

**Diocese of Milwaukee  
Executive Council Meeting  
January 19, 2012 6:00 p.m.  
St. Francis, Menomonee Falls**

Present: The Rt. Rev'd Steven A. Miller; The Rev'd Andrew Bunting; The Rev'd Paula Harris; Mr. Patrick Johnson, Trustees of Funds & Endowments; The Very Rev'd Andrew Boyd Jones; Ms. Taryn Lantz; The Rev'd Scott Leannah; The Rev'd Mark Moore, President, Commission on Ministry; Mr. Rob Mortensen; Mr. Gust Olson; Ms. Giannina Radcliffe; Ms. Margaret Schumacher, Diocesan Treasurer; The Rev'd Joan Smoke; The Rev'd Steve Teague, Standing Committee President and The Very Rev'd Deborah Woolsey

Others present: Ms. Diane Blank, Bishop's Assistant for Finance and The Rev'd David Pfaff, Canon to the Ordinary

Absent: Ms. Peggy Bean, Bishop's Assistant for Congregational Development; The Rev'd Gary Lambert, Diocesan Executive Secretary; Ms. Barb Lentz; and The Rev'd Carla McCook, Bishop's Assistant for Christian Formation

- **Call to order/Opening Prayer – Bishop Miller**

Bishop Miller called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. and opened with prayer.

Bishop Miller introduced The Rev'd Martha Berger, St. Francis, Menomonee Falls, who welcomed the Executive Council.

Bishop Miller introduced Mr. Patrick Johnson, Trustees of Funds & Endowments, who will be attending the meetings in place of Mr. Mike Hagon.

- **Additions/Deletions to the Agenda**

One action item was added: Approval of the amendment to the Safeguarding God's Children Policy Manual

One action item was tabled until the next Executive Council meeting: Approval of the Executive Council letter to the diocese

- **Approval of the Minutes from the December 15, 2011 Executive Council Meeting**

Bishop Miller asked if there were any additions, deletions or changes to the minutes of the December 15, 2011 Executive Council Meeting. Three corrections were noted. On page 2, after the housing resolutions, the appropriate heading for the next item is **Acceptance** of Diocesan Audit Report. On page 5, under People in Process/Aspirants, **Cameron L. Macdonald's name should be deleted and Bill Dunlop's name should be added.** The Rev'd Joan Smoke moved that the minutes be approved as amended. The Rev'd Paula Harris seconded it. The minutes of the December 15, 2011 Executive Council Meeting were approved as amended.

- **Discussion/Action Items – The Rev'd David Pfaff**

The Rev'd David Pfaff noted that:

--Currently the Safe Guarding God's Children Policy Manual requires those who are renewing their certification to attend a class facilitated by a trained Safe Guarding God's Children trainer.

- The Church Pension Group has developed an on line course for those in the renewal process – Phase I for the diocesan staff and clergy to be completed by July, 2012 and Phase II for staff and lay leaders August, 2012 through December, 2012.
- The Rev'd Carla McCook would vet the individuals seeking renewal.

Mr. Gust Olson moved that the Executive Council approve an amendment to our Safe Guarding God's Children Policy Manual, i.e., an online recertification process as well as the roll out plan for the execution of the online training. The Rev'd Scott Leannah seconded the motion.

Ms. Taryn Lantz wondered if it is only the recertification process that would be acceptable on line. It was affirmed that the initial certification must be done in a class, face to face.

The motion passed unanimously.

- **Continuing the Retreat – The Rev'd David Pfaff**

The Rev'd David Pfaff said that using The Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF) in the strategic planning process has great possibilities and that ECF is anxious to see if it can add to their services by partnering with us.

The Rev'd David Pfaff distributed a bullet point outline of some of the elements identified in previous discussions that will serve “as a resource for developing a strategy for how the Diocese of Milwaukee and the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF) might partner on a diocesan strategic planning initiative”:

- Tasks of the pre-election profile addressed; focus is still forming and strengthening disciples, BUT for what?
- Higher level of trust achieved particularly around financial matters
- 58 congregations are in areas where population growth and economic concerns are a challenge
- Some of the urban congregations are in downtown areas hit by suburbanization
- The upper Midwest has seen a loss in individuals to whom the Episcopal Church appeals
- Some of our church buildings are large, old, in need of major maintenance, costly to heat and designed for a ministry in a different age
- Rising cost of personnel, especially regarding health care
- Efforts to replant have been unsuccessful
- The Diocese of Milwaukee relies on assessment income for about 95% of its operating income

The Rev'd David Pfaff concluded: *All of these facts, and many others, have brought the leadership of the diocese to the clear understanding that the time is now to undertake a significant study of the diocese—its deficits, liabilities, challenges and points of weakness, along with its assets, strengths, opportunities and considerable human resources and potential, to discern how its ministry might be most faithfully shaped for the next three to five years, what measurable outcomes might help us to stay on that task, and what kinds of resources are or will be needed for the short and long-term work of whatever it is that God is calling us to be, as the Episcopal Church in the southern third of Wisconsin.*

The Rev'd Gary Lambert has prepared a letter to the diocese regarding the strategic planning process. This letter still needs Executive Council approval. If the Executive Council selects the ECF as a partner in the process, this information should be included in the letter.

- **Informational Items**

### **St. Francis House Development Update – Bishop Miller**

Bishop Miller stated that progress on the work at St. Francis House is on track though a bit slow.

Bishop Miller then turned the discussion over to The Very Rev'd Andrew Boyd Jones. He told the Executive Council about an event that demonstrated "The Church at its Best." (The title of The Very Rev'd Andrew Boyd Jones' letter to the Madison Common Council)

The Saint Francis House property was scheduled for redevelopment, deconstruction of part of the existing building and construction of a new Student Apartment building. However, a fire broke out at the Porchlight Transitional Housing Apartments on Brooks Street, an apartment building adjacent to the Saint Francis House property.

The day after the fire at the Porchlight, Father Jones said that he received a call from Steve Silverburg, a partner with LZ Ventures. (The diocese had already turned the property at 1001 University Avenue over to LZ so that they could begin the development process.) *Mr. Silverburg had seen the articles about the fire and had spoken with his partners. He was calling to say that they were willing to return the building to us and to delay the beginning of the construction process to allow the displaced residents of the Porchlight Facility temporary emergency shelter at Saint Francis House for up to one month.*

The Saint Francis House Board, and the Bishop of the Diocese of Milwaukee immediately approved these arrangements and The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Grieser, Rector of Grace Episcopal Church, contacted the staff at Porchlight.

Mr. Steve Silverburg called again to say that Jim Stoppel, owner of Madison Property Management and manager of Grand Central Student Apartments, offered to lend furniture and supplies to make the Porchlight residents comfortable while they are being housed at Saint Francis House.

Bishop Miller felt that it was a glorious weekend for the Episcopal Church in Madison.

Bishop Miller stated that the minutes should reflect: *his appreciation and that of the Executive Council to The Very Rev'd Andrew Boyd Jones, The Rev'd Dr. Jonathan Grieser and the St. Francis House Board for this great witness to partnership and ministry.*

### **St. Edmund's Update – Bishop Miller**

Bishop Miller explained that:

- After our brief celebration of the summary judgment, the other parties called for mediation to resolve remaining issues.
- The Very Rev'd Steve Teague assisted with the mediation process.
- Mr. Scott and Ms. Holly Stoner, The Rev'd Gary Lambert, The Rev'd REGS Scheeler and the Bishop met with the members who had stayed with the Episcopal Church, in order to explain the settlement, the temporary plan for the property and to assure them that if a former member of St. Edmund's dies, the funeral or burial will be able to take place at the church.
- The property will be returned to the diocese on January 31<sup>st</sup> by 5:00 pm.

- The Rev'd REGS Scheeler and the Bishop will inspect the property and will have it secured and rekeyed.
- He will do a simple reclaiming prayer.
- On February 5<sup>th</sup>, he will celebrate a thanksgiving service for the return of the property.
- An informational meeting will follow the service with a presentation by Mr. Thomas Scrivner, Esq., Michael, Best and Freidrich.
- A building manager will be retained to insure that the buildings are kept both functional and in good shape.
- Regular worship will be discontinued while plans are formulated for the ongoing use of the buildings as part of the mission of the Diocese of Milwaukee and the Episcopal Church.

The ensuing discussion revolved around:

- maintaining the property, the grounds and utilities
- possible uses of the property (a meeting place for the Executive Council)
- the pre-school (It will vacate by the end of March. Note: allowing it to continue longer is not feasible since it was developed by and for the break away group)
- settlement money (\$50,000.00 toward legal fees; \$120,000.00 worth of improvements, some funds in all bank accounts)
- the plans for the people who remained with the Episcopal Church (about 30)

Bishop Miller concluded that:

- He is glad that the litigation process is over.
- He felt it was best to settle, not drag it out for two more years.
- He is not, in any way, selling the property.**

## **Committee Reports**

### **Bishop's Report – Bishop Miller**

Bishop Miller noted that:

- Because of the changes at St. Bartholomew's, Pewaukee, either The Rev'd David Pfaff, The Rev'd Carla McCook, Ms. Peggy Bean along with himself would be at the parish Lent through Low Sunday.
- Province V -- Provincial Synod is April 24<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> in Chicago, IL.
- General Convention is July 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> in Indianapolis, IN.  
One of the major topics is a Liturgy for the Blessing of Same Gender Relations.  
*Holy Men, Holy Women* is up for review.

### **Finance Committee/Treasurer – Ms. Margaret Schumacher**

Ms. Margaret Schumacher stated that the finance committee addressed two main topics:

- The auditor's concern regarding the two Foundation Loans
  - The loan to St. Mary's, Dousman – an older loan which is being actively managed well was referred to their vestry for further action
  - The loan to Good Shepherd, Sun Prairie – needs to be revisited to establish a more complete set of terms
- The overall concern regarding parishes delinquent in assessments or having special financial consideration, namely, Good Shepherd, Sun Prairie, Zion, Oconomowoc, St. Matthias, Waukesha, St. Peter's, West Allis

To this effect, the committee is recommending the following standard response to financial requests:

1. The diocesan staff prioritizes the requests and brings them to Executive Council.

2. A “delegation “ consisting of one person from Commission on Ministry and Development (COMD), one person from Finance Committee and one person from Executive Council contacts the parish vestry. The goal would be to gain a better understanding of the problem and to offer suggestions for a resolution to the problem.
3. A follow-up report to be made to the Executive Council within a four month period.

Ms. Margaret Schumacher and the finance committee feel that a three prong approach, COMD, finance committee and Executive Council will be a more effective approach to dealing with special financial concerns.

As far as last year’s diocesan finances, Ms. Margaret Schumacher said that they were close to budget.

The unpaid assessments and a new letter from Zion, Oconomowoc were reviewed.

It was noted that:

- Zion, Oconomowoc has its payments deferred per a previous arrangement. More conversation is needed.
- Good Shepherd, Sun Prairie still struggles because of initial poor planning.
- Holy Communion, Lake Geneva has building and location and past history challenges

Bishop Miller feels that the strategic planning process that has begun will:

- help to clarify and define mission,
- establish best practices for the use of diocesan resources.

### **Standing Committee – The Very Rev’d Steve Teague**

The Very Rev’d Steve Teague reported that:

- At their December meeting, the committee welcomed their new members, The Rev’d Pat Size and Mr. John Washbush, and met with the Bishop relative to the relationship of the Standing Committee to the diocese.
- The January meeting was via conference call.
  - \*The committee approved consent for:
    - Gregory Orrin Brewer as Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Central Florida and
    - Andrew M. L. Dietsche as Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of New York
  - \*The committee received an update on the St. Edmund’s mediation.
- At a future meeting the committee will review the role and work of the Standing Committee for the new members.
- Meetings of the 2012 Standing Committee will be at St. Mary’s, Dousman on the first Thursday at 2p.m.

### **Commission on Ministry – The Rev’d Mark Moore**

The Rev’d Mark Moore reminded the Executive Council of the following important COM dates and the names of the people in process:

**Schedule:**

February 2, 2012 - ordination interviews for Kyle Oliver and Oscar Rozo

**People in Process:**

**Aspirants:**

- Randy Ridout
- Steve Luchies
- Cliff Perkins
- Nancy Hills
- Brendan O’Connor
- Helen Dauer

Jana Troutman-Miller  
Bill Dunlop

**Postulants:**

Dorota Pruski  
John Reese  
Emily Vaill Pfaff  
Pickett Wall

**Candidates:**

Kyle Oliver  
Oscar Rozo

**Mission and Development – Written Report from Ms. Peggy Bean**

Ms. Peggy Bean covered these items in her written report:

- Leadership teams from St. Timothy's and St. Peter's, West Allis and St. Luke's, Bay View have met since August on issues of transition.
- The leadership team from St. Timothy's continued the discussion with the congregation.
  - \*A straw poll in November was a vote to close.
  - \*On January 15<sup>th</sup>, the actual vote was 29-1 to close.
  - \*Discussion continues with the congregation as to what churches they want to visit and how to say good-bye and with Father Fessler's grieving issues.
- Relative to ministry options, Mission and Development is also in discussion with:
  - \*Trinity, Wauwatosa, St. Thomas of Canterbury and St. Mark' South Milwaukee
  - \*Holy Cross, Trinity, Baraboo and St. John's, Portage
- The Commission on Mission and Development (COMD) is pairing with the Finance committee to help aided congregations with financial needs. First congregation in this process is Good Shepherd in Sun Prairie.
- Ways of raising awareness re: development and mission are in process, such as monthly articles in the E-News or a COMD Monthly Minute on the website.

**Christian Formation – Written Report from The Rev'd Carla McCook**

The Rev'd Carla McCook covered these items in her written report:

**Safe Guarding God's Children**

- The Rev'd Deacon Terry Garner works with training the trainers and with setting up training session for the parishes.
- The Office of Christian Formation receives the registrations and rosters and the Master List of those who have taken the training.
- Renewal of certificates for adults is every five (5) years.
- Action item covered previously.

**Other Items**

- The Life Long Christian Formation Commission and the Deacon's Council are in discussion regarding formation and education guidelines for vocational diaconate.
- A Ministry Fair is being planned for August 2012.
- Camp Webb dates are set and registration is in process.
- Deacon REGS continues his cooking ministry.
- The Diocesan Resource Center is now at Nicholson House.
- A Youth Urban Plunge weekend, an overnight service project, is planned for February 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>.
- The next Happening weekend is a one day Happening Reunion in March to discuss the needs of our high school youth and the future of this ministry.

The Rev'd Carla McCook concluded that she travels with the Bishop on his pre-visits and supplies on Sundays. She noted that it is her goal to "connect with every parish, discuss the importance of formation for children, youth and adults in all our parishes, discover what resources each parish has and what resources are needed."

**Final Items:**

The next Executive Council meeting will be February 16, 2012 at St. Michael's, Racine from 6-8 p.m.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev'd Margaret M. Kiss  
Deacon  
Recorder of the Minutes