

# Executive Council Committee on Historically Black Colleges and Universities

January 11, 2023

## Minutes of the Teleconference

**HBCU COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Canon Martini Shaw, Ms. Martha Alexander, Canon Jamie Callaway, Dr. Joel Cunningham, Canon Michele Hagans, Dr. Eugene Lowe, Bishop Sam Rodman, and Bishop Ruth Woodliff-Stanley.

**Absent:** Mr. Scott Evenbeck, Canon Anita George.

**STAFF AND CONSULTANTS:** Mr. Kurt Barnes, Mr. T.J. Houlihan, Canon Ron Byrd.

**Absent:** Fr. Lang Lowery, Ms. Nancy Caparulo

Canon Shaw called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM. Canon Callaway offered a prayer. The roll was taken and the minutes from the November 30 meeting were moved (Lowe), seconded (Jamie) and approved as presented.

### SAU

Bishop Sam gave an update on SAACS's activity and the cause for probation - the delinquent audit of 2021. Bishop Sam has a high level of confidence that SAU will be restored after April 2024. Discussion for clarification followed.

Some staff changes were made for budgetary purposes, including the VP of the school. Word was received that \$490K grant as part of an Omnibus initiative of the State of NC in 2023 via an announcement by Congresswoman Deborah Ross. Board meeting is scheduled on January 21.

Some conversation covered keeping the PB apprised of activities at SAU. He is in the loop and understands the issues. Noted: it would be good if SAU had a government relations person who could help the congresswoman keep the college on the list of recipients for the Omnibus program into the future.

### Voorhees

Bishop Ruth reported that SAACS approved degree level III, a Masters of Education, and a prospectus for an MBA. The school has also applied for level V to offer a doctorate degree. Voorhees has received a \$25K grant from AINautics (sp?) to train 30 students to be drone pilots.

The choir will sing at Episcopal Parish Network (EPN) conference and, later in the year, at Carnegie Hall in New York. They have also received a USDA rural development grant for campus upgrades to the health center (\$ 770+K).

Excursions are planned to VTS, to the National Cathedral for HBCU day, and EPN for spring. Enrollment was projected at 438 but 451 actually enrolled. Thirty students graduated in December.

The committee talked about the many roles Prince Brown is now engaged in.

Office of Development (OOD)

Mr. Houlihan said the Absalom Jones letter has gone out to 42K individuals and parishes. The appeal raised \$212K in 2022 and now \$5K is in the fund for 2023. He is reaching out personally to individuals who've given generously.

On February 5 the Absalom Jones service is to be at St. Thomas in Philadelphia, and is being marketed as Absalom's service for the whole church. OOD is coordinating this with Canon. The PB will preach, a reception will follow the service and a separate, side-door event will be held for a select number of people.

The college choirs were invited to the EPN Conference. Mr. Houlihan is meeting with Dean Moorhead, who has offered financial support to help cover retreat costs for the students. It is hoped the choirs will join the St. John's Cathedral choir for rehearsal with a dinner to follow.

On March 9 a Keynote Conversation is planned with John Meacham, and Randy Hollerith from the National Cathedral. Dr. Hopkins will speak, and private time will be arranged with John Meacham. OOD is working on arrangements for the students to receive copies of Meacham's. A reception will be held with the performing choirs.

Mr. Houlihan, Fr. Lowery and Lisa Bellamy have been trying to connect with Dr. Brown (Voorhees) but couldn't do so before Christmas. They are still working on that. They are identifying physical plant needs with both schools in concert with the chaplains, whose schedules were such that meetings have been impossible. The beat goes on.

Cn. Shaw heard from Dr. McPhail and Chaplain Hershey to discuss and on-site meeting. Discussion covered when and whether to meet when the board is meeting. November seemed preferable to June.

Next meeting: February 28 after both university board meetings have happened. 10:00 AM is the preferred time.

Motion was made (Hagans) and seconded (Lowe) to adjourn the meeting. Once carried, Cn. Shaw followed with adjournment at 10:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Caparulo  
Staff Support to the Committee

