

DIOCESAN COUNCIL REPORT

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, 2014 are as follows:

- Approved the funds designated in the Diocesan budget for the MDG Matching Grant Program.
- Approved increase in the MDG Matching Grant Program grants from \$500 to \$750 for 2014.
- The following Resolution was passed:

Whereas, the Church of the Holy Communion, Fair Haven, an Incorporated Mission, was declared extinct by the 226th Annual Convention of the Diocese on March 5, 2010; and
Whereas, title to the real property of such extinct congregation is held by the Trustees of The Episcopal Fund; and
Whereas, Canon 13, section 12 provides that where the Trustees of The Episcopal Fund hold title to property of a mission, the Trustees may sell it upon the request of the Diocesan Council; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Diocesan Council hereby requests and authorizes the Trustees of The Episcopal Fund to sell the real property formerly used by the Church of the Holy Communion, Fair Haven, and to hold the proceeds of sale pending further instruction of the Diocesan Council or the Diocesan Convention.
- Approved the accruals as cited in the report of the budget as of the end of 2013.
- Approved a balanced budget for 2014 (revised preliminary) with total revenue and expenses of \$3,526,413, anticipating usage of available surplus of \$95,188 in 2014, contingent upon finalization of 2014 pledging.
- Approved a balanced budget for 2015 (proposed preliminary budget) with total revenue and expenses of \$3,560,675, anticipating usage of available surplus of \$117,387.
- Approved a twenty year loan at 4% from the Venture in Mission (VIM) Fund to St. Barnabas, Monmouth Junction to pay off its existing twenty year VIM loan, the purpose being to lower its monthly loan costs and free up more money for mission and ministry.
- Passed the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Diocese of New Jersey enter into a lease agreement with Carolyn Daniels as landlord for the house at 215 Renfrew Avenue, Trenton, for housing for Bishop Stokes and his family, substantially in the form presented to this meeting, and that the Chief Financial Officer of the Diocese be authorized to sign such agreement on behalf of the Diocese and be it further

Resolved, That Bishop Stokes be responsible for the cost of monthly rent and utilities assumed by the Diocese under such agreement; and be it further

Resolved, That Bishop Stokes' obligations to pay the rent and utilities be memorialized in an addendum to his Letter of Understanding, to be negotiated between Bishop Stokes and the Standing Committee.
- Made the following appointments:

Visitation Committee Chair – Rev. Deborah Piggins
Recording Secretary – Canon Constance White
Corresponding Secretary – Ms. Deborah Kirk

Board of Missions (two appointees, both Diocesan Council members) – Ms. Wendy Blackman and Rev. Gina Walsh-Minor

Audit Committee (two appointees, only one must be a Diocesan Council member) – Canon Charles Perfater and Rev. Gina Walsh-Minor

Finance & Budget Committee (two appointees, only one must be a Diocesan Council member) – Mr. Louis Cavaliere and Rev. John Thompson-Quartey

- Approved, on recommendation of the Loan & Grant Committee, to grant \$25,000 from the Capital & Revolving Fund to Cristo Rey/Christ Church, Trenton for the installation of air conditioning units in the sanctuary with the contingency that Cristo Rey secure a licensed electrician to provide a load calculation of existing service to support the additional load from 5 or 6 units.
- Approved, on recommendation of the Loan & Grant Committee, to grant \$25,000 from the Capital & Revolving Fund to San Andres/Church of St. Andrew, Apostle and Martyr, Camden for its handicap accessibility project for the sanctuary and emergency lighting and exit lights.
- Approved, on recommendation of the Loan & Grant Committee, to grant \$25,000 from the Capital & Revolving Fund to Iglesia San Jose, Elizabeth for repairs to the rectory for the second floor and third floor/attic bathroom renovations and expansion with venting to the outside, the addition of two closets, plus framing, insulating and sheet-rocking the entire basement. Before any work is done, there must be an electrical inspection of the entire rectory and garage and adjacent covered space.
- Approved, on recommendation of the Loan & Grant Committee, to grant \$10,000 from the Capital & Revolving Fund to Christ Church, Magnolia to install a handicapped accessible bathroom, contingent on the church obtaining a quote for installing a set of automatic handicapped accessible doors.
- Ratified an email vote to extend a short-term loan to the Drostes [the new Canon for Congregational Development and Mission, The Reverend Dr. Robert Droste and his wife] in an amount not to exceed \$300,000 from the R. Bowden Shepherd loan fund, with appropriate security interest in their New Jersey home, at 5% interest for a period of time not expected to exceed 6 months, in order to facilitate their purchase of the property and their move from California to New Jersey. Said loan shall be partially repaid immediately upon the sale of their California property in the amount of the net proceeds from such sale, and then repaid in full by bank refinancing as soon after the sale of the California property as practicable. The proposal for this loan was reviewed by and has the concurrence of the Loan & Grant Committee.
- Approved, on recommendation by the Chief Financial Officer, to provide a grant of \$5,000 from the dividends of the Elise A. Bruker Fund to the Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE) to help support their 2014 Convention in Atlantic City.
- Approved granting the following funding to St. Augustine's, Atlantic City to provide the ability to call a full-time priest:

Year	From St. James Fund	From the DCA Fund
2014	\$ 50,000	\$ --
2015	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
2016	\$ 37,500	\$ 37,500
2017	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Totals	\$ 162,500	\$ 112,500

- Approved allocation of the \$3,000 accrued to date for Lambeth and to allocate \$1,000 from the current budget line for travel to Lambeth (line 410) – to offset the current year's expenses for travel to the House of Bishops meetings (line 411) since travel to the fall meeting of the House

of Bishops in Taiwan will be more costly and the meeting at Lambeth will be postponed and not occur on the normal ten year cycle.

- Approved the appointment of Robert Diemar as the non-Diocesan Council representative to the Finance & Budget Committee
- Approved a grant to St. Augustine's Church, Asbury Park of \$40K in 2015, \$30K in 2016, \$20K in 2017, and \$10K in 2018 from the funds being held in the Disposition of Closed Churches Assets Fund.
- Approved, on the recommendation of the Loan & Grant Committee, to grant \$25,000 from the Capital & Revolving Fund to St. James Church, Edison to 1) bring the electrical wiring in the rectory up to code, 2) purchase and install a high efficiency direct vent gas boiler, 3) empty, inspect and fill the existing oil tank with sand, and 4) if there is any money left over, buy a new water heater, either electric or direct vent gas which would eliminate the need to use the existing chimney.
- Approved allowing the Committee for the Disabled to grant \$1,000 to St. Raphael the Archangel in Brick to enhance their ministry to the disabled and, thereby, overrun the Committee's budget for 2014 by approximately \$680.
- Approved dissolution of the Atlantic City Mission Board (ACMB) effective immediately to enable the Bishop, the Bishop's staff, and Diocesan Council to continue to work individually with those churches that remain on the Board at the time of dissolution.
- Appointed Rev. Piggins to the Board of Missions as the Diocesan Council representative.
- Approved a grant from the Elizabeth Fund to the churches in Elizabeth of \$10K to support Operation Warm Heart.
- Approved, on the recommendation of the Loan & Grant Committee, to make a 15 year loan to St. Mary's Church, Stone Harbor in the amount of \$150,000 from the Venture in Mission Loan Fund at 4% interest with monthly payments, for major repairs and renovation of its rectory.
- Accepted the recommendations of the Finance and Budget Committee to allocate \$351,000 to Mission Congregations (budget line 10) for 2015 with \$20,000 for the Hispanic Missioner and the balance to the missions to be distributed as recommended by the Board of Missions.
- Approved the disbursement of \$40,000 to St. Augustine's Church, Atlantic City, from the \$50,000 approved in June.
- Approved that any congregation receiving diocesan funding must report on the use of the funds on a quarterly basis.
- Accepted written reports throughout the year as presented.

Respectfully submitted,
Canon Constance White
Recording Secretary