

The Diocesan Council  
Episcopal Diocese of Michigan

---



January 23, 2016 St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Brighton, MI  
Organization and Full Business Meeting – APPROVED Minutes

---

**Council Members Present:** Bishop Wendell N. Gibbs, Andy Anyanonu, Rae Lee Baxter, Lynda Carter, Steve Chisholm, Don Dersnah, Claudia Hamlin, Brian Johnson, Rob Matras, Joyce Matthews, Christopher Moran, Joyce Munro, Juan Perez, Jenny Ritter, Linda Shafer, Rob Sherry, Geoffrey Smereck, Bill Stech, Felicity Thompson, Edie Wakevainen (Secretary), Mark Miliotto (Treasurer)

**Council Members Absent:** Victoria Behnke (excused), Bruce Cann (excused), Clare Hickman (excused), Deon Johnson (excused), Traci Johnson (excused), Karen Lewis (excused),

**Diocesan Staff:** Rick Schulte (Director of Diocesan Communications), Jo Ann Hardy (Canon Administrator)

**Visitors:** Judith Schellhammer, Jim Mogensen from Covenant V

---

**10:00 – Morning Worship** led by Bishop Gibbs  
**Roll Call**

**Acceptance of Agenda** – as written

**Approval of Minutes from November 21, 2015**

*Motion was made and properly seconded to accept the minutes as written. Motion passed.*

**Communications to Council**

1. A letter was received from St. Cyprian's, Detroit, reporting on their use of grants and loans to replace the roof and expressing thanks.
2. A letter was received from St. Paul's, Jackson, reporting that a decrease in their operating revenue was going to result in a decrease in their pledge to the Diocese. The matter was referred to the Vital Congregations committee, the Tithes and Offerings committee, Canon Jim Gettel, and the Diocesan Treasurer.

**Executive Committee Actions**

1. The HR Policy Review Committee recommends that the 2016 Clergy Compensation Policy be approved by Diocesan Council and distributed to clergy and lay leaders of the diocese via all available communication vehicles.

*A motion was made and properly seconded to affirm this Executive Committee action. Motion passed.*

2. That an emergency grant in the amount of \$698.50 be awarded to St. Luke's, Shelby Township, to assist with necessary plumbing repairs. The funds from this grant would be allocated from the Centennial Fund of Diocesan Council, which has a current balance of \$10,631.

*A motion was made and properly seconded to affirm this Executive Committee action. Motion passed.*

**Bishop's Update**

- Visits to Trinity, St. Clair Shores; Redeemer, Southfield; St. David's, Southfield; St. Barnabas', Chelsea; Nativity, Bloomfield Township and the Cathedral (Christmas Eve); St. Elizabeth's, Redford; St. Andrew's, Waterford
- Attended meeting of the House of Bishops' Racism Pastoral Writing Group
- On December 6<sup>th</sup>, Judith Schellhammer was ordained as a deacon at St. Michael's and All Angels, Cambridge Junction.

- On December 12<sup>th</sup>, at the Cathedral, Areeta Bridgemohan and Andrea Morrow were ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests. Paul Castelli, Daniel Lawson, James Pashturro, Imogen Rhodenhiser and Scott Steiner were ordained as deacons.
- The Ministry Retreat was attended by members of the Commission on Ministry and the Standing Committee, as well as 27 individuals in the process.
- Preached at St. Paul's Lutheran, Dearborn, on Martin Luther King Sunday, at the invitation of the Donald Kreiss, ELCA Bishop, SE Synod.
- Visited the Academy for Vocational Leadership, which trains deacons and total ministry team members. Currently there are first- and second-year students in the program.
- Canon Jo Ann Hardy celebrated 29 years of service to the diocese.
- The Rev. Lew Towler celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.
- Deaths: Deacon William Bones, Lesley McGehee Casey, The Rev. Rod Reinhart
- Presiding Bishop Michael Curry will preach at the Celebration of Absalom Jones at the Cathedral on February 20<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are required for admission.

### **Property Report**

Canon Hardy presented a written report.

Updates:

1. Property of St. Andrew's, Jackson: Buyer produced receipts up to 11k for credit to purchase price. Transaction has been completed and posted to our books.
2. Property of St. Timothy's, Detroit: Issue with delinquent taxes has been resolved and a forfeiture of land contract is to be filed. Forfeiture hearing took place on January 8. Eviction is to take place within 30 days (prior to February 8).
3. Property of St. George's, Warren: Documents completed for extension of land contract through December 2017.
4. Property of St. Alfred's, Lake Orion: Documents executed for renegotiation of land contract and financial record updated.
5. Property of St. Andrew's, Clawson: Memorial Garden matter settled out of court for \$10,000. Church Insurance to pay.

### **Finance Report**

Mark Miliotto presented current financial reports for review and acceptance.

*A motion was made and properly seconded to receive the Treasurer's report and file for audit. Motion passed.*

**Break** – 11:20 – 11:33 am

### **Updates/Committee Reports**

#### Primary Committees

*Mission Budget* – no report

The committee will meet at 9:00 am prior to the next Council meeting. Staff visits to Council will be scheduled at a staff meeting.

*Tithes & Offerings* – no report

#### *Loans and Grants*

Don Dersnah presented a written report. The committee recommends approving the following Advocacy Grants, as recommended by Covenant 5: *A motion was made to approve these grant awards as follows. Motion passed.*

Action of Greater Lansing	4000
Criminal Justice Advocacy—Incarnation	2000

Crossroads	1000
Disability Awareness Committee/ Alliance vs. Bullying	2500
Economic Justice Commission	1200
Lazarus Lives! Project	1000
St. Peter's Water Advocacy	1800
St. Stephen's Grace in Action-- Youth Arts Project	1950
TBLG Concerns Committee	1500

Regarding a request from Covenant 5 for grants for Administration and Contingency, *a motion was made and properly seconded to require documentation of the use of funds granted in 2015 before making a decision on authorization for amounts requested in 2016. Motion passed.*

*Vital Congregations* – no report

*Resolution Review*

Judith Schellhammer presented a written report.

*HR Policy* – no report

*Audit* – no report

*By-laws/Constitution & Canons*

Geoffrey Smereck presented a written report on a proposed revision to By-Law 6.3 of the Council By-Laws. The new language, consistent with current practice, states that the Dean and Warden of Council are both members of the Executive Committee. *A motion was made to approve the revised version as presented. Motion passed.*

Advisory:

*Property Advisory* – no report

*Emrich Advisory Council* – no report

Other:

*Campus Ministry Liaisons*

Claudia Hamlin presented a written report from One Community at MSU.

Bill Stech presented a verbal report from Canterbury House at U of M.

## 12:13 pm Adjournment

## Lunch

---

Next Meeting:

Meeting Date & Time	Agenda/Focus	Location
Saturday, March 5, 2016 10:00am – 2:00pm	Full Business Meeting	St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Brighton, MI