



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA
Diocesan Council
Saturday, January 28, 2017, 9AM-Noon
Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') (Southwark Deanery)
916 S Swanson St
Philadelphia, PA 19147
(215) 389-1513
www.old-swedes.org

Attendance

Rt Rev Daniel GP Gutiérrez, Bishop

Brandywine deanery: Rev John Sorensen, Jeff Dean, Elizabeth Curtis Swain

Bucks deanery: Rev Marlee Norton, Dave Dixon, George Pollitt

Delaware deanery: Janet Ross

Merion deanery: Stephen Krouse

Montgomery deanery: Rev Mike Rau, Joseph Madison

Pennypack deanery: Rev Richard Datas-Robyn, Dr Carole Baxter, Peter Datas-Robyn

Schuylkill deanery: Rev Mariclaire Partee Carlsen, Pattie Davis, Renae Rutherford Lowe

Southwark deanery: Rev D Joy Segal, Jeanette Woehr, Peggy Hatch

Valley Forge deanery: Beverly Loftus

Wissahickon deanery: Rev Emmanuel Mercer, Helen Zartarian

James Pope, Treasurer; Rev Canon Shawn Wamsley; Rev Canon Nancy James Deming; Doug Horner, Finance & Business Administrator; Jerome G Buescher, Secretary

Celebration of Holy Communion (20 minutes)

The Rt. Rev. Daniel Gutierrez, Presider

(Transition to meeting - 5 minutes)

MINUTES

1. Call to Order
09:35 AM

The Rt. Rev. Daniel Gutierrez

2. Host – Welcome (10 minutes)

The Rev. Joy Segal

a. Information about Parish and Community

Oldest church in PA in continuous use. Part of Department of Interior National Park Service (NPS). "Old Swedes," one of 8 churches originally of Swedish Lutheran foundation. Property originally 3 times the size of current plot. NPS's partner. NPS destroyed much of neighborhood in creating parcel surrounding the church, I-95 construction destroyed even more. Income from endowments, rentals, fund-raising events major source of income. Parish was Lutheran for about 150 years. So when people talk about "change in church," we can say "we've been there." Jeanette Woehr, a parishioner, is local historical resource.

b. Opening Prayer

3. Opening of the meeting (5 minutes)

The Rt. Rev. Daniel Gutierrez, Presider

- a. Welcome to members, diocesan staff, introductions
Those present introduced themselves to the group.
- b. Recognition of visitors
- c. Adoption of the agenda
A motion was made, seconded, and approved.

4. Minutes of the November 12, 2016 meeting of Diocesan Council (5 minutes)
Request for changes. A motion was made, seconded, and approved.

Jerome Buescher, Secretary

5. Presentation: 2016, Year in Review (20 minutes)

The Rt. Rev. Daniel Gutierrez

Has been an exciting year but tiring one. Communication – persistent case of believing that communication has happened when it hasn't happened. We'll keep trying to communicate over and over. 100-Day report, available on diopa.org. Pilgrimage narrative also present there. Wife and son still in Albuquerque, bishop tries to visit every 3 weeks. Bishop how has residence in Wynnewood. Bible challenge – 400 to 500 people [Secretary's note: as of 26 Apr 2017, that number is approximately 2,100 individuals] reading daily, commenting. Dave Dixon: really appreciates the fact that the app available at diopa.org permits one to listen as well as to read; he can listen while walking every morning.

6. Discussion: 2017, The Path Ahead (30 minutes)

The Rt. Rev. Daniel Gutierrez

First 6 months – hard, exhausting work. The bishop eventually realized that he had worked too hard at times. Prayed about lack of contemplative prayer, important to his spiritual life. Visit to College of Bishops – am I doing right things, is craziness around me normal? Answer – it's normal, you're opening relationships. Helped the bishop to realize: things are not going to happen overnight; will take 3-5 years to accomplish initiatives. We all need prayer, deep prayer; needs to be part of his episcopacy. Getting Jesus out to the world – from prayer within. For him, needs to learn to model better behavior. E-mails: within 24 hours, but next morning, not right now. Good thing – bishop says it took him “only” 6 months to learn this, not 6 years.

2017 Initiatives:

Canon James Deming – heads a Life and Redevelopment Team, clergy and lay combined effort. What is God calling for, how can diocese be of help, not a “punisher.” How can we use churches the other 6 days of the week.

Canon Wamsley – laity are the evangelists of today, need to be cultivated. Diocese can provide help by referencing reputable contractors, supply clergy, consolidating purchases; the diocese can decrease burden on individual clergy.

Questions: Rev Joy Segal – happy to hear about Rev James Deming and direction of her efforts. Old paradigm of coming in to administratively organize doesn't work any longer. Rev James Deeming diocesan initiatives going up on diopa.org this week. Rev Rick Datos-Robyn: concern in smaller older churches: stewardship of what we have received. Question about historic preservation committee in diocese. Rev James Deming – asked Rev Datos-Robyn to e-mail her about contact persons. Rev D Joy Segal reiterated.

Bishop Gutiérrez – we need to envision together, to build our congregations.

7. Jerome Buescher – reminded those attending about the attendance sheet, and the Diocesan Council information sheet. Asked for corrections. Rev D Joy Segal – keeping information up to date is a constant problem, belongs in lap of Deans because deaneries provide representatives to Diocesan Council. The bishop said he would make this information gathering a project for the Deans.
8. Discussion: Contacting Parishes Regarding “Fair Share” (30 minutes) The Rt. Rev. Daniel Gutierrez
Peter Datos-Robyn – better than budgeted last year but still some big gaps. Last Finance Committee meeting – grants to congregations. In February, request for grant applications. Better communication – for new ministries, not current operations. How to get word out? What to do next?

Dave Dixon – ad-hoc committee, now called Diocesan Council Communications. How to make quick simple project. Bishop Gutiérrez – within next few weeks, need to get better handle on whole issue. Small parishes – 18% is off-putting. Can this method be addressed? James Pope – told his parish that if DIOPA is “shorted,” mission development is shorted. Peter Datos-Robyn – asking for 4-5%, actually give about 1%. Should the “asking” letter be looked at? Joe Madison – “Under One Roof.” What we do together. Bishop Gutiérrez: similar plan being rolled out, twice in 2017. Joe Madison will help with plans. Rev Marlee Norton – perception in small churches is that little or no contribution from larger wealthier parishes. Is there a plan about direct confrontation with parishes? Bishop Gutiérrez – here’s where we need to come together on this. Need input from “smaller parishes.” Rev D Joy Segal – flat taxes are unfair. So why is “ask” flat? Should it be graduated? Bishop Gutiérrez – agrees. Rev John Sorensen – pastors of larger parishes say their facilities are part of their contribution. So – where is foundation of 2-part system? Peter Datos-Robyn – understands this is mandated by canons. Elizabeth Swain – what is small vs what is large? Them vs us? Joe Madison – need to get people to understand that they’re part of a team called the Diocese. Complex problem, we all need to be aware we’re all part of one diocese. Dave Dixon – are we talking to other dioceses, other denominations, or are we reinventing the wheel? Bishop Gutiérrez – we’re looking at this, Bishop Curry in North Carolina did this Let’s get together with Rev Canon Wamsley and see what canons do and do not say.

Motion: form committee/project – project fair share. Seconded. Approved. Two months for initial report.

Jeff Dean – move toward getting hands dirty, local. Peter Datos-Robyn – project will go on for a little while. But – will there be a grant project for 2018? Motion that there be a grant project; seconded. Discussion: Beverly Loftus, needs more money. Bishop Gutiérrez – needs standing committee input, George Vosburgh charged with that. James Pope – need the granting process, and can feed back shortfall to parishes. Dave Dixon – grants need to be visible, told to everyone – “Now I see what money is used for.” Joe Madison – Finance Committee needs to be told. Rev Mariclaire Partee Carlsen – request to call the question. Motion approved.

Question about committee – committee to consist of Joe Madison, Peter Datos-Robyn, Beverly Loftus, and George Vosburgh.

10:50 – 5 minute break.

9. Executive Committee Report (10 minutes)

The Rev. Richard Datas-Robyn

10:55 AM

a. Plans and suggestions for future presentations to Diocesan Council

i. In light of "2017 Path Ahead," whom to invite for presentations?

Diocesan Council hears from Commissions and Committees and others. Ideas about from whom else to hear? Can recommend now or contact Rev Rick Datas-Robyn via contact information in booklet.

Peter Datas-Robyn – should Diocesan Council request input from prior year grant recipients, what did they do? Answer – yes.

b. Full deanery representation on council

At moment, missing only one lay delegate, from Delaware Deanery.

10. Bishop's Report (15 minutes)

The Rt. Rev. Daniel Gutierrez

Subsumed under previous reports and comments from the Bishop.

11. Treasurer's Report (10 minutes)

Mr. James Pope, Treasurer

Finances thru December arrived late, year-end-numbers.

Revenue side: did very well on both sides of contributions. About \$70K unpaid contributions; in past have attempted collection for one year. James Pope – recommendation to pay by 28 Feb 2017 via genteel pressure. Budget amount set for Bishop Gutiérrez's search and installation was too low; budget for servant year was over optimistic in terms of revenue. Other items very close, good management. In short: James Pope is happy as treasurer. Joe Madison – Servant Year beginning again, may generate new costs in August, unknown. James Pope – information committee will study insurance availabilities vs Sovereign Insurance. Church Insurance insures almost all dioceses but this one. Problem – no diocese wide database of insurable properties.

Rev D Joy Segal – "off budget" items. Should some of these go on budget? James Pope – yes. Bishop Gutiérrez – looking at this as a non-transparency issue.

Motion to accept Treasury Report. Seconded. Approved.

12. Standing Committee Report (5 minutes)

George Vosburgh

Incorporation issue. Was put on hold awaiting Bishop Gutiérrez arrival. Committee has looked at experience of other dioceses. Diocesan Council will be asked to provide one rep to comm.

E-mail from Diocesan Council member – John Sorensen re Standing Committee about forgiveness of note for \$375K to purchase rectory for church, St Mark, Honeybrook. Done when Bishop Bennison was bishop; he took initiative to forgive the loan. Bishop Clifton Daniel confirmed forgiveness. Bishop Gutiérrez – misunderstanding; request was to reaffirm that what Bishop Clifton Daniel had asserted, that the "loan" was really a grant.

Question for Diocesan Council – anything to take back to Standing Committee from Diocesan Council?

13. Committee Reports (oral and written) *(10 minutes)*

14. Old business

Dave Dixon – quick action on loan for Elkins Park.

Rev John Sorensen – previous convention regarding Holy Land. Going to Israel to look at situation there.

15. New business

Update: Diocesan Loan Fund

Joseph Madison

Loan Committee – 2013-2014, \$250K fund for Diocesan Council to administer. Stipulations about loan application process. One bad loan at present. Committee: Beverly Loftus, Joe Madison, George Vosburgh, Helen Zartarian, Dave Dixon; Doug Horner

Loan application – St Paul’s Elkins Park. Boiler more than 55 yrs old. Motion for \$50K loan for boiler. Seconded, approved.

Appointing a Diocesan Council member to committee on incorporation – Elizabeth Swain. Motion, seconded, approved.

Announcement about Episcopal Church Club of Philadelphia – luncheon.

16. Schedule of next meeting

Jerome Buescher, Secretary

(March 25, 2017 – St. James, Collegeville)

Bishop Gutiérrez asked Rev Rick Datos-Robyn to celebrate and preach at next Diocesan Council meeting. Rev Rick Datos-Robyn agreed.

17. Reflections *(5 minutes)*

Peter Datos-Robyn – likes starting with Eucharist. Rev Mariclar Partee Carlsen – likes to be able to worship. Dr Carole Baxter – thanks for recognition of her engagement and birthday.

18. Closing Prayer

The Rev. Richard Datos-Robyn

19. Adjournment

The Rt. Rev. Daniel Gutierrez

11:40 AM