

**The Diocesan Council  
Episcopal Diocese of Michigan**



**APPROVED Minutes of Diocesan Council  
November 17, 2012**

Organization & Full Business Mtg.

St. John's, Plymouth

**Council Members Present:** Bishop Wendell N. Gibbs, Rick Smith, Indira Samuels, Clare Hickman, Cindy Corner, Rae Lee Baxter, Judith Schellhammer, Ross Vandercook, Traci Johnson, Rob Sherry, Lizzie Anderson, Liam Connor, Beckie Corner, Jenny Ritter, Ronald Byrd, Shannon MacVean Brown, Deon Johnson, Rob Matras, Patrice Thornton, Lisa Gray (CTTO, Secretary) Mark Miliotto

**Absent:** Alice Morse (resigned), Geoffrey Smereck (excused), Joyce Matthews (excused-sabbatical), Dave Sisson (excused), Roger Weekes (excused), Richard Pina (unexcused)

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

8:30am **Continental Breakfast available**

9:00 **Opening prayers**

Bishop Gibbs welcomed all and led Morning Prayer.

**Role Call**

Bishop Gibbs called role and reminded that attendance is expected- 3 unexcused absences allows you to be replaced.

**Organization/Orientation:**

**Introductions**

Following general introductions Bishop Gibbs moved the ratification of all his appointees including the Young Adult representatives.

*Motion made and properly seconded to accept all appointees. Motion passed.*

**Notebooks**

Canon Gray reviewed contents and procedures of binders and meeting norms regarding committee reports and attendance including:

**Meeting Schedule**

**Sexual Misconduct Policy**

**Role of Diocesan Council Members**

**Term Limits**

**Appointees-** *The following appointees were put forth; each was properly seconded and approved.*

- **Registrar,** Jo Ann Hardy, Diocesan Administrator
- **Dean,** Ron Byrd
- **Warden,** Rob Sherry
- **Secretary,** Lisa Gray
- **Treasurer,** Mark Miliotto
- **Diocesan Chancellor,** Steve Ott
- **Vice Chancellors,** Megan Norris, Natalie Yaw

**Diocesan Signatories:** Diocesan Council approved the following as 2012-2013 signatories including: Bishop Gibbs, Lisa Gray, Jo Ann Hardy, Ron Byrd, Rob Sherry

*Motion made, properly seconded. Motion passed.*

9:35 **Property Orientation & Update Report**

Jo Ann Hardy

Canon Hardy provided overview of diocesan canons related to church property

Additional related policies also reviewed including:

-Guidelines for memorial guidelines (also on the website)

-Standard operating procedures for Church closure

Canon Hardy reviewed Property Update Report prepared and distributed for each meeting.

Bishop Gibbs followed Canon Hardy's report to discuss **Gordonwood** and used it as an example of how important it is to not share information that is not finalized via approved Council meeting minutes; information is often incorrect or incomplete and can do more harm than good.

Bishop Gibbs reviewed calendar of events related to the eventual sale of Camp Gordonwood; sold October 9, 2012 at \$580,000.

Bishop Gibbs provided an in-depth narrative about Church of the Advent and the property issues that resulted in selling the church property and the rectory. While the church building has been sold, the diocese still owns the rectory and is waiting to be able to sell the rectory once granted permission from the township.

10:15am **Break**

10:30am **Budget and Finance Introduction and Overview**

DC Treasurer and EDOMI Finance Director, Mark Miliotto provided overview of financial reports and general orientation to diocesan related funds; Trustees, Growth & Income, Bishop's and Executive Council.

11:15 am **Diocesan Council Committee Overview & Appointments**

Bishop described the role of Executive Committee.

**Executive Committee 2012-2013:**

**President/Chair:** Bishop Gibbs

**Secretary:** Lisa Gray (non-voting)

**Treasurer:** Mark Miliotto (non-voting)

**Class of 2013:** Ross Vandercook

**Class of 2014:** Cindy Corner

**Class of 2015:** Lizzie Anderson

**Diocesan Council liaison to College Chaplaincies:**

Canterbury MSU: Ron Byrd

Canterbury U of M: Rob Matras

**4 Primary and 5 Secondary Committee Explanation and Expectations**

**Primary:** Mission Budget, Tithes & Offerings, Loans and Grants, Vital Congregations

**Secondary:** Resolutions Review, Audit Committee (2013, 2014, 2015 class reps), HR Policy Review, Property Advisory, DC By-law & Constitution & Canons

**Emrich Advisory Council-** Jo Ann Hardy (staff liaison)

Two council representatives:

1. Ross Vandercook

2. Indira Samuels

12:00 noon **Lunch-**

Primary Committees met during lunch to organize.

1:00 pm

**Approval of Minutes from 9/22/12-**

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

**Communications to Council-** none.

**Bishop's Update**

**Transition Updates:**

- St. Mary's Lake Orion- new call: The Rev. Laurel Dahill
- Christ Church Cranbrook- new interim: The Rev. Ron Pogue
- St. John Royal Oak- new interim: The Rev. Bob Hart
- St. Paul's Lansing- new interim: The Rev. Linda Northcraft
- St. Michael's, Lansing- The Rev. Dick Hamlin has announced his retirement at the end of the year.

Bishop provided pastoral care updates (not listed to respect issues of privacy)

Bishop gave updates about both college chaplaincies.

Bishop Gibbs has encouraged everyone to read Diana Butler Bass' book: *Christianity After Religion*. For the next meeting we will discuss the first two chapters.

**Executive Committee Actions-** none

1:20 pm      **Committee & Advisory Reports**

Introductory comments and overviews were provided for each of the newly structured committees.

|                   |  |                     |
|-------------------|--|---------------------|
| <b>Primary:</b>   | <b>1.) Mission &amp; Budget Committee</b>              | Rob Sherry          |
|                   | <b>2.) Tithes &amp; Offerings Committee</b>            | Rob Matras          |
|                   | <b>3.) Loans &amp; Grants Committee</b>                | Jenny Ritter        |
|                   | <b>4.) Vital Congregations</b>                         | Deon Johnson        |
| <b>Secondary:</b> | <b>1.) Resolution Review</b>                           | Judith Schellhammer |
|                   | <b>2.) HR Policy Review Committee</b>                  | Beckie Corner       |
|                   | <b>3.) Audit</b>                                       | Mark Miliotto       |
|                   | <b>4.) By-laws/Constitution &amp; Canons Committee</b> | Geoffrey Smereck    |
| <b>Advisory:</b>  | <b>1.) Property Advisory</b>                           | Jo Ann Hardy        |
|                   | <b>2.) Emrich Advisory Council</b>                     | Jo Ann Hardy        |

1:35      **Other: RSVP/Ruach**      Deon Johnson

Deon Johnson presented and reviewed the document; invited the Council members to read and review. He recommended that there be 5 liaisons, one for each area to report back to Council on a regular basis. Volunteer liaisons were identified:

**One Church-** Rae Lee Baxter

**Congregational Development-** Jenny Ritter

**Episcopal/Anglican Identity-** Beckie Corner,

**Social Justice-** Cindy Corner

**Christian Formation-** Traci Johnson

2:00      **Other Business**

Confirm Record Board Nominations- not presented; to be done in December

2:15            **Executive Session**

*A motion was made and properly seconded that the current Warden and Dean issue an invitation to the Rector and members of the vestry of St. Cyprian's join the Diocesan Council at the Dec 15<sup>th</sup> meeting for a discussion. Motion passed.*

3:00            **Adjournment**

Next Meeting:

|                                   |                           |                              |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>8:30 Breakfast</b>             | <b>9:00 Meeting start</b> | <b>St. John's, Plymouth</b>  |
| <b>Saturday, January 26, 2013</b> |                           | <b>Full Business Meeting</b> |