

Executive Council Minutes
Tuesday, April 20, 2021
4:30 PM – 6:30 PM
ZOOM

Attendance: Present Absent Excused

Officers:

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Marc Handley Andrus Bishop and President **P**
Richard Patenaude Chair, Class of 2021 **P**
The Rev. Jon Owens Vice Chair, Class of 2022 **P**
Mees Tielens Secretary, Class of 2021 **P**

Class of 2021:

Bruce Morrow P
Eleanor Prugh P
Don Miller P
The Rev. Merry Chan Ong P

Class of 2022:

Marj Leeds P
Birgit Eschmann P
Tom Matthews P
Anna Haight P

Class of 2023:

Aidan Jobe-Sea P
Jeanette Dinwiddie Moore P
The Rev. Lindy Bunch A
The Rev. Krista Fregoso A
Sherry Lund P
Elaine Vallecillo-Miller P

Bishop's Appointees:

The Rev. Liz Tichenor P
Bruno Peguese P
Ana Maria Vaquero A
Edgar Woo P

Ex-officio members:

The Rev. Richard Edward Helmer Secretary of the Convention **P**
Lane Ringlee Treasurer of the Diocese **P**

Diocesan Staff:

The Rev. Canon Abbott Bailey Canon to the Ordinary **P**
Jim Forsyth Interim CFO **P**
The Rev. Michele Racusin CFO **P**
Davey Gerhard Director of Development **A**

Other attendees:

Christopher Hayes, Esq. Chancellor of the Diocese **P**
Albe Larsen Standing Committee **P**
Katie Evenbeck St. Dorothy's Rest
Sara Gunther St. Dorothy's Rest
Richard Kemink St. Dorothy's Rest

4:31 Call to Order

Opening Prayer – Marj Leeds

Approval Items

- Meeting Agenda
- Minutes of Meeting of March 16, 2021

Minutes accepted as received.

4:34 Bishop's Time

It's Climate Action Week. The Bishop highlights the intersectional approach to climate change on a diocesan, national, and international level.

- Bishop's Task Force on Diocesan Leadership

Bishop Marc reports on the great work Pam Jester and Deb White are doing with the Task Force on Diocesan Leadership.

~~4:55 Canon's Time~~

- ~~▪ DioCal Governance Map~~

4:40 Chancellor's Time

Diocesan staff leave the Zoom room. Marj Leeds moves the Council go into executive session. Birgit Eschmann seconds. Executive session begins at 4:41PM. Br. Richard Edward Helmer moves to leave executive session. Don Miller seconds. The Council exits executive session at 5:12.

Bishop Marc moves to adopt the Resolution Regarding Workplace Investigation presented in executive session. Liz Tichenor seconds. The resolution is adopted.

5:13 Break

5:31 Financial Report

Lane Ringlee presents the financial reports previously circulated and takes questions.

5:37 St. Dorothy's Rest Update/Action Items

Aidan Jobe-Sea presents St. Dorothy's Rest's Financial Sustainability Plan to the Council and requests the authorization of the remainder of SDR's allocation from Expanding Horizons as well as assistance from the Diocese in coordinating messaging and marketing activities between St. Dorothy's Rest and the Bishop's Ranch.

The Finance Committee recommends the Council approves SDR's request for early distribution of the remainder of its allocated funds. It also recommends the Council request a reserve study of St. Dorothy's rest to identify necessary capital improvements and estimate cost of and timeline for improvement.

After discussion, Marj Leeds moves the Council approve the early distribution of the remainder of the allocated funds, being approx. \$200,000, of the Expanding Horizons campaign. Sherry Lund seconds. Responding to a Council member's question, the bishop clarifies that this is indeed the final allocation St Dorothy's Rest will receive. The motion passes unopposed.

The second component of the Finance Committee's recommendation is tabled until the next meeting. EC requests more information about costs of such a study before approving it. The request for Diocesan help with marketing and messaging is also tabled for future discussion.

6:23 Reports

- **Sabbatical Working Group – Marj Leeds**

Marj reports on the working group's proposal for Sabbatical Leave for Intentional Interim Rectors. The Council discusses the proposal. Bishop Marc suggests the working group think about crediting time served in other dioceses as interim rectors are hard to find and often come to us from other dioceses. The group concurs the value of adding that but is concerned about the ability to fund it adequately.

Jon Owens highlights that deacons are non-stipendiary, often serve in underfunded missions, and really should be included in this conversation about sabbaticals for clergy. The working group is open to this but is prioritizing interim rectors and associate rectors.

Br. Richard Edward Helmer points out that the church pension fund has a mechanism for portable benefits that could be potentially leveraged to make this an equitable arrangement, as all of our congregations pay into that fund as a part of clergy compensation.

- **Standing Committee Report – Albe Larsen**

Albe reports that the Standing Committee met on April 15th. They consented to the ordination to the priesthood of two transitional deacons in June, and continued their discussion around diocesan institutions.

6:48 Canon's Time

- **DioCal Governance Map**

Canon Abbott reports on the DioCal Governance Map, which has been completed and lists all the governance structures in the diocese (including their originating source, who is currently serving, and how they are populated). This will be available on the website and provide transparency and clarity about diocesan governance, leading to an easier and more transparent nominations process as well.

6:55 Talking Points

- The Sabbatical Working Group presented their proposal for sabbaticals for Intentional Interim Rectors. The Executive Council provided comment and feedback to allow input into the budgeting process as outlined in the resolution from the last convention.
- The board of St. Dorothy's Rest presented their business plan. Executive Council approved the distribution of \$200,000 from the Expanding Horizons Campaign to Saint Dorothy's Rest. This brings the total distributed from Expanding Horizons to Saint Dorothy's to \$395,000 and illustrates the real difference the Expanding Horizons capital campaign has and is making in the life of the Diocese.
- The recent communication from the Bishop about regathering for Pentecost.

Deanery Reports
Sherry Lund highlights the excellent training Michele Racusin provided on financial controls and preventing fraud.

7:03 Closing Prayer by Bishop Marc

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mees Tielens', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mees Tielens
Secretary of Executive Council

RESOLUTION REGARDING WORKPLACE INVESTIGATION

At a meeting of the Executive Council (Board of Directors) of The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of California (Diocese), a nonprofit religious corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of California, held on the 20th day of April 2021 via Zoom video conference, a quorum being present, the Executive Council adopted the following resolution:

WHEREAS within the last month the Diocese has received a complaint alleging acts of misconduct by an employee of the Diocese in circumstances not governed by Title IV of the Canons of The Episcopal Church;

WHEREAS the Chancellor of the Diocese recommends that the Executive Council appoint a special committee from its members, selected for their ability to serve independently from the Diocese's officers and employees, to supervise an impartial investigation by a licensed attorney;

WHEREAS the Chair of the Executive Council is nominating himself and four other Council members to constitute the special committee, none of whom is a Bishop's appointee, a Diocesan employee, or otherwise known to have a material interest in the outcome of any investigation;

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that this Executive Council appoints these members to a special committee to supervise an investigation of the acts of misconduct alleged in the complaint: Richard Patenaude, Anna Haight, Birgit Eschmann, Donald Miller, and Eleanor Prugh;

FURTHER RESOLVED, under Article IV, Section 3, paragraph (a) of the Bylaws of the Diocese, that this special committee will have and may exercise all the powers and authority of the Executive Council necessary to supervise this investigation, including the power and authority to require compliance with the investigation by any employee of the Diocese or any other person under the authority of the Diocese;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Council approves retaining Ilona Turner, Esq., of Oppenheimer Investigations Group, to conduct an impartial investigation into the acts of misconduct alleged in the complaint under the special committee's supervision, and to report to the special committee what she believes happened and the basis for her conclusion;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special committee will determine whether to approve Ms. Turner's findings, and will report those findings along with the special committee's recommendations for action to the Bishop and the Executive Council;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the special committee's findings and recommendations are not subject to approval by the Bishop or by the Executive Council;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bishop and the Executive Council will retain final decision-making power, as provided by applicable laws or canons, to take such action as they consider necessary in response to the special committee's report.