Executive Council Meeting Minutes - APPROVED
March 28, 2026
Waycross Camp & Conference Center

The minutes are taken from the Zoom summary of the meeting.

Members in Attendance: The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Canon Brendan O'Sullivan-Hale, The Rev. Canon Giulianna Cappelletti Gray, Mr. Todd Relue, Dr. Laurel Cornell, Ms. Louise Boling, Mr. Steve Lawson, The Rev. Adam Pierce, The Rev. C. Davies Reed, Ms. Natalie Rodriguez, The Rev. Spencer Ruark, The Rev. Allen Rutherford, The Rev. Jim Said, Canon Mariann Scott, Mr. Mike Staubitz, The Rev. Karen Sullivan

Members in Attendance via Zoom: The Rev. Jennifer Oldstone-Moore, Mr. Greg Seamon

Members in Absence: The Rev. Dr. Jason Haddox**,** Ms. Connie Betts, Ms. Yvonne Oliger Mr. Benjamin Sapp,

Guests: Ms. Sara Gunter, Waycross Camp & Conference Center; Charles Philip and Careth Flash, St. Phillip's

Call to Order
The meeting began with opening devotions, including a reading from 1 Timothy and a prayer focusing on global concerns.

Organizing for Business
Canon Giulianna reviewed the Diocesan mission and Executive Council norms

Minutes
The minutes were approved with corrections.

Waycross Update
Sara Gunter gave a detailed presentation Waycross's recent $2.37 million grant approval for capital improvements, including expanding camp capacity and improving facilities. The funds will be used to rebuild cabins, add plumbing, construct a new cottage, replace the pool, and build a bridge to White Oak Trail. Brendan also mentioned that Phase 1 and 2 funds are being used for roof replacements and other improvements, and that new mission, vision, and value statements are being developed. The business experienced some cancellations in March, including a $10,000 and $30,000 loss, but registration for summer camp is going well. The board has set an $80,000 fundraising target, with Perri Black chairing the fundraising committee.

Mission Strategy Items
The council discussed a proposal for a combined rector and campus ministry position at St. Philip's, Indianapolis, which would serve both the congregation and students attending the downtown Indianapolis universities. Brendan presented a proposal to collaboratively create a full-time position at St. Philip's that would combine pastoral responsibilities with campus ministry work, particularly serving Purdue University students. The position of Rector and Ministry Developer would involve managing real estate development opportunities around the church and maintaining St. Philip's role as an anchor institution in the historic Black community of Indiana Avenue. The Executive Council discussed the proposal, with members emphasizing the need for a vibrant leader who could connect with both students and the community's historical significance. The council noted that while the position would involve both parish rector and campus chaplain

duties, it would not be a strict 50-50 split, with the specific balance to be determined through the detailed ministry description and letters of agreement. The diocese would provide funding through the Congregational Development Budget to provide additional necessary financial support for this full-time position. St. Philip's plans to hire supply clergy during the interim period before finding a permanent rector. Lay leaders Careth Flash and Charles Richardson from St. Philip's were present for the meeting and spoke to the plan and spoke favorably about the potential arrangement. Mr. Charles explained the vestry's approach to managing clergy responsibilities and scheduling, emphasizing the need to respect supply clergy while maintaining consistency. Brendan discussed the potential for combining campus ministry and property redevelopment roles in the permanent position, noting that this unique combination aligns with current church-wide initiatives and could attract specific types of clergy. The discussion also covered revenue-generating opportunities for the church property, including potential partnerships with Purdue and a high school, though these plans are still in early stages and require building code compliance for the high school partnership. The group discussed a proposed resolution to commit diocesan funds to support a full-time rector and mission developer position at St. Philip's over five years, with the diocese contributing approximately $50,000 annually while St. Philip's matches half the cost. **The resolution was approved**.

The council received updates on St. Paul's Jeffersonville, where Rev. Allan Wallace is now serving as priest in charge, in addition to his position as rector at St. Paul's, New Albany.

Diocesan Leadership Day, April 18

The council reviewed plans for the upcoming Diocesan Leadership Day on April 18th, which will combine neighborhood meetings with workshops. The council discussed concerns about meeting times, with the suggestion that meetings should have clearly defined start and end times, particularly for those traveling long distances. Brendan presented a list of six workshops planned for Leadership Day, including topics on faith response, worship planning, and clergy transitions. The group also discussed the possibility of adding a workshop on responding to Christian nationalism, with suggestions to either record existing workshops or offer a luncheon discussion. Finally, the conversation touched on the need for better support and clarity around neighborhood conveners, with suggestions for creating a support group to help empower and guide them.

Constitution and Canon Team Update

The Rev. Allen Rutherford presented the timeline and process for revising the constitution and canons, with a target draft date of July 18th for review by the Executive Council and Standing Committee. The group discussed the transition period where both old and new constitutional structures would exist simultaneously, and noted that some language and processes are being adapted from the Diocese of Northern Indiana to improve functionality.

Bishop & Staff Updates

Bishop Jennifer shared updates about diocesan activities and her recent attendance at the Archbishop of Canterbury's installation service, where she represented the Episcopal Church and met with bishops from around the Anglican Communion. She highlighted the significance of the Anglican Communion's role in global Christianity alongside the Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches.

Canon Brendan provided updates on upcoming events, including Pride planning for June 13th and the announcement of Kim Christopher's retirement on September 30th.

Financial Reports

Canon Brendan indicated that expenses are on target while revenue is slightly behind due to delayed apportionment payments from congregations, though this is normal for the early year period.

He also announced that a public phase of the diocese's capital campaign will launch on September 12th, with an event planned during a second council meeting that will include both essential business and a celebration. He also discussed the 2025 financial results. The operating income statement showed a loss of $400,000 for the year, with excess expenditures to support Waycross being the largest factor. He noted that from a GAAP perspective the gains in the investment portfolio more than offset the operating loss, so as an organization the diocese will show a surplus for the year when its financial statements are released after the audit. He also reminded council of his practice of keeping funds invested as long as possible. By authorizing the extra support for Waycross, Council has authorized equivalent draws from the Unrestricted Fund. However, as long as the checking account is healthy enough, we allow the funds to remain invested.

The Treasurer's report was received with gratitude from Dr. Laurel Cornell.

Old Business

Collaborative Work and Relationship Building the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Indiana –The council received updates from Bishop Sparks about recent discussions at the House of Bishops meeting regarding theological education and structural changes within the Episcopal Church. Finally, they prepared to meet with the Diocesan Council of Northern Indiana to discuss further collaboration between the two dioceses.

Diocesan Staff Size vs. the Size of our Diocese- Canon Brendan announced plans to hire a full-time Missioner for Formation position, which will be posted the week after Easter to support various faith formation initiatives, including work with Jolene Johnston, Heather Campbell, and Peter Gray. The position is funded in part by grants from The Lilly Endowment and will help with curriculum development based on research conducted by Brian Steensland.

New Business

The group reviewed upcoming events and initiatives, including an Episcopal Parish Network meeting and a webinar about supporting endowments, which had 75 sign-ups.

The conversation ended with a reminder of upcoming budget conversations and the next meeting scheduled for May 30th.

Adjourn