

Diocese of Easton  
 Diocesan Council  
 Meeting Minutes  
 May 12, 2025

Bray House and Zoom attendees

Documents distributed digitally include:

- draft Agenda
- Camp Wright Shoreline Stabilization Resolution
- Treasurer's Report
- Statement Operating Income
- prior meeting minutes for approval
- Compensation/Personnel documents for update from committee

Members present:

Rt Rev Santosh Marray

Chrissy Aull, Granville Blades, Rev. Stephanie Clayville, Rev. Andrew Cropper, Vic Evans, Jim Fitzgerald, Lynda Habel, Rev. Dcn Jim Kamihachi, Myron Richardson, Sally Rifenberg, Rev. Suz Southern

John Dragone

Rev. Dr. Darcy Williams

Guests – Ned Aull, Ray Wasdyke, The Rev. Dr. Darcy Williams

Absent – Rev. Susan Leight, (excused), Kay Ferraro, Marion Robinette, Rev Nicholas Sichangi

Meeting called to order at 6:01 p.m. in Bray House Conference Room with Zoom attendees. A quorum confirmed. Chrissy timekeeper. Bishop opened with prayer.

Bishop explained that Rev. Williams or a representative of the Standing Committee will join the Diocesan Council meetings going forward in consideration of the current leadership transition. Bishop introduced Ned Aull as Chair of the Personnel Committee and Ray Wasdyke who will update on Camp Wright project.

Bishop turned over the meeting to Granville Blades, Vice President of Council to preside.

**Agenda III** - Rev. Suz Southern shared her spiritual journey as a lifelong resident of the Berlin Md area and attendee at St. Paul's, her mentorship with Rev Frieda Malcolm and her spiritual decisions that have led to her position as Priest in Charge at St. Paul's, Berlin, MD

**Agenda IV-** Granville asked for any questions or changes to the meeting minutes from March 21, 2025. With reference to the Commissioning of new Council members at the last meeting Sally Rifenburg asked whether that covered those who were absent. The Bishop confirmed that all members were commissioned without regards to attendance at the meeting. There were no further questions. Granville asked for a motion to approve, Rev. Cropper motioned, Lynda Habel seconded, vote to approve.

**Agenda V 6:15** – Myron Richardson, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report. He noted that everything is as expected with no issues or concerns. He updated activities of the Listening Committee with 5 visits planned and 1 completed. The completed visit was to St Andrew's in Hurlock at the request of Deacon Barbara Coleman. Myron addressed the status of the required audits by each parish and that about half of the parishes have submitted their audits and that amount needs to be increased. Myron referenced the changes in the expectation from the Episcopal Church regarding the Parochial Report to be completed by each parish. Megan Timms is working with the parishes to assure that these changes are understood.

Myron introduced Ray Wasdyke, guest, to present the latest update on the Camp Wright (CW) shoreline stabilization project. Ray distributed copies of pertinent details including bids, consulting fees, references and Finance Committee approval. Same to be attached with the approved minutes of this meeting.

A Q & A opportunity was pursued.

Myron noted the previously provided Resolution and made a motion to approve the entire amount as detailed in the Resolution, also attached. Rev. Southern and Sally Rifenberg seconded. Vote to approve the Resolution was unanimous.

**Agenda VI** 6:45 – Granville asked guest Ned Aull to share the report from the Personnel and Compensation Committee. Documents had been previously distributed.

Ned began with the Priest Salary Guidelines. He provided a brief background on the need for an updated clergy salary guideline considering that the last one was updated in 2016. He recommended an update every two years. He named the Committee members. Ned referred to the supporting documents and highlighted the key information including \$52,000 as an absolute minimum full time salary and compensation package for a Priest and that individual parishes have autonomy to exceed that baseline. A Q & A followed which noted that the documents have been approved by the Committee to upload to the DOE website. Rev. Clayville, a member of the Committee noted that there is a digital calculator available to assist parishes in calculating salary levels using appropriate criteria.

Granville asked for a motion to approve the Priest Salary Guidelines. Myron motioned, Lynda seconded. The vote was unanimous to approve.

Ned briefly presented but did not need a vote for the New Priest Checklist which will also go up on the DOE website.

Agenda VII – no break taken

**Agenda VIII**– Vic Evans, Council member and Camp Wright Committee member provided an update for Camp Wright. He noted that staffing is at 100%, camper enrollment is high, and a middle school program is being organized. John Dragone, Canon to the Ordinary and Transition Officer updated the Council on parishes currently in Transition. The report included:

Status of Parishes seeking Clergy :

- Christ Church, Easton
  - Interim Rector Patrick Collins in place
  - Commenced search for fulltime rector,
- Christ Church, Kent Island
  - Interim Rector Frank Crumbaugh in place, vestry extended his tenure
  - Actively searching for fulltime rector

- St. Paul's, Kent
  - Has called an interim rector, Rev. Eleanor Ellsworth
  - Continuing to interview candidates for full time call.
- St. Philips, Quantico
  - Presently covering services with supply clergy
  - Seeking part-time Clergy
- St. Paul's, Centreville
  - Leadership has engaged an interim
  - Continues to work on discernment document

#### Deacon Assignments:

- No changes

#### Transitional Deacon ordination dates:

- Lynn Wiljanen, on Saturday 05/17/2025 @ St. Paul's Marion Station
- Joanne Fisher, Saturday, 06/28/2025 @ Trinity Cathedral
- Jessica Stehle, on Saturday, 06/28/2025 @ Trinity Cathedral
- Kelsey Spiker on Saturday, 09/27/2025 @ Christ Church, Easton
- Michael Valliant, on Saturday, 09/27/2025 @ Christ Church, Easton

#### Deacon ordination:

- Lynda Habel, on Saturday 10/04/2025 @ St. Luke's, Church Hill

#### Other:

- St. Luke's, Church Hill
  - Rev. Bernie Schroeder dealing with medical issues and is unavailable,
  - Services are being covered by Lynda Habel and supply clergy
- Emmanuel, Chestertown
  - The Very Rev. Claire Nevin-Fields on short-term disability
  - Interim Priest-in-Charge the Rev. Shiela McJilton is covering
    - May require a substitute due to a health issue
- Northern Convocation
  - Rev. Nicholas Sichangi has agreed to perform the duties of the Dean as Acting Dean of the Convocation in Rev. Nevin-Fields absence.

Property Committee report provided by John Dragone – Rev. Mike Lokey has stepped off the Property Committee. Sean Fahey is now the Chair. Vic Evans, Rev Dcn Barbara Coleman and Rev. Cropper are new members. There are HVAC issues at Bray House, being addressed. There are termites at SPEC. There are currently 8 cemeteries under the care and maintenance of the DOE.

Report from the Bishop- Bishop Marray notes that the July Council meeting will include more important communications. He has revised his prior decision with regard to his final service as our Bishop. It will now be held at Christ Church Kent Island on October 18, 2025, in order to provide adequate space for congregants. More details to follow. He is seeking to visit all parishes over the summer.

The next meeting will be July 28 by Zoom. The Bishop closed with a prayer. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned. (Time not noted.)