

Executive Council Meeting
April 1, 2023
Waycross Camp and Conference Center

These are the official minutes approved at the May 20, 2023 meeting.

Members Present: Ms. Joan Amati, The Rev. Mary Bargiel, The Rev. Christopher Beasley, Ms. Amy Dobbs, Ms. Lara Dreyer, Mr. Dick Frey, Ms. Sally Hardgrove, The Rev. C. Davies Reed, The Rev. Allen Rutherford, Canon Mariann Scott, Mr. Greg Seamon, The Rev. Julia Whitworth, Canon Brendan O’Sullivan-Hale, The Rev. Canon Kristin White, The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Ms. Janet Brinkworth.

Members Present on Zoom: The Rev. Dr. Jason Haddox, The Rev. Canon Hipólito Fernandez Reina, Dr. Laurel Cornell

Members Absent: Ms. Lara Chase, The Rev. Dr. Paul Jacobson, Mr. Mike Staubitz, Mr. Sean Sullivan

Guests Present: The Rev. Chana Tetzlaff, Mr. Michael Landon

The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows called the meeting to order at 10:23am. There was a late start due to severe weather the night before causing some roads to be closed. The Bishop led the Council in our devotion.

Canon Kristin White presented the pillars of the Diocesan Mission and the norms for the work of the Executive Council. Bishop Jennifer encouraged members to RSVP for our meetings and to read materials prior to the meeting.

Leadership and Diocesan Updates. The Bishop opened the floor to all who might have an update. Participants shared that the Lay Preaching course was a good educational experience and was very well done. The Mission Strategy group has been engaging with churches effectively.

Bishop Jennifer .

- The Bishop indicated she is getting ready for her sabbatical which begins May 1, 2023.
- She spoke about attending various meetings including preparation for General Convention in 2024, church structures, and the joint nominating committee for election of the next Presiding Bishop. The Bishop indicated that she will not attend these meetings when she is on sabbatical.

With guests present, Leadership and Diocesan Updates will be continued later in the meeting

Reunification Discernment Update. The Bishop advised that the joint discernment retreat between leaders of the Diocese of Indianapolis and the Diocese of Northern Indiana was held March 17-18 in Kokomo. The Bishop gave an overview of the meeting and shared that a

summary of that meeting is being written. Representing the Executive Council are The Rev. Allen Rutherford, Mr. Greg Seamon, and Ms. Joan Amati, and they added comments about the meeting. Regular reports will be written and shared publicly. Canon Brendan O'Sullivan-Hale will attend on Bishop Jennifer's behalf while she is on sabbatical. There was some discussion of a resolution to affirm the work of the committee. The Bishop suggested considering this document and discuss it in future meetings, for historical record. Members raised questions regarding the budget necessary for this work.

Covenant to Root Out Racism. Canon Mariann Scott invited guests The Rev. Chana Tetzlaff and Mr. Michael Landon to lead a discussion of the Covenant to Root Out Racism. They have been working on this together since early 2020. The task of the Executive Council is to develop a plan for the next 10 years. The Council's responsibility is to interpret the charge in the resolution passed at convention, implement it, report the progress, and report at the Annual Convention 2024. Parishes will decide whether to adopt this or not and which aspects of the Covenant they will act upon. Mr. Landon led the Council through a discussion of the resolution. There were questions about what support Council needs from RJET (Racial Justice Education Team)? What milestones do members of Executive Council need help with? Bishop Jennifer suggested at the May 20 meeting that Canon Scott could develop time to talk more fully and make a plan with RJET.

Break for lunch.

2024 Budget Process. The Rev. C. Davies Reed and the Bishop reminded the Council that at the last meeting and using information from the recent EMMR (Episcopal Mutual Ministry Review), there was a request to get more clarity on the budget outline. The month of May will bring an unbalanced budget, and the target for the final budget is to be presented at the September 30 Executive Council meeting. Rev. Reed advised the Council of the members who are serving on the budget committee. A motion to accept the proposed process and timeline for the 2024 budget was made by The Rev. Allen Rutherford, and a second was made by Canon Scott. The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY, no abstentions.

Sabbatical Preparation. The Bishop mentioned two Bishops, Bishop Sparks of Northern Indiana and Bishop Johnson of Missouri have agreed to assist the diocese during Bishop Jennifer's sabbatical if necessary. She is committed to being offline as much as possible. She has detailed with Canon Brendan and Canon Kristin the circumstances in which she wants to be notified. Her suggestion to leaders is to contact Canon Kristin, Canon Brendan, or Janet Brinkworth. Bishop Jennifer has also shared this information with the Standing Committee.

The Table. The Bishop is working on the reception of their clergy and reception of the congregation. Members of the Bishop's staff and diocesan leaders are working with the three clergy members, with input from the Presiding Bishop's staff. The clergy will take an exam similar to the GOEs (General Ordination Exam) in conjunction with the examining chaplains. The diocese is in the process of collecting records and helping the Table clergy develop portfolios of their preparation for ministry in order to clarify what further preparation is necessary. The congregation is engaged. The COM (Commission on Ministry) spent a day with the clergy of The Table at the COM retreat yesterday. COM will meet with the three clergy again

in the fall and make a recommendation to the Bishop. The Standing Committee will also meet with the clergy in the fall and will vote on receiving their orders into the Episcopal Church. The Table has formally asked the Presiding Bishop to allow The Table to affiliate with the Episcopal Church (This action can be revoked). Members of The Table are participating in some diocesan programs. There was some discussion The Table's commitment to inclusivity. The Bishop indicated that she has had these conversations with them. Leaders are learning and upholding the policies of the Episcopal Church.

Waycross Transition. Ms. Melinda Trotti is the interim director. Canon Brendan advised that there is a consultant from ECCC (Episcopal Camps and Conference Centers) helping with the search for a new executive director. Canon Brendan indicated the process would take a minimum of six months. He is encouraged because the Waycross Committee and the Executive Board are very sincere and will work to find a good fit for the new director.

St Alban's update. This community is in the beginning stages of their transition and looking for the next steps. The property is large, and there are decisions that need to be made regarding the property. The Standing Committee forgave half of their 2022 and 2023 apportionments. While this is within Standing Committee's, authority, the Council had questions about this process which needs to be more transparent and mindful of precedent. Questions included how apportionments are figured when debt is forgiven, and the Budget Formation Committee may need to be involved.

Staff Updates *(continued from the morning session).*

Canon Brendan

- The audit is next week and covers 2021 and 2022.
- The Lay Preaching class had thirty people registered from our diocese. Many people indicated that they simply wanted to be more comfortable speaking about the Bible.
- CBCP (Church Buildings for Collaborative Partnerships) is in its fourth cohort now. Canon Brendan attended the Episcopal Parish Network conference (formerly CEEP) and participated in a panel discussion regarding CBCP. There is interest across the country in what we are doing. Site visits for this cohort comes at the end of this month. We have been invited by Lilly Endowment to apply for a scaling grant to continue the work. The grant would be \$2 million, with the condition that \$1million of the grant will be a match. We will be notified of whether the grant has been awarded sometime during the summer.

Canon Kristin

- Last year at the clergy conference a conversation with clergy began our renovation of diocesan youth ministry. Almost exactly one year later, we have a candidate who as just accepted our invitation to serve as diocesan youth minister. We look forward to sharing more information very soon. The Youth Mission trip is June 3-11, 2023.
- Last week's Clergy Conference had remarkably high attendance. Participants expressed appreciation for the chance to come together for this time of rest and renewal.
- The Mission Strategy Committee met last Thursday. They are working on recommendations which will come to Executive Council at the May 20 meeting.

- Ms. Lauren Hacker has joined the Bishop's Staff as our new communications coordinator. She is working collaboratively and reports to the Director of Communications, Ms. Elise Shrock.
- Spring neighborhood meetings are being scheduled soon. The Fall meetings will be in person, and the Bishop will attend all of the fall meetings.
- The campus ministry chaplains recently met and are working to collaborate with each other. Purdue and IU students recently had a weekend retreat at Waycross.
- The Diocesan Convention 2023 will be held this year at St Paul's Indianapolis, which is a different venue. Ms. Cole Arthur Riley is the keynote speaker. The schedule and what is offered will be similar to previous conventions.

The Bishop announced that yesterday at the COM Retreat, Mr. Cory Irwin has been accepted as a postulant for the priesthood, and The Rev. Yuri Rodriguez has been affirmed to proceed to be ordained as a priest in June. Additional news is that COM is planning a discernment day soon and it is expected that at the COM Fall retreat there will potentially be a large group.

The Bishop also wanted to tell the Council that when she returns in the fall, she wants to talk about a Capital Campaign. She would like a discussion on next steps and be sure that there are no other organizations with campaigns that it would compete (Waycross, St Richards, etc.)

Minutes. The minutes from the December 11, 2022, meeting, and the minutes of the February 4, 2023, meeting were presented for review. A motion to approve the minutes from December 11, 2022, and February 4, 2023, was made by The Rev. Reed, and seconded by Ms. Lara Dreyer. The motion PASSED UNANIMOUSLY, no abstentions.

Financial. Canon O'Sullivan-Hale provided the December 2022 financial statement and January 2023 income statement. He mentioned that the 2022 statement expenses were approximately \$20,000 over budget. Some causes include a low-performance market for investments, paying Waycross bills in advance due to summer camp, not setting aside funds for a reunification team expenses, and that we now have a full staff (previously using "placeholders" for unfilled positions).

Dr. Laurel Cornell gave the Treasurer's report. All agreed to receiving the treasurer's report and it has passed for audit.

Old Business. There was a question on adopting a charge, which would come from the Executive Council for reunification discernment team, which would make a record of their work for historical purposes. This will be brought up at the next Reunification Discernment Team meeting (zoom call) on May 1, 2023.

The Indianapolis Pride weekend is June 11, 2023. The diocese will be present at the festival and parade.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:32pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janet Brinkworth