

Executive Council Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2019
Waycross Camp and Conference Center

These minutes were approved at the October 26, 2019 meeting.

Present: Dr. Laurel Cornell, Caroline Fairbanks, The Rev. Holly Zaher, Lara Dreyer, The Rev. C. Davies Reed, Michael McGraw, Rose Anne Grasty, Mariann Scott, The Rev. Rebecca Nickle, Susan Stiegerwald, The Rev. Jan Oller, Sean Sullivan, The Rev. David Guilfoyle, The Rev. Frank Impicciche, Bill Hughes, Max Nottingham, Canon Brendan O’Sullivan-Hale, Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Janet Brinkworth
Absent: Jeff Brinkmann, The Rev. Christopher Beasley, Ellie Zaher, Isaiah Kuch, Canon Kristin White.

The meeting was called to order at 10:04am with morning prayer. The Bishop welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Minutes of the June 1, 2019 meeting were brought before the Council for approval. Motion to accept the minutes as written was made by the Rev. Jan Oller and seconded by Mariann Scott. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. The minutes from the August 7, 2019 meeting (a conference call) also required approval. The motion to accept the minutes as written was made by the Rev. Holly Zaher and seconded by the Rev. Jan Oller. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mission Review. The Bishop reviewed the pillars of the diocesan mission.

Diocesan Leadership Updates

The Bishop expressed her thanks for the prayers and concerns for the Bahamas and Harrison’s family after the destructive hurricane. She gave an update of his family and mentioned the participation and information she has received from Bishop Peter Eaton of the diocese of Southeast Florida and the Bishop of the Bahamas.

The Bishop then spoke of the purchase of a new home made possible by the resolution passed at the Council’s August 7 phone meeting. She gave a brief description of the house and how the house will enable her to offer hospitality appropriate to the office of bishop for the benefit of the diocese. She thanked everyone for the trust they have expressed by passing the resolution.

Transitions: The Bishop spoke about a recent meeting with diocesan clergy and the many clergy transitions within the diocese and the wider church. She shared that it has been typical that in any given diocese, about 20% to 25% of churches are in transition – we are currently at about 30%. We will also have four ordinations in December 2019. The Bishop mentioned that Shannon MacVean-Brown (formerly of St. Thomas, Franklin, St. John’s, Speedway and Christ Church Cathedral) is being consecrated bishop of Vermont in a couple of weeks (9/28/2019). The people of Vermont are excited, and several people from the Cathedral and St. John’s will attend. The Bishop mentioned the gift of the vestments to Shannon and spoke of her participation.

Safeguarding Policies: The Rev. Sean Cox is working on updates from General Convention 2018. Jen Phelps is currently looking at the policies from a legal perspective. The Bishop hasn't seen the final version yet. A Parish Administrator's Workshop is planned for next week and they will see this while still a draft. The plan is for this document to go to the Council in October and be voted on at convention in November. The Bishop will be at the House of Bishops next week and is expecting conversations around the Lambeth conference (July 2020) and creation care discussions.

Commission on Ministry (COM) news includes appointments to the commission: the Rev. Barb Kempf, the Rev. Patrick Burke and the Rev. Charles Allen. Deacon Cathy Scott has assumed role of COM chair.

At the recent Standing Committee meeting there was a discussion of terms of service on the Committee. The Standing Committee will bring a canon change resolution to diocesan convention. The Standing Committee will meet with COM at their upcoming retreat.

The Bishop reminded the Council of the upcoming visit of Dr. Catherine Meeks from the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing in Atlanta. Members of Executive Council, Standing Committee, and the Commission on Ministry have been asked to attend a gathering with Dr Meeks on October 5. Co-Conveners of the neighborhoods will also be invited to this gathering. In addition to this meeting, many congregations are focusing on this topic and our diocese is creating a common language for these difficult conversations. Others on the Council mentioned similar programs going on in their area. The Bishop ended by advising the Council that a Beloved Community Grant has been submitted through Yuri Rodriguez, broadening relationships with music and worship.

Update from the Canon for Administration and Evangelism

Canon Brendan informed the Council of a grant request we have received from Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE) to provide funding for a pilgrimage on racial reconciliation that is being organized by Good Samaritan Episcopal Church.

Canon Brendan reported that the 2020 health insurance rates have been released. The rate increases are not as bad as anticipated. Questions have come up regarding the competitiveness of our medical benefits compared to other dioceses, considering our recruiting focus. Canon Brendan explained that the Personnel, Policy and Compensation Committee is working on making us more competitive. There is an update regarding ADP (we moved from ADP to PayChex last year). There were some congregations who did not change, and others indicated that they didn't want to move from ADP. The Diocese has made the decision to move back to ADP. If you move to ADP, the Bishop's office will have "read only" capability so we can help if needed. It is unclear whether we will have a dedicated troubleshooter.

Diocesan Audit: The audit is complete and came back with no material deficiencies.

Upcoming Events: Parish Administrator's and Operations Day is next week, and it will include information that will assist those in these positions in being more helpful to their congregation.

Faithful Innovations in Learning Communities (FILC): the first round has concluded. Ten congregations began the program and five finished. This is difficult work. Canon Brendan indicated that he was not disappointed that some dropped, and those who finished were fully engaged in the training. Aided Congregations: The Council was reminded that the Rev. Frank Impicliche and the diocesan staff are talking to all congregations receiving aid. Some understand and some are angry. Canons require the Executive Council to visit with congregations delinquent

on their apportionments. Canon Brendan, Canon Kristin, and Laurel Cornell visited Jeffersonville last month. Trinity Anderson is also in need of a visit. The goal of the visits is not punitive, but to engage in dialogue.

The Bishop shared the good news that St. Stephen's, New Harmony burned the mortgage on their parish house during her visitation there in July. She was encouraged by how effective their ministry is with consistent attendance and a part-time priest. A Small Church Summit is planned for September 2020 in order to share the best practices of small congregations in our diocese. There was a reminder that the College for Congregational Development (CCD) is open to everyone but is required for those applying for the new diocesan grants.

Covenant renewal with Brasilia. Our diocese is in the process of renewing the mutual covenant of our companion relationship. Currently they are at their convention. The Bishop spoke about the Covenant, that it was based on something set up years ago. There have been some updates. The Bishop went over priorities listed in the document. This covenant is to be voted on at our November convention, Bishop Mauricio will bring it to his convention in Spring 2020. The Bishop suggests reading it now and voting after lunch today. The Rev. Frank Impicciche gave a brief overview of the recent pilgrimage there made by others in the diocese. He read to the Council his reflection which was written at end of the trip and shared some other thoughts. Susan Steigerwald also spoke about the trip and gave her thoughts as did Bishop Jennifer.

Break for lunch.

Convention Update. Susan Steigerwald indicated that planning is going along fine. The Rev. Holly Zaher is working on the workshops. Bishop Jennifer mentioned that Convention 2020 (Nov. 6-7) is in Plainfield with the Rev. Stephanie Spellers. At the Convention 2021 (Nov. 12-13), the Presiding Bishop will be featured.

Neighborhood Updates. Canon Brendan indicated that the fall meetings are beginning. These meetings will include Executive Council member changes and a review of convention the budget and new conveners. The Bishop says this is all working well.

Budget: Canon Brendan passed out a preliminary budget, which is not yet public. Treasurer Laurel Cornell took over the presentation. She reminded us that we want to align our mission into our resources. Laurel went over major changes and some line items that will be updated. There was a lengthy discussion on specific line items, trends, changes and sustainability.

Treasurer's Report. Laurel Cornell asked if there are any questions from the report that she emailed to all. There was a question on Bishop's appeal and the Council was informed that we earned about half at Easter and are hoping for the other half at Advent. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report by Susan Steigerwald, with a second by Michael McGraw. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. Auditors report. Laurel summarized the report for the Council. A motion to approve the audit and auditor's report was made by the Rev. Jan Oller, with a second by the Rev. Frank Impicciche. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Council then returned to the subject of the Brasilia Covenant Renewal. The renewed covenant must be ratified by Diocesan Convention after the Executive Council review. The Rev.

Jeff Bower intends to submit a resolution to affect the ratification and desires Executive Council review before submitting the resolution – but the resolution filing deadline is September 15 and Executive Council members have not had sufficient time to review the new Covenant. Canon Brendan agreed to advise the Rev. Bower to go ahead and submit the resolution on the assumption that it will be approved at the October Executive Council meeting. If not, the resolution can be withdrawn.

There were several announcements of some local events around the diocese.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:48pm with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janet Brinkworth

An email vote was taken on October 8, 2019 on a Housing Allowance Resolution for the Rev. Hilary Cooke. The Resolution PASSED with a majority vote. Votes were recorded by email from the Rev. Frank Impicciche, Isaiah Kuch, Rose Grasty, Deacon Dave Guilfoyle, the Rev. Holly Zaher, Susan Steigerwald, Mariann Scott, the Rev. Rebecca Nickel, Lara Dreyer, Bill Hughes, Sean Sullivan, Michael McGraw, the Rev. C. Davies Reed, the Rev. Jan Oller.