

**ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH
608 WEST JEFFERSON STREET
TUPELO, MISSISSIPPI 38804**

**MINUTES OF
JULY 13, 2020
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

PRESENT:

The Rev. Phillip Parker Harry Dieckmann
Deanna Alford, Sr. Warden

Tommie Moore, Clerk

ABSENT: Fred Cannon, Mike Fitzpatrick, Cathy Sparks

The Rev. Phillip Parker opened the meeting with a prayer at 6:11 p.m.

CHECK IN

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: Mediation update

TREASURER'S REPORT

A written report was submitted and is attached to these minutes.

MOTION: (Alford/Dieckmann)

Approve Treasurer's report as submitted.

APPROVED.

CHRISTIAN GROWTH COMMISSION REPORT: No report

CHRISTIAN SERVICE COMMISSION REPORT: No report

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION REPORT: No report

JR. WARDEN REPORT: No report

SR. WARDEN REPORT: No report

RECTOR'S REPORT:

Phillip reported that in-person services resumed on Sunday, June 14 at 8:30 and 10:45 a.m. with some restrictions. He noted that attendance at the services has declined over the last few weeks as the COVID-19 cases in Mississippi have increased.

Phillip advised that a letter concerning Gray Center operations was received from Bishop Seage which in part read:

“We find ourselves at a moment in time that requires action by our Diocese and her leadership. The COVID-19 pandemic and crisis has forced some longstanding issues to the forefront of my concerns. The financial history of Gray Center, our camp and conference facility, is a troubled one. Well-intentioned, but unsuccessful programs and management practices allowed the accumulation of significant debt to the Trustees of the Diocese as well as other Diocesan and private entities. With the cancellation of virtually all income producing events for the year 2020, and little light at the end of the tunnel for months to come, the survival of the original mission of the Gray Center, Camp Bratton-Green, was in jeopardy without consideration of significant restructuring of Gray Center operations.

In order to meet these challenges, the leadership of the Diocese has decided upon the following course of action: Gray Center operations will be immediately suspended. Our plan and sincere hopes are that Bratton-Green will be able to reopen in the Spring of 2021. We will immediately begin a process of discernment regarding the Conference Center and the 550 acres on which it is situated. The simplest and most efficient solution would be the sale of some or all of the properties on which Conference Center operations are located. But all options will be explored and evaluated. This was an incredibly difficult and emotional decision. I am grateful for the elected leadership of the Diocese and the Board of Managers who joined me in this initial discernment. The Executive Committee of our Diocese partnered with me in making the final decision.”

Those present expressed their sadness over this decision, but understood the action taken.

BUSINESS:

Mediation Update

Harry Dieckmann, co-chair of the Mediation Implementation Task Force opened the discussion by advising that he contacted The Rev. Peter Gray to discuss how to implement “Caring Conflict Transformation”. In response, Peter offered several ideas:

1. Schedule a Zoom presentation with Peter for the Vestry to renew / review conflict resolutions skills.
2. Recruit a few members from the congregations to take the Lombard Mennonite Peace Camp (LMPC) Mediation Skills Training.
3. Provide a presentation sharing the skills and concepts on C1 – C7, D2 for the congregation at large from the *Conflict Transformation Skills for Churches* booklet.

A discussion followed. It was the consensus of the Executive Committee to recommend to the Vestry that the next step should be to schedule a “Zoom” presentation with Peter and the Vestry to refresh/review conflict resolutions skills. Harry will contact Peter to discuss availability and cost of such a meeting.

The Executive Committee reviewed the business to come before the Vestry and set the agenda.

CHECK OUT

With no further business, The Rev. Phillip Parker adjourned the Executive Committee meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Submitted by Tommie Moore, Clerk of the Vestry

ATTACHMENTS TO THE MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING:

June 2020 financial reports and Bookkeeper's report