

Diocese of Easton
 Diocesan Council
 Special Meeting
 November 14, 2024

Bray House, 1:00 p.m.
 Easton MD

Documents previously distributed or provided, in no particular order –

- Draft Resolution with regard to proposed changes to Asking Formula for parishes
- Preliminary Budget Review
- Draft Resolution for Secretary of the Diocesan Council to post Agenda and Minutes
- Visual presentation on proposed changes to Asking Formula
- Proposed 2025 budget
- Rules of Order for 2025 Convention

Present in person and by zoom – in alpha order

Chrissy Aull, Granville Blades, Rev. Andrew Cropper, Vic Evans, Kay Ferraro, Gordon Fronk, Lynda Habel, Rev. Dcn Jim Kamihachi, Rev. Susan Leight, Rev. Mike Lokey, Rt. Rev Santosh Marray, Rev. Nicholas Sichangi

Megan Timms - staff
 Fred Welsh – adjunct

Excused – Florence Adams

A quorum was confirmed. The stated purpose for the meeting was digitally shared prior to meeting, in no order as: 1) to review and approve the 2025 diocesan budget, 2) to approve Rules of Order for Convention 2025, 3) to consider resolution to change the apportionment calculation for parishes and 4) to consider resolution for Secretary of Diocesan Council to post agendas and approved minutes in timely fashion.

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Fronk at 1:08 p.m.

Bishop Marray led in prayer.

Gordon Fronk moved aloud the following Resolution:

“The Secretary of the Diocesan Council shall post the tentative Agenda on the Diocesan website for every meeting of the Council at the same time it is distributed to members of the Council, and shall post the approved Minutes, excluding executive session or other privileged discussions, of every meeting of the Council on the Diocesan website within seven days of their final approval.”

Upon being seconded, there being no discussion, the vote was unanimous to approve the Resolution.

Gordon introduced consideration of the Rules of Order for Diocesan Convention 2025, which are substantially the same as the 2024 Rules of Order. The ROO had been previously distributed to the members for review. One Special Order was noted, that being 8B, allowing Camp Wright a time slot to make a presentation on its Strategic Plan.

Rev. Cropper moved to adopt the Rules of Order as presented, Rev. Sichangi seconded and vote was unanimous to approve.

Next Order of Business to resolve to accept the proposed changes to apportionment calculations, per the request of the DOE Finance Committee. A proposed resolution was provided in hard copy at the meeting.

The background relevant to the Asking Project, was presented by Fred Welsh, Chair of the Finance Committee. The presentation slides had been earlier distributed to members. Fred highlighted the important slides of the prepared presentation and explained that this proposed recalculation was designed to create a more manageable apportionment for smaller parishes.

Megan Timms clarified that the proposed changes to the calculation of apportionment does not affect the 2025 budget, but would be in effect in 2026, if adopted at the 2025 Convention. The recalculation is not expected to impact the overall DOE budget but will make smaller, lower revenue individual parish's apportionments more manageable.

Granville Blades moved, with a second from Rev Michael Lokey the following resolution:

In accordance with the Canon 403A, the Diocesan Council hereby recommends that the 2025 Convention approve the Department of Finance proposed apportionment calculation table, set forth in the Exhibit hereunto appended and incorporated by reference.

Discussion - Fred Welsh shared it is important to note that this is not intended nor will it be a source of increased revenue for the Diocese.

Noted that given reference possible changes at National level to the Line A on Parochial Reports that there needs to be clarification regarding same. It was suggested that Fred Welsh make this presentation to Convention.

A vote following discussion was unanimous in favor, motion carried.

Review of 2025 proposed budget was led by Megan Timms. The Budget Summary and detail had been previously distributed to members. Megan offered the following summary:

Thus far, 30 parishes have pledged to 100% apportionment. Three (3) parishes are pledging less than 100%. Still waiting on other parishes to respond.

Easton Episcopal Funds continue to increase, with a 5% draw rate which is a positive.

Some maintenance deferrals due to the pending sale of the Hillsboro property.

There will be no General Convention in 2025 which means no expense allotted to this item.

Easton Episcopal Funds currently total \$11,000,000, which is a significant highlight.

Budget details

Credit to the work of the Listening Committee as a function of the Finance Committee for their success in increasing the number of parishes who have committed to 100% of their apportionment.

Under Youth Ministry, Chrissy Aull noted and expressed appreciation for return to prior funding, compared to immediate past budget. In this same category, Safe Churches is contained with a low expense line. Megan explained that the staff administrator for SC, Rev. Phillips is leaving and the position will not be filled. Chrissy Aull shared her concern for a lack of support for the Parishes efforts to be in compliance with the SC expectations and requirements. Rev. Susan Leight shared her concern and noted that it is helpful to have the ongoing support given that Vestry members rotate and each year new members require training.

Discussion of Mission Summit – the 2024 Summit was not held as planned due to anticipated low turnout. The budget line was not fully spent last year as a result. The St. Stephens Fund is able to provide a higher amount for parish grants because the fund has done well with investments and due to a small amount was asked for or granted last year. A discussion was held to suggest increased advertising for the presence of the grant funds in order to encourage parishes to apply for these outreach effort funds.

-Discussion re concerns over the sustainability of insurance coverages. Fred Welsh pointed to the lack of a formal policy regarding the coverages and that most employers and non-profits do have a policy to define coverages provided to employees.

Discussion regarding the need for upkeep/maintenance of Bray House and costs, these costs are included in the reviewed budget.

Rev Lokey moved to approve the submitted 2025 budget. Rev Cropper seconded. Vote was unanimous to approve.

The DC members complimented and expressed gratitude to Megan for her work on this budget.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Chrissy Aull
Secretary to Diocesan Council