

Diocese of Milwaukee
Executive Council Minutes
August 8, 2020 9:30 a.m. via ZOOM

Roll Call was taken.

Present: The Rt. Rev. Steven A. Miller; Mr. Clyde Bachand, Diocesan Treasurer; Ms. D'Arcy Becker; the Rev. Steve Capitelli; Ms. Joann Faull; the Rev. Kevin Huddleston, Interim Canon for Finance; the Rev. Pedro Lara; the Rev. Scott Leannah, President of the Standing Committee; the Rev. Joel Prather, Vice-President of the Executive Council; the Rev. Debra Trakel and Mr. John Washbush

Others present: Canon Peggy Bean, Canon for Congregations and Ms. Jill Heller, Executive Director of Trustees of Funds & Endowments

Guests: Ms. Liz Orelup, Esq., vice chancellor, and
Mr. Mark Ehrmann, Esq., vice chancellor

Absent: Mr. Ron Johnson; Mr. Peter Larson; the Rev. Dr. Steven Peay, Interim Canon to the Ordinary; the Rev. Scott Seefeldt; Mr. John Vogel and the ex-officio member (attendance is optional); the Rev. Ian Burch, President of Commission on Ministry

At 9:36 a.m. Bishop Miller called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

July Minutes

Bishop Miller asked if there were any additions, deletions or changes to the Executive Council minutes of July 11, 2020. A spelling correction was noted. The Rev. Steve Capitelli moved and the Rev. Kevin Huddleston seconded that the July 11, 2020 Executive Council minutes be approved as presented. The motion carried.

Approval of the CRG Grants

After clarifying that:

--the total amount allocated for the Sustainable Development Goals is \$12527.00;

--\$5000.00 directly supports the Haiti project through a stipend to its director;

--the remaining amount for grants is \$7527.00.

***The Rev. Kevin Huddleston moved and the Rev. Joel Prather seconded a 20% reduction in the grant amount.

A discussion ensued covering

--which years the reduction would involve

--the proper process for enacting the reduction

--the effect of the reduction on an already financially fragile area.

***The Rev. Kevin Huddleston withdrew his motion.

***It was moved and seconded that the request of the Commission on Global Reconciliation to grant \$1000.00 to the Diocesan Haiti Project and to grant \$6527.00 to the Companion Diocese of Newala be approved as presented. The motion carried.

State of Finances

The Rev, Kevin Huddleston, Interim Canon for Finance, reported that:

- The Finance Committee met with the Standing Committee regarding the 2021 budget.
- There was a change in N4N personnel; day-to-day operations are improving.
- Four parishes have requested the pro-offered month's waiver of assessment totaling about \$20,000.00
- Three parishes may need financial assistance totaling about \$100,000.00
- Parishes whose assessment payment is 90 days in arrears are being contacted by the Finance Committee.
- The 2019 audit is being worked on.

Discussion focused on the waiver of assessment:

- The parishes requesting it were doing so because it was offered, not because they were in current financial distress.
- The intent and process for the waiver was not communicated clearly.
- Going forward: The Rev. Kevin Huddleston will draft a new letter; the COMD will continue with calls/contacting parishes; Bishop Miller will check in with the clergy.

At 10:17:

***The Rev. Kevin Huddleston moved and the Rev. Scott Leannah seconded that the Executive Council move into Executive Session. The motion carried.

At 11:05:

***The Rev. Kevin Huddleston moved and the Rev. Joel Prather seconded that the Executive Council move out of Executive Session. The motion carried.

***The Rev. Kevin Huddleston moved and the Rev. Debra Trakel seconded exploring the possibility of the diocese being a co-signer/guarantor on a loan to St. Boniface, Mequon from another financial institution. Motion carried.

The Rev. Kevin Huddleston presented the Finance Committee's rationale and the following recommendations for the 2021 budget:

1. The 2021 income and expenditures will remain at the 2020 level.
2. Diocesan assessments will remain at the 2020 level.
3. The clergy minimum compensation rate will remain unchanged.
4. A process be developed and implemented that allow parishes, on an individual basis, to request a reduction in their 2020 assessment.

After a brief discussion affirming the recommendations and adjusting #2, they were moved and voted on.

***The motion that the 2021 income and expenditures will remain at the 2020 level was brought by a committee and did not need a second. It carried as presented.

***Mr. John Washbush moved and Ms. D'Arcy Becker seconded that the diocesan assessments be calculated for 2021, and the fixed assessment for the parish be the lesser of the two years, 2020 or 2021. Motion carried.

***The motion that the clergy minimum compensation rate remain unchanged was brought by a committee and did not need a second. It carried as presented.

Clear communication, based on the previous experience with the waiver of assessment, was strongly emphasized.

15 Minute Break

Meeting Resumed – 11:30

Treasurer Report

Mr. Clyde Bachand reported that the financial situation is about what was expected.

- income is below what was budgeted
- expenses are also below what was budgeted
- assessments are slow coming in.

Report – TFE

Ms. Jill Heller, Executive Director, Trustees of Funds and Endowments, announced that the TFE's board appointed TMI Trust Company as the new custodian of the Combined Fund. The written announcement and underlying information was in drop box. There were no questions or discussion.

Resolutions Proposals

Mr. John Washbush presented the following resolutions to the Executive Council for informational purposes; they have to be sent to the Resolutions Committee for final review and appropriate form.

- Amendment to Canon 6 – reduce the deadline for submissions of nominations for elections from 60 days to 45 days.
- Amendment to Canon 4 – remove time specific references to meeting virtually as a convention
- Authorization for Assisting Bishop
- Amendments to Canon 8

After an extensive discussion regarding the Canon 8 amendments, it was decided to put them on hold for now.

Task Force Updates

No **Constitution and Canons** report

No **DeKoven Center** report

No Haiti Project report

Canon for Congregational Development Report--written

Bishop Miller's Report

Bishop Miller noted:

- He continues to participate in online gatherings and ongoing ministries at the level of the General Church
- Clergy meetings are now bi-weekly rather than weekly
- Ms. Kerri Parker of the Wisconsin Council of Churches addressed the group regarding the updated guidelines from the WCC
- The House of Bishops met the last week of July to address issues of systemic racism and liturgical practices during the pandemic.
- The work of the Way Forward Task Force will begin meeting bi-weekly this month. The Guidelines and the Frequently asked questions page continue to be updated regularly.

- Yesterday marked the first day that no counties in the Diocese of Milwaukee were “green.”
- He ordained Rev. Esther Kramer to the priesthood on August 6 and, God willing, will ordain Rev. Michael De Lashmutt to the priesthood on August 17.
- The Special Convention was held on Thursday, July 16, 2020 in the outdoor chapel at St. Bartholomew’s, Pewaukee with four persons present.
- The sale of St. Andrew’s, Kenosha will be closed this week.
- The only remaining property that is listed for sale is the former Lazurus House.

Bishop Miller gave his blessing and recused himself.

Discussion/approval – Bishop’s Separation Package

The Rev. Joel Prather, Vice-President of the Executive Council, continued the meeting and recognized the Rev. Scott Leannah, President of the Standing Committee for the discussion of the Bishop’s Separation Package.

The Rev. Scott Leannah presented the Memorandum of Understanding that was prepared with the assistance of Ms. Liz Orelup, Esq., Vice Chancellor.

He noted that:

- the M of U was based on the separation package presented in November
- numbers 2-5 are firm and are the sections that need Executive Council approval
- numbers 6 and 7 need follow up review with the Standing Committee
- ***Mr. Clyde Bachand moved and Ms. D’Arcy Becker seconded the affirmation and approval of the Memorandum of Understanding and the authorization of The Rev. Joel Prather as the representative of the Executive Council. The motion carried.

The Rev. Steve Capitelli moved and The Rev. Kevin Huddleston seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:36.

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

Immediate Items for follow-up:

- loan policy
- letter regarding assessments
- 175th Anniversary
- policy and procedure

Appendix I

2020 Meeting Dates — Executive Council via ZOOM

September 12th

October TBD

November 7th

Appendix II

2020 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, leave the room and 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.