

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

### **For Approval**

**March 6th, 2012**

**Grace Cathedral Chapter House, San Francisco**

Present: The Rt. Rev. Marc Andrus, Mr. Chris Butler, Ms. Peggy Greene (vice president), The Rev. Br. Richard Edward Helmer (secretary), Ms. AnnaMarie Hoos, The Rev. David Ota, The Rev. Bruce Smith (president), Ms. Mary Vargas

Absent: The Rev. Sue Thompson

1:00 Opening Prayer and Devotion was led by Ms. Mary Vargas

1:05 The Standing Committee held Personal Check-In

1:27 Standing Committee reviewed the March agenda and February minutes.

**MSCU** (Ota/Vargas) to approve the February minutes as amended by the Standing Committee.

1:40 A planned meeting with Mr. Kevin Sparrow for candidacy for the priesthood is postponed until necessary paperwork is completed.

1:49 Standing Committee discussed the most recent webinars and Diocesan Communications. Richard Helmer will ask the bishop if he can work directly with Francesca to ensure availability of the SC minutes.

2:13 Standing Committee discussed the meeting between SC and Executive Council officers on the morning of March 6th. Bruce Smith, Peggy Greene, and Richard Helmer shared that the meeting was very positive, and these meetings will continue going forward with the goal of continuing to build mutual trust and understanding between the two bodies and the Bishop.

2:30 Reports

- A. Commission on Ministry – Mr. Chris Butler  
Melissa Ridlon is working to consolidate information on those in process.
- B. Grace Cathedral Board of Trustees – The Rev. Bruce Smith  
Nothing to report at this time. Bruce Smith attended the Gala.
- C. Committee on Governance – The Rev. Sue Thompson

Bruce Smith reported that Peter Jensen will chair the committee for another year. Bruce has approached a potential appointee to join the committee to take the seat vacated by David Frangquist.

D. Executive Council – Ms. Mary Vargas, Ms. AnnaMarie Hoos

- The Bishop reported his conversation with St. James', Oakland, including the appointment of a priest-in-charge and the possibility of their exploring becoming a diocesan center in the East Bay.
- The Bishop also reported St. Michael and All Angels, Concord, is in transition with their Rector retiring. The parish is soon facing a significant balloon payment and back assessments, and are engaging the Diocese in discerning a path forward.
- Bob McCaskill reported on the finances of the Diocese.
- Executive Council voted to fund building a development (fundraising/ endowment) function for the Diocese.
- EC discussed the improvements on 2006 Lyon Street.
- St. Dorothy's Rest reported on their approaching closing on a long-planned land purchase, and asked EC for permission to restructure the financing of the purchase.

E. Working Group on Diocesan Institutions – The Rev. David Ota

- Discussion of report from the group later in agenda #9

F. Scholarship Committee – Mr. Chris Butler

- The Bishop agreed to ask the Chancellor on the possibility of opening eligibility for scholarships to include the Diocese of Northern California.
- Chris Butler is asking Jim Forsyth to help provide assistance, if needed,

G. Nominating Committee – The Rev. Sue Thompson

Written Report:

The Nominating Committee met via web- and teleconference on Feb 16, 2012.

They continued their discussion of how to organize the development of a list of names available for submission as nominees for various committees, commissions, boards, etc. They recognize this work will have to mesh with several other groups also engaged in working on leadership in the diocese.

The committee members also organized themselves to visit each spring deanery meeting to maintain a presence and to remind the deanery that it is not too early to begin thinking about nominees for

diocesan elections in October. There are essentially the same elections to be held this year as last year.

H. Episcopal Elections – The Rev. Richard Helmer

- No episcopal elections have occurred since the last meeting or are pending Standing Committee consent at this time. Any elections from here on until this summer will be reviewed by General Convention.

I. Subcommittee on the Bishop's Compensation and Housing – Peggy Greene

- Discussion later in agenda #8

6. 3:00 Time with Bishop Andrus

- St. James, Oakland

Julia McCray-Goldsmith, Michael Barlowe, and The Bishop met with the Vestry at St. James. The Vestry enthusiastically embraced the priest-in-charge and the offer to become a Diocesan ministry center. Tom Ferguson has developed an inventory of the parish properties and their condition.

- Congregations in Distress

The Bishop discussed other congregations in distress or transition with the Standing Committee and planning for involving Standing Committee members in conversations with congregations where the SC needed to help make decisions in moves to mission status or in selling property.

- Update on website

The Communications Coordinator position description has been prepared. Work on the new website is continuing towards launch within two months.

- Webinars

The face-to-face has been moved to June 2nd, and will be led by Leslie Watson, Joe Jennings, and Gary Hunt from Executive Council.

Richard Helmer will write an article for DioBytes inviting people to join in the webinars and touch base with Francesca regarding the posting and distribution of SC minutes.

- Formation and Regional Education (Equipping the Beloved Community) – where is that headed? Deaneries? Diocesan House?

Julia McCray-Goldsmith and Melissa Ridlon have agreed with the deanery presidents to host formation and regional education events.

- Development Function

Two bequests totaling \$70,000 have been received by the Diocese. The Bishop asked and received consent from Executive Council to designate these funds for development purposes for the Diocese to help support congregations doing development work and build development resources for the Diocese as a whole. This will begin by hiring a development person.

4:15 The Bishop departed the meeting. Vance Frost and Jack Klemeyer from the Subcommittee on the Bishop's Housing and Compensation joined the Standing Committee for discussion on the Bishop's residence at 2006 Lyon Street, San Francisco.

Vance noted the two broad priorities are to 1) preserve the asset of the property; and 2) make the property more viable for sale at some point in the future. The scope of the work focuses on repairing the foundations, and making the garage more accessible for use by a wider variety of vehicles and replacing the floor with a new concrete slab.

Vance and Jack asked that the SC seek up to \$250,000 approval for this project from Executive Council.

**MSCU (Greene/Helmer)** that the Standing Committee approves the scope of work for 2006 Lyon Street proposed by the Bishop's Compensation and Housing Committee; **and**

The Standing Committee asks the Executive Council to allocate for this work \$250,000, including the sum of remaining accumulated funds-to-date designated for maintenance of the Bishop's residence and additional unallocated cash reserves held by the Diocese.

Vance said he believes the value of the house after this work will be in the range of \$3 million.

The projected timeline is the project would take three months, starting in July.

Vance Frost and Jack Klemeyer departed the meeting at 4:35 pm.

4:45 Other items for discussion:

- Retreat notes and discussion – next steps

The SC reviewed notes from the retreat.

- Focused on looking at process around congregations in distress.
- Questions arose about how positions and governance is structured within DioHouse.
- Richard Helmer and Mary Vargas will work to move the goals into a more succinct format for Standing Committee's review, approval, and then sharing with the Bishop.

Mary Vargas discussed her work with Joe Jennings and Leslie Watson (Executive Council) on developing ministry metrics for the Diocese, to be implemented at the deanery level.

5:15 Discussion of the report and notes received from the "Working Group on Diocesan Institutions" – next steps

The Standing Committee agreed to seek counsel from The Chancellor for recommendations based on the reports on how to proceed with each institution and to help clarify criteria for identifying and evaluating the designation of Diocesan Institutions. Bruce Smith will contact Christopher Hayes in this regard.

5:23 Meeting Evaluation: positives and negatives – The Rev. Bruce Smith

Positives: Ending on time, covered a lot of ground.

Next meeting (April) starts at 2:00 pm and will conclude by 6:30 pm to accommodate the Holy Week Chrism Mass.

Chris Butler and AnnaMarie Hoos will take Kevin Sparrow to lunch prior to the Standing Committee meeting with him to discuss candidacy for priesthood.

5:30 Closing Prayer – Ms. Mary Vargas

Meeting adjourned at 5:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Br. Richard Edward Helmer  
Secretary

Approved at the April 3, 2012 Standing Committee meeting.