

Minutes of Executive Council Meeting

October 27, 2018

Waycross Camp and Conference Center

Members Present: Ms. Mariann Scott, The Rev. Canon Kristin White, Mr. Isaiah Kuch, Ms. Laurel Cornell, The Rev. David Guilfoyle, Mr. Bill Hughes, Mr. Sean Sullivan, Ms. Caroline Fairbanks, Mr. Max Nottingham, The Rev. Michelle Roos, Mr. Jeff Brinkmann, Mr. Xander Kopponen, The Rev. Frank Impicciche, The Rev. Allen Rutherford, Mr. Tom Wood, Canon Brendan O’Sullivan-Hale, The Rev. C. Davies Reed, Ms. Lara Dreyer, The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Ms. Janet Brinkworth

The Bishop called the Council to order at 10:03am. She introduced our new canon, the Rev. Canon Kristin White. For morning devotions, the Bishop read a chapter from the book “To Bless the Space Between Us” by John O’Donohue. It was a chapter on thresholds. Our devotions ended with prayer.

The Minutes of the September 15 meeting. Corrections were made to the minutes. A motion was made by Mariann Scott to move that the minutes be accepted with corrections as discussed. Seconded by Allen Rutherford. Motion passed.

Work Set Forth Review. The five components of the “Work Set Forth” is listed on the bottom of the agenda (and will continue to be listed there each meeting). The Bishop mentioned that this is a reminder of why and how we are living our vision as a diocese and the need to familiarize the diocese with it. The Bishop says that she does speak of this at her visitations and is hearing people using it.

Structure conversation-Lara Dreyer. Information was passed out to Council members (and some information was emailed). Information included an explanation on affinity groups, information on the re-visioned role of delegates, and a map containing congregations and location of new regions. There were questions about some of the church and region listings. A reminder was made that people felt distant from each other, so a driving parameter would be set specifically to keep from driving no more than an hour. Revising these areas help to connect our mission. The Bishop thanked the task force (Frank Impicciche, Jeff Brinkman, Mariann Scott, Kristin White, Lara Dreyer). This task force has been working on this for months and the Bishop says we are not finished but have made good progress. This is not something to officially present to convention as a finished product. There was a question regarding the term “deanery” vs “neighborhoods” and who would be the dean or clear leader - how does this meld together, especially when a dean has also been the Executive Council representative. How will the structural ties to the Council be set? By being open about this and to suspend the canon so work can be done helps this. There was conversation about how laity don’t do much between their election as a delegate to convention and the convention, because that was all that was prescribed. Delegates should connect with each other and serve the wider church. Web conferences help to connect. Information exchange between old and new delegates is valuable. Perhaps gathering twice a year on topics of interest? There was discussion of how to elect to Executive Council members with several options presented. Comment was made that some of the current deaneries are active and some are not. Communication is important from top to bottom and across – people need to feel comfortable using tech. There were some comments of people not wanting to serve because they can’t afford to go to convention - this needs to change. The role of the delegate should be redefined and clarified – beyond convention attendance. Some interest in more meetings of a deanery,

including alternate delegates. Maybe alternate delegates should be full delegates in training for the next year? A late attendee/delegate should be tasked with at least two years.

A discussion was had regarding the regions – is everyone on board? A reminder that the two-year timeframe being proposed is two years before it changes canonically. Other models are for three years. The bottom line is it makes it easier to attend things. And also gives weight and meaning to what we're asking people to do. Because the neighborhood map has already been shown at a deanery meeting perhaps there are ways to introduce the concept at diocesan convention. Perhaps have delegates in the same region sit near each other at convention? With new regions, clergy relationships will change, and old groups will change. The Bishop said we should not get anxious about this. Affinity groups are not bound by structure. Are there lay groups operating now? Should also consider how the restructuring and the budget co-exist. The Bishop's address at convention may add the regional map. Perhaps publicize it in advance for all to see.

Structure Experimentation Resolution. The Council discussed the proposed resolution to allow structural experimentation. Canon Brendan explained why we want to do this. We are not really “suspending” a canon, but this resolution allows for experimentation. Canon Brendan explained that canons allow the Convention to modify deaneries and Convention can empower the Executive Council to do this work. It will help if others outside of Council assisted in this process. Brendan mentioned that we should use the word “delegation” rather than “suspension”. The explanation about “neighborhoods” and reimagining deaneries will be given on Friday This conversation will happen on Friday of convention and voted on Saturday.

A motion is needed to submit the Proposed Resolution from the Executive Council, pending advice from the chancellor regarding wording. Note substantive editorial changes are permitted.

Lunch break

After lunch the motion was made:

To adopt the proposed resolution to the 2018 diocesan convention, entrusting to the Chancellor and Diocesan Staff to perfect the language in the first and second “Therefore be it resolved...” section, as well as any other non-substantive language.

Motion made by _____, seconded by _____, Unanimously approved.

Trinity Haven. Canon Brendan reminded us of the mission of Trinity Haven, providing transitional housing for LGBTQ youth. Trinity Church Indianapolis is collaborating with many partners to launch this program. They are asking to become a cooperating ministry and have completed the paperwork required. It is hoped that this will inspire others to do this type of ministry. A motion was made by Allen Rutherford, seconded by Xander Kopponen:

“We accept the application for Trinity Haven to be a cooperating ministry of the Diocese of Indianapolis.”

There was discussion on staffing and benefits; maybe some language from previous convention journals can help with the language. There was a question that the narrative indicates things that Trinity Haven “hopes to do” and with this language, is a vote needed yet? Yes. The vote was called, and it was unanimously approved.

Bishop's Staff Hierarchy Chart. A recently produced organizational chart of the Bishop's staff was passed out for Council members. This chart was requested at the last meeting. Some of the titles may change, but it showed the chart regarding the staff reporting structure.

Bishop's Mutual Ministry Review (MMR). Frank Impicciche is the liaison between the Executive Council and the Standing Committee in this matter. He reported on the most recent meeting which was a conference call of the person doing the MMR, Dan Martin. Frank has a list of 5-8 questions to look over and a list of people who might serve. As a reminder, the MMR looks at diocesan goals and how they are addressed. The Council asked to see the questions and Frank will email the list to the Council soon.

Treasurer's Report. Tom Wood sent the Treasurer's report and the minutes from the Investment and Finance Committee meeting by email. Canon Brendan indicated that not much has changed, some parishes are behind in apportionment payments, expenses have decreased because the year was "front loaded" (i.e. website completion, etc.). Tom indicated that at the most recent Finance Committee meeting that member Rev. Chip Chillington has resigned. Tom also gave an overview on the status of our account and how stocks are affecting it. Other items mentioned were that Laurel Cornell is Treasurer-elect and scheduled to take over January 2019, also there has been increased interest in REALM software and Brendan and Kim from the diocesan office are holding some training sessions.

Final Budget. C. Davies Reed presented a PowerPoint presentation and highlighted things that have changed or been added to since it was originally presented several months ago. We are working on a budget of almost 4 million dollars. A motion was made by Allen Rutherford and seconded by Mariann Scott,

"The Executive Council accepts this budget to be presented to the 2018 Annual Convention."

The motion passed unanimously. The Bishop thanked everyone for their work on this budget.

Check Signing. Canon Brendan asked the Council to have Canon Kristin White be added as a check signer. Since our checking account at Chase is set up to have the Standing Committee as our "board of directors", we will have the chair of the Standing Committee agree (*letter attached*). The motion was made by Bill Hughes and seconded by Allen Rutherford:

"The Executive Council resolves that Canon Kristin White is authorized as a check signer on the diocesan Chase checking account."

It passed unanimously.

End of Term. The Bishop mentioned those members of the Council who were ending their term with this meeting: The Rev. John Rumble, Ms. Lara Dreyer, Ms. Susan Steigerwald, The Rev. Allen Rutherford and The Rev. Michelle Roos. They were given a rousing round of applause.

A motion to adjourn was moved by C. Davies Reed and seconded by Allen Rutherford at 1:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Brinkworth,
Executive Assistant to the Bishop
Secretary to Executive Council