



The Diocesan Council

Episcopal Diocese of Michigan

March 5, 2016 St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Brighton, MI
Full Business Meeting – Approved Minutes

Council Members Present: Bishop Wendell N. Gibbs, Andy Anyanonu, Rae Lee Baxter, Victoria Behnke, Bruce Cann, Lynda Carter, Steve Chisholm, Don Dersnah, Claudia Hamlin, Clare Hickman, Deon Johnson, Traci Johnson, Karen Lewis, Rob Matras, Joyce Matthews, Christopher Moran, Joyce Munro, Juan Perez, Jenny Ritter, Geoffrey Smereck, Bill Stech, Felicity Thompson, Edie Wakevainen (Secretary), Mark Miliotto (Treasurer)

Council Members Absent: Brian Johnson (excused), Linda Shafer (excused), Rob Sherry (excused)

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

10:00 – Morning Worship led by Bishop Gibbs

Roll Call

Acceptance of Agenda – as written

Approval of Minutes from January 23, 2016

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

Communications to Council

1. A letter was received from the Vicar of St. Thomas', Trenton, requesting forgiveness of their diocesan loan debt of approximately \$24,000. The Treasurer and the Canon for Congregational Life will meet with them and report back to Council.
2. A letter was received from St. Anne's, Walled Lake, requesting permission to close. The Bishop's response was forwarded to Council.

Executive Committee Action – none

Bishop's Update

- Visits to Canterbury, University of Michigan; St. Luke's, Shelby Township; Resurrection, Clarkston; St. John's, Plymouth; Grace, Mt. Clemens
- Visit to the Diocese of the Dominican Republic for the consecration of the bishop coadjutor
- Vestry Days were very successful. Ten congregations participated on February 6th, and one third of the congregations of the diocese participated on February 27th at the Cathedral.
- The Presiding Bishop visited and preached for the Celebration of Absalom Jones.
- The diocesan staff said farewell to Michelle Meech on February 29th. The search to fill the position of Ministry Developer is ongoing.
- Four lay and four clergy are needed for the Committee on Nominations and Elections for Diocesan Convention. One representative from each deanery was selected, as follows: The Rev. Dcn. Jenny Ritter (Capitol), The Rev. Dcn. Linda Shafer (Lyster), The Rev. Lynda Carter (Downriver), The Rev. Clare Hickman (Emrich), Rob Matras (Huron), Joyce Munro (Oakland), Geoffrey Smereck (Trinity), Bruce Cann (Detroit)

Property Report

Canon Hardy presented a written report.

Updates:

1. Property of St. Andrew's, Jackson: Sales transaction has been completed and posted to our books. Property will be removed from property report of April 2016.

2. Property of St. Timothy's, Detroit: Property returned to EDOMI on February 9th. It is in a severely deteriorated condition and is being evaluated by contractor and insurance company.

3. Property of St. Matthew's, Flat Rock: Owner has entered into agreement to voluntarily surrender property back to EDOMI. Paperwork has been executed. Caretaker is in place. Property is to be evaluated. Action item:

Property of Holy Spirit, Livonia: Recommendation to extend the land contract, which comes due at the end of 2016, for four years (approximately \$235,000). Payments have NEVER been late. *A motion to this effect was made and properly seconded. Motion passed.*

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.

Loan Fund Renewals

Mark Miliotto presented information regarding investments in the Opportunity Resource Fund and Shared Interest which are up for renewal. Discussion ensued.

Regarding Opportunity Resource Fund, *a motion was made and properly seconded to renew investment 97-6-45-R16, with a balance of \$175,000, at 3.00% for five years and to send a letter with the renewal notice indicating that Council would like to meet with fund representatives before granting further renewals (there are three yet to come in 2016). Motion passed.*

Regarding Shared Interest, *a motion was made and properly seconded to redeem the loans totaling \$200,000 when they mature. Motion passed.* The funds will be held to invest in Episcopal-related work involving international microloans. The Treasurer will provide information about alternative investments to Council.

Updates/Committee Reports

Primary Committees

Mission Budget

Bishop Gibbs reported that the staff is working on a schedule of visits to Council starting in April.

Tithes & Offerings

Rob Matras presented a verbal report.

Loans and Grants

Don Dersnah presented a verbal report.

1. The advocacy grants approved at the last meeting have been dispersed. Documentation regarding 2015 administration and contingency expenses by Covenant 5 has not yet been received.

2. The Committee recommended that half of the funds allocated in support of the Millennium Development Goals for 2016 (\$7525) be added to the funds available for the 2016 Social Justice Ministries Grant program. *Motion passed.*

3. Eighteen requests totaling \$104,000 have been received for the 2016 Social Justice Ministries Grants. A total of \$59,525 can be awarded.

Vital Congregations – no report

Resolution Review

Judith Schellhammer sent a written report.

HR Policy – no report

Audit

Mark Miliotto reported that the audit process has begun. The team will be onsite the week after Easter.

By-laws/Constitution & Canons

Geoffrey Smereck reported that the Committee recommends sending out the revised By-Laws to all members of Council.

Advisory:

Property Advisory – no report

Emrich Advisory Council

A verbal report was presented.

Other:

Campus Ministry Liaisons

Written reports were presented.

12:25 pm Adjournment**Lunch**

Next Meeting:

Meeting Date & Time	Agenda/Focus	Location
Saturday, April 9, 2016 10:00am – 2:00pm	Full Business Meeting (includes meet the staff: tbd)	St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Brighton, MI