

The Episcopal Diocese of Rochester
The Standing Committee
25 April 2018

Attendance: Members - Sarah Peters, Michael Hartney, Lois Giess, Susan Woodhouse, Robert Picken, Carolyn Mok, Richard Hamlin, Cameron Miller; Bishop - Prince Singh

The meeting was convened in the Diocesan offices at Saint Peter's Church, Henrietta, New York, at 4.03 p.m on the Feast of Saint Mark, Evangelist. An opening prayer was offered by Michael on the subject of Gun Violence in the United States.

The Agenda was presented. Moved (Lois)/Seconded (Robert) Passed.

The Minutes of March 21, 2018, were presented. Moved (Lois)/Seconded (Susan) Passed.

Amendment to Minutes of December 20, 2017

From the December 2017 Minutes:

The Bishop spoke about the Church of South India and its ecumenical orientation. There are many Church of South India (CSI) congregations in the United States. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) is being developed nationally between the CSI and The Episcopal Church. He has been asked to convene the discussion in New York City.

Proposed clarification by the Bishop:

The Bishop spoke about the Church of South India and its ecumenical orientation. There are many Church of South India (CSI) congregations in the United States. He has been asked to convene a discussion in New York City.

Moved to amend the December 20, 2017, Minutes (Cam)/Seconded (Robert) Passed.

Amendment to Minutes of February 28, 2018

From the February 2018 Minutes:

Todd presented information regarding the future of the Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) benefit to retired clergy, their spouses, and widows. The proposal agreed to by the Trustees and Diocesan Council is to

grandfather all clergy/spouses/widows who are currently receiving the benefit and those clergy who will retire on or before December 31, 2019. The Trustees have agreed to designate a funding stream to pay for the continued HRA benefit. Clergy receive a Church Pension Fund benefit for Medicare Supplement Insurance. A comparable lay benefit for a Medicare supplement plan is being studied by the Trustees.

Proposed clarification by the Bishop:

Todd presented information regarding the future of the Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) benefit for lay and clergy retirees, their spouses, and widows. The proposal agreed to by the Trustees and Diocesan Council is to grandfather all clergy/spouses/widows who are currently receiving the benefit and those lay and clergy employees who will retire on or before December 31, 2019. The Trustees have agreed to designate a funding stream to pay for the continued HRA benefit. Clergy receive a Church Pension Fund benefit for Medicare Supplement Insurance. A comparable lay benefit for a Medicare supplement plan is being studied by the Trustees.

Moved to amend the February 28, 2018, Minutes. Moved(Rick)/Seconded (Carolyn) Passed.

[Todd Rubiano, CFO, joined the meeting 4.10 pm.]

Transition of Membership Interests of Saint Michael's Geneseo and the Diocese re: senior housing in Geneseo:

Saint Michael's Geneseo and St. John's Mount Morris formed a corporation, with joint membership interest, and built a senior housing unit. When St. John's closed, the Diocese became the partner with Saint Michael's. Now Episcopal Senior Life Communities desires to purchase and manage the property. The profit from the sale, \$150,000, will benefit Saint Michael's. The approval of the *Transfer of membership Interests in Upper South Street Housing Development Fund, Inc.* drafted by the Chancellor and CFO, was considered.

Moved to approve. Moved(Cameron)/Seconded (Susan)/Abstention: (Robert) Passed.

Other Trustee actions regarding the sale/lease of diocesan property

- Zion Avon has a property sale to be approved at the next Standing Committee meeting.

- Trinity Geneva hopes to have their development plan ready for approval at the next Standing Committee meeting.

The Bishop's report was considered.

- At the Bishop's invitation, an average Sunday attendance report was given by Todd Rubiano. To be included in future attendance reports will be Summer Chapels, Saint John's Chapel at Hobart/William Smith Colleges, and churches whose principal worship is on a day other than Sundays.
- At the Bishop's invitation, Todd Rubiano updated the Committee on the Diocesan Trustees' consideration regarding Allegany County churches that are closed and are being considered for sale.

[CFO Rubiano left the meeting, 4.46 pm.]

- Episcopal Conference of the Deaf has agreed to a partnership with the Diocese for a five-year period to assist in supporting a Missioner to the Deaf. And, The Episcopal Church has granted a two-year ministry grant for the College of Ministry to Children, Youth and Young Adults (\$30,000). A priest is ready to assume the position.
- The Bishop is considering the possibility for an annual Bishop's appeal. Perhaps this would coordinate with the Bishop's Tenth Anniversary this year as Bishop of Rochester. The appeal this year would benefit ministry to children, youth and young adults. The Committee offered its advice.
- Diocesan Council is considering moving towards a Biblical tithing of 10% for apportionment. The Committee offered its advice.

[Susan left the meeting, 5.02 pm]

- Congregations for whom a "Congregational Development conversation" would be helpful have been identified by diocesan staff. Meetings with the Bishop and diocesan staff are being held with these congregation's vestries to support them.
- A diocesan liturgical "hub" for liturgical resources is to be developed.
- The Racism Report will be presented to the Mayor of Rochester in early May.
- A meeting of the Diocesan Deacons will be held in late April.
- Roja is planning a thanksgiving gathering for the summer in observance of the Bishop's Tenth Anniversary as Bishop of Rochester.

Deacon Padraic Collins-Bohrer's recommendation for Ordination to the Priesthood is to be considered by the COM on Saturday.

It was moved that the President of the Standing Committee be given the authority to confer our consent to the Bishop after review of the file by at least two members of the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee will sign the documentation at the May meeting.

Moved (Michael)/Seconded (Robert). Passed.

As required by our Behavioral Covenants the committee members shared their feelings regarding the process observed for today's meeting. Words describing today's meeting: shared, humor, relaxed, levity, active participation, collaborative, thoughtful suggestions, vulnerable, genuine, appreciation of the free-flow exchange of advice.

Prayer Requests:

Bishop: For the HWS/WS Colleges President upon his resignation; for Leslie Adams upon the death of her stepdaughter

Richard: For his wife, Stephanie, her medical care and condition

Sarah: Thanksgiving that her daughter is the new School Leader at the Genesee Community Charter School; Prayer for her son and daughter-in-law and their daughter, Elizabeth Sarah Stoll, who will be born soon

Robert: For the 12th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Diaconate

Cameron: For his sister's recent marriage ceremony

The closing prayers were led by Carolyn. The *Benedicite, omnia opera Domini* was read in honor of Saint Mark's Day.

Motion to adjourn. Moved (Robert)/Seconded (Cameron). Passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5.47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Hartney, Secretary