

**Diocese of Milwaukee
Executive Council Minutes
December 5, 2023 6:30 p.m. via ZOOM**

Roll Call was taken.

Present: The Rev. Scott Leannah, Canon to the Ordinary; the Rev. David Mowers, President of the Standing Committee; Ms. Janice Pauc, Vice-President of the Executive Council; Ms. D'Arcy Becker, Diocesan Treasurer; Ms. Barbara Eckblad; the Rev. Don Fleischman; the Rev. Nancy Hodge; Dr. John Johnson; the Rev. Esther Kramer; the Rev. Pippa Lindwright, President of Commission on Ministry; Ms. Judith Miller; Mr. Roger Mukasa and the Rev. Debra Trakel

Others present: Mr. Mark Ehrmann, Esq., Chancellor and Mr. Greg Bell, Representative for the Standing Committee

Absent: The Rev. Joel Prather; Mr. Ethan Tarvin; Ms. Caroline Senn, Chief Financial Officer and the Ven. Charles Zellermayer, Executive Director of Trustees of Funds & Endowments

Guests: The Rev. Matthew Buterbaugh and Ms. Christine Krueger

At 6:32 p.m. Ms. Janice Pauc, Vice-President of the Executive Council, called the meeting to order. She called on the Rev. Debra Trakel to lead the EC in prayer.

September 5, 2023 EC Minutes

Deacon Marge Kiss asked if there were any additions, deletions or changes to the Executive Council minutes of the September 5, 2023 EC meeting. Hearing nothing, Ms. Pauc called for a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

***Ms. Barbara Eckblad moved and Ms. Judith Miller seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2023 EC meeting as presented. The minutes were so approved.

Holy Cross/ United Methodists Wisconsin Dells

Ms. Janice Pauc called on Mr. Mark Ehrmann, Esq., Chancellor, to report on the By-Laws for the Holy Cross/United Methodist Wisconsin Dells churches.

Mr. Mark Ehrmann reported that:

--Holy Cross Episcopal Church and Dells Delton United Methodist Church, Wisconsin Dells jointly own the building they use for services.

--With Dells Delton splitting from the United Methodist denomination, it was an opportune time to review and tighten up the current by-laws, setting parameters and holding people accountable.

--Two letters have been sent, but there has been no response.

Introduction of Newly Elected Members

Ms. Janice Pauc called on the current members of the EC and those newly elected to the

council to briefly introduce him/herself.

She also thanked those ending their term: Dr. John Johnson; the Rev. Joel Prather and Mr. Mike Weber. Of the other members whose term had ended -- Ms. Janice Pauc was re-elected and the Rev. Pippa Lindwright continues on, representing the Commission on Ministry.

Financials

Ms. Janice Pauc noted that since Ms. Caroline Senn, Chief Financial Officer, was unable to be present, review of the financials would be omitted at this meeting.

Report from the Canon to the Ordinary

Ms. Janice Pauc called on the Rev. Scott Leannah, Canon to the Ordinary, for his report.

The Rev. Scott Leannah spoke:

--on the role of the Executive Counsel

- a. “vestry” of the diocese—money, mission and maintenance
- b. “visioning” body – set policy and direction; offer financial directives

--on State of Wisconsin reunion discernment

- a. May 4th, 2024 is the date set for the Special Convention to approve the Article of Reunification
- b. It is a one item convention that will be held at Ho Chunk Casino, Wisconsin Dells.
- c. Further issues and task forces will be discussed and set, after the meeting, depending on the result of the vote.
- d. Currently the Standing Committee is the Ecclesiastical Authority.

--on his role as Canon to the Ordinary

- a. He serves as “Chief of Staff.”
- b. He continues to engage in mission and ministry to individuals and parishes.

--on ordination to the Sacred Order of Deacons

- a. Saturday, January 6th, 2024, at 10:30 a.m., at All Saints Cathedral, Rt. Rev. Matthew A. Gunter, presiding
- b. Candidates:
 - Louise Simpson Reavis Austin (vocational deacon)
 - Lisa Chmielewski (vocational deacon)
 - Robert E. Davis (transitional deacon)
 - Hunter James Farrow (transitional deacon)
 - Christopher William Warne (transitional deacon)

Standing Committee

The Rev. Scott Leannah, Canon to the Ordinary called on the Rev. Dave Mowers, President of the Standing Committee, for any additional comments.

The Rev. Dave Mowers explained that:

--Due to another meeting on the first Tuesday of the month that he attends, Mr. Greg Bell will serve as the liaison of the Standing Committee.

--The Standing Committee, in the absence of a bishop, leads the diocese, calling on a bishop (in our case, the Rt. Rev. Matthew Gunter) for duties only a bishop can perform.

--The Standing Committee has been shepherding the Trialogue Process and developing

contingency plans depending on the result of the vote for reunification.

--The Italian Community Center will be used for an October Convention if the vote for reunification does not pass.

--Two sets of convention deputies should be voted on at the Parish Annual Meeting.

Mr. Greg Bell noted two other roles of the Standing Committee:

--voting to confirm new bishops throughout the Episcopal Church

--interviewing candidates for ordination

New Business

Additional funding--Diocese of Newala

The Rev. Scott Leannah explained that a new tile floor was needed by the sisters in Newala and that need would be the focus of this year's Christmas giving.

Housing Resolution

The Rev. Scott Leannah put a copy of the following Housing Resolution in the chat room so that the EC members could review it.

Housing Resolution for 2024 for

The Rev. Scott Leannah

RESOLVED, that of the total compensation to be paid to The Rev. Scott Leannah during 2024, \$20,000.00 shall be designated as housing allowance (in lieu of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee providing and maintaining a furnished residence for him), to be excludable from taxable income, within the meaning of Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code, to the extent that said housing allowance is spent by The Rev. Scott Leannah for expenses of renting or providing a furnished home for himself and family, including rental or mortgage payments, insurance, utilities, furnishings, maintenance and repairs and other related expenses, up to the fair market rental value of said home, including furnishings and utilities. This housing allowance designation will apply to calendar year 2022 and all future years unless otherwise provided.

***Dr. John Johnson moved and Ms. Judith Miller seconded the passing of the Housing Resolution as presented. The motion passed.

Loan to St Alban's

Ms. D'Arcy Becker presented the overall details of St. Alban's request for funds for roof repair. Though it was noted that the loan was approved by Ms. Caroline Senn and the Finance Committee, because the specifics (amount and length of loan; interest rate, etc.) were not available, it was recommended that the vote on the loan be taken via e-mail.

Diocesan Archives.

The Rev. Scott Leannah explained that Dr. Randy Miller, Diocesan Historiographer and Ms. Graicey Van Spankeren, Administration Manager, will be going through any archival material at Nicholson House. They will also be checking out options for housing them since issues have arisen regarding using DeKoven.

Final Items

The date of the January meeting – should it be changed since it is the day after New Year?
Watch for an e-mail.

NOTE: The date of the meeting remains January 2, 2024 per December 6th e-mail.

The Rev. Esther Kramer gave the closing prayer.

Deacon Marge said the dismissal.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Margaret (Marge) M. Kiss

Executive Secretary & Recorder of the Minutes

Appendix I

2024 Executive Council Meeting Dates -- First Tuesday at
6:30p.m. via ZOOM

January 2

February 6

March 5

April 2

May 7

June 4

July 2

August 6

September 3

October 1

November 5

December 3

Appendix II

2021 Norms for Executive Council Meetings

Begin with prayer

Start and end on time

Receive and Review material one week ahead of time of meeting

Respectful communication

- Assume good/best intentions

- Seek to model reconciliation

- Look for the best in others

- Give the best we have

- Gentleness first

Recuse oneself, leave the room and abstain from matters in which one has a conflict of interest

Respect the “confidential nature” of the discussion (Identify if confidential)

All responsible for the process at the table; Pay attention/Be actively engaged

All members of Executive Council are authorized to raise their hand, to call for a pause in the process, and to ask for a moment of prayer from the Bishop

We are always The Church.