

Executive Council Minutes

August 18, 2020

Meeting held over Zoom

Attendance: Present Absent Excused

Officers:

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Marc Handley Andrus Bishop and President **P**

The Rev. Jane Stratford Chair, Class of 2020 **P**

Richard Patenaude Vice Chair, Class of 2021 **P**

Mees Tielens Secretary, Class of 2021 **P**

Class of 2020:

The Rev. Debra Low-Skinner **P**

Aidan Jobe Sea **P**

Thomas LaFrance **P**

Charles Mader **A**

Patrick Anderson **P**

Class of 2021:

Bruce Morrow **P**

Eleanor Prugh **P**

Don Miller **P**

The Rev. Merry Chan Ong **P**

Class of 2022:

Marj Leeds **P**

The Rev. Ginger Strickland **P**

Tom Matthews **P**

Anna Haight **P**

Birgit Eschmann **P**

Jon Owens **P**

Bishop's Appointees:

Robyn Amos **A**

Miguel Bustos **A**

The Rev. Liz Tichenor **P**

Ex-officio members:

The Rev. Richard Edward Helmer Secretary of the Convention **P**

Brad Barber Treasurer of the Diocese **P**

Diocesan Staff:

The Rev. Canon Abbott Bailey Canon to the Ordinary **P**

Tom Ferguson CFO **P**

Davey Gerhard Director of Development **P present until 5:53PM**

Other attendees:

Christopher Hayes, Esq. Chancellor of the Diocese **P**

Albe Larsen Standing Committee **P**

Jim Forsyth Interim CFO P

Guests:

Emily Hopkins Interim Sabbatical Task Force

The Rev. Steve Hassett Interim Sabbatical Task Force

Donna Colombo Bluebird Village Project

4:33 PM Call to Order and Opening Prayer (Bishop Marc)

4:35 PM Approval Item

- Meeting Agenda
- Minutes of June 18, 2020 meeting
 - Eleanor moves to approve the minutes. Brad seconds. The motion passes.

4:39 PM Bishop's Time

Up to date COVID guidelines can be found on the diocesan website.

Liz moves to enter executive session. Don seconds. The motion passes. Entered executive session at 4:42PM and exited at 4:46PM.

All Soul's in Berkeley has begun work on a long-held dream to transform their old apartment building into low income housing, clergy housing, and parish meeting space, thereby joining two other housing projects in the diocese.

Tom Ferguson retires at the end of the month after more than eight years as the CFO of the diocese. The search for a new CFO is underway and the bishop expresses gratitude that Jim Forsyth is willing to serve as an interim CFO.

On September 27, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry will preach via a recorded sermon during the Grace Cathedral livestream. All congregations are welcome to attend that service or incorporate the recorded sermon into their own services.

5:00 PM Key Initiatives Update Discussion item

- Interim Sabbatical Task Force report

Emily Hopkins and Steve Hassett present the interim sabbatical task force report for discussion at the meeting. These recommendations are meant to come as a resolution to convention in October. Any resulting policy would apply to all paid clergy; however, the recommended fund to be established would only cover interim clergy (estimated that one interim rector would take a sabbatical each year, thereby allowing for replenishment of the fund). Council discusses the possibility of amending the 2022 or 2023 budget, the lack of paid sabbaticals for other paid clergy such as priests in charge, and the intersection with Canon 20.

Eleanor Prugh is interested in working with the committee to bring this to convention.

- Holy Innocents update

Canon Abbott offers a brief update. Holy Innocents has put its application for parish status on hold. It is doing well financially even in the midst of COVID and wants to show that trajectory is sustainable before moving forward.

5:27 PM Financial Reports (Tom Ferguson/Brad Barber)

The financial situation of the diocese is quite good thanks to the extraordinary gifts that were received and the PPP loans the Diocese and the majority of parishes received. The first round of assessment relief can be funded and there are adequate funds to take care of the second round of assessment relief as well.

Aidan moves that the meeting enter executive session. Thomas LaFrance seconds. The motion passes. Entered executive session at 5:32PM and exited it at 5:45 PM.

5:45 PM Break

Davey Gerhard leaves the meeting at 5:53PM.

5:53 PM Matters before Council Approval Item

- Bluebird Project report

Jane hands over the chair to Richard for the duration of this item.

Donna Colombo presents the Bluebird Village project and takes questions from the council. The project is a diocesan initiative to create an inclusive mixed-income community featuring affordable rental housing and single-family homes, accompanied by a Farm Church. The project is located on approximately nine vacant acres in the city of Brentwood that is owned by the diocese.

The diocese would retain ownership over the land and lease the ground to the developer for at least fifteen years. The project is in proximity of but is not directly associated with St. Anna's; this is a diocesan mission.

The main issue before council is assessing whether it would be possible to fund the consultant for the project (around \$300K over 3 or 4 years, to be paid per deliverable; no funds have been allocated as of yet). The Finance Committee will discuss the possibility of funding the consultant at its upcoming meeting and present its recommendation at the September EC meeting, at which point the council could move to approve.

Richard hands the chair back over to Jane at 6:41 PM.

- Approval of Assessment Appeals Guidelines

https://diocal.org/sites/default/files/media/Assessment_Appeal_Guidelines.pdf

The deadline for the second round of assessment relief is on September 30th; parishes who have not applied for round one are eligible for round two. Relief is granted for one year only.

- Assessment Appeals Committee update

Bishop Marc moves to approve the recommended assessment relief as circulated prior to the meeting. Bruce seconds the motion.

Jane moves to amend the motion to specify this relief is being granted for one year only: she moves to approve assessment relief for 2020 as recommended by the committee. Birgit seconds. Council members who belong to the congregations that are seeking aid recuse themselves from voting. The motion passes.

- Approval of EC appointments to the Deaf and Disability Commission

Janet Christensen, Brandy Bartosh, Derek Czajka, Catherine Clover, and Jan Robitscher have been appointed to the Deaf and Disability Commission.

Richard Edward Helmer leaves the meeting at 6:37 PM.

Patrick Anderson leaves the meeting at 6:38 PM.

Liz Tichenor leaves the meeting at 6:41 PM.

Merry Chan Ong leaves the meeting at 6:42 PM.

~~6:51 PM Chancellor's Time~~

6:52 PM Standing Committee Report (A. Larsen)

Albe updates the council on the work of the Standing Committee.

6:53 PM Deanery Reports

6:54 Talking points

--Affordable housing projects (Bluebird Village Project/All Souls)

--Tom F.'s retirement

--Sabbatical task force progress

--Assessment appeals, including the 9/30 deadline for round 2

--Bishop Curry on September 27

6:55 PM Closing Prayer (Don Miller)

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Mees Tielens

Secretary of Executive Council

September 25, 2020