

Diocese of Milwaukee
Executive Council Minutes
May 2, 2020 10:00 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; Mr. Ron Johnson; the Rev. Scott Leannah, President of the Standing Committee; the Rev. Pedro Lara; 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 and Ms. Jill Heller, Executive Director of Trustees of Funds & Endowments

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

At 10:04 a.m. Bishop Miller called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

March Minutes

Bishop Miller asked if there were any additions, deletions or changes to the minutes of the March 14, 2020 Executive Council Meeting. Hearing nothing Bishop Miller called for a resolution.

*** Mr. John Vogel moved and Mr. Peter Larson seconded the approval of the minutes from the March 14, 2020 Executive Council Meeting as presented. They were so approved.

State of Finances

The Rev, Kevin Huddleston, Interim Canon for Finance, clarified the follow-up items in the March minutes, page 3:

--RE: the transition money: \$75,000 is with TTFE and the remaining \$125,000.00 was to come from savings and is currently on hold.

--RE: the Meachem funds: They are to be used for the mission of the church (see: BCP); not totally specified

Bishop Miller gave a brief history of the different uses as brought to and approved by EC over past years.

--RE: the money from the sale of St. Edmund's: normally it would have been placed in the PDF, but it was not; it will be used to supplement parishes need's during the pandemic

The Rev. Kevin Huddleston reported that:

--bills are current

--diocesan assessments, for the most part, are coming in regularly

--June and July will be the real test

Based on concern expressed by the Mission and Development Committee, a resolution for the abatement of a month of diocesan assessment is before the Executive Council.

It was decided that a discussion and a vote on the resolution would be taken up later.

February & March Finance Report

Mr. Clyde Bachand explained that due to missing items, the full financial reports were not available. He had just received an overdue assessment report.

The members of the Executive Council felt it was necessary to have that information submitted to them in writing for review and evaluation.

Resolution

The Rev. Kevin Huddleston, Interim Canon for Finance, further noted:

- all parish reviews for the 2021 year will be completed by desk login; cost will be only \$150.00
 - further savings to the diocese will occur because there will be no Camp Webb and the transition process is on hold
 - parishes are being encouraged to use paypal for their assessments.
- Wanting to be pastoral, yet fiscally responsible, the finance committee is submitting a resolution for the abatement of a month of diocesan assessment.

Discussion centered on:

- monies available to support the abatement
- the specific data regarding parishes in need
- pastoral concerns

It was determined that the abatement could not be used to bring a parish up-to-date; assessments would need to be current, to then apply the abatement.

It was also determined that current data regarding unpaid assessments was to be submitted to Executive Council before the next meeting, June 6th.

Bishop Miller stated that the resolution was from a committee so did not need a second.

***It was moved that each Parish within the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee be allowed to forego their monthly assessment payment to the EDOM for one month of their choice between the months of July, 2020 and December, 2020.

The motion passed unanimously.

Standing Committee Update

The Rev. Scott Leannah, President of the Standing Committee noted that there are two letters on the diocesan website that address the altered transition process.

Essentially:

- Bishop Miller retires on December 31, 2020
- January 1st an Assisting Bishop vetted by the National Office and approved by the standing committee will begin his/her role in the Diocese of Milwaukee
- after 6 months a special convention will be called to elect him/her as Provisional Bishop for a period of 3 (three) years
- a search committee will continue in-depth listening sessions, reflecting on the life and culture of the diocese
- conversations with adjoining diocese will also ensue as to possible shared ministries
- after 2 years, discussions and evaluation will occur
- a special convention for the election of Bishop XII may be called

***Mr. John Washbush moved and The Rev. Kevin Huddleston seconded that the Executive Council approve the amended process for the election of Bishop XII as outlined in the letter from the Standing Committee. The motion carried.

Ms. Jill Heller asked about the \$75,000.00 currently budgeted for the transition process. It was determined that the finance committee would review the funding process and proper placement of the funds. They would submit their recommendations to the Executive Council.

2020 Convention & Clarification of Delegates

Since the chancellors were not at the meeting, this discussion will be part of a future meeting.

Hospitality Center Update

Ms. Elizabeth Orelup was not at the meeting. Though The Rev. Joel Prather had conversations with her, he felt that it would be better to postpone this update for a future meeting.

Task Force Updates

The Rev. Joel Prather asked for reports from the various task force groups.

--DeKoven Center

Mr. John Vogel, DeKoven Center liaison, reported that he had developed background material about DeKoven and sent it to the group for review. He asked for 5-10 questions from them and is waiting for responses. Per Mr. Vogel: *In short, the ball is rolling. I am just not sure yet how far and how fast.*

--Constitution and Canons

No report at this time.

--Haiti Project

The Rev. Steve Capitelli, Haiti Project liaison submitted a report highlighting an aspirational budget and the nominating of two new employees for Bishop Miller's approval.

He also submitted the proposed budget, the report of a medical trip to Haiti and 3-5 year aspirations for Haiti.

Bishop Miller thanked Rev. Capitelli for his work and asked to have a copy of the resumes for the two new employees.

March Follow-up: Policies and Procedures

Both Canon Bean and Canon Peay reported that they had done searches of the minutes for motions and subsequent material. Canon Bean entered items into the 2019 and 2017 drop box folders.

Discussion followed as to how to make the data living and workable.

Mr. Clyde Bachand submitted a procedure he had used.

Bishop Miller and the Rev. Joel Prather will follow-up on the material and submit a workable plan.

Canon for Congregational Development Report--written

Canon Peggy Bean highlighted the following items from her report.

--The committee continues to call parishes to maintain contact.

--The parish transitions will be dealt with on an individual basis.

--The St. Boniface, Mequon request for a loan of \$270,000.00 still needs to go before the Finance Committee for approval.

Mr. John Washbush wondered about a previous request for a loan brought by St. Boniface, Mequon in 2018.

It was noted that it possibly was dropped. The final resolution of that request will be researched and reported on at a future meeting.

Canon to the Ordinary Report--written

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

- The deacon formation program will be substantially less because of the new way of presenting the program.
- He is pursuing the possibility of a shared deacon formation program with Fond du Lac.
- The Diocesan Historical Commission (Jason Loch, Randy Miller, Chris Paulson and Rev. Peay) have begun discussing the Diocesan Archives.
- A key upcoming historical milestone for the Diocese is the 175th Anniversary of the Founding of the Diocese of Wisconsin (2022).

Bishop Miller's Report—written

Bishop Miller added these items to his report:

- The sale of the two properties, St. Andrew's, Kenosha and Lazarus House, Janesville are on hold.
- The ordinations to the priesthood, transition diaconate and vocational diaconate will be simple with limited attendance for now, with full celebration in the future.
- A Way Forward Task Force is being established; recommendations for returning to in-person worship will be developed and discussed.

Additional Items

- A July meeting was added – July 11th
- The August meeting date was moved to August 8th
- Meeting time was moved up to 9:30 a.m.

Mr. Clyde Bachand moved and it was seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40

Respectfully submitted,

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

Items for follow-up:

- specific accounts receivable data submitted to the EC
- placement of the \$75,000.00 transitional funds
- resolution of the previous request for a loan by St. Boniface, Mequon
- a report from Constitution and Canons
- future convention plans – virtual
- clarification of delegates/deputies for special elections
- 175th anniversary

Appendix I

2020 Meeting Dates — Executive Council via ZOOM

June 6th

July 11th

August 8th

September 5^h

October TBD

November 7th

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.