

**Diocese of Milwaukee
Executive Council Minutes
September 14, 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; 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. Scott Leannah, Canon for Ministries; Ms. Jill Heller, Executive Director of Trustees of Funds & Endowments and Mr. Mark Ehrmann, Esq., Chancellor

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

Special Guest: The Rev. Geoffrey Ward

At 6:33 p.m. the Rev. Joel Prather called the meeting to order; Bishop Lee offered a prayer. The Rev. Joel Prather explained that it was a single item meeting – review the draft of the 2022 Diocesan budget along with the proposed assessment formula and other budget related financial considerations.

Bishop Lee gave opening reflections.

--The Church is the body of Christ with members having different gifts and tasks.
--To have a “healthy body,” committees like Executive Council and Standing Committee need to work in concert with each other having mutual accountability.

Rev. Joel Prather turned the meeting over to Mr. Mike Weber, Diocesan Treasurer.

Mr. Mike Weber stated the three items before the Executive Council at this meeting:

- the Assessment Formula for 2022
- the 2022 Budget
- Four (4) Recommendations

He reminded the Executive Council of the Assessment Models before them.

OLD ASSESSMENT FORMULA

- \$155-205K in Income paid 16.8%
- \$205,001-\$300K paid 23.4%
- \$300K and up paid 17.1%

NEW ASSESSMENT FORMULA

- \$100-\$250K pay 20%
- \$250-\$400K pay 21%
- And its goes up .5% for every \$50K in income from there

After a lengthy discussion covering concerns of equitability and clarity, a third option was offered – freezing the 2022 assessments at the 2021 level.

Discussion continued.

***Ms. Jill Heller moved that the Executive Council recommend to the Convention that the 2021 parish assessment amounts be carried into 2022 (no increases); that any parish in need will be able to consult with Canon Scott Leannah, Canon of Ministries and that the assessment formula will continue under review with proposals brought to the EC for the 2023 budget. The Rev. Jana Troutman-Miller seconded it. The motion passed.

The Rev. Dr. Kevin Huddleston, Canon for Finance and Administration, presented the 2022 Diocesan budget.

Discussion followed addressing the need for more side notes “financial rubrics” and questions regarding the additional staff and overall salaries.

***The Rev. Steve Capitelli moved that the Executive Council accept and recommend the adjusted budget be passed by the Convention. The Rev. Pippa Lindwright seconded it. The motion passed.

Mr. Mike Weber presented the four Recommendations from the Finance Committee:

1. Withdraw the approx. \$600,000 from the Permanent Development Fund in the Chase Bank Account, as it is earning no interest, and place the funds in the long term pool of the TFE Permanent Development Fund. Additionally, take the annual distribution calculated annually by TFE (4.3% in 2021) to be used by the bishop for strengthening local parish ministry.

2. Because the Savings account has approx. \$600,000, earning no interest; and because \$400,000 seems an adequate reserve:

--withdraw \$100,000 and invest it in a TFE’s Long-term investment pool to support the expense of attending the Lambeth Conference, held once every 10 years.

--withdraw \$100,000 and invest it in a Mid-Term account with TFE to support the expense of attending the General Convention which occurs once every 3 years.

--If additional funds are needed, they should be taken from the draw, from the Permanent Development Fund mentioned in #1 above.

3. Because the current Operating Fund account has over \$500,000, transfer \$120,000 to the TFE account for Bishop Transition.

The recommendations were briefly discussed.

Mr. John Vogel moved and the Rev. Steve Capitelli and the Rev. Jana Troutman-Miller seconded the approval of the Recommendations. The motion carried.

Final Thoughts: There will be no additional meeting in Sep. The next meeting is Nov. 2nd.

The Rev. Joel Prather offered the final prayer.

Bishop Lee gave a blessing; Deacon Marge said the dismissal.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 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.

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.