



Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania

Minutes

Tuesday, Oct 23, 2018, 5:00 PM
At the Offices of the Diocese

As approved Dec. 4, 2018

Call to Order at 5:05 P.M. by McCausland.

Clergy present were Liz Colton, Sean Mullen, Jo Ann Jones, Hillary Raining, Michael Rau.

Lay Persons present were Norman McCausland, Colin Johnstone, Eric Rabe, Pat Smith and George Vosburgh.

Also present was Bishop Daniel Gutierrez and Chancellor Mary Kohart.

The Agenda was adopted unanimously.

Opening Prayer:

The Rev. Hillary Raining offered the opening prayer.

Minutes of Sept. 25, 2018 Meeting. Standing Committee approved the minutes of the Sept. 25, 2018, meeting unanimously. The Minutes and Notes of that meeting were received.

Ministry Approvals:

Four candidates for Ministry came before the Standing Committee to be considered for Candidacy or Ordination:

- Charles "Chaz" Howard (Candidacy and Pre-Ordination - Transitional Diaconate)
- Michelle Bullock (Pre-Ordination – Transitional Diaconate)
- Benjamin Capps (Pre-Ordination – Priesthood)
- Michael Whitnah (Pre-Ordination – Priesthood)

Background materials on each candidate were circulated to Standing Committee members and reviewed prior to the meeting.

Bishop provided background on Chaz Howard who was then interviewed by the Committee. Bishop Gutierrez noted that it is unusual to approve both a candidacy and

pre-ordination at the same meeting. However, Bishop cited Howard's 16 years experience in ministry, his position as Chaplain at the University of Pennsylvania, his doctorate in ministry, and the strong recommendation of both the Cathedral and the Commission on Ministry. In December 2017, the COM recommended that Howard undertake four actions to best prepare for the Episcopal priesthood. Bishop Gutierrez reported to the Standing Committee that Howard accomplished those four steps. The Bishop believes that in this case the candidate is unusually well-qualified and so to approve both his candidacy and pre-ordination at this meeting is appropriate.

Chaz Howard joined the meeting.

The Standing Committee engaged Howard in a lively discussion of his background, the importance he places in joining the Episcopal priesthood, his work in anti-racism and cross cultural education and his work with students at the University of Pennsylvania who come from non-Christian backgrounds.

After approximately 30 minutes, Howard left the meeting.

A Resolution was made and seconded (Jones/Rau) that Standing Committee approves the candidacy and ordination to the transitional diaconate of Charles "Chaz" Howard. **Approved unanimously.**

Canon Arlette Benoit Joseph, Canon for Transition Ministry, joined the meeting to answer any questions about other three candidates.

A Resolution was made and seconded (Smith/Vosburgh) that Standing Committee approves the ordination to the transitional diaconate of Michelle Bullock. **Approved unanimously.**

A Resolution was made and seconded (Vosburgh/Rau) that Standing Committee approves the ordination to the priesthood of Benjamin Capps. **Approved unanimously.**

A Resolution was made and seconded (Smith/Vosburgh) that Standing Committee approves the ordination to the priesthood of Michael Whitnah. **Approved unanimously.**

Diocesan Staff Reports

- The Staff Reports were received without comments.
- McCausland noted that reports were not available until late in the previous week, and that resulted in the distribution to SC members later than normal.

Report of the Bishop:

- Convention preparation has occupied the staff that is normally spending 60% of its time in the parishes.

- The Bishop delivered a detailed budget message to the Diocese last week, and appreciates the help of those who worked on budget preparation.
- Good Shepherd, Rosemont, is now being led by The Rev. Náz Javier, and Fr. Samuel Murangi as the parish develops its new life.
- Free Church of St. John also has new leadership. Rev. Fr. David Franceschi-Faccio has resigned and interim priests are serving there.
- Bishop has been in Europe for a meeting of the Compass Rose Society. He reported a good exchange of ideas there among bishops of the Anglican Communion.

Mullen congratulated the Bishop on the detailed explanation of the budget that the Bishop recently sent to the people of the Diocese. Mullen also urged that the Bishop consider the appointment of a suffragan bishop or an assistant bishop despite the financial implications.

Chancellor's Report:

- St. Johns, Huntington Valley, has closed its legal agreement with a not-for-profit foundation that will finance major improvements and renovations at the church. The agreement details were previously approved by Standing Committee.

Finance Committee Referrals: None this month.

Diocesan Staff Reports – No comments.

Old Business – None

New Business

- Nominees to the Cathedral Chapter were presented to Standing Committee. They are:
 - The Rev. Gerald S. (Jay) Collins
 - Mr. Everett Gillison
 - Ms. Helen Jennings.
- The candidates are supported by the Bishop. There was no objection, however, no Standing Committee action on the slate is required.
- December 4, 2018 will be the date of the next Standing Committee meeting.

Diocesan Commission/Committee Reports (as necessary)

- Finance (Rabe/Rau) – Work at the last meeting focused on the budget presentation to Convention.
- Incorporation (Jones/Smith) – The Committee is preparing for Convention presentation.
- Office Space Committee (Smith) – Hopes to meet in next two weeks.

- Congregational Life and Development Team (Jones) – no meeting
- Constitution & Canons (Johnstone) – no meeting
- Commission on Ministry Raining/Vosburgh – Retreat Nov. 20, 2018. Candidates say that they feel well-supported.
- Diocesan Council (Colton/Vosburgh) – no meeting
- Episcopal Elections (Colton) – Several recent elections likely to be considered at the December meeting
- Bishop’s Special Budget Committee (Mullen) – no meeting

Executive Session (as necessary)

- **McCausland noted** that Smith and Mullen are running for reelection along with several other candidates. McCausland expressed thanks to Smith and Mullen for their service.
- Retreat with the Commission on Ministry. Standing Committee and the COM hope to schedule an informal interaction in January on the weekend of the regular candidates meeting. Not yet scheduled.

Adjournment at 7:04 PM

Closing Prayer – Pat Smith offered the closing prayer.

Future Agenda Items

- Standing Committee Monthly Meetings/Upcoming Events
 - Dec. 4, 2018 Opening/Closing Prayers: Rau/Vosburgh