

Report of Diocesan Council 2019-2020

Diocesan Council met on the following dates. Key topics discussed are listed. Minutes of the meetings are available upon request.

November 21, 2019

- Parish grid assessment and evaluations
- Assessment Reduction request
- Conversation about Greening Grants and ways in which they might be implemented in the Diocese
- Use of unrestricted donations to the Diocese for Human to Human

February 1, 2020– (Following Diocesan Council Retreat at Christ Church Cathedral)

- Vote to approve Operating Agreement Between Church of the Epiphany and Christ the King Lutheran in Wilbraham
- Vote to Approve Operating Agreement and Articles of Merger between Christ Church Episcopal and Trinity Lutheran Church in Sheffield
- Vote to affirm the request to reclassify St. Thomas, Auburn as a Mission Congregation

March 26, 2020

- Report on behalf of Trustees from Mick Kalber in light of economic instability and Covid-19 pandemic
- Vote to forgive parish Common Ministry Assessment payments for April and May
- Discussion of further options for parish financial relief
- Vote to approve draw if necessary from Diocesan line of credit at United Bank for the purpose of parish relief

April 2, 2020

- Steve Abdow reported on the possibility of applying for funds from the Payroll Protection Program established by federal CARES legislation

April 17, 2020

- Authorized Steve Abdow to enter into a loan agreement with People's United Bank through the SBA backed Payroll Protection Program of up to \$1.3 million on behalf of the Diocese.

June 11, 2020

- Report from the Rev. Jenny Gregg on Clergy Coaching and Covid
- Steve Abdow reported on financial outlook for the balance of 2020 and planning for 2021.
- Appointment of Bob Perkins (Holy Spirit, Sutton) to the Budget and Financial Planning Subcommittee
- Update on St. Thomas, Auburn

June 24, 2020

- Approved a new line of credit agreement for the Diocese with New Valley Bank and Trust, Springfield

August 6, 2020

- Approved Global Mission Grants
- Approved grant to Lawrence House
- Discussed information gathered in Parish Financial Survey
- Heard update on the Community Center being created at St. Mark's, Worcester
- Vote on merger of St. Thomas, Auburn with Episcopal Missions of Western Massachusetts

August 27, 2020

- Authorized the subordination of 2012 Diocesan loan 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.

September 10, 2020

- Discussion of 2021 budget
- Approved motion authorizing the request of the fullest possible amount of Payroll Protection Program loan forgiveness from the federal government.
- Vote on merger of Church of the Epiphany in Wilbraham with Episcopal Missions of Western Massachusetts.

October 8, 2020

- Discussion and approval of 2021 Diocesan budget, commending it to adoption by Diocesan Convention
- Discussion of admission of a new mission: The Hispanic Ministry in Worcester.

Respectfully submitted,
Wende Wheeler, Council Secretary