

**The Standing Committee of The Diocese of California**  
**Approved Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, October 2nd, 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), Ms. Mary Vargas

**Absent:** The Rev. Sue Thompson, due to family illness

1:05 Standing Committee convened its meeting with prayer and devotions led by Richard Edward Helmer.

1:15 The Rev. Bruce Smith facilitated personal check-in for members of the Standing Committee.

1:55 Standing Committee reviewed and amended the September meeting minutes, and reviewed the October agenda.

**MSCU** (Ota / Vargas) Standing Committee approves the September meeting minutes as amended.

2:00 Standing Committee agreed to postpone discussion of replacing Peggy and Bruce on the subcommittee on the Bishop's Housing and compensation until after their successors on Standing Committee are elected by Diocesan Convention.

2:05 Ms. Mary Vargas presented candidates put forward for ordination by the Commission on Ministry.

**MSCU** (Ota / Vargas) Standing Committee certifies the following candidates for ordination:

- Greg Brown: for the Priesthood
- Kevin Sparrow: for the Priesthood
- Bonnie Stewart: for the vocational diaconate
- Dorothy Yates: for the vocational diaconate
- Jane Cropper: for the transitional diaconate

Standing Committee discussed the level of conversation and Standing Committee representative's inclusion in the Commission on Ministry deliberations around these decisions in future. Bruce and Mary will follow up with Hailey McKeefry, chair of the Commission on Ministry, to discuss this further.

2:10 Jim Forsyth joined the meeting. Jim reported that he received a report from Capo Mastro Group on an inspection of the Pepper Avenue residence (Bishop Swing's retirement home), and turned the report over to the Standing Committee for our reference and files.

2:34 **MSCU** (Helmer / Greene) The Standing Committee confirms the appointment of Scott Pomerenk to the Committee on Governance, retroactive to May, 2012.

Standing Committee discussed the appointments of other members of the Committee on Governance and appointing a new chair. Richard Helmer will work with Lauran Pifke (President of Executive Council) with the information furnished by David Ota and Peter Jensen to generate a summary list of everyone on Committee on Governance and their terms for consideration as we work to appoint new members by the end of 2012.

2:54 Mary Vargas and the Bruce Smith shared that they have met with the Bishop to discuss holding a review in January, and reported back to the Standing Committee.

### **3:11 Bishop Andrus and Christopher Hayes joined the meeting.**

Christopher Hayes presented a written report to the Standing Committee regarding the background of disqualifying the former vestry at St. James', Oakland, and the Bishop's authority in the matter, and discussed the decision further with the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee also discussed the appropriate next step for governance at St. James' and planning a Standing Committee conversation with the congregation on October 12th. The Standing Committee and Bishop agreed to approach the governance and mission status questions in conversation with St. James' in terms of what will best support the developing ministries there, particularly with the surrounding Latino community.

The Diocese is presently managing the financial resources for St. James' in trust for the parish until a new congregational governance structure is in place.

### **Trinity and St. Peter's, San Francisco**

Leadership has approached the new Development Officer to discuss working with a professional capital campaign group to raise the \$3 million necessary for seismic retrofits at Trinity. The two parishes continue to explore their growing life and ministry together.

Contra Costa churches (St. Alban's, Brentwood; St. George's, Antioch; St. John's, Clayton; and St. Michael and All Angels, Concord) have moved forward with posting positions for two full-time missionaries to serve them together, and the Diocese is providing resources for three years for a joint administrator. The communities are also working towards having two deacons in each congregation.

### **Diocesan Convention**

Plans are proceeding for Convention. A speaker at the Eucharist is being determined. The Bishop discussed his public letter to the Diocese regarding the newly appointed Roman Catholic Archbishop of San Francisco.

### **Sabbatical**

During his Sabbatical next spring, Bishop Marc plans to teach at Virginia Theological School, join the Community of the Holy Spirit in New York for a time, and work on an ongoing research

project, returning for special events in the Diocese, and then take vacation time. The Bishop plans to have information ready regarding his Sabbatical at Convention.

4:35 Bishop Marc and Christopher Hayes left the meeting, and the Standing Committee took a brief break.

4:40 Standing Committee starting developing plans for the October 12th meeting with St. James', Oakland, and will work with The Rev. Sam Leite, priest-in-charge, in finalizing the plans.

5:05 Standing Committee reviewed written and oral reports

- Commission on Ministry – Ms. Mary Vargas reported regarding the last COM meeting.
- Grace Cathedral Board of Trustees – The Rev. Bruce Smith  
Bruce noted attending his last Trustees meeting as Standing Committee President.
- Committee on Governance – The Rev. Sue Thompson  
Sue submitted a written report.
- Executive Council – Ms. Mary Vargas, Ms. AnnaMarie Hoos  
AnnaMarie submitted a written report.
- Scholarship Committee – Mr. Chris Butler  
No report this month.
- Nominating Committee – The Rev. Sue Thompson  
Sue submitted a written report.
- Episcopal Elections – The Rev. Richard Helmer  
No elections to consider this month.
- Subcommittee on the Bishop's Compensation and Housing – Ms. Peggy Greene  
2006 Lyon Street – An initial strategy to shore up the foundation did not work. They are exploring other options at this stage, and consideration may be needed to extend the timetable of the project. So far, the project remains within the budgeted expenditures thus far.

5:15 President's and Vice President's Time and Round Table

Standing Committee thanked Bruce and Peggy for their service, wisdom, and steady, emotionally stable leadership.

Bruce and Peggy shared their thanks with the Standing Committee.

The Standing Committee members checked in with their additional thoughts regarding the day's meeting and the ongoing work of the Standing Committee.

5:30 Richard Edward Helmer led the closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned.

Faithfully submitted,

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

Approved by the Standing Committee at their November 6th meeting.