

The Diocese of California Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

**St. Nicholas Day, December 6th, 2011
Grace Cathedral Chapter House, San Francisco**

Present: The Rt. Rev. Marc Andrus, Mr. Chris Butler, Ms. Peggy Greene, Ms. AnnaMarie Hoos, The Rev. David Ota, The Rev. Bruce Smith (chairing), The Rev. Sue Thompson (secretary pro tem), Ms. Mary Vargas

Absent: The Rev. Br. Richard Edward Helmer (secretary - family leave)

Also attending: The Rev. Cn. Michael Barlowe (Canon for Congregational Ministries), Mr. Christopher Hayes (Chancellor), Mr. Jim Forsyth (Comptroller), The Rev. Nina Pickerell (Standing Committee Class of 2011), Dr. Ron Johnson (Standing Committee Class of 2011)

1:00 pm – Meeting convened and opened with prayer led by Ms. Peggy Greene

1:10 pm – Sean McConnell took a group picture of the Standing Committee

1:15 pm – Personal Check-In

1:45 pm – Reviewed December agenda and minutes from the November meeting

Ota/Vargas MSCU approved November minutes as corrected

1:55 pm – Reports

A. Commission on Ministry – Mr. Chris Butler (Ms. Peggy Greene)
Jon Owens coming up for SC review. Expressed to the COM SC outstanding issues regarding communication.

Robyn Arnold is leaving her position as Vocations Person. Melissa Ridlon is temporary replacement.

B. Grace Cathedral Board of Trustees – the Rev. Bruce Smith – No Report

C. Committee on Governance – the Rev. Sue Thompson
Discussed group's work on the Chancellor position. SC (Smith, Thompson, Ota) will develop a list of questions for CoG as they compile their data regarding Chancellor positions in other dioceses. SC needs to appoint a replacement for David Frangquist. Planning for January.

D. Executive Council – Ms. Mary Vargas, Ms. AnnaMarie Hoos, the Rev. David Ota
Mary Vargas noted that few currently understand Episcopal Charities Regional Networks process for granting monies. Bishop Marc expressed interest in store front ministry similar to what he saw in NY. Matthew Burt raised concerns that the Department of Congregational Development is not meeting. Michael Barlowe replied that the group disbanded itself. Rouhlac Austin asked Matthew Burt to report back at a future meeting of Executive Council. Jennifer Snow was introduced. The Council reviewed camps in diocese. Joe Jennings reported on Congregational Growth program he and Rouhlac are overseeing. Jim Forsyth will be replaced by CFO and COO.

E. Working Group on Diocesan Institutions – Ms. Peggy Greene
Patrick Hall was contacted. The most recent report is not complete at this time.

F. Scholarship Committee – Mr. Chris Butler – No report

G. Nominating Committee – the Rev. Sue Thompson
Sue Thompson reviewed the report and noted enthusiasm about varied groups working together on identifying and empowering laity.

H. Episcopal Elections – the Rev. Richard Helmer and the Rev. David Ota
Written report notes recent elections of coadjutor in New York and diocesan in Central Florida. Awaiting receipt of materials for SC consent.

I. Bishop's Compensation and Housing – Ms. Peggy Greene
Peggy brought to the SC a request for funds for an architect. She joined a review of the proposed work, which included viewing houses next door (2008, 2010). The architect reminded us to ask if a neighbor has stabilized foundation so we don't de-stabilize digging in garage. Digging 12" may be sufficient (if we can re-hang garage door and explore taking out lowered ceiling in garage) and wouldn't put next door neighbor's foundation at risk. BC&H requests \$15K max from set aside funds to pay for architect to work with engineer to more closely define foundation and garage work.

Vargas/Hoos MSCU \$15k for architectural input and supervision as proposed.

J. DioCal Communications Network – the Rev. Richard Helmer – No report

2:30 pm – Bishop Andrus joined the meeting

A. Mutual Ministry Review – Bishop and Standing Committee – facilitated by Ms. Peggy Greene and the Rev. David Ota

The SC and Bishop reviewed the Mutual Ministry Review reports and discussed areas where further efforts are desired:

- SC needs to ask the Bishop occasionally about self-care

- Clarifying standards to avoid triangulation
- Inclusion of all parties in meetings: face-to-face conversation is the most desirable; inclusion by electronic means is the next best approach. Will need to acquire appropriate technology to facilitate this.
- Continuing to explore the role of SC in vocational discernment in relationship with the Bishop and COM
- Pastoral care for clergy and the distinction between oversight and providing personal care.
- Advertising on the diocesan website that SC meetings are open
- Handling storage of SC minutes – The Bishop suggested SC minutes be stored with other Diocesan materials in the DioCal archives and in the cloud.
- Future MMR's could involve spending time together early in year and establishing mutual goals. The goals could then provide the framework for subsequent MMR's.

B. Greene/Butler, MSCU that the Standing Committee approved the renewal appointment of the Rev. Melanie Donahoe to the Joint Disciplinary Board for a 3-year term to commence January 1, 2012. (DioCal Canon 15.10)

C. The Standing Committee and Bishop furthered conversations regarding congregational ministries of concern.

D. Lyon Street house – The SC and Bishop briefly discussed proposed improvements for the foundation, garage, and livability. The Bishop requested that the Standing Committee be intentional about the set aside funds each year and work with him in determining how best to utilize the resources, including the option of holding it for the following year.

E. Process for congregations in distress – Christopher Hayes and Jim Forsyth joined the meeting for this conversation, which clarified that there are multiple points of entry into the process presented in the November webinar, depending on circumstances, diocesan funding, the nature of the distress, etc.

E. Health Fair

David Ota suggested the Diocese offer a health fair (based on report from Medical Trust that the diocese uses more benefits than we pay for). Possible format suggestions included clergy conference or jointly with surrounding dioceses.

4:15 pm – The Standing Committee took a fifteen minute recess

4:30 pm – The Standing Committee re-convened, and discussed the upcoming SC Retreat on February 10 & 11 at St. Dorothy's Rest.

The Standing Committee will invite Melissa Ridlon and Hailey Delmas to meet with the SC in Feb to review the new structure for the ordination process.

The Standing Committee is holding a Christmas Party at Peggy Greene's on December 9th.

5:00 pm – The Standing Committee interviewed a postulant for the Diaconate.

Greene/Vargas MSCU that The Standing Committee approve Jon Owens for candidacy for the vocational diaconate.

5:30 pm – Prayers and snack for January 3 Meeting – Sue Thompson to do prayers; Mary Vargas will provide food

5:35 pm – Meeting Evaluation

5:45 pm – Closing Prayer was led by Ms. Peggy Greene

Faithfully submitted,

Sue Thompson, secretary pro tem
with Richard Edward Helmer, Secretary

Minutes approved at the January 3rd, 2012 meeting