



## The Diocesan Council

Episcopal Diocese of Michigan

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September 19, 2015 St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Brighton, MI  
Full Business Meeting – Approved Minutes

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**Council Members Present:** Bishop Wendell N. Gibbs, Edie Wakevainen (Secretary), Mark Miliotto (Treasurer), Lizzie Anderson, Lynda Carter, Don Dersnah, Claudia Hamlin, Clare Hickman, Deon Johnson, Traci Johnson, Rob Matras, Joyce Matthews, Juan Perez, Richard Pina, Judith Schellhammer, Linda Shafer, Rob Sherry, Geoffrey Smereck, Rick Smith, Bill Stech, Patrice Thornton, Roger Weekes

**Council Members Absent:** Rae Lee Baxter (unexcused), Steven Chisholm (excused), Patty Klaver (excused), Karen Lewis (excused)

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

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**10:00** – Bishop Gibbs led morning worship.

**Roll call** – Quorum established.

**Agenda accepted as written**

**Approval of Minutes from June 20, 2015**

*Minutes stand approved as written.*

### **Communications to Council**

1. All Saints, Brooklyn sent thanks for funding for their drainage project.
2. St. Philip's, Rochester communicated regarding the use of funds from the sale of the Rectory. They accepted an offer of \$275,000, from which they expect to net \$250,000. The bank requires 75% of the net proceeds to apply to the current mortgage balance. They would like to use the balance towards either further reduction of the mortgage or capital improvements. The Standing Committee approved.
3. St. Andrew's, Livonia wrote regarding a 2006 loan from Council; they were loaned \$80,000 in three installments. They have begun repayment. They requested 50% forgiveness of the Principal. A motion was made and properly seconded to accept this proposal. Discussion ensued. An amendment was made (moved and properly seconded) to the effect that Council would write off \$100 for every \$100 they repay. *The motion passed as amended, with one opposing vote.*

### **Bishop's Update**

- Attended General Convention. Commended the deputation for doing a fine job listening, debating, and drawing appropriate conclusions. Excited about the Presiding Bishop-Elect.
- Issued a letter outlining how marriage equality would be rolled out in the Diocese. The requirements will be the same for all couples. Implementation will begin with First Advent.
- Engaged in strategic planning with the Ecumenical Center for Christian Leadership in DeWitt. Boundary Training has been approved by eight or nine denominations.
- Engaged in strategic planning with Mariner's Inn. The building belongs to Mariner's Inn, and the property belongs to the Diocese. It is on the fringes of the District Detroit, now being developed.
- 30,000 attended the ELCA Youth Gathering in July in Detroit, with worship each night at Ford Field.
- The Diocesan Picnic was a success; thanks to Emrich Center for hosting.
- Episcopalooza at St. Michael's, Lincoln Park was a phenomenal success with over 250 kids involved. We added outdoor activities to their existing event.
- Celebrated the Welcome and Installation of a New Rector for The Rev. Karen Lewis at St. Paul's, Lansing.
- Attended the consecration of The Rev. Canon Audrey Cady Scanlan as Bishop of Central Pennsylvania.

- Clergy transitions:
  - Karen Johanns passed away.
  - George Davinich retired.
  - Les Harding passed away. (Retired, had been serving at Church of the Resurrection, Clarkston)
  - Stacy Salles was called to a parish in Southern Ohio.
  - Beth Scriven was called to campus ministry in Missouri.
  - John Talk was called to a parish in North Carolina.
  - Lynda Carter is serving as Priest in Charge at Grace Episcopal Church, Southgate.
  - Diane Morgan is retiring in November but will continue as Chaplain to retired clergy.
  - Carol Ann Bullard is serving as Interim at Trinity, Monroe.
  - Areeta Bridgemohan is serving as Curate at Christ Church, Grosse Pointe.
  - Vicki Hesse from the Diocese of Arizona is serving as Sr. Associate at Christ Church, Grosse Pointe.
  - Betty Brogan retired as deacon in Mt. Clemens.
  - Steve Domienik is serving as Priest in Charge at St. John's, Westland.
  - Susan Carter has resigned from St. John's, Howell to take a part-time assistant position at St. Paul's, Lansing.
  - Bill Danaher has been named Canon for Ecumenical and Interfaith Ministry.
  - Bob Hart has moved to Denver, CO, with his wife Becky who accepted a position as Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Denver Art Museum.
- There is a new Facilities Manager at 4800 Woodward.
- The luncheon for retired clergy is October 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- The Deacons and those in process for ordination to the Diaconate meet with Bishop Gibbs on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- The Acolyte Festival is October 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Presiding Bishop-Elect Michael Curry will preach on February 20, 2016 at the Diocesan celebration of the Feast of Absalom Jones. He will preach at Christ Church Cranbrook on February 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Date changes to note: Diocesan Council will meet on January 23 (not the 16<sup>th</sup>) and November 12<sup>th</sup> (not the Saturday before Thanksgiving) in 2016.

### **Executive Committee Actions**

In July, the Executive Committee approved the following recommendation: That the Executive Committee of the Diocesan Council grant \$6,000 (from the Centennial Fund) to St. Elizabeth's, Redford to assist with repairing the roof of the rectory. The grant funds will be released after an approved lease agreement has been executed, and is on file in the diocesan office.

*A motion was made and properly seconded to affirm this Executive Committee action. Motion passed.*

### **Break (11:00 – 11:15)**

### **Property Updates/Issues/Action Items**

Canon Hardy discussed updates presented on the written Property Report:

1. Property of St. Martin's, Detroit: Sold under a Land Contract on September 4, 2015 for \$270,000. Deposit of \$60,000. Monthly payment of \$2300.
2. Property of St. Christopher/St. Paul, Detroit: Tenant in place with a two-year lease. Monthly payments of \$2500.
3. Property of St. Timothy's, Detroit: Forfeiture hearing for Land Contract is scheduled for September 24, 2015.
4. Property of St. Andrew's, Clawson: Lawsuit regarding Memorial Garden was dismissed by the judge.
5. Property of St. Mark's, Detroit: Purchaser has requested reduction of land contract payments to \$1200 per month. Payments have been predominantly current since 2012. Canon Hardy recommended approval. *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.*

## Mission Budget Committee

Rob Sherry and Mark Miliotto reviewed a written report and responded to questions. They emphasized the importance of transparency regarding the budget and congratulated the number of congregations pledging at 100% of assessment.

A motion was made and properly seconded to accept the Final Proposed Budget for 2016 and forward it to Diocesan Convention in October. *Motion passed.*

A motion for Preliminary Approval of the 2017 Budget Draft, to be forwarded to Diocesan Convention, was made and properly seconded. *Motion passed.*

### Loans & Grants

Don Dersnah presented a written report. Since the June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, three grants have been made and two requests have been tabled. The Committee recommended denying the request from Grace, Mt. Clemens, and Council supported this recommendation. They are not bringing forward the request from Church of the Messiah, Detroit, at this time.

### Lunch Break (12:10 – 12:50 pm)

Don Dersnah continued his presentation. There were five new grant requests for consideration. Three were withheld from consideration at this time, as they were not emergency situations and the funds for grants are limited.

1. St. Katherine's, Williamston – withhold consideration at this time
2. St. Cyprian's, Detroit, requested \$10,000 for a roof repair, and the Committee moves to make a grant of \$5000. *Motion passed.* (Patrice Thornton abstained.)
3. St. Peter's, Detroit – withhold consideration at this time
4. Trinity, Farmington Hills, requested a \$10,000 grant and a \$60,000 loan for parking lot repaving. The Committee moves to make a loan of \$70,000 with the promise that \$10,000 will be forgiven if payments are made appropriately during the terms of the loan. *Motion passed.*
5. Christ United, DeWitt – withhold consideration at this time

There were two loan applications for consideration.

1. St. Philip's, Rochester requests a loan of \$214,000 to retire their mortgage. The term would be ten years, at a rate to be determined with Canon Hardy. The Committee moved to approve this request. *Motion passed.* (Rob Sherry abstained.)
2. St. Paul's, Brighton requests a loan of \$300,000 for new construction payoff. The Committee moved to approve this request, with terms to be negotiated with Canon Hardy. *Motion passed.* (Deon Johnson abstained.)

### Thanks to Retiring Council Members

Bishop Gibbs thanked our retiring Diocesan Council members for their service:

Lizzie Anderson, Clare Hickman, Richard Pina, Judith Schellhammer, Rick Smith, Patrice Thornton, Roger Weekes

### 1:40 Adjournment

Next Meeting:

Meeting Date & Time	Agenda/Focus	Location
Saturday, November 21, 2015 9:00am – 3:00pm	Business Meeting which includes Orientation, Elections, and Committee Assignments	St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Brighton, MI