

Vision Statement: A world healed by love

DIOCESAN BOARD MINUTES

May 16, 2023 – [Zoom](#)

Board Meeting

Attendance:

Paul Frolick, Sarah Alamond, Becky Drebert, Dan Kenney, Dawn-Victoria Mitchell, Ave Bauder, Jane Gendron, Martha Berry, Esq., Jonathan Fellowes, Esq., Steve White, Molly Payne-Hardin, John Rohde, Cathy Hobart

Bishop DeDe Duncan-Probe - away on Sabbatical

11 am - Joint Meeting with the Standing Committee - Report from Cemeteries Committee - [see materials here](#)

11:30 am - Opening Prayer - The Rev. Becky Drebert

Consent Agenda

- Electronic Vote - [Trinity, Elmira Heating Repairs](#)
- Electronic Vote - Trinity, Elmira Cemetery Plots (3/29/23)
 - As Trinity, Elmira was going through their closing process, a plan was developed to distribute cemetery plots at Forest Lawn Memorial Park owned by the church. Some of the plots were to be given to parishioners for their use; the remainder were to be given back to Forest Lawn for the use by military veterans (and their spouses) with limited resources. Two of the transactions were completed before Trinity closed, but three remain uncompleted. **Resolution:** The Board approves the transfer of plot D-344 to Candace Scofield; the transfer of plot D-345 to Maureen Spaziani; and the transfer of plots A-374, A-375, B-393, B-395, and C-112 to Forest Lawn Memorial Park for the use by military veterans (and their spouses) with limited resources.
- Electronic Vote - Grace, Willowdale Cemetery Plots (3/29/23)
 - With the closing of Grace Willowdale Episcopal Church, the Willowdale cemetery is now owned by the Diocese. A former resident of the area is visiting and he has expressed an interest in purchasing some burial plots in the cemetery for use by family members. We are requesting that the Diocesan Board approve the sale of burial plots for \$450.00 per plot. The sale of these plots does not require Court approval as it does not involve

the sale of land. **Resolution:** The Board approves the sale of burial plots in the Willowdale cemetery for \$450.00 per plot to the former resident.

- [Minutes from February 28, 2023 Meeting](#)

Motion made to approve the Consent Agenda. Dan Kenney made a motion and Steve White seconded. All in favor, no discussion. Motion approved.

Reports and related Action Items

- Financial Reports- Cathy Hobart and Steve White
 - [December 2022 Financial Statements revised 4/27/23](#)
 - [January 2023 Financial Statements](#)
 - [February 2023 Financial Statements](#)
 - [March 2023 Financial Statements](#)

Motion to accept the financial reports. Motion made by Jane Gendron. Seconded by Molly Payne-Hardin. All in favor, no discussion. Motion carried.

- [Investment Review](#)
- [IPS Statements proposed revisions](#)

Motion to approve recommendation of revisions for Crypto Currency restrictions to the Long Term/Intermediate Term fund IPS and the new IPS for the Fixed Income Fund. Steve White made the motion, Molly Payne-Hardin seconded. All in favor, no discussion. Motion carried.

- [2024 Investment Spending Rates](#)

Motion to recommend keeping the Investment spending rates the same as 2023. Dawn-Victoria moves, Dan Kenney seconds. All in favor. No discussion. Motion passes.

- [Bank Signatory Change](#)

Motion to make changes to the bank signatories to add Doug Mouncey and remove Meredith Sanderson. Steve White moves the motion and Dan Kenney seconds. All in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Financial information / Cathy Hobart:

- Whitesboro sale completed in December
- Waverly investments transferred to Diocesan investments

- o Danible and Makee will be doing audit field work starting May 30th.

Chancellor's Report - Martha Berry and Jonathan Fellows:

Jonathan:

- All 5 Child Victims' Act cases are still in discovery
- Deposition completed of Mr. Brandt in the St. Anne's, Afton case with Ralph Johnson. Jonathan is trying to settle the case, but Church Insurance is having difficulty
- St. James', Skaneateles / Edward Putnam . Case 1: Victim 1 has been deposed, as has the Bishop. Waiting to depose victim 2.
- Boonville case / Albert Marshall who died 30 years ago. The victim's lawyer has not moved the case.
- St. Paul's Constableville / Albert Marshall: victim's lawyer has not moved the case at all. Nothing is happening.

Property sales: moving forward to get Trinity, Elmira closed. Waiting to hear back from the state on a covenant signed by Trinity a few years ago.

Martha:

For the Cemetery Committee Martha is requesting a motion for:

- 1) the approval of the formation of the "Diocesan Cemetery Committee" as an official subcommittee of the Diocesan Board
- 2) authorization for the Diocesan Cemetery Committee to sell burial plots and arrange for interments in Cemeteries, Memorial Gardens, etc. that become Diocesan property upon the closing of a parish and
- 3) approval of the forms for the sale of burial plots and interment arrangements as well as the "rules" associated with them once they are finalized with Rachel

Motion to approve the above requests regarding cemeteries from Marth Berry. Motion made by Molly Payne-Hardin, Seconded by Dan Kenney. All in favor, Questions below, Motion approved.

Question (Steve): Why are we not just closing the cemeteries and no longer selling plots?

Martha: If the board decides to do that, that's a possibility. It could raise money for the care of the cemetery, and we don't know how many plots have been sold already.

- [Recommendations for Ministry Grants](#)

Move to approve the recommendations for Ministry Grant approval. Moved by Dawn-Victoria Mitchell and seconded by Molly Payne-Hardin. Question to clarify amount. All in favor. None opposed.

- [Song book Grant Requests](#)

Normally this would be approved by the Bishop, but due to her sabbatical, we are asking for board approval.

Motion to approve Song Book requests. Moved by Dan Kenney, seconded by Ave Bauder. All in favor, No discussion., Motion carried.

- Updates on closing processes - Grace, Mexico (Molly)
 - Hope to have files from Grace to the archives by the end of the month.

Continuing Business

- Revised Audit Policy for Congregations
 - Beta Testing new checklist with St. James Clinton and hoping to offer training in June to invite people into the process.
- Safe Church Certification
 - After a lot of discussion, the accountability questionnaire will now be part of the audit process. Congregations will report back on both at the same time.
- Follow-up to questions raised at Diocesan Convention re: Clergy Compensation
 - Still working on this. Hope to have something in July

[Meeting Dates and Times 2023](#)