

**Diocese of Milwaukee
Executive Council Minutes
May 19, 2018 9:00 a.m.
Trinity, Wauwatosa**

Present: The Rt. Rev. Steven A. Miller; the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Grieser; the Very Rev. Andrew Hanyzewski; Mr. Ron Johnson; the Rev. Joel Prather; the Rev. David Simmons, President of the Standing Committee; the Rev. Elizabeth Tester; the Rev. Debra Trakel; Mr. John Washbush; Ms. Janice Watter, Vice-President of Executive Council; the Rev. Chuck Zellermayer

Others present: Ms. Marlene Udovich, Financial Officer

Special Guest: The Rev. Scott Leannah, Co-chair, Task Force on Canon 8—Of Parish Insight and Status

Absent: Mr. Clyde Bachand, Diocesan Treasurer; Ms. Kada Bush (Kathleen); Canon Peggy Bean, Canon for Congregations; Mr. Peter Larson and Ms. Kristen Wold and the ex-officio members (attendance is optional); the Rev. Jana Troutman-Miller, President, Commission on Ministry and Ms. Jill Heller, President of Trustees of Funds & Endowments

At 10:06, Bishop Miller opened the meeting with spontaneous prayer and the Our Father. He expressed appreciation to the members of the Executive Council for their willingness to switch today's meeting time and place. He also asked that it be reflected in the minutes the appreciation of the Executive Council to the Rev. Gary Manning for all he and his staff did to secure a place for the Executive Council meeting.

A. Action Item

Approval of March minutes

Bishop Miller asked if there were any additions, deletions or changes to the minutes of the March 17, 2018 Executive Council Meeting.

The Rev. Marge Kiss noted that the next meeting date was incorrectly presented in the minutes.

***The Rev. David Simmons moved and the Rev. Andrew Hanyzewski seconded the approval of the March minutes as amended. They were so approved.

B. Task Force—Canon 8—Of Parish Status and Oversight

Bishop Miller turned the meeting over to the Rev. Scott Leannah, co-chair of the task force on Canon 8 – Of Parish Insight and Status.

The Rev. Scott Leannah spoke of:

--the history of the Canon

--the various groups, convocations and committees that the task force have met with, insuring broad and thorough feedback

He noted that several Executive Council members were also part of the task force: the Rev. David Simmons, the Rev. Joel Prather and Mr. Ron Johnson.

He further noted that:

- this document is a work in progress;
- the current document is the 6th version;
- on May 23rd the task force will be meeting to hopefully create a final version to bring to the convention.

The Rev. Scott Leannah walked through the key elements of Canon 8 – Of Parish Insight and Status.

In the subsequent discussion, the Executive Council members:

- called attention to several sections of concern and sections needing clarification;

Section 2 e.

Is 60 days too long? Is 30 days too short? Meet in the middle—45?

If the parish does not “acknowledge and accept” the notice, does that end the process?

Section 4 f.

What does “Voluntary giving shall not be considered a Diocesan assessment,” mean?

Section 6 should read: *When a parish is declared to be at risk...*

as well as:

- The use of Ecclesiastical Authority versus Bishop
- The relationship of the Executive Council and its canonical financial responsibility to this process
- suggested the “sharing of positive stories regarding the use of the Canon” as a way to mitigate the Canonical feel;
- expressed their appreciation of the work of the task force and their support of the latest version.

The Rev. Scott Leannah closed with these final points:

- The Rev. Dr. Steve Peay has prepared a pastoral introduction which may help to ease the concern regarding the tone of the Canon.
- Ms. Sara Bitner is creating a FAQ about Canon 8 – Of Parish Insight and Status.
- The intention of the task force is to bring Canon 8 to the convention for approval, as well as to submit an amendment to Canon 28—the removal of Section 2, which has become the new Canon 8.

Bishop Miller thanked the Rev. Scott Leannah for his time and presentation.

Bishop’s Report

Bishop Miller presented the following updates:

St. Barnabas Chapel, St. Luke’s Hospital Racine—possible violation of a previous agreement

Chancellor Stuart Parsons researched and is preparing a letter regarding the existence of the agreement created with the dedicated Episcopal space. It is still in effect.

St. Luke’s, Whitewater and Campus Ministry

As the Rev. Andrew Hanyzewski noted at the last meeting, per the deed, the property reverts to the family if the property ceases to be used for a worshipping Episcopal congregation. The Rev. Hanyzewski has located an heir who happens to be a realtor.

Mr. Ron Johnson and the Rev. Andrew Hanyzewski are doing a walk-through of the property and will bring back recommendations regarding upgrading the buildings or returning the property to the owner.

New plans for Campus ministry may need to be considered; the Rev. Andrew Hanyzewski said that their current location, the First English Lutheran Church, Whitewater, WI, is very nice.

St. Andrew's, Kenosha

It is officially closing.

***The Rev. Chuck Zellermayer moved and the Rev. Jonathan Grieser seconded that: upon the closing of the parish, and upon the property reverting back to the diocese, Bishop Miller may enter into a listing of the property. The motion passed unanimously.

St. Martin's, Brown Deer

It will also be closing.

Mr. Ron Johnson and Mr. John Washbush will do a walk-through and will bring back recommendations, possibly raze the buildings/hold unto the land for parking lot

A June meeting

Bishop Miller and Ms. Jan Watter thought a June vis-à-vis meeting regarding the budget would be helpful preparation for the July conference call accepting the budget. They will be sending out a doodle poll.

2019 Executive Council Meetings

1st Saturday of the month, except for February, when it will be the second Saturday.

Jan. 5th, Feb. 9th, March 2nd, April 6th, May 4th, June 1st, July 6th, August 3rd, Sept. 7th, Oct. 5th, Nov. 2nd, Dec. 7th.

Diocesan Convention

A one-day convention, October 13th at St. John's Northwestern Military Academy.

Mr. Ron Johnson moved and the Rev. Andrew Hanyzewski seconded the adjournment of the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

The next meeting is a to-be-determined meeting in June.

Watch for the Doodle Polls.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Appendix I

2018 Executive Council Meeting Dates

June TBD

July 18th -- Conference Call

Sept. 22nd

Nov. 10th

Appendix II

2018 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

Recuse oneself or abstain from matters in which one has a conflict of interest

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