

Minutes of Executive Council Meeting

August 15, 2020

Zoom Video Call

These are minutes approved at the September 19, 2020 meeting

Present:

The Rev. Christopher Beasley, Dr. Mary Ellen Brown, Ms. Lara Dreyer, Mr. Dick Frey, the Rev. Frank Impicciche, Mr. Michael McGraw, the Rev. Jan Oller, the Rev. C. Davies Reed, Ms. Mariann Scott, Ms. Susan Steigerwald, Mr. Sean Sullivan, Canon Brendan O’Sullivan-Hale, the Rev. Canon Kristin White, Dr. Laurel Cornell

Absent:

The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Mr. Jeff Brinkmann, Ms. Rose Anne Grasty, Mr. Isaiah Kuch, the Rev. Rebecca Nickel, Mr. John Steele, the Rev. Holly Zaher, Ms. Janet Brinkworth

Guests:

The Rev. Dr. Gray Lesesne and Ms. Valeria Phillips: the Bishop’s Advisory Group on Mission Strategy

Mr. David Ramsey: Executive Director, Waycross

Call to Order and Organizing for Business

The Bishop is on vacation. In her absence Canon Kristin White and Canon Brendan O’Sullivan-Hale presided at this meeting

In the absence of Janet Brinkworth, Sean Sullivan was appointed as secretary.

Canon White called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM EDT. The secretary declared a quorum to be present. Canon Brendan O’ Sullivan-Hale led morning prayer.

Canon White reviewed the diocesan mission and Executive Council meeting norms.

Mission Strategy Update

Gray Lesesne, Valeria Phillips, and C. Davies Reed, on behalf of the Bishop’s Advisory Group on Mission Strategy, presented the group’s final recommendations to the Executive Council*, led a discussion and answered questions by Executive Council members. The group has now completed its charge, and the work going forward is once again owned by Executive Council.

MOTION (Susan Steigerwald/Mariann Scott): to commend the members of the Bishop’s Advisory Group on Mission Strategy for their good work and good ideas. PASSED.

Waycross Update

Waycross Executive Director David Ramsey shared his report to the Waycross Executive Committee*. David joined with Waycross Board Treasurer Christopher Beasley to discuss the operations and financial situation of Waycross, particularly in light of the current pandemic.

Leadership and Diocesan Updates

Canon Kristin White reported:

- A virtual two-day College for Congregational Development was held on July 15-16. 70 participants took part, representing 37 of the diocese's 48 congregations.
- Planning for the virtual Diocesan Convention is underway, with Susan Steigerwald and Jeff Brinkmann as co-chairs. A planning meeting for the neighborhood conveners is planned in advance of fall neighborhood meetings, which will occur between September 20-October 20. Virtual workshops will be scheduled in advance of the convention, beginning October 7.
- Bishop Jennifer has appointed a diocesan team for racial healing and reconciliation. Goals include adapting a diocesan covenant to root out racism, organizing local antiracism training, and connecting antiracist efforts/training/witness throughout the diocese.
- Jennifer Phelps, Transition Minister for the diocese, has been working on virtual onboarding for newly arrived clergy.
- Trinity, Bloomington, has issued a call for a new Rector.
- Canon White will be on vacation next week.

Canon Brendan O'Sullivan-Hale reported:

- The financial condition of the diocese, overall, is in better shape than expected. Little emergency funding has been used or requested to date.
- Office expenses have dropped significantly and may result in permanent changes to procedure.
- Canon Brendan and budget leaders will be meeting with representatives of parishes having more than \$1 million in assets to ask them to commit to paying their 2021 apportionments in full. This will include nine congregations (not just the three on Meridian Street).
- Proposed canonical amendments are being completed by the Committee on Constitution and Canons, composed of the Rev. Dr. Hilary Cooke, the Rev. Bruce Gray, Joyce Krauser, Lee Little, and Todd Relue, with Canon Brendan providing staff support. Deadline for submissions is September 8.

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- Small group congregational opportunities are being explored, using resources from the Diocese of San Diego.

Minutes

The draft minutes from the EC meeting on July 11 were reviewed. C. Davies Reed requested that the housing allowance resolutions (under “New Business”) should incorporate the proper IRS language by reference. **MOTION (C. Davies Reed/Lara Dreyer): to accept the July 11 meeting minutes as amended. PASSED.**

Financials

- Canon O’Sullivan-Hale presented a 2021 budget worksheet* and led a discussion on the draft budget, to be finalized and approved at the Council’s September meeting.
- Laurel Cornell presented the August Treasurer’s Report*. **MOTION (Davies/Steigerwald): to receive the August Treasurer’s Report. PASSED.**

New Business

Canon O’Sullivan-Hale presented information on Project Home Indy, a non-profit organization located on Trinity Indianapolis’s campus, which has approached the diocese about the possibility of becoming a cooperating ministry. Their interest will be subject to the pricing of the health insurance the diocese can offer, which will be known on August 26. The organization may be nominated as a Cooperating Ministry at Diocesan Convention. The timing to make this happen would be very tight.

Adjourn

The next Executive Council meeting is scheduled to be a Zoom call on September 19, beginning 10:00 AM EDT.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sean Sullivan

Secretary of the Diocese

Acting Secretary to Executive Council