

# Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of California

## Minutes

January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Present: The Rev. David Ota (President), Dr. Bob Birss (Secretary), Ms. Peggy Greene, the Rev. Bruce Smith, the Rev. Sue Thompson, Mr. Chris Butler, The Rev. Nina Pickerrell

Absent: Dr. Ron Johnson

Guests: Bishop Marc Andrus, Canon Michael Barlowe

The meeting was called to order at 1 :07 PM by President Ota. Rev. Pickerrell gathered the Committee with a reading from Julian of Norwich.

Members participated in Personal Check-in.

MSCU (Rev. Thompson, Ms. Greene) approval of the minutes of the December 7th meeting.

### Reports:

- Dr. Birss reported on the December Executive Council meeting. He mentioned the "Mission Effectiveness" program reported on in the November Executive Council minutes. Rev. Thompson reported on her experience with the program.
- Mr. Butler reported on the Commission on Ministry, noting that the Commission did not meet in November. The Standing Committee voted unanimously to invite Mr. Justin Cannon for a 15-minute re-interview at the February Standing Committee meeting.
- Rev Ota reported that the Grace Cathedral Board did not meet in November.
- Rev. Thompson reported on the Committee on Governance, noting that Committee will meet on December 21<sup>st</sup> to review the past diocesan convention. There is consensus that there is need for a group whose stated purpose is to plan the convention. Rev. Thompson will meet with Chairman Peter Jensen to get a statement from the Committee on Governance calling for such a group.
- Rev. Pickerrell reported that the Committee on Diocesan Institutions will start meeting with the institutions. Rev. Thompson requested Rev. Pickerrell pass on to us the names of people in charge of institutions for the purposes of the Nominating Committee.
- Rev. Smith reported on the Committee on the Bishop's Compensation, noting that the Committee will meet again on January 12th.
- Mr. Butler reported on the Scholarship Committee. Rev. Ota asked Mr. Butler to write up his analysis of the fund situation.
- Episcopal Elections: The Standing Committee unanimously gave their consent to the election of
  - The Rev. Dr. R. William Franklin as Bishop of Western New York.

• The Rev. Martin S. Field as Bishop of West Missouri.

- Rev. Thompson reported on Nominating Committee, noting that she will meet with Ms. Melissa Ridlon (liaison from Executive Council) next week to get things started.

There was discussion of the Committees that need suggested nominees for appointment by the Bishop. Suggestion of appropriate nominations were made for the following committees:

- Appointments
- Admissions
- Credentials
- Elections
- Dispatch of Business, and
- Canons.

[Bishop Andrus and Canon Barlowe joined the meeting.]

#### Bishop's Time:

The Bishop reported on St. Peter's, San Francisco, noting that there's a new tenor of the relationship and that it continues to be quite good.

Canon Barlowe spoke on congregational development and redevelopment. He referred to the article in the current Vestry Papers (<http://www.ecfvp.org/vestrvpapers/healthy-practices/the-end-to-business-as-usual>) on the ways vestries need to change. He discussed the work the diocese has done at no longer looking at ourselves as the center of universe and the need to look outside ourselves.

Rev. Ota talked of the desire for stories of positive congregational development.

Canon Barlowe also spoke of the "Fresh Start Initiative"--a program for clergy in transition.

Canon Barlowe also spoke of the "Ministry Developers", which now number about 100. The hope is for 150 participants helping congregations with stewardship, congregational development, conflict management, and mutual ministry reviews (the first mutual ministry review after new clergy arrive is led by Canon Barlowe or Ms. Julia McCray-Goldsmith) Rev. Ota said information about this program should be on the diocesan web site and communicated more widely. Training of the developers is done by Canon Barlowe and Ms. Julia McCray-Goldsmith.

Canon Barlowe discussed the "Mission Effectiveness" program, whose purpose is transform the adversarial situation of the past into something more collaborative. The program supports "participant observers" and involves dialogue with congregational leaders. The goal is to finish working with all missions by end of 2011 and then invite parishes into the program. The program is intended to be diagnostic as well as information gathering; the hope is for lots more information about congregations to be able to do more and better strategic planning. The Bishop said we "want to get ahead of the curve".

Rev. Thompson said she is not sure congregations are ready to take on the work we're asking them to do.

Canon Barlowe said we need to look at leadership across congregational boundaries.

The committees the Bishop needs to appoint and potential appointments were discussed:

- Appointments
- Admissions
- Credentials
- Elections
- Dispatch of Business, and
- Canons.

The need for terms for members--the canons don't currently define terms--was discussed.

The Bishop said the consistency of our canons needs looking at.

The Bishop noted that some members of the assessments task force have stepped down and that the task force needs better geographic and order representation and that more representatives from deaneries were obtained. Mr. Shelton Ensley is chair. The committee is receiving raw data gathered at convention. The work needs to be done by February in order for recommendations to go to the Department of Finance by April.

Mr. Forsyth and Mr. McCaskill are creating a narrative budget, which will go out next week to congregations together with questions; follow up will occur. The proposed new formula as well as the existing formula will be presented. The task force will take their work to Executive Council, then to the deaneries in April (but the recommendations won't be able to go into effect until next year, as they have to be to the Finance Committee by April).

[The Bishop and Canon Barlowe left the meeting.]

Close of meeting:

Rev. Thompson closed the meeting with prayer.

President Ota adjourned the meeting at 5:34 PM.

Next meeting: February 1, 2010, 1 :00 PM, Grace Cathedral Chapter Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Bob Birss,

Secretary

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