

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPORT 2017

I begin by reminding you what the Executive Council is, as this may still be a mystery to some of you, but I hope you will go beyond the following paragraph:

Executive Council shares primary responsibility for planning and directing the temporal affairs of the diocese along with the Standing Committee and the bishop. Council acts for the diocesan convention between its annual meetings to implement the programs, policies and budgets convention approved. Additionally, Council serves as the board of directors of the diocesan corporation, exercising all the fiduciary responsibilities and powers of such a board under California law governing religious corporations. In consultation with the Department of Finance and the treasurer, Council oversees the management of the operating fund and of investments (including real estate), and develops prudent policies and procedures governing the use of diocesan funds. The bishop is president of Council while the other members are elected to staggered three-year terms: two from each deanery, and six at large by the Convention. The bishop has the right to appoint up to six members, and the chancellor, treasurer, and secretary of the convention are *ex officio* members. Council officers are chair, vice chair, and secretary, who are elected by Council from among its elected members.

But just as important as its temporal duties is how the Council takes a lead in interacting with the diocese and the world. Last year, Council began ending each meeting in determining what three or so “talking points” could be derived from that meeting to provide its members with a common message to take back to their congregations and deaneries. This practice has continued through this year, and I expect that its life will continue. This year, Council also began, not only to “talk,” but to “listen” to the deaneries. Agenda space was provided to allow deanery representatives to share the joys and challenges of ministry throughout the diocese. I hope that this deanery time will mature in coming years to allow Council to listen before determining programs, policies and budgets.

In response to current federal policy regarding immigration, the bishop introduced Council to the book, *At Home in Exile*, and invited us to read this book as part of our individual and collective spiritual journey. The Council’s March meeting was held at St. James’, Oakland, followed by a presentation by the author, Russell Jeung, and attended by about 60 persons from throughout the diocese; the interaction with the author was mesmerizing. This event inspired Council members to form a Sanctuary Task Force to help explore the direction the Diocese, and its congregations, could take in providing spiritual and material support to those who are impacted by misguided

federal policy. Correspondingly, two resolutions have been proposed for consideration by Convention regarding the issue of "Becoming a Sanctuary."

It's been a pleasure to serve on Executive Council the past three years as a representative from Southern Alameda Deanery; I hope to return. And I am appreciative of the support I've received from Council members this past year as I've served as chair.

Richard Patenaude