

**DIOCESAN COUNCIL REPORT  
TO THE 235TH 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, 2018 are as follows:

- Approved the release of \$124,220.20 from the St. Elizabeth’s Trust Fund to support the Elizabeth Fund programs, as follows:

St. John’s Church – Support for Feeding Program	\$16,047
St. Elizabeth’s Church – ESL Initiative	73,114
St. Elizabeth’s Church – Sunday School & Breakfast Program	12,959
Iglesia San Jose – Sunday School & ESL Program	12,200
Iglesia San Jose – Food Pantry	9,900
Total	\$124,220

- Approved a grant of \$80,000 to St. Augustine’s Church, Atlantic City from the St. James Fund to support their mission and ministries.
- Approved on the recommendation of the Finance & Budget Committee: 1) the 2017 report on revenue and expenses, reflecting a total of \$4,091,793 with the noted accruals for Stewardship, Lambeth, and the General Convention & ECW Triennium, including the 2017 marks of Mission Giving, subject to audit, 2) the revised budget for 2018 with total revenue and expenses of \$3,921,154, subject to approval at the 2018 Diocesan Convention, and 3) the proposed preliminary budget for 2019 with total revenue and expenses of \$3,879,597, subject to approval at the 2018 Diocesan Convention.
- Made the following appointments for 2018-19:
  - Visitation Committee Chair: Donna Devlin
  - Recording Secretary: Canon Constance White
  - Corresponding Secretary: Deborah Kirk
  - Finance & Budget Committee: Robert Jackson, Daniel Lamptey
  - Board of Missions: The Reverend William Ndishabandi, Paul Wolfgang
  - Audit Committee: Donna Freidel (Bishop to select an appointee.)
  - Vice Chair: The Reverend Canon Servio Moscoso
- Approved, on the recommendation of the Loan & Grant Committee a grant of \$25,000 from the Capital and Revolving Fund and a 4 year loan for \$11,000 split between the R. Bowden Shepherd Fund and the Capital and Revolving Fund (and so carrying a blended interest rate of about 2.6%) to St. James Church, Long Branch, for the kitchen repairs and upgrades as described in the church’s application. The loan will be repaid monthly, with no prepayment penalties.
- Approved, on the recommendation of the Loan & Grant Committee a grant of \$17,800 from the Capital and Revolving Fund to the Diocese of New Jersey for the Episcopal Residence at 215 Renfrew Avenue, Trenton to deal with perimeter grading and drainage issues: removing/replacing the front and back steps, the concrete in the back yard and the walkway

for the side of the yard to the side of the garage and replacing them with pavers. The patio area would extend a little further beyond the current concrete and towards the neighbor's fence and would be graded.

- Approved, on the recommendation of the Loan & Grant Committee, a grant of \$11,600 from the R. Bowden Shepherd Fund to All Saints' Church, Lakewood, for the exterior painting and siding work as detailed in its application.
- Ratified the action reflected in an April 20, 2018 email to the Council to read a statement at the April 24<sup>th</sup> Wells Fargo shareholder meeting. The statement is as follows.

The Diocese of New Jersey is a diocese of The Episcopal Church as well as a long-standing corporate customer of Wells Fargo. Our Bishop is one of a group of more than 70 Episcopal bishops working together to curtail the epidemic of gun violence.

Wells Fargo is reportedly the largest financier of the firearms industry, with significant business ties to the NRA and its Political Victory Fund. Together, they have consistently resisted regulation at every level – federal, state and local. These relationships promote our culture's idolatry of gun ownership and gun violence in direct conflict with our core values as followers of Jesus Christ.

The Episcopal Church has repeatedly called for common sense federal and state regulation to help curtail gun violence and has signed on to the Interfaith Council on Corporate Responsibility's Statement on Gun Violence. We support their position and are committed to acting consistently with it. We therefore call on Wells Fargo to adopt the ICCR's directives to financial institutions involved in the gun industry if we are to continue our corporate banking relationship.

- Expressed appreciation to Bishop Curry and Bishop Gates for their sermons at Bishop Councill's funeral.
- Approved, on the recommendation of the Loan & Grant Committee, to provide a grant of \$30,000 from the Mission Renewal Fund and also a loan for \$30,000 from the Venture in Mission Fund for 10 years at 4% interest with monthly payments and no prepayment penalties to St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, Atlantic City, for the roof and structural repairs to the church building as specified in the church's application.
- Approved, on the recommendation of the Board of Missions to provide up to \$30,000 of additional funding from the Mission Renewal Fund to assist St. Thomas' Church, Red Bank with operating expenses between now and December 31, 2018 to give them time to develop resources to move them in the direction of sustainability.
- Voted to defer to the Finance & Budget Committee, for further review, the request from the Board of Missions to approve \$450K in grants for 2019 for the mission churches.
- Voted to approve \$11,492 for the allocation of grants by the Global Goals Task Force for 2019.
- Voted to approve, on the recommendation of the Loan & Grant Committee, a grant of \$25,000 from the Capital & Revolving Fund be made to Trinity Church, Woodbridge for HVAC and lighting replacement/upgrades, four new insulated steel doors from the cloister to the outside, an internal ramp and a threshold ramp to St. Martha's House to complete the accessibility of the building from the outside.
- Voted to approve \$425K in grants for 2019 for our mission churches.
- Accepted written reports throughout the year as presented.

Respectfully submitted,  
Canon Constance White  
Recording Secretary