

**Diocese of Milwaukee
Executive Council Minutes
August 31, 2021 6:30 p.m. via ZOOM**

Roll Call was taken.

Present: The Rev. Joel Prather, Vice-President of the Executive Council; Mr. Mike Weber, Diocesan Treasurer; the Rev. Jana Troutman-Miller, President of the Standing Committee; Ms. D'Arcy Becker; Dr. John Johnson; Mr. Peter Larson; the Rev. Pippa Lindwright; Ms. Janice Pauc; Mr. John Vogel and Mr. John Washbush

Others present: The Rev. Dr. Kevin Huddleston, Canon for Finance and Administration; the Rev. Scott Leannah, Canon for Ministries; Ms. Jill Heller, Executive Director of Trustees of Funds & Endowments and Mr. Mark Ehrmann, Esq., Chancellor

Absent: Bishop Jeffrey Lee; the Rev. Steve Capitelli; the Rev. Pedro Lara; the Rev. Scott Seefeldt and the ex-officio member (attendance is optional): the Rev. Ian Burch, President of Commission on Ministry

Special Guest: Ms. Caroline Senn

At 6:33 p.m. the Rev. Joel Prather called the meeting to order and offered a prayer. He explained that it was a single item meeting on a proposal from the finance committee -- *a new formula for Diocesan Assessments*.

He called on Mr. Michael Weber for the opening presentation.

Mr. Weber gave the background for the proposal:

- a zero budget for 2022
- nothing automatic – including the assessments
- the need to reassess the assessment formula
- the new format will be rolled-out in 2022; implemented in 2023
- further changes are in development and will be presented later

Ms. Caroline Senn was called on to present the Finance Committee's new formula.

Ms. Senn gave her background – education and experiences.

She then presented the proposed assessment model noting:

- There was an anomaly in the old model – significant tax breaks to the larger churches.
- The new model has an incremental increase – evident in the four tiers.
- There is a shift, giving the smaller churches breathing room.

Rev. Joel Prather's simple overview of our **old vs. new formulas:**

OLD ASSESSMENT FORMULA

- \$155-205K in Income paid 16.8%
- \$205,001-\$300K paid 23.4%
- \$300K and up paid 17.1%

NEW ASSESSMENT FORMULA

- \$100-\$250K pay 20%
- \$250-\$400K pay 21%
- And its goes up .5% for every \$50K in income from there

Discussion encompassed:

- reason(s) for the delay in implementation
- recommendations regarding other options
- diocesan role and commitment

Father Scott noted that the Diocesan Resource Team and a Congregational Support Team were 2 people away from being ready to work with parishes in their varying situations.

- the juxtaposition of the formula and the 2022/2023 budget

Final Thoughts:

Given the number of questions and concerns, and the need for more information, Rev. Joel Prather encouraged further discussion via e-mail or personally contacting Ms. Senn or Canon Huddleston.

It was also determined that because of the relationship of assessments to the budget, it would be more fruitful to have the budget in hand for further review of the formula.

Therefore, the September 14th meeting will be a single item meeting – the 2022 budget/proposed assessment formula.

The Rev. Scott Leannah offered the final prayer.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

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

Appendix I

2021 Meeting Dates --Executive Council Tuesday at 6:30p.m. via
ZOOM

Tentative meeting dates.

September 14th -- Special One Item Meeting

Additional September meeting if needed
no October meeting / Convention October 9th

November 2nd

no December meeting

Appendix II

2021 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.