

The Diocesan Council
Episcopal Diocese of Michigan



September 16, 2017 St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Brighton, MI
Full Business Meeting – Approved Minutes

Council Members Present: Bishop Wendell N. Gibbs, Andy Anyanonu, Bruce Cann, Lynda Carter, Paul Castelli, Steve Chisholm, Steven Domienik, Claudia Hamlin, Martha Hanoian, Clare Hickman, Karen Lewis, Winfred Mandody, Rob Matras, Christopher Moran, Joyce Munro, Imogen Rhodenhiser, Linda Shafer, Geoffrey Smereck, Felicity Thompson, Roger Weekes, Edie Wakevainen (Secretary), Judith Schellhammer (Assistant Secretary), Mark Miliotto (Treasurer)

Council Members Absent: Jenny Ritter (excused), Bill Stech (excused), Traci Johnson (excused)

Diocesan Staff: Vicki Hesse (Director, Whitaker Institute), Jo Ann Hardy (Canon Administrator), Anna Schroen (Director of Communications)

10:00 – Bishop Gibbs led the group in prayer.

Roll call – Quorum established.

Agenda accepted as written

Approval of Minutes from June 24, 2017

Minutes approved with one correction.

Communications to Council – none

Staff Introduction/Update – Vicki Hesse, Director, Whitaker Institute

After beginning with scripture (1 Corinthians 2:2-5), Vicki asked everyone to record a series of numbers. Each of them was related to an important fact about Whitaker, as follows:

- 18 students currently enrolled in the Academy for Vocational Leadership, the weekend seminary program that trains deacons and Total Ministry priests from our diocese, as well as students from the other two dioceses in the lower peninsula; 6 of the students are from our diocese
- 21 dioceses share the Iona curriculum out of Seminary of the Southwest that is used in the Academy
- 1 person has completed the Saturday Series at the Academy (all three of the academic courses)
- 15 sessions in Exploring Your Spiritual Journey (EYSJ), a program designed to help participants discern how God is calling them next; 12 participants are currently enrolled
- 455 people trained in Safeguarding classes last year by 10 trainers
- 8 Worship Leaders and 3 Lay Preachers were certified last year
- 80 participants in the Epiphany Series (continuing education for clergy but open to all)

Vicki is grateful for the deep history of Whitaker as the education arm of the diocese. Her vision includes: developing sustainable, repeatable processes; refreshing the curriculum; engaging with social media; developing “plunge” experiences designed to help participants find God in daily life; and leading a pilgrimage to Iona Abbey. She will be offering a workshop at diocesan convention. She welcomes opportunities to preach, celebrate, and/or lead adult education in congregations.

Bishop's Update

- Visitations: St. Clement's, Inkster; St. Augustine's, Mason
- St. Anne's Mead fundraiser
- Diversity Task Force meeting in July
- EYE in Oklahoma
- Diocesan Picnic—encourage more to attend
- National UBE Conference

- Deconsecrated the building on the property of St. Alfred's as it will no longer be used for church-related purposes
- Visitation to the Order of Julian of Norwich
- Vacation
- Fundraiser for Crossroads
- Toured the new Little Caesar's Arena as a member of the Board of Mariners Inn
- Completed search for the Missioner for the Office of Black Ministries
- Celebration of new ministries for The Rev. Nikki Seger and the people of St. Michael's, Lansing and for The Rev. Sarah Midzalkowski and the people of St. Paul's, Jackson

Property Updates

Canon Hardy reviewed a written report with the following updates:

1. Property of St. Peter's Home for Boys, Detroit: Structures on property have been demolished (8/31/2017). Property will be remarketed for sale.
2. Property of St. Alfred's Oxford/Lk. Orion: Property sold for cash 8/15/31. Memorial garden on site is being handled by funeral director. Families may elect to have remains re-interred at St. Mary's in the Hills, Lake Orion.
3. Property of Emmanuel Head Start: New lease for 2017-2018 has been executed.
4. Property of St. Mary's, Detroit: Property has been legally transferred via quit claim deed to buyer. This property will be removed from the diocesan council report.
5. Property of St. George's, Warren: Final payment on land contract has been received. Working to legally transfer property to buyer via land contract.

Canon Hardy also presented a document entitled "Property and Liability Insurance Minimum Requirements" for review by Council. The context for this is the diocese's responsibility to the larger church to make sure that properties are adequately insured. If the proposed change in canons is approved at Diocesan Convention in October, Council will vote on the document at the November meeting.

Finance Report

Mark Miliotto presented the following housing allowance resolution for a vote:

Whereas the Reverend Virginia K ("Vicki") Hesse 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 annualized salary of \$69,000 to be paid to Reverend Hesse during 2017, \$11,200 be designated as parsonage allowance for the remainder of this calendar year 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.*

He then 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

A motion was made and properly seconded to accept the Final Proposed Budget for 2018 and the Draft Budget for 2019 and forward them to Diocesan Convention in October. *Motion passed.*

Tithes & Offerings

Rob Matras presented a written report.

Loans & Grants

In Bill Stech's absence, Martha Hanoian presented a written report.

1. St. Stephen's, Wyandotte has requested a grant of \$10,000 for HVAC improvements. The committee recommends a grant of \$7,000 be awarded. *Motion to award \$7,000 passed.*
2. All Saints, Brooklyn, has requested \$10,000 for multiple safety and maintenance projects. The committee recommends that \$5,000 be held for them pending submission of revised bids for the projects. *Motion passed.*

Bishop Gibbs reminded Council of the need to discuss the grant/loan request by St. David's, Southfield. There were outstanding questions that needed answers before the discussion can be completed. The Secretary will forward those questions to Fr. Yaw and request answers.

Vital Congregations

Clare Hickman reported that the next Requiem or Renaissance workshop will be held December 2nd at St. Paul’s, Brighton. Congregations that participated in earlier workshops will be invited to return to report on their progress. They will be asked for suggestions of topics they would like to address in advance of the workshop.

Resolution Review

Judith Schellhammer presented a written report. Anna Schroen reported that traffic on the Nuts and Bolts blog is up, with international recognition as well. Council members were asked to share it widely. Bishop Gibbs reminded Council that the purpose of Resolution Review is to keep in front of us resolutions passed by the Executive Council of TEC, General Convention, and Diocesan Convention. When the Blue Book is available online, keep an eye on it for items that need our response. There are five resolutions to be presented at Diocesan Convention in October. Bishop Gibbs shared them with the Deans so that they could be addressed at caucus.

HR Policy Review – no report

Audit – no report

By-Laws/Constitution and Canons – no report

Emrich Advisory Council

Joyce Munro reported that several retreats have been planned for the fall at Emrich. Visit the Emrich booth at Diocesan Convention for information on purchasing a memorial brick for the new patio to be installed at Emrich.

Campus Ministry

Claudia Hamlin presented a written report for One Community MSU. Bishop Gibbs cautioned that funding for the campus ministry past June 30, 2018 is contingent on joint conversation between representatives of our diocese as well representatives of the Northwest Lower Michigan Synod of the ELCA, as this is a joint ministry and requires oversight by both bodies.

Steve Domienik presented a written report for Canterbury House.

Thanks to Retiring Council Members

Bishop Gibbs thanked our retiring members for their service: Lynda Carter, Steve Chisholm, Karen Lewis, Rob Matras, Linda Shafer, Geoffrey Smereck, Traci Johnson, and Christopher Moran. Those not returning were invited to speak briefly to the group.

Mark Miliotto announced on behalf of the Investment Committee that the annual meeting of the Growth and Income Fund will be held at Diocesan Convention.

Adjournment and Prayer – 12:16 pm

Next Meeting:

Meeting Date & Time	Agenda/Focus	Location
Saturday, November 18, 2017 9:00am –3:00pm	Business Meeting which includes Orientation, Elections, and Committee Assignments	St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Brighton, MI