



Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania
MEETING of the STANDING COMMITTEE
Minutes

Meeting of Jan. 26, 2021
Approved Feb. 23, 2021

Call to Order at 5:07 p.m. by Jones.

Clergy Present: Hilary Greer, Jo Ann Jones, Michael Ruk

Laity Present: Ron Francis, Colin Johnstone, Eric Rabe, Pat Smith

Also present: Bishop Daniel Gutierrez

The Agenda was adopted unanimously.

Opening Prayer was offered by Smith.

Minutes/Notes: Minutes of the November 24, 2020 meeting were approved by unanimous vote.

Election of member to replace The Rev. Michael Rau: Rev. Rau has moved out of the Diocese, and Standing Committee must appoint by concurrent vote a clergy member to replace him. The Committee considered various ideas and candidates. Greer argued for bringing in a new candidate from a mission or smaller parish as a way of diversifying the Committee membership. After discussion, the Committee agreed to defer appointment of a new member until February to allow time to contact candidates and judge their willingness to serve. Jones encouraged members to speak with anyone they think may be interested and bring the names for consideration and a vote in February.

Bishop's Report :

- Diocese is entering into a period of discernment of values and direction for the future. The Bishop listed a number of ideas for robust growth and engagement. Among these are:
 - Grow the Diocese by 25,000 new Episcopalians
 - Plant 10 new churches by 2032
 - Reclaim our Anglican identity
 - Achieve a target of 10% giving to the Diocese by all churches
 - Rise \$25 million for endowment.
 - Establish new schools for music or education in disadvantaged areas.
 - Expanding our Latino ministry
 - Develop a program of micro loans for underserved communities
 - Develop affordable homes on church properties.
- The Bishop will ask the Board of Trustees to approve a program to provide \$2500 technology grants for churches. He also proposes a program to provide common technology platforms for accounting and stewardship for smaller churches.
- From his visits around the Diocese, the Bishop believes that, in the current pandemic, people have seen a different reality and are looking for something deeper from the church. The Bishop is convinced the people of the Diocese are yearning to take action.

Chancellor's Report: The Chancellor could not attend because of a trial commitment. The Bishop reported that a Title IV proceeding that has been underway against a priest of the Diocese continues. He also noted that a new offer has been received for the Dioceses Wapiti farm, and the Property Committee will consider it this week.

Communications: None

Old Business: None

New Business: Conflict of Interest Statement. Rabe presented a revised Conflict of Interest statement drafted for Standing Committee approval and use. After discussion, it was **Moved and Seconded** (Smith/Ruk) that the revised statement is approved and the previous statement is revoked. **Approved unanimously** by Standing Committee. The existing members of Standing Committee will be asked

to affirm electronically that they are aware of and will abide by the policy.

Diocesan Commission/Committee Reports (as necessary)

- Commission on Ministry - A meeting with candidates and postulants was held on Jan. 13, 2021 via electronic conference. Several members of Standing Committee attended. All felt the meeting provided a valuable opportunity for Standing Committee members to better get to know candidates in the process of ordination in the Diocese.
- Episcopal Elections: Bishop-Elect Paula E. Clark, Diocese of Chicago. In December, the Standing Committee was asked electronically concur in the election of Bishop Clark. There was no objection. The document can still be signed by any who have not yet done so.

Adjournment : The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 PM.

Closing Prayer offered by Jones.

The **Next Meeting** of Standing Committee will be held on **Feb. 23, 2021 at 5:00 PM** via Zoom Conference.

###