



## Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania

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### Minutes

Tuesday, Sept 25, 2018, 5:00 PM  
At the Offices of the Diocese

**As approved Oct. 23, 2018**

**Call to Order** at 5:00 PM by McCausland.

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

**Laypersons** present were Norman McCausland, Eric Rabe, Pat Smith and George Vosburgh.

**Excused** was Colin Johnstone.

**Also present** was Bishop Daniel Gutierrez via videoconference. Chancellor Mary Kohart did not attend this meeting, however, she called in with her report.

**The Agenda** was adopted unanimously.

**Opening Prayer:** The Rev. Hillary Raining offered the opening prayer.

**Minutes of July 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting.** Standing Committee approved the minutes of the July 24, 2018, meeting unanimously. The Minutes and Notes of that meeting were received.

### **Report of the Bishop:**

- The Bishop is attending the Gathering of Leaders in New England. The group supports young clergy.
- The Bishop attended the September Diocesan Council meeting. There he charged Council to assist smaller churches by helping them tie together mission, evangelism and outreach.
- Bishop announced that he will not cast his vote in favor of the newly elected bishop in Haiti. Bishop has discussed this with the Presiding Bishop and other Bishops. There is great concern about various issues in Haiti. Some dioceses that are in relationship with Haiti are refusing to financially support the Diocese of Haiti over concerns of accountability.
- The Bishop reported that the new Growth and Development Fund has made 10

grants to congregations during 2017. Another 10 grants will be made in 2018. The money is supporting food programs, job training and other projects through capital improvements.

- Bishop Gutierrez will be a co-consecrator of bishop-elect Michael Buerkel Hunn in the Diocese of the Rio Grande.
- The Diocese emphasis on Congregational Life and Development will move from a focus on smaller parishes to focus on medium-sized parishes in the next year. Newly available resources will include computer tools to gather demographic data and implement growth and other programs.
- The Bishop will provide a detailed budget message to the Diocese before Convention. He emphasized that the Diocese will not mandate large assessment increases in the near future, the Diocese will work with parishes to develop a common set of goals and objectives that all can support.
- The Bishop plans to form a Leadership Institute for the Diocese to help develop vestry leadership and support individuals who want to learn about their roles.

**Chancellor's Report:** The Chancellor joined the meeting by teleconference. She reported on St. John's Huntington Valley. The parish has sold a parcel of land and a church building while retaining a smaller church and cemetery. Family members of some who are those buried in the cemetery want to assure the health of the remaining parish and assure the longevity of the cemetery. The Family established a not-for-profit foundation to purchase the smaller church and cemetery property that this foundation will lease back to St. John's. Should the parish close at some time in the future, the property will revert to the foundation which would maintain the cemetery. Should the not-for-profit fail, the property would revert to the Diocese. The final details are now being completed and the Chancellor recommends that SC pass a resolution reiterating its approval of the project. All present expressed agreement.

**Ministry Approvals:** None this month. Three candidates will be considered at the October meeting.

**Diocesan Staff Reports** – No comments.

**Executive Committee Report Bishop's Report Chancellor's Report** – Met with the Bishop this afternoon. Discussion focused on items on the agenda for this meeting.

### **Finance Committee Referrals**

**A Resolution** was made and seconded (Rabe/Jones) that Standing Committee authorizes Epiphany, Royersford, to meet with real estate professionals to develop and negotiate a listing agreement to sell the property. The Finance Committee recommends approval. The listing agreement is to be reviewed by Standing Committee before becoming final. **Approved unanimously.**

**A Resolution** was made and seconded (Smith/Vosburgh) that Standing Committee approve the request of St. Jude and the Nativity church to lease its rectory to the Canon

Arlette Benoit-Joseph for one year at a rate of \$1700 per month. The Finance Committee recommends approval. The approval is subject to the lease review by the Chancellor. **Approved unanimously.**

**A Resolution** was made and seconded (Rabe/Jones) that Standing Committee approve the housing allowance for Canon Shawn Wamsley at \$30,000 per year. The Finance Committee recommends approval. **Approved unanimously.**

- **Communications** - None
- **Old Business**

**A Resolution** was made and seconded (Rabe/Raining) that Pat Smith be named chair of the new Office Space Committee. **Approved unanimously.**

The draft **Budget Narrative** for Convention was discussed. Individual members with recommendations are asked to communicate with Finance Chair Dana Hall.

### **New Business Diocesan Commission/Committee Reports**

- Finance – no further report
- Incorporation – The Bishop has appointed Jo Ann Jones to this committee. Mullen believes that a deeper discussion of proposed Canon changes is needed. Standing Committee discussed the need for incorporation and the Canon changes that are recommended.
- Congregational Life and Development Team - no meeting
- Constitution & Canons - no report.
- Commission on Ministry - The Rev. Amanda Eiman is the new chair. Commission proposes that a January meeting each year would be open to all candidates, COM members, and SC for informal conversation and to develop fellowship. This would be in addition to the normal candidate interview. The meeting will be scheduled shortly.
- Diocesan Council - Met on Sept/ 8, 2018. Items discussed included the Mission Process; the Bishop's Revolving Loan Fund, Commission on Wellness; and parity in compensation for clergy. Bishop reported to the Council on his three part challenge: Evangelism, Congregations and Mission and his plan for a new Leadership Institute.
- Episcopal Elections
  - **A Resolution** was made and seconded (Colton/Raining) that Standing Committee consents to a request by the Diocese of Texas to elect a Bishop Suffragan. **Approved unanimously.**
  - **A Resolution** was made and seconded (Colton/Raining) to consent to the election of Joseph Kerwin Delicat as Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of Haiti. The election is contested by some in the Diocese of Haiti. Motion to consent was **rejected unanimously.**
- Bishop's Special Budget Committee – committee has not met since May.

**The Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM by McCausland. Rabe offered a Closing Prayer.**

**Future Agenda Items**

- Standing Committee Monthly Meetings/Upcoming Events -- October 23, 2018
- October Opening/Closing Prayers: Raining/Smith
- COM Retreat (details?)
- November 9/10, 2018 Diocesan Convention
- November 27, 2018 Opening/Closing Prayers: Rau/Vosburgh