



TRUSTEES OF THE CORPORATION OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MISSOURI
Meeting as
DIOCESAN COUNCIL
Meeting via Zoom Conference
December 18, 2021

The December 18, 2021 meeting of the Diocesan Council was called to order at 9:06 a.m.

Bishop Deon led the opening prayer with assistance from The Rev. Bill Nesbit and The Rev. Amy Fallon.

Roll Call

Present: The Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson, Mrs. Lynette Ballard, Mrs. Angela Breeher, The Rev. Amy Fallon, Mr. Brooke Forsyth, Mr. William Haggerty, The Rev. Todd McDowell, The Rev. William Nesbit, Mrs. Annette Webb, Mrs. Elizabeth Yount.

Ex-Officio – Mr. Al Ludwig

Staff – Canon Desirée Brattin, Ms. Sue Rehkopf

Absent –Mr. George Hartsfield, The Rev. Harry Leip, Mr. Andrew Blyer, Mr. Hal Burroughs, The Rev. Pamela Sturke, The Rev. Canon Doris Westfall

Minutes of October 16, 2021 meeting were approved as written.

Financial Report – Al Ludwig

Al Ludwig reviewed the financial reports that had been distributed earlier.

Receipts from Parishes and Missions are running ahead of commitments for the year. It's expected that all will meet their commitments. Moreover, Emmanuel, Webster Groves announced that it plans to pay their full assessment which is \$30,000 more than their commitment. This will put us \$30,000 ahead if all the commitments come in for the year.

We are projecting a year-end surplus of between \$300,000 and \$350,000. The lion's share of this is the forgiveness of the SBA Payroll Protection Loan. There are other items that contribute to this; for example, Property Management which was over-budget, and Campus Ministry which was under-budget, as well as other reduced activities for the year, mainly attributable to COVID.

Aged & Infirm Clergy Fund Resolutions – Bishop Deon

Desiree Brattin presented the following resolutions:

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 \$2,121.00 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 \$1,601.43 be awarded from the Aged & Infirm Clergy Fund to assist a clergyperson with out of pocket medical expenses.

Both resolutions were moved, seconded and approved unanimously.

Fund balance as of 10/31/2021: \$2,207,800

Established in 1870 and derived from offerings and gifts. This Fund is to be used for the relief of Clergy canonically resident in the Diocese disabled by age, disease, or otherwise, and of the surviving spouse and children of Clergy. Per Diocesan Canon, the Trustees of COEDMO shall receive, consider and grant or deny applications for relief.

2022 Housing Resolutions – Bishop Deon

Desiree Brattin presented the following resolutions regarding housing allowances for clergy employed by the Diocese.

RESOLVED, that of the total annual compensation to be paid to the Rt. Rev. Deon Johnson in **2022** by the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri, \$55,000 be designated a housing allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the IRS CODE of 1986; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the designation of \$55,000 as a housing allowance shall apply to calendar year 2022 and all future years unless otherwise provided.

RESOLVED, that of the total annual compensation to be paid to the Rev. Michaelene Miller in **2022** by the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri, \$17,000 be designated a housing allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the IRS CODE of 1986; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the designation of \$17,000 as a housing allowance shall apply to calendar year 2022 and all future years unless otherwise provided.

RESOLVED, that of the total annual compensation to be paid to the Rev. Whitney Rice in **2022** by the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri, \$33,000 be designated a housing allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the IRS CODE of 1986; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the designation of \$33,000 as a housing allowance shall apply to calendar year 2022 and all future years unless otherwise provided.

RESOLVED, that of the total annual compensation to be paid to the Rev. Doris Westfall in **2022** by the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri, \$50,000 be designated a housing allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the IRS CODE of 1986; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the designation of \$50,000 as a housing allowance shall apply to calendar year 2022 and all future years unless otherwise provided.

RESOLVED, that of the total annual compensation to be paid to the Rev. Hope Welles Jernagan in **2022** by the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri, \$35,449 be designated a housing allowance within the meaning of that term as used in Section 107 of the IRS CODE of 1986; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the designation of \$35,449 as a housing allowance shall apply to calendar year 2022 and all future years unless otherwise provided.

The 2022 Housing Resolutions for clergy serving on the Diocesan Office staff were moved, seconded and approved unanimously.

Election of Diocesan Investment Trust Trustees Resolution – Bishop Deon

Desiree Brattin presented the following resolution regarding the election of trustees for the Diocesan Investment Trust:

RESOLVED, that the Trustees of the Corporation of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri (COEDMO), in their regular meeting on the 18th day of December, 2021, do hereby elect Ronald Webb to serve an initial 2-year term, and Jim Perch and Kathleen Sherby to serve two-year terms as co-Trustees of the Diocesan Investment Trust.

On November 4, 2021, the board members of the Diocesan Investment Trust nominated Ronald Webb to serve an initial two-year term, Jim Perch to serve a second two-year term, and Kathleen Sherby to serve a third and final two-year term. Per the DIT Trust document “the Trustees then serving shall nominate, and the Diocesan Council shall elect, two or three Qualified Individuals (or such other number of Qualified Individuals) as is necessary to fill any vacancies to serve for a two-year term as a co-Trustee.”

Approval of the resolution was moved by Brooke Forsyth, and seconded by Bill Haggerty. There was no discussion and the resolution was approved.

Bishop’s Report

Bishop Deon reported on his recent visitations to St. Mark’s Church, St. Louis; St. Martin’s Church, Ellisville; and Christ Church, Rolla. He reported that 100% of the Diocese is back to having in-person worship.

Episcopal Actions have included the Celebration of a New Ministry at St. Stephen’s, Ferguson. The Rev. Erika Essiem is the new Priest-in-Charge.

Diocesan Convention - Bishop Deon reviewed the 182nd Convention of the Diocese. He talked about the re-introduction of the Bishop’s Medals, and the individuals, the program and the mission that received them. Convention celebrated the ending of the Episcopal School for Ministry and the graduation of the final 3 students. He reviewed other actions taken by Convention, including the reparations resolution. He expressed

his gratitude for everyone's patience with some of the technical difficulties we experienced. We have gotten really good responses from the surveys

New Initiatives that came out of Convention include:

Requiem or Renaissance which will be introduced in about a month. It is an invitation to all congregations receiving financial aid, along with some congregations not receiving financial aid who have opted to be part of this program. The intention is for some of our congregations to be resourced into where and what they could be going forward, to looking to a requiem to say thanks for the ministry that has been there and look at what comes next. Or a renaissance which is intended to be a redeveloping or a restart. Eighteen congregations will be participating. The first nine begin in January 2022 and the second in June 2022. This is an 18 month program. Once Requiem or Renaissance 1.0 is complete, we will learn from it and refine it, and then offer it to the whole diocese.

New Missioners have been selected for specialized work in the Diocese:

The Rev. Shug Goodlow for Racial Reconciliation & Justice, The Rev. Leslie Scoopmier for Indigenous Ministry Engagement, The Rev. Valori Scherer for Latino Ministry Engagement, The Rev. Barbi Click for Jubilee Ministry, Parker Williams for Creation Care and Stewardship and The Rev. Annette Joseph for Rural Ministry.

Gathering Space

The Rev. Andrew Archie and Betty Bowersox have agreed to co-chair a feasibility taskforce on a possible gathering space. The taskforce will report back to the 183rd Convention about what type of a gathering space, if we need one, is most feasible. We have no camping or retreat space. Their job will be determining what type of space we need and what could it look like. Environmental stewardship is a big part of this. One thing he has asked them to look at is how we might have both an urban and a rural space.

Questions for the Bishop:

Brooke Forsythe asked if Requiem or Renaissance is unique or if this is a National Church program. The Bishop replied that this is unique to this Diocese. It is a program that he and Canon Whitney came up with so there is a framework for hard conversations with congregations.

Diocesan Council Standing Teams Reports:

- Stewardship [Grants, Budget & Finance] – The Rev. Bill Nesbit thanked Al Ludwig and Desiree for their great work on the budget. The grant work is complete.
- Vital Communities – Annette Webb reported that there are only two remaining members of the Team so they need new members. Angela Breeher added that Canon Whitney indicated that they will be shifting the Team's focus to Requiem or Renaissance.
- Property & Facilities – The Rev. Todd McDowell reported that there was no report from Kuhn Construction Company since the September report. The Bishop added that they are finishing up a year-end report. A couple more churches have been surveyed. We will be going back to Standing Committee to ask for more funding. We have gone through the original \$15,000. We are finding more significant issues with several of our buildings. In response to a question from Bill Nesbit, the

Bishop explained that Kuhn Construction Company would notify the congregation when their survey was to be scheduled.

Other Business

The Rev. Todd McDowell asked for clarification regarding term endings with the new Convocations. Bishop Deon explained that terms end at year-end, but since new Convocation members may not be elected until January or February, if the need arose for Council to handle necessary business, the current Council could be called on to hold another meeting.

The Rev. Bill Nesbit asked if members representing the new convocational structure would be elected for staggered terms at this first election. The Bishop said yes, and there would be four conveners who would be reaching out to the convocations after the first of the year.

Angela Breeher asked where we are with initiatives of Strategic Visioning. The Bishop reported that some of the work is already beginning. Mission and Ministry came out of Strategic Visioning. This group will be looking at the initiatives and make sure that they are being implemented, and sharing that with Council so Council will continue to play a role in how the Strategic Vision is lived out. The new Convocation structure came out of Strategic Visioning. The feasibility study for Gathering Space is another. Two initiatives that may come to Council in the new year are a consultant for buildings and a consultant for youth and young adult ministry. Next year will be a foundational year for what came out of Strategic Visioning.

The Rev. Amy Fallon asked about settling Afghan refugees. The Bishop suggested that she might reach out to Barbi Click

Convocation Reports:

- Kemper – no report
- Metro II – no report
- Metro III – did not meet
- Metro IV – no report
- West: Written report submitted (November 2, 2021)
- South – no report

Open Question/Comment Time

The Rev. Amy Fallon asked if there will be a new prayer cycle with our new Companion Diocese. The Bishop said yes, but it will be done a bit differently this year. Puerto Rico has more churches and other ministries but less people than Missouri...we have fewer congregations, but more people. There is a miss-match, so we will be doing the new prayer cycle on a quarterly basis instead of annually, and they will be distributed quarterly.

Annette Webb recommended viewing "Finding Joy in Troubled Times" with Bishop Tutu and the Dalai Lama. Calvary, Columbia had a viewing with 31 people and they have requests for two more viewings. She strongly recommends it, as does the Bishop.

Adjournment – Angela Breeher moved that the meeting be adjourned. Bill Haggerty seconded the motion and the motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 9:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Rehkopf, substitute clerk