



**APPROVED** Minutes of Diocesan Council Meeting

Via Zoom on Saturday, September 23, 2023, at 10:00 AM

*In attendance:*

**Council Members:** Bishop Bonnie A. Perry, Jenny Ritter, Gwyneth Dugliss, Karen Lewis, Judith Schellhammer (assisting secretary), Shirley Lappi, Bruce Hinkle, Halim Shukair, Cleda Smartt, Luke Thompson, Lynn Wiggins, RaeLee Baxter, Maryjane Peck, Chris Harris, Greg Wortley, Emily Williams Guffey, Edie Wakevainen (Secretary)

**Diocesan Staff:** Jo Ann Hardy (COO, Canon to the Ordinary), Mark Miliotto (Treasurer, Canon for Finance)

*Absent:* Jamie Taylor

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Opening Prayer – Bishop Perry

Approval of Agenda – Edie Wakevainen

Chris Harris moved to approve the agenda; Greg Wortley seconded. Motion passed.

Bishop’s Report

Review of Financial Reports – Mark Miliotto

A motion was made and properly seconded to accept the financial reports and file for audit. Motion passed.

Overview of 2024 Proposed Operating Budget – Mission Budget Committee/Mark Miliotto

Canon Miliotto presented the 2024 Proposed Operating Budget for approval on behalf of the Mission Budget Committee. Maryjane Peck moved to approve; Jenny Ritter seconded. Motion passed.

Communication to Diocesan Council from St. James’, Dexter – Mark Miliotto

St. James’, Dexter, requested a waiver of their apportionment payments for September through December 2023, a total of \$7000. RaeLee Baxter moved to approve; Shirley Lappi seconded. Motion passed. The congregation will be encouraged to attend the College for Congregational Development and participate in other stewardship-related trainings.

## Administrative Update – Jo Ann Hardy

- Consideration of Minimum Clergy Compensation for 2024 – This document to be sent to all congregations communicates a recommended minimum increase of 2% to full-time clergy salaries. Jenny Ritter moved to approve; Greg Wortley seconded. Motion passed.
- Health Care Rates for 2024 – This guidebook presents the premium increases for 2024. It will be in the Weekly Connection. Canon Hardy recommended that all part-time employees be enrolled in the Employee Assistance Program via the Church Pension Group for \$4 per month. Emily Williams Guffey and Chris Harris will work on a proposal to this effect for approval at the next meeting.
- Request from the Church at Crossroads – The canons require Diocesan Council approval for any solicitation of funds from congregations. The Church at Crossroads presented a letter for approval. Halim Shukair moved to approve; RaeLee Baxter seconded. Motion passed.

## Approval of Minutes – Edie Wakevainen

- March 2023 – Jenny Ritter moved to approve the March 2023 minutes; Halim Shukair seconded. Motion passed.
- June 2023 – Jenny Ritter moved to approve the June 2023 minutes as corrected; Judith Schellhammer seconded. Motion passed.
- Approved minutes will be posted on the Diocesan website.

## Diocesan Council Meeting Dates 2023/2024 – Edie Wakevainen

- Organizational Meeting for 2023 – Saturday, November 11 at 10:00 a.m. (Zoom)
- Saturday, January 27, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. (Zoom)
- Saturday, March 23, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. (Zoom)
- Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. (Zoom)
- Saturday, June 15, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. (in person)
- Saturday, September 21, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. (Zoom)
- Saturday, November 9, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. Zoom

## Recognition of Members Completing Their Terms this Year – Bishop Perry

- Bruce Hinkle and Shirley Lappi have completed 2 terms and the Rev. Dcn. Cleda Smart has completed 1 term; we thank them for their service.

- The Rev. Karen Lewis and the Rev. Maryjane Peck have completed 1 term and have agreed to serve for a second term.
- The Rev. Judith Schellhammer will accept a one term Bishop's appointment to council.

Closing Prayer – Canon Hardy