

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

**March 25, 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, Bishop Arthur Williams.

CONSULTANTS: Canon Lang Lowery, Ms. Cecilia Malm.

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

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

ABSENT: Sean Decatur, Canon Michele Hagans. Fr. Ronald Byrd.

Canon Shaw called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM EDT. Canon Lowery offered a prayer.

The minutes from the March 4 and March 14 meetings were considered, moved as presented, seconded, and carried without opposition.

#### Update on Matters at St. Augustine's

Bishops Sam and Anne provided a status report. A letter was sent from them, as discussed at the last meeting. The university general counsel has resigned in a confidential memorandum to the school. There have been breaches of both the university by-laws and the SACHS guidelines.

Bishop Sam met with Dr. Ward in a pastoral capacity. Justice Perry is now the Chairman of the Board. Bishop Sam also met with Justice Perry at which time they discussed the withdrawal of legal counsel. No new information was received. He has canceled the search committee meeting. Bishop Anne has had no word from him.

It was ascertained that the interim president will be signing diplomas and participating in the graduation ceremony. Dr. Ward has agreed to continue his fund-raising efforts for the school. He has supported the interim president. Canon Shaw has been in touch with him and agrees with Dr. Ward's opinion. There will be a meeting with the new interim president on April 1.

The nominating committee will meet on March 28. Bishop Anne had asked for strong candidates that are not Episcopalian but none have been identified. The Episcopalian possibilities Michele Hagans, Austin Cooper, and John Harris, were all voted down. Bishop Anne believes there will be additional nominations that will come forward but not through the nominating committee. The Diocese of North Carolina has encouraged people to continue to support the college during its transition. Province IV bishops were updated at the HOB meeting concerning it. Sandy Wilson's status and the press conference that took place were discussed.

Ms. Malm talked about the fund-raising. The church continues to receive donations for St. Augustine's. There is a two-step process being considered with the Diocese of Southern Ohio to provide a matching grant. Christ Church, Raleigh, continues to support St. Augustine's. Discussion focused around strategies to maximize the impact of current and future support.

Voorhees College may receive a grant for specific campus projects. Mr. Barnes noted several trust funds that existed with St. Paul's and St. Augustine's as beneficiaries. The funds pertinent to St. Paul's have been reinvested since its closing. Mr. Barnes will alert the Executive Council of the funds and propose that the trusts be redirected to support Voorhees. The committee approved this proposal. The last distribution to St. Paul's took place in September 2013.

Canon Lowery raised for consideration the ability to hold back funding with the long view in sight. He discussed the importance of playing by the rules. He has been working on the land subdivision at St. Aug's for the past year, which has come to a halt with the impending transition. Canon Lowery looked at the current status in some detail. Mr. Barnes commented that the Richards Trust income might be used to fund the president search.

Voorhees is making nice progress. The retention of students is aided by church grants. They are managing by the rules. Canon Lowery read two thank you letters from students who were helped by these grants.

The challenge to the committee was identified as that of getting non-Episcopalian names to Bishop Anne for the nominating committee meeting this coming Thursday.

It was noted that the SAU Interim President is an ordained minister, who believes in the continued involvement of the Episcopal Church with the college.

Next meeting: April 15 at 9:00 AM.

With thanks to the committee, Canon Shaw adjourned the meeting at 10:08 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Caparulo  
Staff support to the Committee