

Executive Council Meeting

February 4, 2023

Attendance virtually via Zoom

These minutes were approved at the 4/1/2023 meeting

Members Present: Ms. Joan Amati, The Rev. Mary Bargiel, The Rev. Christopher Beasley, Ms. Lara Chase, Ms. Amy Dobbs, Ms. Lara Dreyer, Mr. Dick Fry, Ms. Sally Hardgrove, The Rev. C. Davies Reed, The Rev. Canon Hipolito Fernandez Reina, Canon Mariann Scott, Mr. Greg Seamon, Mr. Mike Staubitz, The Rev. Julia Whitworth, Dr. Laurel Cornell, The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Ms. Janet Brinkworth.

Members Absent: The Rev. Dr. Jason Haddox, The Rev. Dr. Paul Jacobson, The Rev. Allen Rutherford, Mr. Sean Sullivan

Staff Absent: Canon Brendan O’Sullivan-Hale, The Rev. Canon Kristin White

The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows called the meeting to order at 10:02am. The Bishop led our opening devotion. Janet Brinkworth called the attendance roll.

Bishop Jennifer guided the Council through the diocesan mission statement and Executive Council norms. The norms were accepted by all in attendance.

Leadership and Diocesan Updates. The Bishop invited Council members to give their updates. Updates included:

- Trinity Service Corps, which has been in operation for about six months and looking for new members to join the next cohort.
- A mention of the Executive Council’s leadership role in Resolution 2: the adoption of the “Covenant to Root Out Racism in the Diocese of Indianapolis”. Will discuss at next meeting.
- The BackStory Preaching class that began in January; the completion of which is needed for being licensed as a Lay Preacher in the Diocese.
- The next session of Sacred Ground begins Feb 8, and there are still spots open in the new cohort.

Bishop Updates:

- The Episcopal Mutual Ministry Review (EMMR) was last Saturday (1/28/2023) held at Christ Church Cathedral. The Executive Summary has just been received, and that will be on the website soon. The full report went to the participants, and the Executive Council and Standing Committee will also receive the full report. The Bishop gave an overview of the key points.
- The Bishop’s Sabbatical Planning continues (it begins May 1, 2023). Bishop Doug Sparks and Bishop Deon Johnson will provide backup support. As part of Sabbatical Planning, the Rev. C. Davies Reed has agreed to serve as the Vice President of the Executive Council to chair meetings during Bishop’s absence.

Election of Officers. Bishop Jennifer advised the Council that the position of Secretary and Vice President should be elected every year. There was a motion made to nominate the Rev. C. Davies

Reed as the Vice President and Mr. Sean Sullivan as the Secretary by Ms. Joan Amati, with a second by Ms. Sally Hardgrove. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY with no abstentions.

Reunification Update. With the recent announcement, the discernment about the possible reunification of the Diocese of Northern Indiana and the Diocese of Indianapolis has moved into more public space. The Rev. Jennifer Adams will facilitate the discernment process. Rev. Adams has worked with the Diocese of Eastern Michigan and Western Michigan as well as dioceses in Pennsylvania (Central Pennsylvania and Bethlehem) as they discern how to unify and deepen collaboration. The first meeting of the joint discernment team (teams from both dioceses) takes place March 17-18 (noon to noon). The Bishop also noted that this process will continue during her sabbatical.

The Table Affiliation Update. This affiliation is still in process to receive the congregation and clergy. The Table is currently not affiliated. The hope is to have them received as a mission of strategic size at our Diocesan Convention 2023, and we may receive St. Luke's Cannelton in the same way. The Bishop indicated that the diocese is working to receive clergy credentials. The three clergy are currently worshipping at St. Christopher's Carmel. They will be invited to attend Commission on Ministry (COM) Retreat in Spring and Fall 2023. As we work with the Presiding Bishop's office and staff there is deep awareness of treading new ground.

There was a question regarding St Luke's in Cannelton, and the Bishop provided a brief description and information.

Waycross Transition. Waycross Director David Ramsey has submitted his resignation. The Waycross Board is in the beginning stages of a search, chaired by Mr. Andy Wilkinson. Board President Rose Lane is also involved. The national organization, Episcopal Camps and Conference Centers (ECCC) will assist with the search, and the decision was made to hire an interim for approximately a year, as was done previously. The Board will take time and be intentional about filling this position.

The Council took a Short Break

St Alban's Update. Bishop Jennifer indicated that St. Alban's is having financial challenges and have been consulting with members of the Standing Committee. The priest there, the Rev. Deborah Dehler has accepted a call in the diocese of Kentucky. A consultant will be assisting with the transition and supporting them in the ways they need, along with others on the diocesan staff.

Bishop Staff Updates. The Bishop referred to a document that was provided by Canon Kristin White regarding transitions. The Council was also advised that from the initial twenty-five candidates for the Youth Minister Position, the list is now down to two candidates. The Communications Assistant search is ongoing. There are now two good candidates coming in for additional interviews in the coming weeks.

Minutes. There were no minutes available from the December meeting available for review. These minutes will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Financial. Dr. Laurel Cornell advised that there are no financial statements at this time, while working on year-end responsibilities. The Budget Formation Committee will begin meeting again on March 7. The minutes from the recent Investment and Finance Committee meeting are available. Laurel indicated that things related to finances are always accessible and transparent. There was discussion about having a contact person to assist parishes when they encounter budget issues. This came up in the Mutual Ministry Review and is being discussed in the Budget Formation Committee.

Old Business. Mariann Scott, a member of the Racial Justice and Education Team was invited to speak in more depth about the Covenant to Root Out Racism adopted at the diocesan convention last fall. (The document was made available to the members by email during this discussion.) Teams from the Racial Justice and Education Team (RJET) are willing to go to parishes to assist and educate. Bishop Jennifer suggested that the Council go through the covenant at the next meeting (April 1, 2023). There was discussion.

New Business. Lara Dreyer asked that lay members of Executive Council have a way to meet and connect with each other. This would be similar to the clergy who participate in regular zoom calls, or who have options for meetings. It was suggested that the laity represented in this meeting might stay for a short time after the meeting.

(An alternative host was set up in order to continue the meeting on the current zoom link)

A motion to adjourn was made at 11:47am by the Rev. C. Davies Reed, with a second by Canon Mariann Scott.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janet Brinkworth