

Executive Council Committee on Historically Black Colleges and Universities

May 6, 2024

Minutes of the Teleconference

HBCU COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Canon Martini Shaw, Bishop Ruth Woodliff-Stanley, Ms. Martha Alexander, Fr. Dick Burnett, Canon Jamie Callaway, Dr. Joel Cunningham, Mr. Scott Evenbeck, Canon Anita George, Canon Michele Hagans, Dr. Eugene Lowe, and Bishop Sam Rodman.

STAFF AND CONSULTANTS: Canon Ron Byrd, Fr. Lang Lowery, and Mrs. Nancy Caparulo.

Absent staff and consultants: Ms. Julia Alling and Mr. Kurt Barnes.

Cn. Shaw called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM EDT. Fr. Burnett offered a prayer.

The minutes from the April 22 meeting were moved, seconded, and approved as presented.

St. Augustine's Update

Bp. Sam reported the graduation at St. Augustine's happened over the weekend and that the (ca. 125) graduates had certificates from an accredited institution, since the arbitration with SACCS continues. He was unable to attend the graduation but did attend the annual board meeting and He discussed the inability to share information at this time. In general, there was a proposal to navigate a pathway to solve the financial issues. Chaplain Hershey is considering a position at one of the Raleigh churches. It is unclear at this time whether she will also maintain a presence at SAU. Bp. Sam has been working with the Diocese of Honduras and Bp. Allen to help their three students to transfer to other universities for the coming academic year. Bp. Sam sent a correction to *The Living Church* and made an apology to the board for the misunderstanding around there being a criminal investigation.

Measures are being taken administratively to accommodate the loss of student population. Arbitration continues. Cn. Lowery wondered about the relationship between Bp. Sam and the board. Bp. Sam described his activity as being 'out of step' with the mainstream. Cn. Callaway told about the financial help which would be available to Honduran students at Voorhees. He continued about endorsing two people to the SAU board and whether they could have D&O coverage as a result of the committee's action. General discussion followed about the board and its composition.

Any questions that arise from the general populace can be forwarded to Cn. Shaw.

Voorhees

Bp. Ruth reported about graduation -75 degrees (62 undergrad, 13 advanced, 1 honorary). The men's track team had an exciting set of victories. There is a board retreat in July that she will attend and report. She added that the administration at Voorhees would be very open to conversations about Honduran students.

Mr. Evenbeck reported that four Voorhees students would be doing internships at Trinity Church for 10 weeks.

Cn. Lowery had nothing to report but was hopeful that SAU will be able to bail themselves out of the financial problems by using their land. There are concerns about their being able to open for classes in the fall.

Cn. Byrd has been working with Chaplain Hershey. He noted the scholarships that he will be awarding this year. Each student will receive \$10K. With regard to the three ladies from Honduras, there is a request that the HBCU team provide letters of recommendation for the women. He is very impressed with them and their impact on campus.

A question arose about the committee's communication with the PB on the various SAU matters. Cn. Shaw will follow up as the PB is likely to receive questions about it in the coming weeks.

There was no new or old unfinished business. Next meeting: June 11 at 9:00 AM.

It was moved (Dr. Lowe) and seconded (Cn. Hagans) to adjourn at 11:33 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Caparulo
Staff support to the committee