

Council Agenda September 10 2020 _____	2
Diocesan Council Minutes August 6 2020 _____	4
Council Special Meeting August 27 2020 Minutes _____	7
Diocesan Council approval to reclassify Epiphany _____	9
Epiphany Merger Agreement _____	10
EMWM Minutes August 6 2020 _____	11
EMWM Board of Directors Certificate of Vote (Otis) (3) _____	12
EMWM Board of Directors Secretary Cert (1) (1) _____	13
Vote of Sole Member EMWM Secretary Cert _____	14

AGENDA
September 10, 2020 at 2PM

via Zoom

Gathering time

Consent agenda: (on portal)

- Minutes - Council Meeting August 6
- Minutes - EMWM Meeting August 6
- Minutes - Council special meeting August 27

Bishop's Time

2021 Budget

PPP loan forgiveness application

Vote of Council to approve merger of Epiphany Wilbraham Corp. and EMWM (on portal)

Adjourn Council

EMWM Meeting

Vote to approve sale of Old Stone Chapel in Lanesboro (on portal)

Vote of Council to approve merger of Epiphany Wilbraham Corp. and EMWM (on portal)

FUTURE MEETINGS

The 2nd Thursday in October, and November for one hour by video conference

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Officers and Appointed Members:

The Rt. Rev. Douglas Fisher, President

The Rev. Nancy Webb Stroud, Vice President

Ms. Wende Wheeler, Secretary

Ms. Kitty Dougherty, Treasurer

Mr. Frank Minasian, Trustee Representative

Term of Office Expires:

Convention of 2020 - Heather Blais, Donna Christian, Richard Delorme

Convention of 2021 - José Reyes Pérez, Mark Rogers, Eliot Moss, Rick Gore

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

Minutes of the Meeting of Diocesan Council

August 6, 2020
2:00 p.m. via Zoom

Present

The Rt. Rev. Doug Fisher, President
Steve Abdow, Assistant Treasurer
The Rev. Heather Blais
Richard Delorme
Richard Gore
Frank Minasian
The Rev. Eliot Moss
The Rev. José Reyes
The Rev. Rich Simpson
The Rev. Nancy Webb Stroud, Vice-President
Wende Wheeler, Secretary
Janet Young

Absent

Donna Christian
Mark Rogers
The Rev. Dcn. Beth Washburn
The Rev. Janet Zimmerman

2:05 p.m. Called to order with prayer led by the Bishop

Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda was moved, seconded and passed unanimously.

Bishop's Time

The Bishop noted:

- Under more normal circumstances, he would have been in Lambeth for the once-a-decade gathering of the Anglican Communion. The 2020 Lambeth Conference has been postponed until the summer of 2022. It's also possible that General Convention, scheduled for Baltimore in the summer of 2021, could also be postponed until the summer of 2022. Although there had been discussion that it might be held virtually on schedule, that now seems less likely, so a postponement would be potential if it's not possible to meet in person.
- He would shortly be announcing the establishment of protocols which will allow parishes to resume administration of two sacraments: Communion and Baptism. "Permission is not a command": this is strictly as parishes are comfortable resuming meeting in person, using the protocols that have been laid out.
- The Diocese of Western Massachusetts is collaborating more frequently with the Diocese of Massachusetts in the current pandemic. The newly released protocols for the Eucharist and Baptism were developed and are being announced by both Dioceses together. Additionally, the Building Bridges Ministry is working with DioMass to expand the ministry with the possibility of a new site at an Episcopal church in Foxboro.

The Bishop also spoke of two recent losses in the Diocese this summer. There will be a live-streamed memorial service on September 19 for the Rev. Karen Safstrom, priest-in-charge of Epiphany/Christ the King in Wilbraham, who died unexpectedly on June 11. Rabbi Mark Shapiro, the Cathedral's Rabbi in Residence who died on July 21, showed how possible and important interfaith work is. There is conversation about a possible memorial to Rabbi Mark, possibly in the form of a speaker series.

Global Missions Committee Grants

In the absence of a sitting Global Missions Committee, Council was asked to affirm three grants from the Global Missions budget line (\$10,000). Three grants for \$4,000 each were affirmed on a voice vote; the Bishop will make up the remaining \$2,000 from his discretionary funds. The three grants will be made to the following, as presented in materials given to the Council:

- Connect Africa Fund, Uganda
- St. Matthew's School, Bayonnais, Haiti
- Ahli Arab Hospital, Gaza City (through American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem)

Lawrence House Grant

In order to support the work and ministry of the Lawrence House Service Corps, Council is being asked to approve funding from the Diocesan budget. Motion: That Council fund \$10,000 from the 2020 budget for the Lawrence House operations. Seconded and approved unanimously. Note: an additional \$5,000 from the Bishop's Discretionary Fund will also be directed to Lawrence House.

Review of Parish Financial Survey

A survey of parishes to assess their financial situations given the pandemic has shown that for the most part, parishes are stable. Some parishes have returned their assessment forgiveness (letters of appreciation will be sent by the Secretary to those parishes on behalf of the Bishop and Council). Parishioners are supporting their parishes – pledges are holding or being paid at a slightly higher rate.

No other diocese undertook application for the Payroll Protection Program on behalf of all their parishes. We are in the process of applying for loan forgiveness, which was part of the program, based on retention of staff, which we have met. The loan will, therefore, turn into a grant.

2021 Budgeting process

Budget planning is underway. It's particularly hard this year as projecting income is difficult, and depends on the status of the economy. Draft budget will be presented at the September Council meeting.

Update on St. Mark's Community Center

While we're currently not inhabiting our buildings, work on the Community Center is progressing. A contractor has been hired, and demolition is being done to the bathrooms. The Hispanic Ministry of St. Mark's is taking on leadership for the Center. St. Michael's-on-the-Heights is expanding its diaper ministry to have a location in the Center, and ACTS Tutoring may establish a satellite location there, with a fall opening planned. The project has been kicked off by a \$40,000 UTO grant and \$40,000 from the parish.

Additionally, the Committee on New Parishes is evaluating the Hispanic Ministry for potential admission as a new congregation in the Diocese.

Vote on Merger of St. Thomas, Auburn

A motion was presented to Council, the sole member of Episcopal Missions of Western Massachusetts (EMWM), to vote the following:

To approve, endorse and adopt the Agreement for the Merger of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, Auburn, MA, with Episcopal Missions of Western Massachusetts in the form attached to these minutes of this meeting.

Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Wende T. Wheeler, Secretary

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

Officers and Appointed Members:

The Rt. Rev. Douglas Fisher, President

The Rev. Nancy Webb Stroud, Vice President

Ms. Wende Wheeler, Secretary

Ms. Kitty Dougherty, Treasurer

Mr. Frank Minasian, Trustee Representative

Term of Office Expires:

Convention of 2020 - Heather Blais, Donna Christian, Richard Delorme

Convention of 2021 - José Reyes Pérez, Mark Rogers, Eliot Moss, Rick Gore

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

Minutes of the Special Meeting of Diocesan Council
August 27, 2020
8:30 a.m. via Zoom

Present

The Rev. Nancy Webb Stroud, Vice-President
Don Allison, Chancellor
Richard Gore
The Rev. Eliot Moss
Mark Rogers
Wende Wheeler, Secretary
The Rev. Janet Zimmerman

Absent

The Rev. Heather Blais
Donna Christian
Richard Delorme
Frank Minasian
The Rev. José Reyes
The Rev. Dcn. Beth Washburn
Janet Young

Meeting called to order at 8:30 a.m.

Diocesan Chancellor Don Allison presented the meeting's single agenda item: The Council was asked to authorize the subordination of the 2012 Diocesan loan made to Bishop Doug Fisher and Betsy Fisher for the purchase of their home in light of a home equity loan being taken by the Fishers. The Diocesan loan moves from second to third place, behind the original mortgage and the new home equity line.

The following motion was made:

Moved: 1) That the Diocese agree to subordinate a mortgage dated August 31, 2012 on the premises located at 1900 Home Road, Sheffield, Massachusetts given to it by the Rt. Rev. Dr. Douglas John Fisher ("Bishop Fisher") and Rev. Elizabeth Fisher to secure repayment of a loan from the Diocese in the original principal amount of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) to a mortgage on the premises to be given by Bishop Fisher and Rev. Elizabeth Fisher to Salisbury Bank and Trust Company in the principal amount of Forty Thousand Dollars (\$40,000.00)

2) That, Rev. Nancy Webb Stroud , the Vice President of the Diocese, acting singly, shall be authorized to approve and execute on behalf of the Diocese a Subordination Agreement and related documents which, in the judgment of Rev. Nancy Webb Stroud are reasonable and necessary to carry out this vote.

3) That the signature of Rev. Nancy Webb Stroud to any of the foregoing shall be conclusive evidence of the approval of the form, of all of the terms, provisions and conditions and of the signing, execution, ensealing and delivery thereof for and in the name of and on behalf of the Diocese

The motion was seconded, and passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wende T. Wheeler, Secretary

EPISCOPAL MISSIONS OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS
DIOCESAN COUNCIL

SECRETARY’S CERTIFICATE AND ECCLESIASTICAL APPROVAL

The undersigned duly elected Secretary of the Diocesan Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts, does hereby certify that a duly called meeting of the Diocesan Council, held on September , 2020, at which a quorum was at all times present and voting, the following vote was unanimously adopted:

VOTED: To approve the request of Church of the Epiphany, Wilbraham, Massachusetts submitted pursuant to Diocesan Canon 16A, to be reclassified as a Mission in union with the Diocesan Convention and to adopt the Mission By-Laws adopted in accordance with Diocesan Canon 16.11.b, effective as of this date.

I certify that Rt. Rev. Douglas J. Fisher, is the duly consecrated and serving Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts.

I certify that as of the date hereof, said vote is unchanged and remains in full force and effect.

Executed under the penalties of perjury this ____ day of September 2020.

Wende Wheeler
Secretary
Episcopal Missions of Western Massachusetts

Ecclesiastical Approval

I hereby approve and endorse the foregoing vote of the Diocesan Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts.

Date: _____, 2020

Rt. Rev. Douglas J. Fisher

AGREEMENT

This is an agreement for the merger of Church of the Epiphany a Massachusetts religious corporation and a congregation of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts (the “Diocese”) located at 35 School Street, Auburn, Massachusetts, with Episcopal Missions of Western Massachusetts, an affiliate of the Diocese located at 37 Chestnut Street, Springfield, Massachusetts (“EMWM”).

In consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements below, it is agreed:

1. On the Effective date, as defined below, Church of the Epiphany will be merged into EMWM.
2. The name of the merged entity will be Episcopal Missions of Western Massachusetts.
3. The purposes of the merged entity will be as stated in the Articles of Organization of EMWM.
4. The merger will become effective when approved by the Secretary of the Commonwealth or upon such date within thirty (30) days after the filing of the Articles of Merger with the Secretary of the Commonwealth as may be set forth in said Articles (“Effective Date”).

This Agreement has been executed as a sealed instrument on behalf of Church of the Epiphany and of Episcopal Missions of Western Massachusetts, by their duly authorized officers, and their seals affixed, on the dates indicated below.

CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

By: _____
Joanne Laplante
It's President
Date:

EPISCOPAL MISSIONS OF WESTERN
MASSACHUSETTS

By: _____
Rt. Rev. Douglas J. Fisher
It's President
Date:

Minutes of the meeting of the Episcopal Missions of Western Massachusetts

August 6, 2020
3:15 p.m. via Zoom

Present

The Rt. Rev. Doug Fisher, President
Steve Abdow, Assistant Treasurer
The Rev. Heather Blais
Richard Delorme
Richard Gore
Frank Minasian
The Rev. Eliot Moss
The Rev. José Reyes
The Rev. Rich Simpson
The Rev. Nancy Webb Stroud, Vice-President
Wende Wheeler, Secretary
Janet Young

Absent

Donna Christian
Mark Rogers
The Rev. Dcn. Beth Washburn
The Rev. Janet Zimmerman

3:15 p.m. Meeting called to order

Vote on Merger of St. Thomas, Auburn

A motion was presented to the Board of Directors of Episcopal Missions of Western Massachusetts (EMWM), to vote the following:

To approve, endorse and adopt the Agreement for the Merger by and between St. Thomas' Episcopal Church and Episcopal Missions of Western Massachusetts in the form attached to these minutes of this meeting.

Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Wende T. Wheeler, Secretary

**EPISCOPAL MISSIONS OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
CERTIFICATE OF VOTE**

The undersigned duly elected Clerk of Episcopal Missions of Western Massachusetts (the "Corporation") does hereby certify that at a duly called meeting of the Board of Directors of the Corporation held on September 10, 2020, at which a quorum was at all times present and voting, the following votes were adopted:

VOTED: To approve sale of the property located at 525 North Main Street, Lanesborough, Massachusetts, being a portion of the property conveyed to the Corporation by deed dated September 19, 2012 and recorded in the Northern Berkshire Registry of Deeds at Book 1490, Page 321, for a price not less than \$95,000.00.

To authorize the President, the Treasurer or the Assistant Treasurer, or any one of them acting alone, to execute such deeds, agreements, assignments and other documents which, in their sole judgment, are necessary or appropriate to carry out these votes.

I further certify that the duly elected President, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer of the Corporation are, respectively, the Rt. Rev. Douglas J. Fisher, Kitty Dougherty , and Steven P. Abdow; and

I further certify that as of the date hereof, said votes are unchanged and remain in full force and effect.

Executed as a sealed instrument under the penalties of perjury, this __ day of September 2020.

Signature _____
Print Name: Wende Wheeler
Office: Clerk
Episcopal Missions of Western Massachusetts

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Hampden, ss. September , 2020

On this __ day of September, 2020, before me, the undersigned Notary Public, personally appeared _____, proved to me through satisfactory evidence of identification, which was personal knowledge, to be the person whose name is signed on the preceding or attached document, and acknowledged to me that he/she signed it voluntarily for its stated purpose.

, Notary Public
My commission expires:

EPISCOPAL MISSIONS OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECRETARY’S CERTIFICATE

The undersigned duly elected Secretary of Episcopal Missions of Western Massachusetts (“EMWM”), does hereby certify that a duly called meeting of the Board of Directors of EMWM, held on September , 2020, at which a quorum was at all times present and voting, the following vote was unanimously adopted:

VOTED: To approve, endorse and adopt the Agreement for the Merger by and between Church of the Epiphany and Episcopal Missions of Western Massachusetts in the form attached to the original minutes of this meeting.

I certify that as of the date hereof, said vote is unchanged and remains in full force and effect.

Executed under the penalties of perjury this ____ day of September, 2020.

Wende Wheeler
Assistant Secretary
Episcopal Missions of Western Massachusetts

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

VOTE OF THE SOLE MEMBER

SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE

The undersigned duly elected Secretary of Episcopal Missions of Western Massachusetts ("EMWM"), does hereby certify that a duly called meeting of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts, the sole member of EMWM, acting by and through its duly elected Diocesan Council, held on September , 2020, at which a quorum was at all times present and voting, the following vote was unanimously adopted:

VOTED: To approve, endorse and adopt the Agreement for the Merger of Church of the Epiphany, Wilbraham, Massachusetts, with Episcopal Missions of Western Massachusetts in the form attached to the original minutes of this meeting

I certify that as of the date hereof, said vote is unchanged and remains in full force and effect.

Executed under the penalties of perjury this ____ day of September 2020.

Wende Wheeler
Secretary
Episcopal Missions of Western Massachusetts