

# Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of California

## Minutes

February 1 ". 2011

Present: The Rev. David Ota (President), Dr. Ron Johnson (Vice President), Dr. Bob Birss (Secretary), Ms. Peggy Greene, the Rev. Bruce Smith, the Rev. Sue Thompson, Mr. Chris Butler, The Rev. Nina Pickerrell

Guests: Bishop Marc Andrus, Mr. Justin Cannon, Mr. John Tornquist, Mr. Vance Frost

The meeting was called to order at 1 :02 PM by President Ota. Ms. Greene gathered us with a prayer from The Book of Common Prayer and the epistle for the day, Hebrews 12: 1-4 and a meditation.

Members participated in Personal Check-in.

The consensus was that the minutes of the January meeting were overly terse. Dr. Birss was asked to flesh out the minutes.

### Reports:

Rev. Smith reported on the January Executive Council meeting. The Bishop considers teaching a "special charism" of the Bishop. Episcopal Charities has a new interim Executive Director. The Bishop desires to have Episcopal Charities "back in diohouse," meaning having their development committee integrated with the diocesan development committee. The diocese is converting to Microsoft Windows for easier outside support in order to get database and web site enhancements operational more quickly. The Executive Council minutes are not being posted. Shelton Ensley's assessment appeals "pilot" in Contra Costa County.

Mr. Butler reported on the Commission on Ministry.

Rev Ota reported on the Grace Cathedral Board. Dean Jane Shaw is listening to people. The Cathedral has the Carnivale fund raising event on March 3<sup>rd</sup> with Archbishop Desmond Tutu attending, and the New Beginnings initiative to raise money for programs for the Cathedral. The Grace Cathedral Board re-emphasized its position in relation to the Live Nation concerts at the Masonic Auditorium, and the reluctance to have the Dean spend her time on that issue. The Dean appointed to full-time status the Rev. Christine McSpadden as Canon for Cathedral Life effective February 1,2011 and the Rev. Vanessa Glass as Senior Associate Pastor effective March 1,2011. The installation of Rev. McSpadden will occur on March 1 ih.

Rev.Thompson reported on the Committee on Governance, noting that the Committee is seeking to strengthen the Committee on Dispatch of Business. The Committee on Governance is discussing terms for members. The Standing Committee needs to nominate a member of the Committee on Governance to replace the Rev. John Kirkley, who has resigned, since he is starting a new ministry as Rector of St. James, S.F.

Committee on Diocesan Institutions: No report.

Scholarship Committee: No report

Episcopal Elections: Consent was given to the election of the Rev. Reyford Ray as Bishop of the Diocese of Northern Michigan.

Nominating Committee: Rev. Thompson reported that the Nominating Committee is in violation of the canon by not having a January meeting that three deaneries have elected representatives and the three others will elect at upcoming meetings. Rev. Thompson is very positive about the committee and the process.

The Standing Committee interviewed a postulant for candidacy.

The Standing Committee heard a report on the Bishop's House from representatives from the Bishop's Compensation Committee. Mr. John Tornquist, Transfiguration, San Mateo, and Mr. Vance Frost, St. John's, Ross. Bishop Andrus joined the meeting. Mr. Tornquist and Mr. Frost provided an update of where the subcommittee is in its work. The subcommittee requested action by the Standing Committee to continue with its work on the Bishop's House.

[Mr. Tornquist & Mr. Frost departed this meeting.]

#### Bishop's Time:

The Bishop and the Standing Committee signed the Memo of Understanding and gave thanks.

[Chancellor Christopher Hayes entered the meeting.]

The Chancellor, the Standing Committee and the Bishop discussed ways the Chancellor could better support the Diocesan Convention and the pros and cons of having the appointment of the Chancellor by the Bishop approved by Diocesan Convention, Executive Councilor Standing Committee;

They also discussed the pros and cons of having a possible policy on the use of proceeds from the sale of property.

There was discussion of a possible policy on the use of proceeds from the sale of property.

The Bishop said he would be happy if Executive Council, Standing Committee, and the Bishop looked into creating such a policy.

Canon Hayes discussed designated gifts in this regard and the potential dangers of doing things without regard to the strictures of the gift.

[Chancellor Hayes departed the meeting.]

Diocesan Offices efforts to support congregational development as presented at the January meeting was discussed, with an emphasis of communicating what support is available.

The Bishop is working on appointments to the committees he's required by canon to nominate.

The Bishop reported on the celebration of new ministries at St. James, Fremont, Sei Ko Kai, Christ Church, Alameda (soon), and Transfiguration (soon?).

[Bishop Andrus departed the meeting.]

Standing Committee discussed the process by which it communicates its decisions on ordination candidates to the candidates.

MSCU (Ms. Greene, Dr. Johnson) that the Standing Committee will notify the Commission on Ministry Chair and CC the candidate's shepherd and the Vocations Officer regarding its decisions on approving postulants to move to candidacy.

MSCU (Rev. Thompson, Rev. Pickerrell) that notification should be to the Bishop and the Chair, Commission on Ministry.

[The Standing Committee went in Executive Session.]

[The Standing Committee came out of Executive Session]

Ms. Greene moved, Rev. Thompson seconded, that we approve Mr. Cannon as a candidate for holy orders: 6 ayes, 1 abstain.

Meeting Evaluation:

Rev. Thompson said that she found the conversation really excellent today and that Mr. Cannon is really working hard at improving.

Close of meeting:

Rev. Smith closed the meeting with "Night Prayer" from the New Zealand Prayer Book.

President Ota adjourned the meeting at 6: 15 PM.

Next meeting: March 1, 2010, 1 :00 PM, Grace Cathedral Chapter Room.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Bob Birss

Secretary