

Diocese of Easton
Minutes of the Diocesan Council Meeting
March 31, 2025

Meeting 100% by Zoom, link previously distributed.

Materials which were e- distributed prior to meeting included-
-draft agenda, prior meeting minutes, proposed meeting dates, Diocesan Council Contact List, Bishop Marray activities April '25- October '25

Members present by class –

Class of '26 - Chrissy Aull, Granville Blades, Kay Ferraro, Rev. Dcn Jim Kamihachi, Rev. Nicholas Sichangi

Class of '27- Rev. Andrew Cropper, Vic Evans, Lynda Habel, Rev. Susan Leight, Marion Robinette-

Class of '28 - Rev. Stephanie Clayville, James Fitzgerald, Myron Richardson, Rev Suz Southern

Bishop Marray, C2O John Dragone, Julia Connelly Zahn

Excused – Sally Rifenburg

Bishop Marray opened with prayer at 6:05. Chrissy as timekeeper, no regrets at time of meeting, a quorum was present

Bishop noted Canon 402.1 prior to election of officers

Bishop nominated Granville Blades as Vice President of Council -Kay Ferraro seconded, vote to elect was unanimous

Bishop nominated Chrissy Aull as Secretary, Andrew Cropper seconded – vote to elect was unanimous.

The Bishop offered an explanation of the need for a balance in leadership for Standing Committee and Diocesan Council between Clergy and Lay. Noted Rev. Darcy Williams as President of Standing Committee and Granville Blades as Vice President of Diocesan Council.

The newly elected members of the Diocesan Council were Commissioned. The Class of 2028 is The Reverend Stephanie Clayville, The Reverend Suz Southern, Mr. James Fitzgerald, Mr. Myron Richardson, Ms. Sally Rifenburg.

Approval of past meeting minutes – the Bishop asked for revisions or corrections to the minutes of Feb 10, 2025. Myron Richardson noted a correction to the language regarding the sale of the Hillsboro property and provided corrected copy to the Secretary, which were noted and completed. There were no further changes. Vic Evans moved to approve the minutes as amended, Rev Sichangi seconded, the vote to approve minutes as amended was unanimous.

Treasurer Report – Myron Richardson, Treasurer provided an update regarding the seawall/shoreline repair at Camp Wright. A summary is that the Diocese will fund the major repairs pending approval of the Diocesan Council at future meeting. Myron noted that the property is owned by the Diocese and the obligation exists to make these repairs for safety reasons and erosion prevention. Three bids for the project were reviewed and Lane Engineering is serving as a consultant. The low bidder has been identified. Pending Council approval, the work will begin after 2025 camp season and be completed prior to the Camp season of 2026.

Reviewed balance sheet, with no issues or concern. The Hillsboro property sale is now posted in the account. There are no issues. Kay Ferraro made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, Rev Cropper seconded, all voted in favor to approve the Treasurer Report

Myron noted a need for three Resolutions requested by the Finance Committee, pertinent to banking and funds.

#1- Resolution to place Myron Richardson on the Diocesan Bank Account as a signer in place of former Treasurer Charlie Bohn. Myron Richardson moved, Vic Evans seconded to approve, vote unanimous

#2 – Resolution to place Myron Richardson on the Episcopal Funds account as a signer- Myron moved, Kay Ferraro approved, vote unanimous

#3 – Resolution to create a new fund to support the work of the Property Committee, beginning with the deposited funds from the Hillsboro property sale.

It was clarified that the property committee is responsible for all real property owned by the Diocese that is neither occupied nor used regularly by a parish, mission, camp, cathedral, or other canonically recognized ministry of the Diocese. This includes the Diocesan portion of Bray House and Miller Hall but does not include Camp Wright.

Myron moved, Andrew Cropper seconded – vote unanimous to create this fund

No break was taken

Reports

- Bishop asked for questions or comments regarding the recent Mutual Ministry Review. There were none.
- Report from Camp Wright -Julia Connelly Zahn, Director, provided an update and review - gratitude to all for support of and participation in CW tours during Convention. Camp enrollment for '25 is strong. Exploring creation of a separate foundation for CW as they enter a fundraising stage. Becker Morgan Architects continue their involvement in long term planning. Resignation of Associate Director reported, there will not be a replacement for this year. Children's Home Foundation has made a financial pledge toward the shoreline project.
- Vic Evans, Camp Wright Committee offered remarks – copies of the Convention presentation available, asked Julia to make copies of the CW strategic plan available to the D.C. members
- Julia promoted the upcoming 95th Anniversary of CW on 7/26/25.
- John Dragone shared some positive feedback he was given regarding CW during Convention. Granville shared memories of long ago Acolyte Festival
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Report of the Transition Officer, John Dragon- (previously shared in writing with the Secretary and reviewed during meeting)

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

- St. Paul's, Kent
 - Has called an interim rector, Rev. Elenor Elsworth
 - Continuing to interview candidates for full time call.
- St. Philips, Quantico
 - Presently covering services with supply clergy
 - Seeking part-time Clergy, tentative start date January 2025
- St. Paul's, Centreville
 - Currently covering services with Supply Clergy
 - Leadership discerning whether to call an interim
- St. Paul's, Trappe
 - Deacon Les Roberts, OFS has accepted the call and is in place
- Christ Church, St. Michaels
 - Has made a call which has been accepted
 - The announcement is pending

Deacon Assignments:

- No changes

Other:

- Emmanuel, Chestertown
 - The Very Rev. Claire Nevin-Fields on short-term disability
 - Interim Priest-in-Charge the Rev. Sheilla McJilton is covering
- 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.

The Bishop noted that Dcn Lisa Webb will transition to Emmanuel in Chestertown. Bishop shared some background regarding Deacons transitioning from one Parish to another as an important part of their training and formation.

Bishop called for the continuation of training and IONA following his retirement. It is important for the Diocesan Council, the body which funded the training, to understand the impact of the funding choice. Doing “majestic good” on the Eastern Shore.

Bishop's Report – Bishop asked for questions with regard to his activities calendar from April – October 2025. No questions noted.

He shared that he has decided to hold his October 15 farewell service at Christ Church, Cambridge as it is a special place for him, so that he may “end his tenure as he began”.

There will be no combined Leadership Retreat for Diocesan Council and Standing Committee.

The Rev. Susan Leight offered a closing prayer. Meeting adjourned 7:38 p.m.