

Executive Council Committee on Historically Black Colleges and Universities

February 28, 2020

Minutes of the Teleconference

HBCU COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Canon Martini Shaw (Chair), Ms. Martha Alexander, Father Ronald Byrd, Fr. Jamie Callaway, Dr. Scott Evenbeck, Canon Anita George, Canon Michele Hagans, Dr. Joel Cunningham, and Dr. Eugene Lowe, Bishop Andrew Waldo. **Those absent:** Dr. Sean Decatur,

Guests: Bishop Anne Hodges-Copple, Bishop Sam Rodman. Ms. Cecilia Malm, Mr. Kurt Barnes, Mr. Lang Lowrey.

Canon Shaw called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM and Dr. Lowe offered a prayer.

The roll was taken and the minutes of the January meeting were moved (Gene), seconded (Jamie) and approved as presented.

St. Augustine's

Canon Shaw reported that enrollment is greater than last year. Retention rate is 57%, up from 47%. Fund-raising is improved by 405% resulting from the receipt of a grant from the Department of Education and a number of other large gifts. The school will be offering graduate programs online in the fall. Several residential halls have been renovated and a historic fountain has been repaired. The new chaplain is in place Hershey Mallette Stephens and everyone is very pleased with her.

Bishop Anne added that the MLK student center is about to re-open after damage repairs from the hurricane. On Founders Day St. Aug's received a check for \$100K from an Episcopal entity in the Diocese of New York but no details are known. The head of development is now head of strategic planning. The interim president would like to remain interim president of the university as the new search committee is being formed to carry on the search for a new president. Discussion covered other changes in personnel and HR matters along with development activities at the school.

Voorhees

Canon Shaw had posted an update report from Dr. Evans. Dr. Evenbeck reported that Phil Jackson will not be able to travel with him as planned but updates will be provided to Trinity Wall Street on a regular basis.

Fr. Lowery reported a marvelous day at St. Paul's Atlanta when HBCU day was held there. They did a great job fund-raising. He also went to St. Phillip's Cathedral, where there are efforts afoot to have the cathedral to "adopt" Voorhees. A quick review was done concerning the chaplain search in process.

Ms. Malm talked about the Absalom Jones appeal, which is going along nicely. Churches having appeals are sending in the proceeds. The ENS article was helpful in generating interest and there was advertising across all church media. Final numbers will be known in April/May. Ms. Malm is

looking forward to connecting and working with the new development officers at St. Aug's and at Voorhees.

Bishop Doyle met with HBCUs in Texas. As a result, the question arose as to how Bp Doyle might be approached about giving to Voorhees. Canon Hagans will talk with him about that possibility.

A brief look was taken at recruitment efforts in Texas by Voorhees and St. Aug's, both of which have expanded their recruiting reach. Voorhees is close to having 100% occupancy in their dorms (now 95-97%).

The application process is now open for scholarships that the church awards and the schools should be aware of them.

Update on Travel for the Voorhees on-site visit in April. Travel plans must be made through Altour Travel. Response deadline is March 11. The schedule of events is still being worked out. A meeting with the PB, if it happens at all, will be at breakfast on Tuesday morning.

There are no plans to gather the committee on Palm Sunday. The first meeting will take place on Monday AM at the college. Dr. Lowe described the need to have the committee meet to catch up and think together about what is to be accomplished and emphasized as a committee. The group would benefit from an opportunity to assess where it is in terms of its own mission. Some executive time would be profitable.

Transportation from the hotel to Voorhees is likely to be provided by the school. The committee will return to Columbia for dinner on Monday PM.

The most recent material from the HBCU Digest was requested. Fr. Shaw will forward to the committee.

Next meeting: Tuesday, March 17 at 8:30 AM

It was moved, seconded and carried to adjourn at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Caparulo
Staff support to the committee