

Diocese of Milwaukee
Executive Council Minutes
March 2, 2019 10:00 a.m.
St. Bartholomew's, Pewaukee

Present: The Rt. Rev. Steven A. Miller; Ms. Kada Bush; the Rev. Kate Byrd; the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Grieser; the Very Rev. Andrew Hanyzewski; Mr. Ron Johnson; Mr. Peter Larson; the Rev. Scott Leannah, President of the Standing Committee; the Rev. Joel Prather; the Rev. Scott Seefeldt; the Rev. Debra Trakel, Mr. John Washbush, Ms. Janice Watter, Vice-President of Executive Council and Ms. Kristen Wold

Others present: Canon Peggy Bean, Canon for Congregations; Ms. Marlene Udovich, Financial Officer; Mr. Mike Weber and guest Ms. Julia Payton, DeKoven

Absent: Mr. Clyde Bachand, Diocesan Treasurer and ex-officio members (attendance is optional): the Rev. Ian Burch, President, Commission on Ministry and Ms. Jill Heller, Executive Director, Trustees of Funds and Endowments

At 10:08 a.m. Bishop Miller opened the meeting with a prayer from the Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families, followed by time for intercessions and ended with the Our Father.

Bishop Miller introduced Mr. Mike Weber, assistant treasurer. The wife of Mr. Clyde Bachand, treasurer, is very ill; prayers for them were requested.

Bishop Miller thanked the council for their presence and reminded them of the new procedure—individual working committee meetings and then the business meeting.

Working Committee Groups:

Haiti 501 3C

The Rev. Kate Byrd
The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Grieser
The Rev. Scott Leannah
Mrs. Jan Watter

Canons Review

Mr. Ron Johnson
The Rev. Joel Allen Prather
Mr. John Washbush
Ms. Kristen Wold

Provisional Bishop of Eau Claire (Bishop Miller)

Mrs. Kada Bush
Mr. Peter Larson
The Very Rev. Andrew Hanyzewski
The Rev. Scott Seefeldt
The Rev. Debra Trakel

The groups worked from 10:15-11:15 with Bishop Miller visiting each group.

The groups returned at 11:20. Bishop Miller expressed pleasure with the process and evident energy.

He asked each committee to give about a three sentence report.

The Rev. Scott Leannah reported for Haiti 510 3C; he said that they had a fruitful discussion and plan to meet with the Haiti steering committee the end of March, about a week before the next EC meeting.

Mr. John Washbush said that they are looking at the mandates of the canons and designing their first steps.

The Rev. Scott Seefeldt and Ms. Kada Bush said they plan to have a sort of summit, to meet with key people of the Eau Claire diocese in order to get more information.

Business Meeting

Action Items

Approval of January minutes

Bishop Miller asked if there were any additions, deletions or changes to the minutes of the January 5, 2019 Executive Council Meeting.

***The Very Rev. Andrew Hanyzewski moved and Mr. Peter Larson seconded the approval of the minutes as presented. The motion carried.

Approval of DeKoven Loan Request

Bishop Miller presented Ms. Julia Payton, manager of conferences and retreats at DeKoven.

Ms. Payton spoke on behalf of Max Dershem, Executive Director, and the DeKoven Center, clarifying and reaffirming the need of the electrical upgrade and installation of an air conditioner:

- the competitive nature of the retreat/conference center business in Racine
- the earning potential for DeKoven

After Ms. Payton left, the following items were brought up in discussion:

- the quote from Lemberg was great (Mr. Ron Johnson)
- the financial information was helpful and looked good (The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Grieser)

Bishop Miller noted DeKoven's:

- previous track record in paying off a loan
 - historical significance to the diocese as well as the fact that they house diocesan archives
- And that the loan was endorsed by the Finance Committee.

***Mr. Ron Johnson moved and the Very Rev. Andrew Hanyzewski seconded the approval of the loan as requested: a loan from the diocese of \$100,000.00 over a three year period to upgrade the electrical service and add air conditioning to the sleeping rooms. The motion passed.

Approval of Financial Requests from two parishes

Bishop Miller stated that there were two action items that came up after the agenda was sent out: financial requests from Zion, Oconomowoc and St. Thomas of Canterbury, Greendale. The Rev. Scott Seefeldt and the Rev. Scott Leannah, as pastors of the respective parishes, recused themselves. They remained during Canon Peggy Bean's presentation to answer any questions.

Canon Peggy Bean spoke in general about Phase I of the Debt reduction plan and its results and that currently we are in Phase II of the Debt reduction plan, with both of the above parishes being part of the program.

She further explained the “loan” request from Zion, Oconomowoc:

- the history of the loan
- that it was a loan from the Permanent Development Fund
- that it was coming up for renewal and
- that “forgiving it” would be a way to boost the morale of the congregation that has been working to grow as a community and to pay off this debt.

She also explained the loan request from St. Thomas of Canterbury

- that two loans had been taken out to upgrade the rectory during two transitions
- that the congregation has paid off one of the loans
- that a small balance remains on the second loan and
- that it being paid off with money from the Permanent Development Fund would allow the parish to “start fresh”, start a capital campaign for parking lot repair and continue the growth and energy that is evolving.

The Rev. Scott Leannah clarified that the rectory is now being used as the parish office/meeting area with minimal changes so that it could, if needed in the future, return to rectory status.

For the discussion both the Rev. Scott Seefeldt and the Rev. Scott Leannah left the room.

Items of discussion were:

- the exact amounts of monies involved
- the percentage of money being taken from the Permanent Development Fund
- possible other ways to “forgive” Zion’s loan rather than all at once
- a well-crafted presentation/celebration should be done at the convention showing these congregations as models and incentive; the possibility and opportunity for other congregations

It was noted that the Finance Committee supports these loans.

The general consensus was that with the evident fiscal responsibility and measurable growth of these congregations, unencumbering them gives them more opportunity to move on; it is an investment in the future, cultivating a culture of growth that “spills out into the whole diocese.” (Rev. Joel Prather)

***Mr. Peter Larson moved and Mr. Ron Johnson seconded to approve the request, by Zion, Oconomowoc, to “forgive” their remaining loan from the Permanent Development Fund.
The motion passed with 1 opposed.

***The Rev. Joel Prather moved and Mr. Peter Larson seconded the extension of monies from the Permanent Development Fund to St. Thomas of Canterbury to pay off the BMO Harris Bank loan.
The motion passed with 1 opposed.

The Rev. Scott Seefeldt and the Rev. Scott Leannah were informed of the decision and returned to the business meeting.

Approval of Sales

Bishop Miller noted that St. Andrew's, Kenosha was closed and he needed permission from the Executive Council to engage a realtor (John Crimmings at jcrimmings@firstweber.com) to list and to sell both the church and the house.

***The Very Rev. Andrew Hanyzewski and the Rev. Scott Seefeldt so moved and seconded the request.

The motion passed.

Bishop Miller noted that St. Martin's, Milwaukee has been closed for a while; that an appraisal had been done with the hope that the Brown Deer school district would buy the property out right, but that there had been no action on the part of the district. Therefore, he was asking for permission to engage a realtor (Ted Klumb at tklumb@firstweber.com) to list and to sell the property.

***Mr. Ron Johnson and the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Grieser so moved and seconded the request.

The motion passed.

Bishop Miller stated that he made it clear to each realtor there would be no Land Contracts, and that the monies from the sales go to the Permanent Development Fund.

Old Business—Convention Planning

Bishop Miller referred the changes to the convention being considered to the group working on the Canons.

Information/Discussion Items—Organization Chart

The Executive Council reviewed the Organizational Chart presented by Mr. John Washbush, noted some areas for deletion and repositioning. It was referred back to Mr. Washbush for correction, to be presented at the April meeting for approval.

Finance and Treasurer's Report

Ms. Marlene Udovich presented the year end budget, noting it is a bare bones budget and that the diocesan office works hard to keep the costs down. Any significant changes were explained in the right margin.

***It was moved and seconded to adopt the budget. The motion passed.

Canon's Report—Canon Peggy Bean

Canon Peggy Bean noted that her report was written but she did want to call attention to the Leadership Tools that are in drop box as well as a draft of "a basic check list of important ingredients for a healthy church." She further stated that she was working on a spread sheet of vital statistics that the Commission on Mission and Development use in their work.

Bishop Miller's Report

Updates:

--**Christ Baptist Church** (formerly St. Nicholas, Racine) is significantly in arrears with utilities.

They are looking at being foreclosed. We have begun proceedings to take the property back and since approval was once given to engage a realtor and to sell the property, is it necessary to do it again? It was felt, that for clarity sake, a motion to affirm was in order.

***The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Grieser moved and the Very Rev. Andrew Hanyzewski seconded the reaffirmation of the previous approval to engage a realtor to list and to sell the former St. Nicholas, Racine property.

--The lawyers are still working on returning the **St. Luke's Whitewater** property to the owners.

Bishop Miller:

--spoke of his experience in Washington D.C. at the Bishop's United Against Gun Violence events

--noted the upcoming concern to be addressed at the House of Bishop's—the exclusion of same-sex spouses from the 2020 Lambeth Conference of Bishops

--said he would be at the House of Bishop's March 12th-15th and in Florida the last two weeks of March.

Final Item:

Mr. Peter Larson asked about Ascension Aurora – St. Luke's Hospital Racine.

Bishop Miller noted there was no cooperation with the Roman Catholic Church.

Mr. Peter Larson would like to see it kept on the table due to the importance of family health care.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

The next meeting is April 6, 2019 at St. Bartholomew's, Pewaukee.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Margaret (Marge) M. Kiss

Executive Secretary & Recorder of the Minutes

Remarks from Bishop Miller. March 4, 2019

Dear Friends,

First of all thank you for all your energy and participation on Saturday. If this meeting was any indication, I believe this format will serve us well.

Secondly, Peggy called to my attention that I misspoke about Convention this fall. Convention at Madison Marriott West Hotel and Convention Center, Middleton, WI will be one day (including the Eucharist on Saturday). There will be a block of rooms available for Friday night for those who wish to arrive the night before. I apologize for any confusion I may have caused

+Steven

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Appendix I

**ALL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD AT ST.
BARTHOLOMEW'S, PEWAUKEE**

Future Meeting Dates for 2019 Executive Council

April 6, 2019	10 AM
May 4, 2019	10 AM
June 1, 2019	10 AM
September 7, 2019	10 AM
October 5, 2019	10 AM
November 2, 2019	10 AM

Appendix II

2019 Norms for Executive Council Meetings as amended at the January meeting

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, leave the room and abstain from matters in which one has 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