



**THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA
DIOCESAN COUNCIL
Saturday, November 12, 2016
Philadelphia Cathedral**

Attendance

Rt Rev Daniel GP Gutierrez, Bishop

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

Bucks Deanery: Dave Dixon, George Pollitt

Delaware Deanery: Rev Marjorie Oughton, Janet Ross

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

Montgomery Deanery: Rev Mike Rau, Joseph Madison, Warren Wanlund

Pennypack Deanery: Dr. Carole Baxter

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

Southwark Deanery: Rev D Joy Segal, Peggy Hatch

Valley Forge Deanery: Rev Mike Sowards

Wissahickon Deanery: Rose Muriel Rains, Helen Zartarian

Mary Kohart, Chancellor; James Pope, Treasurer; Rev Canon Shawn Wamsley, Canon to the Ordinary; Rev Canon

Nancy James Deming, Canon to the Ordinary; Jerome G. Buescher, Secretary

Celebration of Holy Communion (20 minutes)

The Rt. Rev. Daniel Gutierrez, Presider

(Transition to meeting - 5 minutes)

AGENDA

1. Call to Order The Rt. Rev. Daniel Gutierrez
09:32. Good morning, welcome.
2. Host – Welcome and Opening Prayer (10 minutes) The Very Rev. Judith Sullivan
Welcome. Good to see you again at your cathedral. Lots of changes in preceding year. Prayer: God, as you watch over council of this diocese, may this meeting and its actions be fruitful.
3. Opening of the meeting (5 minutes) The Rt. Rev. Daniel Gutierrez
 - a. Welcome and Introductions
Introductions around room. Bishop likes to begin things with the Eucharist, community building.
 - b. Adoption of the agenda
Amendment to agenda regarding time for presentation by United Thank Offering representative – motion, seconded, no discussion, approved. Agenda amended
 - c. Recognition of Visitors

4. Diocesan Council “101” (45 minutes)

- a. What is the Diocesan Council, anyway? Canonical roles and responsibilities, relationships to other leadership bodies, leadership structure of the Diocesan Council. (Mary Kohart, Esq., Chancellor of the Diocese)

Flux. Ought to be convention between conventions, deal with legislative items between conventions. Lacks funds to do that in most cases. What it does is to promote missions of Diocese of Pennsylvania, e.g., Commission on Human Trafficking. Also needs to deal with communication between diocese and deaneries, parishes. Also has direct responsibility for “mission churches.” Diocesan Council can make a parish a mission, even involuntarily. Assist Bishop in managing assets of such parishes.

Christopher Hart – another point about Diocesan Council: elected from deaneries, takes account of geographic diversity of diocese.

- b. Responsibilities and Expectations of Diocesan Council members (The Rt. Rev. Daniel Gutierrez)

You, the laity, are the voice of the diocese – to proclaim the kingdom and build it up. Show Bishop how we can manage our missions. Outside our structures, vision, transform – envision a new future out of our past. Jesus: empowered his followers and they came back joyous.

Bishop wants to have a day retreat for Diocesan Council, a way to deal with people rather than the institution. Safe, transparent. Listening. Linda will determine date. We are changing narrative. Changing how we treat one another as brothers and sisters.

- c. Diocesan Council Committee participation and responsibilities (The Rev. Joy Segal)

In the package for this meeting is a report of Diocesan Council to the convention. Shows what Diocesan Council has done over the previous year.

- d. Diocesan Financial Statements and Reports (Mr. James Pope, Treasurer)

Role of the Treasurer is to manage and report collections and budgetary process, to make sure the accounts of the Diocese of Pennsylvania and Church Foundation are audited regularly. Goal has been to improve transparency of Diocese of Pennsylvania finances. E.g., had on-budget and off-budget funds; we should have a consolidated budget that shows everything. We will be moving toward that (seconded by Bishop). Things we can do that will help parishes run more efficiently.

- e. Communications (Jerome Buescher, Secretary of Diocesan Council)

5. Minutes of the September 24, 2016 meeting of Diocesan Council (5 minutes)
Move to adopt, seconded, no discussion, accepted.

Jerome Buescher, Secretary

6. Bishop’s Report (30 minutes)

The Rt. Rev. Daniel Gutierrez

Thanks to everyone for their welcome during consecration and recent convention. Half way through pilgrimage – what we’re doing is in response to those pilgrimage visits. Has purchased house but still at the Ben, can’t see outside – got surprised by finding rain as left for one pilgrimage. Lively activity with deans, working toward council participation. Bishop hopes you’ve all received the 100-Day Report. Intentional about working really, really hard for 1st six months. Doing that, but for everything there is a season. Will be more healthy, the Bishop promises. Improving communication – big deal and we’re getting there. Constant Contact app, Calendar. Developing quarterly

Diocese of Pennsylvania magazine. Will deal with cost of that, some people need that. Help from Mark Butler, St Mary. Seeing family in Albuquerque this week. Developing prayer app.

This week – numerous calls from clergy about election. Today – hosting meeting at 13:00, helping clergy process. Place to have sacred conversation. Joe Madison – reference to Bishop Curry and pledge of Allegiance. Rev Mariclaire Partee Carlsen – asks for copy of Bishop remarks for clergy who cannot attend.

Bishop: think of communication building events, deanery interactions. Dinners, socials, etc. On the horizon. Clergy conference coming – deep into prayer and spirituality.

Forming congregational life and redevelopment committee under Canon Deming – support and service team.

Comments: Peggy Hatch, appreciated stories at convention. Helen Zartarian – who is IT person? Mark Davis. Elizabeth Swain – interaction crucial to deal with pledging situation. Bishop: have to hear stories of each other to do pledges effectively. Communication fault – thinking that communication happened when it hasn't happened.

Jill Mathis – congregations in transition and ordinations. Ordinations in Dec at Cathedral, two at other venues (Diocese of Pennsylvania). Searches underway – St Mary Cathedral Rd, St Paul Doylestown, Holy Apostles, Penn Wynne. 4 part time searches. In response to Christopher Hart: ordinations – all priesthood.

Canon Deming – works with churches around opportunities and challenges. Brings administrative resources. St John Norristown – asked to put slot for vicar there. Pushed pause button. Looking for missionary who can deal with a Monday-to-Saturday congregation. Have identified someone, Bishop to meet person in early December. Vestry left assets to maintain the parish. Outreach is functioning.

Free church of St John (more later).

Canon Shawn Wamsley – supporting work staff to help with their hard work serving you, the people of the Diocese of Pennsylvania. Continuing mission of listening. Spending time with congregations. Also functioning as warden at St Stephens. Reinvigorate congregations, test bed at St Stephens.

Dealing with retirement of Rob Rogers, Earl Irby staying on longer, there is a transition plan. Looking at Doug Horner, known person who can help.

Free church of St John. Work of David Franceschi-Faccio. Rapid development in neighborhood. Property parcel adjacent to church. Didn't want it to go to developer. Parcel didn't sell at first auction. St John did obtain property at \$2,900 – patient, deliberate, prayerful work. Parish has funds. Rev Franceschi-Faccio: Mission, to bring Christ to the streets. (Mission was about to be closed, reversed). Reminds him of his beginnings in Puerto Rico, in mountains. Have registered 100 in Spanish congregation. Big baptism, confirmation, reception coming in January. "Shepherd has to smell like the sheep." Plan – to go with Christ out of church and into streets. Goal: become self-sustaining parish.

Bishop: Motion to approve purchase. Discussion – Joe Madison, thanks for work Fr David. 11 of 12 episcopal parishes in that geographic region have closed, this is a turn around. Helen Zartarian – budget statement, question about "market value" vs. "cash value." Bishop – on pilgrimage impressed with hard, hard work there. Motion approved.

7. Betty Berry-Holmes, United Thank Offering (UTO) Coordinator.

An example of how UTO works. Trinity Memorial Church has had a program for 25 years to find people in need and match them with services. Not working as well as it might because program needed a coordinator for volunteers. Parish had \$15,000 toward coordinator's salary, needed \$30,000 for salary. Parish asked from a grant for \$15,000 for this purpose from UTO and the grant was awarded. Similarly, in 2012, St Luke's Germantown was awarded a grant for \$9,825 to fund the St Luke's Art Guild Outreach. In 2015, UTO contributed a grant of \$12,050 to help fund aspects of the Darby Project.

All told, the Diocese of Pennsylvania has received more than \$200,000 in UTO grants. Question: is the Diocese of Pennsylvania doing what it can for UTO? UTO has about \$1.5 million. Diocese of Pennsylvania has about 44,000 members. UTO has received \$11,000 in contributions from the Diocese of Pennsylvania. All need to contribute to UTO. The idea is to put something in the UTO box for each blessing received. UTO is asking Diocesan Council to make UTO a mission of the Diocese.

Ms Holmes distributed materials to the Council members and ended with a prayer from the UTO literature.

8. Executive Committee Report (20 minutes)
Bishop – turning the meeting back to Rev D Joy Segal

The Rev. D. Joy Segal

a. Elections to Executive Committee (4)

Ballots – three elections on one ballot. A motion to accept ballot as presented was made and seconded. There was no discussion. The motion was approved.

Those elected to the Executive Committee were: Peggy Hatch, Muriel Rains, Rev Richard Robyn, and Rev D Joy Segal. The Committee later elected Richard Robyn as Vice-Chair of the Committee.

b. Elections to Clergy Compensation and Employee Benefits (2)

Those elected were Rev Emmanuel Mercer and Elizabeth Curtis Swain. The Secretary communicated those names to the Chair of CCCEB.

c. Appointment to Finance Committee (1 Lay, 1 Clergy)

Those elected were Peter Datos and Rev Michael Rau. The Secretary communicated those names to the Chair of the Finance Committee.

d. Schedule of Diocesan Council meeting for 2017

Venues have been proposed, passed to the Executive Committee and the Bishop for action.

January 28th, March 25th, May 13th, June 10th, September 30th, November 11th.

Note: 2017 Diocesan Convention will be on 11/3-11/4/17

9. Treasurer's Report (current) (15 minutes) Mr. James Pope, Treasurer
Reasonably solid financial condition. Income higher than budget at moment. The budget set for the Bishop search was too low. Overage will be funded from the episcopate portion of the budget. Church foundation producing well on its investments. Offered to take questions.

Pledge sheet materials –

10% issue, most recent year is 2015, -- needs improvement in process.

Dave Dixon – how do change from “assessments.” Bishop – motion from Diocesan Council to change the terminology. Motion made, seconded, passed. The Finance Committee will be charged with changing the terminology.

Rev Mike Sowards – his parish is working toward 10%. Deaneries need to work on this.

Joe Madison – make commission to work with parishes on stewardship, 10-12 people. Rev D Joy Segal – Dave Dixon has done beginning work, Diocesan Council has set up working group.

10. Standing Committee Report (10 minutes)

George Vosburgh – Highlights – seating of new Bishop, convention, comments on getting new Bishop.

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

Rev John Sorensen – Archdeacon of Cyprus will come to talk about church in the Middle East, watch for announcement (Sun 18 Dec 16 at cathedral).

Muriel Rains – question about Thistle Farms. Read from literature – 2-year program.

12. Old business

13. Schedule of next meeting

Jerome Buescher, Secretary

(January 28, 2017 – Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church)

14. Reflections (5 minutes)

15. Closing Prayer

Fr. Romanik

16. Adjournment

Profoundly blessed to serve as your bishop
11:50 AM

The Rt. Rev. Daniel Gutierrez