Executive Council Meeting Minutes – APPROVED
May 30, 2026
10:00am – 12:30pm ET/9:00am –11:30 pm CT
Zoom Only

Members Present:
The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Canon Brendan O'Sullivan-Hale, The Rev. Canon Giulianna Cappelletti Gray, Dr. Laurel Cornell, The Rev. C. Davies Reed, Ms. Natalie Rodriguez, The Rev. Dr. Jason Haddox**,** The Rev. Karen Sullivan, The Rev. Allen Rutherford, Ms. Yvonne Oliger, The Rev. Adam Pierce, Rev. Spencer Ruark, Ms. Louise Boling, Mr. Todd Relue, Mr. Steve Lawson, Mr. Mike Staubitz, Ms. Connie Betts

Members Absent:
The Rev. Jennifer Oldstone-Moore, The Rev. Jim Said, Mr. Benjamin Sapp, Canon Mariann Scott, Mr. Greg Seamon

Standing Committee Members Present:
The Rev. Holly Rankin Zaher, Mr. George Eastman, Rev. Monique Ellison, Mr. Greg McClure, Rev. Bradley Pace

Investment and Finance Members Present: Brian Dunnivant, The Rev. Mary Slenski, Norm Callahan, Ben Sternke

The meeting was called to order by Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows by leading the group in prayer.

Connie Betts completed the roll call.

The Rev. Canon Giulianna Cappelletti-Gray organized the group for business by reviewing the Diocesan mission and the Executive Council norms

Special Presentation and Welcome to Joint Session
Bishop Jennifer welcomed the Members of the Standing Committee, Investment & Finance Committee, and Personnel Policy Compensation Committee. The goal of the joint session was to provide information to all groups with maximum transparency and to ensure that all committees have access to the same information, questions, and discussions related to diocesan health insurance.

Canon Brendan O'Sullivan-Hale shared a history of the diocese's offering of medical benefits for clergy, beginning in1953. He explained what benefits are currently offered and how they are being used. He explained the impact on both diocesan and congregational budgets. A robust discussion with questions from members took place. While no action is currently planned, members of all committees are asked to prayerfully consider how we might improve meeting these needs in the future.

The joint session was concluded at 11:41a.m. The Executive Council took a ten-minute break before reconvening.

Regular Session Business Continues for Remainder of Executive Council Meeting

Minutes
Connie Betts presented the minutes for the March 28, 2026 meeting. She explained that she was not present at the meeting, so the minutes were written based on the Zoom summary. She is seeking further review by those who were in attendance. Bishop Jennifer instructed the committee to consider changes and approve this document at the next meeting

Constitution and Canons Team Update
The Rev. Allen Rutherford noted that the committee made great progress and expressed his gratitude for the members. They have worked on an introduction and changes to constitution and canons. The hope is to present the completed document at the July 18th meeting. He described a timeline that will be followed with the goal to present the final document at the next convention in November.

2027 Budget Planning
Canon Brendan noted that the Rev. Mary Slenski will serve as the interim Chair of the Budget Formation Committee. They will meet soon and expect to have a draft budget in time for the July 18th meeting.

Bishop & Staff Updates
Bishop Jennifer

- Bishop Jennifer shared updates to her activities.
- We are still in the quiet phase of the Capital Campaign. She expressed gratitude for early contributions. The public launch will take place on September 12th following the scheduled Executive Council meeting.

Canon Giulianna

- Canon Giulanna gave an update on the Missioner for Formation search. The Missioner for Formation will oversee the formation that we offer across a range of membership.
- College of Congregational Development has about 9 more openings.
- Preparations are being made for Kim Christopher's retirement. Kelly Nickson will take over Convention preparation.

Canon Brendan

- Jack Chamberlain is coordinating Pride activities this year.
- He is doing more preaching lately.
- The lay preacher training is going well and many are becoming licensed.

Financial Reports
Canon Brendan noted that the 2025 audit was completed. It will be presented in either July or September. The Investments and Finance Committee is giving consideration to changing its banking partner.

Dr. Laurel Cornell presented the Treasurer's report. The Rev. C. Davies Reed noted an error and offered the correct information. The Rev. Allen Rutherford moved to accept the report and Karen Sullivan seconded. Motion approved.

Leadership and Diocesan Updates
Executive Council Members shared news from their congregations.

New Business

Mr. Mike Staubitz suggested we begin our next Zoom meeting at 9:00 instead of 10. After a brief survey the committee agreed to begin the meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 18.
Bishop Jennifer asked the committee to please share the September 12 date in local newsletters and encourage everyone to come.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:41.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Betts
Secretary of the Diocese
Secretary to the Executive Council

2026 Executive Council Meeting Dates:

- Sept 12 *(RSVP by Aug 28) – Waycross*

Joint Leadership Retreat with Standing Committee and Neighborhood Conveners:

- December 11 – 12 – Waycross