



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

STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

In person at St. Stephen's Orinda

14 August 2025

Zoom link

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85955118212>

PRESENT: Jane Stratford, Don Miller, Vinie Miller/zoom, Gretchen Lintner/zoom, Beth Foote, Audrey Miskelley

Absent: Bishop Austin Rios, Sean McConnell, Carolyn Bolton

GUESTS: Canon Sierra Reyes, Canon Chancellor Christopher Hayes, Debie Thomas, Beth Stokes, Susanna Singer

4:11 PM CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER: Beth

4:13 PM Check in

4:26 PM CONSULTATION TIME:

Canon Sierra - busy summer, diocesan offices ongoing support of strategic visioning committee (SVC) as work continues, draft has been shared with clergy, hopeful for responses, thoughts, etc., this is also to be discussed at clergy conference (30 September - 2 October), Bishop's office is looking for buy-in with clergy leadership. Continue in the onboarding of the new Executive Assistant - Liz. Gretchen asks: when is the SC going to receive a review/look at the updated document - reminder that this was done at the Burlingame meeting and is ongoing with the Governance Committee, no additional information at this time, reminder that all links were sent to the whole of the SC. EC will vote on Sept 16th regarding the current iteration of SVC plan/document - this will also be a guiding topic for clergy conference, Sept 30 with possible input as well - pushing EC "final vote" - process of how to gain feedback from SC is vague - Bishops office is looking for proponents and advocates to support the plan - Gretchen follow-up question: request for Bishop to present the plan to SC at the October meeting - Don question about including governance committee in this process - include a final approval

from SC to Bishop on the SVC *bring up in officers meeting to put on the agenda* for October regular meeting.

Canon Hayes - July has been busier than usual, speaking with the Governance Committee for canon review and guidance, the necessity of updates, review of SVC & plan with the SVC was responsive if not agreeable. 1. First reading of constitutional amendment to reduce quorum (last year) 2. Second reading will mirror the quorum as well with the laity

Then - change of procedure with the appointment by the bishop with election by the convention - amend 18.02 - what the number from the congregations financial statement that is used to establish the assessment - spelling out more completely in accounting terms plate/pledge/fees/unrestricted bequests etc this is a clarifying of what is already happening. Jane asks the question: is Christopher anticipating any “concerns” or “issues” given the current climate around assessment. There is a proposed assessment relief task force - this comes out of EC, simple canon change only needs one vote.

St. Mark's iSing new lease-use agreement - Christopher Hayes recommends for approval: Gretchen moves as presented/Don second - carried. -

Christopher/Sierra left meeting 4:55

4:56 CONSENT CALENDAR/COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS *liaison is responsible for submitting reports at least a week in advance of SC meeting, if possible. All reports received are attached to the agenda.*

- *Commission on Ministry - Beth Lind Foote, Audrey Miskelley
- * Executive Council - Jane Stratford
- * Grace Cathedral Board of Trustees - Sean McConnell
- * Committee on Governance - Vinie Zhang Miller
- * Working Group on Diocesan Institutions - Don Miller
- * Committee on Nominations - Gretchen Lintner - see below
- * Executive Compensation Committee - Pres/as needed
- * Episcopal Elections - Sean McConnell

Consent calendar

Approval of minutes from...November 2024, December 2024, February 2025, April 2025, June 2025, July 2025

Consent calendar is adopted.

BREAK - *when & where convenient*

5:10 PM AGENDA ITEMS:

Discussion of “officer” nominations within SC - opening conversation begun -

- Reminder that three positions will be up for election: 2 clergy order/1 to fulfill my unexpired term and 1 lay order - three clergy nominees: Stephen Siptroth, Pamela Stevens, Margaret Dyer-Chamberlain, two lay order: Margery Leeds, Ron Fisher

Committee on Nominations: Deputy to GC: 7 clergy, 10 lay; EC: 1 clergy, 1 lay

Dio staff and Cathedral staff use at upcoming convention faire - Don - SVC

hosting an event/faire focusing on institutions/ministries this is being done through dispatch of business committee and working with Anna Rossi and Ellie - should be a minimal impact on dio staff and cathedral staff - in chapter room 8 to 10 institutions at most.

Discussion of Episcopal Community Services Condemnation of Executive Order “Ending Crime and Disorder on America's Streets” - as laid out and noted in President Sean McConnell’s email dated 1 August 2025 and sent out to the committee. *Tabled until September*

5:45 PM NEW BUSINESS:

- First interview with Debie Thomas - Beth Foote conducted primary interview questions - discussion.

We, the Standing Committee of the Diocese of California, having duly convened on 10 August 2025 in-person and on zoom, testify that Debie Thomas., desiring to be ordained to the Diaconate and Priesthood under Canon III.8 has presented to us the certificates required by the Canons indicating Debie Thomas’s preparedness for ordination to the Diaconate under Canon III.8; and we certify that all canonical requirements for ordination to the Diaconate under Canon III.8 have been met; we find no sufficient objection to ordination. Therefore, we recommend Debie Thomas for ordination. - Beth moves to approve Debie Thomas to candidacy to holy orders/ Don second - unanimously approved

- Beth Stokes, Executive Director of Episcopal Community Services and Susanna Singer, Board President of ECS - Beth: powerpoint - impacts on the org due to the federal level issues, ECS is about compassion and dignity, development, rehab, mercy housing, lens is mostly through the work with the homeless, the work is sheltering folks off the street, battling the indignity that often comes with the homelessness, key initiatives: three year strategic plan, board convened, Casa Esperanza - new housing site and services in Redwood city 45 units for individuals/adults, rehabbing property for unhoused seniors in south sf, long term ground leases for ECS, - have these

come before us yet? Would they? In house property management, taking on 7 sites, eliminating sub-contractors ? Creating a 501C3 - ? Bringing in additional therapists in SF expanding in San Mateo county, rolling out a new model in supportive housing, and peer recovery specialist. Strength in the ministry and the supportiveness to the other agencies, in collaboration with local and national workers, key partners in cities and counties in their ability to work with complex persons and issues. Strong missional alignment with staff and boards. Unionization is strong. Challenges especially around federal policy and funding changes. Dramatic impacts to the field of homelessness. Received an email from HUD about what is and is not acceptable in order to keep the federal dollars - will need to scrub their information/web sites for language. Trying to simply stay steady at this point, still receiving funding but this is all at risk. State resources are fewer. State funding for homelessness is year by year. Lack of stability for the long term. All non-profits are in the cross-hairs. City administration is focused on interim housing and sheltering. CFO resigned, interim is David Crawford, who has helped in getting the financial support from the city and county. Mary Connick, incoming CFO, worked at Dignity Health. Higher incidence of homelessness with age. Potential revenue stream with the in-house property management. San Mateo is the best opportunity for housing development right now and looking ahead. Amplify ECS messages, share what they do. Stay steady for who they are, what they do, the values that ground this org. Partnering on communications, Op-Ed with Bishop, not rallying around arguing with the current administration but simply doing what they do well, stay centered on what they do and do it well. Supporting, co-hosting ECS events, press conferences, participating with the events and networking and evangelism, to share about the work, bringing ECS into the other spaces in the diocese. Stay with the issue, stay away from the politics. Invited SC members to tour the newly renovated Hotel Grenada.

6:15 PM OLD BUSINESS:

- Follow-up as necessary about the newly formed Committee on Governance *tabled - note change of date below*
- Follow-up with the Standing Committee's request for feedback from the search & transition committee -
 - Have the co-chairs been contacted? Yes. Anyone else from the committee? no
 - What are we asking? We don't know yet - another attempt to get the requested and agreed upon information.
- Follow-up with the Real Estate Advisory Group - Gretchen reminded that the primary role of providing advice and information to the SC as it deals with the real estate issues and concerns of the diocese. Gretchen requests that the committee be mentioned in the year-end remarks that they have a

limited purview and are not open to fielding questions/issues of the diocese as a whole.

6:50 PM REVIEW OF UPCOMING CALENDAR ITEMS:

- **Third DioZoom/Collectively Empowering 18 August 7pm**
- **Governance Meeting 19 August 10am - *this is a change***
- **Meeting September meeting on zoom 4 September 4pm**
 - **Open Audrey**
 - **Close Don**
 - **Snacks Gretchen**
- **Fourth DioZoom/Sufficiency 10 September 7pm**

7:00 PM CLOSING PRAYER & ADJOURNMENT: Gretchen