

**Executive Council Meeting**  
**May 20, 2023**  
Waycross Camp and Conference Center

*These are the official minutes approved at the August 19, 2023 meeting.*

**Members Present:** Ms. Joan Amati, The Rev. Mary Bargiel, Ms. Amy Dobbs, Ms. Lara Dreyer, Mr. Dick Frey, Ms. Sally Hardgrove, The Rev. Dr. Paul Jacobson, The Rev. C. Davies Reed, The Rev. Allen Rutherford, Canon Mariann Scott, Mr. Greg Seamon, Mr. Mike Staubitz, Mr. Sean Sullivan, Canon Brendan O’Sullivan-Hale, The Rev. Canon Kristin White, Dr. Laurel Cornell, Ms. Janet Brinkworth.

**Members Present on Zoom:** Ms. Lara Chase, The Rev. Dr. Jason Haddox.

**Members Absent:** The Rev. Christopher Beasley, The Rev. Canon Hipólito Fernandez Reina, The Rev. Julia Whitworth, The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows.

**Guests Present:** Ms. Becca Holbrook, Ms. Valeria Phillips, Ms. Sheryl Otter, Mr. Michael Landon, Ms. Melinda Trotti

The meeting was called to order at 10:05am by the Rev. C. Davies Reed, Vice President of Executive Council. He led the Council in the devotional.

Ms. Janet Brinkworth called and confirmed those in attendance, both in person and through Zoom.

**Organizing for Business.** A review of the Diocesan Mission and the norms established for Executive Council was led by Canon Kristin White. All members agreed to the stipulations.

**United Thank Offering (UTO) Presentation.** Canon Kristin introduced a guest, Ms. Sheryl Otter, the diocesan coordinator of UTO. She gave a brief overview of UTO. Leaders are developing new ways to involve all parishes to encourage participation and donations. 100% of the funds collected go to grants which are centered around an annual theme every year. There are also resources for churches on their website: [www.unitedthankoffering.com](http://www.unitedthankoffering.com).

**Leadership Updates.**

- The Rev. Dr. Beth Macke, former rector of St Stephen’s, New Harmony, has resigned and is doing well.
- The Reunification Discernment Committee included a charge letter in the documents available prior to this meeting. A summary of committee meetings is available in the newsletter. There was some discussion on the discernment process to reunify or not with the Diocese of Northern Indiana. This discussion will continue later in the meeting under Old Business
- Trinity, Lawrenceburg just completed their work with CBCP (Church Buildings for Collaborative Partnership). Leaders experienced this as a great process and work.

- St Thomas, Franklin hosted neighborhood meeting. It was a particularly good meeting.
- Participants at the Crossroads Neighborhood meeting discussed having more meetings to have more substantive conversations. All agreed that having in-person meetings is more collaborative.
- Members of Episcopal Women's Ministries are planning the Women's Fall Retreat at Waycross.
- The Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE) is selling Juneteenth T-Shirts and encouraging people throughout the diocese and wider church to wear them to church on Sunday, June 18. There is a link to purchase in the newsletter.
- Christ Church Cathedral is working on new ways to invite people to participate more widely in the life of the cathedral. The Choral School has been leading Evensong, with different officiants. The CCC annual Strawberry Festival is June 8.
- St. Christopher's, Carmel celebrated paying off their mortgage by burning it at an all-parish event in May. The celebration was very festive, and leaders of the congregation are considering new missions.
- The Strawberry Festival at St. David's, Bean Blossom, their largest outreach event of the year, is coming soon. Also, with the closing of the only local grocery store, St. David's weekly pantry (in collaboration with St. Vincent DePaul) is noticeably busier.
- Grace, Muncie has hosted a series of special concerts featuring their organ.
- St Francis-in-the-Fields, Zionsville, is in the midst of a capitol campaign that has exceeded its original goal.

**Congregational Development Grants.** Ms. Valeria Phillips and Ms. Becca Holbrook, co-chairs of the Bishop's Advisory Team on Mission Strategy, participated as a guest of the Executive Council in order to present Mission Strategy's recommendations of the second round of diocesan Congregational Development Grant Applications. By design, members of Mission Strategy receive applications and make recommendations to Executive Council, with Council having the final determination on funding. The Mission Strategy recommendations were sent as part of the advance packet to Council.

There were seven grant applications, with \$150,000 available. The total funding requested was over \$200,000. Mission Strategy recommended funding four of the seven applications. All applicants will be notified of the decision by Executive Council this week by Canon Brendan or Canon Kristin, who will also offer feedback from Mission Strategy to those not funded. A lengthy conversation followed around how these grants were chosen, and the parameters of the grant as it relates to the instruction of the Mission Strategy Committee's applicants.

At the recommendation of the Rev. C. Davies Reed, Executive Council opted to vote separately on each grant recommendation from Mission Strategy, rather than voting on recommendations as a block. Council voted on:

1. The application of Christ Church Madison (Arts Scholarship program). Mission Strategy recommended to not fund this request. The vote to not fund this application was PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. The grant is not funded.
2. The application of Good Samaritan, Brownsburg; St. Peter's, Lebanon, All Saints, Indianapolis; St. Augustine's, Danville; St. Andrew's, Greencastle; St. John's, Crawfordsville (Communications Director). Mission Strategy recommended to not fund

this request. The vote to not fund this application was PASSED with two no-votes. The grant is not funded.

3. The application of St. Christopher's, Carmel (Gravity Leadership Academy project). Mission Strategy recommended fully funding this request. The vote to fund this application PASSED with one abstention. The grant will be fully funded. (\$20,730)
4. The application of St. Christopher's, Carmel; St. Michael's, Noblesville; St. Francis, Zionsville; Holy Family, Fishers (Art Class Collaboration). Mission Strategy recommended fully funding this request. The vote to fund this application PASSED with one abstention. The grant will be fully funded. (\$10,600)
5. The application of Trinity, Indianapolis (Creating Reconciling Leaders). Mission Strategy recommended fully funding this request. The vote to fund this request was nine in favor, five opposed, one abstention and was PASSED. The grant will be fully funded. (\$25,975)
6. The application of Trinity, Lawrenceburg (#1-Community Kit). Mission Strategy recommended fully funding this request. The vote to fund this application PASSED with two abstentions. The grant will be fully funded. (\$4,625)
7. The application of Trinity, Lawrenceburg (#2-Kitchen Renovation). Mission Strategy recommended to not fund this request. The vote to not grant this application PASSED with two abstentions. This grant is not funded.

Total funded grants - \$61,930.

*The Council adjourned for lunch.*

**2024 Budget Draft.** Canon Brendan began by advising members that there is a significant deficit in the 2024 draft diocesan budget, and the budget is unbalanced. He went over several line items to define their status. The apportionment rate remains the same as 2022. Canon Brendan made some comments on expenses, giving additional information on several items. The budget formation committee will meet in July to bring the budget into balance.

**Supply Clergy Compensation.** Canon Brendan indicated that the compensation rate has not changed since 2015 or earlier. A recommendation has been made to increase supply compensation for leading a single service on Sunday from \$135 to \$165. He advised that other related questions are being raised and considered.

**Waycross Transition.** Interim Executive Director, Ms. Melinda Trotti, provided a board report in advance and offered an additional information page to those at the meeting. Some of her comments included some delays getting background checks, handling the budget, and realizing who makes various decisions. She also indicated appreciation that the Waycross Board is very active.

**Bishop Staff updates.**

From Canon Brendan –

- The first diocesan Youth Mission Trip in more than 4 years will take place next month, with youth traveling to New Orleans June 3-11. The new diocesan youth minister, Ms. Heather Kenison, is connecting well with young people and leaders.

- The Church Buildings for Collaborative Partnership Project (CBCP) has concluded. Leaders with oversight of every Episcopal Church building in the state of Indiana have participated in this initiative.
- There has not been much news to report regarding the Urban Legacy Lands Initiative (ULLI). There is a leadership transition taking place, and the project continues to move forward.
- Indy Pride is June 10. This year there is a request to register which is for security reasons and better communication between participants.

From Canon Kristin -

- Canon Kristin gave thanks for Ms. Heather Kenison leading the diocesan mission trip, and for the two other adult chaperones that include Canon Brendan. Canon Kristin shared that the diocesan youth minister's role is newly-defined, with a focus on equipping congregations to strengthen their ministry with young people. Also, coming in October is a Vision Summit, the final step in redeveloping our diocesan youth ministry, which will be facilitated by Ministry Architects.
- Diocesan communications are now directed by Ms. Elise Shrock who also serves in that role with Christ Church Cathedral. This collaboration began in November 2022, and includes Ms. Shrock's oversight of Ms. Lauren Hacker, diocesan communications coordinator. Ms. Shrock and Ms. Hacker are offering quarterly Office Hours, which provide a regular opportunity for church communicators to ask questions and learn about best practices.
- The theme for Annual Convention 2023 is Rest and Liberation. It will take place at St. Paul's, Indianapolis, with Ms. Cole Arthur Riley as keynote speaker. Canon Kristin invites Council members to encourage people in the diocese to run for an office to fill all openings. The nomination form can be found [at this link](#).
- St Alban's is in conversation with a possible renter at their facility.

**Minutes.** Minutes of the April 1 meeting were provided in advance for approval. The Rev. Allen Rutherford moved to pass the minutes. Ms. Sally Hardgrove seconded the motion. PASSED with one abstention.

**Financial Update.** Canon Brendan reported that diocesan income & expenses are on target. The audit is complete, and all went smoothly. The audit from Waycross is due in June. Canon Brendan shared that the diocese is named in a lawsuit by a food pantry volunteer who slipped and fell at St. Mark's, Plainfield. The agreement with the food pantry located at St. Mark's indemnifies St. Mark's and the diocese, so the suit is not likely to be successful.

Dr. Laurel Cornell provided the Treasurer's report in advance. There were no questions or discussion. The Rev. Allen Rutherford moved to accept the report for audit, which was seconded by Ms. Joan Amati. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Old Business.** (This conversation is continued from a previous discussion.) Mr. Greg Seamon, who is both a member of Executive Council and a member of the Reunification Discernment Committee, shared a document entitled "A Charge to the Reunification Discernment Committee" in advance of the meeting. A member of Executive Council moved to accept the document as

submitted, with a second from the Rev. Dr. Paul Jacobson. Discussion followed, with some changes to the document. The document PASSED as updated with three abstentions.

*Break*

**Covenant to Root out Racism**. Canon Mariann Scott provided a copy of notes that were taken in the Executive Council Sub-Committee meeting on May 4, 2023, of the Resolution of the Covenant to Root Out Racism (The Resolution passed unanimously at the 185<sup>th</sup> Convention in 2022). This meeting addressed the responsibilities of the Executive Council to vote to approve and/or adapt the Covenant to Root Out Racism, and to name three areas of the Covenant on which Council members will focus their work. Canon Mariann gave an overview of the resolution, and there was some discussion.

The sub-committee made recommendations for the Executive Council members and their neighborhoods. (These recommendations are detailed in the document containing notes of their May 4 meeting, provided by Canon Mariann. A summarized recommendation name is given below regarding the vote.)

#### Voting

- Canon Mariann moved to adopt the recommendation that the diocese will be more involved and engaged with local businesses owned and operated by people of color and underrepresented populations. The Rev. Dr. Paul Jacobson seconded the motion. Motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
- Canon Mariann moved to adopt the recommendation that the diocese financially support Historically Black Colleges and Universities in Indiana. The Rev. Allen Rutherford seconded the motion. Motion PASSED, two voted no.
- Canon Mariann moved to adopt the recommendation that the diocese commit to re-examine our communities of faith and acknowledge racist legacies.  
Canon Mariann further moved to adopt the recommendation that the diocese engage in on-going, future critical discourse.  
Canon Mariann further moved to adopt the recommendation that the diocese validates these stories, feelings, and experiences, considering them as sacred. Mr. Sean Sullivan seconded the motion. The motion PASSED with one vote of no.

**New Business**. None

The next meeting is scheduled for July 8, but is tentative depending on the progress made regarding the budget. The meeting after July is scheduled for August 19. The Rev. C. Davies Reed called for a motion to adjourn, which was made by The Rev. Dr. Paul Jacobson, and seconded by The Rev. Allen Rutherford. The meeting ended at 2:54pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Janet Brinkworth