

# Standing Committee Minutes

**Date:** 8/2/16

**Place:** Diocesan Center, Harrisburg, PA

**Members Present:** Kate Harrigan, Barbara Hutchinson, Bruce Johnson, Patrick Pierce, Churchill Pinder, John Stevenson, Sam Ward, Linda Watkins, Sarah Weedon; Bishop Scanlon, Dan Morrow

**Call to Order:** 2:00 p.m. by Sarah Weedon

**Minutes:** Minutes of the 6/7 meeting were approved.

## **Bishop's report:**

- ⑩ **Staff:** The Bishop introduced Dan Marrow, Canon for Congregational Life and Mission. She explained the process of calling Dan and the expectations of his position. Dan gave us some information about his previous ministry, and told us that he is getting settled and is excited about the work he will be doing in our Diocese.

The Bishop explained other staff updates and changes as were sent out in a letter yesterday: Bill Graffius will be shifting to part-time. He will continue working on finance, along with a part-time CPA, and will also continue as intake officer as well as building supervisor. He has a long history with the diocese, which is very helpful.

- ⑩ Robyn Szoke-Coolidge is working to present a three-year plan focusing on continued development of the Stevenson School.
- ⑩ Significant training with staff will take place this year, starting with a retreat, and followed by four different units during the year.
- ⑩ **Audit and Budget:** The bishop met this morning with the auditor. There are no significant obstacles in the way of improving what we do in the Diocese.
- ⑩ The budget is in preparation for next year. The staff is presenting their portion of the budget. The Finance Committee is taking reports to develop a budget for presentation in September.
- ⑩ **Mutual Ministry Review:** The Bishop agreed in her contract to do an annual MMR. She has been in touch with the Rev. Sean Rowe, Bishop of Northwestern Pennsylvania, to work with someone outside the Diocese to conduct the review. A discussion about Mutual Ministry Reviews followed.
- ⑩ **Convention:** We will follow the same format as last year. Convocation meetings leading up to the Convention will be very important because that is where the meat of discussion will occur. The Theme

of the second year is “Understanding who we are as Disciples of Jesus”, and we will be using the method of personal narrative and story telling. The Convention will be at Spooky Nook.

**St. John’s Lancaster:** We were joined by The Rev. John Morris, Jen Hreben (Junior Warden), and several other officers of the parish. John gave an overview of the project, stressing the need for access and improvement to the physical plant. Barbara explained that the main focus of the Standing Committee is to assess the ability to repay the loan so it does not become a liability to the Diocese. She voiced the concern that St John's does not pay its full fair share. St John's expects increased stewardship as a result of the program. There is an expectation that pledges and gifts will be able to finance the project in order to repay the loan. The intention is to have a secondary campaign, though they have just finished the first campaign. There is also endowment that can be accessed. They are asking for a loan of \$1.7 million. Then began a discussion of how the loan will be paid. The parish states that it is growing and in solid shape, but needs to do the work of stewardship. Over the last few years, average pledges have increased per pledging unit. St John's has been in conversation with the Diocese about meeting its full fair share. They were encouraged to look at ways that the Diocese can help build stewardship ministry.

- ⑩ Members of the Standing Committee raised several other concerns: a projected increase in Stewardship does not equate to an actual increase; the question of what it means to be part of a diocese—i.e., we are not a congregational church; very high staff costs; additional drawdown of endowment funds; the use of restricted funds; the the failure to pay full fair share and the need for a plan to increase it. There is concern about the relationship with the Diocese. How can the Diocese work with them to improve the relationship and provide other resources to help the parish with these matters? There is consensus that they have the assets to repay the loan.
  
- ⑩ Kate recommended that the SC table the decision until after St. John’s has met with the Finance Committee. General agreement.

**Appointment to Council of Trustees:** Churchill moved to appoint Linda Hoover as an at large lay member; Bruce seconded; Motion approved.

**Consents to Election:**

- ⑩ The Rev. Canon Jose McLoughlin as Bishop of the Diocese of Western North Carolina
  
- ⑩ The Rt. Rev. Santosh Marray as Bishop of the Diocese of Easton

**Adjournment:** The meeting closed with a prayer by Patrick Pierce at 4:10pm