

Executive Council Committee on Historically Black Colleges and Universities

October 29, 2020

Minutes of the Teleconference

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

Guests: Mr. Kurt Barnes, Father Ronald Byrd, Canon Lang Lowrey, and Ms. Cecilia Malm.
Regrets: Bishop Sam Rodman.

Canon Shaw called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM. Canon Lowery offered a prayer.

The roll was taken and the minutes from September 23 were moved (Dr. Lowe), seconded (Ms, Alexander) and approved as presented.

Consultant Reports

Ms. Malm and Canon Lowery have been meeting with the new Institutional Advancement staff at Voorhees College. Ms. Malm described their activities there and cited a \$20K grant from TEC in South Carolina thanks to the efforts of Bishop Parsley. There may be support also from Trinity Wall Street as the college is working on a proposal to submit to them. Consultants are working with Dr. Brown on identifying gift opportunities. Bishop Parsley is reaching out to other bishops and congregations in SC.

St. Augustine's (SAU) is reeling from news of Dr. McPhail's death from COVID-19. Ms. Malm's focus is on ways to assist with fund raising. A reach-out was made to The Rev. Robinson in Brooklyn Heights concerning support to the chaplaincy.

Cn. Lowery expanded a bit about issues at Voorhees, especially having to do with the lack of corporate funds going there and the possible reasons for that. He briefly touched on current board matters, the decrease in enrollment because of the pandemic, and the need for the principals there to understand the importance of relationship building in fundraising.

Canon Calloway talked in greater depth about the possibility of funding from Trinity Wall Street. He contacted Dr. Evans, who asked his staff to put a proposal together by November 2, which they will send to Cn. Calloway. There is no chaplain at Voorhees now. If there is a plan to hire one, that would be an opportunity for funding.

Report from Black Ministries

Fr. Byrd talked about his interactions with both of the schools. He expressed his gratitude to Mr. Barnes for arranging the provision of computers at SAU for the chaplain. SAU received a UTO grant of \$18K toward the \$30K cost of an outdoor chapel for evangelism, live streaming, and videos.

Fr. Byrd discussed the decrease in enrollment at Voorhees and its implications. He had a good conversation about bringing on a chaplain and the financial challenges around that with regard to funding an appropriate salary, pension, and benefits. Pension funding is a big challenge. Bishop Waldo noted that a sustainability grant was given to provide a chaplain's pension but money was not used because there was no chaplain. Remaining funds were given because of COVID-19. An accurate job description with a minimum package needs to be developed, particularly as the college wants a chaplain who has extensive teaching experience. The possibility of finding an interim was discussed along with the difficulties resulting from the desire for a seasoned teacher.

There were scholarships awarded through the black ministries desk – more than 12 went to HBCUs. When there was money available last year, a block grant was made to support students. Black deputies met to prepare for GC. They have put together a resolution to ask that \$300K of normal appropriations that go to the HBCUs (\$1.8 million) be dedicated to chaplaincies. Fr. Byrd emphasized the success of the chaplain at SAU, who is building a stronger relationship with the church. Ms. Malm said that it would be a wonderful funding opportunity to offer with the creation of a permanent endowment to fund both chaplaincies.

Next meeting – Tuesday November 12 at 10 AM EST.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Caparulo
Staff support to the committee