

Executive Council Committee on Historically Black Colleges and Universities

March 17, 2020

Minutes of the Teleconference

HBCU COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Canon Martini Shaw (Chair), Ms. Martha Alexander, Canon Jamie Callaway, Dr. Scott Evenbeck, Canon Anita George, Canon Michele Hagans, Dr. Joel Cunningham, and Dr. Eugene Lowe. **Those absent:** Bishop Andrew Waldo, Dr. Sean Decatur.

Guests: Ms. Cecilia Malm, Mr. Kurt Barnes, Mr. Lang Lowery. **Those excused:** Bishop Anne Hodges-Copple, Bishop Sam Rodman, Fr. Ron Byrd.

Canon Shaw called the meeting to order at 8:06 AM and called the roll. There had been some miscommunication about the meeting start time, 8:00 AM or 8:30 AM. Some were not on the Call. Nancy joined at 8:10. Canon Shaw took notes in her absence.

Voorhees Update

Canon Lowery talked about distance learning at Voorhees owing to COVID-19 closing. The sustainability grant activity was reviewed. Canon Lowery said that the fundraisers in Atlanta have been very successful. Both St. Aug's and Voorhees have fund-raising systems that are meeting and presentation oriented, which cannot continue in the immediate future. Concerns are significant for fund-raising efforts at both institutions and it was suggested that the Church assist with their Fundraising efforts during this time. The consultants are in touch with both schools. It was noted that the UTO grant needs to be investigated.

Concern was expressed about the ability of the students to accomplish distance learning as some are not equipped at home with the appropriate technology.

Ms. Malm discussed the fund-raising aspects she covers. Collections from the Absalom Jones celebration continue to come in. There has been about \$20K received with hopes to receive enough to equal last year's amount (\$35K). She has reached out to Voorhees to discuss strategies for fund-raising. The PB visit has been cancelled. There is no new news about the chaplaincy. The school was tremendously disappointed about the cancellation of the PB's visit.

Sr. Evenbeck discussed the possibility of rescheduling the visit and added that the Rev. Phil Jackson is interested in making the trip as well. There was some conversation about moving Founder's Day to show that there is steadfast interest in TEC in supporting them. Canon Lowery talked about focusing on helping to elevate the spirit in the HBCUs generally.

The minutes of the February meeting were moved (Ms. Hagans), seconded (Fr. Callaway) and approved as presented. The roll was re-taken for the benefit of the note-taker, who had been tardy to the meeting.

St. Augustine's Update

Canon Shaw gave an overview of matters at St. Augustine's. Dr. Lumpkin, the interim president, has been on the staff for some time and was appointed to that position. A nominating committee for a new president has been established. Bishop Anne is not part of the new committee. However, board

nominations are being accepted at this time and Bishop Anne is serving on the nominating committee for the board. She has asked the committee to send names of potential candidates to serve on it. Ideally, names should be sent within two weeks.

Students have been on break and will not be returning to campus for the rest of the semester. The lack of technologic competence is of some concern, whether the students have the ability to do online learning affectively. Sally Simpkins is covering chaplaincy duties while the new chaplain has a baby. The discussion looked generally at the current atmosphere and conditions at St. Augustine's.

Prior to leaving the call at 8:55, Mr. Barnes suggested creating a specific proposal to the PB for a visit to Voorhees .

Dr. Evans joined the call at 8:56 to discuss with the committee the situation at Voorhees owing to the pandemic. Canon Shaw assured him that the church will continue to support the college. Faculty is being re-trained in distance teaching. Classes are to resume on March 23 with online delivery. No face-to-face classes for the remainder of the semester. Special arrangements will be made for students who absolutely need to come back to campus in order to finish the year. There are out of state and international students in addition to students without home structure who need to be on campus. There will be restrictions and limitations to accommodate them. The number is unknown at present. All social events have been cancelled and they are considering an alternative celebration for Founder's Day, perhaps including a live stream from the PB in observance of the occasion.

The Voorhees faculty has been trained initially in distance learning. About 60% of faculty has received certificates for that training. The balance of their number will be appropriately trained and certified.

Dr. Evans left the call at 9:04 AM.

Next meeting options are: Monday April 6 at 9:00 AM

Tuesday April 7 at 9:00 AM

April 23 at 9:00 AM

Canon Shaw will give these to the missing bishops to see which date works best for the two of them.

It was moved, seconded and carried to adjourn at 9:09 AM. Canon Shaw adjourned with blessings.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Caparulo
Staff support to the committee