

Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago

Executive Summary of the Standing Committee Meeting of May 10, 2023

On Zoom

Present: Miguel Briones, Daphne Cody, Toni Daniels, Jeannette DeFriest, Gerald Floyd, Wes Kimes. Guests from All Saints Chicago admitted to the meeting later: the Rev. Suzanne Wille, Margaret Ferguson, and Katrina Kasten.

Bishop Paula Clark is away at the Living Our Vows program, as well as receiving an honorary degree at Virginia Theological Seminary. While there, she is also part of a delegation of bishops speaking to US congresspersons on the topic of the gun violence epidemic.

A quorum being established, Toni called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm. Jeannette offered an opening prayer.

Minutes

Jeannette moved and Miguel seconded the approval of the minutes and the executive summary of the regular monthly meeting of April 19, 2023. *Motion carried.*

President's Report

Toni reminded us that we do not require the bishop's presence for all business items, e.g. consent for encumbrance of property. However, the bishop's presence is required when offering advice. Toni, in her role as SC President, will be part of the June meeting of the Diocesan Trustees of the Endowment. Toni also reported that she has asked Wes to be the SC representative on the Diocesan Budget Committee, and he has accepted.

Encumbrance of two commercial loans: All Saints Chicago

At 6:20, the Rector, Treasurer, and one Co-Warden of All Saints were admitted to the meeting, and the All Saints leadership summarized the documents sent to the Standing Committee ahead of time (rationale, voting procedures and results, facts and figures, vestry resolutions, etc.) A map of the block on which the church stands was screen-shared. SC members asked various questions regarding: handicap accessibility, what resistance had been raised in the congregation, how the Bishop & Trustees (B&T) of the diocese had been involved previously, what the relationship is like with the bank, and what "Plan B" would be if something unforeseen happened that made it difficult to pay the loan. The guests from All Saints logged off the Zoom at 7:00. There was brief positive discussion, and the two All Saints requests were taken separately.

First, Wes moved and Jeannette seconded that the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Chicago consent to All Saints vestry resolution of April 27, 2023 pertaining to **the balloon payment for the loan from B&T for the 2018 purchase of 4546 N. Hermitage, Chicago**, that reads, "RESOLVED, that the Wardens, Treasurer, and Rector of All Saints' Episcopal Church are hereby authorized to borrow from a bank chosen by the aforementioned, for and on behalf of All Saints' Episcopal Church, a sum not to exceed \$250,000 on a promissory note maturing 60

months after the loan is executed to be signed by the proper officers of All Saints' Episcopal Church, and to bear interest not to exceed the rate of 8% percent per year. Furthermore, the Wardens, Treasurer, and Rector may renegotiate the above loan for more favorable terms during the life of the loan." *The motion carried.*

Second, Miguel moved and Gerald seconded that the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Chicago consent to All Saints vestry resolution of April 27, 2023 pertaining to the conversion of the remaining debt of the line of credit for the **Rectory renovation** to a commercial loan, that reads, "RESOLVED, that the Wardens, Treasurer, and Rector of All Saints' Episcopal Church are hereby authorized to borrow from a bank chosen by the aforementioned, for and on behalf of All Saints' Episcopal Church, a sum not to exceed \$230,000 on a promissory note maturing 60 months after the loan is executed to be signed by the proper officers of All Saints' Episcopal Church, and to bear interest not to exceed the rate of 8% percent per year. Furthermore, the Wardens, Treasurer, and Rector may renegotiate the above loan for more favorable terms during the life of the loan." *The motion carried.*

Toni will follow up appropriately with Rev. Wille and the bishop's office.

Report from the SC public relations task group

Toni reported that Bishop Clark wanted us to know that during the monthly Diocesan Leadership Zoom call on May 3, she (the bishop) had put in an appeal for people to consider running for elected office and for serving on various commissions and committees of the diocese. Meanwhile, Daphne reported that she, Miguel, and Wes had met twice since our April SC meeting to follow up on our discussion about raising awareness in our diocese about the purpose and work of the SC, with the hope that, if the SC does some actions around this, so might some of the other commissions and committees. A document that Miguel, Wes, and Daphne had prepared was screen-shared, and Jeannette, Toni, and Gerald added comments and suggestions. Wes proposed that we formalize the list of ideas to give to the bishop as a discussion kick-off point, perhaps serving as a framework for other groups to use. Jeannette requested that we use some time at a subsequent meeting to prioritize which actions to take and when to do them. Toni will bring this work to her meeting with the bishop on May 25.

Rules of meeting and business ("Group Norms")

(Diocese of Chicago's Constitution & Canons, Article 10, Section 3)

Gerald moved and Miguel seconded that we table this item until the next meeting.

Next Meeting & Adjournment

Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 6:00 PM in person, St. James Commons

Toni adjourned our meeting at 8:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Daphne Cody, Secretary