

Executive Council Minutes
Tuesday, July 18, 2023
4:30 PM – 6:30 PM
via ZOOM

Attendance: Present Absent Excused

Officers:

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Marc Handley Andrus Bishop and President P
Sherry Lund Chair, Class of 2023 (Convention) P
The Rev. Kirsten Spalding, Vice Chair, Class of 2025 (Convention) P
Peter Fairfield, Secretary, Class of 2024 (Convention) P

<i>Class of 2023</i>	<i>Class of 2024</i>
The Rev. Krista Fregoso (Contra Costa) A	Bruce Morrow (Alameda) P
Steven Depont-Kalani (San Francisco) P	The Rev. David Erickson (Convention) A
Aidan Jobe Sea (Peninsula) P	Bill Burrell (Marin) P
Elaine-Vallecillo Miller (Southern Alameda) P	Michael Diamond (Peninsula) P
Jeanette Dinwiddie-Moore (Convention) P	Mary Frances Leopold (Southern Alameda) P
<i>Class of 2025</i>	<i>Bishop's Appointees</i>
Vance Frost (Marin) P	Leigh Flesher (2025) P
Carolyn George (Convention) P	Bruno Peguese (2024) P
The Rev. John Kirkley (San Francisco) P	
The Rev. Will Scott (Alameda) P	
Jim Wiant (Contra Costa) P	

Ex-officio members:

The Rev. Brother Richard Edward Helmer Secretary of the Convention E
Lane Ringlee Treasurer of the Diocese E

Diocesan Staff:

The Rev. Canon Debbie Low-Skinner Canon to the Ordinary P
The Rev. Michele Racusin CFO P
Canon Amy Cook Canon for Faith Formation P
Stephanie Martin Taylor Working Head Group for Communications P
Canon James Forsyth P

Other attendees:

Canon Christopher Hayes, Esq. Chancellor of the Diocese P
The Ven. Carolyn Bolton, Standing Committee P
Mr. Steven Sturgeon, St. John's, Clayton P

4:30 Chair Sherry Lund called the meeting to order. The meeting went into break out rooms in groups of two for prayers.

4:43 Chair Lund called for approval of the Consent Agenda. Chancellor Christopher Hayes responded to a question by saying that the Talking Points, not being a decision of the Council, should not be reflected in the minutes. Stephen Depont-Kalani moved that the agenda, minutes and financial reports be approved. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. Chair Lund urged that all Executive Council minutes be archived and accessible for easy reference. Bishop Marc responded that his assistant, Matt Duke, would undertake to see that this was done in future.

4:47 Canon Michele Racusin began a discussion of the funding of the new bishop position during the transition by saying that, in our diocese, the complexities of handing off the role of bishop were such that a period of both old and new bishops working together was required, at least four or five months. The Leadership line of the Expanding Horizons Fund was intended to cover just such an expense. It was remarked that, in the future, such funding may not exist for this purpose and that funds should be accrued going forward to cover this expense during the next bishop election. In response to a question, Canon Michele said that these funds will begin to be accessed when a Letter of Agreement is signed between the diocese and the newly elected bishop. Negotiations to reach such an agreement will begin after the election, but the Letter will not be signed until it is clear that a sufficient number of Consents have been received to signify that the consecration may proceed. Stephen Depont-Kalani moved that \$140,000 from the Leadership line of the Expanding Horizons Fund may be used for this purpose. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

5:05 Chair Lund suggested that the Council may want to vote to endorse Ms. Tish Busselle as a candidate for election to the Executive Council to represent the Convention at its meeting this fall. After some discussion it was agreed that, while Ms. Busselle is an excellent candidate, it would not be appropriate for the Council to endorse her or any candidate for election to this body.

5:17 Carolyn George moved that the meeting, with bishop and staff and Mr. Steven Sturgeon, representing St. John's, Clayton being present, go into executive session. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

5:33 Aidan Jobe-Sea moved that the meeting leave executive session. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. The Rev. Kirsten Spalding moved the following:

The Executive Council consents to the sale of the premises of St. John's, Clayton to the Clayton Community Church as recommended by the Bishop's Committee for Holy Spirit Episcopal Church (which serves as the governing board for St. John's). Two-thirds of the net proceeds of the sale will be allocated to Holy Spirit Episcopal Church and the remaining one-third to the Diocese as a fund functioning as endowment for Diocesan operations.

The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

5:35 Jim Wiant moved that the meeting go into executive session to discuss developments at Blue Bird Village. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

5:44 Stephen Depont-Kalani moved that the meeting leave executive session. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

5:45 Chair Lund called for a break.

5:52 A discussion began concerning the relationship between the Executive Council and the two retreat centers, Bishop's Ranch and St. Dorothy's Rest. Chancellor Christopher Hayes reviewed the legal aspect of the relationship, saying that the Executive Council must have approval of any purchase, sale or encumbrance of any real property involved. The Council does not, however, have any legal power to make any decisions concerning the operations of either entity. Bishop Marc remarked that the Executive Council may urge or require both bodies to report on their operations. He remarked that there has been an institutional drift between the two entities and that the Executive Council should work to harmonize management practices. The two organizations can work better together than apart. The Executive Council's role is one of governance rather than management. The Rev. Will Scott suggested that some of the energy of the Vital & Thriving program be directed towards these organizations. Canon Jim Forsyth reported on the difficulties experienced in getting a consultant to perform management studies on maintenance and cost control at both facilities. The Rev. Kirsten Spalding moved that the Executive Council request that the Boards of the two conference centers report to the Executive Council at their September 2023 meeting on the status of the proposed studies for both organizations. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

6:38 Chair Lund called for a decision on holding a proposed mini-retreat in person at midyear. It would be a focus on Big Picture items and no decisions would be made. The Rev. Kirsten Spalding has made her parish available on July 29th to host such an event. A head count showed that there was sufficient interest to proceed.

6:46 Carolyn George moved that the meeting go into executive session. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

6:52 The meeting left executive session.

6:53 Talking Points summary capture

6:59 The Rev. Will Scott closed the meeting with final prayers.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Fairfield, Secretary