

## Executive Council Committee on Historically Black Colleges and Universities

November 12, 2020

### Minutes of the Teleconference

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

**Guests:** Mr. Kurt Barnes, Bishop Anne Hodges-Copple, Canon Lang Lowrey, and Ms. Cecilia Malm, Hershey Mallette Stephens. **Regrets:** Father Ronald Byrd, Bishop Sam Rodman.

Canon Shaw called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM EST. Canon Hagans offered a prayer.

The roll was taken and the minutes from the October meeting were moved, seconded and approved as presented.

Fr. Shaw welcomed Chaplain Hershey Mallette Stevens from SAU, who shared a bit about the ministry at the university. She is in contact monthly with 45 Episcopal/Anglican students most of whom receive financial help from the church. Chapel services are happening online owing to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. She talked about the leadership quality of the students on campus and focused particularly on the international students (from Kenya, Honduras, Bahamas) and her dream to send SAU students to seminary. Recruitment planning is ongoing for international students. She thanked Mr. Barnes and Bishop Anne for their work on her compensation package.

Cn. Hagans asked what, specifically, the committee could do to be helpful. Chaplain Stevens responded that she would like to develop a Living/Leaning Community, a small group that takes classes together, does community service together, lives near to one another. She would like some dedicated funding for programming outside of academic classes. She reported briefly about matters generally on the campus.

Clarification was made that there is no program budget for her use through the Chapel and asking the university to set aside some funds for programming would be helpful. A UTO grant has been received to upgrade the chapel.

#### Consultant Reports

Ms. Malm said they've distributed \$44,900 from the Absalom Jones appeal to both SAU and Voorhees. Canon Lowery and she meet with Voorhees weekly with Dr. Brown' their day of giving is coming up. Others have helped do a proposal to Trinity Wall Street, to be submitted next Monday (November 16) to support Voorhees.

Canon Robinson at Grace Church Brooklyn Heights is concerned about the school and plans to make a proposal to his vestry about making a contribution in 2021 and involving the congregation in support

of SAU. Bishop Anne said that it would be good to identify all possible financial sources from TEC, dioceses, Episcopalians in general, so that the schools can see a complete picture of support from the church. Discussion looked at ways to collect and impart this information.

Bishop Waldo discussed the difference between SAU and Voorhees and the impact a chaplain at the latter might have in connecting the school with local congregations. Cn. Lowery advocated for a presence such as that of Chaplain Stevens and said that he has been working on trying to identify a potential chaplain for Voorhees.

At Voorhees, the Day of Giving will attempt to raise a \$1 million. There is up to \$400K from Episcopal Church sources. Dr. Brown has been very appreciative of that as well as the moral support. It was noted that Voorhees is only college that has weekly required chapel service.

Bishop Anne expanded a bit on SAU. They celebrated online the Absalom Jones and the UTO gifts. There are many questions from SACHS around governance at the school. They are on warning, a step before probation. Bishop Anne serves the finance committee and hopes that this committee will talk to them about investing in the university in ways that are transparent, accountable and supportive of the chaplain. Bp. Anne believes SAU should be considered a ministry of the entire Episcopal Church. It is too big for one diocese. All agreed that a chaplain would make a world of difference at Voorhees.

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 17, at 9:00 AM EST.

With best wishes to all for Thanksgiving, Cn. Shaw adjourned the meeting at 11:02 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Caparulo  
Staff support to the committee