

16:05:29 Diocesan Council Meeting Via Zoom 1 April 2020

Minutes of the meeting will be reflected in this chat window.

16:07:48 From John Hennessy : [https://www.maine.gov/governor/mills/news/governor-mills-requests-major-disaster-declaration-federal-government-2020-04-01?fbclid=IwAR3ukw764Egcny\\_mrccIkoMmoBUUVz-S0iYIhNHm1GuM39\\_8a2eSaIgUPsQ](https://www.maine.gov/governor/mills/news/governor-mills-requests-major-disaster-declaration-federal-government-2020-04-01?fbclid=IwAR3ukw764Egcny_mrccIkoMmoBUUVz-S0iYIhNHm1GuM39_8a2eSaIgUPsQ)

16:28:47 From Thomas James Brown, Bishop of Maine : Everybody has the agenda, I presume?

16:29:05 From Diocese of Maine Staff : Reminder, this chat will become the minutes of the meeting. Please feel free to contribute to the record, ask questions, or make observations. All info is welcome!

16:30:13 Meeting convened at 4:30PM

16:32:15 Present are: Thomas Ward, Nancy Moore, Gail Chandler, Steve Ward, Holly Sargent, Peter Jenks, Melissa Sparks, Ann McAlhany, Lynn Rutledge, Paul Beaudette, Rita Redfield, Kim Wallace, Nancy Mooers, Lael Sorensen, John Balicki, GPinny Urbanek, Staff: Thomas Brown, Katie Clark, Barbara Martin, John Hennessy, Terry Reimer, Michael Ambler, Sara D'Angio White and Michael Douglass (Bishopswood) Joining the meeting: Leigh Spahr, secretary

16:33:22 Katie Clark introduced herself and invited folks to be in touch after she settles in and gets up to speed as the new Communications Director for the Diocese.

16:33:44 From Katie Clark : [kclark@episcopalmaine.org](mailto:kclark@episcopalmaine.org)

16:34:01 From Diocese of Maine Staff : Members of Council briefly checked in

16:45:19 From Diocese of Maine Staff : Report on Transition Ministry Conference from Cn. Michael Ambler.

16:45:56 From Diocese of Maine Staff : Concern about the # of clergy vs # of congo opportunities. 70 FT Parish presented; only 36 priests looking for a call. Handful of parishes

in DioME who have been looking for clergy, and are not finding applicants. Will need to return to this conversation at a later date.

16:49:26 From Diocese of Maine Staff : Bishop Report experienced staff is working well.

16:49:56 From Diocese of Maine Staff : Mike Douglass reported on Bishopswood. B'wood is in the waiting game. Small group addressing the questions about what camp will look like this season. Next benchmark is May 1. Not going to bombard parents with information; once a week communications and once a week Zoom meetings with staff. Only official thing cancelled is the May work weekend (first weekend). Maintenance people are working, however.

16:53:06 From Diocese of Maine Staff : Steve Ward reported on the ongoing work between Council and the Committee on Indian Relations (CIR) held last Saturday. The meeting was cordial; some things got done. Planning has begun for the next DioCouncil meeting. CIR will be submitting a pre-meeting packet to members of Council to provide baseline info. A follow up Zoom call on 4/18 has been scheduled to discuss that packet. CIR is OK with a Zoom meeting if in-person full DioCouncil meeting is impossible. Rita Redfield was also at the meeting and is feeling very optimistic. John Hennessy and Christine Talbott also attended that CIR /DioCouncil meeting.

16:56:53 From Diocese of Maine Staff : Lael Sorensen, chair of the finance council reported on the working plans and 'to-do' list in order to respond to this current crisis

17:00:27 From Diocese of Maine Staff : Terry Reimer spoke about the 90 day payment extension from the CPF and affiliated entities ~ Medical trust on premiums, pension fund on pension assessments and church insurance on life insurance, disability premiums, commercial insurance and other premiums. And further on what the Diocese can expect from various diocesan sources ex: Trustees.

17:06:31 From Diocese of Maine Staff : Lael explained that members of the Finance Committee will be calling on the treasurers of the Diocese To get to know them, to understand what's going on in the parish, etc.

17:07:15 From Diocese of Maine Staff : Dick Rozene spoke about the CARES Act CARES Act provides loans to small businesses, and the Diocese qualifies. Dick further explained the loan program and the action item Council will be asked to authorize

Action Item: The Diocese of Council authorizes Mr. Terry Reimer, Canon for Finance and Stewardship (chief financial officer of the Diocese of Maine) to submit a single SBA/PPP application on behalf of the Episcopal Diocese of Maine, its parishes, missions, and diocesan-related entities.

17:10:28 From Diocese of Maine Staff : Additional information will be required from congregations for the Paycheck Protection Program from Small Business Association. Intent is to keep employed those who were employed until the end of June. Terry Reimer the difference between terminating an employee or laying them off, and keeping them employed, is the difference between this program being a loan or being a grant.

17:14:06 From Diocese of Maine Staff : Terry Reimer addressed the need to have additional support for doing this project. Assisting on this project will be Fred Link, St. George's, York Harbor coming onboard and spearhead the application process. He will work with Terry Reimer and Tom Sumner to complete the application. The goal is to do the best job we can to field an accurate and complete application.

17:16:02 From Diocese of Maine Staff : Questions to Finance were addressed followed by discussion.

17:30:31 From Diocese of Maine Staff : Action needs no second; moved on behalf of the Finance Committee by Chair Sorensen.

17:31:01 From Diocese of Maine Staff : No discussion. Bishop called for a vote.

17:31:05 From Diocese of Maine Staff : The motion carried unanimously.

17:31:23 From Diocese of Maine Staff : Two further items from Finance to think about: First, currently one 2 staff do checks and payroll for the diocese. Concern that there's no backup in the event of an emergency. Is there a person on Council who would be willing to becoming a volunteer should the need develop?

No decision needed today. Please pray and discern.

The members of Finance will develop relationships with treasurers but it is likely some parishes and missions may fall into financial distress in the next month or two. Those will need some help and guidance. Is anyone on Council interested in joining this group who will support parishes and missions in financial distress. There isn't enough person power on Finance to do that.

Paul Beaudette, Kim Wallace and Ginny Urbanek will assist this effort.

If you feel so called to either of these efforts, please be in touch with Lael. Bishop asked if you have persons in your congo who are so skilled, please be in touch with Lael.

17:36:05 From Diocese of Maine Staff : The need for more people is great and Bishop noted we will need to accompany our faith communities for an extended period of time.

17:37:19 From Diocese of Maine Staff : Peter Jenks offered the closing prayer.

17:38:19 From Diocese of Maine Staff : Council adjourned at 5:39PM.