



Diocese of Missouri
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*Making Disciples
Building Congregations
For the Life of the World*

Trustees of the Corporation of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri

Meeting via Zoom Video Conference
March 25, 2020

DIOCESAN COUNCIL MINUTES

Members Present: Bishop Smith, Tom Allen, Angela Breeher, Lynnette Ballard, Scott Ferguson, Rev. Pat Glenn, George Hartsfield, Rev. Emily Hillquist-Davis, Rev. Jennifer Hulen, Sondra Kekec, Holly Maffitt, Chris Sturgeon, Janet Thompson, Liz Yount

Members Absent: Marvin Foltz.

Treasurer: Tom Hedrick

Staff: Bishop-Elect Johnson, Desiree Brattin, Rev. Doris Westfall

Call to Order and Prayer: Bishop Smith opened the meeting with prayer at 1:32 p.m.

Financial Report: Bishop Smith asked Tom Hedrick to present and discuss the motion sent to Council members regarding the Parish Assessment Holiday and Financial Assistance to Parishes. Mr. Hedrick explained that because of the closure of parishes due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the resolution would provide for deferred parish assessments until July 1. The resolution also provides a mechanism for emergency grants of up to \$25,000 to be made to the parishes most affected by the pandemic. That amount is the same allowed under the White Fund. The selling of Bonds in the DIT holdings added approximately \$300,000 in cash to the operating budget. The impact of delaying the parish assessments until July 1 is approximately \$200,000.

Bishop Smith asked if paying back the financial assistance given to parishes would be deferred or forgiven. Mr. Hedrick explained that the intent was to first defer payments, although as the situation changes forgiveness might be considered.

Another question asked was if the funds were meant for emergency relief for the operating budget or if they could be used for outreach. It was explained that this is a lifeline for the churches, to make sure the churches remain functioning and are able to make payroll and meet bills. Bishop Smith said that both he and Bishop-Elect Deon supported the resolution.

The following resolution was moved, seconded and carried without dissent:

Whereas, the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri has previously announced the suspension of public worship in response to the coronavirus pandemic; and

Whereas, our congregations are taking unprecedented steps to address continuity of all aspects of operations and ministries; and

Whereas, many of our congregations will experience additional financial stress from these uncertain times; it is therefore

Resolved, that the Diocese of Missouri grants a deferred payment holiday for the payment of parish and mission diocesan assessments until July 1, 2020; and it is further

Resolved, that the Trustees for the Corporation of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri authorizes the Bishop to make additional emergency grants as needed on a case by case basis to an individual parish or mission up to \$25,000, and up to \$200,000 in the aggregate for all parishes and missions. Funds for grants shall come from unrestricted accounts of COEDMO. Such emergency grants shall be requested by the parish priest and senior warden and approved in consultation with the Bishop, Executive Director of Finance & Administration and/or the Diocesan Treasurer.

Other business: Bishop Smith said that he was in receipt of a letter from Church Pension Fund stating that CPG was deferring pension assessments as a way to decrease the financial stress on parishes. Also, the Church Medical Trust has sent out notification that they are waiving all co-pays for the testing and treatment of COVID-19.

Bishop Smith has been in touch with Bishop Ousley in the national office regarding the predicament of being in-between Bishops with ordinations/consecrations cancelled and bishops retiring and not being allowed to cover episcopal tasks. Bishop Smith has offered to do it pro-bono but even that is not allowed under pension regulations. Bishop Ousley will be speaking with CPG as there are several dioceses that are in this situation.

Meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m.