

Diocese of Milwaukee  
Executive Council Minutes  
June 6, 2020 9:30 a.m. via ZOOM

Roll Call was taken.

Present: The Rt. Rev. Steven A. Miller; Ms. D'Arcy Becker; the Rev. Steve Capitelli; Ms. Joann Faull; the Rev. Kevin Huddleston, Interim Canon for Finance; Mr. Ron Johnson; Mr. Peter Larson; the Rev. Joel Prather, Vice-President of the Executive Council; the Rev. Dr. Steven Peay, Interim Canon to the Ordinary; the Rev. Scott Seefeldt; the Rev. Debra Trakel ; Mr. John Vogel; Mr. John Washbush

Others present: Canon Peggy Bean, Canon for Congregations

Guests: Ms. Liz Orelup, Esq. and Mr. Mark Ehrman, Esq., our vice chancellors

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

At 9:33 a.m. Bishop Miller called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

## **May Minutes**

Bishop Miller asked if there were any additions, deletions or changes to the minutes of the May 2, 2020 Executive Council Meeting. Hearing nothing, Bishop Miller noted them approved as presented.

## **State of Finances**

The Rev, Kevin Huddleston, Interim Canon for Finance, clarified the follow-up items in the May minutes, page 4:

--RE: Accounts Receivable: the current account information with red side notes was presented; most parishes are current with some outstanding due to perhaps timing. All Saints has asked for a reduction in their assessment; this matter will be taken up by the Finance Committee and then brought to EC at a later date. No parish has asked for a waiver. Rev. Huddleston is reaching out personally to those parishes with outstanding assessments to discern the issue and develop a plan. Canon Peggy Bean asked to be included in this process.

--RE: Mequon Loan: it was noted that more material regarding the loan was needed from St. Boniface, Mequon. It was also noted that a number of issues had to be addressed one of which was their relationship with Congregational Development.

--RE: the transition money: the Finance Committee recommended that the \$75,000, taken out for transition expenses, be returned to TTFE and put into a Short Term Income Investment Pool.

\*\*\*Bishop Miller stated that it was moved by a committee to return the \$75,000 transition funds to TTFE and to put it into a Short Term Income Investment Pool. He said a second was not needed.

There was no discussion. The motion carried.

## **February – May Treasurer Report**

In light of (In lieu of) Mr. Clyde Bachand's absence, The Rev. Kevin Huddleston reported that:

--St. Peter's, West Allis has sold the previous rectory. It is scheduled to close on July 1<sup>st</sup> for \$185,000.00

--bills are current

--diocesan assessments, for the most part, are coming in regularly; no parish has asked for a waiver

--overall we are not doing too badly

The Rev. Kevin Huddleston presented:

--a Budget Income/Expense Summary noting that expenses are down: no Camp Webb; reduction in travel expenses; no on site Parish Reviews

--May deposits

Discussion centered on the dispersal of grants; it was noted that currently that money is on hold to be used in support of any parish having financial issues due to the on-going Covid 19 crises.

## **No Standing Committee Update**

### **2020 Convention**

Ms. Liz Orelup, Esq. presented the overall issues regarding the annual diocesan convention and the recommended process to have the convention.

--The General Convention for 2021 is already being planned as a virtual convention.

--Our Canons and State Law regarding whether deputies to the annual diocesan convention need to meet in person are not clear.

--Robert's Rules of Order are quite clear; to have a convention, the members must meet in person.

--With that in mind a draft proposal was discussed, which included the formation of a Special Convention to pass an amendment to Canon 4 allowing a virtual convention.

\*\*\*Mr. John Washbush moved and the Rev. Steve Capitelli seconded the convening of a small Special Convention, as outlined in the draft, for the purpose of amending Canon 4 to allow a virtual diocesan convention.

The motion carried.

### **Hospitality Center Update**

Ms. Elizabeth Orelup presented the current plan for the relationship of the Hospitality Center with the Diocese of Milwaukee. This plan will be brought to and discussed with the Board of the Hospitality Center at their July meeting and then submitted to the EC.

Ms. Orelup noted that the previous request to approve the Fiscal Sponsorship Certification was not part of the current discussion.

Canon Bean noted that, per the Rev. Seth Raymond, time is of the essence regarding acceptance by the Diocese of Milwaukee.

Ms. Liz Orelup will talk with Ms. Jill Heller and the Rev. Seth Raymond as to the final stipulations and ramifications. This document will be brought to the July EC meeting for review and approval.

### **Task Force Updates**

#### **--Constitution and Canons**

Mr. John Washbush reported that the committee continues to review the Canons in general and to develop side bars to clarify the topic of the specific Canon.

It was clarified that the work on the Constitutions and Canons done by the previous committee focused on the work of the Executive Council.

#### **--DeKoven Center**

Mr. John Vogel, DeKoven Center liaison, reported that:

--he has received questions from his committee which will be reviewed and discussed by them within the next 10 days.

Mr. John Vogel wondered if he could add other members to his committee who are not on Executive Council. It was clarified that committees could add any members they needed and felt would assist with the process.

### **--Haiti Project**

The Rev. Steve Capitelli, Haiti Project liaison reported that:

- donation income is down, hence funding for the school has been reduced
- teacher's salaries have been reduced
- new fundraising efforts are being pursued

The Rev. Steve Capitelli presented a letter from the Community of St. Marc, Jeannette expressing their solidarity with and commitment to this 35 year-old endeavor.

### **Canon for Congregational Development Report--written**

Canon Peggy Bean highlighted the following items from her report.

- Commission on Mission and Development is working with parishes, assessing technological needs.
  - The committee also continues to call parishes to assess other needs and possible future issues.
  - The parish transitions will be dealt with on an individual basis.
- Discussion centered on mission and the viability of Canon 8.

### **Canon to the Ordinary Report--written**

The Rev. Dr. Steven Peay highlighted the following items from his report.

- He is retiring Dec. 31, 2020. Deacon Nancy Hills and Deacon Esther Kramer will be co-directors of the program going forward.
- The Historical Commission (Jason Loch, Randy Miller, Chris Paulson and Rev. Peay) is creating a committee to plan the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2022.
- A new history of the Diocese is needed; the current one was published in 1947.
- He has accepted a position on the Board of the DeKoven Center.

### **Bishop Miller's Report—written**

Bishop Miller added these items to his report:

- There are two offers on the St. Andrew's, Kenosha property.
- Lazarus House, Janesville is on hold with roof and other rehab issues.
- The ordinations to the priesthood, transition diaconate and vocational diaconate will be simple with limited attendance possibly at the outdoor chapel at St. Bartholomew's, Pewaukee. It will also be live-streamed.

Mr. Peter Larson moved and Mr. Ron Johnson seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:08.

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

Immediate Items for follow-up:

- Hospitality Center issues
  - request for a loan by St. Boniface, Mequon
  - 2020 convention
- On-Going Follow Up
- 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary
  - policy and procedures

## Appendix I

### 2020 Meeting Dates — Executive Council via ZOOM

July 11<sup>th</sup>

August 8<sup>th</sup>

September 5<sup>h</sup>

October TBD

November 7<sup>th</sup>

## 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.