



Approved Minutes of Diocesan Council Meeting

Via Zoom on Saturday, January 27, 2024, at 10:00 AM

In attendance:

Council Members: Jamie Taylor, Gwyn Dugliss, Karen Lewis, Judith Schellhammer (assisting secretary), Michele Wogaman, Halim Shukair, Luke Thompson, Lynn Wiggins, Maryjane Peck, Chris Harris, Greg Wortley, Emily Williams Guffey, Teri Landreth, Katie Walworth, Diana Walworth

Chancellor: Steve Ott

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

Absent: Bishop Bonnie A. Perry, Edie Wakevainen (Secretary), Jenny Ritter, RaeLee Baxter

Welcome – Chris Harris (10:00 a.m.)

Opening Prayer – Teri Landreth

Diocesan Council Member Check In – Chris Harris

Share a “win” for your congregation this year.

Acceptance of Agenda

Teri Landreth moved to approve the agenda; Karen Lewis seconded. Motion passed.

Emrich Center Update – Jo Ann Hardy

On January 16, 2024, a letter went out announcing the cessation of operations at Emrich. In 2022 a group convened to consider Emrich’s situation and found that, since COVID, camps and retreat centers throughout the Church have seen a decline in operations. A committee is forming to consider the future of Emrich.

Review of Financial Reports – Mark Miliotto

A motion was made (Maryjane Peck) and properly seconded (Diana Walworth) to accept the financial reports and file for audit. Motion passed.

2022 Audit Review – Mark Miliotto/Michele Wogaman

It was a clean audit with all matters from the prior year resolved. Luke Thompson moved to accept the audit, and Maryjane Peck seconded. Motion passed.

Property Updates – Jo Ann Hardy

- Resurrection, Ecorse – A neighboring business wants to rezone the area and will need occasional use of five parking places. Karen Lewis moved to enter into a pro bono agreement for use of parking spaces at the church, and Maryjane Peck seconded. Motion passed.
- St. Elizabeth's, Redford and Christ the King, Taylor -- Both of these congregations closed 1 ½ years ago and both properties have been leased to other church congregations. The tenants in both cases want to enter into land contracts for purchase of these properties. Karen Lewis moved that we enter into negotiations with these tenants for possible land contracts. Michele Wogaman seconded. Motion passed.

Discussion of Human Resources Policy – Jo Ann Hardy

- Paid Parental Leave Data Gathering Group - Currently, birth parents are eligible for paid parental leave but non-birth/adoptive parents are not. A group is forming to explore the policies of other dioceses.
- Employee Assistance Program - All congregations are encouraged to provide this coverage (\$4.00./month per employee) for all employees regardless of number of hours worked. This program provides options for mental health care.

Loans & Grants Committee Report – Emily Williams Guffey

- Bricks & Mortar Request - St. Aidan's, Ann Arbor – Karen Lewis moved to provide a grant for \$10,000 for parking lot resurfacing; no second required. Motion passed.
- Update on Social Service and Advocacy/Public Witness Grants – Congregations are encouraged to apply for these Public Witness Grants.

Safe Church Policy Acceptance – Jo Ann Hardy

- [Safe Church Policy](#)
- [Safe Church Policy Acknowledgement Form](#)
- Many Council members have not acknowledged the Safe Church Policy. Please check the links to read and then acknowledge. Jo Ann Hardy will contact Council members who have not signed.

Additional Reports to Council (non-action items)

- All.Together Campus Ministries – Judith Schellhammer
- Karen Lewis reminded council that February 13 will be the 1-year anniversary of the shooting on MSU’s campus. Please remember this in prayer at our churches.

Approval of Minutes from November 2023 – Judith Schellhammer

Diana Walworth was not yet on Council in November. Halim Shukair moved to approve the minutes with that correction, and Teri Landreth seconded. Motion passed.

Ratification of Executive Committee Actions (Housing Allowance Designation for the Rev. Halim Shukair) – Jo Ann Hardy

Karen Lewis moved to ratify, and Luke Thompson seconded. Motion passed.

Calendar of Upcoming Diocesan Events – Jo Ann Hardy

- Saturday, February 3 – 4:00 p.m. – Feast of Absalom Jones at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, Detroit
- Tuesday, March 12 at 7:00 p.m. – Wardens’ Townhall with Bishop Perry (Zoom)
- Thursday, April 25 at 7:00 p.m. – Treasurers’ Townhall with Canon Mark Miliotto – (Zoom)
- Saturday, May 4 - Ministry Fair - St. Paul’s, Jackson
- May 8/9 - Book Signing and Lecture Event with Jim Wallis, author of “The False White Gospel: Rejecting Christian Nationalism, Reclaiming True Faith, and Refounding Democracy”

Closing Prayer – Luke Thompson

Meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

Next Council Meeting: March 23, 2024