



Diocese of California Standing Committee  
1500 Taylor Street  
San Francisco CA 94108  
www.DioCal.org

## STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 13, 2025 meeting at DioHouse

**PRESENT:** Sean McConnell, president; Vinnie Miller, Don Miller, Rev. Beth Foote, Rev. Audrey Miskelley,

**On Zoom:** Rev. Caroyln Bolton, Rev Jane Srtatford

**GUESTS:** Bishop Austin Rios, Canon Sierra Reyes, Canon Chancellor Christopher Hayes,

**Absent:** Gretchen Lintner

**3:39 PM CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER:** Bishop Austin Rios

Bishop's Time with Bishop Austin Rios. Consider a joint retreat with COM, SC, and EC for 2-3 nights, some plenary time; take a pillar of the strategic vision that will be voted on at Convention 2025 and have separate breakout, and smaller group discussions.

Rotation of diocesan institutions coming to EC to see if the Diocese can resource them better. Would it make sense to coordinate this with Don Miller since diocesan institutions are also reporting to SC?

It is a challenge to be Bishop during this time in American history. How do we navigate our journey of faith as a diocese? Discussion of Bishop Budde's powerful message and how it has been received. How do we keep people safe, go forward, and be faithful?

Clergy zoom was held with 100 attending in which Canon Christopher Hayes shared practical legal information.

Sean McConnell: Bishop Austin speaks for the church with his expertise on migration ministries, and also has the teaching charism of a Bishop. SC can back up the Bishop in his teaching ministry. Canon Christopher Hayes said Sanctuary Resolution was passed in 2017.

Bishops of all the CA dioceses recently discussed unified messaging at their Bishop's retreat.

Discussion about the state of Holy Innocents, Corte Madera security after second break-in. What is the state of its de-consecration? Cost of keeping vs. selling? What is the diocesan real estate strategy for affordable housing and clergy housing?

Canon Sierra's report: There's a sense of anxiety in our leaders today. Parochial report changes have brought forth worries about how we do assessments. However, the assessment formula remains the same. The Diocesan consultant for the Strategic Visioning Committee invited staff into conversation. Staff will be doing the work of making change.

(Bishop. Austin left the meeting at 4:36 pm)

The St. Lucy's launch team is in discernment. Met with Rev. Phil Brochard and Emily Hansen Curran at All Soul's, Berkeley. St. Lucy's will remain at All Souls for now. All Souls is connected to its success. Emily Hansen Curran is excited to come before the SC next month.

Christopher Hayes discussed the Santiago/St. James court case.

Further discussion about the Diocese's relationship with Center for Church Innovation Concerns about Diocal being listed on their website as a partner, and their sources of funding.

Canon Sierra: Questions around relationship with Vital and Thriving. Respect the work done but V&T might not be the vehicle. The program is paused, no additional churches will participate. How do we make whole these churches who have participated.

Sean: note to write email to Bishop to ask him to clarify our relationship with V&T.

Committee Liaison Reports:

Committee on Nominations: Discussion of nominees to the Committee on Governance . We suggested: The Rev. Deb White, Kathleen Crisp, Diane Leonard be nominated.

Committee on Diocesan Institutions: Two institutions, Ohloff House and Claussen House had their requirements for Episcopal Board members waived by SC in July, 2021. How do we handle these waivers going forward?

Don Miller made a motion that we work with boards who do not meet the canonical requirements and work with other governing structures recommending Episcopal members to bring institutions into compliance with canons and board bylaws. Share information about Diocesan institutions at Convention. Vinnie seconded. Unanimously passed. 6:00 p.m.

List of guests coming before Standing Committee at future meetings:

March: The Rev. Dr. Stephen Hassett, St. Dorothy's; Emily Hansen Curran, St. Lucy's; Good Samaritan Executive Director, Rev. Mary Chang Ong?

April: COM

The meeting closed with prayer by Vinnie Miller, and was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.