

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

**Roll Call was taken.**

**Present:** Bishop Jeffrey Lee; Ms. Janice Pauc, Vice-President of the Executive Council; the Rev. Jana Troutman-Miller, President of the Standing Committee; the Rev. Scott Leannah, Canon to the Ordinary; Mr. Mike Weber, Diocesan Treasurer; Ms. Barbara Eckblad (~~Eckland~~); 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; the Rev. Joel Prather and the Rev. Debra Trakel

**Others present:** Ms. Caroline Senn, Chief Financial Officer and Mr. Mark Ehrmann, Esq., Chancellor

**Absent:** Mr. Ethan Tarvin and the Ven. Charles Zellermayer, Executive Director of Trustees of Funds & Endowments

**Guests:** The Rev. Bobbi Kraft, Chaplain, SFH Episcopal Student Center, UWM, Madison and Diocesan Young Adult & Campus Ministry Advisor, Diocese of Milwaukee; Mr. John Vogel, Steering Committee, Diocesan Trialogue

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

**May 2, 2023 EC Minutes**

Bishop Lee asked if there were any additions, deletions or changes to the Executive Council minutes of the May 2, 2023 EC meeting. Hearing nothing, he called for a vote to approve the minutes as presented. The minutes were so approved.

**Campus Ministry Update**

Bishop Lee called on the Rev. Bobbi Kraft for her report.

The Rev. Bobbi Kraft expressed her appreciation to the EC for giving her the time to present to them, the work of the University Commission and its relationship to SFH. She noted that there was a lot of catching up to do and that it was critical at this time because of the possible reunification of the Wisconsin dioceses.

She stated that the key issues were:

- establishing clarity and transparency
- untangling previous relationships with the UC and SFH.

**Financials and the Report from the Canon to the Ordinary**

Financials and the report from the Canon to the Ordinary are in drop box. They were not addressed in this meeting. The focus of the June meeting was the summary report of the Trialogue task forces and the draft resolution.

## **Triologue Update**

Bishop Lee called on the Rev. Jana Troutman-Miller for her report.

The Rev. Jana Troutman-Miller stated that:

- the Triologue Steering Committee Proposal along with a draft resolution were sent to the three dioceses for review by each governing body
- the purpose of the meeting was to ask questions and give feedback as well as vote on the draft resolution

Key concerns expressed in the discussion were clarification and transparency.

Areas of concern were the data, the financials and the vision:

- Some felt it would be helpful to be able to review all the task forces reports.
- Some felt that the financial report, as given to the EC, could be overwhelming; others felt that complete transparency was essential.
- Some felt that the “WHY” had not been clearly addressed.

Bishop Lee stated that all reports were available for review.

Ms. Caroline Senn noted that a clearer and more distilled financial report was in process.

Bishop Lee felt it would be helpful to put the draft resolution up for a vote to further focus the discussion.

\*\*\*Mr. John Johnson moved the following resolution which was seconded by Mr. Roger Mukasa and the Rev. Pippa Lindwright.

*Resolved*, that the Executive Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee commends the report of the Triologue Steering Committee to the people of the diocese for review and reflection; and be it further

*Resolved*, that the Executive Council endorses the Triologue Steering Committee’s recommendation to hold town hall meetings and discernment gatherings through the state during the summer and fall of 2023; and be it further  
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*Resolved*, that the Executive Council intends to submit a resolution on the question of reunion with the Dioceses of Eau Claire and Fond du Lac to the 176<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee.

A number of members were in favor of the resolution as presented; others felt it lacked clarity.

The Rev. Debra Trakel agreed with the first two proposals in the resolution, but felt that the third proposal needed refinement. She felt that it could be misinterpreted – seeing it as supportive of reunification versus supportive of continuing the process of exploration toward unification.

After further discussion regarding repackaging the material and the Triologue report as a feasibility study,

\*\*\*the Rev. Debra Trakel moved the following amendment seconded by Ms. Judith Miller.

*Resolved*, that the Executive Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee commends the report of the Trialogue Steering Committee to the people of the diocese for review and reflection; and be it further

*Resolved*, that the Executive Council endorses the Trialogue Steering Committee's recommendation to hold town hall meetings and discernment gatherings through the state during the summer and fall of 2023; and be it further

*Resolved*, that the Executive Council intends to submit a resolution *which offers a process of ongoing discernment regarding whether the 3 dioceses of Wisconsin should reunite to the 176<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee.*

Further discussion centered on clarification of the amendment to the resolution. Bishop Lee called for a vote.

The amendment to the resolution passed with 8 for the amendment and 5 opposed to the amendment.

The draft resolution as amended was passed with one dissent.

In conclusion, the Rev. Jana Troutman-Miller asked that any further questions/concerns be e-mailed to her, that over the next months the EC continue to engage in conversation with each other possibly through an e-mail stream, go the Town Hall meetings and review the materials presented to the EC.

Bishop Lee expressed his appreciation to the EC for their support during his time as Provision Bishop to the Diocese of Milwaukee. The EC reciprocated.

Rev. Joel Prather gave the closing prayer.

Bishop Lee gave his final blessing to the EC.

Deacon Marge said the dismissal.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 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

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.