

Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of California

Minutes

Meeting April 5, 2011

Present: The Rev. David Ota (*president*), Dr. Ron Johnson (*vice president, secretary pro tem*), Ms. Peggy Greene, the Rev. Bruce Smith, the Rev. Nina Pickerrell

Absent: the Rev. Sue Thompson

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by the president the Rev. David Ota who also gathered us in prayer.

Standing Committee president announced the resignation of Standing Committee secretary Dr. Bob Birss and made known that Dr. Johnson was willing to act as secretary for the meeting. With the unanimous consent of members present, Dr. Ron Johnson was appointed secretary *pro tem*.

Members participated in personal check-in.

Minutes

MSCU (Ms. Peggy Greene, Mr. Chris Butler) to approve amended minutes of January 4, 2011.

MSCU (Ms. Peggy Greene, the Rev. Bruce Smith) to approve minutes of February 1, 2011

MSCU (Mr. Chris Butler, Ms. Peggy Greene) to approve minutes of March 1, 2011

Standing Committee Approvals

MSCU (Peggy Greene, the Rev. Nina Pickerrell): to approve the advancement of Ms. Liz Erringer Sims to **candidacy** for ordination to the vocational diaconate.

MSCU (Chris Butler, the Rev. Bruce Smith): to certify that Mr. Justin Cannon met the canonical requirements for **ordination** to the transitional diaconate.

Committees

Executive Council

The Rev. Bruce Smith reported on Council proceedings that included information and updates by the bishop, announcement of mutual ministry reviews by canon Michael Barlowe, youth ministry update by Julia McCray-Goldsmith, and Jim Forsyth's turning over some of his controller's duties.

Commission on Ministry

Chris Butler reported that at the recent vocations conference, one nominee was not admitted to postulancy and two were admitted as conditional postulants.

Grace Cathedral Board of Trustees

The Rev. David Ota had no formal report except that the Board will be on retreat April 10-11. He will use this opportunity to extend a courtesy invitation to the Cathedral Dean that the Standing Committee would welcome a visit from her.

Governance:

A written report submitted by the Rev. Sue Thompson indicated that at the previous meeting there was an exploring of canons of other dioceses regarding the process of appointment of chancellors. Continuing work will focus on how the data gathered will be collated for future reference.

Institutions:

The Rev. Nina Pickerrell reported that various agencies were being visited and that a written report will be submitted to convention. Special concerns were targeted to pre-schools and nurseries.

Scholarship

Chris Butler reported that applications for scholarships and loan remission have been circulated. Several requests have been submitted.

Episcopal Consents

The Standing Committee was asked to consent to the consecration of the Rev. George D. Young, III as Bishop of the Diocese of East Tennessee. MSCU (Peggy Greene, Dr. Ron Johnson). Members present signed the consent request to approve his consecration.

The Standing Committee was asked to give its canonical consent to the Diocese of Virginia to hold an election for a Bishop Suffragan. MSCU (Peggy Greene, Chris Butler).

The Standing Committee was asked to give its canonical consent to the Diocese of New York to hold an election for a Bishop Coadjutor. MSCU (Peggy Greene, the Rev. Bruce Smith).

Standing Committee – Executive Council Task Force

Contact will be made with Ms. Roulhac Austin to begin the subcommittee's work on guidelines for the use of proceeds from sales of sacred property.

Chancellor Appointments

The Rev. David Ota reported on his follow up of seeking information on the practices of other dioceses in the appointment of their chancellors. He will give his findings to the Committee on Governance.

Lease Proposal – Church of the Advent

The church wishes to lease a lot on church grounds to a school. Questions remain whether a building is to be constructed. More information is needed and further discussion is put on hold.

Other Business

1. MSCU (Peggy Greene, the Rev. Bruce Smith) to approve the appointments of the Rev. Melanie Donohoe and Mr. Phil Jelley to the Disciplinary Board.
2. Standing Committee members accepted the resignation of Dr. Bob Birss as Standing Committee secretary and acknowledged with gratitude the time and commitment he gave to the office. After discussion about a replacement, members agreed that the remaining members would serve in that role at meetings on a rotating basis. Chris Butler will serve in that capacity at the May meeting.
3. Diocesan canons state that between conventions, the Standing Committee may proceed to fill a vacancy on the committee. There was discussion about following up on those who were candidates at diocesan convention in October to fill Dr. Bob Birss' seat. It was moved, seconded and carried to elect Mary Vargas of Christ Church, San Francisco as a member of the Standing Committee until Diocesan Convention.

The Rev. John Kirkley, a representative from St. James' parish, and Christopher Hayes were welcomed to the meeting

St. James' Church Lease with its Preschool

Amended lease agreement with the preschool was discussed for a 10-year length. After discussion of the benefits to the parish, it was MSCU (Peggy Greene, the Rev. Bruce Smith), to approve the amended lease for 10 years.

Guests from St. James' parish were excused from the meeting

The Rev. Dana Corsello and Mr. Wylie Sheldon from St. Luke's Church were welcomed to the meeting

St. Luke's Church Proposed Lease with the St. Luke Preschool

A discussion of the relationship that exists between the parish and the preschool was focused on legal, pastoral, and space use concerns. Definitive action was put on hold while continuing advice is sought from the chancellor to ensure that in any lease signed, the parish and diocese are indemnified. St. Luke's cannot do anything until the Bishop has acted.

Guests from St. Luke's Church, and Mr. Hayes were excused from the meeting

The Rev. Jennifer Hornbeck and representatives from St. Dorothy's Rest were welcomed to the meeting

St. Dorothy's Rest Proposed Acquisition of Property

MSCU (Peggy Greene, the Rev. Nina Pickerrell) at 4:20 to adjourn and convene in executive session. MSCU (the Rev. Bruce Smith, Peggy Greene) at 4:45 to reconvene.

Guests from St. Dorothy's Rest were excused from the meeting

The Rev. Richard Schaper and Mr. Jim Forsyth were welcomed to the meeting

University Club Membership Approval for the Bishop

Benefits of membership include a more private and confidential setting to entertain guests, capability of broader reaching out possibilities in fund raising. The cost will be included in the Bishop's compensation.

MSCU (the Rev. Bruce Smith, Chris Butler) to approve the Bishop's membership in the University Club.

The Rev. Richard Schaper was excused from the meeting

Bishop's Housing and Compensation

Discussion concerning the risks of buying a home before the current residence is sold. It was also clear that the foundation under the Lyon Street house will have to have work done on it whether or not the house is sold.

MSCU (Chris Butler, the Rev. David Ota) to approve the Bishop's Compensation subcommittee to proceed with getting estimates to restore the foundation under the Bishop's residence.

MSCU (Peggy Greene, the Rev. David Ota) at 5:35 to adjourn and reconvene in executive session. MSCU (Peggy Greene, the Rev. David Ota) at 5:45 to reconvene.

Meeting Evaluation

All agreed that we were able to get everything done.

Close of Meeting

Dr. Johnson ended the meeting with a prayer
The president adjourned the meeting at 5:45 PM

Next meeting Tuesday, May 3, 2011

Respectfully submitted

Dr. Ron Johnson
Secretary *pro tem*