



*Diocese of Missouri*  
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**Meeting of the  
Trustees of the Corporation of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri**

**Meeting as Diocesan Council  
Meeting Via Zoom Video Conference  
St. Louis, MO  
April 4, 2020**

**Members present and absent:**

**Chair:** The Rt. Rev. George Wayne Smith

**Present:**

Tom Allen, Lynette Ballard, Angela Breeher, the Rev. Emily Hillquist-Davis, Scott Ferguson, the Rev. Marvin Foltz, the Rev. Pat Glenn, George Hartsfield, the Rev. Jenny Hulen, Sondra Kekec, Holly Maffitt, Chris Sturgeon, Janet Thompson, Elizabeth Yount

**Ex-officio:**

Thomas Hedrick, Treasurer

**Staff:**

Desiree Brattin, Executive Director of Finance and Administration  
The Rev. Doris Westfall, Interim Canon to the Ordinary  
Bishop-Elect Deon Johnson

With a quorum present, Bishop Smith called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and opened the meeting with prayer.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Approval of the February 15th Diocesan Council meeting: Motion to accept minutes as presented made and seconded. Approved and so ordered

Approval of Minutes for the March 25th Diocesan Council meeting: Presented with no objection and accepted by acclamation.

**Bishop's Report:**

Bishop Smith reported on his conversations with the Church Pension Group and the Rt. Rev. Ousley regarding what is allowed under pension rules for Bishop Smith to continue to supply ecclesiastical oversight in the interim time between his retirement on April 30 and the time of Bishop-Elect Johnson's ordination on June 13th. Bishop Smith is not allowed to work contractually on a needed task basis and he was also originally not allowed to do so pro-bono. It has now been determined that as this is an extraordinary time in the life of the church, He will be allowed to exercise ecclesiastical authority on behalf of the Standing Committee. There are five areas that a Bishop must attend to: anything to do with the ordination process, receiving and sending Letters Dimissory, Title IV proceedings, dispensing of marital judgements, and any liturgical actions reserved for a Bishop i.e. confirmations and ordinations. All other business and tasks will be undertaken by Bishop-elect Johnson. There is substantial consultation between Bishop Smith and Bishop-elect Johnson on all matters.

Bishop Smith reported on the two models for Bishop-elect Johnson's ordination: The first model allows for between 40-50 people to be in attendance and the second model allows for the minimal amount of people needed which is 8-10. On Friday, April 3, there was a conference call with Mark Stevenson, Bishop Curry's Canon, relating to Bishop-Elect Deon's ordination. A hard date of June 13th is set and at this time Presiding Bishop Curry does intend to be present. At this time it has not been decided which model will be used for Bishop-Elect Deon's ordination.

Bishop Smith reported that he continues to meet via Zoom with diocesan clergy on Wednesday afternoons. Clergy continue to seek clarity and direction in this difficult time. Public worship is suspended until May 31. Clergy have been directed not to live-stream in their buildings. An invitation to the Cathedral Holy Week services was sent out to the Diocese. Bishop Smith, Bishop-Elect Deon, and Dean Kathi Adams-Shepherd are taking turns preaching and presiding.

The question was raised concerning "drive-by" services and communion. Bishop Smith said that he has not and does not anticipate giving permission for such services. He does not see how they are innately superior to what is being done now and he believes such services still present too much of a risk for participants. He is also concerned that we may be unintentionally normalizing things regarding worship that we don't want to normalize.

Bishop Smith also reported that he and Debbie learned last Friday morning that Debbie's father, Tony, had died. They are not in need of anything and the family will gather at a later date to celebrate his life.

Bishop-Elect Deon reported that the Transition Committee has shifted focus and celebrations for his ordination and of Bishop Smith's celebration of ministry will be planned for sometime this fall.

### **Church Assistance Endowment Fund:**

Desiree Brattin reported that applications were sent to churches on March 1 with a submission deadline of April 15. Given the pressures on the congregations at this time, Ms. Brattin recommends that the timeline be changed and that the deadline now be July 15 with approvals being made at the September Diocesan Council meeting. A motion was made and seconded that the deadline for the Church Assistance Fund applications be extended to July 15th. This was approved unanimously and so ordered.

There were questions regarding a church having an urgent need before these dates and whether requests could be used for work already undertaken. Under normal circumstances the grant provisions do not provide for work begun earlier than grant request approval. A motion was made to waive this requirement with the added provision that this will not apply to work begun before today's date of April 4th, and that funds are not guaranteed for work begun earlier than approval is granted. This motion was seconded, passed unanimously, and so ordered.

A motion was made to appoint a committee to review applications for Church Assistance Grants by mid-August and report back to the Council meeting in September. Bishop Smith asked Scott Ferguson, Sondra Kekec, and Pat Glenn if they would be willing to serve on this committee. All gave agreement to serve. The motion was moved, seconded, passed unanimously and so ordered. Sondra will convene the committee.

#### **Aged and Infirm Clergy Fund Requests:**

The following Aged and Infirm Clergy Fund requests were presented. All requests had been reviewed by Bishop Smith. A motion was made, and seconded to approve these requests. The motion was passed unanimously and so ordered.

**RESOLVED**, that the Corporation of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri does hereby confirm and approve the following corporate action of COEDMO: that a grant in the amount of \$594.50 be awarded from the Aged & Infirm Clergy Fund to assist a clergyperson with out of pocket dental expenses.

**RESOLVED**, that the Corporation of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri does hereby confirm and approve the following corporate action of COEDMO: that a grant in the amount of \$388.30 be awarded from the Aged & Infirm Clergy Fund to assist a clergyperson with out of pocket medical expenses.

**RESOLVED**, that the Corporation of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri does hereby confirm and approve the following corporate action of COEDMO: that a grant in the amount of \$3,848.16 be awarded from the Aged & Infirm Clergy Fund to assist a clergyperson with out of pocket medical insurance expenses.

#### **Banking Resolution:**

The following resolution was presented by Desiree Brattin to add Bishop-Elect Johnson as a signer on the COEDMO bank accounts and to remove Bishop Smith. The motion was made, seconded, approved unanimously and so ordered.

**RESOLVED**, that Midwest BankCentre is hereby designated as a depository of this Corporation and funds shall be subject to withdrawal from time to time upon checks signed in behalf of the Corporation by the following individuals on the following accounts:

1. Corporation of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri

Operating Account (2 signers required)

Authorized Signers:

Deon K. Johnson

Doris Westfall

Desiree A. Brattin

Thomas Hedrick

Harold R. Burroughs

2. Corporation of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri

White Fund Loan Account

Authorized Signers:

Deon K. Johnson

Doris Westfall

Desiree A. Brattin

Thomas Hedrick

Harold R. Burroughs

3. Corporation of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri

Bishop's Trust Funds Account

Authorized Signers:

Deon K. Johnson

OR

Two (2) signatures required from among the following:

Doris Westfall

Desiree A. Brattin

Thomas Hedrick

Harold R. Burroughs

4. Corporation of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri

Bishop's Discretionary Account (one signature required)

Authorized Signers: Deon K. Johnson

**RESOLVED FURTHER THAT** George W. Smith be removed as a signer on all listed accounts held with Midwest BankCentre.

**RESOLVED FURTHER THAT** the above resolutions be communicated to the said Bank and remain in force until the same is cancelled or modified by the Corporation of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri.

**Corporate Officer Resolution:**

The following resolution was made to add Bishop-Elect Deon Johnson as a Vice President of the Corporation of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri (COEDMO). The resolution was moved, seconded, passed unanimously and so ordered. Bishop-Elect Deon will cease being a Vice President automatically and become President upon his ordination as Bishop Diocesan.

**RESOLVED**, that the trustees of the Corporation of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri hereby appoint Deon K. Johnson as a Vice President of COEDMO with the associated rights and responsibilities of said office.

**Financial Report:**

Tom Hedrick gave the financial report stating that the March financials showed receipts from the parishes /missions to be down approximately \$72,000. This was directly correlated with the reduction in operations showing a decrease of \$66,000. Mr. Hedrick reported that no one knows what will happen given the uncertainty of this time. Suspending parish/mission assessments until July will reduce receipts by \$100,000 per month for three months and the Emergency Grants will further reduce unrestricted funds by \$200,000. It is very likely the Diocese will see a \$500,000 swing in operating cash. There may be some reduced expenses given the cancellation of events and postponement of some ministries, but overall it will be a bumpy financial ride for at least the next three months if not until the end of the year. \$500,000 in bonds were liquidated earlier in March, and he believes we are well positioned for the unexpected as the balance sheets are strong.

Desiree Brattin has sent out a one-page application for the Emergency Grants made by the Diocese. One request had been received by the time of this meeting. Given that approximately one-third of the parishes and missions are in financial distress, the review for these grants need to be judicious. It is the expectation that these funds will first go to the distressed parishes rather than the parishes that have assets and endowments from which to draw.

Much work has been done in fielding calls and getting information on the CARES Act to the parishes. The CARES Act was recently approved by Congress, and has the Payroll Protection Program which allows loans to nonprofits and churches for payroll and associated costs. The loans may convert into grants if all staff members are kept on the payroll and loan funds are used for approved purposes. It was decided that due to the difficulty the Diocese would have in obtaining the needed information from all of the missions in a timely way, the Diocese would forego applying for funds this round but might reconsider should there be another round of funding and applications allowed. Parishes, however, may apply individually for the loan funds. Missions cannot apply for the CARES Act as they fall under COEDMO.

There was a question of whether the Diocese could offer consultative help in applying for the funds. Tom Hedrick said he would help where he could. Also, regarding the requirement that the Standing Committee needs to approve any encumbrances or loan requests; as long as the loan amount is not more than 20% of the operating budget of a church, Standing Committee approval is not required.

The question was asked of whether the CARES Act loans serve the same purpose as the Diocesan Emergency Grants. The answer was yes, but the Diocesan Emergency Grants have less restrictions and paperwork required. This is also why the Diocese is looking more at the financially distressed parishes with little to no assets and to the missions that do not qualify for the CARES loans. A separate communication to this effect will be sent to the missions.

The Diocesan Emergency Grants are on a first come, first served basis.

### **Convocation Reports:**

Kemper: No report

Metro II: No Report

Metro III: Last meeting held in February. Minutes submitted to Tracy Grigsby

Metro IV: President and Vice President elected at last meeting

West: Last meeting was in November 2019

South: Met in February. No elected official to Council. They will need to meet in regular session and elect someone.

### **Other Business:**

No other came before the Council

### **Open Question Time:**

No questions came before Council

### **Adjourned:**

Meeting adjourned by Bishop Smith at 10:27 a.m.