

**Diocese of Milwaukee  
Executive Council Minutes  
September 16, 2017 10:00 a.m.  
St. Mary's, Dousman**

Present: The Rt. Rev. Steven A. Miller; Mr. Clyde Bachand, Diocesan Treasurer, via phone; the Rev. Seth Dietrich; the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Grieser; the Very Rev. Andrew Hanyzewski; the Very Rev. Andy Jones, Vice-President of the Executive Council; Mr. Peter Larson; the Rev. David Simmons, President of the Standing Committee; the Rev. 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: Ms. Jill Heller; Ms. Meredie Scrivner and the Rev. Chuck Zellermyer and the ex-officio members (attendance is optional): the Rev. Jana Troutman-Miller, President, Commission on Ministry and Mr. Patrick Johnson, President of Trustees of Funds & Endowments

At 10:03, Bishop Miller opened the meeting in prayer. He welcomed the members and asked each to share something that highlighted their summer.

**A. Report of the Working Group on Executive Council**

The Rev. Elizabeth "Liz" Tester, the Rev. David Simmons and Mr. John Washbush reported on the work of the task force on Constitutions and Canons as related to the Executive Council. They stated that:

- The Canons are like a rule of/way of life.
- They need to reflect our current, common life.
- It is a major endeavor.

They presented the four major areas of concern they had identified:

- financial considerations;
- property considerations;
- areas not needing change or that have outlived their meaning; and
- visioning

Discussion centered on:

- next steps
- legal ramifications
- comprehensive size of the task
- the current work on Canon 28 may serve as a model/prototype
- it may take until 2019-2020

The task force concluded in their written report: *Because the Constitutions and Canons have not be reviewed or revised to reflect the current diocesan landscape the task force determined that many of them are either ignored or overlooked, or are simply unknown. It would benefit the diocese greatly to have all the Constitutions and Canons for the Diocese of Milwaukee to be reviewed and revised as necessary in the coming years. Until this occurs it is of utmost importance that all bodies which assist in the governance of this diocese become intimately acquainted with the current canons and operate as much as possible within their scope while also recognizing that they need to be updated and may no longer be applicable today.*

The Rev. David Simmons made a motion to receive the report; to continue the work of the task force with the current members along with the addition of the Executive Council Vice-President and to review findings, prioritize them and bring the report back in an acceptable format.

Mr. John Washbush felt that each item should be a separate resolution.

The Rev. David Simmon's motion was withdrawn.

\*\*\*Mr. John Washbush moved and it was seconded that the report of the Executive Council task force on Constitutions and Canons be received. Motion passed.

\*\*\*Mr. John Washbush moved and the Very Rev. Andy Jones seconded it that the committee continue with its work; that the current membership along with the addition of Executive Council Vice-President bring back an implementation schedule noting areas of highest priorities. Motion passed.

\*\*\*Mr. John Washbush moved and the Rev. Seth Dietrich seconded it that discussion of the Canons as a whole be put into future agenda planning. Motion passed.

## B. Report of the Working Group on Property and Other Property Issues

The Rev. Andrew Hanyzewski reported that the property committee has not yet met and that he hopes to add more members to the committee.

Bishop Miller reported that:

--The house in Sun Prairie is sold and closed.

--St. James', Milwaukee is sold and is scheduled to close either November 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup>. The Rev. David Simmons will represent the diocese at the closing.

Canon Peggy Bean noted that per the closing manual, all inventory must be out of the buildings by the closing date; that the property committee is responsible for its supervision.

Bishop Miller introduced the following Resolution from St. James, Milwaukee re: Endowment

*The Vestry and Endowment Board of St. James' Parish had a joint meeting on August 27, 2017, and unanimously passed the following Resolution, directed to the Diocese of Milwaukee:*

*Whereas St. James' Episcopal Church, Milwaukee has historically supported and promoted the work of poverty and social justice ministry,*

*The Vestry and Endowment Board of St. James' request that 1/4 of the St. James' Endowment be contributed by the Diocese to existing or newly created entities that fund the work of ministry to impoverished people in this Diocese. The people of St. James' hope that the St. Dunstan's Endowment Fund, which has been so generous to St. James' will be among any such beneficiaries.*

\*\*\*After the various amounts of money involved was clarified, the Rev. Jonathan Grieser moved and the Rev. Seth Dietrich seconded it that the resolution be passed. The resolution passed with one abstention. (Mr. John Washbush)

## C. Action Items

### **Report of Commission on Global Reconciliation with Resolution for Disbursement of Sustainable Development Funds**

Bishop Miller presented the Commission on Global Reconciliation (CRG) recommendations for the 2018 funds which this year totals \$5,343.00. This year the CRG received 4 requests.

As the Rev. Carol Smith noted in her letter: *The Commission on Global Reconciliation appealed to rectors and congregations throughout the diocese to seek grants from the funds (.07% of the budget) that the Diocese has allocated to the furtherance of the Sustainable Development Goals. \$5000.00 of those funds directly supports the Haiti project through a stipend to its director.*

As a further reminder, the requests must meet the guidelines for funding that have been established:

1. The money will be used to directly meet one or more of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) formerly known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
2. Projects selected must be recommended by an individual or group within our diocese. The CRG decided not to contribute to organizations, however worthy, that would in turn sub grant to others.
3. A continuing relationship must exist between project recipients and persons or entities within the diocese.

Also, per the request made by Mr. Mike Hagon in 2011, the 4 recommendations made by the CRG are listed along with the SDG's they meet.

The Rev. Carol Smith stated in her letter that this year the CGR received 4 requests for projects connected with ongoing mission work within the diocese. The CGR recommended allocation of the remaining \$5,343.00 to each of the projects in the amounts noted:

1. The Diocesan Haiti Project : Recommended allocation: \$1343 to cover the cost of an incinerator and Lab Equipment for Diagnostics for St. Marc's Medical Clinic. These were the top two priorities in their request. (SDG's #3 and #6)
2. Companion Diocese of Newala, Tanzania: Recommended allocation: \$3000 assist Mr. Edward Libanda and Mr. Steven Luwonga to complete their 2 year medical education. Mr. Libanda attends Sumbawanga (clinical officer's training college). The training enables him to diagnose and treat diseases and do some minor surgery. Mr. Luwonga attends Massana College of Nursing. On completion of the training, both will be working at St. Michael's Clinic in Lulindi. The addition of a new clinical officer will make the clinic eligible to apply for another staff doctor. (SDG #4)
3. Liberian Assistance Program: \$500 to assist in paying tuition (\$100 - \$135 per yr) for children at the Barak Obama International Foundation School, Cow Field, Liberia. (SDG #4)
4. Trinity Mission Center, Machakos -Kenya (Director: Evangelist Paul Mutuku): \$500 to assist in paying for uniforms (\$24.20) and/or tuition (\$353.26 per yr.) for orphans who attend the mission school. (SDG #4)

Bishop Miller said that because the recommendations are from a committee, a second is not required. He asked for any questions or discussion.

\*\*\*Hearing no questions or discussion, Bishop Miller called for a vote on the motion to approve the CGR recommendations. The motion carried.

BREAK 10:57 – 11:10

## **Finance Committee Resolutions**

Bishop Miller noted that the following resolutions were brought by committee and did not need a second.

### **A Resolution to rescind the Executive Council Financial Resolution of May 31, 2014**

The history behind the 2014 resolution was presented as well as the rationale for rescinding it.

\*\*\*The resolution passed unanimously.

### **A Resolution to deposit the proceeds from the sale of the rectories at St. Boniface Mequon and Good Shepherd Sun Prairie in the Permanent Development Fund**

It was noted that these properties were purchased with monies from the Permanent Development Fund. Therefore it would be appropriate to return the proceeds to the Permanent Development Fund.

\*\*\*The resolution passed unanimously.

### **A Resolution to use the funds from the refinance of the property at Ten 0 One University Avenue, St Francis House, for Campus Ministry in the Diocese of Milwaukee.**

After much discussion, it was determined that two resolutions would clarify the intent of this resolution.

\*\*\*Mr. John Washbush moved and the Rev. David Simmons seconded it that some of the refinance proceeds be used to “top off” and reestablish an endowment of a one million dollar balance in the St. Francis House Endowment.

The motion passed unanimously.

After several attempts at a motion especially defining the process of governance of the remaining monies,

\*\*\*Mr. John Washbush moved and the Rev. Seth Dietrich and Mr. Peter Larson seconded it that the remainder of the funds, from the refinance of St. Francis House, be designated to be used in support of campus ministry; and that the finance committee be responsible for the governance, the mechanics of operating the fund and in the interim the monies be invested with the Trustees of Funds and Endowments. The motion passed unanimously.

### **A Resolution to deposit the proceeds from the future sale of St James Milwaukee into the Diocesan Endowment Fund held by the Trustees for Funds and Endowments for the Diocese of Milwaukee**

The intent of the resolution was clarified as well as the fact that it was different from the previous resolution from St. James’ Milwaukee.

\*\*\*The resolution passed unanimously with one abstention. (Mr. John Washbush)

## **Approval of June and July minutes**

### **June Minutes**

Bishop Miller asked if there were any additions, deletions or changes to the minutes of the June 3, 2017 Executive Council Meeting. Ms. Marlene Udovich noted that under property action items, the term Foundation was used and should be corrected to Permanent Development Fund.

\*\*\*Hearing nothing further, the Bishop called for a vote to approve the minutes from the June 3, 2017 Executive Council Meeting as corrected. They were so approved.

### **July Minutes**

Bishop Miller asked if there were any additions, deletions or changes to the minutes of the July 13, 2017 Executive Council Meeting via Conference Call. Ms. Marlene Udovich noted that the information regarding covering the cost of the communication staff member should be changed from salary to medical and dental.

\*\*\*Hearing nothing, the Bishop called for a vote to approve the minutes from the July 13, 2017 Executive Council Meeting via Conference Call as corrected. They were so approved.

### **Acceptance of Minimum Clergy Compensation Resolution**

Needing Executive Council approval, the minimum clergy compensation resolution was brought to the table. The Very Rev. Andy Jones moved and Mr. Peter Larson seconded the acceptance of the resolution.

\*\*\*With no discussion, the motion passed.

## **D. Reports**

### **Finance Committee Report**

Ms. Marlene Udovich presented the June financials noting that the areas of change were highlighted. She also called attention to the graphs, in particular, the 5-year Comparison of Unpaid Assessments, which showed a significant drop of unpaid assessments from \$179,647.00 in 2013 to \$58,603.00 in 2017. She noted that this drop was due to the hard work of all the parishes, the collection policy and greater communication.

### **Canon for Congregations Report**

Canon Peggy Bean noted the following:

- There is a positive spirit, working together of the Commission on Mission and Development.
- Funding is shifting from congregational development to initiating new ministries.
- Congregations needing support—Church of Good Shepherd, Sun Prairie and St. Martin's, Brown Deer.
- Congregations in redevelopment—Zion, Oconomowoc, St. James', West Bend and St. Luke's, Bay View.
- St. James', Milwaukee is closing. The leadership of the church is handling the distribution of inventory well. The property committee of the EC will be responsible for any items that remain after the closing.
- Hospitality Center and Haiti Project are doing a combined fundraising project.
- Preparation for the DioRead—*Just Mercy* at the convention is going well.

### **Bishop's Report**

Bishop Miller reported the following:

- For the 9:00 Convention Eucharist the clergy are asked to vest (cassock, surplice, white stole).
- The convention theme this year is *Called for a Time Such as This*.
- The Most Rev. Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop will be at Nashotah House on September 28<sup>th</sup> and on the following day he will be at St. John's Northwestern Military Academy.
- House of Bishops will meet in Fairbanks, Alaska.

- He will celebrate “60” on September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- His sabbatical/medical leave will be October 15, 2017 – January 1, 2018.
- November 30, 2017 he will have surgery for his rotator cuff and asks for prayers.
- Two celebrations of new ministry:
  - St. Paul’s, Milwaukee—The Rev. Brad Toebben
  - St. Christopher’s, River Hills—The Rev. Geoffrey Ward
- St. Bartholomew’s, Pewaukee is still searching.
- St. John’s, Burlington and Holy Communion, Lake Geneva are considering sharing clergy.
- Prairie du Chien has few people attending with a supply priest once a month.

Before the meeting ended, Mr. John Washbush invited the Executive Council to the final service at St. James’, Milwaukee November 1, 2017 which will also include the transfer of the Indigent Burial Ministry to All Saints Cathedral. The plaques bearing the names of those buried will be given to them at that service

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

**The next meeting is November 11, 2017.**

Respectfully submitted,

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

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