

**Diocese of Milwaukee
Executive Council Minutes
June 1st, 2021 6:30 p.m. via ZOOM**

Roll Call was taken.

Present: Bishop Jeffrey Lee, the Rev. Joel Prather, Vice-President of the Executive Council; Mr. Mike Weber, Diocesan Treasurer; the Rev. Scott Leannah, President of the Standing Committee; Ms. D'Arcy Becker; the Rev. Steve Capitelli; Dr. John Johnson; the Rev. Pedro Lara; the Rev. Pippa Lindwright; Ms. Janice Pauc; the Rev. Scott Seefeldt; Mr. John Vogel and Mr. John Washbush

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

Absent: Mr. Peter Larson and the ex-officio member (attendance is optional): the Rev. Ian Burch, President of Commission on Ministry

At 6:31 p.m. the Rev. Joel Prather called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

May 4, 2021 EC Minutes and Minutes from the Special Executive Council Meeting May 11, 2021

The Rev. Joel Prather asked if there were any additions, deletions or changes to the Executive Council minutes of May 4, 2021 and the Minutes from the Special Executive Council Meeting May 11, 2021.

***Mr. John Vogel moved and Mr. Mike Weber seconded that the Executive Council minutes of May 4, 2021 and the Minutes from the Special Executive Council Meeting May 11, 2021 be approved as presented. The motion carried.

Update from Bishop Jeffrey Lee

Bishop Lee reiterated that his goals were:

--addressing culture relationally – phone, and preferably, face-to-face

--projecting, on every level that:

“They are cared for.”

The Diocesan office exists to serve the needs of the congregations.

--recruiting interim support

Bishop Lee stated that on Wednesday, June 2nd, he was meeting with Bishop Matthew Gunter, “two bishops in conversation, putting it all on the table,” to look at working economically and/or possible realignments.

Rev. Joel Prather asked Bishop Lee what was the best way to pray for him.

He asked that we pray that he have wisdom and discernment, the “capacity to read reality.”

Executive Council Tasks – Rev. Joel Prather, Vice-President of Executive Council

Rev. Joel Prather suggested that, given the muddy history of the Executive Council, time be spent clarifying the role and responsibilities of the Executive Council.

He called attention to the opening paragraphs of Canon 7, highlighting certain statements.

The Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee, Inc. is a nonstock, nonmember corporation organized under the Wisconsin Nonstock Corporation Law for the purpose of particularly the executive and financial administration of the Diocese. The current members of the Executive Council shall be the Board of Directors of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee, Inc,...

He noted a document in drop box that set out the roles and responsibilities of some of the staff members. He said that he was also gathering responses from other staff members and will include them, along with previous dialogues, in a designated file he asked Mr. John Washbush to create.

Bishop Lee felt that this material may be helpful to the Renewal Task Force group as they look at and evaluate structures.

Rev. Prather also spoke about the book Learning from London by Jason A. Font that was brought to his attention by Rev. Pedro Lara. Rev. Lara felt the book offered examples of “a diocese walking along with the parishes.”

Rev. Prather suggested starting up a discussion time for similar materials, perhaps 6:15-6:30, just before the EC meeting.

Ms. D’Arcy wondered about the future of these documents if they are not addressed intentionally and regularly.

Bishop Lee felt that they might be useful in the transitional time and for the creating of a profile by the search team.

Rev. Prather asked the EC members to think about and make follow-up suggestions regarding any of the above presented items.

Standing Committee Report

The Rev. Scott Leannah, President of the Standing Committee, reported that

--The Standing Committee sent out a letter regarding the Way Forward Task Force. The guidelines are now given as recommendations trusting individual parishes to work with their community and members to develop ways to “move forward.”

--Bill and Amy Dunlop were recognized, with gratitude, for all the time and work they put into the Way Forward Task Force.

--The retreat with consultant Rev. Anne Hallisey was well attended, with good comradery.

--Two distinct areas for reflection are evolving: the patterns and behaviors from 19 years under Bishop White and 17 years under Bishop Miller along with parish members that have little to no experience with that past.

--A clergy retreat, with Rev. Anne Hallisey, is being planned for October.

- The Renewal Task Force will begin visiting parishes.
- The Standing Committee will meet, in person, on June 8th.
- June 26, 2021 is the Special Convention to elect the Provisional Bishop.

Ms. D'Arcy Becker asked if there was a sense as to how parishes were now "moving forward."

Rev. Leannah noted that it was quite broad:

- some worshiping without masks;
- some still worshiping outside;
- some very cautious.

He added that, the overall feedback was, "thank you for trusting us."

Signature Resolution Needed

It was noted that at the January EC meeting, the Executive Council approved St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Racine securing a loan co-signed by the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee, but no signee was designated. A motion is needed to that effect.

***Mr. John Johnson moved that the Rev. Dr. Kevin Huddleston, Canon for Finance and Administration, be designated as the co-signer, on behalf of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee, on the loan previously approved and secured by St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Racine and authorized by the Executive Council. Rev. Scott Seefeldt seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Finance and Administration Report

Canon Kevin Huddleston reported that:

- He has a signed letter of agreement, regarding pay and other financial details, from St. Francis House.
- He is working on getting one from the Hospitality Center.
- He and Rev. Gary Manning met with Church Insurance; two major changes were secured:
 1. A cyberattack liability clause was added. He also recommends each parish consider adding it to their insurance policies.
 2. The current employee theft insurance of \$250,000.00 was reduced to \$150,000.00-\$200,000.00
- He is in the midst of a comprehensive audit that will be finished on Friday with an in-person meeting with the auditors next week.

Special Diocesan Convention – June 23rd

Canon Kevin Huddleston reported that:

- Most of the names of the certified deputies are into the Diocesan office.
- The convention will be on Zoom.
- The single resolution has been circulated.
- There will be a training session on June 22nd on Zoom.
- For those who are not deputies, but would like to view the meeting, it will be live-streamed.

May Treasurer's Report

Mr. Mike Weber, Treasurer, noted that:

- Expenses are within normal parameters.

A discrepancy in the finance statement was corrected.

Ms. D'Arcy Becker stated that she really likes the one-page format of the treasurer's report.

- The 2020 budget is in process and will be addressed after the audit.
 - Two parishes are behind with their assessments; they have been or will be contacted.
 - The Diocesan audit is in process.
 - There is a \$40,000.00 grant from the National Church; the EC is to determine its use.
- Discussion regarding the \$40,000.00 followed and covered:
- who would receive the \$40,000.00
 - some suggestions: currently two parishes requesting money due to significant losses during the pandemic; parishes that may have financial needs, but are not requesting support; the Hospitality Center
 - how the amounts would be divided
 - the system that would be used to make the allocations (grant/loan)
 - requirements that may need to be met
 - if it will be merged with current financial plans
 - how soon the decision had to be made

Since "time is of the essence," Rev. Prather suggested a short July meeting specific to this decision. He will meet with Bishop Lee to look at tools for generative conversation. Rev. Leannah and Rev. Huddleston will meet to discuss several recipients.

The July meeting date is TBD.

Final Thoughts:

"I now owe you 96 minutes," Rev. Joel Prather.

***Mr. John Vogel moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Mike Weber seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Bishop Lee blessed and Deacon Marge dismissed the EC members.

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.

July -- TBD

August 3rd

September 14th (pushed back for Labor Day)

no October meeting / Convention

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.