

*Vision Statement: A world healed by love*

## **DIOCESAN BOARD AGENDA**

**January 24, 2023 – [Zoom](#)**

**12:00 Noon – Board Meeting**

**Opening Prayer - The Rev. Molly Payne-Hardin**

**Attendance: Bishop DeDe Duncan - Probe, Rev. Paul Frolick, Rev. Molly Payne-Hardin, Dan Kenney, Jane Gendron, Sarah Alamond (secretary), Johnathan Fellowes, Esq (co-Chancellor), Rev. Rebecca Drebert, Rev. Canon Tom Ferguson, Cathy Hobart, Henry Wakefield (Property), Rev. Dawn-Victoria Mitchell (SC rep)**

**Not in Attendance: Rev. John Rohde, Ave Bauder, Martha Berry, Esq. (co-Chancellor)**

### **Consent Agenda**

- [December Meeting Minutes](#)
- [Grace, Willowdale convert to propane](#) - electronic vote completed 1/11/23

**Motion to approve Consent agenda: Dan Kenney moves, Molly Payne-Hardin seconds. No discussion. All in favor. Motion approved.**

### **Reports and related Action Items**

- Bishop's Report - See [joint minutes](#)
- [Property Report](#) - Henry Wakefield
  - o Propane tank going in at Grace, Willowdale
  - o Brownville progress with renter being purchased - still waiting on survey
- [Financial](#) - Cathy Hobart and Steve White
  - o On track to have a surplus or break even
  - o Repairs of properties are starting to add up.
  - o Investments up in November, down in December
  - o For 2023 - 54% of pledge assessments have come in
    - 2 parishes requesting pledge assessment decreases
  - o No parishes have requested assistance for supply clergy costs
  - o We sent out 6 requests for proposals for auditors, for dio 2021 and future audits. Waiting to hear back.
- Chancellor's Report - Martha Berry and Jonathan Fellowes
  - o Jonathan:
    - We have tendered a check from Decker Trust liquidation.

- There was a question about what should be done with the funds.
  - Should the funds be put into a Church of the Saviour investment account, to assist them, as they are not legally incorporated.
  - We finally closed the real estate deal with Whitesboro.
  - State is slow to approve transfer with Trinity, Elmira. Still waiting.
  - Child Victims Act Lawsuits
    - Moving slowly through the discovery process
- Updates on closing processes - Grace, Willowdale (Dan) and Grace, Mexico (Molly)
  - Dan Kenney -
    - Need to follow up on getting accounts transferred over to the diocese.
  - Molly Payne-Hardin -
    - Closure account documents have come through
    - Archival documents need to go to Dio archivist
    - Henry has started the property closure to-do list.

### **Continuing Business**

- [Revised Audit Policy for Congregations](#)
  - The team has been working diligently to revise the audit program.
  - Based on conversations and after having worked through the checklist, we drafted a policy that we think is reasonable and we commend the board to consider.
  - Goal is to have at least one person involved in each audit process has experience and financial understanding of what is being worked on.
  - Removes CPA requirement, except in years where there is a change in rector.

Motion to approve the audit policy as presented. Dawn-Victoria moves, Molly seconds. No discussion. All in favor. Motion approved.

- [Safe Church Certification](#)
  - Goal: To remind their congregations of the already existing requirement of protecting their parishioners

- Safe Church Training in person program is still on hold with no idea of when it will end. Best bet is to forge ahead with the training available now, online

Motion to approve the Safe Church Certification reminder is moved by Molly Payne-Hardin, seconded by Dan Kenney. No discussion. All in favor. Motion approved.

- [Community Solar Proposals, explanation](#)
  - Holding off... a meeting later this week.
- Follow-up to questions raised at Diocesan Convention re: Clergy Compensation
- Cemetery Plots at Trinity, Elmira

### New Business

- [St. Mark's, Chenango Bridge, Assessment Adjustment Request](#)
  - Dawn-Victoria (rector of St. Mark's)
    - Pandemic has taken its toll with membership and finances, and the parish is finding it difficult financially.

Motion to approve the assessment adjustment of St. Mark's, Chenango Bridge. Dan Kenney moves, Molly Payne-Hardin seconds, Discussion: How much is adjustment? \$8,825.10. All in favor. Motion approved.

- Approval of donation of pipe organ at St. George's, Chadwicks to St. Paul's, Franklin  
Motion to approve the donation of the pipe organ. Dan
- [Approval of water remediation at Trinity, Elmira](#)

Motion to approve the water remediation at Trinity, Elmira. Molly moves, Jane Gendron Seconds. All in favor. No discussion. Motion approved.

- A check in the amount of \$145,584.86 has been received representing the share of Church of the Saviour in the final distribution of the Decker Trust. Church of the Saviour is unincorporated. Suggestion that these funds be placed in UIF for the benefit of Church of the Saviour, with the quarterly distributions sent to Church of the Saviour.

Motion to approve that the funds from the Decker Trust be placed in TIF for the benefit of Church of the Saviour. Dan Kenney moves, Dawn-Victoria seconds. All in favor, No discussion. Motion approved.

- Companion Diocese
  - The Bishop of Guatemala is interested in doing partner relationships with us. St. Matthias would like to have a relationship with a St. Matthew's parish in our diocese.
  - Whatever the partnership is going forward, it needs to not just be the bishops having a relationship. The people of the diocese need to be involved.
  - Possibility of doing CCD-like training in Guatemala? In El Salvador?
    - How do we have that next step?
  - What does it mean to be in a Companion Diocese Relationship?
    - For some, it's sending money
    - For some, it's more relational and involves doing ministry together.
    - How does it fit into our Vision, Mission, and Rule of Life in the diocese?

Haiti -

- Be careful sending money. Could put people in danger.
- Parishes with relationships with Haiti diocese should prayerfully consider pushing pause on your parish relationships with parishes. The clergy who receive money or goods are in danger, as are their families.

Bishop closed us in prayer at 12:19pm.

[Meeting Dates and Times 2023](#)