

Executive Council

Feb 3, 2024

Zoom

These are the official minutes, approved at the March 9, 2024 Executive Council Meeting.

Members present: Ms. Joan Amati, Ms. Lara Dreyer, Mr. Dick Frey, Ms. Sally Hardgrove, The Rev. Jason Haddox, The Rev. Jennifer Oldstone-Moore, Canon Mariann Scott, Mr. Greg Seamon, Mr. Mike Staubitz, Mr. Sean Sullivan, The Rev. T.J. Tetzlaff, The Rev. Julia Whitworth, Canon Brendan O’Sullivan-Hale, Mr. Todd Relue, The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Ms. Janet Brinkworth

Members absent: Ms. Amy Dobbs, The Rev. C. Davies Reed, The Rev. Hipolito Reina, The Rev. Allen Rutherford, The Rev. Jim Said, Ms. Laurel Cornell,

The meeting was called to order by the Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows at 10:02am. Bishop Jennifer led the Council in a devotional.

The roll call was made by Janet Brinkworth.

Organizing for Business. Canon Brendan O’Sullivan-Hale read the Norms for the Work of Executive Council. Bishop Jennifer reminded the Council that the norms were reviewed at December 2023 retreat and asked if there were any additions that needed to be made. There was none and all agreed with these statements.

Treasurer’s Report. Canon Brendan indicated a Treasurer’s report from the Diocesan Treasurer Laurel Cornell was included in the DropBox file for today’s meeting and indicated that there was not any new (2024) information to present.

Church Buildings for Collaborative Partnerships. Bishop Jennifer asked Canon Brendan to give an update to the Church Buildings for Collaborative Partnerships (CBCP) project. There was a planning meeting January 30, 2024, and Canon Brendan gave an overview of this new grant over the next few years. Unlike the first round of the CBCP program, participation is not mandatory. It is for congregations who have special circumstances, or a unique capacity to share spaces. Capital grants can be larger than the previous program and might include design services and legal advice. Our diocese along with the Diocese of Northern Indiana again are partnered in this project and must match \$1 million. Canon Brendan indicated the next formal communication is to launch the application process in the spring.

Financial Updates.

The Diocese: Canon Brendan advised that the financials for 2023 have been completed and are now subject to audit. The diocese ended the year balanced, but differently than planned, principally due to the emergency support for Waycross. The March meeting of Executive Council will have the final document. There was a discussion.

Waycross: Canon Brendan reminded the Council that the new director has begun (Ms. Sara Gunter), and the previous interim (Ms. Melinda Trotti) will depart next week. The diocesan

office has agreed to take on financial recordkeeping for Waycross, and there is a draft agreement of how financial and operational activities will be split between the two organizations.

New Chancellor. Bishop Jennifer introduced Mr. Todd Relue as the new chancellor of the diocese, taking over after Chancellor George Plews retired at the 2023 Annual Convention. Todd greeted the Council and further introduced himself.

Leadership and Diocesan Updates. Remarks made by Council members included: Information on Sacred Ground, which is starting up again soon; The film “A Case for Love” was shown locally on 1/24/24 and Trinity Indy is offering a study group that is open to all. Trinity is also helping their long-time food pantry to move as they have outgrown the space at Trinity; St. David’s is celebrating that they have a priest, the Rev. Kate Wilson; There is property purchased in Mt Vernon, and they are looking for ways to use it to assist vulnerable people; The Racial Justice and Education Team (RJET) is sponsoring a study group at St Timothy’s called “slavery in the bible”; St. Andrew’s has planned a pilgrimage in June 2024, a trip to the United Kingdom.

Capital Campaign. Bishop Jennifer reminded the Council that in Spring of 2023 (before her sabbatical), she asked C. Davies Reed and Gray Lesesne to gather information for an initial case for the Diocese to conduct a capital campaign. . A draft document was presented for the initial reactions and discussion by Executive Council . The focus is on youth and young adults. A discussion occurred. With some minor edits, the conversation on this initial draft will next move to the spring Neighborhood meetings.

Canon Search Update. Bishop Jennifer advised the Council that after a national, church-wide search a commitment letter has been received from the new Canon to the Ordinary for Congregational Development and Leadership. The name is being withheld until background checks, appropriate notifications, and a letter of agreement has been executed. – The Bishop provided some information on the process and the Canon’s gifts and talents. The start date will be March 1, 2024.

Reunification Discernment Update. Mr. Greg Seamon reported on the listening sessions underway for members of the Dioceses of Northern Indiana and Indianapolis . There is good turnout from both dioceses. Each session revolved around four questions for the discussion. There is one more session left which is for clergy only. Overall people are positive about this, and people care deeply. Ms. Joan Amati indicated that some families brought their children to the zoom meeting.

Took a short break.

Covenant to Root our Racism. Canon Mariann Scott reminded the Council that in the May 2023 Executive Council meeting minutes that four items were passed to adopt. Read these four actions. Proposes creating a subcommittee to work on these items. JBB proposes sending out a call to EC members to indicate wanting to join. There is a website page on RJET. Mariann to make this invitation.

The College for Congregational Development (CCD). Bishop Jennifer presented the Council with a document from the first-ever Bishop Summit on CCD that she attended in January. Twenty Bishops attended, and it was a rigorous schedule. The document shows the CCD focus from a diocesan office perspective. Our diocese is doing all items on the document. There was a discussion.

General Convention Revival Champions. The Bishop indicated that we are being asked to provide volunteers for the Revival Champions recruitment. All dioceses that geographically touch Kentucky and those in Province IV (Louisville is the site of General Convention) have been asked to be involved in advocating, communicating about, and supporting the revival. She asked if there is interest in serving in this role. Participation and assistance in General Convention is encouraged given the diocesan proximity to Louisville.

Executive Council Agenda Development. Bishop Jennifer would like to have the Rev. C. Davies Reed (Vice President), Mr. Sean Sullivan (Diocesan Secretary), and perhaps Neighborhood Co-Conveners help to shape the process of creating each meeting agenda. Council members will be contacted soon to ask for help in this way.

Bishop Update. The Bishop indicated that her updates have mostly already been discussed. She mentioned that her work on the Committee to elect a new Presiding Bishop is going well and it is a lot of work. Also, Ms Jodi Horstman will be leading the upcoming Clergy Conference in March.

Minutes. The Minutes from the December 9, 2023, meeting were presented for approval. The Executive Council meeting minutes were separated out of a larger document which included other actions from the weekend meetings of several groups. The additional notes are called Appendix A. Approval of the Executive Council minutes were requested and submitted via a raised hand motion of the Zoom link participants. The vote yielded a majority in favor, none opposed, one abstention due to absence of that meeting.

Old Business. None brought forward.

New Business. None brought forward.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:43am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janet Brinkworth