



## Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania

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### Minutes

Tuesday, Jul 24, 2018, 5:00 PM

At the Offices of the Diocese

**Approved Sept. 25, 2018**

**Call to Order** at 5:05 PM by Rabe

**Clergy** present were Liz Colton, Sean Mullen, Jo Ann Jones

**Laypersons** present were Colin Johnstone, Eric Rabe, Pat Smith and George Vosburgh.

**Excused** were The Rev. Hillary Raining, The Rev. Michael Rau, Norman McCausland  
**Also present** was Bishop Daniel Gutierrez. Chancellor Mary Kohart did not attend this meeting.

**The Agenda** was approved unanimously.

**Opening Prayer** was offered by Jones.

**Minutes of June 26, 2018, Meeting** were approved unanimously. The **Notes** of the June 26 meeting were received.

### **Presentation on work of the Missional Congregation Committee**

Canon Kirk Berlenbach described the work of the Diocese Missional Congregation Committee. The Committee has developed a plan, "A Call to Serve," to provide support and oversight for parishes seeking to be or continue to be Missional Congregations. Berlenbach noted that the effort is to develop a clear process for a parish wishing to enter or to leave the program.

The committee has also developed a "Congregational Health and Vitality Assessment" tool that all churches in the Diocese can use to evaluate their strengths and weakness and to develop their own mission "beyond just keeping the doors open," as the document says. This tool would be a place to begin for parishes wishing to be considered as Missional Congregations. Current mission churches for which the Diocese provides staff salaries today have been informed and had input in developing this plan.

Diocesan Council, the Bishop and ultimately Convention would approve the application of a church to become a Missional Congregation based on the church's mission plan and its unique opportunity to provide service in its community. The Committee is proposing that those selected to be Missional Congregations under the new plan receive a five-year commitment of support from the Diocese.

Berlenbach noted that there will be an open presentation of this plan at a meeting on Aug. 8, 2018. The plan will then go to Diocesan Council for approval, and finally it will be presented to Convention in November.

Standing Committee and the Bishop thanked Canon Berlenbach and the Committee for their work.

**Diocesan Staff Reports** – The reports were received with several comments. Colton noted that the staff report should show that Rev. Carol Anthony retired from her position at St. Gabriel’s rather than resigned as stated in the report. Johnstone noted that Michelle Bullock has already been presented to Standing Committee for ordination although the report says she will be presented in the fall. The Bishop reported that he has deferred action on her ordination while she takes additional training. Bullock will be presented again in the fall.

**Executive Committee Report** -- Rabe met briefly with the Bishop the afternoon of July 24 while McCausland, Raining are traveling. Their discussion focused on agenda items for the Standing Committee meeting.

### **Bishop’s Report**

The Bishop has just returned from The Episcopal Church General Convention and thanked Jones, Raining Vosburgh and all others for their support and attendance at the convention. The Bishop served as vice chair of the Social Justice Committee where the issue of Israeli-Palestinian relations occupied much discussion time. The Bishop also took the opportunity to meet and recruit priests to the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

No new chair has yet been named for the Diocese Commission on Ministry, but the Bishop believes that the COM will name a new chair shortly.

**Chancellor’s Report** – No report.

### **Finance Committee Referrals**

The Finance Committee has made two recommendations with regard to some \$1.4 million deposited at The Church Foundation but that has not been distributing income to the Diocesan budget. At the June meeting, Standing Committee directed that these funds be transferred to a single account, “Diocesan Funds Under Review” at TCF. Treasurer Pope attended for this portion of the meeting to answer questions about the proposals.

**A Resolution** was made and seconded (Rabe/Smith) that The Church Foundation be directed to distribute income from deposits in the Diocesan Funds Under Review at the current Church Foundation rate to investment income of the Diocesan budget. The distribution will be retroactive to Jan. 1, 2018. The Finance Committee has recommended approval and the Chancellor confirms that the action is within Standing Committee’s authority. **Approved unanimously.**

**A Resolution** was made and seconded (Rabe/Smith) that funds from the Diocesan Funds Under Review account fund the deficit in the proposed 2019 Diocesan budget.

That deficit is expected to be some \$850,000. The Finance Committee has recommended approval and the Chancellor confirms that the action is within Standing Committee's authority. **Approved unanimously.**

**A Resolution** was made and seconded (Smith/Jones) that Standing Committee approves the request of the Bishop that \$70,500 of his compensation be designated as a housing allowance. **Approved unanimously.**

**Communications - None**

**Old Business - None**

**New Business - None**

**Diocesan Commission/Committee Reports** (as necessary)

Finance – The Finance Committee has appointed the final two members of the Committee to Study Diocese Office Space. They are Finance Chair **Dana Hall and The Rev. Matthew Dayton-Welch**

Incorporation – Smith reported that the Committee recommends incorporating the Diocese which is now an association. Draft Canon changes are being circulated.

The Committee expects to present these changes to Convention this November. There was a wide discussion of the impact of the changes on the authority of Standing Committee particularly regarding property matters. The Committee hopes that a formal presentation of the plan for incorporation can be made in the next month or two. It was noted that the plan must be filed 90 days before Convention and the Canons Committee must consider the plan in August.

Congregational Life and Development Team – Jones reported that the team has not met in the last month, however, support to churches is being provided via staff resources.

Constitution & Canons – has not met

Commission on Ministry – Vosburgh stressed the urgency of appointing a new chair.

Diocesan Council – no recent meeting

Episcopal Elections – none requested

Bishop's Special Budget Committee – has not met

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM by Rabe

**Closing Prayer** – offered by Bishop Gutierrez

## **Future Agenda Items**

- Standing Committee Monthly Meetings/Upcoming Events
  - Sept. 25, 2018