

Bishop and Council

The one hundred and thirtieth meeting of the Bishop and Council was held on January 18, 2007, at St. Columba Conference Center. At this meeting, a motion was passed to recommend and send the proposed 2007 budget, dated January 12, 2007, to the Twenty-sixth Annual Diocesan Convention for its consideration. A motion was passed to appoint Mrs. Marilyn Arensberg, Mr. James F. Harrison, and Mr. Molitor Ford to the Finance Committee for terms ending at the close of Convention in 2010. A motion was passed to place in nomination for election to the West Tennessee Endowment Corporation by the Convention the names of Mr. Frank A. Jones, Mr. Tony Graves, and Mr. Mark Loft for terms ending at the close of Convention in 2010. A motion was passed giving Bishop Johnson approval to sign an easement agreement to realign the sewer lines on the St. Columba property.

The one hundred and thirty-first meeting of the Bishop and Council was held on May 10, 2007. At this meeting, a motion was passed to approve Church of the Redeemer's request to renew its line of credit at Trustmark Bank for \$100,000 at 8.25% interest. A motion was passed to concur with the Finance Committee's decision to not recommend St. Columba's May 3, 2007, request for a new construction loan; and to request that representatives from the Finance Committee meet with representatives of the St. Columba Board to obtain additional information, including but not limited to, the feasibility of code compliant renovations to existing buildings, analysis of unrealized revenue due to existing conditions, a marketing plan, and other financial information as needed; and to commend and support the vision and hard work of the St. Columba Board in the continued development of St. Columba Conference Center as a signature ministry of The Diocese of West Tennessee.

The one hundred and thirty-second Meeting of the Bishop and Council was held at Emmanuel Episcopal Center on September 13, 2007. At this meeting, a motion was passed to adopt the Finance Committee's recommendation for St. Columba to proceed with a feasibility study on the development of the property using the existing master plan as a foundation for additional plans to build to accommodate CREDO usage. A motion was passed giving the Diocese the authority to change the signature cards on the Barth House checking account. A motion was passed adopting the Finance Committee's recommendation to increase the minimum Clergy Salary Package for 2008 by 3% and set the level at \$39,655. A motion was passed adopting the Finance Committee's recommendation to ratify Bishop Johnson's interim action to allow Church of the Holy Apostles to restructure its loan to a line of credit and increase the amount to the original loan amount of \$1.8 million. A motion was passed adopting the Finance Committee's recommendation to ratify Bishop Johnson's interim action to replace the diocesan computer server. A motion was passed adopting the Finance Committee's recommendation to ratify Bishop Johnson's interim action allowing St. Paul's, Memphis, to either have two trees trimmed or removed after a fire damaged or destroyed them and threatened damage to a neighbor's property. A motion was adopted ratifying the Bishop's interim action to allow the proceeds from the sale of the Immanuel, Ripley, vicarage to be used for repair work to the bell tower and to the wiring. A motion was adopted to encourage and allow Bishop Johnson to put together a volunteer committee to explore possibilities, develop a case for a capital campaign, and report back to the Council at its October meeting. A motion was adopted to accept the recommendation from the Diocesan Benefits Committee to offer the following health plans to diocesan clergy and

lay employees: Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield EPO 80 and 90 plans; Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield PPO 80/60 and 90/70 plans; CIGNA Health Maintenance Organization HMO; CIGNA Point of Service/Open Access Plan; Empire PPO 75/50 plan; Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield HDHP plan; Premium Plan drug coverage through Medco; and CIGNA dental coverage.

The one hundred and thirty-third Meeting of the Bishop and Council was held at St. Columba Conference Center on October 18, 2007. At this meeting, a motion was adopted to approve the Finance Committee's recommendation to reinstitute the 3% pay raises, retroactive to the beginning of 2007, for the three diocesan employees inadvertently omitted by the Convention. A motion was adopted to approve the Finance Committee's recommendation to set aside the Sara Flinn bequest in an interest bearing account, with review at a later date regarding its usage.

The one hundred and thirty-fourth Meeting of the Bishop and Council was held at St. Columba Conference Center on November 15, 2007. At this meeting, a motion was adopted stating that the Father Stevens Liberian Leprosy Trust and the Community of Love in Jesus Trust documents be reviewed by the Chancellors and then submitted to the Finance Committee at its January 2008 meeting for consideration of a recommendation to the Bishop and Council for adoption. A motion was adopted authorizing the Bishop to determine to whom funds could be disbursed and to disburse said funds in the interim from the existing Fr. Stevens West Tennessee Endowment Corporation accounts. A motion was adopted ratifying the Finance Committee's recommendation authorizing St. Columba Conference Center to proceed with the project to move the front gate at an estimated cost of \$80,000 and with Mr. Tim Geske serving as the general contractor. A motion was adopted ratifying the Bishop's interim action in funding a six month terminal sabbatical for the Rev. Samson Gitau. A motion was adopted stating that the request made by the Rev. Samson Gitau for an additional three months terminal sabbatical compensation would not be granted.