

Executive Council Minutes
Tuesday, May 17, 2022
4:30 PM – 6:30 PM
In Person and via ZOOM

Attendance: Present Absent Excused

Officers:

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Marc Handley Andrus Bishop and President - P

The Rev. Jon Owens Chair, Class of 2022 - P

Sherry Lund, Vice Chair, Class of 2023 - E

Marj Leeds Secretary, Class of 2022 - E

<i>Class of 2022</i>	<i>Class of 2023</i>
The Rev. Kirsten Spalding P	The Rev. Krista Fregoso P
Birgit Eschmann P	San Francisco Rep (Vacant)
Anna Haight P	Aidan Jobe Sea P
Tom Matthews P	Elaine-Vallecillo Miller P
	Jeanette Dinwiddie-Moore P
<i>Class of 2024</i>	<i>Bishop's Appointees</i>
Bruce Morrow P	Edgar Woo P
Melisa Buie P	Bruno Peguese P
The Rev. David Erickson P	Vacant
Peter Fairfield P	
Bill Burrell P	
Southern Alameda Rep (Vacant)	

Ex-officio members:

The Rev. Brother Richard Edward Helmer Secretary of the Convention P

Lane Ringlee Treasurer of the Diocese P

Diocesan Staff:

The Rev. Canon Debbie Low-Skinner Canon to the Ordinary P

Davey Gerhard Director of Development - P

Other attendees:

Christopher Hayes, Esq. Chancellor of the Diocese P

The Ven. Carolyn Bolton Standing Committee P

4:30 Call to Order and Opening Prayer was given by The Rev. Jon Owens.

4:33 Rev Jon Owens moved to appoint acting secretary (Melisa Buie). Birgit Eschmann seconded. The motion was approved.

4:35 Consent Items: Bruce Morrow moved, and Krista Spalding seconded the approval of the meeting agenda, the minutes of the April 29, 2022 Executive Council meeting, and the updated housing allowance for the Rev. Gary England (attached). The motion passed. There was no Financial report at this meeting.

4:40 Board Development- The Rev. Jon Owens presented a Servant Leadership Case Study from our Diocese.

4:55 Bishop's Time

- 1. Vital and Thriving Update:** The Diocese is deep into the vital and thriving initiative. There are 12 congregations in the initial cohort. There are 5 vitality practices which can provide access to growth:
 - collaboration,
 - diversity,
 - embeddedness in the neighborhood,
 - invitation (different than welcome), and
 - sustainability.

Canon Debbie is the Project Manager and Coordinator for the diocese. For each congregation, the V+T work of data gathering, interviews, discernment, and experimentation will be done by lay teams and facilitated by their rectors or vicars. V+T/Newbegin House will provide coaching and training of team members.

So far, 11 congregations have shown interest in participating in the next cohort, which will form and recruit team members in the fall and start work next January 2023. With regards to seed grant money for each cohort congregation, their initial experiment will be funded with \$5K. If, in the next phase after the initial experiment, a congregation wants to go further with their experiment or change to another one, the seed money grant can be up to \$20K. If that congregation does a joint experiment with another congregation, the seed money grant can be up to \$50K.

- 2. General Convention Update:** General Convention will be cut short this year by half due to Covid. General convention is typically both legislative and a chance to worship together. The legislative portion will take place. The dates for General Convention are July 8-11, 2022.
- 3. Covid Challenges:** Covid presents more challenges ahead. Clergy are tired. New energy will be required to meet the challenges ahead.

4. **Recent Gun Violence:** Regarding the Recent Gun Violence, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry issued a statement about the recent gun violence in Buffalo (his hometown). We need to be aware of and support efforts to remove the clause in the 13th Amendment, which allows slave labor when used as a punishment of a crime. Bishop Curry noted that, while legally slavery has been abolished, it has been transformed into more punitive arrests of people of color and the use of these inmates in various and surprising amount of manufacturing work performed in prisons for nearly no pay.

Comments to Bishops Time:

1. Canon Debbie mentioned that Rev. Liz Milner is responsible for all chaplains and lay volunteers involved in prison ministry in the Santa Clara County Jail System.
2. Jeanette Dinwiddie-Moore commented that slavery is still very present in the United States today. Our Diocese, at General Convention, adopted a Resolution which makes Juneteenth (June 19th) a Diocesan Feast Day and provides an opportunity to remember this issue each year on the Sunday close to the 19th. Juneteenth will also be observed on June 19th at the Cathedral evensong service.

5:30 Chancellor's Time

At the request of the Chancellor, Kristen Spalding moved, and Birgit Eschmann seconded that we move into Executive Session to discuss pending and potential litigation. Birgit Eschmann moved, and Krista Fregoso seconded that we exit Executive Session at 5:45.

5:45 Break

6:00 Canon to the Ordinary report

Update on St. Cuthbert's Property: tenants have vacated the vicarage. They left the place immaculate. The Rev. Gary England will do the final official walk through for deposit return. Tenants were given a settlement. Realtor will begin to accelerate the marketing this property for sale. Bay Alarm is monitoring the property.

Fragile Congregation Update: There are currently 6 fragile congregations. Diocesan house staff are discussing how and when to best approach these congregations. We do not want to develop these properties.

Vital and Thriving Update: The Clergy Retreat was held at St. Anna's on May 6 and Clergy/Lay Team Training was held at All Souls on May 7. Bishop Marc was impressed by the enthusiasm and optimism of the lay teams. Three virtual V+T presentations were given in May to give information and a program orientation to attract prospective/interested congregations; representatives from 11 congregations registered.

On Ascension Day the seven senior staff members will be installed as Canons to the Bishop. This will take place at Grace Cathedral on May 26 at 5:30 p.m.

Announcement: Assessment relief requests will be handled as per pre-Covid.

Update: Aidan Jobe-Sea provided an update on St. Dorothy's. The company providing the Reserve Studies to both St. Dorothy's and the Bishop's Ranch has canceled the contract. Both institutions are looking for another company. Currently, retreats are exceeding expectations and camp registration is strong with some camps full. St. Dorothy's is in the process of hiring a new Executive Director and has received many qualified applicants.

6:15 Action Items - No action items

6:40 Reports

Standing Committee Report – The Ven. Carolyn Bolton

- There was a presentation from Bishop's Ranch to Standing Committee.
- There was discussion about an open position on the standing committee.
- The Bishop's Leadership Task Force submitted its executive summary to the Standing Committee last week and they will consider it at their June meeting

Talking Points

- Vital and Thriving
- Leadership
- St. Dorothy's rest
- Update on General Convention
- Original guidelines for assessment relief
- Juneteenth will be observed on June 19th at the Cathedral

No Deanery Reports

- Jon O.: South Alameda will meet next May 22nd
- Birgit E.: San Francisco will meet on May 22nd
- Melisa B.: Peninsula will meet on June 23rd

6:45 The Ven. Carolyn Bolton led closing prayer and adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Marj Leeds

Marj Leeds, Secretary

Next Meeting:

Tuesday June 21, 2022 4:30 pm -6:45 pm

Housing Resolution
The Rev. Gary Wm England

The following resolution was duly adopted by the Executive Council of the Diocese of California at a regularly scheduled meeting held on May 17, 2022, a quorum being present:

Whereas, Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code permits ministers of the gospel to exclude from gross income a church-designated allowance paid to them as part of their compensation to the extent used by them for actual expenses in owning or renting a home; and

Whereas, the minister is compensated by Diocese of California exclusively for services as a minister of the gospel; and

Whereas, Diocese of California does not provide the minister with a rectory, therefore, it is hereby

Resolved, that compensation of \$37,000 is hereby designated to be a housing allowance; and it is further

Resolved that the designation of \$37,000 as a housing allowance shall apply to June 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.