

**The Diocese of Louisiana Executive Board Meeting
February 1, 2011
The 273rd Regular Meeting
Solomon Episcopal Conference Center**

Present from the Board: The Rt. Rev. Morris K. Thompson, Jr., Lucius Butts, Les Bradfield, John Craft, The Rev. Roman Roldan, Michael Willis, Judy Weber, Margaret Lawhon Schott, the Rev. William Morris, and John Musser

Present from the Bishop's staff: Canon Mark Stevenson and Billie Barbier

Ex Officio without vote: Mary Tharp and Marsha Wade, Vice-Chancellors of the Diocese

Guests: Franklin Hall, new director of S.E.C.C.
The Rev. Chad Jones, Jesse Noble, and Jean Woodside, St Patrick's, Zachary
Jimmy Briant, Darryl Boyce, and Stacey Tavan, St. Michael's, Mandeville
Sharon Alexander

A quorum was present.

Bishop Thompson opened the meeting with prayer.

The minutes of December 15, 2010 were approved.

Ministry Updates:

Bishop's report: Bishop Thompson introduced Frank Hall, the new Executive Director of the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center. The bishop also reported that Sharon Alexander and John Craft would be ordained deacons February 2, 2011.

Youth ministry: The Rev. Rich Clark submitted a written report.

ECS of LA report: A written report was submitted. The board voted to accept the balanced budget submitted by ECS. Marsha Wade, who sits on the board, said that it is hard for a volunteer board to raise so much money (\$116,000).

The board approved a resolution authorizing ECSLA Executive Director Nell Bolton to execute a contract with the Louisiana Housing Authority of Louisiana for continuation of the Non-Profit Rebuilding Pilot Program. The original contract period ran from Dec. 31, 2009 to Dec. 31, 2010, and the new contract period will run from Jan. 1, 2011 though June 30, 2011.

Nell Bolton submitted a request for Corporate Guarantee for an account with ProTrade with a credit limit of \$7,500 for the purchase of flooring materials. Lucius Butts questioned the corporate guaranty because credit can be given without the guarantee. Marsha Wade suggested we defer to the next meeting or take an email vote before then if necessary. John Musser suggested we do this by email vote. Billie Barbier will send an email Mr. Butts outlining the specifics of the request.

Congregations and Clergy in Transition: Canon Stevenson reported that no new clergy transferred in or out since the last meeting, but there would be two new deacons after tomorrow, Feb. 2nd.

Planning for the future:

Clergy and Congregational Development Program: Bishop Thompson explained the CCDP, a program that will pair new ordinands with churches that have limited financial resources and provide programs that will develop the leadership skills of both the laity and ordained. The bishop and canon will visit seminaries and invite graduating seniors to come to the diocese for interviews with the participating congregations. Each chosen candidate will be named Priest in Charge of a congregation, and will have a trained clergy mentor assigned to him or her. The churches participating will set aside \$3,000 a year for three years to help pay for the seminarian's school debt. The commitment is for three years, and the priest is free to go or stay after that time.

Bishop Thompson requested that the Board allocate \$15,000 to the CCDP from funds donated by the late Canon Richard Wilson and designated for ministry and mission development, the funds to be used to offset a portion of the initial startup costs of the program. The board voted in favor of the request.

St. Patrick's, Zachary, Land Purchase: The Rev. Chad Jones, rector of St. Patrick's in Zachary; Jesse Noble, senior warden, and Jean Woodside, Chair of the Church School Board, came before the Executive Board to request a grant to St. Patrick's in the amount of \$375,000 to purchase 1.79 acres of land to the west of the property presently owned by the church. In addition to the land purchase, the granted funds would be used to expand parking, salvage windows, bell and other sentimental valuable items from the existing building, and demolish the existing church. Jesse Noble said that the congregation recently approved the first surplus budget in over thirty years. After much discussion, the board voted to approve the grant of \$375,000. The grant money will come from the insurance settlement for St. Mary's in Chalmette, which was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. (The Board discussed the possibility of returning direct ministry to Chalmette, and it was generally agreed that rebuilding a church building, due to limited financial and personnel resources, was not recommended for the foreseeable future.)

St. Michael's, Mandeville, Financing and Expansion: Jimmy Briant, senior warden of St. Michael's in Mandeville; Darryl Boyce, church treasurer; and Stacey Tavan, headmaster of St. Michael's school, came before the board to ask the board to co-sign a loan for \$1,538,000. The diocese is currently is the cosigner of a \$750,000 (approximate) mortgage. This new loan would be used to pay off the existing loan, construct a building which would house four new classrooms, and pay back the loan to the Diocese for Father Howard Bushey's 2010 services. The present campus has been appraised by Church Insurance at \$2,383,000. The board voted to approve co-signing the loan with four stipulations:

1. That St. Michael's commit to participate in the Clergy and Congregational Development Program
2. That St. Michael's have a full commercial appraisal done of their campus
3. That St. Michael's accept the priest assigned to them by Bishop Thompson
4. That St. Michael's look into constructing six classrooms rather than four

The committee from St. Michael's agreed to the conditions.

Grace Church, New Orleans: Les Bradfield reported that he has learned that there is a major problem with the electrical system at Grace Episcopal Church. The estimated cost of repair work ranges from \$150,000 to \$200,000. The building is drawing more power than the power panels are designed to handle, a large number of electrical connections are corroded, and some of the foundation electrical conduit still has water in it. The problem has existed since Hurricane Katrina. We can't lease the church with these issues, and we can't afford maintaining the church. Income at the church is \$2,200 per month but the utilities cost \$7,700 each month. The New Orleans Opera has not called about leasing the church. The artwork may be more valuable than the building, but if we sell the church, the heirs of John McCready could claim the paintings. Lucius Butts said that the Diocese has been beating itself up for twenty years trying to save the church; our talents and resources can be better served.

Urban Ministries Building: In December, the Board authorized Canon Stevenson and Lucius Butts to negotiate a sale to the Cathedral; the current working offer is for \$600,000: \$500,000 to pay for the building, and \$100,000 for renovation work at the Noland Center. The \$100,000 would be credited against future Program Asks against the money that will be drawn out of the Cathedral's investment portfolio to cover the loans they have used for operating expenses in the past two fiscal years. At this time, the Cathedral has no plans for the building. They just want to keep it in the Episcopal Church. The Cathedral would like for ECS to stay. Marsha Wade asked if the rent would change, and Les responded that it would stay the same. The board voted to approve the terms negotiated to date.

Financial and Related Reports:

Canon Mark Stevenson reviewed the financial reports.

2010 Budgets:

The board voted to approve the budget for presentation at convention.
The board also voted to approve the SECC budget.

Additional Matters Requiring Action:

Grammatical Cleanup of Diocesan Canons: The board voted to accept the grammatical corrections/changes made to the Canons proposed by the Committee on Constitution and Canons.

St. Anna's, New Orleans, Ratification of Email Poll: The board voted to give permission to St. Anna's to lease-purchase a building down the street from their existing campus.

Corrections to Housing Allowance Resolution: The board recognized the corrected language to a resolution on Housing Allowance for Bishop Thompson made in December. See attached copy.

Nominees for Ecclesiastical Trial Court: Four clerical and one layperson will be elected to the Ecclesiastical Trial Court at Convention. The Rev. Roman Roldan will

submit the names of the clergy and Michael Willis will submit the name of the layperson via email.

Concluding Matters:

Bishop Thompson thanked Les Bradfield, John Craft, the Rev. William Morris and the Rev. Susan Gaumer for their three years of service on the Executive Board. They will be rotating off at Convention.

Future meeting dates for the Executive board are March 12, May 14, July 9, September 10, November 12, and December 14.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Weber

Substituting for Valerie Hendrickson, Secretary of the Diocese.

**The Diocese of Louisiana Executive Board
Meeting
March 10, 2011
The 274th Regular Meeting
Tele-Conference Call**

Present from the Board: The Rt. Rev. Morris K. Thompson, Jr., Lucius Butts, Les Bradfield, The Rev. Fred Devall, The Rev. Susan Gaumer, The Rev. Roman Roldan, Judy Weber, Margaret Lawhon Schott, The Rev. William Morris, and John Musser

Present from the Bishop's staff: Canon Mark Stevenson and Billie Barbier

Ex Officio without vote: Mary Tharp, Vice-Chancellor of the Diocese

A quorum was present.

Bishop Thompson opened the meeting with prayer.

The minutes of the February 1, 2011 meeting were approved.

Matters Requiring Action:

Grace Church: Les Bradfield has been in discussion with Robert Lyall with the New Orleans Opera. The Opera is very interested in starting negotiations about a long-term lease/purchase of the complex. Cash flow issues must be considered. Minimal electrical repairs to the church would cost an estimated \$50,000-\$60,000. When we know what cash flow will be, we can address electrical issues.

A group of engineers is coming in tomorrow to look at the murals in the church to see if they can be moved. The Odgen Museum said the murals are priceless. A lot will be happening over the next five to ten days. If the murals can't be moved, it's a moot point, but if the murals can be moved, it gives us flexibility.

Les said when L.S.U. and Veteran's Hospital are built, the property will be much more valuable.

St. Michael's, Mandeville Loan Update: Lucius Butts reported that St. Michael's has been in discussion with Citizen's Bank about the loan to build the additional classrooms. Sharon Alexander is now in place as the new ordained leader at the church. We have asked St. Michael's for a time line on the work planned. They were also asked about the criteria established at last month's Executive Board meeting.

Urban Ministries Center: Canon Mark Stevenson reported that Lucius Butts, John Musser, and he feel the best offer is on the table regarding selling the UMC to Christ Church Cathedral. The dean of the cathedral said discussion is ongoing and a decision will be made in April. Canon Stevenson asked permission to list the property on the open market for \$720,000-\$730,000. The cathedral would be exempt from the listing agreement when putting the Urban Ministries Center on the open market. Moved, seconded and approved.

John Long Jackson Center, Hammond: Canon Stevenson reported that the Lutherans next door to the John Long Jackson Center want to purchase the building, and have submitted an offer of \$100,000.00; they have also offered to do the required title work to clear the reversionary clause in the original act of donation. Mr. Butts suggested that he lead a team to do the initial title research instead of letting the purchaser do it; Ms. Tharp suggested the cost of the abstract work might be only slightly more than \$500.00.

Mother Susan Gaumer asked if we were “throwing in the towel” on campus ministry in Hammond or just selling the building. The Bishop responded that we were just selling the building.

It was moved, seconded and approved to proceed with research on the title, and subsequent negotiations with the Lutherans about a potential sale.

Church of Ascension, Donaldsonville: Bishop Thompson reported that he had received a letter from the lady who has been taking care of the church, a Mission Station of the diocese. She said that she would no longer be able to do so. There are no Episcopalians in the area, so the bishop would like to sell the property. Canon Stevenson reported it is not a strategic location to go back in Ascension Parish. Fr. Fred Devall moved we sell the property; Fr. William Morris seconded the motion which carried.

Approval of Nominees for the Trial Court: The Executive Board passed a motion to approve Bill Rhodes, Covington; Deacon Linda Armstrong; The Rev. Mary Koppel, The Rev. Steven Roberts, and the Rev. Peggy Scott as nominees for the Ecclesiastical Trial Court.

Property for Episcopal High in Baton Rouge: Mary Tharp reported that the Board at Episcopal High wants to purchase a lot adjoining their campus. They will pay cash and utilize the property according to their established Master Plan. Fr. Fred Devall moved and Margaret Lawhon Schott seconded the motion that we endorse the purchase of the lot for \$179,000, and direct the chancellor’s staff to amend the lease between EHS and the Diocese of Louisiana to reflect diocesan ownership. Motion carried.

Canon Stevenson reported that there are eight congregations which have filed late Annual Reports this year (Holy Spirit, Baton Rouge; St. Andrew’s, Bayou du Large; St. Matthew’s, Bogalusa; St. Stephen’s, Innis; Holy Spirit, New Orleans; Annunciation, New Orleans; Grace, New Orleans; and St. Luke’s, New Orleans.) Two of these (Bayou du Large and Bogalusa) are late for the second year in a row. As per Canon 23, no individual from these churches may be appointed or elected to any committee, commission, board, etc of the diocese at this April’s Convention, and the lay delegations from St. Andrew’s, Bayou du Large or St. Matthew’s, Bogalusa will lost there voice and vote at this Convention.

After discussion and the Bishop’s recommendation, the Board chose not to waive penalties for this year, as allowed under Canon 23.

Financials: Canon Stevenson reported that we are within typical budget parameters for the year so far. A full set of reports will be presented when the Board meets in May.

Bishop’s Report: Bishop Thompson reported that he had received a call from Fr. Paul Bailey of Grace Church in Hammond saying that vandals had spray painted vulgar words on the church and two other

buildings the previous evening. Church Insurance has been contacted. It may require having to repaint all of the buildings.

Bishop Thompson thanked Fr. Bill Morris and Mother Susan Gaumer who are rotating off of the Executive Board. He also thanked the board for their prayers when his father passed away recently.

Future Meeting Dates: May 14, July 9, September 10, November 12, and December 14.

There being no other business, Bishop Thompson ended the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Weber
Substituting for Valerie Hendrickson, Secretary of the Diocese

The Diocese of Louisiana Executive Board
Meeting
May 21, 2011
The 275th Regular Meeting

Present from the Board: The Rt. Rev. Morris K. Thompson, Lucius Butts, Marsha Wade, Les Bradfield, The Rev. Fred Devall, The Rev. Roman Roldan, Margaret Lawhon Schott, John Musser, Michael Willis, Carol Billings, Edgar Cage

Present from the Bishop's Staff: Canon Mark Stevenson, Nell Bolton, and Billie Barbier.

A quorum was present.

Bishop Thompson opened the meeting with a prayer.

The minutes of the March 10, 2011 (a tele-conference call) meeting were approved.

John Musser was re-elected Vice Chairman of the Executive Board.

Ministry Updates

Bishop's Report

- Keep St. Luke's in your prayers as they resolve some leadership issues.
- Reviewed scheduled conferences and travel in the coming months.
- Things we need to accomplish in the year ahead.
 - Building relationships
 - Reconciliation
 - Year round stewardship and more commitment, a committee will be appointed to review Diocese resources.
 - Evangelism, telling the story
 - Leadership development, plan for a two night vestry retreat at the Solomon Conference Center
 - Revisioning ECS
 - Clergy and Congregational Development Program, Calling new Priest for various parishes for a three year internship

Youth Ministry Report

The Rev. Rich Clark, Canon for Youth and Young Adult Ministries, is leaving the Diocese. His wife, Cinda, has taken a position in Florida. The written report was reviewed.

ECS of Louisiana Report

Nell Bolton reviewed highlights of ECS.

- Case Management Program at Trinity Episcopal Church, Morgan City, is helping with ongoing employment issues.
- Homeless Case Management and the Rebuild Program
- Gaudet Fund
- Disaster Preparedness with attention is the current flooding issues facing many parishes
- Oil Spill Response, serving 570 people with 6 community resilience dinners
- Service learning, have filled 5 of the 7 internship slots for 2011
- Fundraising, looking for 500 donors to pledge \$500 per year for 2011 and 2012
- Review budget performance

Congregation and Clergy in Transition

Canon Stevenson reviewed highlights from the written report.

- Issues included retiring Priest and how to best serve these Parishes.
- Supply Priest and part time letters of agreement
- Pooling resources across several parishes

St. Patrick's, Zachary Land Purchase

St. Patrick's has purchased the new property for future church growth, as approved at the February meeting. Lucius Butts expressed appreciation to all who worked to make this happen.

St. Michael's, Mandeville, School Expansion

The school is moving forward with adding six new classrooms. Lucius Butts commented favorably on the placement of Sharon Alexander at St. Michael's. Sharon's skill sets are a good match for the needs of the Parish.

Planning for the Future

Grace Church, New Orleans

Les Bradfield reviewed the ongoing issues facing us at Grace. The property is being listed for sale and a short term lease is under consideration. An initial asking price of \$1,500,000 is recommended. Neal Auction House is looking at the issues of selling the John McCrady murals and their removal. There may be some value in the stain glass windows.

Urban Ministries Center

The property was placed on the market March 20, 2011 with a listing price of \$695,000. The property is not showing well and may require some outside painting. The loan balance is \$485,000. Based on the current budget, we will begin a negative cash flow within the next 3-5 months. Marsha Wade made a motion to reduce the asking price based on the real estate agent's recommendation. Lucius Butts and Canon Stevenson have the authority to adjust the sales contract asking price. Motion approved.

Student Center, Hammond

Canon Stevenson reviewed some of the issues involved in selling/leasing the Center. There are gift restrictions on the sale or lease of the Center. Canon Stevenson is working with the heirs of the donors in an effort to remove these restrictions. The Lutherans have made an offer of \$100,000 for the Center. A counter offer for \$150,000 is to be made in response. The Board gave authority to Canon Stevenson and Lucius Butts to negotiate a final sales price.

Church of the Ascension, Donaldsonville

Canon Stevenson reviewed some of the issues involved with the property, which might work as a home or law office. The estimated property value is \$125,000. If the property is sold, there may be some value in removing the stain glass windows. The cost to remove the windows is estimated at \$13,000. Marsha Wade made a motion to proceed with the sale of the property. Motion approved.

Financial and Related Reports

Budget Reviewed

Billie Barbier presented a details review of the Diocese financial reports. Year to date, revenue is showing an \$80,000 deficit, while expenses are on target. Some parishes are slow in paying their assessments. Monthly statements are being sent out to all parishes. Making monthly payments on the assessments is critical.

Billie also reviewed the performance of the Pooled Investment Funds at Morgan Stanley.

Additional Matters Requiring Action

Resolution on Mineral rights at St. Alban's

There is a mineral rights lease option on property owned by St. Alban's. The Chancellor, Cove Geary, has reviewed the legal documents and recommends the Executive Board approve the mineral lease. A motion was made by the Rev. Fred Devall. Motion approved.

Request from St. Paul's, New Orleans, to refinance their debt

St. Paul's request approval to refinance their long term debt which currently expires in the fall of 2011. Motion was approved.

Terms of the Disciplinary Board Members

On July 1, new Disciplinary Canons take effect for the Episcopal Church. The most recent Convention of the Diocese authorized the current members of the Ecclesiastical Trial Court to become the inaugural members of the new Disciplinary Board. Since our new canons prohibit a member of the Executive Board from serving on the Disciplinary Board, a replacement for Les Bradfield on the Disciplinary Board is required. Marsha Wade nominated John Ozier, who was approved by the Executive Board. Additionally, Convention mandated that the Executive Board set the initial terms of the members of the Disciplinary Board. A schedule chosen by lot was approved, as follows:

Class of 2011 - 2012

- Alan Brackett (President)
- The Rev'd Stephen Roberts
- Tom Wade

Class of 2011 - 2013

- The Rev'd Mary Koppel
- The Rev'd Dan Krutz
- John Ozier

Class of 2011 - 2014

- Deacon Linda Armstrong
- Bill Rhodes
- The Rev'd Peggy Scott

Open Time with the Bishop

- The Bishop reviewed repair requirements at the Nolan Center. Major items are the repair of the elevator and renovations on the third floor. Recommendations will be made when repair plans have been finalized.
- Carol Billings had some concerns about keeping an internship at Holy Comforter. It was recommended that Holy Comforter needs to develop a plan defining the needs for future internship support.

Future Meeting

The next Executive Board meetings are scheduled for July 13, September 10, November 12, and December 14, 2011.

There being no other business, Bishop Thompson ended the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Les Bradfield

On behalf of the Secretary of the Diocese