

Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago

SPECIAL MEETING regarding Trinity Church, Chicago September 16, 2023, 2:00 PM on Zoom

Minutes of the special meeting approved October 11, 2023

Present: Miguel Briones, Daphne Cody, Toni Daniels, Jeannette DeFriest, Gerald Floyd, Bishop Paula Clark

Guests: Wanda Norris, one of the temporary appointed wardens of Trinity, Chicago, and Adetayo "Tayo" Adegoke, temporary appointed treasurer of Trinity, Chicago

Absent: Wes Kimes

A quorum being established on Zoom, Toni called the meeting to order at 2:02 PM and welcomed Wanda and Tayo. The bishop opened with prayer.

Action needed regarding Trinity Church, Chicago

Bishop Clark reported that the temporary appointed wardens, vestry, and treasurer of Trinity, Church, Chicago, being a Distressed Parish under Canon 28, had notified her on Thursday, September 14, 2023 of the severe financial difficulties that they have uncovered at the parish. The temporary appointed vestry had met earlier that day.

Tayo shared on the screen for the SC the accounting and correspondence from Trinity's bank The Northern Trust, where three accounts are held: an operating checking account, and two trust accounts. Tayo also reminded the SC of the two debts held by the parish, one to the diocese and one to the bank, as well as the significant repairs needed for the building. He described how on Monday, September 11, he'd received a phone call from Northern Trust outlining the upcoming shortfall. Tayo and Associate for Bishop & Trustees (Property Management) Tom Camell had been doing forensic work to determine what the current monthly costs are to run the building (\$11,000), while donations are coming in at only around \$1000/month.

Discussion followed about worship services online, worship services and congregational meetings being held at St. Thomas, Chicago, and Trinity's remaining staff person.

Chancellor Michael Peregrin, with former chancellor Richard Hoskins' concurrence, recommended to the bishop that all operations at Trinity Church, Chicago be suspended immediately. In order for her to suspend operations, the SC by two-thirds vote needs to declare Trinity to be a Mission congregation [Canon 28, Section 5(f)].

Motion:

Resolved, that the Standing Committee declare Trinity Episcopal Church, Chicago, to be a Mission of the Diocese of Chicago, effective September 16, 2023.

Jeannette moved, Miguel seconded, and *the motion passed by at least two-thirds vote.*

The bishop made concluding remarks about her ongoing desire for an Episcopal presence in Bronzeville, and that while this is a sad moment, we are people who claim Resurrection. God is present with us, and today's action is a necessary step in listening for what God may be doing next.

Toni adjourned our meeting at 2:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Daphne Cody, Secretary