

DIOCESAN COUNCIL REPORT  
TO THE 240<sup>TH</sup> DIOCESAN CONVENTION

This report reflects the actions of Diocesan Council for the year 2023 (via Zoom). All financial actions of the Diocesan Council are included in the reports of the Treasurer of the Diocese and written reports of the committees and departments, represented by members of Diocesan Council, are attached to the minutes.

Highlights from the Diocesan Council meetings held January – December 2023 are as follows:

- Endorsed a grant of \$21,794 from the Venture in Mission Loan Fund to St. Luke and All Saints', Union for the purpose of reimbursing them for furnace replacement and other heating and plumbing repairs, subject to the completion of an audit.
- Approved a grant of \$25,000 from the Venture in Mission Loan Fund to Trinity Church, Rocky Hill, for the purpose of roof repair and replacement of a furnace.
- Approved a loan of \$100,000 from the Venture in Mission Loan Fund to the Church of the Good Shepherd, Pitman at 4% to be paid over a period of 10 years. This is subject to evidence of bonding of the treasurer and congregation for the full financial assets of the church including the amount of the loan.
- Approved for the Trustees of Church Property to be repaid \$40,000 from the proceeds of future sales of property of extinct parishes and of closed missions in addition to the \$580,000 previously agreed to support the 2023 budget for the School for Ministry.
- Welcomed new members:
  - Clergy (3-year term)
    - The Rev. Susanna P. Cates
    - The Rev. Petrina M. Pyatt
    - The Rev. Eve Y. Chamberlain
  - Lay (3-year term)
    - Ms. Deborah Kirk
    - Canon Valaida Wynn Guerrero Canon
    - Karen O. Moore
- Diocesan Council Appointments:
  - Vice-President – Mr. Jack Daugherty
  - Recording and Corresponding Secretary – Canon Paul Wolfgang
  - Finance & Budget Committee – Ms. Meg Holland and Canon Karen Moore
  - Board of Missions – The Rev. William Ndishabandi and the Rev. Alan Leonard
  - Audit Committee – The Rev. Andrew Hanyzewski and the Rev. William Ndishabandi
- Approved a grant of \$25,000 from the Venture in Mission Loan Fund to San Jose, Elizabeth for the purpose of replacing the heating and air conditioning system in their church building.
- Welcomed Bishop-elect Sally French.
- Approved a loan of \$50,000 at 4% for 10 years to St. Andrew's, New Providence from the Venture in Mission Loan Fund.
- Approved a grant of \$50,000 to St. Augustine's, Atlantic City and, if not already approved, a grant of \$50,000 to St. Mary's, Pleasantville from the St. James' Fund.
- Endorsed the Loan and Grant committee's recommendation of a grant of \$20,000 from the Venture in Mission Loan Fund to Good Shepherd Church, Berlin for the purposes of

- repainting their church and making other repairs.
- Authorized the Diocese of New Jersey to pay 100% of the cost of providing medical benefits in addition to Medicare for Bishop Stokes and his spouse.
  - Diocesan Council's expressed its appreciation and thanksgiving for Bishop Stokes' service as our Bishop.
  - Approved a loan of \$63,000 from the Venture in Mission Loan Fund to St. David's, Cranbury.
  - Approved the budget to be presented at the pre-convention hearings.
  - Approved grants to St. James', Long Branch, from the R. Bowden Shepherd fund and the Capital and Revolving fund for the purpose of forgiving outstanding loans from these funds.
  - Approved the recommendation of the Board of Missions for grants to mission congregations to be paid from the Diocesan Budget.
  - Approved the budget to be presented to the special convention.
  - Approved a grant of \$25,000 from the Venture in Mission Loan Fund to St. John's, Elizabeth for the purpose of converting their boiler from oil to gas.
  - Approved a grant of \$18,000 from the Venture in Mission Loan Fund to Christ Church, Palmyra for the purpose of making repairs to the church foundation.
  - Approved a grant of \$25,000 from the Venture in Mission Loan Fund to St. Luke's, Woodstown to defray the cost of improvements to meet the requirements of the fire code.
  - Deferred a consideration of a grant to St. Wilfrid's, Camden pending the completion of an inspection.
  - Approved an award of \$12,574.50 in matching grants and \$3,425.50 to be sent to Episcopal Relief and Development.
  - Approved the following grants from the Mission Renewal Fund:
 

• St. Augustine's, Asbury Park	\$75,000
• St. James', Bradley Beach/St. Michael', Wall	\$15,000
• Trinity, Matawan/Christ Church, South Amboy	\$15,000
• Holy Spirit, Tuckerton/St. Stephen's, Waretown	\$60,000
• Regional Haitian Missioner Initiative	\$60,000
• Chaplin for Vocations	\$20,000
• Trinity, Swedesboro	\$7,000
  - Approved two grants of \$50,000 from the St. James' fund to St. Mary's, Pleasantville, and St. Augustine's, Atlantic City.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Canon Paul Wolfgang