

Diocese of Milwaukee
Executive Council Minutes
February 7, 2023 6:30 p.m. via ZOOM

Roll Call was taken.

Present: Bishop Jeffrey Lee; Ms. Janice Pauc, Vice-President of the Executive Council; Mr. Mike Weber, Diocesan Treasurer; the Rev. Jana Troutman-Miller, President of the Standing Committee; Ms. Barbara Eckland; the Rev. Nancy Hodge; Dr. John Johnson; the Rev. Esther Kramer; Ms. Judith Miller; Mr. Roger Mukasa; the Rev. Joel Prather and the Rev. Debra Trakel;

Others present: The Rev. Scott Leannah, Canon for Ministries; Ms. Caroline Senn, Financial Controller; and Mr. Mark Ehrmann, Esq., Chancellor

Absent: The Rev. Don Fleischman; the Rev. Pippa Lindwright, President of Commission on Ministry; Mr. Ethan Tarvin and the Ven. Charles Zellermayer, Executive Director of Trustees of Funds & Endowments

Guests: The Rev. Kevin Carroll, Dean of All Saints' Cathedral and Mr. Fred Kaems, long-term and involved parish member

At 6:32 p.m. Bishop Lee called the meeting to order and led the EC in prayer.

November 1, 2022 EC Minutes and Vote on Housing Resolutions

Bishop Lee asked Deacon Marge Kiss, recorder of the minutes, for any comments. She noted two items. First, that a separate document was created to record the December vote on the Housing Resolutions. Second, that an additional comment was added to the DeKoven resolution clarifying who signs/files the paperwork. It was noted as a refinement of the resolution.

Bishop Lee asked if there were any further additions, deletions or changes to the Executive Council minutes of the November 1, 2022 EC meeting.

Hearing nothing, he called for a vote to approve the minutes as refined. The minutes were so approved.

Executive Council

Since it was the first meeting of the 2023 Executive Council, and using the Diocesan Constitution and Canons (Canon 7), Bishop Lee reviewed the role and responsibilities of the Executive Council.

He further noted that it is “a bridge,” a “convention between conventions” to carry out in an orderly and productive manner decisions made at the convention and to recommend future actions for the following convention.

Financials

Since invoices were still coming in, Ms. Caroline Senn was not able to present the 2022

budget review. However, to especially assist the new EC members, she walked through the Diocesan financials, focusing on the summary page. She called attention to:

- the funding model -- assessments
- ministry funding
- the endowments
- Haiti partnership
- Trustees of Funds and Endowments

Questions and discussion focused on restricted endowments and campus ministry funding.

Canon for Ministry

Bishop Lee called on the Rev. Scott Leannah for any highlights or additional comments to his report which was in drop box.

Canon Scott Leannah highlighted the following:

- There are no clergy vacancies; two parishes, with support from the diocese, have opted for lay leadership.
- A number of parishes are involved in strategic development, i.e. those reducing the amount of aid they are receiving; those working on collaborative ministry; the growing of a Spanish speaking community.
- Several parishes are in a Canon 8 relationship.
- There are 6 seminarians.
- His Sunday mornings in the parishes to celebrate the Eucharist and meet with lay leaders are a blessing.

Questions and discussion focused on the ministries evident in small parishes and the deacon formation program.

Update on Trialogue

The Rev. Jana Troutman-Miller offered the following snap shot of Trialogue happenings:

- “Members of the Trialogue task forces and steering committee gathered in person in January to hear a presentation on adaptive leadership and change by the Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe, bishop of the Diocese of Northwest Pennsylvania and bishop provisional of the Diocese of Western New York, followed by a round-table discussion on their respective work so far and the challenges and opportunities ahead. “

(see: <https://www.episcopalwisconsin.info>)

- 3 task forces have submitted updates.
- More work needs to be done to inform and engage the stake holders.

Questions and discussion focused on:

- parishes not discussing the work of the Trialogue or
- parishes having major projects in process so not able to follow the work of the Trialogue
- the feeling that it is a “done deal”

Final thoughts/comments:

- All three Diocesan Conventions will take place on October 23, 2023; the vote will be simultaneous. (Rev. Jana Troutman-Miller)

- The only vote -- to approve or not to approve merging the Dioceses. (Rev. Scott Leannah)
- One of the responsibilities of the EC – to get the message out regarding the vote – “Do we move forward or not?” (Bishop Lee)

New Business – Nicholson House

Though the prepared power point was unavailable, (It is now in drop box—The Cathedral Idea.) Rev. Kevin Carroll, Dean of All Saints’ presented the history and issues regarding the Cathedral Complex – All Saints’ and Nicholson House.

--In the ‘50’s, Nicholson House was given to the Diocese for the Diocesan office.

--No formal lease was issued noting rent and upkeep methods.

--The All Saints’ Corporation still owns the building and the property.

Dean Kevin Carroll brought these items to EC for consideration:

1. If there is a merger, Nicholson House would not be the Diocesan office; there would be an empty building.
2. If there is no merger, it would be good stewardship to have a Letter of Agreement between All Saints’ Corporation and the Diocese defining the obligations and responsibility of each party as to care and upkeep.
3. Nicholson House is not a Diocesan asset; it is an asset of the Cathedral Corporation.

Dean Kevin Carroll brought three requests to the EC:

--to appoint 2-3 EC members who, with the Standing Committee, would draft a Letter of Understanding clearly stating how Nicholson House is used, who maintains it, who insures it, etc.

--to draft a resolution stating that Nicholson House is not a Diocesan asset

--to clarify how rent, collected by the Diocese from other agencies at Nicholson House, should be disseminated

Bishop Lee suggested that the formation of a task group would be a good way to start.

--Mr. Mark Ehrmann, Esquire, volunteered to be an ad hoc member.

--Ms. Barbara Eckland volunteered, due to a sense of responsibility; she works in property management and real estate. She wondered if there was a deed.

--~~Rev. Pedro~~ Mukasa volunteered. Should be – Mr. Roger Mukasa

Bishop Lee said that he and Dean Carroll will reach out to them to set up meeting times.

Dean Carroll invited the members of the EC to visit the Cathedral.

Final Item

Ms. Judith Miller called attention to Common Grounds new endeavor – public housing.

Bishop Lee called on the Rev. Jana Troutman-Miller for the closing prayer.

Deacon Marge said the dismissal.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Margaret (Marge) M. Kiss

Executive Secretary & Recorder of the Minutes

Appendix I

2023 Executive Council Meeting Dates -- First Tuesday at
6:30p.m. via ZOOM

March 7

(April 4 – No Meeting – Holy Week)

May 2

June 6

(July 4 – No Meeting – Holiday)

August 1

September 5

(October 3 – No Meeting – Convention, Oct. 21)

November 7

(December 5 traditionally no meeting)

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.