

Council Agenda January 13 2022 v2	2
Diocesan Council Minutes December 9 2021	3
EMWM Minutes December 9 2021	7

DIOCESAN COUNCIL AGENDA

January 13, 2022

2 p.m. via Zoom

Gathering time (Doug)

Consent agenda: (on portal)

- December Council Minutes
- December EMWM Minutes

Bishop's time

Presentation of Clergy Survey (Vicki Ix)

Update from Rich Simpson on transitions

Note on February Vestry Retreat

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Officers and Appointed Members:

The Rt. Rev. Douglas Fisher, President

The Rev. Tanya Wallace, Vice President

Ms. Wende Wheeler, Secretary

The Rev. Dr. Richard Simpson, Assistant Secretary

Mr. Mark Rogers, Treasurer

Mr. Frank Minasian, Trustee Representative

Term of Office Expires:

Convention of 2022 - Janet Zimmerman, Janet Young, Beth Washburn

Convention of 2023 - Richard Delorme, Charlotte LaForest, Reynolds Whalen

Convention of 2024 - Eliot Moss, Rick Gore, Tom Callard, Mary Frances Rozak

Upcoming Meetings

January 13, 2022

February 12, 2022 (Saturday – note change)

March 24, 2022

May 12, 2022

June 9, 2022

Minutes of the Meeting of Diocesan Council

December 9, 2021

2:00 p.m. via Zoom

Present

The Rt. Rev. Doug Fisher, President
Don Allison, Chancellor
The Rev. Tom Callard
Richard Delorme
Richard Gore
The Rev. Charlotte LaForest
Frank Minasian
The Rev. Eliot Moss
Mark Rogers, Treasurer
Mary Frances Rozak
The Rev. Rich Simpson
The Rev. Tanya Wallace, Vice-President
The Rev. Dcn. Beth Washburn
Reynolds Whalen
Wende Wheeler, Secretary

Absent

Janet Young
The Rev. Janet Zimmerman

2:00 p.m. Called to order with prayer led by Mark Rogers

Introductions of new Council members

New members Tom Callard, Mary Frances Rozak and Tanya Wallace introduced themselves in this, their first Council meeting. This was followed by the rest of the Council members and attendees briefly introducing themselves as well.

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Bishop's Time

The Bishop's items:

- Mark Rogers has agreed to become the new Director of Human to Human. In the wake of the retirement of Steve Abdow, Mark will take on H2H which serves to support various ministries around the Diocese which are not supported by individual parishes, like Walking Together Worcester and the Building Bridges Veteran's Ministry. Mark will focus particularly on the fundraising for these projects, as well as looking at different opportunities for H2H support around the Diocese. We'll re-evaluate in a year.
- A survey will be sent out next week (December 2021) to clergy and wardens see what parishes need at this time. The Bishop will report back on the results of the survey.

- The Commission on Ministry met recently, and several people have been approved for postulancy (pending the result of psych evals): four for the priesthood, and two for the diaconate. That's the biggest number in his time as bishop.
- He, along with Rich Simpson and Mark Rogers, returned recently from a Exploring Common Mission retreat as a final gathering after a year of work. The work will continue with subcommittees which will consider ways in which the dioceses may collaborate in the future. Merger is not currently on the table. The final report will be released soon.

Update on Transitions

Rich began by noting that his piece written for *21st Century Congregations*, the Diocesan newsletter to parish leaders, is available on the portal. In it, he discusses some of the challenges and issues now facing parishes in transition. He also reported:

- St. Mark's/East Longmeadow has decided to put their rector search on hold. Sandi Albom has agreed to stay on, and will move to being three-quarter time as the parish works to determine how best to go forward in the face of difficult financial circumstances.
- All Saints'/Worcester has received names for their final candidates.
- St. Luke's/Worcester has signed a letter of agreement with Bishop Marty Field to serve as a long-term interim (not public yet). Bishop Field has recently retired as Bishop of West Missouri, and is moving to the area to be closer to family.
- Trinity/Chicopee has voted to close, and is becoming a mission of the Diocese as a part of the process of shutting down. Their final service will be at the end of February. Daphne Burt will be retiring. Rich had recently met with them, and reports that one of the signs of hope and life in the midst of a sad and difficult situation is that all the current parishioners are prayerfully determining where they will go next. They are looking for new communities to be a part of, and none seems to be falling away, which is often a casualty of closing a parish.

Vote on Housing Allowances for ordained members of Diocesan Staff

The annual vote on the designation of a portion of clerical members of Diocesan staff as housing allowance for tax purposes. The text of the resolution follows these minutes. The resolution was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Ratification of vote on North Grafton

On November 8, 2021, Council voted by email unanimously to pass the following resolution in order to facilitate the sale of the North Grafton property:

Resolved: That the Diocesan Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts, acting as the corporate authority for St. Andrew's Parish, a mission of the Diocese, authorizes the sale by St. Andrew's Parish of the property located at 53 North Main Street, North Grafton, MA. known as St. Andrew's Church for a gross sales price of \$670,000.00

Resolved: That the Rt. Rev. Douglas J. Fisher is authorized, on behalf of St. Andrew's Parish, to execute such deeds, agreements, assignments and other documents which, in his sole judgment, is necessary or appropriate to carry out this vote.

Council now, meeting together, was asked to ratify the prior action that was taken by email:

Moved: that Council ratify the email vote taken on November 8, 2021, in connection with the sale of the property at 53 North Main Street, North Grafton, MA.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Council Retreat

The February Council meeting, initially planned for February 17, has been changed to Saturday, February 12, as an in-person retreat. Further details will be forthcoming.

Reclassification of Trinity/Chicopee

Chancellor Don Allison noted that in the wake of the vote by the vestry of Trinity Church in Chicopee to request approval from the Bishop and the Diocesan Council for the reclassification to Mission status, Council must vote to approve the reclassification (Canon 16, Section 11). To that end, the following motion was made:

Move that Council approve the reclassification of Trinity Episcopal Church in Chicopee as a Mission.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Wende T. Wheeler, Secretary

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Officers and Appointed Members:

The Rt. Rev. Douglas Fisher, President

The Rev. Tanya Wallace, Vice President

Ms. Wende Wheeler, Secretary

Mr. Mark Rogers, Treasurer

Mr. Frank Minasian, Trustee Representative

Term of Office Expires:

Convention of 2022 – Janet Zimmerman, Janet Young, Beth Washburn

Convention of 2023 – Richard Delorme, Charlotte LaForest, Reynolds Whalen

Convention of 2024 – Tom Callard, Eliot Moss, Rick Gore, Mary Frances Rozak

Diocesan Council
December 9, 2021
2022 Clergy Housing Allowance Resolutions

Be it further resolved that whereas the Reverend Christopher Carlisle, is employed as a minister of the Gospel by the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts, which does not provide a residence for him, Diocesan Council resolves that of the total compensation of \$41,818. to be paid to The Rev. Mr. Carlisle during the year 2022, that \$41,818. be designated a parsonage allowance within the meaning of that term as used in section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Be it further resolved that whereas The Rt. Rev. Douglas J. Fisher is employed as a minister of the Gospel and Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts, which does not provide a residence for him, Diocesan Council resolves that of the total compensation of \$176,810. to be paid to Bishop Fisher during the year 2022, that \$59,000. be designated a parsonage allowance within the meaning of that term as used in section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Be it resolved that whereas the Reverend Jennifer Gregg, is employed as a minister of the Gospel by the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts, which does not provide a residence for her, Diocesan Council resolves that of the total compensation of \$64,402. to be paid to The Rev. Ms. Gregg during the year 2022, that \$25,000. be designated a parsonage allowance within the meaning of that term as used in section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Be it resolved that whereas Canon Victoria Ix, is employed as a minister of the Gospel by the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts, which does not provide a residence for her, Diocesan Council resolves that of the total compensation of \$78,439. to be paid to Canon Ix during the year 2022 that \$20,300. be designated a parsonage allowance within the meaning of that term as used in section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Be it resolved that whereas the Reverend Jose Reyes Perez, is employed as a minister of the Gospel by the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts, which does not provide a residence for him, Diocesan Council resolves that of the total compensation of \$80,411. to be paid to The Rev. Mr. Reyes Perez during the year 2022, that \$25,000. be designated a parsonage allowance within the meaning of that term as used in section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Be it further resolved that whereas Canon Richard M. Simpson, is employed as a minister of the Gospel by the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts, which does not provide a residence for him, Diocesan Council resolves that of the total compensation of \$117,877. to be paid to Canon Simpson during the year 2022, that \$48,000. be designated a parsonage allowance within the meaning of that term as used in section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Be it further resolved that whereas the Reverend Meredyth Ward is employed as a minister of the Gospel by the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts, which does not provide a residence for her, Diocesan Council resolves that of the total compensation of \$33,400. to be paid to The Rev. Ms. Ward during the year 2022, that \$15,000. be designated a parsonage allowance within the meaning of that term as used in section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Be it further resolved that the designation of housing allowances as stated above shall apply to calendar year 2022 and all future years unless otherwise provided for by this Council.

Minutes of the Episcopal Missions of Western Massachusetts

December 9, 2021

3:00 p.m. via Zoom

Present

The Rt. Rev. Doug Fisher, President
Don Allison, Chancellor
The Rev. Tom Callard
Richard Delorme
Richard Gore
The Rev. Charlotte LaForest
Frank Minasian
The Rev. Eliot Moss
Mark Rogers, Treasurer
Mary Frances Rozak
The Rev. Rich Simpson
The Rev. Tanya Wallace, Vice-President
The Rev. Dcn. Beth Washburn
Reynolds Whalen
Wende Wheeler, Secretary

Absent

Janet Young
The Rev. Janet Zimmerman

3:05 p.m. Called to order

Introduction to Episcopal Missions of Western Massachusetts

Chancellor Don Allison explained that Diocesan Council has two roles: one as the Board of Directors of the Diocese. The other is as the officers and directors of a separate legal entity known as the Episcopal Missions of Western Massachusetts (EMWM). EMWM was established to deal with issues around the sale of the assets of a parish. Each parish holds its real estate and assets in trust for the Diocese. As a general matter, the Diocese allows the parish to appropriately use those assets as the parish deems advisable. Each parish, from a legal perspective, an individual corporate entity. If a parish needed to sell its assets, either when closing or for other reasons, it would be a charity that was selling all its assets, and so would need permission from the Charities Division of the state Attorney General's office, which is a complicated process. So, we've set up EMWM to be an entity into which we can merge a parish's assets, with EMWM being the surviving entity. Then, if those assets need to be sold, EMWM can sell the assets without the Attorney General's approval, because they're not *all* EMWM's assets, as EMWM has many assets.

Transfer of the proceeds from the sale of North Grafton property

Moved: To transfer the net proceeds from the sale of the property owned by EMWM located at 53 North Main Street, North Grafton, MA, to Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, 3 Pleasant Street, Sutton, MA. Said funds to be held by the Trustees for the Diocese in an account for the benefit of Holy Spirit Episcopal Church; and

To authorize any duly elected Officer of the Diocesan Council of The Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts, acting alone, to execute such Authorizations or Certificates as may be required to evidence this Vote.

The motion was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Wende T. Wheeler, Secretary