

Executive Council Committee on Historically Black Colleges and Universities

March 4, 2019

Minutes of the Teleconference

Attending the meeting:

HBCU COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Canon Martini Shaw (Chair), Canon Jamie Callaway, Dr. Scott Evenbeck, Canon Dr. Anita George, Dr. Joel Cunningham, Ms. Martha Alexander, Dr. Eugene Lowe. Dr. Sean Decatur, Canon Michele Hagans.

CONSULTANTS: Canon Lang Lowery.

INVITED GUESTS: Bishop Sam Rodman, Bishop Anne Hodges-Copple.

STAFF: Mr. Kurt Barnes, Ms. Nancy Caparulo.

REGRETS: Bishop Arthur Williams.

ABSENT: Fr. Ronald Byrd, Ms. Cecilia Malm.

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM with Bishop Anne offering a prayer.

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

Update - Board Nominations for St. Augustine's

Bishop Anne thanked the committee for sending good suggestions for the Nominating Committee. Contact information is needed for them. There is a form that will be provided to committee members for making official suggestions. There are five vacancies on the board currently and a desire to fill those quickly. A special meeting has been called on March 12 to fill those vacancies. Nominating Committee will be meeting on March 7 to prepare suggestions for the vacancies and for the regular nominating process that will occur some weeks later. Bishop Anne is encouraged about the names that have come forward but she needs names to fill vacancies, three of whom are women African-American Episcopalians. The alumni representative has been replaced already amid the urgency to fill the seats.

Bishop Sam added that he'd spoken with Dr. Ward and Chairman Smith to move a scheduled annual board meeting from April 11 to April 18. They have done that. This will allow the nominating committee to have an impact for both the vacancies and for the new slate at the annual meeting.

Search Committee Update

Bishop Anne called Justice Perry to discuss the need for a good process. The first meeting of the search committee will be this afternoon. Bishop Anne and others believe it would be helpful to hire a search firm to guide the process but there are no funds available to pay for it (\$70K). She wondered whether the Episcopal Church could make those funds available. There is interest in having an interim come in before Dr. Ward retires in the summer. A search firm has been contacted that has particular expertise in Historically Black Colleges and Universities, which could be very helpful. There is ongoing concern to be on top of the vulnerabilities identified by the SACHS process.

Dr. Ward was interim before he was made President after the last president was removed. The Search Committee desires a more orderly transition than the last one. There is no job description or length of service

established for an interim. Ms. Alexander, Dr. Evenbeck, Dr. Lowe, and Dr. George all agreed that the outside firm is a good idea.

Mr. Barnes identified a trust fund that might be used for partial payment of the fees. He pointed out that the expense would typically be the cost of doing business for the organization. Bishop Anne believes that this is an opportunity to do something well for the university. She will ask at the meeting today if there are ideas about how to move this forward financially. There is need to lay the best foundation in order to be competitive and attract the best person to succeed at the school over time. Canon Shaw will follow up with Mr. Barnes about funding possibilities.

March 11 meeting is for nominating 2 board members to fill vacancies. Bishop Sam spoke in favor of longer-term interim.

Canon Martini talked about St. Augustine's and Voorhees as grant recipients from Alpha Kappa Alpha. Voorhees is involved in their chaplain search and an NAAIA tournament. Both college presidents will attend the UNCW meetings in Washington DC.

There was no report from the consultants at this time.

Next meeting: Monday 9:00 AM, March 25. Canon Calloway is not available on that date.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Caparulo
Staff support to the committee

ADDENDUM

Bishop Anne reported that Chairman Smith and Trustee Perry are of the mind that the interim President will be in place for a year or longer, providing more time for the search process.

The search committee, which met tonight (March 4), will develop a Request for Proposal to solicit firms or individuals wishing to offer services to the search committee. Each member of the committee has homework to find information from other search processes at comparable universities. After presentations are heard, a decision will be made about a best way to move forward and how much money needs to be raised to mount the best search possible.

The search committee encouraged each member to consider how to raise money for the work. Bishop Anne expressed her confidence that the committee would appreciate any effort or contribution from The Episcopal Church toward the search process.

AHC/nc