

## **Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of California Meeting Minutes**

**All Saints' Day, November 1st, 2011  
Grace Cathedral Chapter House, San Francisco**

Present: Mr. Chris Butler, Ms. Peggy Greene, The Rev. Br. Richard Edward Helmer (secretary), Ms. AnnaMarie Hoos, The Rev. David Ota, The Rev. Bruce Smith (chairing), The Rev. Sue Thompson, Ms. Mary Vargas

Absent: The Rt. Rev. Marc Andrus was in New York on an Episcopal Visitation to the Community of the Holy Spirit and to DioCal seminarians in the Northeast.

**1:07 – Meeting convened** with devotions and prayer led by Bruce Smith.

Members checked in.

**1:40 – Standing Committee reviewed and accepted the agenda** by acclamation.

**Butler/Ota MSCU** to report, recognize, and affirm the officers elected by acclamation at Diocesan Convention on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, by the quorum of SC members present at the time: Richard Helmer, AnnaMarie Hoos, David Ota, Sue Thompson, and Mary Vargas. (Ron Johnson and Nina Pickerell observed).

- **Elected Standing Committee officers for 2011-2012:**  
**President - Bruce Smith**  
**Vice President - Peggy Greene**  
**Secretary - Richard Helmer**

**Minutes for the October meeting** were corrected for minor misspellings and typographical errors.

**Greene/Vargas MSC** with two abstentions to accept the **October Minutes** as corrected.

**1:50 – Ordination Candidates:** Chris Butler reported that all paperwork for the ordination candidates is in order.

**Butler/Hoos MSCU**, The Standing Committee of the Diocese of California certifies that the requirements for ordination to the diaconate have been met in accordance with Canons III.6.6 and III.8.6 of The Episcopal Church and there being no sufficient objection on medical, psychological, moral, or spiritual grounds, recommends ordination for the four following candidates:

- Eric Metoyer – transitional diaconate
- Lois Williams – transitional diaconate
- Lauren McCombs – diaconate

- D. Pamela Carey – diaconate

The members of the Standing Committee signed the canonically prescribed testimonial to the Bishop for each candidate. (III.6.6(c) and III.8.6(d))

### **1:55 - Organization of the Standing Committee 2011-2012**

Bruce Smith expressed gratitude to all the members of the Standing Committee for their service, diligence, and many gifts in the ministries of the committee.

Standing Committee reviewed the eight norms for the Standing Committee (attached) developed last year by David Ota and re-affirmed the norms by acclamation.

Due to the clergy chrisem mass and lunch on Tuesday of Holy Week, April 3rd, the regular monthly Standing Committee meeting will be moved back by one hour to begin at 2:00 pm, with a shortened agenda.

Due to General Convention in July, the Standing Committee will take July, 2012, off and meet on Tuesday, August 7th.

Standing Committee agreed to offer the following 2011-2012 liaisons:

**Executive Council:** Mary Vargas, AnnaMarie Hoos, and David Ota

**Commission on Ministry:** Chris Butler

**Grace Cathedral Board of Trustees:** Bruce Smith

**Committee on Governance:** Sue Thompson

**Working Group on Diocesan Institutions:** Peggy Greene

**Subcommittee on Bishop's Compensation and Housing:** Peggy Greene

**Scholarship Committee:** Chris Butler and Peggy Greene

**Episcopal Elections:** Richard Helmer and David Ota

**Liaison to the Nominating Committee:** Sue Thompson

**DioCal Communications Network:** Richard Helmer

David Ota will ask for a copy of the report from the Working Group on Diocesan Institutions and share it with the Standing Committee at a later date.

All future written liaison reports to Standing Committee should be sent to Richard Helmer (Secretary) by the Thursday prior to each meeting. The secretary will compile these with the upcoming agenda and previous meeting's draft minutes and sent on Friday to the Standing Committee members and the Bishop's Office in .doc format.

The Standing Committee holiday gathering will be at the home of Peggy Greene on Friday, December 9th, 2011 and 6:30 pm. Peggy will send an evite out to the Standing Committee. Spouses are also invited to attend.

Bruce Smith will check with Roulhac Austin to confirm the date of the joint Christmas meeting with Executive Council in December.

Bruce Smith will look at potential dates and venues for a Friday - Saturday Standing Committee retreat in February, 2012.

The Standing Committee will take a group picture at the December 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Members reflected on Diocesan Convention:

The feeling of the day was more positive than the previous two years. David's speech was well received. The Bishop's address called for practical and timely action. The intention that went into the worship was very helpful. Time and care was clearly taken in careful planning this year. The time went smoothly. Concerns were raised about the brief time spent on the Israel/Palestine legislation and the quality of the Friday evening meal.

**3:00 pm – Break**

**3:15 pm – Standing Committee re-convened.**

### **Bishop's Compensation and Housing Sub-Committee Matters**

The Standing Committee held a lengthy conversation about the proposed work to the Bishop's residence investigated by the Bishop's Compensation and Housing Sub-Committee and whether or not to request further investigation into the additional cost of improving backyard access and basement livability.

**Greene/Ota *proposed*:** In order to clarify the Standing Committee's position on the recommendation of the Bishop's Compensation and Housing Sub-Committee, the Standing Committee requests that the subcommittee hire an architect to explore what the additional cost would be to make the basement livable and enhance access to the backyard to better inform the final decision on what action to take. The Standing Committee also requests up to an additional \$5,000 allocation to cover the potential expense of this exploration.

**Butler/Hoos *proposed a substitute resolution*:** That the Standing Committee accept the recommendation of the Bishop's Compensation and Housing Sub-Committee as submitted for the Bishop's residence.

**Thompson/Ota MSCU to table** these resolutions and further discussion until the Bishop can join the conversation on this matter at a subsequent meeting.

**3:57 pm – Mutual Ministry Review Planning**

David Ota presented to the Standing Committee an individual survey based on the mutual agreement between the Standing Committee and the Bishop to help the Bishop and members of the SC prepare for a Mutual Ministry Review conversation in December.

Instead of a simple Y/N contrast, the Standing Committee agreed to use a range for each item: from 1 (not achieved) - 5 (fully achieved), and Peggy Greene will compile the ratings feedback for discussion during the Mutual Ministry Review. **Each member of the 2010-2011 Standing Committee and the Bishop are invited to send their completed spreadsheet to Peggy by November 28th.**

**4:12 pm** – The Standing Committee discussed the need for further clarification around the conversational process for congregations in distress outlined in the Growth & Vitality webinar. The discussion will continue with the Bishop at the December 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**4:27 pm** – The Standing Committee will further its ongoing conversations with a diocesan congregation about adhering to canonical processes at subsequent meetings.

#### **4:30 pm – Liaison Reports and Discussion**

##### **Commission on Ministry:**

Peggy Greene is preparing a memo of concerns from the Standing Committee to the Commission on Ministry to further clarify communication around the ordination process.

Chris Butler is continuing to pursue obtaining copies of Standing Committee minutes of interest from the archivist.

David Ota raised a concern about a postulant who has not yet completed CPE, but is otherwise eligible for candidacy. Chris Butler clarified that candidacy is flexible, so delaying candidacy until the postulant completes CPE does not necessitate delaying ordination.

**Grace Cathedral Trustees:** David Ota submitted a written report to the Standing Committee. Nothing to highlight at this time.

**Committee on Governance:** Sue Thompson reported, noting that David Franquist is submitting resignation from the committee, but has agreed to remain present in a consultative capacity.

**Executive Council:** Bruce Smith presented his written report from Executive Council, and highlighted the conversation on convention and that only two parishes have submitted requests for assessment relief.

No additional reports were submitted at this time from **Diocesan Institutions, Scholarship Committee, Nominating Committee, Episcopal Elections, or the Bishop's Compensation and Housing Subcommittee.**

**4:54** – Members of Standing Committee signed up to offer devotions and snacks at subsequent meetings.

**4:55 – Meeting evaluation** – Positives: We finished on time. We had a good discussion, even on hard topics. Negatives: We cut in on each other a lot during discussion at this meeting.

**5:00 – Additional Items:** For an upcoming agenda – David Ota suggested that the Standing Committee seek clarification on why the Department on Congregational Development is not currently meeting.

**5:02** – The meeting was adjourned by acclamation with a prayer, and the Standing Committee thanked Peggy Greene for providing refreshments.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Edward Helmer  
Secretary

*Amended and finalized as passed at the December 6th meeting*