



# The Diocesan Council

Episcopal Diocese of Michigan

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November 22, 2014 St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Brighton, MI  
Organization and Full Business Meeting – Approved Minutes

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**Council Members Present:** Bishop Wendell N. Gibbs, Lizzie Anderson, Rae Lee Baxter, Lynda Carter, Don Dersnah, Claudia Hamlin, Clare Hickman, Deon Johnson, Traci Johnson, Patty Klaver, Karen Lewis, Rob Matras, Richard Pina, Juan Perez, Judith Schellhammer, Linda Shafer, Rob Sherry, Geoffrey Smereck, Bill Stech, Roger Weekes, Edie Wakevainen (Secretary), Mark Miliotto (Treasurer)

**Council Members Absent:** Steven Chisholm (excused), Joyce Matthews (excused), Indira Samuels (excused), Rick Smith (absent without notice), Patrice Thornton (absent without notice)

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

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**9:50 – Morning Prayer** led by Bishop Gibbs

### **Roll Call**

Bishop Gibbs welcomed new members to Council and asked each member to introduce her/himself. He asked for and received ratification of his current appointees to Council.

## **Organization/Orientation**

### **Notebooks and Norms**

Bishop Gibbs reviewed contents of binders and Diocesan Council norms:

**Contact Information Sheet** and **Sexual Misconduct Policy** should be filled out and returned to Edie  
**Meeting Schedule** – all meetings held at St. Paul's, Brighton; bring nametags

**Attendance** – if you have to be absent, let Bishop Gibbs or Sue Parrish or Edie know in advance

#### **Role of Diocesan Council Members:**

- Know that you are here for the Diocese, to ensure that the Diocese has the resources it needs to continue its mission
- Respect confidentiality of information
- Committee meetings are very important, because they are where Council work is done

**Term Limits** – two successive three-year terms; those who replace another member finish that term and are entitled to two full terms of their own; must take a year off after two three-year terms

**Appointees:** *Bishop Gibbs put forth the following appointees and Council voted to confirm:*

**Registrar,** Canon Jo Ann Hardy, Diocesan Administrator

**Dean,** Don Dersnah

**Warden,** Rob Sherry

**Secretary,** Edie Wakevainen

**Treasurer,** Mark Miliotto

**Diocesan Chancellor,** Steven Ott

**Vice Chancellors,** Megan Norris, Natalie Yaw

**Diocesan Signatories:** *The following were put forth as 2014-2015 signatories and approved.* Bishop Gibbs, Mark Miliotto, Jo Ann Hardy, Don Dersnah, Rob Sherry

### **Property Report and Orientation**

Canon Hardy provided an updated Property Report with the following highlights:



**Audit Committee**

Staff support: Mark Miliotto  
 Judith Schellhammer (2015), Bill Stech (2016), Patty Klaver (2017)

Chair: **Mark Miliotto**

**By-law/Constitution & Canons Committee**

Staff support: Steven Ott, Chancellor  
 Rae Lee Baxter, Clare Hickman, Linda Shafer

Chair: **Geoffrey Smereck**

**Property Advisory**

Staff support: Jo Ann Hardy  
 Rob Matras, Joyce Matthews, Richard Pina, Rob Sherry

Chair: **Jo Ann Hardy**

**Diocesan Council Liaison to College Chaplaincies**

One Community (MSU): Claudia Hamlin  
 Canterbury U of M: Linda Shafer

**Emrich Advisory Council**

Staff liaison: Jo Ann Hardy  
 Two Council representatives: Lizzie Anderson, Karen Lewis

**12:15 – 1:00 Lunch**

Members were asked to sit by primary committee membership to discuss the work of the upcoming year.

**Business Meeting****Approval of Minutes from September 20, 2014**

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

**Adjustments to Agenda**

- Insert Finance Report following Executive Committee Actions
- Insert Resolution regarding Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act under Other Business

**Communications to Council**

A note from St. James, Dexter, expressing thanks for the grant, was received.

**Bishop's Update**

- Attended the House of Bishops meeting in Taiwan in September
- Visits to Christ United, DeWitt; Nativity, Bloomfield Township; St. Aidan's, Michigan Center; Canterbury, University of Michigan; St. Michaels and All Angels, Cambridge Junction; Christ Church, Dearborn; St. James, Birmingham; All Saints, Detroit
- Celebration of Ministry and Welcoming of New Rector at Christ Church Cranbrook
- New Canons seated at Cathedral Church of St. Paul
- Convention was marvelous

Bishop Gibbs reported to Council on two concerns at St. Luke's, Shelby Township. Deer have been processed in the church kitchen, creating a health hazard, and there is no longer a canonical vestry in place following the resignation of several vestry members. Following discussion, *the following motions were made and properly seconded:*

Due to the potential of a health crisis, St. Luke's, Shelby Township is required to have their entire facility professionally cleaned by a licensed biohazard contractor prior to being able to open the facility to the public (which includes the Sunday morning worship community). *Motion passed.*

If there is not compliance with the Diocesan Council resolution regarding the health hazard, and there is no canonical vestry seated before December 31, 2014, and with the approval of the Standing Committee, St. Luke's, Shelby Township, shall be made a mission as of January 1, 2015. *Motion passed.*

**Executive Committee Actions** – none

### **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.*

### **Updates/Committee Reports**

#### Primary Committees

*Mission Budget* – no report

#### *Tithes & Offerings*

Rob Matras presented a handout detailing trends in tithes and offerings for 2014.

*Loans and Grants* – no report

*Vital Congregations* – no report

#### *Resolution Review*

Judith Schellhammer presented a written report.

*HR Policy Review* – no report

*Audit* – no report

*By-laws/Constitution & Canons* – no report

#### Advisory:

##### *Property Advisory*

Jo Ann Hardy reviewed a letter from Compassionate Ministries of Jackson County requesting that we partner with them. Discussion followed. With verifiable receipts, Council is inclined to give credit for what they have spent on the property to date, up to \$11,000.

##### *Emrich Advisory Council*

Jo Ann Hardy presented a written report, along with the proposed budget for 2015. *A motion was made and properly seconded to accept the budget. Motion passed.*

### **Other Business**

#### Record Advisory Council Nominations

The following individuals were put forth and approved by Council to serve on the Record Advisory Council:

Class of 2016: Dave Komer, Christ the King, Taylor

Class of 2017: Deon Johnson, St. Paul's, Brighton

Class of 2018: Katie Walworth, St. Michael's and All Angels, Cambridge Junction

#### Housing Allowance Resolutions for Clergy Staff

Mark Miliotto presented the following resolutions for Council approval:

Whereas the Right Reverend Wendell N. Gibbs is employed as a minister of the Gospel of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan, which does not provide a residence for him, the Diocesan Council resolves that, of the total salary of \$165,051 to be paid to Bishop Gibbs during 2015, \$70,000 be designated as parsonage allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the IRS Code of 1986. *A motion was made and properly seconded to approve this resolution. Motion passed.*

Whereas the Reverend Michelle Meech is employed as a minister of the Gospel of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan, which does not provide a residence for her, the Diocesan Council resolves that, of the total salary of \$61,200 to be paid to Rev. Meech during 2015, \$12,300 be designated as parsonage allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the IRS Code of 1986. *A motion was made and properly seconded to approve this resolution. Motion passed.*

#### Diocesan Council Meetings via Conference Call

This draft of a policy providing for meetings via conference call during weather-related emergencies will be taken up at the January meeting.

#### Resolution Regarding Amendment of Michigan's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act

*A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the following resolution:*

Resolved, that Diocesan Council support the amendment of Michigan's ELLIOT-LARSEN CIVIL RIGHTS ACT (Act 453 of 1976) to include gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation as classes protected from discrimination in employment, housing and other real estate, and the full and equal utilization of public accommodations, public service, and educational facilities.

*Motion passed.*

#### **3:07 pm Adjournment**

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Next Meeting:

<b>Meeting Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Agenda/Focus</b>	<b>Location</b>
Saturday, January 17, 2015 10:00am – 2:00pm	Full Business Meeting	St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Brighton, MI