



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

STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

4 September 2025

PRESENT: Jane Stratford, Don Miller, Vinie Miller, Gretchen Lintner, Beth Foote, Audrey Miskelley, Carolyn Bolton, Sean McConnell, Bishop Austin Rios

Absent: Canon Sierra Reyes

GUESTS: Canon Chancellor Christopher Hayes, Deb White, Emily Hansen Curan, Christina Alvarez, Kieran King

4:00 PM CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER: Audrey

4:05 PM Check in

4:28 PM: Visit from Episcopal Impact Fund's Christina Alvarez, Executive Director, and Kieran King, Communications and Brand Director.

EIF is 50 years old. Started by Bishop Bill Swing, working closely with San Francisco Mayor Diane Feinstein, to work on homelessness and poverty. EIF works in the same five Bay Area counties that constitute the Diocese of California. They have four key programs: grant making, advocacy, volunteering, and faith-based affordable housing. In grantmaking, EIF is known for providing value “beyond the check.” Grants cover housing relief, poverty, and rapid response. EIF's grants include proper vetting and ensure efficiency and efficacy when the organization asks for the grant. In 2024, \$840K in grants were made to 53 programs. Twenty-five of the twenty-six grants made were for Diocese of California programs that covered housing security; housing for families, youth and young adults; along with educational investments. \$320K in grants were given for transitional, temporary, and settled housing options, typically running from \$40-50K per grant. Grantees included: HIP Housing in Contra Costa County and San Mateo County, co-housing programs, and poverty relief grants. Grants were also give to social ministries in diocesan congregations, funding 24 applicants. One of those applicants,

Christ Church in Sausalito, which addresses food insecurity and loneliness, produced a new funding stream.

EIF's rapid response fund came out of a heightened need being faced by vulnerable communities, such as the LGBTQ and immigrant communities, and those who have faced federal funding cuts. EIF's advocacy and volunteer programs are about serving the grantees through quarterly volunteer events for congregations and grantees.

Volunteering offers an opportunity to join with an organization to offer what you can, especially if writing a check isn't an option. EIF is in the process of developing a curriculum to help churches with under-utilized land - this appears to be on a "back-burner" right now. All are invited to EIF's Night of Light Gala on October 25.

4:45 PM CONSULTATION TIME:

Canon Hayes - busy month, with churches in SF, Orinda, and Menlo Park. Amend the canon for the basis for our assessment formula, because of the form change coming from 815, assessment formula task force proposal. Convention: resolution requiring nominal compensation to deacons review. Interactions with leaders of the SVC with some concerns about affects and effects on the chancellor.

5:05 Executive session Gretchen/Carolyn - approved

5:22 executive session ends Gretchen/Don - approved:

5:23 Hayes leaves

5:23 PM Emily Hansen Curran - candidate interview - questions attached - documents in box - four areas we are to cover: moral, spiritual, psychological, medical - conversation ensues questions get asked:

*We, the Standing Committee of the Diocese of California, having been duly convened on 4 September 2025, do testify that Emily Hansen Curran, desiring to be ordained to the Diaconate and Priesthood under Canon III.8 has presented to us the certificates as required by the Canons indicating Emily Hansen Curran'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; and we find no sufficient objection to ordination. Therefore, we recommend Emily Hansen Curran for ordination...*Jane moves/Gretchen seconds - all in favor passed

6:00 PM 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
- * Executive Compensation Committee - Pres/as needed
- * Episcopal Elections - Sean McConnell

Consent calendar motion to accept Don/Gretchen - no discussion so accepted

Approval of minutes

BREAK - *when & where convenient*

6:10 PM AGENDA ITEMS:

Deb White, chair, Committee on Governance (COG) - report: meeting every three weeks meeting at least 2 hours, looking at the Strategic Visioning Plan (SVP) reviewed draft line by line, shared feedback with Bishop and Canon to the Ordinary (CTO), next steps: draft from Strategic Visioning Committee (SVC) review tracking who is responsible for what, list of categories and the who's and whys and wheres, feedback expected at clergy conference, review by Executive Council (EC) on Tuesday, separate meeting to consent prior to convention, concerned about resourcing and timeline for the bulk of the project - the plan which is 85 pages concern about the fact that it seems overwhelming, it feels overwhelming - recommend the intro and general foci be presented from the zoom meetings - chair of visioning is planning on presenting the full document to EC -

- Governance committee: canonically exists under the formation and supervision under the SC, what they did in their first iteration long long ago was to look at things like the structure of the diostaff etc...this iteration they have done a thorough review of canons this committee is filled with folks who have a pretty good understanding of episcopal polity. Under the current configuration they are...to look at the institutional requirements about numbers of episcopalians on boards - looking at structure of regional deans structure 3-year run on year two, created surveys one for clergy and one for laity about experience of regional deans and feedback - is the issue the structure or the role or the individuals serving - look at staffing at diohouse - can only make recommendations staff is the bishops purview - complete review of the canons of the diocese not done since 1983 Hayes says he is delighted to partner and has presented already, covering history etc...alignment etc...

SVP - questions from SC - Don asking about changes to the current/penultimate draft, there could be changes which will happen through EC - the only addition is the prologue from Bishop Austin, Vinie Q can we assist in some way to be helpful

to the COG - next meeting 11 September, Vinie Q about the SC role or what the role should be, the initiative for the visioning process came in before the Bishop's tenure began - the committee was in existence prior to Bishop Austin - EC tasked the SVC to lead in the discernment and listening phase for bishop approval and EC would consent and then the convention approve - Gretchen asks the Bishop to ask the SC for advice and counsel who then asks - Gretchen voices her concern about the plan how it came to be and how the Bishop was roped into it - Concerns around resources - assumption is that folks feel heard - Deb White will send to me the created org chart - The biggest concern is that the vision is too detailed
7:16 PM Deb leaves the meeting

Discussion of "officer" nominations within SC - Jane has reconsidered and will be willing to be nominated for President position.

Jane Stratford nominated to next president of SC by Sean/Don approved

Don Miller nominated to vp by Jane/Sean approved

Beth Foote nominated to sec by Audrey/Gretchen approved

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

Vote on whether to bring to the table for consideration: 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. Remember this was tabled in August. Stay tabled until...

5:45 PM NEW BUSINESS:

6:15 PM OLD BUSINESS:

- SVP - additional conversation? Gretchen moves that the SC write a letter/collectively to EC (Jane will be at the meeting) - Vinie second, drafted by Gretchen to be sent out to the whole committee for vote EC meeting by 16 September. Though drafting of a letter was proposed and seconded, the actual motion supporting the issuance of the draft document failed, via email, as it was not supported unanimously by the whole committee.
- Follow-up with the Standing Committee's request for feedback from the search & transition committee - reached out to Mauricio who said that he

would not plan on doing anything - we'll need to move forward in a different way with a different structure - Don suggests we look at the suggestions from the May 2024 co-chairs - Sean recommends that we still find a way to look at what went well and what didn't what do we need to change.

- What are we asking?

6:50 PM REVIEW OF UPCOMING CALENDAR ITEMS:

- Fourth DioZoom/Sufficiency 10 September 7pm
- Fifth DioZoom/Belonging 22 September 7pm
- SC October meeting on zoom 9 October 4pm
 - Opening prayer - Carolyn
 - Closing prayer - Vinie
 - Snacks - Don

7:46 PM CLOSING PRAYER & ADJOURNMENT: Don