

Executive Council Committee on Historically Black Colleges and Universities

March 14, 2019

Minutes of the Teleconference

Attending the meeting:

HBCU COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Canon Martini Shaw (Chair), Fr. Ronald Byrd, Canon Jamie Callaway, Canon Dr. Anita George, Dr. Joel Cunningham, Ms. Martha Alexander, Dr. Eugene Lowe, Ms. Cecilia Malm,

Dr. CONSULTANTS: Canon Lang Lowery.

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

STAFF: Mr. Kurt Barnes, Ms. Nancy Caparulo.

ABSENT: Sean Decatur, Dr. Scott Evenbeck, Canon Michele Hagans, Bishop Arthur Williams.

Canon Shaw called the meeting to order at 5:04. Bishop Sam offered a prayer.

Canon Shaw thanked the committee for attending a meeting set on short notice. Bishop Ann updated the group in some detail on the recent activity of the St. Augustine's board, which held a meeting on March 12, ostensibly to deal with the board nominations process. Although three new trustee nominations were approved to go forward, the report of the Nominating Committee was rejected. By March 20 additional names will be submitted by the nominating committee for consideration. Bishop Anne asked for recommendations of people who are not Episcopalian.

Bishop Sam discussed the list of demands received regarding the transition leadership. Dr. Ward is to vacate his office and the president's housing this week.

The board's meeting earlier this week concluded with an executive session.

Tuesday the contract was presented for an interim president to begin in March at a \$200K salary. Two senior staff were fired, whose salaries could cover that salary. Their pay ends on this date (3/14/19) and their benefits end at the end of April. Dr. Ward is placed on sabbatical until July 24 with conditions.

Discussion had a look at the requirements for notice and for a quorum of the board, whether or not SACHS is notified when there are key administrative changes such as these, the church's continued involvement going forward, and the importance of supporting the university's mission.

The focus of this committee has been to support the mission. Bishop Anne proposed the creation of a letter from her and Bishop Sam that makes clear their objection to the way things have been handled at the school, while promising continued support. The suggestion was made to have Nancy Davidge involved with disbursing a statement. The group approved the idea of the letter and Bishop Sam asked for suggestions as to who the recipients should be in order to avoid doing damage to the school.

Next meeting: Next Monday, March 25, 2019 at 9:00 AM. The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted.

Nancy Caparulo

Staff support to the committee

Approved March 25, 2019