

The Diocese of California Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

Approved

**January 3rd, 2012
Grace Cathedral Chapter House, San Francisco**

Present: The Rt. Rev. Marc Andrus, Mr. Chris Butler, Ms. Peggy Greene, The Rev. Br. Richard Edward Helmer (secretary), Ms. AnnaMarie Hoos, The Rev. Bruce Smith (chairing), The Rev. Sue Thompson, Ms. Mary Vargas

Absent: The Rev. David Ota (on medical leave)

Also attending: Tom Ferguson (new CFO and COO), Vance Frost (Bishop's Compensation and Housing Subcommittee), Christopher Hayes (Chancellor)

1:05 pm – Meeting convened and opened with personal check-ins and prayer led by The Rev. Sue Thompson

1:45 pm – Reviewed January agenda and minutes from the December meeting

Amended Executive Council meeting report.
Added that Ron Johnson and Nina Pickerell were at the December meeting

Vargas/Hoos MSCU approved December minutes as corrected

2:00 pm – Episcopal Election Consents

Helmer/Greene MSCU The Standing Committee of the Diocese of California consents to the consecrations of The Rev. Cn. Gregory Orrin Brewer as Bishop Diocesan of the Diocese of Central Florida and The Rev. Cn. Andrew Marion Lenow Dietsche as Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of New York.

2:05 pm – Reports

Bishop's Housing – Bruce Smith led a brief discussion of the written reports from the Bishop's Compensation and Housing Subcommittee, noting that the committee is working to secure firmer estimates and is recommending that we pursue the proposed foundation and garage work, and not proceed with rear basement excavation/remodeling at this time.

The Standing Committee discussed the overall process for making future determinations on Bishop's Housing, the involvement of the subcommittee, and the Executive Council. Bruce Smith will continue conversations with the subcommittee, president of Executive Council, and the Bishop to further clarify this process.

Commission on Ministry – Mr. Chris Butler

Robyn Arnold is leaving her position as Vocations Person. Melissa Ridlon is temporary replacement.

Richard Helmer will make a list of canons applicable to Standing Committee responsibilities and transmit them to the Standing Committee for reference.

2:30 – Brief Recess

2:40 – Discussions on 2006 Lyon Street

Bishop Andrus, Vance Frost, Tom Ferguson, and Christopher Hayes joined the meeting.

Housing – Vance Frost presented background on the discussions regarding recommended repairs and renovations to the Bishop's Residence. The Subcommittee on Bishop's Compensation and Housing obtained bids from three contractors and, with the Standing Committee's consent, secured the advice of an architect on the potential projects. The architect has cited areas in the bids that require further elucidation, potential alternative approaches to making the garage more accessible, and potential further complexity in renovating basement space and the backyard.

The Subcommittee has thus far concluded:

- The foundation work is very much needed for safety and property value reasons
- The garage work is desirable, but requires further investigation to determine the best approach (digging out the floor or raising the ceiling)
- Renovating the rear basement and related backyard work is not desirable at this time due to its considerable cost and the work not adding appreciable value to the property.

The Subcommittee is pursuing clearer bids based on the recommendations of the architect.

The Standing Committee and the Bishop both offered their thanks to Vance Frost and the Subcommittee for a clear report.

Butler/Thompson MSCU that the Standing Committee approves the Bishop's Compensation Committee to move forward with its recommendation to replace the foundation, and enhancement of the garage to accommodate a larger vehicle, if feasible. The Standing Committee concurs with the Subcommittee not to proceed with any remodeling or improvement in the rear of the basement, due to the probable cost that the BCC does not believe will be recouped in the event of sale of the property.

Christopher Hayes, Vance Frost, and Tom Ferguson departed the meeting at approximately 3:20 pm.

Mutual Ministry Review follow-up and goals

The Bishop presented to the Standing Committee proposed goals for the coming year and a set of summary statistics summarizing how the Bishop's time is spent.

Diocesan Website

The Bishop presented to the Standing Committee a preview of the new diocesan website, which will divide the in-depth news page from a more general cover/entry page for the Diocese. Francesca Pera is working with a consultant and the Bishop on the final version of the sites. The hope is to have it launched by the end of January.

be::community Webinars and Congregational Vitality/Best Practices

The Bishop shared that Sean McConnell is stepping down as Canon for Communications effective January 19th. The Bishop will start a search for a part-time interim for this position. An announcement will be made public on Thursday, January 5th.

The Bishop is working with Guava Media in Emeryville (Kelly Campbell) as production consultant.

For future webinars, presentations will be pre-recorded, and live parts will constitute introductions, check-ins, and interactive sections.

The Standing Committee and Bishop discussed approaches to expand awareness and accessibility of the webinar meetings resources.

The Bishop noted two opportunities in 2012 for congregational leaders to gather at Grace Cathedral for networking and sharing programs and resources for vitality and growth. Four or five congregations have already offered to share resources.

The Standing Committee discussed with the Bishop **Congregations in Transition/Stress**

Commission on Ministry

The Bishop noted that Melissa Ridlon is coming up to speed in consultation with Robyn Arnold to lead the COM.

4:00 – Standing Committee went into recess. Bishop Andrus departed the meeting.

4:15 – Standing Committee reconvened to complete reports

The Standing Committee will meet with Mary Jones at the February 7th to discuss her candidacy for the Diaconate.

The Cathedral Board of Trustees – the Rev. Bruce Smith

No report at this time.

Committee on Governance – the Rev. Sue Thompson

An appointment to replace David Frangquist and appoint or re-appoint a chair will need to be completed by April.

Executive Council – Mary Vargas and AnnaMarie Hoos

Noted upcoming speakers for the growth and vitality be:community webinars. The Bishop will be taking sabbatical April - August, 2013. The Executive Council reviewed assessment appeals from two diocesan congregations and granted some relief to both. Council approved St. Dorothy's Rest purchase of property. Peter Jensen announced his resignation from the Council, and there was a subsequent discussion of whether his replacement needed to be clergy or lay. They also discussed the transition of diocesan portfolio management to a new firm. Council discussed further campus ministries around the Diocese.

Working Group on Diocesan Institutions – Ms. Peggy Greene

Still no report. Peggy suggested David Ota might be a better contact for this body at this time.

No reports at the present time from **The Scholarship Committee or the Nominating Committee.**

Standing Committee Retreat – Friday, February 10th (late afternoon) through lunch, Saturday, February 11th at St. Dorothy's Rest.

Standing Committee Minutes from previous years – Richard Helmer will communicate with the Diocesan archivist to identify areas in the record that need to be completed. Bruce Smith has given Richard electronic copies of minutes dating back to at least 2007.

5:13 – Meeting Evaluation

The meeting covered a lot of ground. The conversation on the bishop's housing was helpful and clear.

5:19 – Meeting adjourned with prayer led by Sue Thompson.

Faithfully submitted,

The Rev. Br. Richard Edward Helmer
Secretary

Amended and approved by the Standing Committee on February 7th, 2012.