

**Joint Meeting of Executive Council
and Standing Committee
March 27, 2021
Held virtually by zoom**

These minutes were approved by Executive Council at the May 8, 2021 meeting.

Executive Council members present: Dr. Mary Ellen Brown, Mr. Jeffrey Dreyer, Ms. Lara Dreyer, Mr. Dick Frey, Ms. Rose Anne Grasty, Ms. Sally Hardgrove, The Rev. Paul Jacobson, Mr. Isaiah Kuch, The Rev. Rebecca Nickel, The Rev. Jan Oller, The Rev. C. Davies Reed, Ms. Mariann Scott, Mr. Sean Sullivan, The Rev. Holly Rankin-Zaher, Miss Ellie Zaher, The Rev. Suzanne Wille, Canon Brendan O’Sullivan-Hale, Canon Kristin White, Dr. Laurel Cornell, The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Ms. Janet Brinkworth (secretary)
Executive Council members absent: The Rev. Mary Bargiel, Mr. Michael McGraw, Mr. John Steele, Ms. Susan Steigerwald

Standing Committee members present: The Rev. Hilary Cooke, The Rev. Drew Downs, Mr. George Eastman.
Standing Committee members absent: Ms. Johnnie Alex, The Rev. Erin Hougland, Mr. Phill Wills.

Special Guest in attendance for a presentation: Ms. Lesley MacKeller

The meeting was called to order by Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows at 10:02am. Bishop Jennifer led a short devotional.

Ms. Janet Brinkworth confirmed the names of those in attendance. A quorum was confirmed.

Organizing for Business. Canon Kristin White led the group in a review of our diocesan mission and a review of the Executive Council norms, provided for attendees. All agreed to follow these protocols.

Province V Leadership Coaching Project. Bishop Jennifer introduced Ms. Lesley MacKeller as a guest. Lesley is our diocesan representative for Province V. She began by presenting to the group the geographic region of Province V, as part of the wider Episcopal Church. She made a presentation on the Province’s Leadership Coaching Project (LCP). Her presentation gave an overview of the program, including the benefits and resources of the program and provided some testimonials. Lesley recommends the Province V LCP Team and suggests that members of this group share this information. She concluded with contact information. Bishop Jennifer advised the group that she and her executive team experienced this program early in her episcopate and found it very valuable. Lesley answered a few questions at the end of her presentation.

Ms. Jen Phelps joined the meeting in her role as a public health consultant.

Reopening Guidelines for In-Person Worship. Bishop Jennifer thanked the group for their time in reviewing plans for reopening and indicated the document emailed to them is to be a modification of previous written plans, rather than writing new plans with each update. There was a lengthy discussion of the document including suggestions and questions. There were several suggestions made to help clarify the document content. There was much discussion on future modifications and conditions such as how full vaccinations change the guidelines, how to define a “hybrid” service and making decisions which will be different for each church. Other subjects discussed include wearing a mask while singing, relaxing restrictions on baptism, and providing

adequate information to parishioners. Bishop Jennifer thanked the group for their participation and suggestions, advising that the new document would be released after Easter (4/4/2021).

There was a short break, and all were excused except Executive Council.

Diocesan Convention 2021 Update. Bishop Jennifer indicated a convention planning meeting was held this past week. Currently plans are being made for a “hybrid” convention – some will gather in person and others will have access online. The planning committee will be led by Jeff Brinkmann and Susan Steigerwald (also co-chairs for 2020 Convention), with Susan Williams scheduled to join the team learning the role of chair for the 2022 convention. There is a need for someone to join Susan Williams and the Bishop asked the Council to give her recommendations for another co-chair in training. The theme is “Bold Witness to God’s Hope”. The planning committee discussed not having workshops, but to have a series of interviews with public figures discussing their perspective of bold witness, how they live their faith in the public sphere. The Bishop asked the Executive Council Youth representatives what they would like to experience at convention this year and invited them to contact her with ideas. This is all still in the early planning stages. (The Convention is November 12-13, 2021)

Leadership Updates

Bishop Jennifer informed the Council of recent activities including:

- The installation of the Rev. Ed Bird, the new chaplain at IU/Canterbury,
- The House of Bishops semi-annual meeting which centered on dismantling racism.
- The initial Racial Justice Audit that we were asked to participate in, has been released.
- There was a morning Clergy Conference on March 17, shortened due to the pandemic.
- Last Sunday (March 21), there was a meeting on buildings and our mission. Participants discussed a Faith and Leadership document.
- She has been participating in multiple podcasts and other similar events, including two interviews just this past week.
- The work of the Mission Strategy group has begun.
- She mentioned that she is a coach to Bishop Marty Stebbins in Montana, and is preparing to visit her in Helena, MT at the end of May.
- She is involved in several organizations, serving on their board (Bexley-Seabury Seminary, Indiana Landmarks, Episcopal Relief and Development, etc.)
- She notified the Council that she has been working on a book that is coming out in June, which also includes four other bishops.
- The Bishop was reminded by a Council member that she needs to be sure to take care of herself along the way.

Canon Kristin began by mentioning her work with:

- The Racial Justice and Education Team which is comprised of nine people.
- She notes that on April 17 there is a workshop with Dr. Catherine Meeks, “[Dismantling Racism in the Age of Pandemics](#)”.
- The Rev. Cathy Scott is working on a two and a half day training on this topic for those going through the ordination process but could also become available for anyone.
- Canon Kristin also mentioned the Racial Justice Audit (produced by the wider church), and it would be arriving in email soon.
- Canon Kristin also mentioned the launch of the Mission Strategy team comprised of lay and clergy in all the diocesan Neighborhoods. Canon Kristin named the members and indicated these are two-year terms and the membership will be staggered for continuity.
- She mentioned that Spring Neighborhood meetings will be taking place in April, May, and June.

- The College for Congregational Development (CCD) will occur in-person on July 18-24 at Waycross, and the Camp has been preparing for safe conditions as it reopens. Registration is open and will be limited to 50 participants.
- Canon Kristin also mentioned that Good Samaritan's new Vicar, The Rev. Beth Scriven, is starting in April.

The Bishop mentioned there was a Waycross report that was included in the documents for this meeting. She also mentioned that because of the recent Commission on Ministry Interview weekend, Joel Muñoz is now a candidate, and The Rev. Joanna Benskin will be ordained to the priesthood in June at our Cathedral.

Canon Brendan began by noting:

- The sad news that Project Home Indy is closing on March 31. Their funding model depended on the Department of Child Services, but a change of DCS policy and the inability to obtain alternative funding caused this closure.
- Trinity Haven is preparing to open with a ribbon cutting ceremony on April 30. Their Host Homes program is up and running, and the transitional living program is expected to open soon.
- The books for 2020 are closed. The diocesan audit was to begin during the last week of March but has been postponed until the Waycross audit is complete, date to be determined.
- He reported that parochial reports are mostly done which is helpful. Canon Brendan shared a chart of ten-year trends from parochial reports (trends of membership and financials) and has asked the Executive Council to look it over but not share it outside of this group. Canon Brendan took some questions on these statistics and comparisons.
- He noted that St. Stephens Elwood has discerned they will bring the congregation to a close and they will celebrate their parish's ministry later in the spring or summer. Executive Council members are encouraged to attend the event when it is scheduled.
- The Thriving Congregations Grant is now being managed by Elizabeth Moriarty. Current tasks include recruiting a state-wide board composed of people not affiliated with the church, representing potential users of our buildings. She is planning to recruit the first of four cohorts to participate in a training program designed to educate how to make your building more available to outside groups.
- Canon Brendan also mentioned that he is considering participating in a global cohort of investors through a workshop he experienced.
- The relaunch of Faithful Innovations is underway and includes four congregations participating: St. John's Speedway, Trinity Bloomington, All Saints, Indianapolis, and St. Paul's, Evansville.
- The diocese has been invited to participate in an initiative supporting a model for lay-led church planting. While the method is compelling, the timing may not match up with current diocesan priorities.
- Canon Brendan concluded by indicating that he has been spending a great deal of time on the Indiana Avenue Project (This conversation will occur next).

There was a short break for others to join the meeting. Joining the meeting as guests were Ms. Claudia Polley, Co-Founder in 1992 of the African American Landmarks Committee of Indiana Landmarks and leader of OG Ink; Marsh Davis, President of Indiana Landmarks; Olon Dotson, Associate Professor of Architecture at Ball State University and Chair of the African American Landmarks Committee of Indiana Landmarks; Norm Callahan from the diocesan Investment and Finance Committee.

Indiana Ave Project. The Bishop welcomed the guests and reminded the Council that this is work with our neighbors and community. Claudia Polley began with an overview of the issues at hand. The Madam Walker Legacy Center, located at the heart of the Indiana Avenue, once a center of Black culture of national significance, is selling a 2.5-acre parcel of land (719 Indiana Avenue) adjacent to the center and St. Philip's Episcopal Church. The motivation is to pay off a balloon payment coming due in August 2021 and establish an endowment. She explained how a developer (Buckingham Companies) wanted to build on the site, but the

development was withdrawn amid vocal opposition from the community. Olon Dotson shared historical images and maps of the property, illustrating the dismantling of the neighborhood over decades, largely in service of IUPUI's expansion. The group of guests at this meeting indicated that they had developed an alternate concept and felt including contiguous properties created an opportunity for a more compelling vision, including a cultural center and expansion on the Indianapolis Cultural Trail. Members of the neighborhood have been invited to participate and have joined the conversation, including IUPUI (Indiana University/Purdue University Indianapolis Campus). The immediate need is to acquire 719 Indiana Avenue to be able to meet the Madam Walker Legacy Center's immediate financial needs, while providing time for a development appropriate to the needs of the community and respect for the neighborhood's heritage to be fleshed out. Diocesan participants in the meeting expressed great enthusiasm for this project. The Council was asked for input on serving as a fiscal sponsor. The diocese may also be an equity investor in the project, in the range of \$500,000-\$750,000, though that decision did not need to be made at this meeting. Using the endowment in this way would be a form of reparations, and the experience of this project might enable future investments of a reparative nature. The immediate need to advance the acquisition of the property at 719 Indiana Avenue is to have a fiscal sponsor, and the diocese's interests in the neighborhood and credibility with key potential funders make it a desirable candidate for the role.,. There are discussions with other organizations to assist with site control. The remainder of the overall area is owned by the Urban League, the Diocese of Indianapolis (specifically St. Phillip's church), and across the street is IUPUI.

MOTION made by Sean Sullivan: to authorize the Diocese of Indianapolis to act as a fiscal sponsor for OG Ink, subject to the advice of our legal counsel. Second by the Rev. C. Davies Reed. A call was made for discussion. There was no further discussion, and a vote was taken. The motion was **PASSED UNANIMOUSLY** with no abstentions.

After our guests departed the meeting, the Bishop indicated that our scheduled meeting time was near the end. Therefore, the review and approval of the Minutes from January 23, 2021 and the vote on the Housing Resolution will both be completed through email. Council members were asked to review and vote on these.

Financial Report. The Bishop turned the meeting over to Canon Brendan for financial reports. Canon Brendan indicated

- Six congregations have applied for the six-month apportionment waiver offered in 2021.
- A proposed revision to the canons at the diocesan convention that would allow exemption of PPP proceeds from the apportionment calculation will have to be passed at convention before the budget is passed.
- There is a Resolution to correct the 2021 apportionment amount for Good Samaritan. A **MOTION** was made to correct the error by Sean Sullivan, with a second by Mariann Scott. The motion was **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY** with none opposed and no abstentions.
- A revision to the budget needs to be made regarding the Union of Black Episcopalian (UBE) Resolution passed at the 2020 Convention, requiring the diocese to explore its involvement in white supremacist structures, and requesting \$25,000 for the work. It was known at convention that council would need to revise the budget, since the resolution was not known to council before advancing the 2021 budget to convention. Therefore, the Anti-Racism budget line would receive a \$25,000 increase, to \$30,000. Bishop Jennifer asked if there was discussion on this action, resulting in no discussion. The Bishop called for a vote, which was **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**, with no abstentions.

Report from Treasurer, Dr. Laurel Cornell. Laurel advised that the treasurer's report and the Budget and Finance meeting report were sent in advance to Council members. The Bishop called for discussion, resulting in no discussion or questions. The Bishop called for acceptance of the report and to file for audit. The report was **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**, with none opposed and no abstentions.

The Bishop advised the next meeting would be May 8 (virtually by zoom) and then June 26 at Waycross. There was a question on the Racial Justice audit (the paperwork was included with packet), with a reminder that we are not to share this audit with others beyond this body.

The Bishop thanked everyone for a substantive and meaningful work in this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 1:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janet Brinkworth

On March 29, 2021, Canon Brendan recorded the following actions, taken by email:

- Minutes from the January 23, 2021 meeting were approved as written.
- The Housing Allowance Resolution for the Rev. Beth Scriven was approved.

(These items were on the agenda for this meeting, but the meeting was ending, and it was decided these votes would take place via email to conserve time.)