

Executive Council Committee on Historically Black Colleges and Universities

May 20, 2020

Minutes of the Teleconference

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

Guests: Father Ronald Byrd, Bishop Anne Hodges-Copple, Bishop Sam Rodman, Canon Lang Lowrey, Ms. Cecilia Malm. **Regrets:** Mr. Kurt Barnes.

Canon Shaw called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and Canon Hagans offered a prayer. The Roll was taken; the minutes were moved (Dr. Lowe) seconded (Canon Hagans) and approved as presented..

Voorhees Update

Canon Lowery provided an overview. Dr. Evans has recovered from his illness. Fr. Jame Yarsiah has resigned and there is a candidate identified, who might be a good replacement. Fr. Byrd has worked with this person and would recommend him. Funds from the Federal Government have come at a higher figure than the \$650K anticipated. Voorhees hopes to open in the fall. They will need significant giving to fill the \$400K - \$600K budgetary gap. The chaplaincy and filling the financial gap are the two foci of the work now. \$562K from the Care Act has been received twice. A PPP loan for \$600K is in place as well. They will need to pay back \$1 million and fill the funding gap. Enrollment last summer (2018) 119; in 2019 it was 107; this summer they're at 104 students.

Bishop Anne noted that the PPP loan does not automatically become a grant, it must be applied for and the application be substantiated with solid records. Fr. Shaw reviewed the mechanics of the program.

Ms. Malm discussed the fund-raising ideas that are in the planning stages. She described this time as an opportunity for communicating. Last week a video was done with the PB issuing a message of support, not specific to Voorhees, but to the HBCUs in general. Prospect researcher has identified all givers to Absalom Jones appeal and did a wealth-screening to determine capacity. The 15-20 folks with greatest capacity will be asked in some way to contribute. Parishes that have supported Voorhees have also been identified with an eye toward generating a major gift.

St. Augustine's Update

Bishop Anne began with a report about Chaplain Hershey's health issues. Prayers are aloft for Jeremiah Chad, her baby. Bishop Anne provided an in-depth report on the state of university.

SAU got a government grant to restore the windows in the chapel. The work is nearly completed, helped by an Episcopalian whose specialty is historic restoration.

Bishop Sam discussed the interview process for the president position. They hope to wrap up the search by the end of the month. Bishop Sam was impressed by the process. A deep look was taken at the historical relationship between the Church and the university.

It was agreed that a response to the PB's letter is desired by this committee. Fr. Shaw will follow up with Mr. Barnes and the PB to that end.

There was a baccalaureate service given at the chapel, which can be found on YouTube.

Next meeting: June 15 at 8:30 AM.

Fr. Shaw adjourned the meeting at about 10:10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Caparulo
Staff support to the committee