



The Diocesan Council

Episcopal Diocese of Michigan

May 31, 2014 Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Detroit
Full Business Meeting Approved Minutes

Council Members Present: Bishop Wendell N. Gibbs, Claudia Hamlin, Shannon MacVean Brown, Patrice Thornton, Rob Sherry, George Davinich, Clare Hickman, Patti Klaver, Rob Matras, Judith Schellhammer, Rick Smith, Rae Lee Baxter, Richard Pina, Indira Samuels, Jenny Ritter, Don Dersnah, Roger Weekes, Edie Wakevainen (Secretary), Mark Miliotto (Treasurer)

Council Members Absent: Ron Byrd (excused), Deon Johnson (excused), Cindy Corner (excused), Joyce Matthews (excused), Geoffrey Smereck (excused), Bill Stech (excused), Lizzie Anderson (excused), Liam O'Connor (excused)

Diocesan Staff: Jo Ann Hardy (Canon Administrator), Rick Schulte (Dir. Of Communications)

10:00 – Morning Prayer led by Bishop Gibbs

Roll Call

Agenda accepted with no additions

Approval of Minutes from April 12, 2014

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

Communications to Council

1. The Rev. Karen C. Lewis, Priest-in-Charge, St. Paul's, Lansing, wrote on behalf of the Vestry to describe actions they will be taking to move towards a balanced budget by 2016, including staff reductions and an additional pledge campaign. They asked to lower their pledge for 2014 and 2015.

A motion was made and properly seconded to accept a reduced pledge in the amount of \$40,000 for 2014 and a reduction of \$7500 in the pledge for 2015; Council requests a semi-annual report from Rev. Lewis and is amenable to reviewing this in 2015 as necessary. *Motion passed.*

2. Holy Faith, Saline, has submitted materials to support a petition for parish status, after being self-supporting for three years. Canon for Congregational Life Jim Gettel is giving these materials to the Vital Congregations Committee, who will bring a recommendation to Council in June.

Executive Committee Actions

1. Executive Committee awarded Covenant 5 grants in the amount of \$15,800. Motion was made and properly seconded to ratify this action. *Motion passed.*

Bishop's Update

- Visitations: St. John's, Westland; Grace Church, Southgate; Christ the King, Taylor
- Great turnout during Holy Week for Renewal of Vows at the Cathedral
- Participated in continuing education
- Thanks to St. Paul's, Lansing, for tremendous hospitality during the Ministry Fair
- Participated on an Episcopal Church interview team for a Missioner for Racial Justice and Reconciliation
- Led regional confirmation services at All Saints, East Lansing and Christ Church Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills
- Three highlights of the month:
 - Participated in a summit on poverty for Bishops and Young Adults, along with Zachary Baker and Jean-Pierre Seguin, in Washington, DC; included media training, instruction on how the appropriations process works, and a day on Capitol Hill during which they had a wonderful meeting with Senator Debbie Stabenow and senior staffers of others in Congress representing various districts in Michigan

- Attended the Annual Gathering of the Anamchara Fellowship in Cincinnati, OH, during which three members of our Diocese professed vows (Veronica Dunbar, Paul Castelli, Sharon Watton) and one was clothed as a Novice (Lizzie Anderson)
- Participated in the Celebration of New Ministry for the Rev. Beth Taylor at St. John's, Royal Oak
- Spent time with the Fresh Start group
- Attended the Bexley-Seabury graduation (Juan Perez and Nikki Seger graduated)
- Spent time with the diocese's Interim Clergy group
- Prayer requests
- The Rev. Donald H. Hartsuff, retired priest in the diocese, passed away on Friday, May 16, 2014

Property Report

Canon Administrator Jo Ann Hardy presented a written report.

1. Emrich Retreat Center had a \$7000 surplus in 2013 but an increase in expenditures for energy in 2014 caused a budget overage. They will solicit free-will donations to offset this at the diocesan picnic.
2. The property of St. Martha's, Detroit, will be marketed for sale as of June 1, 2014. The church and houses have been prepared for showings, and a groundskeeper and caretaker are in place.
3. A one-year lease for the property of St. Peter's, Tecumseh, has been renewed through May 2015. Monthly payments of \$1500 are current.
4. No land contract holders are more than the month of May behind in payments.
5. Since January 2014, Mr. Lance Spencer (St. Paul's, Brighton/Emrich Retreat Center) is working with Church Insurance of Vermont for their risk assessment program. All congregations insured by CIV are inspected every three years; in 2014, 23 will be inspected—nine have been completed.

Finance Report

Treasurer 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.*

A motion was made and properly seconded to place the 2013 operating surplus of \$42,845 in Staff Reserves. *Motion passed.*

A motion was made and properly seconded to renew an investment of \$200,000 at 3% for 5 years in the Opportunity Resource Fund. *Motion passed.*

Updates/Committee Reports

Primary Committees

Mission Budget

Rob Sherry reviewed a written report. The first budget hearing, at lunch at the Ministry Fair, was very well attended. However, no one attended the second one or took advantage of the opportunity to join using GoToMeeting.

The committee acknowledges receipt of two resolutions from Covenant 5 regarding funding of the Justice and Peace Advocacy Ministries and the Social Service Ministries of the diocese. These, along with a resolution to reauthorize the ability of these ministries to solicit financial support, will be forwarded to the Secretary of Convention with note that the funding requests have been included in the draft budget and in support of the request for soliciting financial support.

Tithes & Offerings

Rob Matras reviewed a written report.

Loans and Grants

Canon Jo Ann Hardy presented a report.

1. A motion was made and properly seconded to approve a request from Christ Church, Pleasant Lake, for a \$10,000 grant for restoration of windows. *Motion passed.*
2. A motion was made and properly seconded to approve request from St. Patrick's, Madison Heights, for a grant for \$10,000 and a loan not to exceed \$40,000 from Diocesan Council for parking lot replacement. *Motion passed.*

3. A motion was made and properly seconded to award \$2745 to Covenant 5, to fulfill the remainder of their request (\$1745 for administration, \$1000 for contingency). *Motion passed.*

Lunch – 12:15 – 12:45 p.m.

Vital Congregations

Bishop Gibbs asked for comments on the document “Episco-Polity 101” distributed by Deon Johnson at the April meeting. Two changes were recommended:

1. Replacing “parish” with “congregation” and replacing “vestry” with “vestry/bishop’s committee” or “governing body” which is the canonical reference to such leadership groups
2. Replacing “national” with “The Episcopal Church.”

A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the document with the changes specified above. *Motion passed.*

Secondary Committees

Resolution Review

Judith Schellhammer presented a written report.

HR Policy Review

Don Dersnah presented the draft of the clergy compensation policy to Council. There are two items that are requirements:

1. Minimum compensation
2. SECA payments

The rest of the items are guidelines.

Council members were asked to take the draft to their deaneries and share with congregations for comment. The Council Secretary will forward a copy with the “do not share” language removed to Council members by email. A written copy will be mailed to vestries/bishop’s committees and clergy, along with a cover letter asking that signed written comments be addressed to the Council Secretary in care of the Diocesan Office. No verbal comments will be accepted.

Audit

Mark Miliotto reported that the committee met with the auditor in May at St. Andrew’s, Ann Arbor. The Audit Committee approved both the management letter and the audit report. A motion was made and properly seconded to ratify the Audit Committee’s approval. *Motion passed.*

Canon Hardy reported that the auditor was very complimentary of the work of the Diocesan Finance Office.

By-laws/Constitution & Canons – no report

Advisory:

Property Advisory – see property report above

Emrich Advisory Council

A written report was presented.

A motion was made and properly seconded to appoint Andrea Morrow and Cedric Flounory as officers of the Emrich Advisory Council. *Motion passed.*

A motion was made and properly seconded to accept a revised budget for 2014 for Emrich. *Motion passed.*

Other:

Ruach – no report

Campus Ministry

Bishop Gibbs reported that the U of M Board is working with the Chaplain on a plan for his sabbatical for the second semester of 2014-2015.

1:35 Adjournment

Next Meeting:

| Meeting Date & Time | Agenda/Focus | Location |
|---|------------------------------|--|
| Saturday, June 28, 2014 10:00am – 2:00pm | Full Business Meeting/Budget | St. Paul's, Brighton 200 West St. Paul Street Brighton, MI 48116 |