

**Diocesan Council and  
Board of Trustees  
The Episcopal Diocese  
of Pittsburgh**

We have audited the financial statements of The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh (Diocese) for the year ended December 31, 2020, and have issued our report thereon dated August 19, 2021. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our conversations with the Audit Committee Chair about planning matters on May 1, 2021. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

**[Our Responsibility under Auditing Standards Generally Accepted in the United States of America](#)**

As stated in our engagement letter dated January 15, 2019, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to express an opinion about whether the financial statements prepared by management with your oversight are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of your responsibilities.

In addition, our responsibility is to plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that the financial statements are free of material misstatement. As part of our audit, we considered the internal control of the Diocese. Such considerations were solely for the purpose of determining our audit procedures and not to provide any assurance concerning such internal control. We are responsible for communicating significant matters related to the audit that are, in our professional judgment, relevant to your responsibilities in overseeing the financial reporting process. However, we are not required to design procedures specifically to identify such matters.

**[Significant Accounting Policies](#)**

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the Diocese are described in Note 2 to the financial statements. During 2020, the Diocese adopted Accounting Standard Updates (ASU) 2018-13, *“Changes to the Disclosure Requirements for Fair Value Measurement (Topic 820).”* No other accounting policies were adopted, and the application of existing policies was not changed during 2020. We noted no transactions entered into by the Diocese during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

### Accounting Estimates

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting the financial statements were:

The Diocese is a beneficiary of two charitable remainder trusts and five perpetual trusts. The estimation of the fair value of the Diocese's interest in these trusts is subjective and requires significant judgment.

Management's valuation of investments is based on the investment's fair value. The Diocese's investments are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, market, and credit risk. Due to the level of risk associated with investments and the level of uncertainty related to changes in the value of investments, it is at least reasonably possible that significant changes in risks in the near-term may materially affect the amounts reported in the financial statements. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the valuation of investments in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Management's estimates of the allowance for uncollectable assessments and allowance for loan loss are based on past history with the related organizations and the Diocese's expectations of future payments. The allowance estimates are reviewed and approved by management of the Diocese. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the allowances for uncollectable assessments and loan receivable in determining that they are reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

The Diocese and various parishes have pooled their investments in order to obtain a better rate of return on the investments. The Diocese calculates a net asset value and per share price for the pooled investments and allocates on a per share basis the income, realized and unrealized gains and losses to the individual accounts held by the Diocese and the various parishes.

### Disclosures

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. The most sensitive disclosures affecting the financial statements were:

- The Diocese's investments and their valuation in Note 5;
- The Diocese's guarantee of parish loans and their commitment to make parishes' loan payments in Note 9;
- The Diocese's assumed payments for guaranteed mortgages in Note 10.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

### **Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit**

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

### **Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements**

Professional standards require us to accumulate all misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Our audit did not result in the identification of any material adjustments or any significant waived adjustments.

### **Disagreements with Management**

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a disagreement on a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

### **Management Representations**

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated August 19, 2021.

### **Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants**

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the Diocese's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor's opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

### Issues Discussed Prior to Retention of Independent Auditors

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the Diocese's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

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This information is intended solely for the use of the Diocesan Council, Board of Trustees, and management of the Diocese, and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,

*Mahe Duessel*

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

August 19, 2021