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## **June 27, 2017 Diocesan Council and EMWM Special Meeting - by Teleconference**

8:30 AM

### **Diocesan Council Agenda**

#### **Council Agenda**

- Consent Agenda
  - Approve minutes of 4/27/17 meeting
  - Approve minutes of 6/8/17 teleconference
  - Resolution:  
Mary Martin from Christ Memorial, West Brookfield (413.436.9638, martinmary12@gmail.com) be appointed to the Nominating Committee for the 2017 Convention of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts
- Votes:
  - To approve the request of Grace Episcopal Church, Chicopee, 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.
  - To approve, endorse and adopt the Agreement for the Merger of Grace Episcopal Church, Chicopee, Massachusetts, with Episcopal Missions of Western Massachusetts, dated June 22, 2017. (Merger agreement document is on the portal.)
- Adjourn Council meeting

#### **EMWM Agenda**

- Approve minutes of 4/27/17 meeting
- Approve minutes of 6/8/17 teleconference
- Vote:
  - To approve, endorse and adopt the Agreement for the Merger by and between Grace Episcopal Church, Chicopee and Episcopal Missions of Western Massachusetts in the form attached to the original minutes of this meeting. (Merger agreement document is on the portal.)
  - Transfer EMWM Trustee Funds to Church of Sts. James and Andrew (see language of vote on the portal)
- Adjourn

**Council and EMWM membership**

Officers and Appointed Members

The Rt. Rev. Douglas Fisher, President

The Rev. Nancy Webb Stroud, Vice President

The Rev. Mac Murray, Secretary

Mr. Wayne Gass, Treasurer

Mr. Frank Minasian, Trustee Representative

*Term of Office Expires:*

Convention of 2017 - Heather Blais, Derrick Fetz, Dan Mylott, Donna Christian

Convention of 2018 - José Reyes Pérez, John Cheek

Convention of 2019 - Janet Zimmerman, Jesse Abell, Janet Young

**Council Meeting Schedule** – Diocesan Office, 2nd floor Conference Room:

- Thursday, September 7, 2017 2:00 pm
- Thursday, November 16, 2017 2:00 pm
- Saturday, February 3, 2018 – Joint Retreat with Standing Committee (Location TBD)
- Thursday, April 12, 2018
- Thursday, June 14, 2018

Minutes of Diocesan Council Meeting  
Diocese of Western Massachusetts, Springfield MA  
April 27, 2017

**In Attendance:**

*The Rt. Rev. Douglas J. Fisher, President*

*The Rev. Nancy Webb Stroud, Vice President*

*The Rev. Pamela Mott, Asst. Secretary*

*Ms. Jill Senecal, Asst. Secretary*

*Mr. Steven Abdow, Asst. Treasurer*

*Pioneer Valley Corridor – The Rev. Heather Blais; Ms. Donna Christian; The Rev. Derrick Fetz; Ms. Janet Walsh Young*

*Berkshire Corridor – Mr. John Check; The Rev. Dr. Janet Zimmerman*

*Worcester Corridor – The Rev. Jesse W. Abell; Ms. Joan Gilchrist; The Rev. José Reyes*

*Mr. Frank Minasian, Trustee Representative*

**Absent:**

*Mr. Wayne Gass; The Rev. William Murray; Mr. Dan H. Mylott; The Rev. Dr. Richard M. Simpson*

**2:05 pm – Meeting called to order**

The Rev. Heather Blais led the opening prayer and offered some ponderings for a healthy church this Easter season.

**Group Discussion – Challenges for a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Congregation – Pam Mott (Appendix A, 1-6)**

Pam Mott started discussion, based on 1) assigned homework 2) a quote and 3) three questions. Committee then separated in different groups for discussion.

- “If we stay on the road we are on, surely we will get where we are going.”
- Where in the statistics is the information for choosing another road – seeds of renewal?
- What hit home in experiences in your own congregations?
- What are you going to do about it personally to choose another road?

Following small group discussion, these were the topics:

- Needing a sense of purpose
- Changing format and styles of worship / non- typical services
- Rotating lay leadership
- Church statistics do not match actual neighborhoods / aging congregations

- Ministries need to be for population that we're living with
- Do what you do well
- Worshipping with others
- Welcome our neighbors in and find out who they are
- Always an opportunity to grow
- Let dying things die / honor it and let it go
- Try more positive and fun things
- Want to move to new life
- What are our expressions of the gospel/ what would that look like?
- Church is not just going to church, what other things can we do to expand the idea of what church is?
- Using only one model is not a true measurement of effectiveness

Bishop Fisher invited anyone who is interested in putting together an "Expressions of the Gospel Report" please email him to talk about it.

#### **Bishop's Time – Case Study (Appendix B):**

Bishop started off discussion asking what other questions do we need to ask to form a decision?

- What is their approach to stewardship? – Every September a letter goes out to them.
- What is the possibility of bringing in retired clergy?
- Are alternative ways thought of before approaching council?
- What is the relation with the neighboring Episcopal church? Is this church healthy?
- Nearby Lutheran congregation, but struggling also.
- Is the town growing?
- Relationship with Diocese?
- Do they participate in Diocesan events?
- What can be done to help the leadership?
- What would be missed if the church were to close?
- If we were starting over, would we put a church in that location?
- How many families/children?
- Would you use the same leadership if you were planting a new church?
- Consequences of growing a small congregation?
- Can the building be used for other purposes to generate income?
- What are they talking about in the parking lot?
- What are the demographics, income, race...etc.?
- What is their mission? What are they passionate about? What do they do well?

What is the capacity of the membership?

- Are they willing to do anything to grow?
- What about restarting a new church using a new model?
- What is the Diocese vision for this area?

Bishop's response to discussion and questions

- What are those criteria that we want?
- Decide to double down and pay for a full time clergy?
- This is worth the risk.
- Could this be a missed opportunity?
- Need to make sure the right person is in place to lead.

Bishop and Pam spent 24 hours with the Lutherans discussing how to work together.

- Three situations:
  - Christ Church Trinity in Sheffield is working with the Methodists to select a rector
  - Church of the Epiphany in Wilbraham is working with a Lutheran Parish. They are trying to decide which building to sell.
  - Good Shephard Church in West Springfield is working with a small Lutheran Congregation. This is still in the "nesting" phase.

Meeting with UCC to discuss success stories:

- What would happen if worship was done in the same building, but at different times?
- Have coffee hour, and other functions together.

Pilgrimage on the Connecticut River, stopping each night and having prayer groups

There is a new Rabbi-in-Residence: Rabbi Mark Shapiro

- Bishop and Rabbi will teach a class together 4x a year regarding lectionary.

### **Consent Agenda:**

- Approve Minutes of February 11, 2017 DC Meeting (**Appendix C, 1-3**)
- Accept financial reports:
  - Treasurers Report (**Appendix D**)
  - Update of Diocese's Real Estate Portfolio (**Appendix E, 1-2**)
  - Recap of the March special meeting of the Budget and Financial Planning Committee (**Appendix F, 1-2**)

## **Presentations:**

- Steve Abbow – Establish / Affirm Diocesan Council Norms **(Flip Charts (Appendix G, 1-3))**
  - update from retreat:
  - Expectations, responsibilities and norms of how Council will work.
  - Should be done by a smaller committee of Council, within the next 4-6 weeks.
  - Revisit and come up with a proposal, set of norms, for 1<sup>st</sup> meeting in the fall.
  - Looking for volunteers:
    - Heather Blais
    - Joan Gilchrist
    - Janet Walsh Young – recommended
- Nancy Webb Stroud – Mission Statement **(Flip Charts (Appendix H, 1-2))**
  - Standing Committee has discussed Mission Statement, but would now like Diocesan Council to discuss their draft statements.
  - Does SC have a specific direction that's not reflected in the draft that they would like DC to go in – No
  - SC thinks draft is longer than Mission Statement is.
  - Questions/comments posted on M.S. draft are not the consensus.
  - Bishop Fisher takes issue with the term "Jesus Movement" gets over used.
  - Most people identify with the church. Church is not the building. About 70% identify with the building.
  - Joint meeting with SC and DC started talking about and came up with Mission Statement draft, but never adopted.
    - Committee comprised of Nancy Webb Stroud, Pamela Mott, Joan Gilchrist and William (Mac) Murray.
  - What is this Mission Statement for? What is its' intent?
  - Is this the churches' articulated vision?
  - Mission Statement of 10 years ago, was to have healthy mission focused congregations.
  - We still have healthy parishes, but that is not the only mission of the Diocese today. '
  - How do we recognize/reflect other ministries, such as Walking Together with Meredyth Ward and Ministry of John Edgar Freeman, in our Mission Statement?
  - Need for core direction/values
  - If it's not fitting in the Mission are we called to do it?
  - Discussion ensued and decision made to refer back to committee for further discernment.
  - New Committee formed.

### **Alcohol Policy Revisions in the Diocese of Western Massachusetts – Pam Mott (Appendix I, 1-7)**

- Approved revisions to the Alcohol Policy
  - Will give presentation at Convention

### **Proposed Policy on use of Specific Gaming for Fund Raising by Congregations of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts – Steve Abdow (Appendix J)**

- Discussion:
  - No predatory gaming – bingo
  - Needs to be time limited and specific – raffles
  - Accountability
  - Clearly stated what proceeds will be used for
- Approved proposed policy on gaming.
  - Will give presentation at Convention

### **Memorial Garden – Derek Fetz**

- Still researching. Hoping to have more information for the September meeting.

### **Investment Guidelines, Investment Policy Statement (Appendix K)**

- Discussion:
  - Changes to reflect investments into short term bonds and cd's
- Accepted policy changes in total

### **Appointment of Nominating Committee Membership**

- 2017 Nominating Committee:
  - Mr. Steve Symes – Chair (Marlborough)
  - The Rev. Heather Blais (Greenfield)
  - Ms. Sue Gore (Lee)
  - Ms. Nancy Lowry (Amherst)
  - The Rev. Tom Damrosch (Pittsfield)
  - Mr. Mike Young (Longmeadow)
  - Ms. Joan Gilchrist (Berlin)
- Recommended – answers still pending:
  - Ms. Beth Baldwin (Worcester)



- Mr. Dee Williams (?)

**Council Meeting Schedule – Diocesan Office, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Conference Room:**

- Thursday, September 7, 2017 2:00 pm
- Thursday, November 16, 2017 2:00 pm
- Saturday, February 3, 2018 – Joint meeting with Standing Committee (Retreat)
- Thursday, April 12, 2018
- Thursday, June 14, 2018 – pre-TEC General Convention

**4:15 pm Diocesan Council Meeting Adjourned**

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill Senecal, Assistant Secretary

**COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP – Officers and Appointed Members:**

*The Rt. Rev. Douglas J. Fisher, President*

*The Rev. Nancy Webb Stroud, Vice President*

*The Rev. Mac Murray, Secretary*

*Mr. Wayne Gass, Treasurer*

*Mr. Frank Minasian, Trustee Representative*

**Term of Office Expires:**

Convention of 2017 – Heather Blais, Derrick Fetz, Dan Mylott, Donna Christian, Joan Gilchrist

Convention of 2018 – José Reyes Perez, John Cheek

Convention of 2019 – Janet Zimmerman, Jesse Abell, Janet Walsh Young

Minutes of the Diocesan Council  
June 8, 2017 Special Meeting via Teleconference

**In Attendance:**

The Rev. Jesse Abell  
The Rev. Heather Blais  
Ms. Donna Christian  
The Rev. Derrick Fetz  
Bishop Doug Fisher, President  
Ms. Joan Gilchrist  
Mr. Frank Minasian  
The Rev. William Murray, Clerk  
The Rev. José Reyes  
The Rev. Nancy Webb Stroud  
Ms. Janet Walsh Young  
The Rev. Janet Zimmerman  
Canon Steven Abdow

8:30 a.m. – Meeting called to order

**Vote:**           *To approve the request of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, North Grafton, 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.*

**APPROVED:** *Unanimous*

**Vote:**           *To approve, endorse and adopt the Agreement for the Merger of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, North Grafton, Massachusetts, with Episcopal Missions of Western Massachusetts, dated March 1, 2017.*

**APPROVED:** *Unanimous*

8:35 a.m. – Meeting Adjourned

Resolved,

Mary Martin from Christ Memorial, West Brookfield (413.436.9638, [martinmary12@gmail.com](mailto:martinmary12@gmail.com))  
be appointed to the Nominating Committee for the 2017 Convention of the Diocese of Western  
Massachusetts

## AGREEMENT

This is an agreement for the merger of Grace Episcopal Church (“Grace Church”) a Massachusetts religious corporation and a congregation of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts (the “Diocese”) located at 156 Springfield Street, Chicopee, 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, Grace Church 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 Grace Episcopal Church and of Episcopal Missions of Western Massachusetts, by their duly authorized officers, and their seals affixed, on the dates indicated below.

GRACE EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Cherie Spinks

It’s Senior Warden

Date:

EPISCOPAL MISSIONS OF WESTERN  
MASSACHUSETTS

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Rt. Rev. Douglas J. Fisher

It’s President

Date:

June 22, 2017

**EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS**  
**DIOCESAN COUNCIL**

**SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE AND ECCLESIASTICAL APPROVAL**

The undersigned duly elected Secretary or Assistant 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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2017, at which a quorum was at all times present and voting, the following vote was unanimously adopted:

VOTED:        To approve the request of Grace Episcopal Church, Chicopee, 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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_  
The Rev. William M. Murray  
Secretary of the Diocesan Council of  
The 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: \_\_\_\_\_, 2017

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rt. Rev. Douglas J. Fisher

**EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS**

**VOTE OF THE SOLE MEMBER**

**SECRETARY’S CERTIFICATE**

The undersigned duly elected Secretary or Assistant 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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2017, 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 Grace Episcopal Church, Chicopee, Massachusetts, with Episcopal Missions of Western Massachusetts, dated June 22, 2017.

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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.

---

The Rev. William M. Murray  
Secretary  
Episcopal Missions of Western Massachusetts

**Minutes of EMWM**  
**Diocese of Western Massachusetts, Springfield MA**  
**April 27, 2017**

**In Attendance:**

*The Rt. Rev. Douglas J. Fisher, President*

*The Rev. Nancy Webb Stroud, Vice President*

*The Rev. Pamela Mott, Asst. Secretary*

*Ms. Jill Senecal, Asst. Secretary*

*Mr. Steven Abdow, Asst. Treasurer*

*Pioneer Valley Corridor – The Rev. Heather Blais; Ms. Donna Christian; The Rev. Derrick Fetz;*

*Berkshire Corridor – Mr. John Check; The Rev. Dr. Janet Zimmerman*

*Worcester Corridor – Ms. Joan Gilchrist; The Rev. José Reyes*

*Mr. Frank Minasian, Trustee Representative*

**Absent:**

*Mr. Wayne Gass; The Rev. William Murray; Mr. Dan H. Mylott; The Rev. Dr. Richard M. Simpson; Ms. Janet Walsh Young; The Rev. Jesse W. Abell*

**4:15 pm – Meeting called to order**

Approved electronically sent minutes (sent on April 4, 2017) of tele-conference of March 31, 2017  
**(Appendix A)**

**Discussion – Steve Abdow:**

- Will use same tele-conference format for future property discussions/votes
  - Sutton and Grafton
    - not ready for action yet
  - St. Barnabas and All Saints in Springfield
    - will meet with the real estate advisory board on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 to better understand ability to close
    - might need to seek approval, from EMWM, to sell at a specific price

The Rev. Heather Blais offered closing prayer

**4:18 pm – Meeting adjourned**

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Senecal, Assistant Secretary

Minutes of the Episcopal Missions of Western Massachusetts  
June 8, 2017 Special Meeting via Teleconference

**In Attendance:**

The Rev. Jesse Abell  
The Rev. Heather Blais  
Ms. Donna Christian  
The Rev. Derrick Fetz  
Bishop Doug Fisher, President  
Ms. Joan Gilchrist  
Mr. Frank Minasian  
The Rev. William Murray, Clerk  
The Rev. José Reyes  
The Rev. Nancy Webb Stroud  
Ms. Janet Walsh Young  
The Rev. Janet Zimmerman  
Canon Steven Abdow

8:35 a.m. – Meeting called to order

**Vote:** *To approve, endorse and adopt the Agreement for the Merger by and between St. Andrew's Episcopal Church and Episcopal Missions of Western Massachusetts in the form attached to the original minutes of this meeting.*

**APPROVED:** *Unanimous*

**Vote:** *To rescind the vote of May 19, 2016 which approved the sale of the property located at 133 Dalton Ave, Pittsfield, Massachusetts, known as St. Martin's Church, for a gross sales price of not less than \$150,000;*

*To approve the sale of the property located at 133 Dalton Ave, Pittsfield, Massachusetts, known as St. Martin's Church, for a gross sales price of not less than \$99,000;*

*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.*

**APPROVED:** *Unanimous*

**Vote:** *To approve the sale of the properties located at 39 and 41 Oakland Street, Springfield,*



*Massachusetts, known as St. Barnabas and All Saint's Church, for a gross sales price of not less than \$295,000;*

*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.*

**APPROVED:** *Unanimous*

**Vote:** *To approve the sale of the property located at 2 Prospect Street, Turners Falls, Massachusetts, known as St. Andrew's Church, for a gross sales price of not less than \$100,000;*

*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.*

**APPROVED:** *Heather Blais abstained*

**Vote:** *To transfer the invested fund of the former St. Andrew's, North Grafton, known as St. Andrew's Fund # E03406, and held by the Trustees for the Diocese to St. John's Episcopal Church, Sutton, d/b/a Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, North Grafton and Sutton; and*

*To transfer the invested fund of the former St. Andrew's, North Grafton, known as the Memorial Fund, and held by the American Funds in account #74688049 to St. John's Episcopal Church, Sutton, d/b/a Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, North Grafton and Sutton; 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.*

**APPROVED:** *Unanimous*

8:48 a.m. – Meeting

Adjourned

**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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2017, 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 Grace Episcopal Church, Chicopee 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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_  
The Rev. William M. Murray  
Secretary  
Episcopal Missions of Western Massachusetts

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

The undersigned duly elected Secretary of Episcopal Missions of Western Massachusetts, does hereby certify that at a duly called meeting of Episcopal Missions of Western Massachusetts held on \_\_\_\_\_, 2017 at which a quorum was at all times present and voting, the following votes were adopted:

VOTED:       To transfer the invested fund of the former St. Andrew's, North Grafton, known as St. Andrew's Fund # E03406, and held by the Trustees for the Diocese to St. John's Episcopal Church, Sutton, d/b/a Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, North Grafton and Sutton; and

              To transfer the invested fund of the former St. Andrew's, North Grafton, known as the Memorial Fund, and held by the American Funds in account #74688049 to St. John's Episcopal Church, Sutton, d/b/a Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, North Grafton and Sutton; 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.

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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.

Signed\_\_\_\_\_

Name:

Office:

The Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts