

# **Annual Joint meeting between Executive Council and Standing Committee**

December 12, 2020

By Zoom Call

*These are the official Minutes, approved by Executive Council on 1/23/2021*

**Executive Council Members Present:** The Rev. Mary Bargiel, Dr. Mary Ellen Brown, Jeffrey Dreyer, Ms. Lara Dreyer, Mr. Dick Frey, Ms. Rose Anne Grasty, Ms. Sally Hardgrove, The Rev. Paul Jacobson, Mr. Michael McGraw, The Rev. Rebecca Nickel, The Rev. Jan Oller, The Rev. C. Davies Reed, Ms. Mariann Scott, Mr. John Steele, Ms. Susan Steigerwald, Mr. Sean Sullivan, The Rev. Suzanne Wille, 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 members: Mr. Isaiah Kuch, Ellie Zaher.

**Standing Committee Members Present:** Ms. Johnnie Alex, The Rev. Drew Downs, Mr. George Eastman, The Rev. Erin Houglund. Absent members: The Rev. Hilary Cooke, Mr. Phill Wills.

The meeting was called to order at 10:04am with a devotional and prayers led by Bishop Jennifer. The Bishop welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked all for serving in this way. Ms. Janet Brinkworth confirmed those present for the record by taking roll.

**Perspective on the work before us.** The Bishop gave her perspective of the work before us and gave a brief overview of these two groups and their substantive work to come. She emphasized that our mission is important, and this will lead to strong congregations.

**Review of diocesan mission and norms.** Canon Kristin reviewed our diocesan mission, and she advised everyone that this began when the Bishop began her work in the diocese. Canon Kristin also went over our written norms. There was some discussion on the history of these norms, which frame administrative meeting etiquette, confidentiality, communication and doing the good work. There was a call for questions. All accepted these norms and Standing Committee was invited to use these norms created by Executive Council.

**Introductions.** Canon Kristin facilitated our introductions. This is the first meeting of the 2021 members of Executive Council and Standing Committee. All present introduced themselves one by one. Breakout rooms were set up (3-4 people each) and three questions were provided for the discussion:

- 1 Share one reason you said yes to serving in this role,
- 2 New members: share one question you have about serving in the role you've been appointed or elected to,
3. Established members: share one thing you've learned in your time on the Executive Council or Standing Committee

When the breakout session was over, the Bishop called for group members to share their responses with the full group as they felt called.

**Commitment to keeping the work.** The Bishop spoke more about the roles of each body, giving some historical information and how our diocese compares with other dioceses. In summary, the Standing Committee links to the wider church (financial, elections of bishops, ordination of clergy, property). The Standing Committee is involved with the assets of the diocese. Executive Council handles the annual budget, programming, policies, and more recently, reshaped how we are configured (our recent geographical change to Neighborhoods). Standing Committee is involved in both the local diocese and the national church, Executive Council is involved primarily in the local diocese.

**Business for the year ahead.** Canon Brendan spoke about canonical responsibilities and revisions. As a reminder, there were several canon changes at the convention this year which are being incorporated into our document. He highlighted Canon 9, which is the canon that details Executive Council's responsibilities and protocols. He indicated that Standing Committee is referenced in multiple canons, and Canon Brendan shared these specifics by illustrating each canon that mentions Standing Committee and their work and responsibilities.

*Meeting Break*

*The meeting continued with Executive Council business –*

**Concluding Executive Council Business for 2020.**

Canon Brendan introduced Housing Allowance Resolutions, shared by email prior to the meeting. Requests were made on behalf of five clergy. A motion to approve these five resolutions was made by Ms. Susan Steigerwald, with a second by Ms. Rose Anne Grasty. Motion PASSED – none opposed, no abstentions.

Approval of minutes from Oct 24, 2020. A correction was made to those present. A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by The Rev. C. Davies Reed with a second by Dr. Mary Ellen Brown. Motion PASSED – none opposed, no abstentions

Church Investment Group Loan Forgiveness information was presented by Canon Brendan. This was requested earlier this year. The recommendation comes from Investment and Finance Committee. There was some discussion. The motion was made to accept the Investment and Finance Committee's recommendation for Loan Forgiveness. Motion PASSED – none opposed, no abstentions.

Canon Brendan presented a recommendation from the Investment and Finance Committee that there be investment of cash reserves. This year has been unusual and there is an abundance of cash reserves. The recommendation is to keep adequate operating funds available but invest any reserves. There was some discussion. A motion was made by Ms. Sally Hardgrove that Executive Council accept the Investment and Finance Committee's recommendation to invest funds meaningfully above \$300,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Michael McGraw. There was additional discussion. The motion PASSED – none opposed, no abstentions.

Canon Brendan informed the Council that a Request for Proposal (RFP) will be sent out to investment advisors. This action is simply to fulfill Business Best Practices and is being handled by Investment and Finance Committee. Results will be presented to the Council in the future.

Other Business. Ms. Sally Hargrove advised the Council that there have been two executions in Terre Haute recently and there are three more scheduled. She is collecting resources and ways to support those who are concerned with these events.

Ms. Rose Anne Grasty mentioned that it was good to see Jeff Dreyer serving as a Youth Representative on the Council.

The Meeting Adjourned at 12:31pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Janet Brinkworth