

Executive Council Meeting

July 11, 2020

Zoom Video Call

These minutes were passed by the Executive Council in the August 20, 2020 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. Jan Oller, The Rev. C. Davies Reed, Ms. Mariann Scott, Mr. John Steele, The Rev. Holly Zaher, Canon Brendan O’Sullivan-Hale, The Rev. Canon Kristin White, Dr. Laurel Cornell, The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Ms. Janet Brinkworth.
Absent: The Rev. Rebecca Nickel, Ms. Susan Steigerwald, Mr. Sean Sullivan.

Special Guests: The Rev. Dr. Gray Lesesne and Ms. Valeria Phillips from the Mission Strategy Panel.

The meeting began at 10:06am with morning prayer, led by Bishop Jennifer.

The names of the attendees were confirmed by Janet Brinkworth.

Organizing for Business. Canon Kristin reviewed our diocesan mission and the norms set for the Executive Council.

Mission Strategy Update. Bishop Jennifer introduced this topic and reminded us that this is a continuation of the discussion from last month’s meeting. Members of the Mission Strategy Panel are: The Rev. Gray Lesesne, Valeria Phillips, The Rev. Holly Zaher, The Rev. C. Davies Reed.

- The Bishop turned the discussion over to Gray, who gave an overview of the work and indicated that this plan began before the pandemic hit (the Council members were sent information in advance for this presentation). He went through the process that the Council learned about at the last meeting.
- Next, Holly talked about the diocese’ neighborhoods; how they should function and possibly be doing evangelism programs. Suggestions include shifting online worship to continue in the future, partner with ecumenical partners, create and resource a mobile/pop up center of evangelism, and plant a new worshipping community. Holly asked for discussion – what excited you about this? Some feedback included potentially new neighborhood roles, different things to try, to go out there and be seen, operate a food truck. What causes you anxiety? Some discussion including concern of the administration of these items by the end of 2021 – too soon? Is this focus the institutional church or transformative nature of the church?
- C Davies spoke about Holy Endings and New Beginnings. There was some discussion about previous ways we have closed a church, opened a new church, and now the diocese needs a set plan for these events. C. Davies asked, what about this gives you excitement or anxiety? There was some discussion, including the importance of evaluating a

congregation, involving the church in decisions to close or change, and how this is an important task and protocols should be in place to accomplish it.

- Valeria spoke about strategic collaborations. How to bring people together in new ways – to explore shared needs between congregations when looking for new clergy, equip these congregations by training lay people to do morning/evening prayer and preaching, to establish a “hub” congregation for each neighborhood to have a missionary to assist with evangelism, a priest available to assist churches without clergy, someone to assist with education/formation and other ways to assist. What excites you/gives you stress? It was mentioned that something new often make things stressful, who will lead these efforts, if we don’t do anything, people won’t have options and if people don’t have options, they can’t find us from multiple places/media.

The Council took a 5-minute break

Gray indicated that one of the primary recommendations from the Mission Strategy Panel is to move some church apportionments for aided churches to extend their payments. To use congregational aide from the budget line and maybe raise money as well. He asked for feedback. There was a comment that this might be an opportunity to see new leadership.

Leadership Updates. The Bishop began and spoke of the current situation with the pandemic and her weekly contact with other Bishops and groups including the weekly meeting with the clergy. She mentioned that General Convention is still set for 2021, but this could change. Lambeth was cancelled for 2020 and now put off until 2022. Regarding the racial incident on July 4 in Bloomington, she has been in touch with people there and says there is tension, but we are involved.

Canon Kristin White. Canon Kristin advised that Regathering Plans are being sent in and she, Canon Brendan and Jen Phelps are reviewing and discussing them. Jen is also working with those in transition. Canon Kristin is in the process of redevelopment of an anti-racism, regular annual program coming soon. She reminded us that our Annual Convention is virtual – workshops will occur on select days prior to the convention and Saturday is the day we will have elections. She reminded the Council that the Center for Congregational Development (CCD) is a two-day virtual offering coming next week on Wednesday and Thursday (July 15 & 16).

Canon Brendan O’Sullivan-Hale. Canon Brendan reminded the Council that this year at the convention there will be revisions to canons – the main revision is to change the term “Deanery” to become “Neighborhood”. He has annotated the canons to help. He indicated there are some contradictions with Standing Committee and Executive Council protocols. He advised the Council that there are some updates to Human Resource items with the staff, that reimbursements are being made for staff Wi-Fi and cell phone use since the staff is working from home. He also indicated that at this time, unused staff vacations will roll over from 2020 to 2021. Finally, Canon Brendan indicated that Faithful Innovations had planned to launch a second cohort, but it did not occur due to the pandemic. However, there is some overlap between Faithful Innovations and current racial events.

New Business/Two Financial Votes. Canon Brendan advised the Council that two Curates began July 1 and the housing allowance resolution needs to be passed for them (The Rev. Sam Vaught at All Saint’s Indianapolis and The Rev. Allan Wallace at St. Francis Zionsville). The

resolution is Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code. A motion was made to pass this resolution by The Rev. C Davies Reed and seconded by The Rev. Holly Zaher. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Trinity Anderson has requested that their apportionments from past three years be forgiven. Canon Brendan indicated that this is something that should be before the Executive Council, but our canons say it is up to the Standing Committee. Canon Brendan indicated that their building is the source of financial issues with Trinity. Amount is about \$25,000. A motion was made to refer Trinity Anderson's request for apportionment forgiveness to the Standing Committee by Rose Ann Grasty, with a second by The Rev. Frank Impicliche. There were several questions - should the Investment and Finance Committee hear this before sending to the Standing Committee? Perhaps a conversation will happen between Trinity leadership and the Standing Committee when the Committee receives the request? An amendment to the original motion was made by Mariann Scott with a second from The Rev. Frank Impicliche. The amendment made is in addition to the referral of this request to the Standing Committee; that it be done in consultation with Executive Council to help Trinity Anderson develop a path toward sustainability. A vote was taken. There were some dissents and abstentions, but the final vote passed with a majority vote. The motion was amended, and the MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes approval. Minutes from 6/6/2020 stood for approval. A motion to approved was made by The Rev. C. Davies Reed with a second from Michael McGraw. PASSED.

Financials. Canon Brendan indicated that May financials showed income was stronger than projection, and expenses were lower than projected.

Dr. Laurel Cornell presented the Treasurer's Report, sent in advance. A motion to receive the report was made by The Rev. C. Davies Reed with a second by Dick Frey. PASSED.

Old Business. The Rev. Holly Zaher spoke about the Youth Ministry Discernment Report and a follow up. This was designed to work youth involvement through our pillars/mission. She indicated that conversations have occurred within and outside the diocese and data was then collected for this report. The data shows there could be a shift to a missional imagination. Holly went over the analysis. In alignment with her analysis, Holly gave recommendations of things to do before hiring a Youth Director. There was some discussion including how Holly sees "increasing diversity".

Canon Brendan added that the 2021 budget is still being revised and the budget formation committee continues its work.

There were comments about the next meeting, which is August 15. Other upcoming meetings indicate the September meeting will be at Waycross and the October meeting will be at St. Paul's Columbus. Both meetings were set up in late 2019 and will both likely also be a zoom video call.

The meeting adjourned at 12:49pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janet Brinkworth