

**The Standing Committee of the Diocese of California
Approved Meeting Minutes**

**October 21, 2012
(Diocesan Convention)
Gresham Hall Kitchen
Grace Cathedral**

Present: The Rev. Br. Richard Edward Helmer (Secretary), Ms. AnnaMarie Hoos, The Rev. David Ota, Ms. Brenda Paulin (newly elected), The Rev. Sue Thompson

Also present: Ms. Peggy Greene, The Rev. Bruce Smith (outgoing Class of 2012)

Absent: Mr. Chris Butler, The Rev. Lori Walton (newly elected), Ms. Mary Vargas (President)

Standing Committee convened briefly at approximately 3:05 pm to elect officers.

MSCU (Ota / Hoos) Standing Committee elects Mary Vargas as President, Sue Thompson as Vice President, and Richard Helmer as Secretary for 2012-2013.

The Standing Committee again thanked Bruce Smith and Peggy Greene for their service.

Peggy and Bruce will join the 2013 review with the Bishop in January.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:15 pm.

November 6, 2012
Grace Cathedral Chapter Room
1:00 to 5:30 pm

Present: Mr. Chris Butler, The Rev. Br. Richard Edward Helmer (Secretary), Ms. AnnaMarie Hoos, The Rev. David Ota, Ms. Brenda Paulin, The Rev. Sue Thompson (Vice President), Ms. Mary Vargas (President), The Rev. Lori Walton

1:07 Opening Prayer and Devotions were led by Sue Thompson.

1:10 Mary Vargas led introduction of new members and personal check-in.

1:43 Standing Committee reviewed November agenda and October minutes submitted for approval.

MSCU (Ota / Hoos) Standing Committee approves the minutes from the October 2 meeting without amendment.

1:54 Joseph Delgado, who is seeking reception from the Roman Catholic priesthood to Holy Orders in The Episcopal Church, joined the meeting for conversation with the Standing Committee.

2:15 **MSCU** (Helmer / Ota) The Standing Committee certifies the suitability of Joseph Delgado to be received as a priest in The Episcopal Church.

Standing Committee discussed its regular meeting times and schedule for 2012-2013:

The 2012-2013 Standing Committee Meeting Schedule

All meetings are from 1:00 - 5:30 pm in the Chapter Room of Grace Cathedral unless otherwise noted:

Tuesday, November 6

Tuesday, December 4

Tuesday, December 18 - 5-8 pm (Grace Cathedral) - Joint meeting with the Executive Council

Tuesday, January 8, 2013

Standing Committee Retreat at St. Dorothy's Rest

Friday, January 11 - Saturday, January 12 (3 pm - 3 pm)

Tuesday, February 5

Tuesday, March 5

Tuesday, April 9

Tuesday, May 7

Tuesday, June 4

July - No Meeting

Tuesday, August 6

Tuesday, September 3

Tuesday, October 1

(Tuesday, November 5) *date and time tentative, pending scheduling needs of new members*

Standing Committee Retreat at St. Dorothy's Rest

Friday, November 8 - Saturday, November 9 (3 pm - 3 pm)

To help build the 2013-2014 Standing Committee, there was general agreement to hold the following retreat in November, as soon after Diocesan Convention and the election of the new members as possible.

Richard Helmer will reserve retreat space and circulate the 2012-2013 meeting schedule with the Standing Committee, including schedule for bringing snacks and leading devotions.

Meeting with the Bishop

2:30 Standing Committee held open discussion in preparation for meeting with the Bishop.

3:10 Bishop Andrus joined the meeting

- Trinity and St. Peter's

Helen Harwood is favoring their plan in building \$3.5 million to retrofit the Trinity building. Trinity and St. Peter's are continuing to worship and work together jointly in mission.

- St. James', Oakland

St. James met on Sunday, November 4th, but they did not have a sufficient number of canonically certified communicants in good standing present to elect a new vestry. The Bishop is visiting St. James' on Sunday, November 11th, and Sam Leite, priest in charge, is planning to lead a congregational meeting regarding moving the parish to mission status.

- Good Shepherd, Berkeley

The Bishop updated the Standing Committee on the fire damage on October 20th at Good Shepherd, including the loss of the sacristy and a large portion of the sanctuary and nave.

The tower and parish house remain intact. Several clergy from across the diocese joined the bishop and the choir from Holy Trinity, Richmond, and neighbors to be with the congregation as they met for worship on Sunday, October 21st.

They will continue meeting in the parish hall for worship. The Diocese is assisting in working with Church Insurance to possibly make the parish hall more workable long-term space going forward as rebuilding the main building gets under way.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

- Contra Costa Churches

The Standing Committee and Bishop discussed St. John's, Clayton's request to be moved to mission status.

- Diocesan Convention

The Friday night Eucharist was attended by 350 people this year, up from around 100 in previous years.

- Bishop's Sabbatical

The Bishop will begin his sabbatical on April 1. The Bishop will start teaching at VTS on April 8th on Ecology and Christianity through the last quarter of the church year. He will then conduct research for his dissertation in New York in June. Planning for July is still under way. He will return to the diocese in May to lead a retreat in Richmond, and in June for the Episcopal Asiamerican Ministries 40th anniversary celebration at Grace Cathedral. Bishop Swing will be covering ordinations in June, Bishop Charles will be conducting

confirmations at Grace, and Bishop Bob Thorton will be doing an area confirmation at St. Stephen's, Belvedere, in April.

- Bishop's Housing Equity Allowance

The Bishop and Standing Committee discussed structuring the Bishop's Housing Equity allowance to maximize its tax-deferred status. This will not affect the overall compensation of the Bishop or the diocesan budget.

- The Bishop and Standing Committee discussed Goals for 2012 & 2013 and the planned January ministry review.

- Committee on Governance

The Bishop and the Standing Committee discussed the role of the Committee on Governance. Bishop Andrus proposed a review of Diocesan governance similar to accreditation reviews that academic institutions undertake. The Standing Committee discussed the proposal with him and ways to undertake it collaboratively.

- Conversation with the Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese

The Bishop and the Archbishop of San Francisco are meeting in November directly to discuss ways of moving forward together on shared social justice issues, such as immigration, etc.

5:10 Bishop Andrus departed the meeting.

MSC (Helmer / Hoos) The Standing Committee agrees to move St. John's, Clayton, to mission status in agreement with the Vestry and Bishop's request.

Sue Thompson and Mary Vargas abstained from voting on this motion, since they are presently consulting the with St. John's in the Contra Costa shared ministry development.

MSCU (Helmer / Butler) The Standing Committee amends Bishop Andrus' current employment agreement in order that \$7,500 of the Bishop's annual \$30,000 equity allowance be contributed directly to the Bishop's RSVP plan with the Church Pension Group as an employer contribution; and directs the diocesan treasurer and payroll office to implement this change immediately.

5:30 Standing Committee reviewed liaison reports

- Commission on Ministry – Mary Vargas (Nothing additional to report)
- Grace Cathedral Board of Trustees – Mary Vargas
(No report at this time)
- Committee on Governance – The Rev. Sue Thompson (written report received)
- Working Group on Diocesan Institutions Report – Mr. Chris Butler

Christopher Hayes and Tom Ferguson are still working on a report.

- Scholarship Committee – Mr. Chris Butler
MSCU (Ota / Thompson) approved a scholarship of \$2,500 from the Eastman Fund for a seminarian completing multicultural work through her seminary.
- Nominating Committee – The Rev. Sue Thompson (No report at this time)
- Episcopal Elections – The Rev. Richard Helmer
Consent for the consecration of the Bishop of Lexington
MSCU (Helmer / Hoos) The Standing Committee of the Diocese of California consents to the consecration of William Douglas Hahn as Bishop of Lexington.
- Subcommittee on the Bishop's Compensation
Brenda Paulin reported that the work on 2006 Lyon is continuing. Next meeting is November 13th, and an update is expected at that time. Hope is that the project remains within budget and will be finished by the end of November.
- Executive Council - Ms. AnnaMarie Hoos reported:
Subcommittee is working on a new voting system for Convention.
Wants to work on drawing the youth presence more actively into the work of convention.
Church vitality fundraising is a subject of discussion.
Receiving nominees for Officers.

5:50 Liaison and Ex Officio appointments

- Commission on Ministry -- Lori Walton
- Committee on Governance -- David Ota
- Executive Council -- Mary Vargas appointed AnnaMarie Hoos
- Scholarship Committee -- Chris Butler
- Nominating Committee -- David Ota
- Episcopal Elections -- Richard Edward Helmer
- Subcommittee on the Bishop's Compensation and Housing (2 appointments) -- Brenda Paulin and Sue Thompson

5:55 Standing Committee held a brief round table discussion facilitated by Mary Vargas, and also reviewed action items stemming from the meeting.

6:05 Sue Thompson led closing prayers.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:10 pm.

Minutes amended and approved at the December 4, 2012, Standing Committee meeting.

Faithfully submitted,

The Rev. Br. Richard Edward Helmer n/BSG
Secretary