

Executive Council Minutes

September 30, 2023

Waycross Camp and Conference Center

These minutes were approved at the 12/8/2023 meeting.

Members Present: Ms. Joan Amati, Ms. Amy Dobbs, Ms. Lara Dreyer, Mr. Dick Frey, The Rev. Dr. Paul Jacobson, The Rev. C. Davies Reed, Canon Mariann Scott, Mr. Greg Seamon, Mr. Mike Staubitz, Mr. Sean Sullivan, Canon Brendan O’Sullivan-Hale, Dr. Laurel Cornell, The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Ms. Janet Brinkworth.

Members Present by Zoom: The Rev. Dr. Jason Haddox, Ms. Sally Hardgrove,

Members Absent: The Rev. Mary Bargiel, Ms. Lara Chase, The Rev. Canon Hipólito Fernandez Reina, The Rev. Allen Rutherford, The Rev. Julia Whitworth, The Rev. Canon Kristin White.

The meeting called to order by The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows at 10:04am. She began the meeting with a word of gratitude for doing good work while she was away on sabbatical.

The devotion was led by Bishop Jennifer. Those present in person or by Zoom was confirmed by Ms. Janet Brinkworth.

Organizing for Business. Canon Brendan O’Sullivan-Hale reviewed the Diocesan Mission and the Executive Council Norms. All were in agreement.

Leadership updates.

- The Reunification Discernment Team took a break from holding meetings, but all members are still working in committees. Team members have emphasized the fact that they regularly advise that the decision has not been made yet. There will be presentations made at each diocesan convention. There is also work continuing on a website providing information and the status of discussions. The Executive Council members are encouraged to talk about this in their neighborhoods. There was some additional discussion.
- Thanksgiving for the obvious growth of the campus group at Ball State in Muncie.
- St Francis has transitions to the design portion of capital campaign.
- There was a remark that the Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE) ordered great Juneteenth t-shirts, the documentary they had been working on is finished, and a reunion is coming up.
- The Racial Justice and Education Team (RJET) had a great Paulie Murray celebration. Compiling info from resolution information.
- The Women’s Self-care Weekend was well attended at Waycross.

2024 Budget. The Rev. C Davie Reed presented the budget. There were some changes that needed to be done to the previous draft budget – some specific line items were highlighted.

Canon Brendan emphasized a few line items that also changed. There were questions and a discussion. The Rev. Reed moved that this current budget be presented at convention. It was accepted unanimously with no objections or abstentions.

Fall Neighborhood Meetings. The first meeting occurred this past week. The Bishop is attending all Neighborhood meetings this fall. Ms. Linda Buskirk is also participating, with the Canons and financial/budget representatives. The Bishop indicated that she is looking forward to these meetings.

Diocesan Convention. The Bishop indicated that we are progressing through the tasks necessary and that St Paul's has been a good partner. The plenary speaker, Ms. Cole Arthur Riley, has a new book out and will be signing books as well as participating in several ways. There will be minimal legislative items to discuss and the hearings will be Saturday, November 4. There will be a mention of St Luke's Cannelton renewed commitment in the diocese.

Regarding The Table, there will be a hearing to invite them into the diocese. A 2023 report is set to take place at convention. There were some questions and discussion.

Mission Strategy. The Council hear from our guest, Ms. Valeria Phillips. She indicated that by the end of 2023, several items will be complete including two rounds of grant applications (fall 2022, spring 2023). The team has changed their strategies using sub groups: there will be three sub groups, 1. Small churches. 2. Pairings (i.e. activities, etc.) 3. Communications. These groupings came about as the committee has been working through.

Minutes from the August 19 meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes by The Rev. C. Davies Reed, and seconded by Mr. Mike Staubitz. It passed unanimously with one abstention.

Took a short break

Waycross Update Ms. Melinda Trotti, interim Waycross Director, joined the group. She advised the Council of a grant received from the Lilly Endowment. The candidates for new director are currently being interviewed. Ms. Trotti provided a report prior to the meeting and proceeded to discuss financial items, the interim director short term plan, and the interest in changing Waycross' accounting firm to the diocese.

Break for lunch

Waycross Update (continued) Resumed with Ms. Trotti. There was additional discussion including financial sustainability, the need for more room, and clarification of employee responsibilities by their role.

A motion was made to recognize what Waycross is to the diocese, brought to the Council in a written resolution by Ms. Lara Dreyer, with a second from The Rev. Paul Jacobson. There was an amendment "...and adult lay ministry". The amendment was moved by Canon Mariann Scott, with a second by Mr. Sean Sullivan. The resolution passed unanimously, with no opposition and no abstentions. It was proposed to strike paragraph 2,3,4, and 5 in the document. Ms. Dreyer was asked to reformat the document in order to discuss later in the meeting.

Bishop & Staff Updates

The Bishop talked about her sabbatical and how her reentry has been interesting. The Bishop mentioned things she learned and how to lay good foundations in our diocese.

- She spoke about being wistful about Kristin's possible Bishop selection (to the diocese of Southern Ohio).
- The Bishop reported on the recent House of Bishop's fall meeting, indicating there is much work to do with the disciplinary board. All meeting were by Zoom due to the Presiding Bishop's recent surgery. She did some work on constitution and canons. There was a Parochial Report discussion at the meeting, and statistics look bad but the Bishop feels hope.
- The Bishop is planning a capital campaign, and considering what the focus would be – possibly youth ministry. Her plan is organizing this for 2024.

Canon Brendan thanked everyone for responding to the recent email regarding The Rev. Yuri Rrogriguez' housing allowance.

- The Table is applying to come in as mission, and some differences in things like pay for supply, that might need an initial hold on their apportionment. He will take The Table on a tour of St Alban's to see if the building might be used by their congregation.
- St Alban's closes on the first Sunday of advent, with a service in the afternoon. The building is their legacy and there are tenants that use the building regularly who will continue to use the building.
- CBCP reminder of another grant from Lilly \$1million. Nothing programmatic will happen until 2024 and it is not set up for every parish as the last grant was set.
- ULLI has had a leadership change and is moving forward well.
- Personnel & Compensation met, and Canon Brendan reminded the Council that the dental plans shifting to another provider. The Cost of Living recommendation is for a 4% increase. There was a motion to accept by Mr. Dick Fry, with a second by Ms. Joan Amati. The Motion passed unanimously with no opposition and no abstentions.
- Canon Brendan also advised the Council that St Stephens Elwood, had an option by the city on the property and made an offer, which he will recommend to accept to Standing Committee

Financials – Dr. Laurel Cornell presented the Treasurer's report in advance. A Motion was made by Mr. Mike Staubit to accept the report, with a second by Canon Mariann Scott. It pass unanimously and was sent for audit.

Canon Brendan also provided financials in advance, and there were no questions.

Waycross Resolution – The draft motion from the previous discussion after lunch for the Waycross support resolution amendment was presented. There was a call for a vote for the amendment. It was accepted unanimously with no opposition and no abstentions.

Old Business – Canon Brendan mentioned the mortgage support for Holy Family, that an additional loan has been offered.

New Business – There was a question on the clergy supply list. There was also a comment that the visitation schedule has returned to an 18-month schedule. The current schedule was made a

two-year schedule to accommodate the Bishop's sabbatical time. There was also a mention that there might be possibilities for a grant from Indiana Landmarks if a church needs assistance receiving ADA Accessibility for their property.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:43pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janet Brinkworth