

Executive Council Meeting

October 24, 2020

Zoom

These minutes approved at the December 12, 2020 Executive Council meeting.

Present: The Rev. Christopher Beasley, Mr. Jeff Brinkmann, Dr. Mary Ellen Brown, Ms. Lara Dreyer, Mr. Dick Frey, Ms. Rose Anne Grasty, the Rev. Frank Impicciche, Mr. Isaiah Kuch, Mr. Michael McGraw, the Rev. Rebecca Nickel, the Rev. Jan Oller, the Rev. C. Davies Reed, Ms. Mariann Scott, Ms. Susan Steigerwald, the Rev. Holly Zaher, Canon Brendan O’Sullivan-Hale, Canon Kristin White, Dr. Laurel Cornell, the Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Ms. Janet Brinkworth.

Absent: Mr. John Steele, Mr. Sean Sullivan

The Bishop called the meeting to order at 10:03am with prayer. The Bishop thanked everyone for attending, especially mentioning all our heavy schedules.

Attendance was confirmed through a roll call by Janet Brinkworth.

Organizing for Business. A review of Diocesan Mission and Executive Council norms was led by Canon Kristin White. Canon Kristin also mentioned that she enjoyed having the convention workshops relate to the Diocesan Mission. She also reminded the Council of the norms for our meeting, including those that relate to the zoom format.

2021 Budget. The Rev. C. Davies Reed indicated that there are no updates, however at the first meeting of Executive Council after convention (set for December 11-12, 2020), there may be budget revisions. Canon Brendan O’Sullivan-Hale advised the Council that the audit should be complete this coming week. Also, the PPP Loan Forgiveness (Paycheck Protection Program) is ready to accept materials from those who applied.

Diocesan Convention Update. The Annual Convention is in two weeks. Co-Chairperson Jeff Brinkmann advised the Council of the basic schedule and that convention is live streamed for all to view. He reminded us that all workshops will be presented prior to the convention date, with topics that focus on our diocesan pillars/mission. Co-Chairperson Susan Steigerwald indicated that the workshops have been “inspiring and informative”. She also mentioned that the hearings on the Resolutions and Canon Changes will be held on Saturday, October 31. Canon Brendan gave some additional details on the hearings. Susan and Canon Kristin mentioned there was good attendance each week for all the workshops. The mention was made that one of the significant benefits of these workshops is that since they are all virtual there are no travel expenses (for presenter or attendee) and also they are recorded, therefore people can view multiple workshops. The Bishop indicated that we have been looking at other conventions videos which have assisted us in preparing for our own event.

Leadership Updates. Bishop Jennifer mentioned the bankruptcy of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), due primarily to mounting legal costs as they relate to sexual abuse cases; this might bring implications for those churches that sponsor a BSA troop. She indicated that the chancellors are involved and researching the information. There will be an upcoming meeting between the chancellors and the diocesan exec team. The Bishop expressed how much she misses Waycross, and that it is missed all over the diocese. She reported that some of the other Province V camps are beginning to be used again but in different ways. We are looking at possibilities for the future and will begin registrations for summer camp soon as more details are set. She mentioned two upcoming events in the summer of 2022, Lambeth, and a pilgrimage to Iona (no scheduling conflicts). She also indicated that her planned sabbatical for 2022 will move to 2023 since other events like these have been moved to 2022. It is her hope that some events that have moved to 2021 will be able to be in-person. There was a question raised about our regathering plan and whether it will be revised since cases of the virus are increasing. Bishop Jennifer indicated that she hopes that for right now, the individual churches will make those decisions and keep changing with the times but agrees that publishing an updated regathering plan continues to be on the table.

Kristin. Canon Kristin indicated that The College for Congregational Development (CCD) has new dates set at July 18-24, 2021. She anticipates registration will be available soon. The diocese produced yard signs for distribution (a re-print of 2016, “Light a Candle, Pray for the Nation, Vote”) and she has distributed 380 yard signs plus there are still a few available. There has also been participation from other states as we shared our sign online. She reminded the Council that the Bishop will lead the prayer service on the Virtual Abbey Nov. 2. Canon Kristin has been attending to details regarding convention and indicated that all fall neighborhood meetings are complete. Regarding Transitions: The Rev. Gray Lesesne was called as dean-elect to Christ Church Cathedral, and Kristin has asked us all to hold Good Samaritan Church in prayer as they begin to discern their next steps after Gray’s departure. Currently there is work being done on the chaplain position for IU Canterbury. The Racial Reconciliation Team has met for the third time and good work is being done. Canon Kristin mentioned the upcoming series, “Brave Worship”, led by two facilitators. This is a series for clergy and church musicians. There will be six sessions, 90 minutes long, focused on the expansion of repertoire into our liturgy.

Brendan. The meeting with Trinity Anderson’s vestry regarding their past apportionments will be October 26. Canon Brendan indicated that St Paul’s Jeffersonville may need help with their finances and some intervention is needed, and he and Kim Christopher are ready to assist. Holy Family has requested help due to a recent renovation and some other questions of operation expenses/spending. St Christopher’s has also reached out for advice.

Brendan and the bishop mentioned a 1million dollar Thriving Congregations grant from Lilly. This is a collaborative grant in partnership with the Diocese of North Indiana, the Partners for Sacred Places organization, and Indiana Landmarks. The grant will use resources of asset mapping and methods to determine how to use our buildings in the best ways. It has been two years in the making. This Grant will be administered by a new staff person, a program director (1/2 time) to assist. The Grant was issued to a single organization (Diocese of Indianapolis), but we are collaborating with the groups mentioned above. Canon Brendan indicated he is working on setting up aa meeting between the four groups.

Canon Brendan then continued his leadership report, advising that annual enrollment begins soon. There are no changes to what is being offered and just about a 5% increase. He also advised (Sees 2021 Budget above) that the PPP Loan Forgiveness has issued a more simplified form for those under \$50,000 and you can still apply for the loan forgiveness. He also mentioned a real estate project proposed next to Madame Walker theater, that the Bishop is involved along with him. Not all are in favor. Finally, the auditors asked if we send invoices for church apportionments. (No) In 2021 we will begin sending invoices, to keep everything above-board and transparent.

Bishop. She reminded the Council that on Friday October 30, there is COM meeting to review and interview applicants. She anticipates ordinations in December. There was a Celebration of New Ministry last Sunday at Grace Church in Muncie for the Rev. Paul Jacobson, which included noticeable excitement from the congregation. She has been in conversation with Rob MacPherson of Trinity regarding fundraising and how it is different from what was planned last year for right now. She is planning to have a low-key Bishop's Appeal, a time to support Waycross, and the support for Global Missions at convention. She is considering having Rob talk to us maybe in December.

Short Break

Minutes. The minutes from the September 19, 2020 meeting were sent to Council members for approval. A motion to approve the minutes was made by the Rev. C. Davies Reed, seconded by the Rev. Christopher Beasley. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Financials. Brendan advised he has September numbers, and they are better than expected. Our cautious work has been rewarded.

Treasurer Report. Laurel Cornell. Laurel advised the treasurer's report was sent to the Council. We are doing well, and she gives credit to Canon Brendan. There were some questions/conversation. A motion was made to Receive the treasurer's report by Michael McGraw, with a second by Susan Steigerwald. RECEIVED UNANIMOUSLY for audit.

Old Business. There is an application for cooperating ministry status by Project Home Indy. Canon Brendan indicated that the primary motivation is to provide benefits at affordable prices for their employees. They are located on the campus of Trinity Indy and approached us in the summer of 2020. Brendan reminded us of how to become cooperating ministry and what that means. Their application was already provided to the Council. Jeff Brinkmann moved to accept the resolution provided in the chat by Canon Brendan, with a second by the Rev. Frank Impicicche. There was a call for discussion. A vote was taken, and it PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

New Business. Lara Dreyer brought a request forward wanting to see information and reports from various groups and events, such as the recent ECW (Episcopal Church Women) retreat. Mariann Scott mentioned the Sacred Ground ministry in conjunction with UBE (The Union of Black Episcopalians). Holly Zaher mentioned the youth ministry in the diocese and its challenges at this time. She is working on gathering information for future use. The Youth Steering Committee continues to meet and there are monthly meetings of various age groups. Marianne

Scott mentioned those who are leaving Executive Council, with this meeting as their last of their term. The Bishop recognized Jeff Brinkmann and the Rev. Christopher Beasley and thanked them for their service. Michael McGraw mentioned available training for racial reconciliation practices which will be sent to the secretary as well as information of a group in Zionsville meeting with police.

A motion to adjourn was made at 12:01pm by the Rev. C. Davies Reed, with a second by Lara Dreyer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janet Brinkworth