

Bishop and Council Report 2008

The one hundred and thirty-fifth meeting of the Bishop and Council of The Diocese of West Tennessee was held on January 17, 2008 at St. Columba Conference Center. At this meeting, a motion was passed accepting the \$2,000 gift from Avery Brooke and allocating it to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund. A motion was passed affirming Father Stevens' ministries in Liberia and establishing a trust for the appropriate management and disposition of the funds for the exclusive purpose of assisting the needs of leprosy patients in Liberia and for the Community of Love in Jesus. A motion was passed adopting as amended the Father Stevens Liberian Leprosy Trust of The Diocese of West Tennessee Declaration of Trust. A motion was passed to withdraw \$27,000 from the Father Stevens Fund invested through the West Tennessee Endowment Corporation and allocating it to the Trust for its operating budget for the year 2008. A motion was passed accepting the gift of real estate from Milton Schaeffer and directing that Mr. Schaeffer be sent a letter of grateful appreciation for this gift. A motion was passed approving and ratifying the expenses previously paid for an Environmental Phase I analysis of the property given by Mr. Schaeffer and approving the reasonable and customary closing expenses with respect to the gift of this property. A motion was passed directing that a letter be sent to Ms. Jeanne Palmer expressing grateful appreciation for the gift to the Diocese of her 1/3 interest in property on Elvis Presley Boulevard at the location of the former Christ Church.

The one hundred and thirty-sixth meeting of the Bishop and Council was held on February 14, 2008 at St. Columba Conference Center. At this meeting, a motion was passed receiving and submitting to file the 2006 audit. A motion was passed recommending that the proposed 2008 Budget be sent to the Twenty-seventh Annual Diocesan Convention for its consideration. A motion was passed adopting, as amended the Declaration of Trust for the Father Stevens Liberian Leprosy Trust. A motion was passed amending the Rules of Order of the Convention of The Diocese of West Tennessee by adding the following as Rule 3.08 under III Resolutions: 3.08 Any Resolution which would require financial resources for its implementation, or any amendment to the diocesan budget as proposed, shall specify the source of any financial resources required for its implementation.

The one Hundred and thirty-seventh meeting of the Bishop and Council was held on May 15, 2008 at St. Columba Conference Center. At this meeting, a motion was passed approving the execution of a lease by Emmanuel Center Outreach LLC subject to a written commitment from the Canale Foundation or another funding party or subject to the accrual of sufficient funds to cover the amount of exposure.

The one hundred and thirty-eighth meeting of the Bishop and Council was held on September 25, 2008 at Church of the Holy Communion. At this meeting, a motion was passed tabling to time certain, that being the next Bishop and Council meeting, the original motion to move the diocesan bank accounts to Independent Bank. A motion was passed approving the Finance Committee's recommendation to ratify Bishop Johnson's interim action in providing a loan/advance to Emmanuel Center to cover its payroll expenses. A motion was passed approving the Finance Committee's recommendation to ratify Bishop Johnson's interim action in reducing the rent for Spirit and Truth Outreach Ministries from \$1,300 to \$1,000 per month for the period of time between July 1 and October 31, 2008. A motion was passed rejecting the lease purchase proposal from Spirit and Truth Outreach Ministries involving diocesan property on Elvis Presley Blvd. A motion was passed endorsing Bishop Johnson's request to continue the rent reduction on the Elvis Presley Blvd. property through the end of 2008. A motion was

passed accepting the Diocesan Benefits Committee's recommendation to offer the following plan options to all diocesan congregations: Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield EPO 80 and 90 Plans; Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield PPO 80/60 and 990/70 Plans; Cigna HMO; Cigna Point of Service/Open Access Plan; Empire PPO 75/50; Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield HDHP/HAS; Premium plan drug coverage through Medco; and Cigna dental coverage, and selecting as the standard for all diocesan lay employees and clergy the Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield EPO 80 Plan. A motion was passed ceasing nominations and electing by acclamation the Rev. Mark Rutenbar to serve the unexpired clergy term on the Council from within Shelby County. A motion was passed ceasing nominations and electing by acclamation the Rev. Kevin Brown to serve the unexpired clergy term on the Council from outside Shelby County. A motion was passed approving the six-month lease between St. Elisabeth's and a neighbor allowing the neighbor to graze horses on the St. Elisabeth's property at the corner of Billy Maher and Old Brownsville Roads. A motion was passed approving a 99-year lease for the construction of buildings on property owned by Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal Church. A motion was passed authorizing Church of the Redeemer's vestry to enter into a licensing agreement with Simply His Ministry, Inc for the use of Redeemer's facilities at a charge of \$100 per service held there. A motion was passed adopting the revised St. Columba Conference Center by-laws with the modifications added as discussed.

The one hundred and thirty-ninth meeting of the Bishop and Council was held on October 23, 2008 at St. Columba Conference Center. At this meeting, a motion was passed approving the Father Stevens Liberian Leprosy Trust budget request for 2009 of \$22,300 and funding it through liquidating the Transit/Bolahun Fund and the MLRP Fund, managed by the West Tennessee Endowment Corporation, and by withdrawing whatever additional funds are needed to supplement this budget request from the Father Stevens Fund. A motion was passed approving the Finance Committee's recommendation to set the clergy minimum package for 2009 with a 3% COLA upward adjustment in stipend, housing and auto allowance over the 2008 rate. A motion was passed approving the lease agreement between St. Luke's, Jackson and Area Relief Ministries whereby Area Relief Ministries will lease the building adjacent to and owned by St. Luke's for a period of seven years. A motion was passed accepting the recommendation of the Finance Committee to change the diocesan banking relationships by moving all funds to Independent Bank and First Alliance Bank, with the percentage of funds distributed to each bank being determined by Bishop Johnson and Canon Cheney. A motion was passed accepting and submitting to file the Treasurer's Report. A motion was passed authorizing the Finance Committee to negotiate a lease or sale of the property owned by the Diocese at 4973 Elvis Presley Blvd. to Spirit and Truth Outreach Ministries and provide the Bishop and Council with a proposal to be finalized by the Council.

The one hundred and fortieth meeting of the Bishop and Council was held on November 20, 2008 at St. Columba Conference Center. At this meeting, a motion was passed approving the Finance Committee's recommendation to place the funds from the Ernest and Miriam Kelly bequest in a Schwab account through West Tennessee Endowment Corporation, and authorizing Program, Budget and Finance to determine the appropriate outreach use for those funds. A motion was passed authorizing that the property at 4973 Elvis Presley Blvd. be sold for \$63,000 and that the Diocese take back a non-interest bearing note payable at \$1,000 per month for 63 months; and authorizing Vice Chancellor Cobb to negotiate the sale and report back to the Bishop and Council by e-mail, and that the Council vote on the sale by e-mail, with the majority

ruling. A motion was passed approving the negotiated sanitary sewer easement that will go through St. Elisabeth's property.