

**DIOCESAN COUNCIL REPORT
TO THE 234TH DIOCESAN 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, 2017 are as follows:

- Approved on the recommendation of the Loan & Grant Committee to approve a grant of \$25,000 from the Capital & Revolving Fund to St. Mark and All Saints' Church for addressing water intrusion issues, prioritizing repairing the north wall of the church, replacing windows with energy efficient windows, improving the drainage and replacing inadequate gutters with a commercial-grade gutter system.
- Approved the sabbatical policy as presented by the Standing Commission on Clergy Compensation.
- Approved the establishment of a Diocesan Sabbatical Fund, overseen by a Committee of three to five persons, clergy or lay, appointed by the bishop for annual terms, which may be renewed. At least one of the members shall be a cleric who has had a sabbatical. There will be an offering for the Fund collected at one of the Diocesan Clergy Days each year. Lay and clerical members of our diocese as well as churches shall be invited to make contributions to the Fund. Clerics who have never experienced a sabbatical shall be eligible to receive grants from the Fund for their sabbatical expenses, with preference given to clerics serving churches which themselves have never had a cleric take a sabbatical. The Committee shall report annually to Diocesan Council.
- Approved for presentation to Diocesan Convention the 2017 Revised Budget and the 2018 Proposed Preliminary Budgets with and adjustment to the 2018 Proposed Preliminary Budget to include funds to continue the Youth and Young Adult Missioner through March 2018 as a half time position and to increase the estimate of Fair Share pledge giving to cover this adjustment.
- For the two Diocesan Council lay vacancies, elected Brian Bussey, Vanessa Doman.
- Appointed The Reverend Frank Hubbard to serve as Vice Chair of Diocesan Council.
- Made the following appointments for 2017-18:
 - Visitation Committee Chair: Donna Devlin
 - Recording Secretary: Canon Constance White
 - Corresponding Secretary: Kathy O'Hagan
 - Finance & Budget Committee: Robert Diemar, Paul Wolfgang
 - Board of Missions: The Reverend Frank Hubbard, Paul Wolfgang
 - Audit Committee: Canon Charles Perfater, Cheryl Browne
- Approved on the recommendation of the Loan & Grant Committee a 20 year loan for \$249,000 from the Venture in Mission Fund at 4% interest, payable monthly, to the Diocese of New Jersey for the purchase of the home at 215 Renfrew Avenue, Trenton, as the Episcopal Residence.
- Ratified the following individuals as members of the Steering Committee for the Discerning Our Common Call Process: The Reverend Amy Cornell, Mr. Ciro De los Reyes, Ms. Theresa Dunn, Mr. Thomas Esposito, Ms. Deborah Kirk, The Reverend Emily Mellott, The Reverend Juan Monge-Santiago, Ms. Karen Moore, Ms. Regina Short-Lampsey, and Ms. Nevan Soumilas.
- Was advised of a change in status for Trinity Church, Woodbridge, to mission status.
- Approved on the recommendation of the Loan & Grant Committee to amend the existing Venture in Mission Fund Loan to the Church of the Holy Spirit, Lebanon to add \$49,000 to the current balance of \$85,644 of their existing loan to run for a new term of 10 years at 4% interest. (Will permit the church to pay for a new boiler in the rectory some other legacy costs associated with the sanctuary.)

- Approved on the recommendation of the Loan & Grant Committee to approve a new loan to the Church of the Holy Spirit, Lebanon for \$300,000 from the Venture in Mission Fund at 4% interest for 10 years for the rebuilding and expansion of the existing rectory for new purposes.
- Approved on the recommendation of the Loan & Grant Committee to approve a grant from the Capital & Revolving Fund not to exceed \$12,000 for a high efficiency boiler for St. Mark's, Keansburg
- Approved on the recommendation of the Loan & Grant Committee to provide a supplementary grant of \$12,000 from the Capital & Revolving Fund to St. Alban's Church, New Brunswick to complete the repairs on their vicarage.
- Approved on the recommendation of the Board of Missions to grant \$450,000 to the mission churches for the 2018 budget year.
- Approved to permit the proceeds of \$190,000 from the savings account of Trinity Church, Delran, to be distributed as follows:
 - \$35,000 to St. Stephen's Church, Beverly
 - \$35,000 to St. Stephen's Church, Riverside
 - \$10,000 to the Disabled Veterans of America
 - \$110,000 to the Diocesan Mission Renewal Fund
- Approved on the recommendation of the Diocesan Global Goals Task Force \$7,384 in grants to churches for their global projects and the balance of \$12,616 of the funding from the Global Goals Diocesan budget line (line 35) for 2017 to be given to Episcopal Relief and Development.
- Approved on the recommendation of the Loan & Grant Committee to provide a grant to Trinity Church, Woodbridge from the Capital & Revolving Fund for a total of \$21,926. This grant will cover a handicap access ramp for the entrance to St. Martha's House, the church's outreach building, for \$17,650, and \$4,276 for 58 new, energy-saving inside storm windows for St. Martha's House and for the rectory.
- Approved on the recommendation of the Loan & Grant Committee to approve the re-purposing of the \$9,424.05 balance from previous grants to San Andres, Camden (originally for a wheelchair lift) to go to improvements to the building to satisfy the Fire Marshall and for repairs and improvements to the church's basement.
- Approved on the recommendation of the Loan & Grant Committee to provide a grant of \$16,715 from the Capital & Revolving Fund to the Diocese of New Jersey to reimburse the operating account for repair and improvement work done on the Episcopal Residence in 2017. This work includes chimney work (\$9,500), electrical work (\$4,325), radon mitigation (\$1,090) and miscellaneous safety and anti-water intrusion work (\$1,800).
- Endorsed the Bishop's recommendations for the Board of Consultation, the Task Force on Mission, Budget and Structure, the Task Force on Resources and Revenues, and the Clergy Sabbatical Fund Committee.
- Accepted written reports throughout the year as presented.

Respectfully submitted,
 Canon Constance White
 Recording Secretary