

Vision Statement: A world healed by love

DIOCESAN BOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 20, 2022 – Zoom

12:00 Noon – Board Meeting

Opening Prayer –

In attendance: Jill Morales (Standing Committee Liaison -Sub), Bishop DeDe Duncan-Probe, Canon Carrie Schofield-Broadbent, Canon Tom Ferguson, Chris Day, Cathy Hobart (controller), Paul Frolick, Sarah Alamond, John Rhode, Molly Payne-Hardin, Steve White, Dan Kenney, Martha Berry, Jonathan Fellows

Consent Agenda

- [Minutes from June 14th](#)

Motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Molly moves to approve the consent agenda, Chris seconds. All in favor. Motion Passed

Reports

- Financial: [May](#), [June](#), [July](#)
 - o Steve: nothing particular to bring up. Investments are up and down. Our controller, Cathy, is keeping us well supplied with the money we need to do the things God is calling us to do:
- Chancellor's Report:
 - o Martha:
 - Trinity Elmira:
 - Diocesan Constitution with amendments and proposed changes:
 - We are proposing that these be voted on at the Convention in November. We will regroup after the Convention. We have worked through the canons that need further work on them through various groups. We will work on revisions to canons, after the Convention. Constitution changes take 2 years to finalize.
 - Combine article 1 and 2.
 - Clarify that conventions can be conducted by electronic means if necessary.
 - Article 3 has a reference to "church army". Recommend changing. There is no church army.
 - Article 3, will become article 2. Lay delegates will be chosen by the governing body of the parish. *Add: "in a manner decided by the parish."*
 - Section 4 of article 3 - definition of a parish expanded
 - Trinity Elmira Cemetery Plots

- o Trinity was bequeathed 100 funeral plots many years ago, there are a lot still unused. A member of Trinity was looking to set aside some of those plots for indigent veterans who could not afford a resting place.
 - o Forest Lawn cemetery is willing to take back some plots, and hold them, and work with funeral directors to keep them for veterans, but the issue is that they are diocesan property.
 - o The Diocese should get approval to transfer those back, by Board, Standing Committee, and then the court would approve.
 - o In total, there are 6 plots with 4 burial sites in each.
- o Jonathan Fellows, Esq:
 - Defending child victims act cases. The Bishop did a great job at her deposition last week regarding her knowledge of those cases.
 - Also working on
- Updates on closing processes - Grace, Willowdale (Dan) and Grace, Mexico (Molly)
 - o Dan: working regularly with Willowdale on closing. They are working on the final service for 11/6 at 10am.
 - They have 3 separate properties. House, church, cemetery.
 - Tenants in the house have been there for 35 years.
 - Committee of people may be willing to care for the cemetery after closing. Will discuss further when it comes up.
 - o Molly: first meeting with Grace about a week ago.
 - They hope to move really quickly.
 - Documentation dated for October 9th or 16th - Molly will clarify
 - Property - none. No cemetery, parking lot, rectory, etc.
- [Revised Audit Policy for Congregations](#)
 - o Cathy: We are working now on creating a checklist for parishes to work through in order to perform the audit. We adapted the checklist from West Virginia and we are using input from CPA and other parishes.

New Business

- [Constitution with recommended amendments](#)
 - o Motion to approve the amendments moved. Chris Day, seconded by Dan. No discussion. All in favor.
- [Trinity, Elmira Cemetery Plots](#)
 - o **Motion to return cemetery plots to Forest Lawn Memorial moved by Steve, Chris seconds. No discussion. All in favor. Motion approved.**
 - o List of Plots: the plots for Trinity to transfer back to Forest Lawn Memorial are:
 - A-374
 - A-375
 - B-393

- B-394
 - B-395
 - C-112
 - Each plot consists of four burial sites.
- [Altheia N. Love bequest](#)
 - A fund was set up by Grace Church, which has since closed. The fund was to be used for Deacon Dorothy Pierce. She has retired and is no longer active in ministry. The board needs to decide what to do with the funds. The finance committee recommends that it be used for all active deacons and it be dispersed by the Bishop as needed, as she oversees all
 - Motion to approve made by Steve. Dan seconds. No discussion. All in favor. Motion approved.
- [Request for Audit Scholarship - St. Paul's, Chittenango](#)
 - Motion to approve audit scholarship Made by Steve, seconded by Chris. All in favor, motion approved.
- [Finance Committee Recommendation re: Lambeth & GC expenses](#)
 - Steve: Currently we are over budgeted in Lambeth and under budgeted for General Convention. We'd like to move funds from GC to Lambeth to make things balance.
 - Motion by Steve, second by Molly. No discussion. All in favor, none opposed. Motion approved.
- [Health Care Plan Resolution](#)
 - Chris: offering the same plans as offered in the past. There was a push from the Episcopal Medical Trust for us to use more Cigna products. We decided not to because BCBS met that need. This year the increase in cost is between 5-6%. The Standard plan is ideal for all to use, but others are offered.
 - Cathy: A question as to whether to recommend the prescription plan for the PPO100. Committee decided to recommend staying at the standard prescription plan. The deductible for the SP is increasing for 2023. The increase is going to be \$1500 individual / \$3000 family
 - Motion to approve this resolution. Chris moved, Steve seconded. No discussion. All in favor. Motion approved.
- [Supply Clergy Compensation Resolution](#)
 - Needs to be approved by the Board to be sent to convention in November.
 - Motion to approve resolution is moved by Chris Day, seconded by Dan Kenney. Discussion to clarify combined Saturday, Sunday payment. All in favor. Motion approved.
- [Clergy Compensation Resolution](#)
 - Chris: New numbers reflect 2023
 - Motion to approve resolution moved by Chris, seconded by Jill Morales. No discussion. All in favor. Motion approved.
- [Fall Ministry Grants Recommended Awards; PDF of Applications](#)
 - Paul: A good mix of grants. Tech, stocking food shelves, refugee resettlement, etc.

- Motion to approve moved by Paul Frolick. Chris Day seconds. No discussion. All in favor. Motion approved.
- United Ministry of Aurora
 - Steve: Is a reduction in assessment appropriate? We can wrestle with assessment, but we aren't sure what we are assessing since they are a Presbyterian / Episcopalian parish.
 - Bishop: even though they attend worship together and have for a long time, they don't consider themselves to be a combined parish. They are very clear that they are not all Episcopalians. So how do we assess?
 - General question: do we need to reevaluate how to proceed with them?
 - Finances and board are combined, but the parochial report references only that information from the Episcopalians.
 - Tom Ferguson: Previous role has given him experience with Presbyterian / Episcopalian parishes.
 - Cathy:
 - The assessment for 2021 is \$1,786.07; The assessment for 2022 is \$1,732.27.
 - 52 pledge cards; 2021 5 pledge cards. \$14,660 pledge in 2020; \$14,000 pledge in 2021 (zero pledges received)
 - 2020 they reported \$14,660 received on pledges; 2021 \$0 reported received on pledge
 - They have submitted a lay delegate certificate with 2 delegates and 2 alternates
 - Questions remain:
 - Do we forgive part of the assessment?
 - If we don't forgive, and they don't pay, they cannot have voice or vote at Convention
 - How do we proceed in recognizing Aurora?
 - How are they justifying forgiveness?
 - Motion to forgive the remaining assessment for 2021 moved by Paul, Dan seconds. All in favor. No discussion. Motion approved.
- Safe Church Training Policy
 - Creation of a Safe Church Training Policy
 - Bishop wants everyone to attend Safe Church Training. All leadership must be trained, and we would like a record of training attached to the parochial report.
 - The Diocese is serious about having documentation from all clergy and all leadership at each parish.
 - The Bishop would like the board to come up with a way to have the parishes report to the diocese.
 - The Bishop would like the diocesan standard for training to be Praesidium's Safe Church Training only.
 - We want complete clarity.

Bishop closed us with a blessing at 12:35.

Items under Committee Review/Consideration

- Vitality Markers

[Future Meeting Dates and Times 2022, 2023](#)