

Diocese of Milwaukee  
Executive Council Minutes  
July 11, 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; Mr. Peter Larson; the Rev. Scott Leannah, President of the Standing Committee; 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 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 Ehrman, Esq., vice chancellor via phone

Absent: Mr. Ron Johnson; 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.  
After noting that it was good to see all in a virtual way, he asked that members raise hands in order to facilitate the conversations.

## June Minutes

Bishop Miller asked if there were any additions, deletions or changes to the minutes of the June 6, 2020 Executive Council Meeting. Mr. John Washbush asked that, on page one, last paragraph, "In lieu of" be amended to "In light of." Hearing nothing else, Bishop Miller noted the minutes approved as amended.

## Hospitality Center Update

Ms. Elizabeth Orelup stated that:

--The relationship of the Hospitality Center with the Diocese of Milwaukee as an affiliate was approved at the March Executive Council meeting.

--The following resolution before the Council completes the process:

RESOLVED that in furtherance of the Executive Council's approval of Hospitality Center, Inc. (the Hospitality Center) as an affiliate of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee at its meeting on March 14, 2020, the Executive Council approves the Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement with the Hospitality Center, Inc. in the form presented to the Executive Council, and authorizes the Rt. Rev. Steven A. Miller, Bishop, to execute such Agreement on behalf of the Diocese; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon adoption by the board of directors of the Hospitality Center of amendments to its articles of incorporation and bylaws that accede to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese and of The Episcopal Church, the Diocese is authorized to request that The Episcopal Church approve the Hospitality Center for inclusion under The Episcopal Church's group tax exemption.

\*\*\*Mr. Peter Larson moved and Rev. Steve Capitelli and Rev. Debra Trakel seconded the above resolution.

Discussion centered on the basic working of the relationship between the Hospitality Center and the Diocese. Mr. John Washbush suggested a report out be submitted at the October convention.

\*\*\*The motion carried as presented.

## **State of Finances**

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

--Planning the 2021 budget is uncertain; given the circumstances, it is going to be a “rolling budget” going forward.

--Two of the three resolutions from the Finance Committee have been tabled—the 1<sup>st</sup> resolution regarding All Saints Cathedral and the 3<sup>rd</sup> resolution regarding St. Boniface, Mequon.

--The second resolution was presented:

**WHEREAS**, St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, West Allis has sold their rectory

And the proceeds from that sale have been deposited in the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee Permanent Development Fund

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That these funds be applied to their outstanding loan to the Diocese and that of this date, July 9, 2020 the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee consider their loan paid in full. And that St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, West Allis, be absolved from any further payments.

Since, the resolution came from a committee it did not need a second.

Discussion centered on noting the specifics—amount borrowed and amount received at the sale of the property—in the resolution.

\*\*\*It was moved that the final resolution be amended to include the specific money amounts – borrowed and received.

The motion carried.

The final resolution was amended to read:

\*\*\***THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That the funds from the sale of the rectory totaling \$185,000.00 be applied to St. Peter’s, West Allis outstanding loan to the Diocese of \$199,000.00, and that of this date, July 11, 2020 the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee consider their loan paid in full. And that St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, West Allis, be absolved from any further payments on that loan.

The resolution, as amended, carried.

An extensive discussion ensued regarding Resolution 1 and Resolution 3 listed below.

These resolutions were brought by the Finance Committee and originally tabled.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Resolution**

**WHEREAS**, All Saints Cathedral is an outward visible sign of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee and the Bishop

and All Saints Cathedral is an important symbol liturgical symbol

and All Saints Cathedral has been consistently and perennially in arrears in their Assessment payments to the Diocese

and the Cathedral has reduced the Dean’s Salary from full-time to ¾ time.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

That a reduction in the assessment of All Saints Cathedral be granted contingent on their willingness to enter a Canon 8 process with the Diocese.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Resolution**

**WHEREAS**, St. Boniface Episcopal Church has requested the Commission on Ministry and Development for the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee to assume the remaining balance owed on their building of approximately \$267,000 because the current lender would not refinance the note

And the Commission on Ministry and Development requested guidance from the Finance committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee

And the Finance Committee having reviewed financial statements, other material and a meeting with representatives of St. Boniface Episcopal Church, Mequon have the following concerns:

1. It could not be determined from the material presented, nor the answers given during the meeting the impact, either positive or negative, on the parish finances of the Day Care.
2. The lack of accurate accounting of different expenses within their accounting system.
3. The great percentage of the budget (78%) spend on salaries. In addition, the expenditure of \$11,000 on a paid choir was troubling considering a \$21,000 shortfall at the end of 2019.
4. A non-financial concern was the 30% in attendance in the past 4 years. At the same time the Mequon area has had a 5% increase in population.

### **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

We grant to St. Boniface Episcopal Church, Mequon a loan for approx. \$267,000 for a period of 7 years at 4% interest rate. With the following conditions:

- (a) a legal and binding signed loan agreement must be on file at the Diocesan office before the current note is paid.
- (b) a signed agreement from St. Boniface to enter a Canon 8 relationship with the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee.

We further suggest that a clause be included which stated that the loan would be due in full if they failed to keep the agreements initiated by the Canon 8 process.

### **Subsequent Discussion –Resolutions 1 and 3**

- the current status of each parish is not due to Covid 19, but to a history of poor choices
- the approach should be pastoral, but must also emphasize accountability
- given the statistics for each parish, any financial assistance would not have been available via bank or credit union.
- history within the diocese of non-payment of loans
- Canon 8 was meant to refocus parishes – Is the problem money? What is the actual issue that is causing the financial gap?
- Canon 8 was created as an essential tool for assisting parishes to develop a plan for returning to being a thriving, viable community
- need to use what we have – like Canon 8; amend the Canon if not helpful
- The Canon 8 process is begun and executed by the bishop and the Standing Committee

**\*\*\***Mr. Peter Larson moved and Rev. Scott Seefeldt seconded that Resolution 1 and Resolution 3 stated above be moved to the Ecclesiastical Authority.

Mr. John Washbush felt that since the resolutions each contained other separate issues, the resolutions be separated according to the issues. Mr. Peter Larson withdrew his resolution.

\*\*\*Mr. John Washbush moved that all conversation regarding Canon 8 in reference to All Saints Cathedral and St. Boniface, Mequon be moved to the Ecclesiastical Authority. Ms. D'Arcy Becker seconded the motion.  
The motion carried.

\*\*\*Mr. John Washbush moved that All Saints' Cathedral's request for a reduction in their assessment be referred back to the Finance Committee. Rev. Debra Trakel seconded the motion.  
The motion carried.

\*\*\*Mr. John Washbush moved that the loan request of \$267,000.00 made by St. Boniface, Mequon be referred back to the Finance Committee. Rev. Scott Seefeldt seconded the motion.  
The motion carried.

## **15 Minute Break**

## **Meeting Resumed – 10:46**

### **Treasurer Report**

Mr. Clyde Bachand's reported:

- unpaid assessments are up
  - because reports are slow in coming he is unable to give detailed data
  - it may be time to reevaluate staffing in the finance office
  - forgiveness of the one month of assessment does not begin until July
- There was a side discussion on how much money was available to give loans to congregations.

### **Standing Committee Update**

Rev. Scott Leannah reported that:

- He will be touching base with the consultant regarding continuing the search process—defining our story.
- He will be getting names of possible Assistant Bishops to interview for the Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 position.
- The SC will be interviewing Rev. Esther Kramer and Rev. Michael DeLashmutt for ordination to the priesthood.
- He and Bishop Miller will be meeting with the SC regarding the use of Canon 8 in specific situations.
- He will check on the role of the EC and the approval of the Assisting Bishop.

### **Task Force Updates**

No **Constitution and Canons** report

No **DeKoven Center** report

### **--Haiti Project**

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

- Andrea Stomberg was elected to serve as the Chairperson for the Project, replacing Jennifer Henery
- Meredith Harmon was confirmed as the Executive Director.
- The Virtual Strawberry Fest at St. Mary's, Dousman raised over \$1,200.00.
- The Steering Committee resolved to finance the remainder of the 2019- 2020 school year at the usual amount.
- The Finance Committee will work toward setting a budget for the 2020-2021 school year in Jeanette.

--A committee of Cyndi Bryan, Susan Webster and Fr. Steve Capitelli was set up to review the By-laws and clarify the roles of the Steering committee and its officers.

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

Canon Peggy Bean welcomed Rev. Maureen Martin to the diocese as priest-in-charge at St. James', West Bend.

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

The Rev. Dr. Steven Peay brought a request to the Executive Council regarding The Historical Commission (Jason Loch, Randy Miller, Chris Paulson and Rev. Peay) and the planning for the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2022. Discussion of the request was moved to the August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 EC meeting.

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

Bishop Miller added these items to his report:

--He will be meeting with the Standing Committee.

--There is a sale pending (to close in August) of the property in Kenosha; it is being purchased by a church for \$170,000.00

\*\*\*Mr. John Washbush moved and Mr. Peter Larson seconded that the Executive Secretary prepare and send a note of appreciation to the virtual planning group of the Diocesan On-line Sunday Worship service.

Motion carried.

Rev. Scott Seefeldt moved and Rev. Joel Prather seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:14.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Margaret (Marge) M. Kiss

Executive Secretary & Recorder of the Minutes

Immediate Items for follow-up:

--Rev. Steve Peay's request – Historical Commission and the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

--EC and the approval of the Assisting Bishop

--policy and procedures

--report of ongoing relationship of Hospitality Center and the Diocese

## Appendix I

### 2020 Meeting Dates — Executive Council via ZOOM

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.