

# **Executive Council Minutes**

June 16, 2018

*Waycross Conference Center*

*Revised minutes, updated with corrections made in September 15, 2018 meeting*

Present: Rev. David Guilfoyle, Sean Sullivan, Bill Hughes, Max Nottingham, Lara Dreyer, Rev. C. Davies Reed, Laurel Cornell, Xander Koponen, Jeff Brinkmann, Rev. John Rumble, Rev. Frank Impicciche, Susan Steigerwald, Isaiah Kuch, Rev. Michelle Roos, Caroline Fairbanks, Tom Wood, Canon Brendan O'Sullivan-Hall, Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Janet Brinkworth.

The meeting began at 10:08am. Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows led us in Morning prayer.

The minutes from March and May had been previously distributed. A motion was made to accept the minutes from March 17, 2018 by Rev. C. Davies Reed, with a second by Lara Dreyer. PASSED. A motion was made to accept the minutes from May 12, 2018 by Rev. C. Davies Reed, seconded by Sean Sullivan. PASSED.

**Treasurers report.** Tom Wood reminded the council that the report was sent via email on the day previous to this meeting. He then gave an overview of the report. Some discussion followed on several topics including audit requirements for congregations and changes to diocesan canons. There needs to be clarification of frequency of audits, but more discussion is needed. The Investment and Finance Committee is going to look at it and make a recommendation at the next Executive Council meeting.

**Congregational Identifiers and Labels.** Lara Dreyer led this discussion (materials distributed are attached). She suggested the need to be intentional on language and labels. The document provided an invitation to look at differences in language being intentional and using respectful guidelines. Often, we use language out of habit and our culture. How do we get the clergy and laity to realize this is a problem? Monitor our assumptions and respect every human being, which can be difficult.

**St. John's, Speedway.** The congregation is in a state of crisis. They have lost half of their pledge income, indicating the funds will run out in October. A consultant has come in to help. The Bishop met with the congregation after the consultant, visiting on July 27.

Canon Brendan O'Sullivan-Hale was with them Thursday (June 14, 2018). There was also a conversation about the church plant in Brownsburg (led by Rev. Gray Lesesne). St. John's treasurer has now indicated that their money runs out in August. There is genuine discernment without panic but the congregation asking, "how did we get here?" They know that they have some options to explore including a new church plant, sell the building, go to a part time priest, etc. The question was raised, "How do you know when to close a church?" Congregation needs to be connected and discern, watch trends and track numbers. It was mentioned that St. Johns has made many transitions over the years, but there are several lay people who are helping and want to help.

**Congregations in Transition.** Interim Transition Consultant, Jen Phelps, prepared a status list of churches in transition (attached). Not included on the sheet was Shelbyville; they want to call a priest, currently using all retired clergy. The area is growing; however, most members are coming from towns other than Shelbyville. Jen Phelps is going there soon to ask questions of who they are and what they want, before moving forward. Also, in looking at finances, the call would be for a half-time priest.

**Episcopal Fund for Human Need (EFHN).** Rev. Dave Guilfoyle gave a historical overview. Grants have been given to people who have “fallen thru the cracks.” There are six deacons who are interested in helping, but this is not a diaconal program. They want to try distributing funds this year and form a guidance document for checking and visiting applicants. EFHN is not on the website now, and there is uncertainty about how the program will be structured, so unsure how to publicize. Rev. John Gedrick needs to be involved (has had some involvement already). There was some discussion on contacting former recipients when new plans/programming is done. EFHN was put on hold as the new bishop took over. Still want to do grants for 2019. These are important grants for a community that may be marginalized.

**Cooperating Ministries.** Employees in these organizations participate in Diocesan benefits. These are mostly younger people which would bring our costs down for insurance. Dayspring Center is in distress - Diocesan office heard from the Church Pension Group (CPG) due to missed medical premiums/payments. Don't really know the issue but hope to hear soon. Questions of leadership were raised about this.

**Website/communications.** The website launched in time for Pride Festival (June 9). There are some tweaks to come. Send comments via email (webmaster@indydio.org). The site will always be “in progress” – changes will constantly be made. Canticle taking over website from Vandersall. Canticle to come to the Diocese before the end of year to meet with the bishop's staff, talk about how to use the website, train clergy and lay leaders on crisis communications and communications as a ministry of evangelism and telling our stories.

**Waycross.** New Executive Director, David Ramsey, stopped by our meeting. He is setting up monthly board meetings and tending to his new relationship with the diocese and the camp. He is being mostly an observer right now and looking toward the leadership and financial needs.

*Lunch break*

**Revisited deaneries and structures.** This committee has had no intentional conversation/meeting since last meeting. The consensus is that we like the neighborhood restructure and affinity groups concept. The committee was asked to reconvene sometime before next Executive Council meeting. There was a question whether this is something to present at convention? The committee will put some structure to it and send out in email to discuss before next Executive Council meeting. Members are Lara Dreyer, Jeff Brinkmann, Mariann Scott.

**Update on bishop's staff.** Farewell to John Oaks & Rev. Debra Kissinger on Wednesday, June 20. Debra was called to an interim position in Maryland in the Diocese of Washington.

Regarding the open Canon position, we will be interviewing two finalists next week. A decision should be made by mid-late July. The Council was advised how the interview sessions will be set and who will be involved. Hopefully the successful candidate is in this pool of applicants.

The Bishop announced the appointment of the Rev. Mary Taflinger as part time missionary in pastoral care, 20 hours per month, attending to our pastoral needs in the diocese, focusing on the needs of the clergy. This position will begin in late summer.

The Bishop's Team is almost together, and the current staff is working well.

**Budget.** Rev. C. Davies Reed reports the variance was out of balance by \$400,000, but the committee was able to get the variance down to under \$100,000. We were reminded that we are in transition budget years. Specific areas were highlighted, and those line numbers were discussed. Some of the questions raised and areas discussed were:

- How much leeway does the budget committee have?
- Regarding campus ministry, keep level funding?
- Use the Work Set Forth in planning budget 2020.
- Financial support for the budget is good, but we need to also tap outside resources.
- Healthcare at 10% increase planning on this. HSA contribution goes from 75% to 70% contribution in 2019.
- EFHN. Asked if this should be a matching line item.

**General Convention July 2018.** Xander Koponen is a youth representative and told the Council that he will be on the floor of the House of Deputies and can talk but not vote. He expects some youth will disagree on some issues, but Xander wants to work together. This year is first as House of Bishop for Jennifer. Bishop Jennifer reported that she is serving on a committee as is Canon Brendan. Bishop Jennifer talked about CDSP honoring her and preaching the closing Eucharist.

**Diocesan Convention.** The Bishop went over the preliminary schedule, indicating there are lots of things still to go over plus implementation of outside events to put what is learned about evangelism into practice. This year there is mostly routine convention business on the agenda. There was a question of when terms are over in Executive Council. The diocesan office will be in touch about this. Packets go out in late July or early August.

Meeting was adjourned by Bishop Jennifer at 2:57pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet Brinkworth