Executive Council Standing Committee on Finance

May 12, 2020

Minutes of the Tele-Meeting

Attending the meeting: Anne Hodges-Copple, Cornelia Eaton, Mally Lloyd, Diane Pollard, Holli Powell Sturm, Anne Kitch, Zena Link, Andrea McKellar, Gay Jennings (President HOD), Byron Rushing (VP HOD), Mike Ehmer (Chair, PB&F), Patrick Haizel, Kurt Barnes, Nancy Caparulo, Margareth Crosnier de Bellaistre, Cecilia Malm, and T.J. Houlihan. Excused: Patty Downing.

Mally called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM EDT. Andrea offered a prayer. A process for the meeting was established. Executive Council time will be as follows:

Monday (EC plenary) 11:00-1:00
Tuesday FIN 10:00-12:00; 2:00-4:00; 6:00-8:00
Wednesday FIN 10:00-12:00; 2:00-4:00; 6:00-8:00
Thursday (plenary) 11:00-1:00

PPP Update: changes were made in the guidelines. DFMS has not accepted or declined the grant at this point. Mally will keep the group updated.

Budget Revisions were reviewed. EC will vote to change or manage or accept revisions to the budget. First the committee needs to understand the changes. Mally expressed her appreciation for the staff’s doing the work so promptly. The change document, posted to the Extranet this afternoon, was reviewed line-by-line. Through March, most diocesan pledges have come in pretty much as expected. April and May remain to be seen.

The DO has been contacting their donors and the responses have been positive.

Clarifications were made about:

- Facilities management – Internet is used whether or not a staff member is in the building.
- Rental income may be deferred in part until 2021.
- Past-due taxes from the school are not included in the spreadsheet.
- The first round of cuts aimed to secure staff positions.

It was noted that if we reduce grants, that will reduce the reductions. Line 36 was an example. Mally was concerned that some of the changes also changed the mandate from General Convention. Gay talked about the thrust to support dioceses and congregations. Kurt noted that the grants were not made in equal thirds, that some were front-loaded. Ministry Within needs to look closely into this to present an accurate picture. The ministries in Bishop Anne’s diocese that have received grants have set an example and impact for the diocese. $753K of grants were embedded in the budget and identified as reductions. UTO grants are not included in the budget.
The SWOL Revival – Stephanie Spellers and her team have been meeting with the Lutherans. It is agreed that the event will not occur in 2020. They are now looking at fall of 2021; they are having difficulty meshing the calendars of both bishops. Many events are being re-scheduled. Some kind of in-person event in Brooklyn is still planned with a week of activities leading up to it. Stephanie has reduced her budget for the SWOL to $590K.

Evangelism agreed to limit further spending in 2020.

Poverty and Social Justice – A question arose around Jubilee grants. Many reductions were noted to have been affected by the elimination of or severe cuts to travel.

Ethnic ministries have reduced their lines heavily. Explanations are desired. Wintertalk already happened. Their face-to-face meetings are many in normal circumstances. Many events have been moved online. Mally asked if computers, internet, connectivity is provided to people who would otherwise attend an in-person meeting.

It was clarified that the cuts that have been made were made by the departments themselves. The canons worked with all departments and Anthony Guillen worked with each ethnic minister.

Line 142 was not budgeted because the position represented there appeared in staff costs. A question arose for line149. Kurt will get clarity about that.

There are a number of staff vacancies. There is less travel and lower staff costs. Mally requested a list for the next meeting illustrating staff vacancies and their values.

PBO – Line 176 was clarified: reserve for Lambeth and council of advice. The travel line will be revisited. Kurt will speak with Mark Stevenson about the Camp Allen expense.

Because so much money was saved by doing EC virtually, it might be nice to leave some of the money in Puerto Rico so the hotel can pay its workers.

Armed Forces and Military – reductions were mainly in travel.

GBEC – did their work early.

Regarding the PB travel, Kurt explained how the budgets cover the staff who travel with the PB.

February financials have closed. Kurt hopes to close March soon.

The Committee’s overall goal is to understand the content of the changes in order to make a good recommendation to EC and done soon so that the changes can be implemented.

Next week, May 19 – 5:00 to 6:30. The committee will look at a timeline to make the recommendation. Review left off at line 218. The committee must tackle the questions that Jane posted. Mally will re-post them. The plan is to continue Tuesday evenings at 5:00 PM. Mally requested that Cecilia write and post an update about the Way of Love.

Cornelia closed the meeting with prayer at 6:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Caparulo
Staff support to the committee