

**Diocese of Milwaukee
Executive Council Minutes
July 14th, 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. Jana Troutman-Miller, President of the Standing Committee; Ms. D'Arcy Becker; the Rev. Steve Capitelli; the Rev. Pedro Lara; Mr. Peter Larson; the Rev. Pippa Lindwright; 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 and Ms. Jill Heller, Executive Director of Trustees of Funds & Endowments

Absent: Dr. John Johnson; Ms. Janice Pauc; the Rev. Scott Seefeldt and the ex-officio members (attendance is optional): the Rev. Ian Burch, President of Commission on Ministry and Mr. Mark Ehrmann, Esq., Chancellor

At 6:35 p.m. the Rev. Joel Prather called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

It was a one topic agenda: Diocesan Strategies for Parish Support.

Each member of the bishop's staff – Bishop Jeffrey Lee, Father Scott Leannah, Canon for Ministries and Father Kevin Huddleston, Canon for Finance and Administration – spoke of their work in the areas of their ministry as related to the topic.

Bishop Jeffery Lee

Bishop Jeff called attention to a letter from the Rt. Rev. Matthew Gunter, bishop of Fond du Lac. It was an invitation to “enter a substantive conversation about how Episcopal churches across Wisconsin might work together...”

In a brief discussion, Executive Council members agreed it was well worth considering.

***Mr. John Washbush moved and it was seconded that the invitation be accepted and that at the following EC meeting, discussion of our representative to the initial Fall meeting be added to the agenda.

The motion passed.

Bishop Jeff also noted the two challenges the diocese faces: technical and adaptive.

He spoke of the coalescence of a team in the bishop's office:

--staff equipping – at staff meetings they engage in book discussions, Ex: BIFF (Brief, Informative, Friendly, Firm) Quick Responses to High Conflict People

He further noted that a Visitation Schedule was in process with mid-week visitations being included. Several parishes have already been visited or will be visited this week: Christ Church, Whitefish Bay and St. Dunstan's, Madison.

Ministries – Canon Scott Leannah

Canon Scott Leannah gave:

- A list of parishes without pastoral leadership and those seeking aide or redevelopment or partnership

- Areas being developed:
 - a Diocesan Resource Team
 - a Congregational Support Team
 - a Diaconal Formation Program

He also spoke of the need to find a new Director for Field Education at Nashotah House.

He noted that he is currently reaching out to the parishes, determining how he can be of service to them.

To that effect, once a month, he will be the supply priest at one of the parishes currently looking for/needing direction and support.

Finance and Administration – Canon Kevin Huddleston

Canon Kevin Huddleston reported on the current cash balances and the income and expenses through June, 2021 and outstanding assessments.

He also reported that he:

- Upgraded to QuickBooks online
- Established weekly meetings with N4N
- Begun initial work on the 2022 Budget by gathering the 3-year average for each line item
- Met with the Vice-President of the Executive Council
- Worked with new Treasurer at St. Alban's, Sussex
- Completed Letters of Agreement with
 - St. Mark's, Milwaukee re: Campus Ministry
 - St. Francis House
 - Directors of the Deacon's School (Esther Kramer/Nancy Hills)
 - St. Thomas Greendale re: Canon Leannah salary reimbursement
- Working on Letters of Agreement/Memo of Understanding with
 - All Saints Cathedral
 - Hospitality Center
 - Parishes receiving aid (in conjunction with Canon Leannah)
- Designed and implemented monthly Staff Development
- Designed schedule for Wardens/Treasurers meeting for Fall 2021-Spring 2022
- With the Finance Committee
 - exploring the current Health Insurance for clergy in hopes reducing the impact on parishes.
 - is working on recommendations for:
 - St. Bartholomew's, Pewaukee
 - St. Boniface, Mequon
 - Investment for cash reserves
- Attended relevant Webinars
 - Haiti Below the Surface: Challenge and Opportunity
 - Big Tech and the Church: Imagining Opportunities & Challenges Going Forward
 - Stewardship in the 'New Normal'
 - Why is Worship Attendance So Low?

Questions raised:

--What is the distinctive role each staff member plays, how are they sharing the tasks?

It was clarified that the roles essentially overlap, Ex: financial support is evaluated by the finance

committee with recommendations made and is addressed directly and pastorally.

Canon Kevin Huddleston: "The staff talks every day, sometimes 2 to 3 times a day."

Bishop Jeffrey Lee: "It is easy to create silos. We do not want that. It is the entire team (along with the congregation) having different lenses giving clarity."

--What is happening with the school in Haiti?

It was clarified that though the Diocesan Haiti board was disbanded and there is dysfunction on

the ground in Haiti, money for the school in Haiti will continue for the rest of the year.

Final Thoughts:

"I returned 29 minutes to you." Rev. Joel Prather.

Rev. Prather also suggested that the August 3rd meeting address:

--a representative to the Diocesan Conversation

--re-connecting with the work of the EC Task Force

It was noted the use of the \$40,000.00 Grant from the National Church would be reviewed by the Congregational Support Team. Their recommendations would then be brought to the EC for discussion and approval.

***The entire Executive Council moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. John Washbush seconded the motion to make it official. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Bishop Jeff 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.

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.