MINUTES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE DIOCESE OF CALIFORNIA
2020 November 12, 10 A.M. ONLINE USING “ZOOM”

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89810949795?pwd=WURpazlTMHBNU3pSQkc3THl0aVNvQT09
Meeting ID: 898 1094 9795
Passcode: 966784
One tap mobile: +16699009128

10:03AM CALL TO ORDER & OPENING PRAYER
Present: Robyn Amos, Todd Bryant, Andrew Han, Noreen Huey, Pam Jester, Deb White, Mauricio Wilson, Excused: Albe Larsen
● Opening Prayer – Andrew Han
● Check-in and welcome of new Standing Committee members

10:20 AM APPROVAL OF MINUTES
● October 8, 2020 Regular Meeting
● October 17, 2020 “Kitchen Cabinet” Meeting (during Convention)

Motion to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2020 and October 17, 2020
Moved by Noreen  Seconded by Pam
Motion carried. Correction to spelling of Larsen noted.

10:21 AM LIAISON REPORTS
● Commission on Ministry - no report
● Diocesan Institutions - no report, see consent below
● Committee on Governance - no report
● Episcopal Elections - no report, see consent below
● Executive Council - no report
● Nominating Committee - no report
● Grace Cathedral Board of Trustees -no report
● Executive Compensation -no report

10:23 AM EPISCOPAL ELECTIONS
Consent to the election of The Rev. Canon Paul-Gordon Chandler, Bishop Diocesan, Diocese of Wyoming

Motion to consent to the election of The Rev. Canon Paul-Gordon Chandler, Bishop Diocesan, Diocese of Wyoming
Moved by Andrew.  Seconded by Mauricio.
Motion carried.

10:34 AM DIOCESAN INSTITUTIONS
Approval of four Board members to the Episcopal Impact Fund

Some discussion regarding the four candidates and also the process of consent and raising concerns/questions in general.

Motion to consent to the four Board members of the Episcopal Impact Fund.
Moved by Pam. Seconded by Andrew. Motion carried.

Approved: December 15, 2020
10:39 AM  GOVERNANCE

Mortgage refinance of the Rectory of St. Clare’s Pleasanton
Deb gave some background on this item. St Clare’s Vestry, SC, EC and Bishop must all consent

Motion to delay vote on this to have more background and get a greater understanding, time for due diligence, made by Todd.  Seconded by Noreen.  Motion Carried.

Some discussion regarding process, timeframe for submission. And allowing enough time for understanding.

10:48 AM  COMMUNICATIONS

Updating communications preferences of members of the Standing Committee and discussion regarding SC meeting schedule for 2020-2021.
Noreen agreed to send out a doodle poll regarding meeting times for 2021.

11:00 AM  TIME WITH THE BISHOP

Bishop Marc joined us and said that he was looking forward to joining us for retreat. Bishop Marc shared about officers meeting to discuss agenda items and expressed that for this meeting would like to focus on camp and conference centers and also talked about the SC role as council of advice to the Bishop.

Three camp and conference centers: Bishop’s Ranch, St. Dorothy’s Rest, St. Columba’s. Bishop Marc noted that not many dioceses have such centers, or certainly not as many as three. The corporation sole includes the Bishop and Executive Council as Diocesan Corporation – which oversees real property and financial assets of the Diocese. Land on which camp buildings are established. Final ownership is diocese (church property also). St. Columba’s is now a mission, having run a retreat center there for many decades. In a new way they can be part of our camp and conference offerings. St. Dorothy’s has always had programs supporting vulnerable participants. Bishop’s Ranch is the most known of the three and therefore has a wider circle of donors and financing is more secure, and experiences high participation in camps and retreats. St. Columba’s is more adult focused and is self-catering. St. Dorothy’s doesn’t have a strong a circle of donors, historically the Farmer family which ran it, and gave support in addition to camp fees. This is not sustainable. The circle has not widened so it is a fragile economic system. 46% of the annual income for St. Columba’s is dependent upon conferences. The church has grown and Sunday attendance is up to 50-80 average, so a bit less dependent on retreat fees.

With the pandemic, all three centers are being impacted, but St. Dorothy’s in particular does not have the reserves to draw on.

There is a new openness to integrating the three centers, boards willing to cooperate. Bishop Marc has the ability to appoint a number of board members – ideally liaisons who can be on the St. Dorothy’s board and play a liaison role to diocese & Bishop. Aidan Jobe Sea, Robyn Amos and Liz Tichenor have been asked to serve in this capacity. There is an important need for greater communication. How do we solve their particular needs and how would the structure work. Both boards and Bishop’s Committee will remain individual entities, a coordinating council would oversee and collaborate with the three on administration and program. Bishop’s Ranch board has
proposed making Aaron Wright the Executive Director with a 5-year contract, with a strategic planning process and potential toward Executive Director for the Ranch and St. Dorothy’s. One office to do reservations for all three entities. Development Director function integrated between all Camp and Conference centers.

SC had some discussion & suggestions for Bishop Marc including the suggestion that Diocesan Institutions liaisons from SC might be part of that integrated process. Strategic planning for all three in parallel to each other will be critical. Bishop Marc shared some of the ideas that have been raised. The need to pivot and let go of some our past programming, because we always did it.

Recognition that God is not creating any more real estate, we need to hold on to what we can. In a liminal space right now, reorienting our vision to opportunity lying ahead. Becoming more racially aware, so that offerings are more usable by diverse groups. All three spaces have made efforts, but done them differently. This is an important opportunity. Will be an ongoing conversation, but how else can SC play a role. In parallel, the integration and feedback loops throughout. SC should have a voice in this, what would it look like? Perhaps SC could host that integrative conversation.

Ordinations: Vocations conference retreat just happened with 10 aspiring to Holy Orders. In the past, Bishop Marc would interview each one, then he would send on to Vocations conference. Most went forward, then after the vocations conference, Bishop Marc would approve for postulancy. Ordaining for the Church, not for a particular position. Caring capacity for the diocese, ordain in any given year only a number we could employ – about five per year. Now interviewing aspirants AFTER vocations conference – it’s actually a better system than before with more information to work with. Then candidacy and ordination. Bishop Marc nominates and SC confirms or does not confirm. Bishop Marc anticipates making six or so postulants.

12:00 PM  RETREAT PLANNING

Annual Retreat:
- November 13, 9am - 12:30pm, via zoom
  Join Zoom Meeting
  https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83513214067?pwd=VFVtbXNzOW5HNVhWSW9nQ1AwTmtd09
  Meeting ID: 835 1321 4067
  Passcode: 554839
  One tap mobile
  +16699009128,,83513214067
- November 13, 5 – 6:30pm Meet for fellowship
  at Albe’s home in Half Moon Bay
- November 14, 1:00 – 4:30pm, via zoom

12:05 PM  CLOSING PRAYER & ADJOURNMENT

- Dismissal by Deacon Pam.

Respectfully Submitted,
Noreen Huey

Approved: December 15, 2020