

## **Executive Council Committee on Historically Black Colleges and Universities**

**February 6, 2019**

### **Minutes of the Teleconference**

Attending the meeting:

HBCU COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Canon Martini Shaw (Chair); Canon Dr. Anita George, Dr. Joel Cunningham, Ms. Martha Alexander.

CONSULTANTS: Canon Lang Lowery; Ms. Cecilia Malm,

STAFF: Mr. Kurt Barnes, Ms. Nancy Caparulo. ABSENT: Fr. Ronald Byrd.

INVITED GUESTS: Bishop Sam Rodman, Bishop Anne Hodges-Copple.

ABSENT: Canon Jamie Callaway, Dr. Sean Decatur, Dr. Scott Evenbeck, Canon Michele Hagans, Dr. Eugene Lowe, Bishop Arthur Williams.

Canon Shaw called the meeting to order at 8:05 AM EST. Bishop Rodman offered a prayer. Canon Shaw welcomed and thanked Bishops Rodman and Hodges-Copple for attending.

Bishop Hodges-Copple discussed her experience of the St. Augustine's board meeting when Dr. Ward tendered his resignation. She honored the content of the board's executive session and focused instead on board dynamics and what happens next with a search. She serves on the board's nominating committee with Shakana Ball, Neil Green, and Esther Parker. There are no specifics about the presidential search process going forward.

Bishop Rodman discussed the resignation of the financial officer and the replacement made in short order by Dr. Ward. A board meeting has been scheduled for February 14.

The question arose as to the role of this committee in the ongoing deliberations at St. Augustine's. Mr. Barnes pointed out the support given to the university by the church over several General Conventions. Bishop Hodges-Copple suggested that some board education could be done around the trajectory of the school since its inception, involving the Presiding Bishop. Mr. Barnes suggested a letter to the board from the PB might be helpful in securing a smooth transition.

Canon Lowery raised the topic of the handling of financial aid at the college and the diverse opinions around that within the board of directors. He suggested that this committee do its best to help with a smooth transition to include an event of recognition for Dr. Ward. It will be important also to find ways to work with the new administration. He noted that Dr. Ward has raised more money for the university than anyone ever.

Bishop Hodges-Copple talked about the board's work with the Department of Education. She added the importance of adding good trustees to the board, especially those with board experience, a predominance of African Americans in board seats. Nominations are due by March 10.

It was agreed that a letter from the PB would be very helpful before February 14. Canon Shaw asked the committee to identify suggestions for potential board nominees. It was noted that networking connections are going to be very much needed for fund-raising. Canon Shaw will send the letter from the PB to the Trustees Chair in order for it to be read at the Trustee's meeting on February 14th.

HBCU Committee Minutes – February 6, 2019

Approved 2/15/19

Discussion turned to a face-to-face meeting at the school. Dr. Cunningham advocated for a pro-active stance for this committee in what the next steps are at the school. Bishop Hodges-Copple said that the financial reports recently are the best they have been. Dr. George focused on the need for board development and her hope that the PB might help there. Bishop Rodman suggested that he and Bishop Hodges-Copple should be the ones to make further suggestions as they are current board members.

Canon Shaw observed that a face-to-face meeting might be discussed after the February 14 board meeting.

Financial aid – bundling of documents and criteria of financial aid. Draws from the Department of Education were made. Bishop Hodges-Copple will look into the matter. Canon Lowery was concerned about funding over the past 90 days. The board was told that the DOE would offer a payment plan for any money that is owed.

Next meeting: Friday 15<sup>th</sup> of February at 8:30 AM.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Caparulo  
Staff support to the committee