

## **The Diocese of California Standing Committee Meeting Minutes**

### **Approved**

**February 7th, 2012**

**Grace Cathedral Chapter House, San Francisco**

Present: The Rt. Rev. Marc Andrus, Mr. Chris Butler, 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: Ms. Peggy Greene

Also attending: Ms. Mary Jones

1:00 Meeting opened with prayer and devotion led by The Rev. Bruce Smith

1:10 Held personal check-in for members of the Standing Committee

1:45 Reviewed February agenda and January minutes

**MSC** Standing Committee approved the minutes, and requested that the Secretary note the time guests arrive and depart the meeting.

1:57 Ms. Mary Jones joined the Standing Committee to discuss candidacy for the diaconate.

(2:40 Ms. Mary Jones departed the meeting)

**MSCU** (Thompson/Vargas) that Mary Jones be approved for candidacy for the diaconate.

### **3:10 Conversation with Bishop Andrus**

Bishop Andrus joined the meeting at 3:10 pm. The Bishop shared that he is helping host Richard Burrige later in the week.

- **2012 vision**

The Bishop and The Standing Committee further explored the goals the Bishop has laid out for the year.

- **2006 Lyon Street**

John Tornquist and Tom Ferguson joined the meeting at 3:33. Further information has been received from the contractor and architect. A contractor has issued a detailed proposal, with some alternatives, which is now under review by the subcommittee. The Standing Committee will review the final contract when it is prepared and consent with the advice and consent of the Executive Council.

**MSCU** (Ota/Vargas) that Standing Committee approves an additional \$2,000 for the architect in his ongoing work on the project.

(John Tornquist and Tom Ferguson departed the meeting at 4:08.)

The Bishop and Standing Committee continued their ongoing conversation about congregations in transition and distress.

(Bishop Andrus departed the meeting at 4:20).

### **Commission on Ministry**

4:27 The Rev. Hailey McKeefry Delmas (Chair of the COM) and Ms. Melissa Ridlon (Interim Vocations Officer) joined the meeting to discuss the Commission on Ministry, noting:

- Accessible web resources are being established to help those in process, the Standing Committee, and others quickly assess progress through the ordination process.
- The COM works with those in process to not only complete the requirements, but also identify needs and supportive resources to help enrich and prepare them for successful ordained ministry.
- The COM meets as a body with people in process at least once every 18 months, and at least three times prior to ordination.
- Process paperwork is still subject to ongoing review for clarification.
- The COM has been bringing in people to consult over interview processes, liaison roles and support, and other aspects of the COM's work.
- One longterm goal is building deanery-based discernment teams to help aspirants with discernment if they lack a congregational body for vocational discernment.
- Ultimately, a COM handbook will be prepared as a resource.

The Standing Committee discussed how to work more closely with the COM around transitions into candidacy, particularly if issues arise around any postulant that need to be addressed before or in conjunction with moving forward into candidacy. The Standing Committee and COM leadership agreed that COM leadership would notify The Standing Committee prior to a

candidacy interview if there are any circumstances being considered for a postulant outside of the ordinary ordination requirements.

The Standing Committee will further discuss having liaisons for postulants present in some way in conjunction with Standing Committee candidacy interviews.

The Standing Committee explored the shape of diaconal ministry and how it is understood by the COM.

(5:33 H. McKeefry and M. Ridlon departed the meeting.)

### **Consent to Episcopal Election**

5:35 **MSCU (Helmer/Thompson)** The Standing Committee consents to the election of Oge Beauvoir as Bishop Suffragen of the Diocese of Haiti.

### **Working Group on Diocesan Institutions**

David Ota reported that he just received the report of the Working Group. Richard Helmer will scan the report and transmit it to the Standing Committee and the Bishop's Office for review.

David Ota stepped down from liaison to Executive Council and episcopal elections.

5:45 Meeting Evaluation: Time went over today. The suggestion was raised to allocate an hour-and-a-half for discussion with the Bishop in future meetings.

5:15 Closing Prayer was led by The Rev. Bruce Smith

Meeting adjourned.

### **Additional Liaison Reports delivered during the Standing Committee Retreat on February 11th**

#### **Executive Council Retreat Report (Ms. Mary Vargas and Ms. Anna Marie Hoos)**

- Discussed a book on governance
- Engaged two case studies
- Bob McCaskill made a presentation on the finances of the Diocese
- Divided into groups on vitality, stewardship, and growth, etc., out of which appeared a new metrics working group
- Watched *Traces of the Trade*
- Discussed work on the Bishop's house and financial provisions for the work

### **Scholarship Committee Report (Mr. Chris Butler)**

- Is discussing the lack of applicants for scholarships this year. Exploring the possibility of opening up the scholarship to seminarians in other dioceses who may not have received part of the funding blocks, if permissible under the fund guidelines. Chris is following up with the bishop on this matter.
- Chris will re-send the list of the scholarship endowment funds.

### **Committee on Governance (The Rev. Sue Thompson)**

- Bruce will contact Peter Jensen to discuss the chair of the group.
- Still looking for a replacement for David Frangquist.
- A question raised for governance: Should diocesan staff serve as chairs of diocesan governance bodies?

### **Grace Cathedral Board of Trustees (The Rev. Bruce Smith)**

- The Dean made a year-end report on the life of the Cathedral
- discussed the search for a minor canon
- the trustees discussed the Gala fundraiser

On Thursday, February 23rd, The Rev. Bruce Smith asked the Standing Committee to consider consenting by email to a request for an additional expenditure on the ongoing work at 2006 Lyon, the Bishop's residence.

**MSCU** via email (Helmer/Vargas) that the Standing Committee approve an additional \$5,000 to cover drainage plans for the proposed work at 2006 Lyon.

Faithfully submitted,

The Rev. Br. Richard Edward Helmer  
Standing Committee Secretary

Minutes amended and approved by Standing Committee on March 6th, 2012.