

**DIOCESE OF EASTON**  
MINUTES OF THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING  
LEADERSHIP RETREAT  
March 25, 2023  
Holy Trinity-Oxford

**ATTENDANCE**

**Clergy Members:**

The Rt. Rev. Santosh K. Marray, Bishop  
The Rev. Deacon Barbara Coleman, 2024  
The Rev. Laura Dorsey, 2024  
The Rev. Michael Lokey, 2025  
The Rev. Deacon Jim Kamihachi, 2026  
The Rev. Dr. Nicholas Sichangi, 2026

**Lay Members:**

Linda Hurley 2024  
James Martinez, 2024  
Florence Adams, 2025  
Gordon Fronk, Esq., 2025  
Chrissy Aull, 2026  
Granville Blades, Esq., 2026

Members excused: Nancy Linck, 2024; The Rev. Deacon Peggy Samuels, 2025; Penni Walker Doyle, 2025; Kay Ferraro, 2026.

Adjunct Members attending: Charles Bohn, Diocesan Treasurer; John Dragone, Canon to the Ordinary

The Meeting was opened with prayer by Bishop Marray. Bishop Marray then called the meeting to order, welcoming everyone to this new year of Diocesan Council and then presiding in the Commissioning of Diocesan Council Members for all. Bishop Marray explained the role of the Convention is to ensure the business of the Diocese is accomplished and the role of the Council is to continue this when the Convention is not in session. With that the Diocesan Council as all the rights and responsibilities assigned to Convention.

**Election of Council Officers**

Bishop Marray advised that it is the responsibility of the Council to elect from among its members a Vice-President and Secretary.

Bishop Marray proposed Gordon Fronk, Esq. for Vice President. Linda Hurley made a motion to elect; Barbara Coleman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Bishop Marray proposed Laura Dorsey for Secretary. Michael Lokey made a motion to elect; Linda Hurley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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#### **Treasurer's Report/Diocesan Finance Committee**

The Treasurer's Report and Notes, the Statement of Revenue and Expenses as of February 23, 2023 and a letter from the Board of Managers concerning The Easton Episcopal Funds' investment consultants were provided prior to the meeting. Charlie Bohn stated that the financial reports were self-explanatory; no questions were raised regarding them.

Charlie Bohn spoke on his "Treasurer's Notes—"

He explained about the setting up of a CDAR program that will allow us to invest money from those accounts which exceed the FDIC insured amount of \$250,000 into CD's. This is being recommended as a safeguard against potential bank failures. The use of CDs is recommended because of current Market volatility. Charlie Bohn asked for Council's approval to set up this CDAR program. Michael Lokey so moved, Barbara Coleman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (Jim Kamichachi chose to abstain due to a personal connection).

Charlie Bohn next highlighted his notes about the efforts of the Board of Managers and Easton Episcopal Funds work toward the creation of a "Low Volatility" investment option that would include investments in government securities. This effort is not in effect as yet, so in the meantime we will use the CDAR program.

Charlie Bohn noted that the Diocese is in the process of looking for a part time finance office employee to serve as a backup for Finance Administrator, Megan Timms.

With the Bishop's upcoming sabbatical and some changes in Finance Committee responsibilities, Charlie Bohn asks the Council to remove Bill Manley as a signer on accounts and add John Dragone as a bank signatory. Michael Lokey made the motion to do so; it was seconded by Nicholas Sichangi and passed unanimously. Additionally, the requests to the banks also contain approval for Megan Timms to have viewing access to the accounts as had former Finance Administrator, Art Kendall. Gordon Fronk made a motion to approve this change; Linda Hurley seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Lastly, Charlie Bohn advised that the Board of Managers is hiring, for the Easton Episcopal Funds, a new consulting firm, Axia Advisory Corporation of Indianapolis (as reported in the letter from the Board of Managers provided to the Council Members). They will be replacing Osprey Capital. The Board of Managers wants the

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Council to be aware that Board of Managers Member, Chris Maxwell's daughter works for Axia but that they are assured there will be not any conflict of interest or that she will receive any compensation related to the Easton Episcopal Funds.

### **Designation of Pro-Cathedral status at St. Peter's Episcopal Church-Salisbury**

Bishop Marray informed the Council of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Diocese and St. Peter's establishing St. Peter's as a "Pro-Cathedral," basically a second church available to the Bishop. The Council was also provided with a report prepared by the Bishop in support of establishing a "Pro-Cathedral."

### **Retreat House**

Michael Lokey, Chair of the Diocesan Real Property Committee reported on the possibility of selling the Retreat House property. The Retreat House was approached by St. Thetka's Orthodox Mission of the Eastern Shore regarding a purchase of the property (all but the cemetery). Consequently, an appraisal of the property was done pending such a sale. The appraisal has been received—the Retreat house is appraised at a value of \$200,000 and the Sanctuary at \$50,000. A letter provided to the Council Members from Francie Thayer, Director of the Retreat House, indicates that the inquiry to sell has helped them determine a move will be good for them. Michael Lokey advised that the Property Committee recommends the sale. Gordon Fronk made a motion to approve the sale for not less than \$250,000; Florence Adams seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Lastly, Michael Lokey said the Property Committee further recommends that, if the sale occurs, the proceeds be put into a fund for the Property Committee to help fund repairs throughout the Diocese on those properties and cemeteries with no funds but for which the Diocese is responsible.

### **Schedule of Council Meetings**

The Members agreed to the following meeting schedule, all meetings are on Mondays and to start at 6:00 P.M.; location to be Miller Hall at Trinity Cathedral, Easton or via Zoom:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Opening Prayer</u>	<u>Spiritual Autobiography</u>
May 23, 2023	Miller Hall	Florence Adams	Granville Blades
July 24, 2023— <i>No meeting unless needed</i>			
Sept. 25, 2023	Miller Hall	James Martinez	Chrissy Aull
Nov. 27, 2023	via Zoom	Laura Dorsey	Nicholas Sichangi
January 22, 2024	via Zoom	Linda Hurley	Jim Kamihachi

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**Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 22, 2023 at 6 P.M. The location will be Miller Hall, Trinity Cathedral, Easton, MD.

Respectfully submitted by:

The Rev. Laura M. Dorsey,  
At-large Clergy Member, Class of 2024  
Secretary to Diocesan Council