

Draft Vision Statement: A world healed by love

DIOCESAN BOARD
St. Matthew's, Liverpool – Tuesday, January 21, 2020
Joint Lunch with Standing Committee at 11:45 AM

Present:

The Rt. Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe	The Rev. Steve White
The Rev. Lisa Busby	Mr. Angie Smith
The Very Rev. Christine Day	The Rev. Jon White
Ms. Debra Barker	Ms. Cindy Adamowsky
Mr. Ronald Cole	

Others Present:

Ms. Martha Berry, Mr. Jonathan Fellows, Ms. Cathy Hobart, Mr. Henry Wakefield
Ms. Kathleen McDaniel

Excused: The Rev. Molly Payne-Hardin, Rev. Julie Calhoun-Bryant

Opening Prayer: Bishop DeDe

E-Messenger Notes: Ms. Cynthia Adamowsky

Visioning Check-In: Mr. Smith noted that most parishes were caught up in Christmas preparations and would, most likely, take up the VMRoL conversation in the coming weeks. Wednesday, May 20th is the date when several of the original Visioning Team will meet to finalize the draft.

Bishop's Time

The Title IV with the Rev. Szachara is moving forward; meeting on January 28th with the Reference Panel.

This has been a 'gut punch' to the Diocese and the people are responding well. There has not been rampant rumors or stories bantered about. The Bishop is still waiting to hear the need for repentance from the Rev. Szachara. The Rev. James Corl is doing a great job with the parish.

We are beginning to work out the specifics of the Presiding Bishop's time in the Diocese for this year's Convention. We need to make a connection with the wider community (via a revival?) as well as have good time with the Episcopal community of the Diocese.

Introductions: Mr. Henry Wakefield joined the Board as the VP of the Property Committee and Liaison to the Board. The Rev. Kevin Johnson, candidate for the new Canon position, was present for the beginning of the meeting. The Rev. Johnson gave a brief description of his life and ministry.

Reports

a. **Legal Issues** – Mr. Jonathan Fellows & Ms. Martha Berry

- Church of the Saviour, Syracuse: Decker Trust – settled! Ron Scacia has agreed to step aside as the trustee so this has been settled. Distributions from the trust are forthcoming,
Dissolution – The Court has signed a dissolution order for Church of the Savior. We are preparing a deed for the Vestry to transfer the property to the Diocese.
- Sackets Harbor: We are still awaiting a closing date from Mr. Curtin.
- Wellsburg: A judge has been assigned; Board has authorized a settlement.
- St. Paul's, Watertown: nonpayment of family and medical leave; it's in the pipeline and we should be hearing something soon.

b. **Property Committee/Property Issues** – Mr. Henry Wakefield

Last summer a conversation began which resulted in the Foundation being the new Property Committee. Mr. Theodore (Ted) Wolf is chair of the Prop. Com. Mr. Wolf and Mr. Wakefield are primary contacts. The first Foundation Board meeting isn't until April. Mr. Patrick Currier is remaining on the Prop. Committee.

Report on Zoom meeting:

- Grace Church, Willowdale: We are still waiting for names for the cemetery committee.
- St. Paul's, Paris Hill: Property report gave a list of billing charges which have been paid. Is there other work that needs to be done?
- Paris Hill cemetery: Members of the committee need to take a look.
- St. Mark's, Clark Mills: Purchase Offer in packet will be reviewed by Property Committee for recommendation to the Board. Does the Diocese want to hold a mortgage (five years at 4%)? Discussion.
 - Make sure they have enough insurance to cover the building if there is a major loss as well as liability for accidents even though they would be listed as the owner of the property. This would need to be a requirement of the sale.
 - The realtor reported that the sill plate was rotted and the roof was leaking in the former rectory. The new owners will remodel the house and rent it out and use the church building as an art gallery.

Mr. Smith moved to sell the property with the stipulation that the buyer carries sufficient insurance. Seconded by the Rev. Busby. Approved.

- St. John's, Whitesboro – Purchase Offer in packet will be reviewed by Property Committee for recommendation to the Board
 - The Utica Evangelical Church wants the Diocese to hold mortgage for 10 years. Their offer is close to the appraised value but we have to take down the house which was damaged in a fire last fall. We are still waiting to hear from the insurance company regarding environmental testing.
 - We need to straighten out the insurance claim so we can remove the building.

- A notice should be sent to the real estate agent that we are inclined to accept the offer but we are waiting for the insurance information before we take action on removing the house.
- c. **COM— No report**
- d. **Standing Committee**—Ms. Cynthia Adamowsky noted that the meeting was held this morning. Various bishop consents were approved. The Rev. Dcn. Shelly Banner took GOEs and the Committee will meet with her at their March meeting. One postulant will be slowing the process.
- e. **Finance Committee**—The Rev. Steve White (Report in packet)

The Rev. Day moved, and Mr. Smith seconded accepting November financial statements as presented. Approved.

- Ms. Meredith Kadet Sanderson needs to be appointed signatory in place of the Rev. Canon John Crosswaite.

Motion for approval of Ms. Kadet Sanderson as signatory of all diocesan accounts. Moved by the Rev. Day, seconded by the Rev. Busby. Approved.

- f. **Investment Committee**—Mr. Angie Smith (Not meeting until later in Jan.)
- g. **Ministry Support Committee**—Ms. Cathy Hobart (Report in packet)

The Committee is in need of a new chair and additional members. (Ms. Penny Dugas and the Rev. Crosswaite have both left the Committee). This is a committee of the Board. The role of the Committee is to put forward the recommended health insurance offering for the coming year, the COLA recommendation, housing resolution, and working on the diocesan employee handbook which will serve as a template for the parishes.

The committee would ideally meet in May so we would like to have names suggested well before that.

- h. **Hard Questions Task Force**—The Rev. Steve White (Report in packet)

The Rev. S. White will have a draft for the Task Force to review soon. It will then be sent to the Board for consideration.

- i. **Grant Requests** — None at this time

Consent Agenda

Minutes of December meeting

The Rev. Day moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Second by the Rev. S. White. Approved.

Financial Topics

- a. **Financial Statements** – November
- b. **Assessment forgiveness request** – Trinity, Elmira: This will be reviewed by the Finance Committee for recommendation to the Board.

The Treasurer of the Diocese has agreed to contact the parish and have a face-to-face meeting. We would like to walk with them and incorporate the Rule of Life to help them discern their future. The Bishop noted that Grace, Elmira is preparing to sign a LOA for their new rector which will give new leadership in the Elmira area.

Other

- 2020 Board Meeting Dates – Proposal in packet
The proposal is to meet every other month on the same day as the Standing Committee; share Bishop time together with the SC and conduct the regular Board business after that. The understanding is that the subcommittees of the Board will meet on the off months.
- There may be dates when the Bishop will have to be with the SC longer to discuss important confidential issues.

Discussion

- This is an efficient use of time; great idea. Emergencies can be handled with technology (Zoom and email). Canons only require Board meetings four times a years.
- Having the Foundation work on the property issues will be a big help.
- More thorough assessment of property issues with the Foundation will be extremely helpful moving forward.
- Location of the meetings would have to be worked out. Availability of Zoom and technology is important.

Ms. Barker moved that we change Board meetings to every other month on the proposed meeting schedule presented. Second by the Rev. Day. Approved.

Next Meeting – TBD

Placeholders for future meetings:

- Gifts/Talents Survey
- Board Parish Visitations (rotating meeting locations?)
- Assessment Resolution – held for 2020(?)

Bishop DeDe thanked everyone for coming early for lunch to meet with the Rev. Johnson and encouraged everyone to give her feedback now or following the meeting via phone or email.

The Rev S. White moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:58 PM, second by Mr. Smith. Approved.

Respectfully submitted:
Kathleen McDaniel