

Diocese of Milwaukee
Executive Council Minutes
April 6, 2019 10:00 a.m.
St. Bartholomew's, Pewaukee

Present: The Rt. Rev. Steven A. Miller; Mr. Clyde Bachand, Diocesan Treasurer; Ms. Kada Bush; the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Grieser; the Very Rev. Andrew Hanyzewski; 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 and Ms. Marlene Udovich, Finance Officer

Absent: The Rev. Kate Byrd; Mr. Ron Johnson 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 10:05 a.m. Bishop Miller opened the meeting with a spontaneous prayer.

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

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 10:07-11:30 with Bishop Miller visiting each group.

Business Meeting

Finance Officer and Treasurer's Report

Draft Budget

Mr. Clyde Bachand, diocesan treasurer, presented the first draft of the 2020 budget. He noted that it is a \$43,000.00 deficit budget because there are several unknowns:

1. The cost of the finance officer position.
2. The final numbers that are needed from the 16 outstanding Parochial Reports.
3. Where the investment numbers will land in this changing market.

There were no questions

Ms. Marlene Udovich asked the EC members to help get the Parochial Reports in to her.

N4N—Numbers for Profit

Mr. Clyde Bachand presented the recommendation from the finance committee to use N4N to provide accounting services for the Episcopal diocese of Milwaukee. N4N provides outsourced financial management to nonprofits. He also stated that the finance committee recommends option A in the proposal before the council.

A lengthy discussion ensued around the following concerns:

1. The role of the Executive Council in relationship to the Finance Committee

--Per Canon 7, Section 2d, the EC is to "Authorize or ratify and confirm the execution and delivery of all contracts and conveyances entered into by the Diocese and may delegate to officers of the Diocese authority to execute and deliver all such contracts and conveyances."; it was felt that this role was circumvented.

--The EC is a different EC; the people on it are people who want to do what an EC is supposed to do.

2. Timeliness

--The recommendation, without any previous conversation, being presented today, last minute, for a vote on a major issue.

--With the finance officer's notice a year in advance and the approval, in the last year's budget of monies to hire a transition person, it appears to be a scrambling to come up with a solution.

--Something "feels off".

3. Staffing issues at the diocesan office

--The gap that will exist without a person in the diocesan office to answer questions--no "customer service"; it can become an enormous mess.

--The difficulty in filling the position with a qualified person/time it takes for them to get up to speed

--Keeping expenses low is admirable but is there a point of no return?

4. Bishop's regular referencing to not leaving a mess for Bishop #12

5. It is a stop gap, short term measure.

Bishop Miller stated that the recommendation was from a committee so it was moved; it did not need a second and asked “what is the will of the Executive Council?”

***A vote was taken; the recommendation to use N4N with option A was passed.

Action Items

Approval of March minutes

Bishop Miller asked if there were any additions, deletions or changes to the minutes of the March 2, 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 Interest Rate on DeKoven Loan

Bishop Miller explained that the interest rate for the loan to DeKoven was not included in the approval of the loan given at the March meeting.

Ms. Marlene Udovich noted that:

--Prime Rate was 6%.

--In the past, the practice was moving up or down 1%.

--Because of the past history with and credit worthiness of DeKoven, she is recommending 3%.

***The Rev. Scott Seefeldt moved and Ms. Kada Bush seconded a 3% interest rate on the loan to DeKoven 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.

Canon’s Report—Canon Peggy Bean

Canon Peggy Bean noted that her report was written but that she did want to call attention to two items:

--The Rev. Pippa Lindwright will begin as the next rector of St. Mary’s, Dousman on June 2, 2019.

--The Leadership Day was well received.

Bishop Miller’s Report

Updates:

St. Luke’s, Whitewater

“The gift that keeps on giving.”

Bishop Miller noted that though the deed states that the property reverts to the owner (heirs) when it ceases to be a place of worship, per research done by Ms. Elizabeth Orelup, Esq., the owners must follow a “maintenance” procedure; they must, by law, continue to file claims to the property with the State of Wisconsin. It appears this process was not followed, so the reverting of the property to the owner is null and void. It is ours “free and clear.”

Legal Counsel recommends the following procedure:

1. Communicate the findings to the heirs
2. Note that the burden of proof is on them.
3. Enter into a quiet title; property is ours.

St. Martin's, Brown Deer

Bishop Miller noted that St. Martin's, Milwaukee has been sold for \$30,000/00 over appraisal value of \$335,000.00; it will close by the end of the month. Though there were a number of interested parties, it is being purchased by Shoreland Community Church.

Christ Baptist Church (formerly St. Nicholas, Racine)

Bishop Miller explained that it is in arrears with utilities and has now been notified that it is significantly in default.

Legal Counsel recommends the acceptance of the proposal that the pastor pay \$15,000.00 in cash along with signing a binding agreement that after making a set amount of payments (bringing the amount to \$60,000.00), they would get their own financing. The agreement would stipulate that if the obligations were not met, they forfeit the property.

***The Rev. Jonathan Grieser moved and Mr. Peter Larson seconded the approval of the above proposal. The motion passed.

The Executive Council wants to follow the progress of this plan.

Thank you note

Bishop Miller read into the minutes a thank you letter from the Rev. Scott Seefeldt and the members of Zion, Oconomowoc. (See: appendix III)

Bishop's United Against Gun Violence

Bishop Miller called attention to an article in the Friday, April 5th New York Times. It delineated ratings of banks, done by Guns Down America, as to their support of the NRA. He hopes to create a "common ground" effort – calling especially our bank, Chase Manhattan, to corporate responsibility.

Bishop Miller noted that he had led a live on-line prayer service as part of Bishop's Against Gun Violence; 450 people joined the service.

Bishop Miller said that he would be at All Saints' Cathedral the next two weeks and the following week would be at his Florida home.

In conclusion, Bishop Miller stated that he did not want to lose the conversation regarding staffing at Nicholson House. The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Grieser asked if there was anything the Executive Council could do to help with the staffing issue.

Committee Reports

Mr. John Washbush said that they are working on a reordering task—making the **Canons** easier to manage and to use. Then they will look at specific Canons for redundancies.

The Rev. Scott Leannah reported that members of the committee had a primarily listening meeting with the Steering Committee of the **Haiti project**. They plan to also meet with Dr. Jennifer Henery, Ms. Heidi Ropa and the Project Administrative Assistant, Amber Nelson to gather more information. He noted that, at this time, it is a matter of separating principles and personalities.

Ms. Jan Watter also stated that they would be following up on the APSHA agreement to determine how effective it has been.

The Rev. Scott Seefeldt reported that it appears that we are ahead of Eau Claire regarding the matter of a **Provisional Bishop**. A number of questions were raised in terms of the timing of and interest in this idea in the Wisconsin diocese. He suggested that the next step might be the President of each Standing Committee meet.

Final Item:

Mr. Peter Larson asked about Ascension Aurora – St. Luke’s Hospital Racine. Bishop Miller stated that legal counsel is trying to get copies of the original documents and that there was still no cooperation with the Roman Catholic Church.

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

The next meeting is May 4, 2019 at St. Bartholomew’s, Pewaukee.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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Appendix I

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

Future Meeting Dates for 2019 Executive Council

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

Appendix III



Zion Episcopal Church
737 North Lake Road • Oconomowoc, Wisconsin 53066 • 262.667.7337
The Rev. Scott Allen Seefeld • info@zionsc.org • www.zion-sc.org

Feast of Saint Joseph, 2019

Dear Bishop, Peggy, Commission on Mission and Development, Finance Office, and Executive Council:

Grace and peace be always with you in our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is from the depths of the hearts of a grateful congregation that we wish to thank you for recently forgiving the remainder of Zion's loan to the diocese. As you know, this debt was incurred, improperly so, by a majority of parishioners prior to leaving Zion to begin a church in another denomination. It thus represented the last "open wound" from those unhappy times. Being relieved of the burden to pay it back allows the current congregation to use those much needed dollars in our efforts to rebuild Zion into a thriving and vibrant parish once more. These are efforts well on their way.

With there is much work yet to be done, it is staggering to think about how far Zion has come just in the past couple of years. Attendance is up. Giving is up. The parking lot is bigger. The voices of *children* are heard in worship once more. We are reengaging with the community through new outreach efforts and partnership with the local food pantry. And there is a genuine sense of cheer and hope felt within the congregation. It is like we are watching Psalm 126 happen right in front of our eyes. *When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter and our tongue with shouts of joy. Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them." The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.*

Please pray for us. Zion has a long way to go before we are self-sustaining, but thanks to your understanding and generosity, we have taken a major step forward in that direction.

With every Lenten blessing,

The Vestry of Zion Episcopal Church, Oconomowoc


Dawn Anderson
Lynette
Brenda Decker
Dawn K.


Susan Walling
Annie Colby
Annie Tremaine

God of Zion, perfect in its beauty, God reveals himself in glory. Ps 136:3.