

Executive Council Report 2013

This year I have been honored to serve as Chair of the Executive Council. It was a year of great growth and development as the Council continues to claim the expanded responsibilities given to it at the time of the restructuring of Diocesan Governance in 2007.

Last November, we unanimously approved a new statement of identity. It is ‘The Executive Council is the board of directors of the diocese, and between Diocesan Conventions exercises all the necessary powers of the convention to implement the convention’s actions. It is responsible for budget and finance, and is the forum for long-range visioning, strategy and planning for the health and growth of the Episcopal Community in the Diocese of California.’

Here is an outline of our work this year.

1. **Good Stewards.** We're the Board of Directors of the diocese. This year, among other things we:
 - a. Approved a healthy 2012 audit and have proposed a solid budget for 2014.
 - b. After research with Standing Committee and the Chancellor into best practices, assumed responsibility for executive compensation in a way that's professional and transparent.
 - c. Partnered with the Standing Committee and the bishop to begin a process of Diocesan Leadership Mutual Ministry Review, which we intend to lead to a wider Diocesan MMR in the near future. The review is scheduled for January and we intend to report the results to Diocesan Convention next year.

2. **Growth Oriented.** In keeping with our new mission statement we are growth oriented.
 - a. Led by member Joe Jennings and former Chair Roulhac Austin, started the Church Growth Initiative — raised over \$50,000 and are in the process of supporting innovative growth oriented projects in the diocese.
 - b. Supported the development of the See:Community initiative as a way to track the impact our parishes have in their local communities.
 - c. Claimed an identity as the forum for long range planning beginning with a creative engagement with the bishop's vision of collaboration, embeddedness and diversity.

3. **Join Us!** We're looking for good people to contribute to both parts of our role (good stewards and growth oriented)
 - a. In addition to a retreat in January we have monthly meetings that last two hours. We are a large committee of nearly thirty people, but have found ways to break into smaller groups to increase participation, creativity and the impact of each member.
 - a. We've created a short, readable Handbook (just 15 pages!) that says who we are, what we do and how we do it. It can be found at DioCal.org.

We believe that this is an exciting time to be serving the diocese as its Board of Directors and we are grateful to have been together this year.

— The Rev. Christopher Martin, chair, 2013