

**The Standing Committee of The Diocese of California  
Meeting Minutes (Approved)**

**April 3, 2012**

Grace Cathedral, Chapter Room

2:00 to 6:30 pm

2:13 Meeting was called to order. Mary Vargas led the Opening Prayer and Devotion

2:15 The Standing Committee held Personal Check-In

2:40 The Standing Committee reviewed the April agenda.

2:52 Kevin Sparrow joined the meeting who was seeking approval from the Standing Committee for candidacy to the priesthood.

Kevin Sparrow departed the meeting at 3:20.

**MSCU (Thompson/Hoos) The Standing Committee tables consideration of approving Kevin Sparrow's candidacy until completion of the background check.**

**MSCU (Ota/Vargas) The Standing Committee communicate to Kevin Sparrow thanks for coming for the interview, that we are waiting to approve his candidacy pending all of the documentation coming in, and that this message also be communicated to the president of the Commission on Ministry, Mr. Sparrow's liaison, and the Bishop.**

3:40 **MSCU (Ota/Vargas)** The Standing Committee approved the minutes from the March 6th meeting as presented.

3:45 Bishop Andrus joined the meeting. The Bishop informed the Standing Committee that all background checks are in process, and agreed that the Standing Committee hold off on approval of any candidates until their paperwork, particularly their background checks, are complete. The Bishop and Standing Committee discussed the timing of the background check if the Bishop decides to move to requiring one check rather than two (two are specified under the current process.)

4:00 Time with Bishop Andrus

The Rev. Cn. Michael Barlowe joined the meeting.

The Vestry of St. Michael and All Angels', Concord, has formally and unanimously asked to be moved from parochial to mission status. Michael Barlowe reviewed with the Standing Committee the background and conversations with the Bishop and Canon Barlowe that led to this decision. Tom Ferguson is working on financial aspects of the parish's challenges,

including a balloon payment due in October. The Diocese is exploring in conversation with the Vestry possible approaches of addressing parish debt, and also thinking about mission in light of the parochial preschool on the congregational property (serving low-income families), and long-term development of the area in Concord around the present site of the parish property.

The Bishop is also fostering conversations between St. Michael and All Angels' and other congregations in the area for collaboration in mission work. The Diocese is also looking to redeploy its current budgetary resources in that area in 2013 for mission.

**MSCU (Ota/Greene)** The Standing Committee accepts the request from St. Michael and All Angels' and recommends that the Bishop move the parish to mission status.

The Rev. Kwasi Thornell is now serving as part-time interim at St. Augustine's, Oakland. The parish is postponing searching for a new rector while the parish finishes ongoing mission exploration and self-assessment. The Bishop and Canon Barlowe are working with them through this process.

The Bishop and Canon Barlowe discussed with the Standing Committee several congregations in transition.

Leadership for the June 2nd Growth & Vitality gathering on June 2nd has assembled workshops for the day. The Diocese is providing publicity.

Tom Ferguson and Jim Forsyth are exploring the physical plant needs for developing of a diocesan office presence at St. James', Oakland.

The Bishop spoke about the House of Bishops retreat in March.

Three people have been interviewed for Director of Communications at the Diocesan Office. The position will be permanent. The hope is to name a new officer before the end of May.

The Development position description is being developed by diocesan officers. The hope is to have the position filled by July.

The Standing Committee discussed with the Bishop and Canon Barlowe the collaboration between congregations and the congregations sharing staff and leadership.

The Bishop and Canon Barlowe departed the meeting at 5:05.

5:15 Paper Review of those in process for Holy Orders

**MSCU (Hoos / Vargas)** The Standing Committee certifies and recommends the following candidates for ordination: **Eric Metoyer** and **Lois Williams** for the priesthood, and **Greg Brown** for the transitional diaconate.

The Standing Committee will review **Jon Owens'** application for ordination once all paperwork for his process is complete.

#### 5:30 Liaison Reports

A. Commission on Ministry – Mr. Chris Butler

For family reasons, Chris Butler is stepping down temporarily as liaison to the Commission on Ministry. AnnaMarie Hoos will serve at the April and June meetings. David Ota will serve at the May meeting. The Standing Committee will review the liaison situation for the COM at our June meeting.

B. Grace Cathedral Board of Trustees – The Rev. Bruce Smith

Bruce Smith attended the last Trustees meeting. Nothing to report at this time.

C. Committee on Governance – The Rev. Sue Thompson

Bruce is continuing to seek a replacement for David Frangquist on the Committee on Governance. The Standing Committee recommended one potential nominee, which Bruce will pursue.

D. Executive Council – Ms. Mary Vargas, Ms. AnnaMarie Hoos

The Executive Council approved the full amount to proceed with the work on the Bishop's residence as approved in March by the Standing Committee.

The Council discussed policy matters, congregations in transition, finances, deanery-level work of the Equipping the Beloved Community trainings and diocesan facilitation of that.

E. Working Group on Diocesan Institutions – The Rev. David Ota

- Bruce Smith has asked the Chancellor to review the reports received from Diocesan Institutions via the Working Group, to review criteria for Institutions to remain so designated, and give his opinion on how best we might proceed with each Institution.
- Chris Butler will take over as liaison.

Chris Butler departed the meeting at 5:45.

F. Scholarship Committee – Mr. Chris Butler

The Scholarship Committee has published solicitations for grant requests for scholarships and loan remission grants in both Dio CA and DioSJ, and through the School for Deacons. I have approached the bishop about opening

applications to the Monteagle CDSP funds for the diocese of NorCA, and he was in favor of the idea. I have written to Christopher Hayes to investigate the legal aspects of doing this under the Monteagle fund documents, and he is working on the matter.

The deadline for applications for Dio CA and DIoSJ is April 16.

G. Nominating Committee – The Rev. Sue Thompson

The Committee did not meet. No report.

H. Episcopal Elections – The Rev. Richard Helmer

The Standing Committee reviewed the request a consent for Texas to elect a second Bishop Suffragen.

**MSD (Greene / Thompson)** that the Standing Committee consent to the election of a Bishop Suffragen for the Diocese of Texas. The motion **did not carry** (defeated 6 to 1). A majority of the Standing Committee raised objection to consenting to this election while the Diocese of Texas does not pay its full asking to the mission and ministry of the wider Church. David Ota and Richard Helmer will draft a letter in consultation with Bruce Smith and Peggy Greene to notify the Diocese of Texas Standing Committee of the reasoning behind this decision.

I. Subcommittee on the Bishop's Compensation and Housing – Ms. Peggy Greene

The work is being scheduled.

6:00 Follow-up:

The Standing Committee reviewed draft goals for 2012 prepared based on conversations held on the Retreat. The Standing Committee agreed to discuss these further at the beginning of the May meeting.

6:35 Meeting Evaluation: positives and negatives were discussed.

6:40 Mary Vargas led a closing prayer. Meeting adjourned.

Faithfully submitted,  
The Rev. Br. Richard Edward Helmer  
Secretary

Approved by the Standing Committee at its May 1, 2012 meeting.