

# Executive Council Committee on Historically Black Colleges and Universities

January 10, 2022

## Minutes of the Teleconference

**HBCU COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Canon Martini Shaw (Chair), Ms. Martha Alexander, Canon Jamie Callaway, Dr. Joel Cunningham, Dr. Scott Evenbeck, Canon Michele Hagans, Dr. Eugene Lowe, Bishop Sam Rodman. Note was taken of Bishop Andrew Waldo's retirement and request to remain in the loop for this committee's work.

**Guests:** Mr. Kurt Barnes, Bishop Ruth Woodliff-Stanley, Fr. Lang Lowery, and Ms. Cecilia Malm and Canon Ron Byrd.

**Regrets:** Canon Anita George.

Canon Shaw called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM. The roll was taken. The minutes from the November 11, 2021 meeting were moved (Callaway), seconded (Alexander) and approved as presented.

### St. Augustine's Update

Bishop Sam reported that he and Bishop Anne would be working with Chaplain Hershey as Founder's Day approaches. There were two staff changes made that meet President McPhail's staff team goals. Several HBCU's received bomb threats. SAU did not receive any, but campus security is heightened. At the next meeting there will be an update on enrollment for second semester and the college census.

### Voorhees Update

Bishop Ruth talked about the job posting for the chaplaincy, which will be up at the end of this week. She has worked with Dr. Hopkins and the interview team and invited input and questions from this committee in that pursuit. The VP for Development and Student Affairs will participate in the interviews. Cn. Callaway and Dr. Evenbeck will visit campus at the end of March. They hope to have exciting updates at the next meeting of this committee.

### Canon Ron Byrd Remarks

SAU received a \$175K Lily Grant for their chapel/black scholars program. Mr. Barnes released the block grants for this year to the schools. Chaplains at Voorhees and SAU are to work with the Seminary of the Southwest in a collaborative effort for the black scholars program.

### Treasurer's Report

Mr. Barnes noted some questions having to do with the block grants. President McPhail has acknowledged the award but no word has been received from Dr. Hopkins. In the SAU grant 25% "shall be used for the chaplaincy" is stated and at Voorhees 40% goes to the Diocese of SC for chaplain's support. Until that chaplain is in place, Mr. Barnes suggested that the 40% be available for the general expenses of the school rather than holding it for the chaplain unless a signing bonus might be offered. At SAU the grant will go to the school rather than to the diocese.

Mr. Barnes added that the draft budget is being worked on for 2022 and the college lines remain the same. Dr. Lowe suggested that the relationship between the dioceses and the colleges is very important. The grants emphasize the focus on supporting the chaplaincies and their connections between the respective dioceses.

### Consultants' Reports

Ms. Malm introduced herself to Bishop Ruth. She gave some history about the Absalom Jones appeal and that it is split between SAU and Voorhees. The appeal for 2022 will launch this week with notification to all bishops, all parishes, and to the entire mailing list of 35,000 households. The yield in 2021 totaled over \$104,000 with the goal at \$45K. \$52K to each school is to be distributed. The hope is to increase by expanding the mailing with a goal of \$75K for 2022 and expectations that it will be exceeded. The bulletin insert is up on the website.

Fr. Lowery talked about Voorhees having received from SACS approval for the Master's program. The main focus remains on recruitment. The semester opening was delayed owing to the ongoing pandemic, which means dormitory and other ancillary income is delayed along with it. A lottery winner has been very generous to Voorhees and an article in *US News and World Report* named Voorhees in the top group of HBCUs. The picture is hopeful except for the virus.

### Old Business

Canon Shaw mentioned that the energy behind the possible resurgence of St. Paul's. Christopher Stevens and Bishop Haynes wish to speak with this committee again.

### New Business

Bishop Ruth shared a story centered in Mississippi with the diocese and Tougaloo College through ECBF, inspired by the struggle at the Duncan Gray Conference Center since the onset of pandemic. She described the conversations across various entities regarding the highest and best use of the property. The hunch was that a center for racial justice might be something that many could coalesce around. A feasibility study over 9 months resulted in reasons to take a next step. Duval/Decker Architects, who have done a lot of work focused on racial justice was contacted. Phase II feasibility will explore land use, a business model, and community conversations with key African leaders in the state. The report can be available to this committee. Leadership of the diocese continues to look at the possibilities. Dr. Carmen Walters, President of Tougaloo, was approached since some of the Tougaloo land was considered for the state civil rights museum that eventually was located in Jackson. She sees the project as a powerful way to take a next step in their work. Bishop Curry has been apprised all along and has talked about how churchwide support might occur if it moves ahead. All stake holders are excited and engaged in the conversation. It is unclear as to how the committee might be supportive. The Diocese of MS will be involved and the ECBF has provided in-kind resources. Canon Hagans is a board member at Tougaloo and offered her help. Mr. Barnes asked if this should be part of the work of the Task Force on Truth, Reckoning and Healing. Bishop Sam is part of that committee and will raise the issue. It was noted that Rob O'Neil (retired) from CO is working on this group.

Next tele-meeting: February 14, 10:00 AM EST. A motion was made and seconded (Rodman and Cunningham) to adjourn at 10:46 AM. Canon Shaw obliged.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Caparulo

Staff support to the committee