

Vision Statement: A world healed by love

DIOCESAN BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 13, 2022 – [Zoom](#)

12:00 Noon – Board Meeting

Opening Prayer by Rev. Paul Frolick

Attendance: Bishop DeDe Duncan-Probe, Canon Carrie Schofield-Broadbent, Canon Tom Ferguson, Rev. John Rohde, Rev. Molly Payne-Hardin, Ave Bauder, Dan Kenney, Jane Gendron, Martha Berry, Rev. Becky Drebert, Cathy Hobart, Sarah Alamond, Rev. Paul Frolick, Henry Wakefield (Property chair), Rev. Dawn-Victoria Mitchell (Standing Committee rep)

Introductions for new members

Consent Agenda

- [Minutes of September 20, 2022 meeting](#)

Motion to approve the consent agenda - Dan moves, Molly seconded. No discussion all in favor, none opposed.

- Motion via email: Moved by Steve White, seconded by Paul Frolick, the Diocese Board approves the recommendation of the Finance Committee to pursue opening an account for Treasury Bills with Alesco Advisors and moving \$558,867.49 from NBT Savings into Treasury Bills. Approved unanimously by email 10/6/22.

Reports and related Action Items

- Bishop's Report
 - A lot happening and we're really excited. We have challenges but also the opportunity to grow in new ways.
 - Pilgrimage to Alabama - the beginning and continuation of a movement. An opportunity to learn in person, but also learn at home and connect the work of racial justice and reconciliation, and to connect it with the community around us.
 - Worship Service for Harriet Tubman - March 10th - similar structure to Convention 2022
 - 2023 is 425th anniversary of the signing of the Doctrine of Discovery.
 - Presiding Bishop Visit on December 1 and 2, 2023:
 - Sacred ground group, revival, youth gathering.
 - Planning has started.
 - Episcopal Youth Event is happening in July 2023. Canon Tom is working to gather youth for this event. Hoping to connect the church with the colleges and universities in this area

- o Bishop asked to co-chair the Building Community across Differences committee
 - Making it clear TEC will not tolerate dehumanization
 - This ministry work around justice and humanity and honoring the dignity of every human being often brings safety issues
 - We need to have discussions about safety. We need to pay attention to our surroundings.
 - Please inform the diocese of things that are happening in this realm around the diocese
 - Tom and Michael Hardin have worked on safety issues previously, and are currently tasked with going deeper with safety in the coming year.
- o In the last 6 years we have had many parishes close, and now is a time to dream new dreams.
 - Micron is coming into town and we need to consider planting a church in the area around Clay, NY.
 - We would like this to be a church that is a place that younger parishioners would be attracted to, and would want to seek Jesus.
- o Joe Hannah will be ordained on Saturday, 12/17. Joe will be serving as Deacon at Church of the Saviour in Syracuse during his diaconal period.
- [Property and Foundation Report, Brownville Roofing Proposal](#) - Henry Wakefield
 - o A lot going on with Property.
 - St. Paul's, Brownville - letter from the village with a concern about the condition of the building. They had a list of items that they thought were there, and Henry inspected and found that some are not real issues.
 - Roof does need to be replaced. Quote has been received for a metal roof. Approval needed by board
 - We are trying to do a survey to separate the rectory from the church so we can split and sell appropriately.

Motion to approve quote on St. Paul's Brownville for \$34,000, Ave moved motion, Becky seconded. No discussion, All in favor, none opposed.

Motion made on previous motion that the funds for the Brownville roof be taken from Property fund. Dan moved, seconded by Ave. Any questions, All in favor. Motion approved.

- Pierrepont Manor - waiting on survey and cemetery issued
 - Former parishioner with ties to the church would like to open the church. He is ordained, but denomination unknown. He requested permission to ring the bell on Christmas Eve. They have been told no.
- Grace, Willowdale - parishioner suggested switching building to propane to prevent oil spills
- Grace, Mexico - waiting to go up there and look around

- St. George's Chadwicks, needs roof repair.
 - o Whitesboro has been approved for sale (Martha Berry)
- Financial - Cathy Hobart and Steve White
 - o Financial Statements: [August](#), [September](#), [October](#)
 - Biggest things out of these reports is unrealized losses on investments for August and Sept, but unrealized gain in Oct.
 - 2023 budget will be affected by investments, approx. \$3K
 - Streaming equipment purchased by Diocese for Gathering Places, from Syracuse Technologies
 - One parish has reduced pledge to zero, showing a \$9K loss in budget.
 - o [Change bank signatories](#)
- We need to replace Rev. Meredith Sanderson as a signatory as she has left the diocese.
- Motion to replace Meredith with Doug Mouncey, John Rohde moves, Molly Seconds.
No discussion, All in favor
 - o [Housing Resolution](#)

Motion to accept housing resolution. Molly moves, Ave seconds. No discussion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion approved.

- Chancellor's Report - Martha Berry and Jonathan Fellows
 - o [Request to terminate Covenant for Christ Church, Sackets Harbor](#)
 - o Martha: Sackets Harbor was sold to the historical society and they have now gotten a NYS Parks and Rec grant. The attorney has to approve a grant through HS. We retained the right to conduct services at the church. The Attorney General has refused to approve the grant, unless we remove the clause giving us the right to have services. The grant will allow the building to be maintained, if we can approve that it be withdrawn.
 - Chancellors recommend approval

Motion to terminate the Covenant for Christ Church, Sackets Harbor. Molly moves, Dan seconds. No discussion, all in favor, motion approved.

- o No updates on the child victims act lawsuits.
- Updates on closing processes - Grace, Willowdale (Dan) and Grace, Mexico (Molly)
 - o Grace, Willowdale: All good. No updates. Henry covered all in property.
 - o Grace, Mexico: A few items that may be wanted by other parishes in the diocese. Now in the property phase. Keys were handed over to Henry.

Continuing Business

- [Letter sent to United Ministry of Aurora](#)
 - o Have not received anything from Aurora about meeting with Carrie or Paul.
- [Revised Audit Policy for Congregations](#)
 - o Dan and Cathy working on Audit Policy

- At least one trained person (by the diocese) on each parish audit team
 - Drafting a new policy for the board to consider at a future meeting.
- Safe Church Training Policy
 - Paul is working with Kathy Dengler and will have more information at the January meeting.

New Business

- [Funding Action Requests](#)
 - 3 requests:
 - We found \$22,700 unspent out of this year's budget for Ministry grants
 - Would board consider designating \$10K towards the cost of the 2023 pilgrimage? Expecting 25-30 people to attend with the cost of \$1500-\$2K per person
 - We don't want to replicate injustice by offering it to only people who can afford to go. We want it truly open to all without financial obstacles.
 - Re-purpose the funding of the gathering places tech equipment and move it to coming from the extra funds

Motion to move \$10,000 from the 2022 ministry grants to the pilgrimage and \$6061.50. Dan Kenny moved and Molly Payne-Hardin seconded.

- We received a check for \$145,000 from Decker Trust, from Church of the Saviour. Saviour is a Chapel, so should we put funds in an account in UIF and send the benefit of the investment to the Church of the Saviour.
**Put off until January meeting.*
- Diocesan auditor has failed to complete the 2021 audit, despite our information being in to them since May of 2022. No response, lots of excuses. Would the board like to send the 2022 and 2021 audit out for bid?

Motion to Put the 2021 and 2022 audits out to bid to find a new auditor. Becky moves, Dawn-Victoria seconds. No discussion. All in favor. Motion Carries

- [Supply Clergy Cost Assistance](#)
 - A mechanism to award funding that was approved by Convention for the 2023 budget.
- [Community Solar Proposals, explanation](#)
 - Paul ran the first one by Kip Coerper of the Creation Care Committee
 - Kip suggested that we have the company do a presentation for the board.
 - Board:
 - Will this affect anyone who's already signed up with another company?

- Good deal from environmental standpoint
 - If we can save \$, great!
 - Follow-up to questions raised at Diocesan Convention re: Clergy Compensation
- Question Burst:
- Deconsecrations of closed churches: Zion, Pierrepont Manor; St. Paul's, Brownville; St. George's, Chadwicks; Grace, Mexico; Grace, Willowdale
 - Buildings have not been deconsecrated as of yet. Should we wait, or automatically move to do that?
 - Bishop - give it a pause. Buildings might have a new calling, and there needs to be some intentional discernment around how we could dream new dreams with some of these resources / buildings. Curious if there may be some other unique ministries that can allow for these buildings to be repurposed.
 - Need a discernment team for this?

[Meeting Dates and Times 2023](#)

Bishop closed with blessing at 1:27pm.