



June 29, 2013 St. John's Episcopal Church, Plymouth, MI  
Full Business Meeting – Approved Minutes

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**Council Members Present:**

Bishop Wendell N. Gibbs, Indira Samuels, Rae Lee Baxter, Judith Schellhammer, Rob Sherry, George Davinich, Ross Vandercook, Rob Matras, Liam O'Connor, Cindy Corner, Roger Weekes, Patrice Thornton, Rick Smith, Traci Johnson, Patti Klaver, Joyce Matthews, Clare Hickman, Lizzie Anderson, Shannon MacVean Brown, Edie Woods (New DC Secretary), Lisa Gray (CTTO, Secretary), Mark Miliotto (Treasurer)

**Absent:** Jenny Ritter (excused), Beckie Corner (excused), Geoffrey Smereck (excused), Deon Johnson (excused), Ron Byrd (excused), Richard Pina

**Diocesan Staff:** Rick Schulte (Record Editor), Jo Ann Hardy (Diocesan Administrator)

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8:30 am **Refreshments available**

9:00 **Morning Prayer** Bishop Gibbs

**Roll Call**

**Acceptance of Agenda**

**Approval of Minutes from May 11, 2013**

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

**Communications to Council**

- At her request, Beckie Corner has been excused from the June and September meetings
- The Senior Warden of St. John's, Plymouth, sent a letter and check that brings them to full participation re tithes and offerings

**Executive Committee Actions -- none**

**Bishop's Update**

- Following Canon 2.3.2.2, Edie Woods was elected Secretary, replacing Lisa Tucker-Gray who resigned
- June 30 - Lisa Tucker-Gray begins serving as Priest-in-Charge at St. John's, Plymouth
- There will not be a new CTTO; a Canon for Congregational Life will be appointed to oversee transitions and congregational development
- Michelle Meech was appointed Provisional Director of Whitaker Institute, replacing Karen Robinson, who resigned
- June 22 - Six individuals were ordained to the diaconate
- Rector removed at St. James, Birmingham; Christopher Cunningham will be Priest-in-Charge
- Diane Tomlinson resigned at St. Andrew's, Waterford
- New rector welcomed at Christ Church, Grosse Pointe on May 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Celebration of the life and ministry of Sandra Richardson; details forthcoming about a perpetual memorial to support feeding the men at Mariners Inn
- Prayers asked for members of the Diocese battling health issues
- Bishop Gibbs has traveled for meetings of the Executive Council, the Province V House of Bishops, and continuing education

- June 12 – Whitaker Institute Celebration was one of the best in 13 years; thanks to Judith Schellhammer and Ross Vandercook for organizing
- The Cathedral Chapter requested approval to move Jenny Ritter from a lay position to fill the clergy term that began after the 2012 Convention (approved)
- Dates for the 2013-2014 Council Meetings were distributed; there are 8 meetings, and the November one is essential for new members especially

### Property updates/issues

Canon Jo Ann Hardy

Canon Hardy provided an updated property report including the following highlights:

- July 27 – Diocesan picnic at Emrich Retreat Center
- *Property of St. Philip's/St. Stephen's, Detroit and Property of St. Hilda's, River Rouge* – making progress towards timely payments
- *Property of St. Timothy's, Detroit* – Buyer paid \$10,300 at June 13<sup>th</sup> court hearing. Paid additional \$1700 on June 27<sup>th</sup> (given until July 3<sup>rd</sup>). Owes taxes of \$2000 for 2011. Applied for retroactive tax-exempt status. Will be evicted in 90 days if not paid. Final court hearing if necessary on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- *Property of St. Mary's, Detroit* – Pillar of Love Christian Center requested that Council forgive the remainder of the land contract. They have spent \$72,167 on renovations, for a total of \$112,167 spent (current market value is approximately \$60,000). Bishop Gibbs supports the request to forgive the land contract, given that they have been faithful in their work in the community. This is a unique situation, not precedent-setting. *A motion was made and properly seconded to forgive the land contract. Motion passed.* Canon Hardy will send a letter of strong support to Pillar of Love Christian Center.

### Financial reports & update

Mark Miliotto

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.*

10:15

### BREAK

10:30

### Mission Budget Committee

Rob Sherry

Sherry presented the following action items for Council's consideration and action:

- Based on Committee recommendation, *a motion was made to continue the current tithe formula at 10% for the average of the previous three years' Normal Operating Income from the parochial reports. Motion passed.*
- Committee recommended rewording Canon 2.4.2.1 to change the requirements for budget hearings from four to an "appropriate number of geographically distributed hearings" in the diocese and that the hearings have a combined format for the tithe formulation and mission priorities. Discussion ensued, including the possibility of online hearings. *A motion was made to forward the rewording to the Constitution and Canons Committee. Motion passed.*
- Committee recommended beginning staffing for a part-time finance person and to start fully funding the Ministry Developer Position.
- Discussion of resolutions having financial impact:
  - Re Covenant 5, Social Justice Advocacy Grant of \$18,545 – Motion to recommend to Committee on Reference that resolution be withdrawn because this amount is in the preliminary budget for 2014. *Motion passed.*
  - Re Covenant 5, Social Services Ministry Grant of \$50,793 – Motion to recommend to Committee on Reference that resolution be withdrawn because this amount is in the preliminary budget for 2014. *Motion passed.*

- Motion to support Covenant 5's resolution requesting re-authorization to solicit funds on behalf of the Diocese. *Motion passed.*
- The preliminary Operating Budget for 2014 was presented. *A motion to accept and distribute it was made and properly seconded. Motion passed.*

11:00

**Updates/Committee Reports:**Primary Committee Reports:*Vital Congregations*

Deon Johnson

No report

*Resolution Review*

Judith Schellhammer

Schellhammer reviewed the report presented.

- Re A139: Gender Violence, discussion brought to light possibilities for increasing awareness such as bulletin inserts, a resource list for individual congregations, and a presentation at Ministry Fair.
- Re D003: Gun Free Zones, there was a motion that Council affirms resolution D003 from the 2012 General Convention and requests congregations to do the same. *Motion passed.* A letter to this effect from the Secretary of Diocesan Council will be emailed to clergy and congregations without clergy.

*Mission Budget (see above)*

Rob Sherry

*Tithes & Offerings*

Rob Matras

Matras reviewed report presented.

*Loans and Grants*

Canon Hardy

The Loans and Grants Committee brought several recommendations for Council approval:

- St. James, Dexter - \$10,000 for roof replacement (parish house) and painting of church exterior. Motion made and properly seconded to approve the grant for St. James. *Motion passed.*
- Social Justice Ministry Grants – to complete the amount allocated in the budget for the year:
  - All Saints E. Lansing Teen Program - \$1,500
  - Mariners' Inn, Detroit - \$2,000
  - Holy Faith Saline Paper Pantry - \$500
  - Crossroads, Detroit - \$800
  - Bound Together - \$1000

Motion made and properly seconded to approve these additional grants as listed.

*Motion passed.*Secondary Committee Reports:*By-laws/Constitution & Canons Committee*

Geoffrey Smereck

No report

*Personnel Policy Review Committee*

Beckie Corner

No report

*Audit*

Mark Miliotto

Miliotto reviewed the audit report for 2012 as presented, with attention to the document addressed "To the Audit and Compliance Committee."

- Page 2 – Assets of a dissolved congregation that were permanently restricted become unrestricted when transferred to the Diocesan Council

- Page 4 – Discussion of importance of having all accounts opened with a parish's tax ID number under oversight. Preferable to avoid individual accounts and have designated funds within the parish financial structure instead.

Motion made and properly seconded to accept the audit report. *Motion passed.*

Other Reports:

*Emrich Advisory Council*

A written report was reviewed.

*Ruach*

No report

Deon Johnson

11:55 pm      **Noonday Prayers/LUNCH**

12:30          **Executive Session**

1:25           **Adjournment**

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Next Meeting:

<b>Meeting Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Agenda/Focus</b>	<b>Location</b>
Saturday, September 14, 2013 9:00am – 3:00pm	Full Business Meeting	St. John's Episcopal Church, Plymouth MI