

Executive Council meeting
(Standing Committee invited for initial discussion)
Zoom call
May 9, 2020

These are minutes that were approved at the June 6, 2020 meeting.

Executive Council members 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. 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. Holly Zaher, Canon Brendan O’Sullivan-Hale, The Rev. Canon Kristin White, Dr. Laurel Cornell, Ms. Jen Phelps, The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Ms. Janet Brinkworth.

Executive Council member not present: Isaiah Kuch

Standing Committee members present Ms. Johnnie Alex, The Rev. Dr. Hilary Cooke, The Rev. Drew Downs, Ms. Sally Hardgrove, The Rev. Whitney Smith, Mr. Phill Wills.

The meeting began at 10:03am with a word of welcome from Bishop Jennifer to both the Executive Council and the Standing Committee. The meeting was opened with Prayers of the People in a Pandemic.

There was a roll call to confirm those in attendance.

Reopening Guideline Draft Document. This document was emailed in advance to both Executive Council and Standing Committee. The Bishop briefly explained the creation of this draft document which was based on several resources from other dioceses, our own diocese’s clergy and wardens, with consideration for the varied nature of the counties in the state of Indiana. The Bishop went page by page through the document, stopping periodically for questions. The questions concerned clarity and use of particular words (“request” vs. “require”), how to evaluate and converse with those who want to come in but clearly shouldn’t, outdoor worship vs. indoor, timelines, the duties of the Congregational Regathering Committee. The Bishop indicated that the plan is to have this document on our website for full distribution next week.

At 11:20am we continued with the Executive Council agenda.

Minutes for March 14, 2020 are on hold for approval. The March 28 Meeting between the Executive Council and Standing Committee were sent to the Council for approval. A motion to approve was made by Sean Sullivan, with a second by C. Davies Reed. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Leadership Updates. The Bishop reminded the Council that the Annual Convention in November 2020 will be a virtual meeting. More information will be forthcoming. Consulting with our chancellors we confirmed that we can legally do our convention virtually. The Bishop mentioned the multiple meetings she has each week with the Presiding Bishop, Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD), various groups of other bishops, as well as collaborating with Bishop Sparks of Northern Indiana to make some decisions state-wide.

Canon Kristin reviewed event cancellations and changes. She reminded us that the Clergy Conference in March 2020 was cancelled and then rebooked for October 2020. Now it is simply cancelled. The College for Congregational Development (CCD) was scheduled for July 2020 and has been put on hold. She is working to hopefully have a 2-day virtual offering by the CCD leaders to include teaching, discussion,

and resolution training. Transitions in the diocese are being handled by Jen Phelps and moving along. Canon Kristin says a good deal of her time has been spent working on the reopening document. Also, she and Canon Brendan are working with an advisory team to the Bishop on how the diocese will emerge from the pandemic.

Canon Brendan reported that Paycheck Protection Program loans (PPP) have been granted to some congregations. In conversations with congregations, he says most are doing OK financially for now, but expect to encounter financial strains in the summer and fall. He reported that the Diocesan Liturgical Commission has convened, and although it does not seem to be a high priority right now, it is still important, and work will progress. Payments from the diocesan office are mostly being made electronically. There have been adjustments to accounting controls to require dual authorization of electronic transactions. Our audit is now scheduled to begin in May remotely. Tech grants from the Center for Congregations are available with a May 15th application deadline. These grants provide 90% of the funding up to a \$5,000 maximum. Brendan mentioned that he has an upcoming meeting this week on evangelism opportunities during this time with Bishop Susan Snook (San Diego) and Bishop-Elect Frank Logue (Georgia).

New Business. The budget formation committee recommends a second set of revisions to the 2020 Budget. Canon Brendan indicated that all Council members received the spreadsheet of revisions via email yesterday. The overall goal is to provide financial relief, primarily through permitting a waiver of up to three months of apportionments for all congregations and increasing the size of the pool available for emergency assistance to approximately \$221,000. There are also reductions in several income lines that are unlikely to be realized, including income from several investment funds, and a reduction in the scale of the Bishop's Appeal. There was a mention of the PPP funding churches and whether that compromises anything including separating church and state. There was some discussion and concern for Waycross and their stability. Brendan advised that most of the changes in this Revision have to do with the current situation and take into account that we are not doing in-person meetings and anticipate a sharply reduced travel schedule; however, technology costs and a handful of other items are increasing. The Executive Council needed to approve this 2020 Budget Revision. A vote was taken. PASSED

Financial. The 2021 Budget Draft was introduced (also sent via email yesterday). It is identical to the 2020 revised budget. There was a motion to approve this draft budget for 2021 which includes the disclaimer that it is being released to meet the canonical obligation to release the budget in the spring but should not be used for planning. Vote taken. PASSED.

Treasurer's Report. The report was sent via email by Laurel Cornell. There were some questions and discussion. A motion was made to receive the report for audit. PASSED.

Other Business.

The Bishop has suggested that the Council meet monthly due to current and changing circumstances with the pandemic. The next meeting date was agreed to be June 6. A poll will go out next week to determine availability for July and August. (The next regular scheduled meeting is September 19, 2020.)

The meeting was adjourned at 12:43pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janet Brinkworth