

**Diocese of Milwaukee
Executive Council Minutes
May 4th, 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; Dr. John Johnson; the Rev. Pedro Lara; Mr. Peter Larson; 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; the Rev. Geoff Ward, President, Trustees of Funds & Endowments; Ms. Jill Heller, Executive Director of Trustees of Funds & Endowments, Mr. Mark Ehrmann, Esq., Chancellor and Ms. Liz Orelup, Vice-Chancellor

Guest: Ms. Lynn A. Biese-Carroll, Executive Director, DeKoven Center

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

At 6:34 p.m. the Rev. Joel Prather called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

March Minutes

The Rev. Joel Prather asked if there were any additions, deletions or changes to the Executive Council minutes of March 2, 2021. Mr. John Vogel submitted an amendment to the DeKoven report.

***Ms. Janice Pauc moved and Mr. John Johnson seconded that the March 2, 2021 Executive Council minutes be approved as amended. The motion carried.

Meet and Greet with Bishop Jeffrey Lee

Bishop Lee:

--gave a short bio

--highlighted areas of focus: a sense of urgency i.e. 13 pastoral vacancies; need to address the culture of the diocese

--shared a bit of his philosophy -- accountability and mutual respect.

The Rev. Joel Prather asked EC members to introduce themselves to Bishop Lee.

Standing Committee Report

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

--The Special Convention to elect Bishop Lee (who is running un-opposed) as our Provisional Bishop is set for June 26th

--The regular business of the Haiti Project has been put on hold since a reverse course is in effect – from a 501 3C to a deeper connection with the diocese; the contract with the school remains in-tact for the 2021-2022 school year.

--Ms. Tammy Prather continues her role as the liaison to struggling parishes.

--The SC meets again on May 11th.

Bishop Lee expressed his appreciation for the diocesan Standing Committee. He related that: The Rev. Ann Hallisey, our diocesan consultant, told him "it was the most functional SC she ever worked with."

Resolution as Required by the Amended Canon 4

The Rev. Joel Prather explained that the Resolution approved at the Special Convention on July 16, 2020 requires a motion from the EC.

That:

***"Since the Standing Committee intends to request that the special convention be held virtually under Canon 4, Section 2, the Executive Council concurs with such a request as required under that Canon."

Mr. John Vogel so moved with a second from Mr. John Johnson.

Mr. John Washbush noted that the Standing Committee had not yet made a request to convene a special convention and would probably not be doing so until their next meeting on May 11th.

The wording, of the motion, was amended to more accurately represent the timing of each request.

***"Understanding that a request is immanent that the Standing Committee acting as Ecclesiastical Authority intends to convene a special convention of the Diocese to designate Bishop Lee as provisional Bishop of the Diocese; and that the Standing Committee intends to request that the special convention be held virtually under Canon 4, Section 2, the Executive Council concurs with such a request as required under that Canon."

The motion carried.

Standing Committee Report (cont.)

The Rev. Scott Leannah reported regarding St. John's, Portage, that:

--After prayer and discernment, St. John's, Portage will cease meeting as a parish community; the SC accepted their decision and offered care and support.

--The Rev. Dave Mowers will handle the disposition of the property; A Letter of Agreement delineates responsibilities and pay.

--The proceeds will be divided 90% to the endowment of Trinity, Baraboo and 10% to the diocese.

--There is a columbarium. The cremains will either be transferred to Trinity, Baraboo or returned to the family.

The Rev. Scott Seefeldt offered a prayer for the folks at St. John's, Portage.

The Rev. Scott Leannah reported regarding the Renewal Task Force, that:

--They are just getting started.

--With "appreciative inquiry" they will look at our time under previous bishops and issues relative to culture.

NOTE: A request was made that the agenda be adjusted so that the guests presenting information on the DeKoven Center would not have to wait until the end of the meeting.

DeKoven Center Presentation

Ms. Lynn A. Biese-Carroll, Executive Director of the DeKoven Center:

--gave her background

--spoke of her role at DeKoven as – holding the “sacred space,” yet running it like a business

The Rev. Geoffrey Ward presented a **Power Point** noting that:

--DeKoven is a gem.

--It has a “rich history and promising future.”

The Power Point covered the formation and vitality of DeKoven and its Six Centers of

Excellence: **History and Archive Center; Athletic Complex; Affordable Housing;**

Retreat Center; Grounds-Perpetual Care and St. John’s Chapel.

Ms. Lynn A. Biese-Carroll and the Rev. Geoffrey Ward invited the EC to make the DeKoven Center the place to have a future EC meeting.

Mr. John Vogel was thanked for his work as EC liaison to the DeKoven Center.

Members of the EC expressed appreciation for the progress, “the stunning accomplishments” made at the DeKoven Center through the efforts of Ms. Lynn A. Biese-Carroll, Executive Director and her staff and board.

8:30 3-minute break

Proposal to the Executive Council

The Rev. Joel Prather turned the meeting over to Canon Kevin Huddleston who turned the meeting over to Mr. Mike Weber, Diocesan Treasurer.

Mr. Mike Weber brought to the Executive Council a proposal developed by Bishop Lee and Canon Huddleston and presented to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Mike Weber noted that:

--the finance committee made a counter proposal

--funding for the counter proposal is available

After discussion, it was determined that:

--a separate meeting addressing this proposal be set a.s.a.p

--an exact wording of the proposal/motion be made available to the EC for review

--members use e-mail and/or calls to bring up concerns and further questions regarding the proposal/motion

Conclusion: The Executive Council will gather, by zoom, on May 11th at 5:45 p.m. for a single item meeting to discuss and vote on the funding portion of the amended proposal.

Diocesan Convention Update

Canon Kevin Huddleston reported that:

--The convention will be by zoom.

--There will be a training session a week before hand.

--The critical issue -- getting the names of the certified deputies to the diocesan office.

February & March Treasurer’s Report

Mr. Mike Weber, Treasurer, noted that:

--The Y-T-D difference between expenses and income is in the positive.

- With 2 exceptions, the assessments are current within a month.
- The Diocesan audit is scheduled for May 28th and should be completed by end of June.

Final Thoughts:

“I owe you 82 minutes,” Rev. Joel Prather.

The Rev. Joel Prather led the closing prayer. Bishop Lee blessed and Deacon Marge dismissed the EC members.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

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.

May 11th at 5:45 p.m. Special Meeting – Single Item

June 1st

no July meeting

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.