

Diocesan Council Report to the 230th Annual Convention

Regular meetings of Diocesan Council were held during the past year. Minutes of these meetings are on file in the Archives at Diocesan House and are available for reference.

All financial actions of the Diocesan Council are included in the reports of the Treasurer of the Diocese and written reports of the committees and departments, represented by members of Diocesan Council, are attached to the minutes.

Highlights from the Diocesan Council meetings held January – December, 2013 are as follows:

- Accepted the 2013 revised preliminary budget, as presented.
- Accepted the 2014 preliminary budget, as presented.
- Approved, on the recommendation of the Loan & Grant Committee, to make a loan to St. Mary's-by-the-Sea, Point Pleasant Beach from the Venture in Mission Fund of \$200,000 at 4% to be repaid monthly over five years for the specified repairs to the rectory as stated in the proposed contract and for multi-level handicap access to the entire church facility
- Appointed the following individuals for the Diocesan Council appointments:
 - Visitation Committee Chair Donna Devlin
 - Recording Secretary Constance White
 - Corresponding Secretary Rev. Karin Mitchell
 - Board of Missions (two appointees – both Diocesan Council members) – Rev. Justin Falciani and Stephan Sroka
 - Audit Committee (two appointees – only one must be a Diocesan Council member) – Carole Forsythe and Robert Scott
- Authorized the distribution, at the request of the Atlantic City Board, of \$11,179.10 from the dividends of the St. James' Fund to St. Augustine's, Atlantic City.
- Authorized the distribution, at the request of the Elizabeth Clergy Association, of \$7K from the dividends of the St. Elizabeth's Trust Fund to St. Joseph's, Elizabeth to fund church repairs.
- Authorized the distribution of up to \$170K from the principal of the St. Elizabeth's Trust Fund to the Elizabeth Episcopal Church Coalition (EECC), as per the request of St. Elizabeth's and with the endorsement of the Standing Committee, with the proviso that regular updates will be provided on the status of the Elizabeth Development project.
- Appointed Louis Cavaliere and The Rev. John Thompson-Quartey as the Council and non-Council representatives, respectively, to the Finance & Budget Committee.
- Approved, on the recommendation of the Loan & Grant Committee, to make a loan of \$20,000 from the Capital and Revolving Fund to San Jose, Elizabeth for the replacement of windows in their church, rectory and Day Care Center.
- Approved, on the recommendation of the Loan & Grant Committee, to make a grant of \$25,000 from the Capital & and Revolving Fund and a five year, \$15,000 loan at 2 ½ % half from the Capital and Revolving Fund and half from the R. Bowden Shepherd Fund to St. Stephen's, Mullica Hill, for plumbing and electrical repairs in the rectory as specified and ceiling and walls work, including the installation of new smoke and CO detectors.
- Received a Post Hurricane Sandy update from Keith Adams, the Diocesan Disaster Recovery Coordinator.
- Approved, on the recommendation of the Loan & Grant Committee:
 - To permit loans to Independent Parishes which are specifically for post-Hurricane Sandy Recovery to be offered at 3% by blending a loan from the Venture in Mission Fund and the Capital & Revolving Fund.
 - To make a loan to St. George's, Rumson of \$60,000 for 10 years with monthly payments at 3% interest by drawing from the Venture in Mission Fund (4%) and the Capital & Revolving Fund (0%) in such a ratio as to make the effective rate helpful to the church in completion of its recovery from Hurricane Sandy.
 - To make a 20 year loan from the Venture in Mission Fund at 4% for \$125,000 to St. George's, Rumson for repairs to the rectory which the church intends to buy for the use

of its curate. This loan will be contingent upon Standing Committee approval for the mortgage and on closing on the purchase of the property by St. George's.

- Approved, on the recommendation of the Chief Financial Officer, to permit the accrual of \$2,633 in Line 10 Mission Congregations in the 2012 budget and to allow these funds to be spent by Trinity, Swedesboro and St. Stephen's, Mullica Hill.
- Approved, on the recommendation of the Trustees of Diocesan Trust Funds, to consolidate the Episcopal Residence Fund with the Capital & Revolving Loan Fund, restricting the purpose of these monies to assisting incoming Bishops with the purchase of a residence.
- Approved, on the recommendation of the Loan & Grant Committee:
 - To make a loan for \$134,000 over 10 years at 4% interest, with monthly payments, from the Venture in Mission Fund to the Church of the Holy Spirit, Lebanon for the purpose of paying off its current bank mortgage and replacing it with this loan.
- Diocesan Council will address the proposed amendment to Canon 21, Section 4, at the November Diocesan Council meeting.
- Approved, on recommendation from Acting Chancellor Paul Ambos, to reconstitute the defunct Mission Advancement, Inc. and then merge it immediately into the Trustees of Church Property resulting in all properties of the Mission Advancement, Inc. automatically becoming assets of the Trustees of Church Property so that these assets can be conveyed by the Trustees under the Diocese's regular canonical and statutory regulations.
- Approved, on recommendation from Acting Chancellor Paul Ambos, to engage Gregory D. Winter, Esq. without hourly billing in return for a retainer of \$100 per month (to be included in the Diocesan budget at \$1,200 per year). His work under this arrangement may involve any litigation not otherwise covered by insurance, as well as any transactional legal assistance he can provide for various churches.
- Approved, on recommendation of the Finance & Budget Committee, to increase the Diocesan Convention registration fee by \$5, from \$20 to \$25, beginning with the 2014 Diocesan Convention.
- Approved for the Diocese to join the New Jersey Coalition against Human Trafficking.
- Received a report from Kathy O'Hagan, Co-Chair of the MDG Grant Committee.
- Approved, on recommendation from Canon Phyllis Jones, Chief Financial Officer to endorse the proposed canonical change adding the Diocesan Investment Trust as an allowable investment option for Diocesan loan funds under Canon 21, Section 4 and for this change to be presented for action to the 230th Diocesan Convention in 2014.
- Approved the use of the dividends available from the Elizabeth Fund of \$7,132 for the Rev. Andy Moore, St. Elizabeth, and the Rev. Toribio Rodriguez, Church of San Jose, to use toward the cost of their joint ministry projects of providing English as a second language training targeted to Haitian refugees who arrived after the 2010 earthquake and St. Elizabeth's support of the Union County campuses located in Elizabeth, Cranford, and on Kean University's campus in Union.
- Approved distribution of one quarter of the dividends of the St. James Fund for 2013 to St. Augustine's Church, Atlantic City, as soon as the exact amount of dividends can be determined.
- Accepted the recommendations of the Finance and Budget Committee to allocate \$331,000 to Mission Congregations (line 10) for 2014 and that the final distribution of the allocation to the Mission Congregations must follow the recommendations of the Finance and Budget Committee.
- Approved to allocate the unexpended funds in the 2013 budget for the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Task Force to Episcopal Relief and Development.
- Approved a Resolution on human trafficking.
- Accepted written reports throughout the year as presented.

Respectfully submitted,
 Canon Constance White
 Recording Secretary