



APPROVED Minutes of Diocesan Council Meeting

Via ZOOM/Conference Call on Saturday, May 16, 2020 at 10:00 am

In attendance:

Council Members: Bishop Bonnie A. Perry, Askari Asante, Dan Buchin, Bruce Cann, Lynda Carter, Paul Castelli, Steve Chisholm, Toni Dennis, Anthony Estes, Martha Hanoian, Bruce Hinkle, Sandi Hite, Shirley Lappi, Linda MacDonald, Katie Oppenheim, Bill Stech, Steven Steinberger-Domienik, Felicity Thompson, Luke Thompson, Teresa Wakeen, Diana Walworth, Roger Weekes, Judith Schellhammer (Assistant Secretary), Edie Wakevainen (Secretary), Mark Miliotto (Treasurer)

Diocesan Staff: Jo Ann Hardy (Canon Administrator), Anna Stania (Director of Communications)

Prayer/Bible Study

Roll Call – Quorum established

Approval of Minutes from March 28, 2020 – *K. Oppenheim moved to approve, second by S. Lappi. Motion passed.*

Bishop’s Time

- COVID relief fund is going over the goal; money used for feeding people
- Anthony Estes will be dropping off Diocesan Council
- Bishop is checking in with clergy weekly for continuing education and feedback/sharing
- Weekly movie nights
- Group of clergy and laypersons gathering to plan a diocesan-wide service of lament
- Task Force for Technology chaired by Manisha Dostert will assist with access and support for congregations and vulnerable individuals
- Task Force on Music and Technology chaired by Scott Hunter and Jeremy Tarrant will look at how best to use technology to enable amazing music
- A group will be looking at the theology of the pandemic, how we experience God, salvation, and transformation

New Process for DC Agenda/Meetings

Canon Hardy reported that an ad hoc committee met via Zoom to discuss a new process for the Diocesan Council agenda and meetings. Committee chairs and individuals responsible for reports will submit their written reports to Beth Rowley. All reports with action items will be grouped together in one section of the agenda, while the rest will be reports for file. Meetings will begin with a conversation about “one big thing”—what could be done about something strategic. (Suggestions include discussions about Whitaker and Emrich—should they be money-making enterprises or funded ministries?) The finance reports will follow, and then the action items. In the future, some meetings will be held virtually and others in person. Committees can meet as necessary, bringing questions to the larger group.

Reports for Action

Loans and Grants Committee

The Loans and Grants Committee reviewed an application for a grant in the amount of \$20,000 and a loan in the amount of \$200,000 from St. John’s, Royal Oak. The congregation is seeking assistance for a \$1.2 million renovation project which will include a new boiler, installation of air conditioning and roof repair. The congregation is also seeking a grant from the Trustees of the diocese. The majority of the funds are being raised through a capital campaign. The Loans and Grants Committee recommends to Diocesan Council that: A grant in the amount of \$15,000 and a loan in the amount of \$200,000 be awarded to St. John’s, Royal Oak for their renovation project. Terms of the loan will be negotiated and finalized by diocesan staff.

Motion to approve by M. Hanoian, second by B. Cann. Motion passed. (A. Asante abstained.)

Requests Regarding Diocesan Convention

The following resolutions were presented for consideration regarding the 2020 Diocesan Convention:

- That all communications for Diocesan Convention may be sent by electronic communication when possible; and that paper copies be made available upon specific request. *Motion to approve by Canon Hardy, second by T. Wakeen. Motion passed.*
- That Diocesan Council consent to the location of the 186th Convention of the Diocese to be held at the time and place determined by the Ecclesiastical Authority, which may include a virtual gathering. *Motion to approve by Canon Hardy, second by M. Hanoian. Motion passed.*

- That virtual presence is satisfactory for eligible clergy and lay delegates to cast a vote. *Motion to approve by Canon Hardy, second by M. Hanoian. Motion passed.*

Mission Budget Committee

The Mission Budget Committee presented a Resolution to Suspend Canonical Budget Preparation Timeline: Given these days of uncertainties related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Diocesan Council hereby resolves that the deadline dates as described in the Diocesan Canons for the development of a 2021 budget process, i.e., the budget hearings, the distribution of a second draft, the solicitation and collection of apportionment pledges, the issuance of a final draft, and possibly the presentation of a Diocesan Council-approved budget to the Diocesan Convention be suspended for 2020-2021, and that the Mission and Budget Committee be granted a flexible timeline allowing it the ability to proceed as expeditiously as possible, as sound financial information becomes available, in preparing a proposed budget for presentation to Diocesan Council for consideration, approval and distribution to congregations at a future date.

Motion to approve by L. Carter, second by F. Thompson. Motion passed.

Financial Report/Updates

M. Miliotto presented current financial reports for review and acceptance. *L. Carter moved to receive Treasurer's report and file for audit, second by P. Castelli. Motion passed.*

Reports Received

Covenant V

A. Estes reported that he had checked on some of the partners to see how they were doing. They are not sure when they can meet again.

The **Nominating Committee** encourages people to run for offices.

Noon – Prayer/Adjournment

Next meeting scheduled for June 27, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

Edie Wakevainen

Edie Wakevainen, Secretary, Diocesan Council