

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA
MEETING of the STANDING COMMITTEE
Tuesday, Mar. 27, 2018, 5:00 PM
At Diocesan Office

President McCausland called the meeting to order at 5:04 PM.

Clergy present were Liz Colton, Jo Ann Jones, Sean Mullen, Hillary Raining, Michael Rau. Laypersons present were Colin Johnstone, Norman McCausland, Eric Rabe and George Vosburgh. Excused: Pat Smith
Also present was Bishop Daniel Gutierrez. Chancellor Mary Kohart did not attend.

The Agenda was approved unanimously.

The Opening Prayer was offered by Jones.

The Minutes of the Feb. 27, 2018 meeting were approved (Rau/Jones). The Notes of the Feb. 27, 2018 meeting were accepted (Colton/Vosburgh).

Presentation on the Ordination Process

The Rev. Erika Takacs, chair of the Commission on Ministry, joined the meeting. Rev. Takacs said that during the last year, the COM focused on assuring that there is sufficient time to allow candidates to have a full opportunity for discernment. Takacs reported that the Bishop's Conference for Discernment (two weekends early in the year) brought together the COM and candidates and provided an opportunity to better know each candidate. She said that the response was positive for both COM members and prospective candidates.

There was a sense of Standing Committee that letters of recommendation from Bishop and COM should be provided to SC in advance of consideration of the candidates.

There was a good discussion of the process between members of the Standing Committee and Rev. Takacs.

Ministry Approvals:

Six candidates were presented for approval for candidacy:

- Motion made and seconded (Vosburgh/Rabe) that **Michelle Bullock** be approved as a candidate. Approved unanimously.

- Motion was made and seconded (Johnstone/Vosburgh) that **Benjamin Capps** be approved as a candidate. Approved unanimously.
- Motion was made and seconded (Colton/Rau) that **Christopher Exley** be approved as a candidate. Approved unanimously.
- Motion was made and seconded (Vosburgh/Rabe) that **Michael Palmisano** be approved as a candidate.
- Motion was made and seconded (Rau/Vosburgh) that **Paul Reese** be approved as a candidate. Approved unanimously.
- Bishop Gutierrez asks that **Darrell Tiller** be considered as a candidate in October. Standing Committee did not take action on Tiller at this time.

Staff Reports:

There are no actions by Standing Committee called for this month.

Exec Report:

- The Executive Committee has met with the Bishop to discuss the appropriate interaction between Standing Committee and candidates for ministry. Also discussed was improved and streamlined staff reporting, and staff will consider refreshing reports to focus on current significant activities and major accomplishments.

Bishop:

- The House of Bishops meeting produced resolutions on #MeToo and gun violence issues.
- Mission Committee – Kirk Muller, Kirk Berlenbach are leading this committee which is working to set goals and expectations for mission churches. The Committee is expected to report to Diocesan Council in June with a recommendation to Convention in November.
- The Bishop believes it is imperative to look to the future and determine how best to use our resources. A diverse group chaired by Gie Leim is expected to report to Convention in 2019.
- A very successful Chrism Service was held last week.

Chancellor: No report.

Finance Committee Referrals: None

Communications: None received

Old Business:

- Raining has prepared a letter to be sent from Standing Committee to Richard and Ruth Morgan offering sympathy following the death of their

daughter, Esther. The letter was signed by members present and will be sent to the Morgans.

- McCausland noted that Anti-Racism training is required for all members of governance.

New Business:

The Executive Committee is considering when to hold a retreat with the Bishop, possibly in Fall of 2018. Members are asked to think about issues that should be discussed. The retreat could be jointly held with COM and provide a chance to meet candidates and COM members.

Diocesan Commission/Committee Reports:

Finance -- Norm McClave has resigned as Chair of the Finance Committee and is replaced as Chair by Ann Barbarin.

Incorporation – No report. McCausland has asked the Chair of the Incorporation Committee for an in-person report before further meetings are held in the Diocese. A comprehensive report should be provided before the Chair appears at Standing Committee.

Congregational Life and Development – The next meeting will be held in April.

Constitution and Canon – No report

Commission on Ministry -- -- Nothing beyond earlier action.

Diocesan Council - Council met on March 17. Council reviewed changes in the Church Foundation distribution schedule for 2018. It was noted that the lease for the Office of the Diocese at 3737 Chestnut Street expires in 2019. Council is accepting grant requests for funding in the 2019 budget. Forty-nine "creative and interesting" applications for the Capital Improvement Grants have been received so far.

Special Budget Committee – Has not yet met.

Motion to adjourn was unanimously approved. The closing prayer was offered by Rabe. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm by McCausland.

Next Meeting: April 24, 2018

- Old Business for April meeting: Consider how Standing Committee can best meet candidates. One proposal is for a regularly scheduled meeting at the time of the annual Diocese Convention.

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