



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA
Diocesan Council Meeting – Saturday 13 May 2017
Episcopal Church of the Advent (Brandywine Deanery)
401 N Union St
Kennett Square PA 19348
610-444-4624

Celebration of Holy Communion (*20 minutes*)

Rev Richard Datos-Robyn

(*Transition to meeting - 5 minutes*)

AGENDA

Attendance

Rt Rev Daniel GP Gutiérrez, Bishop

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

Bucks Deanery: Dave Dixon

Delaware Deanery: Rev Marjorie Oughton

Merion Deanery: Rev David Romanik, Christopher Hart

Montgomery Deanery: Rev Mike Rau, Joseph Madison

Pennypack Deanery: Rev Richard Datos-Robyn, Peter Datos-Robyn

Schuylkill Deanery: Rev Mariclaire Partee Carlsen

Southwark Deanery: No attendees

Valley Forge Deanery: No attendees

Wissahickon Deanery: Helen Zartarian

James Pope, Treasurer; Doug Horner, Finance and Business Administrator; Jerome Buescher, Secretary

Guests: Ann Booth Barbarin; Rev Deirdre Whitfield; Norman McClave, Chair, Finance Committee

1. Call to Order
09:45

The Rt. Rev. Daniel Gutiérrez

2. Host and welcome

Rev Nancy T Hauser

- a. Information about Parish and Community

135 years ago this month Kennett Square was blessed with an Episcopal church. The church was named in honor of Phillips Brooks church "Advent." Brought windows and pews from original church on Broad Street. Bayard Taylor of Kennett Square was a poet and diplomat; eventually ambassador to Prussia; buried in Kennet Square. There is a model of the original church In parish hall; this model was done by the Wyeths. At the present time, after the history: Rev Greg Wilson has joined the staff as family minister. Advent Joined with the neighboring Lutheran church to form a confirmation class. The parish has renewed its outreach efforts – moving away from "checkbook outreach" to doing Christ's work in the community.

- b. Opening Prayer

3. Opening of the meeting (5 minutes)

The Rt. Rev. Daniel Gutiérrez, Presider

a. Welcome to members, diocesan staff, introductions

Special thanks to Joe Madison for hard work last month, grants and budget issues.

b. Recognition of Visitors

Around the room introductions (first names only)

c. Adoption of the agenda

Moved, seconded. Discussion. Decision to amend by adding an item to discuss and work out grants and pledges discussions. Approved.

4. Minutes of the 28 Jan 2017 meeting of Diocesan Council (5 minutes)

Jerome Buescher, Secretary

A motion was made and seconded. There was no discussion. The motion was approved.

5. Presentation of functions and needs of the Nominations Committee

Ms Cordelia Biddle

In her absence: the Bishop and Rev Deirdre Whitfield spoke. Once again, a call for people to serve. Encouragement to have people put their name forward to serve the diocese. Nominations need to reflect diversity of diocese. The Bishop will send a letter about this topic. Rev Deirdre Whitfield: actively gathering names of those serving. Please stay attuned to the process, please help get names of individuals to run. Rev Whitfield has a list of openings for election, now searching for those willing to run. For anyone who has any of a desire to run – go to DIOPA website, look up lists, put your name forward. The Bishop plans to write a theological statement to distribute, expand our base.

– Discussion of nomination process

– Information from committee members about committee functions and goals

– Committees being created and opportunities for service by Diocesan Council members

6. Break (10 minutes)

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7. Discussion of the DCCM process

The Rev Richard Datos-Robÿn, Rev Canon Ivey

The Bishop noted that over the last 11 months, there has been discussion about DCMM process. Need definitive address to this process – how does it work? Where are we going?

Old model of ASAs don't work anymore. There needs to be another column: "authentic sacred encounters," or something to that effect. For example, Rev Betsy Ivey was feeding 300 Muslim children but that effort does not appear in official reports. Question: What is the acronym being used. Christopher Hart: correct form is DCMM, that stands for "diocesan coalition for mission and ministry." The Secretary acknowledged his error and will correct mis-done acronym in the future and correct past usage. Peter Datos-Robÿn: authority lies with council, to make and unmake missions. Joseph Madison: recommendation that he, Christopher Hart, Rev Ivey, and some others to research this in the next 4 weeks for 1-2 page statement on process. The Bishop approved of this process. Rev Deirdre Whitfield: please insert canon references in whatever document is produced. Rev Reneee McKenzie: thanks to Bishop for opening process, requested to be on committee.

Joseph Madison: made a motion to form committee, report back in one month. Seconded. Discussion. Ann Booth Barbarin asked what happened last year? Peter Datos-Robyn – Canon Deming came, described situation in Norristown, recommended that the diocese make St John Norristown a mission. Rev Deirdre Whitfield: St Mary Chester was taken off the DCM list. It was noted that the Rev Jim Wynn built church out of mission to parish. Norman McClave – need to be clear about the impact of being a mission church. Rev Mariclaire Partee Carlesen – confusion about “aided congregations” vs “mission congregations.” Christopher Hart suggested asking John Midwood about oversight. Christopher Hart: important to be clear about “added congregations” vs “mission congregations.” The Bishop pointed out the various confusions and asked that they be resolved by the committee being formed. After discussion, the motion to form a committee was approved.

[During and after the meeting, the Secretary has understood that the committee has the following members: Joe Madison, Chris Hart (willing to consult, not be on committee), Rev Renee McKenzie, Rev Deidre Whitfield, Rev Lynn Hade (Advent Hatboro), Doug Hunter, Ann Booth Barbarin. The Secretary will circulate e-mail addresses to all members. – JGB]

8. Executive Committee Report (10 minutes) The Rev. Richard Datos-Robyn

By the June meeting, need to know the Diocesan Council members for the balance of 2017. Also need to come up with a slate for Executive Committee members of the Council. Deans need to be reminded that Diocesan Council representatives are chosen by the deaneries. Thanks to the Budget Sub-Committee for their work.

9. Bishop’s Report (15 minutes) The Rt. Rev. Daniel Gutiérrez

Bishop’s quick story from the House of Bishops meeting. His commitment at that meeting: speak little, learn everything. Another Bishop to our Bishop – “We’re praying for you because that’s a mean place.” The Bishop said he was first angry, then bugged. The next day – another Bishop said to him “You’re doing great work in DIOPA.” That’s what we want to be, that’s what we want to keep working on. Thanks to everyone for what you’re doing. We need to be a place of prayer. We’re a Jesus people, always & everywhere. We’re your servants, as you saw in restructuring announcement from yesterday. Rev Kirk Berlenbach and Rev Betsy Ivey – helping to get things done, especially for smaller parishes. Coming: Magazine, online & print versions. Convention: highlighting work being done. New committees. Mentors for those who need them. Asking: suggestions for youth program, providing resources for congregations rather than running everything out of the diocesan office. The Bishop will run office hours every Thursday morning in the time to come somewhere in DIOPA. Rev John Sorensen: asking for help for congregational development Canon or actually filling that position? Bishop – filling it. Helen Zartarian asked about the House of Bishops story – is it that the younger bishops are more aware of current situation? Bishop – yes, by and large.

10. Treasurer’s Report (10 minutes) Mr. James Pope, Treasurer

No financial reports this time, will come probably next week. Assessment payments are at about 34% of the annual target, ahead of previous year’s rate. Revenues and expenses are pretty much as budgeted. Still pinning down pledges for 2018. Administratively, the Diocese needs to know. If you know of a parish that has not pledged, please see to that. Pledging “face” is more important than amount. Running a process to re-bid insurance for DIOPA. Has been going on since November. Slower than anticipated because of lack of detailed and reliable diocesan-wide database of insurables. Hope: to have 2 competing prices by the renewal date, middle of June. Now: seems data slow to arrive. But – Sovereign’s proposals are coming out 20% lower than previous years. Doug Horner – the Diocese is asking for data about insurables. Please respond to that. Doug Horner – Earl Irby retired, took opportunity to hire Troy Hardy as assistant accountant. Idea is that he will grow into Controller position.

Bishop – spending lots of time with finance people to deal with 2018 budget. How to get things done without just raising assessments.

Joe Madison – requests are in, not enough funds to fund them all. Joe Madison’s suggestion – look hard at an additional \$125K of revenue to do a better job of funding those requests. Jesus was about looking at people. We are charged to do the same. The Bishop acknowledged that he supports the thought and the admonition.

11. Standing Committee Report (5 minutes)

George Vosburgh

Incorporation committee – The Bishop has appointed Rev Frank Allen as head. Looking at NY and Chicago dioceses principally. The Incorporation Committee will hold an important meeting on 09 Sep 2017. SC approved 3 for ordination in June, 4 more coming up for candidacy.

12. Committee Reports (oral and written) (10 minutes)

Major item – Budget & Funding Issues, item specifically added to the agenda.

The Finance Committee (hereafter: FC) has given Diocesan Council (hereafter: DC) a role for budget and mission, last year and this year.

Norman McClave, chair of Finance Committee: overall budget is tight. Kept assessments the same, keeping pledge goal same. Endowment seems to be coming in lower. Revenue restraints. DC recommends funding to FC. More requests than likely to be filled. DC also recommends receipts and to see that they are rec’d – \$750K, same as 2017. Up sharply from actual receipts in 2016. In 2017 to date, about \$600K received. 33 churches (nearly 25%) have not pledged. \$5K per church would close gap. DC needs to recommend: increases, decreases – and figure out how to get them.

Motion: keep 2018 DC recommendation at \$750K. Seconded. Approved.

Amendment added and approved: churches not providing required documentation by the June DC meeting (10 Jun 17) will not be funded.

Grants and ministries – see loose sheet distributed at meeting. [Amended/corrected sheet attached at end of these minutes – JGB]

A motion to accept the Sub-committee recommendations was made and seconded. Discussion. Joe Madison – if the Diocese can find more money, restore, for example, St Simon the Cyrenian request. Yes, is capital request but looks at ministry. Bishop – we need to decide how to look in future at churches that need capital funds to meet their ministry and mission. Rev Deirdre Whitfield: how can a church receive funding without providing required documentation; how is that equal access? Statement was made that some documentation was not on sheet distributed by was submitted.

Rev Deirdre Whitfield: St Mary Chester vs St Paul Chester – it appears that St Mary is being slighted.

The Bishop called for a 5-minute break for people to regain composure and to remember that we are here as brothers and sisters in Christ.

The meeting resumed at 11:30 AM with prayer from the Bishop and with the group saying the Lord’s Prayer together.

Back to discussion – there was no further discussion. The motion was approved.

13. Old business

There was no old business presented.

14. New business

There was no new business presented.

Schedule of next meeting

Jerome Buescher, Secretary

June 10, 2017 – Emmanuel Resurrection Church (Pennypack Deanery)
8201 Frankford Ave – Philadelphia PA 19136
215-624-8520

The Bishop asked Rev Deirdre Whitfield to preside at the Eucharist, Rev Mike Rau to preach

15. Reflections (*5 minutes*)

Christopher Hart – joy of seeing parishes of diocese as Diocesan Council moves around the diocese.

16. Closing Prayer

Rev Mary Clair Partee Carlsen

Prayer for faithful stewardship.

17. Adjournment

The Rt. Rev. Daniel Gutiérrez

11:35

Submitted by
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