

## Executive Council Committee on Historically Black Colleges and Universities

May 11, 2022

### Minutes of the Teleconference

**HBCU COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Canon Martini Shaw, Ms. Martha Alexander, Canon Jamie Callaway, Dr. Joel Cunningham, Dr. Scott Evenbeck Canon Anita George, Dr. Eugene Lowe, Bishop Sam Rodman, Bishop Ruth Woodliff-Stanley, Bishop Andrew Waldo.

**Regrets:** Canon Michele Hagans.

**Guests:** Ms. Cecilia Malm and Canon Ron Byrd.

**Regrets:** Mr. Kurt Barnes and Fr. Lang Lowery.

Canon Shaw called the meeting to order at 9:01. Bishop Ruth opened with prayer.

The minutes from April and February meetings were moved en bloc (Cn. Callaway) and seconded (Ms. Alexander). Motion carried without objection.

#### Saint Augustine's (SAU)

Bishop Sam reported on the April celebration in Raleigh to install president, Dr. Christine McPhail. He described the ceremony in some detail, emphasizing the sense of confidence, trust, and appreciation for Dr. McPhail's leadership. Cn. Shaw lauded Bishop Sam's introduction to the day. Dr. McPhail is bringing about a culture change by doubling the size of her cabinet to include deans of faculty. "Reimagining" is the byword of her work as she expands her circle.

A day-long board meeting was held after the installation. SAU received \$400K for a feasibility study concerning property and the remains of St. Agnes Hospital. This is part of the reimagining of the campus and the feasibility is to entertain different proposals for the use of the space and its integration into the campus.

Two new board members were introduced and welcomed including the student representative, a rising senior doing degree work in engineering. Hadley Evans, the other new board member, works for a software company and has an auditing background. Bishop Sam observed a shift in the tenor of meetings, which are well organized and result in deep conversations. The 2020 audit has been completed and the 2021 draft is anticipated at the end of the month. Bishop Sam observed the confidence in the school and changes being made is tremendous. He will be at the next board meeting on May 17.

#### Voorhees University

Bishop Ruth discussed matters around Founder's Day and President Hopkins' two-day inauguration celebration. That included the Elizabeth Evelyn Wright film, which they hope to air on public TV. She described a very energized community around the direction President Hopkins is taking the school.

Graduation was reportedly a wonderful celebration and significant progress has been made on the chaplaincy. After an interview a few days ago it is believed that the person may be found. Although not yet ordained, the candidate is seasoned in ministry and is in the ordination process with Bishop Jose McLoughlin with him on the path to Holy orders. Canon Hagans had done the preliminary work that proved to be very important. The candidate's call to working with students is very compelling and the

ability to connect to the vision articulated by Voorhees is strong. Western NC is the candidate's home diocese and Bishop Ruth is very enthused about the prospects looking forward.

Bishop Ruth will be connecting with the Voorhees board. Canon Walpole has been her representative on it. She has been invited to the board retreat in July to which she will go. There is interest in strengthening relationship with TEC. President Hopkins is joyful around the Diocese of Long Island's reparations work by providing scholarships to Voorhees. The energy and mood in the cabinet and with president is highly energized as they look forward to the fall. Bishop Waldo was also enthusiastic about the work happening there.

Work with Tougaloo continues to move forward. Canon Hagans is on the board and she and Bishop Ruth are in touch. A report will be forthcoming in the nearer future.

#### Consultant Reports

Canon Byrd talked SAU and moving forward with the 3 women from Honduras. Currently, funds are short \$6700 per student or their support. They also need mentors. Discussions are active around obtaining the needed money. These students will be chapel assistants earning \$15/hr. Plans were to send 5 students to GC but with COVID changes, that won't happen now.

Ms. Malm said money continues to come in for Absalom Jones Fund, which has reached \$175K. Thank you e-mails went out to 2022 donors. Spoke with Dr. Carter at SAU about the wonderful stories about students graduating. A note will go out to Voorhees donors about graduation. Voorhees family seems re-engaged. Ms. Malm attended Dr. Hopkins' installation and made good connections. She and Canon Lowery are working on a major donor in the Atlanta area.

The possibility of meeting in person was discussed and agreed that it's back to the "wait and see" mode for now, based on the continuing impact of COVID.

Dr. Evenbeck had no update on St. Paul's at this time. Trinity continues to commit to working with Voorhees and the meeting with Fr. Jackson went very well. He was favorably impressed with the students.

Efforts were made to highlight HBCUs at GC in the past and Dr. Ebnbeck wondered if that will happen again. Bishop Ruth said that Voorhees plans to have presence at GC. Booths at GC were discussed while a special EC meeting was happening concurrent with this meeting, so everything is likely to change.

Next meeting was decided on September 14 at 9:00 AM EDT.

Canon Shaw adjourned the meeting at 9:59 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Caparulo  
Staff support to the committee