



Diocesan Board of Trustees Finance/Mission Meeting- September 1st, 2020

Attendees

Philip Anspach	James Pope
Rev. Frank Allen	Eric Rabe
Takiya Cuyler	Rev. Tim Safford
Albert Dandridge	Patricia Smith
Bishop Daniel Gutierrez	Roberta Torian
Canon Doug Horner	Canon Shawn Wamsley
Kirk Muller	

The committee opened with Prayer at 2:00PM by Bishop Daniel Gutierrez

The approval of the previous minutes was waved until the next meeting

Discussion regarding the 2021 budget.

James Pope opened the discussion regarding the proposed budget and any particular changes being made prior to submitting for Council submission.

Bishop Gutierrez discussed the input he has received from many of the rectors of parishes around the Diocese. The Bishop sent out a proposal for consideration to the BoT to adjust the assessment to consider the issues with the current pandemic. He asked to pursue a process where we teach the churches about the Diocese and partner with them to achieve the goal of a tithe by a certain date.

Eric Rabe, Pat Smith and James Pope agreed with the Bishops request for a pause in 2021 and a resumption in subsequent years.

Eric further suggested that we put forth a change to Canon 7.2.1 in order to remove any doubts about the legality of the assessment change.

The impact of remaining at the current rate will require an additional draw of \$45,000 for ECS to remain in proper financial status.

Pat Smith suggested we move forward with the Unified budget and remain with the current number.

Rev. Tim Safford suggested that the churches are holding their payments based on other reasons apart from the pandemic. He suggested that by holding the number as a reaction to objections, we hurt the churches that have been working towards reaching the goal each year. Rev. Safford suggested that we hold the line on the number as a point of principle and allow the budget to be voted on as it is.

The Bishop responded that he agreed up to the point where upon the pandemic had affected giving and mission.

Roberta asked whether we have spoken to other churches who are giving below the 5.9% average.

Kirk highlighted that a plan to increase the pledge by only 0.5% would have the Diocese fund the EC with nearly \$10MM over 10 years but not be able to fund it effectively until 6 or 7 years into the program.

Rev. Frank Allen stated that he believes we should hold for 2021 and then go fully into the increasing scale in subsequent years.

Canon Shawn discussed the contrast between 2019 and 2020 conferences.

Bishop Gutierrez suggested that we need a means to be pastoral but disciplined. Kirk in response suggested that we propose holding for 2021 but get commitments for subsequent years from all the churches and that there be an understanding going forth.

Al Dandridge stated that we should be disciplined and hold our ground, use the backstop and go forward with the vision.

Roberta stated if we yield we need to be resolute in our commitment to the increase.

Eric reiterated his previous remarks that the churches still don't understand what the Diocese is doing. We need to keep making the case.

James suggested two potential motions

1. Keep the amount as is for 2021.
2. Adjust the unified assessment to 6.25% and look to the churches for their response.

Eric Rabe put forth a motion to recommend to the Board of Trustees hold the income level of the parishes for 2021. Pat Smith seconded the motion.

The Committee was split on the motion. The motion failed.

James then explained that the Thistle Hill community is moving forward and would like to express their thanks to the Diocese. They have also requested for the Bishop to attend a photo opportunity.

The meetings was closed in prayer by Canon Wamsley at 4:00 PM.