



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA
Diocesan Council
Philadelphia Episcopal Cathedral
Saturday, 11 November 2017
13-19 S 38th St, Philadelphia PA 19104
<http://www.philadelphiacathedral.org/> – 215-386-0234

Celebration of Holy Communion (20 minutes)

Celebrant: Very Rev Judith Sullivan
Homilist: Rev Canon Shawn Wamsley

(Transition to meeting - 5 minutes)

MINUTES

Those in attendance

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

Bucks Deanery: Rev Marlene Norton, Dave Dixon

Delaware Deanery: Rev Marjorie Oughton, Henry Methamaki

Merion Deanery: Rev David Romanik, Stephen Krouse, Christopher Hart

Montgomery Deanery: Warren Wanlund, Susan L Hunsicker

Pennypack Deanery: no representatives

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

Southwark Deanery: Jeanette Woehr

Valley Forge Deanery: Faith Millen

Wissahickon Deanery: Rev Peter Carey, Helen Zartarian

James Pope, Treasurer; Canon Doug Horner, Finance & Business Administration; Rev Canon Shawn Wamsley;

Rev Elizabeth Colton, Standing Committee; George Vosburgh, Standing Committee; Jerome G Buescher, Secretary

1. Call to Order Jerome G Buescher, in absence of Bishop Gutiérrez
09:40 AM
2. Host – Welcome and Opening Prayer (10 minutes) The Very Rev Judith Sullivan
Delayed till after item 3 to accommodate Dean Sullivan's schedule

We are meeting in the Stephanie Liem Azar Cathedral Center. Please read the piece in this issue of *Caminos*, in the URL <http://tinyurl.com/y7xhvxn timer>. Besides being the place for diocesan events, such as Convention and Ordinations, there is a great amount of community outreach and effort. Under where we are meeting is a childcare space for 100 children. A 12-Step Recovery meeting now exists here, as does a Recovery Eucharist on a weekly basis. There is a spirituality center coming shortly under the direction of Rev Phillip Bennett. The cathedral offices are moving to the space where the diocesan offices are located and that move will open up additional space for community events.

3. Opening of the meeting (5 minutes) Jerome G Buescher, in absence of Bishop Gutiérrez
 - a. Welcome to members, diocesan staff, introductions
As this is the first meeting after the 234th (2017) diocesan convention, Jerome Buescher asked all those present to identify themselves to facilitate working together.

- b. Recognition of Visitors
Rev Elizabeth Colton, George Vosburgh, both representatives from the Standing Committee.
- c. Adoption of the agenda
Some changes to the agenda were required: Mr. James Pope, the Treasurer, could not stay for the entire length of the meeting and asked that his presentation under item 4 be moved to the first (item “a”) position. The election matters under item 7 are postponed until the next meeting in January.

A motion to approve the agenda as amended above was put forward and seconded. There was no discussion. The motion was approved.

4. Diocesan Council “101” (45 minutes)

- a. Diocesan financial statements and reports. (James Pope, Treasurer of the Diocese)
Canon 3.3 – specifies two positions, Treasurer & Assistant Treasurer. The Assistant Treasurer position is currently vacant but will be filled soon. The Treasurer – the position as set form in the canons: Not elected, appointed by the bishop with the consent of the Standing Committee. Basically: keeps an eye on the “financial plumbing” of the Diocese of Pennsylvania. The treasurer is also responsible for looking forward, in light of closings of churches and maintenance issues attendant on those properties. The treasurer is an ex officio member of both the Diocesan Council and the Standing Committee, as well as the Board of the Church Foundation.
- b. What is the Diocesan Council? Canonical roles and responsibilities, relationships to other leadership bodies, leadership structure of the Diocesan Council. (Mary Kohart, Esq, Chancellor of the Diocese)
Omitted in the absence of Mary Kohart, Esq
- c. Responsibilities and expectations of Diocesan Council members. (The Rt Rev Daniel Gutiérrez)
In the absence of Bishop Gutiérrez, Canon Shawn Wamsley addressed those responsibilities and expectations. Expectations are that members should be faithful to workings of Council and attendance at Council meetings, and to the mission of the Diocese of Pennsylvania. According to the canons, to carry out programs and policies initiated by convention. Annually, Diocesan Council must report to convention about what it has done. Diocesan Council administers the Diocese of Pennsylvania loan fund. Canons the Diocese of Pennsylvania, Canon 6. Helen Zartarian – are Council members expected to report back to their originating deaneries? Yes, that is important.
- d. Communication, contact information. (Jerome Buescher, Secretary of Diocesan Council)
Jerome Buescher reminded members of the need to keep their contact information to Diocesan Council up to date. He also stated (as a matter of personal opinion and preference) that complex reports or issues for action at Diocesan Council are best distributed ahead of scheduled meetings, through the now-standard schedule of being supplied to the secretary for distribution two weeks ahead of meetings, rather than presented orally at meetings. In response to a question about when minutes from meeting are distributed, Jerome said that past practice had been to distribute those minutes just before the next meeting, but that he had come to the conclusion that minutes should be distributed earlier, e.g, one week after a meeting. He indicated that he would work hard to see that the one-week return was carried out. He was asked if that “pledge” would be included in the minutes. He agreed to that inclusion, and this is that inclusion.

- 5. Minutes of the 30 Sep 2017 meeting of Diocesan Council (*5 minutes*) Jerome Buescher, Secretary
A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 30 Sep 2017 Diocesan Council meeting. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved.

6. Bishop's Report (30 minutes) Rev Canon Shawn Wamsley, in the absence of Rt Rev Daniel Gutiérrez

There is a sense of pride about our Bishop being invited to Lambeth as the representative of this diocese. The list of all diocesan events for 2018 will be published on diopa.org soon. Dates for 2019 will be published by May of 2018. From the Bishop's standpoint, the convention went very well. The budget was worked out well, 5 budget sessions were held throughout the diocese, a final session was held the opening day of the convention. The result was that at convention, there was no dissenting discussion about budget matters; essentially, the budget was passed by acclamation. The Bishop has instituted a practice of holding office hours in deaneries on a rotating basis Thursdays each month. This practice puts the business of the diocese "on the road." The Canons are involved in these office hours as well. New: on the other Thursdays of each month, the Bishop will participate in various parish ministries.

More staff transitions are coming – the positions for oversight of transitions, communications, and missions. Hiring for the transitions position will occur soon. Interviews for the missions position will begin soon. Phone conversations about the communications position are in process. Christopher Hart: asked Canon Wamsley to talk about role of canons in visiting parish ministry. Canon Wamsley pointed out that the canons make "visits," not "canonical visitations." These visits are opportunities to make relationships. What is being accomplished now: every congregation will have a visit from the bishop or someone on his staff at least once per year; there had been some congregations that had not had a visit from the bishop's office for six years.

7. Executive Committee Report (10 minutes)

All election items were deferred to the next Diocesan Council meeting, in January of 2018.

The schedule of Diocesan Council meetings for 2018 has not yet been determined (except for the January 2018 meeting, see below).

Next Diocesan Convention – 02 Nov 2018, 03 Nov 2018

8. Treasurer's Report (10 minutes) Mr. James Pope, Treasurer
Distributed as handout package by Mr. Pope

9. Standing Committee Report (5 minutes) Standing Committee Liaison
George Vosburgh noted that the Standing Committee has been carrying out its duties and responsibilities. He also confirmed that actions of the Standing Committee can be found at <http://www.diopa.org/standing-committee-actions-and-consents/>.

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

Elizabeth Swain spoke about the incorporation process being carried out. A Committee has been formed, Elizabeth Swain is the representative to that committee from Diocesan Council. She noted that incorporation itself is quick, can be done in one day. It's what needs to be done ahead of time that takes time. Must look at canons, send recommendations to canons committee. Looking at dioceses around USA of size & complexity of the Diocese of Pennsylvania. There is page on the Diocese of Pennsylvania website – <http://www.diopa.org/incorporation/>. Question: Jerome Buescher – is the website active? Elizabeth Swain – Website was activated on the day before convention. Message from Rev Elizabeth Colton – from Rev Frank Allen (chair of incorporation committee), how does Diocesan Council become smaller? Concern: in a future governance structure, a body of 30 members meeting at relatively infrequent intervals is problematic. Elizabeth Swain – not so much question of size but how to be sure it's representative. Question, reference about "size." Helen Zartarian – asked about sizes of Standing Committee and Diocesan Council, regarding size, etc. George Vosburgh – size is 12 vs 33, but Standing Committee does not have diocese-wide representation. Rev John Sorensen – is the task normalizing the size and representational status of Standing Committee and Diocesan Council? Elizabeth Swain – yes, in general.

George Vosburgh – Some years ago the Anti-Racism Committee became the Anti-Racism Commission. In past six months, the Commission has attempted to return to its original structure and mission. By the next Convention, the Commission will have had elections to fill positions. The Commission has changed from outsourcing training to doing it in-house. There is a Diocese of Pennsylvania site for the Anti-Racism Commission – <http://www.diopa.org/news/anti-racism-commission/>. Opportunities are listed there. The Anti-Racism Commission is conducting an event on 18 Nov 2017. A flyer was distributed and the information is available online as well. Helen Zartarian – is the Anti-Racism Commission different from the Anti-Human Trafficking Commission? George Vosburgh: two completely different commissions.

11. Old business

There was no old business presented.

12. New business

Rev John Sorenson – Representatives from the Guatemala Committee are traveling to Guatemala on 19 Nov 2017 for the consecration of the new Co-Adjutor Bishop of Guatemala, Rev Silvestre Romero. The new bishop is bi-cultural (educated and ministered in the USA). He has a good relationship with Bishop Gutiérrez. George Vosburgh mentioned that the Global Mission Committee had met with the Archbishop of Cuba when she visited St Thomas Whitemarsh.

Canon Doug Horner: there is a “new” property and renewal grant program. Over the next 5 years, \$300K per year in \$30K (maximum) grants. Any one parish may receive only one grant within the 5 years. If completed, the grant program will fund at least 50 churches. Mr Horner encouraged parishes to participate in funding of projects. The Bishop will appoint a small group to handle these grant requests. Goal – bring first recommended projects to Jan 2018 Diocesan Council meeting. Canon Horner’s office will manage, issue reports. Elizabeth Swain – communications component, required? Canon Horner – yes. There will be a site within the diopa.org website. Helen Zartarian – need to require benchmarks. Rev Colton – the Bishop wants this streamlined; parishes need to report but for publicity. Rev David Romanik – problems with “queuing” system proposed; by end of first year, it may be apparent that no newly-presented projects can ever be funded. Canon Horner – recognized the concern; the issue will need to be researched. Rev Marlee Norton – small parishes, issue of resources to manage timely submission of grant applications. Rev Elizabeth Colton – chain of approvals not clear, needs to be researched.

13. Schedule of next meeting

Jerome Buescher, Secretary

The next meeting of Diocesan Council is scheduled for Saturday, 27 Jan 2018. The location has not yet been determined

14. Reflections (5 minutes)

Canon Wamsley – today’s meeting a good example of the new life and vigor appearing in the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

He also mentioned up-coming ordinations to the priesthood.

15. Closing Prayer

David Romanik

16. Adjournment

Jerome G Buescher, in absence of Bishop Gutiérrez

11:43 AM