

**Executive Council Committee on Historically Black Colleges and Universities**

**October 30, 2024**

**Minutes of the Teleconference**

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

**Absent committee members:** Canon Martini Shaw, Canon Michele Hagans, and Canon Anita George.

**STAFF AND CONSULTANTS:** Ms. Nancy Caparulo and Fr. Lang Lowery.

**Absent staff and consultants:** Mr. Kurt Barnes, Canon Ron Byrd, and Ms. Julia Alling.

In Canon Shaw's absence Bishop Ruth called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM EDT with a quorum present and Ms. Alexander offered a prayer.

Check-in was done around the group specific to 'storms.' Fr. Lowery talked about the devastation in the Ashville NC area from Hurricane Helene.

The minutes of the September meeting were moved, seconded and approved as presented.

St. Augustine's Update

Bp. Sam provided a report on the current status at the university.

Voorhees Update

Bp. Ruth reviewed the status there. She will attend an upcoming board meeting. Enrollment is at 437 undergrad and 149 graduate for this fall, a total of 598 with 586 full-time enrolled. There is a steady trend upward.

It was announced that Voorhees would become a charter school authorizer, and they plan to hold a press conference about that. The United Negro College fund has awarded a grant of \$1.5 million to support that initiative. They met with the board to indicate their support.

Things are healthy on campus. Bp. Ruth will meet with the board chair and vice chair to get dates for the in-person meeting that is desired.

The charter school opportunity is one of authorization, allowing further support of K-12 education in the region. It is still unclear how that will operate. Fr. Burnett will preach at the Voorhees chapel in November. Bp. Ruth said Chaplain Cherie is doing very good work.

### Consultant Reports

Cn. Lowery talked about the good news for HBCUs in that Vice President Harris could be first HBCU president, giving a new thing to rally behind. He noted that Trump was kind to the HBCUs, giving them \$85 million along with the CARES act. The election either way, the picture might be favorable for HBCUs.

The meeting moved into executive session at 10:31 AM and concluded at 10:48 AM.

Neither Cn. Byrd nor Mr. Barnes was present to make a report.

### New Business

There was additional discussion about the in-person meeting at Voorhees. Fr. Burnett asked to stay away from March as AES is meeting then, as is the House of Bishops.

Next meeting: November 14 at 10:00 AM Eastern. Cn. Callaway will take minutes in Ms. Caparulo's absence.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Caparulo  
Starr support to the committee