

Executive Council Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2019

Conference Call

The meeting began at 10:14am with a roll call to confirm participation:

Those present: Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Mr. Bill Hughes, Canon Brendan O'Sullivan-Hale, Ms. Susan Steigerwald, The Rev. Christopher Beasley, The Rev. Rebecca Nickel, The Rev. Holly Zaher, Ms. Ellie Zaher, Ms. Caroline Fairbanks, Mr. Max Nottingham, The Rev. Frank Impicciche, The Rev. Canon Kristin White, Ms. Lara Dreyer, Ms. Laurel Cornell, The Rev. Jan Oller, Ms. Mariann Scott, Mr. Michael McGraw, Mr. Isaiah Kuch, Ms. Janet Brinkworth.

After the roll call, the Bishop began with prayer. The Bishop thanked everyone for taking the time to meet during this unstable weather. She advised the Council that we will try to be efficient to get agenda items taken care of more efficiently, and to feel free to take breaks as needed.

Approval of Minutes from 12-15-18 Meeting—There was discussion regarding the start time of the meeting, but it was not noted by the Council members. Michael McGraw's name was corrected from Mike to Michael in the minutes. There was a request for the list of participants and the questions for the Episcopal Mutual Ministry Review (EMMR) to be sent to the Council. Motion to approve with corrections by C. Davies Reed, seconded by Michael McGraw. APPROVED WITH CORRECTIONS.

Review of The Work Set Forth. The communications team has been asked to edit the wording of The Work Set Forth. It is requested that it be reviewed at the start of meetings to remind participants of the diocesan mission. The 2020 Budget will be designed so all line items will relate to the mission.

Setting Norms for the Council – This agenda item was set aside until the Council meets in person.

Update on Structure – Lara Dreyer reports that she reviewed the feedback from the Executive Council retreat, taking in suggestions. The small group for this subcommittee now includes the Rev. Rebecca Nickel and The Rev. Jan Oller along with Canon Kristin White. Lara shared a document for all to see on Google drive. The document is an outline, showing current deans, Executive Council members, suggestions for gatherings, and a timeline. The timeline for 2019 was reviewed including monthly web gatherings, in-person gatherings, meetings with Executive Council members of their region, hearing from the Bishop's staff, shared dreaming, and conversation about upcoming openings on committees and convention delegates. The Bishop thanked the subcommittee for their work and noted that the neighborhoods as outlined are exciting. Other Executive Council members agreed this document and the time spent doing it indicates a lot of work went into it. There was a question regarding the time commitment being asked of the delegates. The subcommittee will work on determining this. It will mean more time from delegates, but it is a starting place. The proposed structure eliminates the position of

“dean.” There was a discussion on deans and whether they should be retained in the new structure.

Canticle Call-In. Rebecca Wilson of Canticle Communications joined our conversation (11am). She reported that they spent a lot of their first year with the diocese auditing our communication platforms, understanding our ways and telling stories of people in the diocese. They continue to work on using social media and revamping the newsletter. They still have some challenges with the website but have made progress by adding things that are helpful such as the recent addition of convention journals, clergy supply list and fees and Executive Council minutes.

Rebecca reviewed a proposed graphic identity update. She indicated that a completely new graphic identity is not always efficient or affordable. But a small update for a more contemporary look can freshen things up. Rebecca went through the pdf that was sent to the council for review. She explained some of the updates are simply refreshing the color and fonts of the diocesan seal. She also created an icon lock-up as a signature of the diocese with the shield still being used for more formal needs such as letterhead. The icon is used when you want something less formal or need a smaller size. There was a discussion of using this icon and the need for a style guide and templates.

Regarding the **Newsletter** – Rebecca indicated that the newsletter is getting long, and something new is coming. Some of the leadership details are getting lengthy. There will be two newsletters that will alternate: 1) leadership news/checklist and 2) expanded newsletter with feature stories. Canticle will not delete anyone from the mailing list; all people can get both newsletters or only one. They will start with everyone getting both, with an option to drop one by declaring a mailing preference.

After the communications report, the Council went back to the **Structure conversation.** It was mentioned that Bishop Cate used to meet with the deans several times per year. Will that continue? Bishop Jennifer says the deans told her that they only met prior to the start of convention with Bishop Cate. Bishop Jennifer wants a way to get information to assist the diocese and needs communication in both directions. There was a discussion of who the leadership should be (Executive Council members? Deans?), as well as in the affinity groups. Also, canonical requirements must be met. The Bishop indicated to Lara and the Council that they should proceed with their work of refining the proposed neighborhood structure.

Budget Formation Conversation – The Rev. C. Davies Reed indicated a meeting is set for February 7 for a “deep-dig” on structuring the budget. He wants the budget to make sense without being totally unfamiliar. Communicating about the new budget formation process should be clear so that the diocese can participate.

Update from the Bishop and the Executive team.

The Bishop advised the Council that Canon Brendan O’Sullivan-Hale, The Rev. Canon Kristin White and Laurel Cornell meet monthly as part of the Diocesan Leadership Initiative (DLI). As a reminder, this initiative is led by the Episcopal Church Foundation to support diocesan vitality. The Bishop mentioned the Haiti pilgrimage and her gratitude to the Global Missions leadership within the diocese. She is proud of the work the diocese is doing. Coming up - a One Book- One Diocese study for Lent. The book is, “Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God” by Kelly Brown Douglas. Dr. Brown Douglas is the guest speaker at the

2019 convention in November. The Bishop indicated this is a hard read with issues around race, white supremacy, and hope for change.

Canon Kristin shared that several transitions are underway. She is visiting many congregations. The search at St David's (Bean Blossom) closed this week. Also, a search for a diocesan staff member on transitions closed this week. The College for Congregational Development planning is going well. She is working with CCD leadership to create our own two-year training program for clergy and laity. The Executive Council is the starting point for this work. Part one of a two-part program is in the works and a proposal for this work will be ready soon.

Canon Brendan is closing the books on 2018, and it should be final by the middle of next month. Currently, he is spending a lot of time on the St. John's Speedway building; there are many interested stakeholders in this building. He has also been working with several congregations assisting with their financial issues. In reading the canons, Brendan indicated that Executive Council is supposed to be involved in resolving parish financial issues. The Executive Council could form teams that could drop in to assist congregations in need. Brendan may be calling people to join a team. The Evangelism workshop today was cancelled due to weather and will be rescheduled. He is recruiting for Faithful Innovations. The Realm workshop is scheduled on March 23, to train leaders on using it. Brendan indicated that Realm is affordable, but the price depends on attendance numbers of the congregation. Brendan offered to give advice and references for those interested in Realm.

Treasurer report (Laurel Cornell, Treasurer). The Financial Report was sent in advance. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by The Rev. Frank Impicicche and seconded by C. Davies Reed. MOTION CARRIED.

Other Business and Comments –

The Rev. Frank Impicicche complimented the bishop's staff on their effectiveness and hospitality – they have been very helpful. He thanked Brendan for the work of his team. Frank also invited Council members to his Celebration of New Ministry Feb. 3.

Bishop Jennifer indicated that she just concluded an incredible week with a Lilly Endowment national gathering, held in Indianapolis. Next week is the FORMA annual conference also in Indianapolis. And, after that, the Episcopal Camp and Conference Centers (ECCC) annual conference is at Waycross. This is a very busy time. The diocese has several upcoming events such as an Absalom Jones Service on February 12 at Christ Church Cathedral and a stop on Nadia Bolz-Weber's Book Tour on February 13, also at the Cathedral.

A motion was made to adjourn by The Rev. C. Davies Reed and seconded by Bill Hughes. The meeting was adjourned at 12:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Brinkworth
Council Secretary/Executive Assistant to the Bishop