

## **Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago**

### **Executive Summary of the Standing Committee (SC) Meeting of August 9, 2023**

#### **On Zoom**

Present: Miguel Briones, Daphne Cody, Toni Daniels, Jeannette DeFriest, Gerald Floyd, Wes Kimes; Guest: Canon to the Ordinary the Rev. Andrea Mysen  
Note: Bishop Paula Clark is on vacation this month

A quorum being established on Zoom, Toni called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and welcomed Andrea Mysen. Gerald opened with prayer.

#### **Minutes**

Gerald moved and Miguel seconded the approval of the minutes and the executive summary of the regular monthly meeting of June 14, 2023. *Motion carried.*

#### **Updates from the Canon to the Ordinary**

First, Andrea gave an update about Trinity Church, Chicago. The bishop has appointed a new temporary warden Wanda Norris, and she and the temporary appointed vestry at Trinity are working hard to sort out their assets and liabilities. In addition, Tom Camell, the diocesan Associate for Bishops & Trustees, Property Management, has estimated that \$240,000 to \$400,000 would be needed for building repairs. A congregational meeting was held on July 30, and eight congregants came. One employee of Trinity serves on the vestry, which is not a recommended practice and makes this more complicated. The three tenants who used the building have been contacted, and arrangements with them are ongoing. A plan is now in place for St. Thomas Chicago to host Trinity temporarily for worship and updates.

Second, Andrea offered feedback on the draft of the "Selling or Mortgaging Parish Property" Guide. Wes will incorporate her suggestions into the Guide. Discussion followed about how to publish widely the Guide when it has reached its final form: linked onto the diocesan website, described by the bishop on the monthly leadership Zoom, discussed at Diocesan Convention, and put in the SC annual report.

Third, Andrea raised the subject of the sabbatical provision in the bishop's Letter of Agreement. Andrea believes that it doesn't align with sabbatical policies in LOA's for parish clergy and other diocesan staff. She suggests that it be brought into alignment, meaning that the bishop would be eligible for some sabbatical time after five years, rather than seven years. Toni agreed to put this topic on a subsequent SC agenda for discussion.

After Andrea logged off the call, SC followed up with several items internal to our committee:

1. Wes will also add to the "Selling or Mortgaging Parish Property" Guide another question among the other questions in the Guide, this one regarding plans for handicap accessibility.
2. A question arose regarding the bishop's LOA. Toni will locate the document and make sure she has it in her possession, as President.

### **Consent to ordination**

Wes attended Cynthia Rigali Lund's Commission on Ministry (COM) Candidacy interview on June 28, where Cynthia was made a Candidate for ordination to the priesthood. Subsequently the COM approved Cynthia's ordination to the transitional diaconate, and the next step is our consent. Wes moved that we consent to the ordination of Cynthia Rigali Lund to the transitional diaconate. Gerald seconded. *The motion carried.* Toni will notify Louisa McKellaston Thursday, August 10, of our consent.

### **Update from COM (via Louisa McKellaston)**

Toni made sure we had all seen the written notice from Louisa in the SC Dropbox regarding the postulancy of Tara Osborne. The bishop has decided to shift Tara's postulancy from the diaconate to the priesthood. No action is required at this time by the SC. Discussion followed about holy orders, deployment, and the changing church. We as a SC would like to have a conversation with our bishop about her thinking on raising up clergy in our diocese.

### **Consents on episcopal elections:**

There are no consents before us this month.

### **Budget Committee:**

Wes, representing the SC, has attended meetings of the 2024 Budget Committee (BC). The BC has representatives also from Bishop & Trustees, Trustees of the Endowment, and Diocesan Council. Their job is to assess and evaluate if the draft budget is appropriately constructed. Wes reported that, at first, the draft budget had expenses that greatly exceeded expected income. The BC asked the bishop's staff to trim expenses wherever possible, and after they did so, there remained about a \$1 million deficit. This kind of gap is not a new phenomenon. Wes shared some pie graphs to show some of the breakdowns of income and expenses, and explained that one account, called the Bishop's Funds, is usually used to fill the gap. That is the plan again this time around.

The draft budget will be presented to the Diocesan Council and the Bishop & Trustees for approval. Gerald asked if it was required to present a balanced budget, and Wes said it was not required. Miguel asked how long into the future could the Bishop's Funds close deficits, and Wes said the BC is well aware that this model is not sustainable out longer than perhaps a decade. Wes added that the bishop plans to hire a Development Officer beginning 2024, which could help. Daphne asked about the sale of 65 E. Huron and whether that was part of the BC conversations, and Wes said that 65 E. Huron is not yet under contract.

### **Rules of meeting and business ("Group Norms")**

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

Wes has compiled our ideas into a final summary and put it in the Dropbox, but at this meeting we did not look at it as a group.

### **Next Meeting & Adjournment**

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at 6:00 PM.

Toni adjourned our meeting at 7:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Daphne Cody, Secretary