

**The Standing Committee of The Diocese of California  
Approved Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, August 7th, 2012  
Grace Cathedral, Chapter Room  
1:00 to 5:00 pm**

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

Bishop Marc Andrus was unable to attend due to vacation.

1:00 Anna Marie Hoos led Opening Prayer and Devotion.

1:04 Bruce Smith led personal check-in.

**1:47 MSCU (Greene / Butler) Standing Committee consents to the Diocese of North Carolina holding an election for Suffragen Bishop in January, 2013.**

Standing Committee reviewed August agenda and minutes from the June meeting and subsequent email and conference call motions.

**MSCU (Ota / Butler) Standing Committee approved the minutes from the June meeting and subsequent decisions as presented.**

1:50 Standing Committee reviewed the request by Sacred Space for approval to become a Specialized Mission (DioCal Canon 12.05)

Richard Edward Helmer reported on receiving feedback from eight of the nine congregations on the question of organizing Sacred Space as a specialized mission. The feedback has been quite positive with no appreciable objections, and concerns raised have been addressed by the Sacred Space Board.

**MSCU (Hoos / Vargas) the Standing Committee consents to organizing Sacred Space as a Specialized Mission under Canon 12 of the Diocese of California.**

2:00 Standing Committee discussed next steps in opening up SC conversations with St. James', Oakland, leadership. The Standing Committee agreed to open a conversation with St. James' by having the officers of Standing Committee get in touch with The Rev. Sam Leite (priest in charge) for a preliminary conversation prior to the next Standing Committee meeting.

2:15 Standing Committee discussed the request to move St. John the Evangelist to mission status. Peggy Greene and Richard Helmer shared their recent conversation with the parish Senior Warden regarding the request.

**MSC (Greene / Helmer) with one abstention, the Standing Committee accepts the request from the Vestry and Bishop and consents to the move of St. John the Evangelist, San Francisco, to mission status.**

2:45 Contra Costa churches working with Ms. Mary Vargas

Mary Vargas and Sue Thompson are facilitating conversations as paid consultants, and not as members of the Standing Committee, with St. Alban's, Brentwood; St. Michael and All Angels, Concord; St. George's, Antioch; and St. John's, Clayton, around structuring collaborative ministry. The goal is to have a plan for next steps in process in place by November.

During this time of consultation, Mary Vargas will not be attending Executive Council meetings on behalf of the Standing Committee.

3:00 Tom Ferguson (COO); Jack Klemeyer (project architect); John Tornquist and Paul Evans (Bishop's Housing subcommittee) joined the meeting to discuss ongoing work on Bishop's Residence.

Tom Ferguson noted that he believes there is adequate working capital held by the Diocese to cover the total cost of the current project.

John Tornquist and Jack Klemeyer noted:

- The discovery when work began on the house's foundation that the building is largely seated on a slab on sand rather than a footed foundation, necessitating:
- Expanding the timeline of the project by three or four weeks.
- Developing an updated plan to add proper support for a new foundation, while adequately shoring to protect neighboring buildings.
- Cribbing and related work may require up to an additional \$35,000 to complete (in the worst case.)

The goal is to finish by Thanksgiving. The belief is that the Bishop and his family will be able to move back in from a temporary rental residence by the end of November.

The Standing Committee thanked Jack Klemeyer for his diligence.

Richard Helmer asked about any needed diocesan due diligence on monitoring maintenance on the retirement property for Bishop Swing in Burlingame, in which the Diocese has a significant investment. Paul Evans recalled the Standing Committee did order an maintenance inspection of the property approximately three years ago. Tom Ferguson will research documentation regarding the diocesan investment in this property and agreements with the Swings to the Standing Committee for review for further action.

3:45 Tom Ferguson, Jack Klemeyer, John Tornquist, and Paul Evans departed the meeting.

**MSCU (Ota / Thompson) The Standing Committee approved an additional \$35,000 for the work at 2006 Lyon Street and commends the Bishop's Housing Subcommittee for their diligent work on this project.**

4:00 Peter Jensen (Chair, Committee on Governance) joined the meeting.

Peter Jensen reported to the Standing Committee on the work of the Committee on Governance, highlighting:

- Bringing on new membership on the CoG
- Proposed canonical changes are under review of the Committee on Constitutions and Canons, including clarifying the role of the Chancellor.
- Developing clearer descriptions of the obligations of CoG members.
- Ongoing work on developing a recommendation to Standing Committee and Executive Council on how best to preserve an ongoing level of experience on the CoG as people term out.
- The Standing Committee needs to appoint a replacement for Jill Honadel, who has completed her term on the CoG.

Peter Jensen departed the meeting at 4:35.

4:40 The Standing Committee reviewed a provisional update to the listing of canonical responsibilities of the SC prepared by Richard Helmer.

4:45 The Standing Committee will further discussions with the Bishop regarding an MMR process when he returns from vacation.

**MSCU (Butler / Greene) Standing Committee authorizes a \$4,500 grant from the Monteagle Deaconness Fund.**

5:00 The Standing Committee discussed reading together *Fly in the Ointment* by Russell Crabtree. David Ota is preparing some notes from the book for distribution to the SC.

5:05 The Standing Committee discussed roles of the officers on the Standing Committee in preparation for transitions on the Committee during Diocesan Convention in October.

5:15 Meeting evaluation: positives and negatives – The Rev. Bruce Smith

- Noted the benefit of the pre-meeting conference call
- Appreciated the significance of our conversation and discussion together
- Generally moving towards consensus in our decisions
- Covered a lot of material

5:20 Confirmed a pre-meeting Conference Call on Wednesday, August 29th at 4:00 pm.

5:22 Closing prayer was led by Ms. Anna Marie Hoos

5:23 Meeting adjourned.

Faithfully submitted for approval,

The Rev. Br. Richard Edward Helmer, n/BSG  
Secretary

*Approved at the September 4th meeting of the Standing Committee.*