standing Committee; The Rev'd Elizabeth Tester; Mr. John Washbush; Ms. Janice Watter and Ms. Kristen Wold

Others present: Canon Peggy Bean, Canon for Congregations and Ms. Marlene Udovich, Financial Officer

Absent: The Rev'd Dr. Jonathan Grieser; The Very Rev'd Andrew Hanyzewski; Ms. Meredie Scrivner and The Rev'd Chuck Zellermayer and the ex-officio members (attendance is optional): The Rev'd Jana Troutman-Miller, President, Commission on Ministry and Mr. Patrick Johnson, President of Trustees of Funds & Endowments

At 10:02, Bishop Miller opened the meeting in prayer.

Action Items: Property

Bishop Miller noted that a number of action items were before the Council beginning with concerns regarding the property, former rectory, at Sun Prairie, WI.

He noted that:

--though left clean and in good shape

--two items needed immediate attention—the chimney and the lawn.

Bishop Miller presented the two bids for chimney repair. After a brief discussion and clarification of the work to be done, especially noting the attention to controlling poisonous exhaust evident in one of the quotes:

***Mr. Clyde Bachand moved and The Rev'd Seth Dietrich seconded using the bid presented by Bristol Chimney Sweeps for \$5,050.00.

Mr. John Washbush asked if the funds would be taken from the **Permanent Development Fund** (Foundation) and it was stated that was the case.

Motion passed.

Bishop Miller called attention to the memo from Mr. Ed Fitzsimmons, Warden of Good Shepherd, Sun Prairie regarding lawn care. It was determined that taking care of this issue was also important in the sale of the property.

Bishop Miller said that:

--the initial \$200.00 for clean-up of limbs and debris and first cutting was taken out of the Bishop's Purse;

--the weekly \$40.00 for regular maintenance was now before the Council.

***The Very Rev'd Andy Jones moved and Mr. Peter Larson seconded authorization to get the property at 124 Dewey Street, Sun Prairie, WI ready to sell.

***The Rev'd David Simmons moved and Mr. Peter Larson seconded that Bishop Miller, should, in consultation with the Standing Committee and the Vice-President, proceed to sell the property, formerly the rectory, at The Church of the Good Shepherd, Sun Prairie as a complete sale, not as a Land Contract. Motion passed.

Bishop Miller noted that St. Andrew's, Kenosha was closing. Once again, property needed to be sold.

***The Rev'd Seth Dietrich moved and The Very Rev'd Andy Jones seconded that Bishop Miller, should, in consultation with the Standing Committee and the Vice-President, proceed to sell the property at St. Andrew's, Kenosha as a complete sale, not as a Land Contract.

Further discussion centered around possible other uses of the building, dividing the property, de-secularization.

The motion passed as stated.

**In lieu of the above, Mr. Clyde Bachand, diocesan treasurer, reviewed, with the council, his written rationale for his process motion and he submitted his motion.

Discussion centered on:

- the fiduciary responsibility of the diocese,
- the need for adequate and formalized oversight,
- the increasing number of parishes in flux and parishes handling rental properties,
- need to hire experts and the cost involved—how cover?
- the responsibility of the Executive Council in this matter

It was determined that the motion would be put on hold for more consideration and clarification by the Bishop and the finance committee.

Action Items -- Insurance

**Mr. Clyde Bachand presented a motion from the Finance Committee *to establish a diocesan policy for required minimum insurance coverages for parishes.*

Discussion centered on:

- need for appropriate coverage
- which entity—finance committee or Executive Council – has responsibility for monitoring
- need to do “due diligence

Mr. John Washbush wondered if this matter was not already in Canon 22, which would simply mean rewriting it. Bishop Miller asked Mr. Washbush to create a draft.

Motion, therefore was sent back to the finance committee for reconsideration and revision.

***Mr. Clyde Bachand and Ms. Marlene Udovich explained that the annual property and liability insurance with Church insurance is due for renewal and Church insurance has given two pricing options. The finance committee recommends Option B. Because the motion was from a committee it did not need a second. It was approved.

***It was affirmed by the Council that the motion by the finance committee to accept Option B was approved.

Action Item – Approve April minutes

Bishop Miller asked if there were any additions, deletions or changes to the minutes of the April 1, 2017 Executive Council Meeting. Hearing nothing further, the Bishop called for a vote to approve the minutes from the April 1, 2017 Executive Council Meeting as published. They were so approved.

Updates:

Task Force for Canon 28—The Very Rev'd Andy Jones

The Very Rev'd Andy Jones presented the following:

- Mr. Bill Robison has gathered templates from various dioceses regarding this Canon.
- The task force has created definition of terms; a complete resolution is in process.

However:

- The key to passing this Canon is gathering grass roots support before it heads to the convention.

Council members added the following:

- The Rev'd David Simmons—can't force it, must take our time and do a year of education
- Ms. Janice Watter—the need to make sure ALL deputies attend the pre-meetings
- Mr. Peter Larson—the importance of clarity of examples, clarity of the back story
- The Rev'd Seth Dietrich and The Very Rev'd Andy Jones—having the clergy on board

Bishop Miller reiterated the need to build in an educational piece and the need to be clear. *He still grieves St. Edmund's.*

The end result—the task force will present, to the 2017 convention, the definition of terms they have developed affording a common language for future discussions with the convocations and the diocese and spend a year educating and developing grass roots support for a resolution amending Canon 28 at the 2018 convention.

The Executive Council planning team has not met and has nothing to present at this time.

Break for a Commercial-The Upcoming 2017 Convention – The Rev'd Marge Kiss Save the Date—October 14, 2017

The Rev'd Marge Kiss noted that:

- It will be held at St. John's Northwestern Military Academy, Delafield.
- It is a one-day convention.
- The convention Eucharist will begin at 9:00 am.
- There **will** be heat and serviceable restrooms.
- Box lunches will be served to eliminate some walking and congestion.
- The THEME is: *“Every member of the church has been called to “such a time as this.”*

--In the light of this theme, Canon Peggy Bean is spearheading a “dio-read” of *Just Mercy: a Story of Justice and Redemption*.

--Canon Peggy Bean presented her ideas for convention conversation.

The discussion that followed included:

--Bishop Miller’s commitment to combat racism.

--Examples from Council members of racism they experienced first-hand.

--Names of persons available to engage in this discussion.

Financial Reports/Preparation for approval of the budget--Ms. Marlene Udovich/Mr. Clyde Bachand

Ms. Marlene Udovich addressed the matter of the 2018 budget by noting that:

-- Because 4 parishes had not turned in their parochial report, it was not possible to create an accurate 2018 budget for this meeting.

--She will be meeting with Canon Peggy Bean and Bishop Miller regarding on-going programs.

--She can give the Council 3 scenarios now; the draft will be ready for the July Conference Call.

Mr. Clyde Bachand also noted that the closing of three parishes this year has not been factored in.

Ms. Marlene Udovich addressed the matter of the financial report by noting that:

--all bills have been paid in a timely manner,

--summer parish assessments will lag,

--items in the current budget that varied widely were highlighted and explained.

Mr. Clyde Bachand expressed his concern that parish assessments in arrears effect what we can do.

Mr. Clyde Bachand and Ms. Marlene Udovich also spoke regarding the issues facing parish audits/financial reviews—currently only one person doing them. The plan is to research other options.

Canon for Congregations Report -- Canon Peggy Bean

Canon Peggy Bean highlighted the following from her written report:

--congregations in re-development—Zion, Oconomowoc, St. James’, West Bend and St. Luke’s, Bay View

--the redevelopment plan for the Diocesan Church Development Institute as it celebrates 14 years in the diocese

--the tough “job” of transitional ministry—the number of churches seeking clergy vs. the number of clergy available and more importantly, the quality of and the trends impacting clergy seeking employment

The discussion revolved around examples of and mutual concern regarding the clergy situation.

Bishop Miller announced the new rector of St. Paul’s, Milwaukee—The Rev’d Brad Toebben from Eugene, Oregon.

Bishop Miller

Bishop Miller reported that:

--Currently there are no new appointments to Constitution and Canons Committee.

--Though there are some contingencies that have developed regarding the sale of the Mequon property, but, we will make money.

--The use of the monies obtained from the sale is under consideration; a policy regarding monies gain from sales needs to be developed.

--To broaden communication, the plan for next year is to invite the Deans of the Convocations to report to the Executive Council positive activities with in their area.

--His last visitation for 2017 is Trinity Sunday.

--He will be available periodically during the summer.

--He will be taking a Sabbatical, basically from the day after convention to the end of the year, traveling to New York and Rome:

to study the Lima document: **Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry** and

to develop a required formation program for aspirants, to be used during their discernment period.

--During his time away he is still the Ecclesiastical Authority. For purposes of Executive Council, the vice-president will direct the meeting.

--Mr. Drew Harmon will be ordained as a transitional deacon June 10, 2017.

--He will resume visitations 2018.

Before the meeting ended. The Rev'd David Simmons brought up the matter of the dissolution of the closing parishes—St. Andrew's, Kenosha and St. James', Milwaukee. He noted that it needs to be presented to the convention as a non-negotiable resolution.

The question arose as to whether it should be part of Canon 28.

Mr. John Washbush, the diocesan parliamentarian, stated that it should be a stand-alone Canon. He will work on creating it.

Bishop Miller encouraged all "to make hay while the sun shines."

The Very Rev'd Andy Jones moved and The Rev'd David Simmons seconded the adjournment of the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

The next meeting is September 16, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev'd Margaret (Marge) M. Kiss
Executive Secretary & Recorder of the Minutes

Future Meeting Date for 2017 Executive Council

November 11th

Appendix I
2017 Norms for Executive Council Meetings

Begin with prayer

Start and end on time

Receive and Review material one week ahead of time of meeting

Respectful communication

Assume good/best intentions

Seek to model reconciliation

Look for the best in others

Give the best we have

Gentleness first

Respect the “confidential nature” of the discussion (Identify if confidential)

All responsible for the process at the table; Pay attention/Be actively engaged

All members of Executive Council are authorized to raise their hand, to call for a pause in the process, and to ask for a moment of prayer from the Bishop

We are always The Church