

NOTES FROM HBCU COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE
Thursday 14 December 2017
9AM (EDT)

Committee Members Present: Canon Martini Shaw, Canon Jamie Callaway, Dr. Eugene Lowe, Dr. Scott Evenbeck and Dr. Joel Cunningham.

Excused Absence of Committee Members; Dr. Anita George and Canon Michele Hagans

Consultants Present: Fr. Lang Lowery and Ms. Tara Holley

A. Meeting Called to Order at 9:04 AM (EDT) and Opened with Prayer by the Chair, **Canon Shaw**

B. Participants expressed their joy with the recent decision by SACS with regards to St. Augustine's, with special recognition to the work of **Fr. Lowery** for his work on behalf of the University.

C. Discussion of the Presiding Bishop's Absalom Jones Initiative; a Church-wide Call for contributions and donations around the country during the church's observance and celebration of the Feast of Absalom Jones. **Fr. Lowery** and **Dr. Lowe** will be sending suggested edits today to **Kurt Barnes** and **Tara Holley** for the PB's letter. The draft letter was sent to all Committee members from **Kurt Barnes**. Dr. Ward of St. Aug. has suggested that the church does a MAJOR PR for this Initiative, including having the official announcement with the PB and two University Presidents to occur at the remains of Absalom Jones, St. Thomas Church, Philadelphia. **Fr. Shaw** has been in communication with the PB's office re: this idea and **Ms. Holley** will follow-up with the Rev. Stephanie Spellers and the PB's Office.

D. **Ms. Holley** gave an update on several areas and provided a written report via email.

1. The importance of building a major donor support during the next six months.
2. Her work in the D.C. area with several churches and potential donors.
3. Her appointment of a new development person to work specifically with both HBCU's. This individual has already spent time at both schools.
4. Connecting Dr. Ward with potential donors in Dallas, Texas.

E. **Fr. Lowery** gave an update on several areas

1. Stressed how the Episcopal Church had really made the difference in SACS' recent decision for another year of probation.
2. Reiterated and reminded the Committee that St. Aug is now in the final year of the two year probation period. We only have about six months to make substantial progress at St. Augustine.
3. He has appointed an additional person at St. Aug to work with Financial controls during this period of time
4. There are actually three Plans (A, B, C) that are being proposed and studied for St. Aug to provide the best outcomes.
5. Roofing work at Voorhes will begin soon
6. Recruitment and Retention are the two main things that Voorhees is focusing attention. There are presently no sanctions against the school

F. Other Business

Two great ideas (action plans for the Committee)

- 1.) Attempt to have at least 3 new Trustees appointed to the St. Aug. Board, drawing from our new and major potential donor stakeholders. **Fr. Callaway** will speak with Dr. Ward re: the process for this happening at the school.
- 2.) Schedule the next HBCU Committee meeting as a FACE TO FACE at St. Aug's during the time of the next Board of Trustees meeting in January. **Fr. Lowery** will let **Fr. Shaw** know when the next Trustees meeting is scheduled. It is our hope that as many Committee members as possible will be able to attend. **Fr. Lowery** will work with Dr. Ward and **Fr. Shaw** on incorporating the Committee into the Trustees meeting Agenda.

A teleconference will be scheduled before the Face to Face in Raleigh, NC.

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The Chair expressed gratitude to everyone for their commitment, dedication and hard work during this past year. Additional thanks offered to our consultants, church leadership and legal partners.

Blessed Advent and Joyous Christmastide to all.

Faithfully Submitted,

Canon Martini Shaw - Chair
Episcopal Church HBCU Committee