

Standing Committee Minutes
Thursday, January 11, 2007 – St. John’s, Capitola

Present for this meeting

Ms Ann Wright, President; Mr. Joe Chouinard, the Rev. Keith Johnson, the Rev. Harriet Linville, the Rev. Mary Morrison, the Rev. Linda Taylor, Ms Graciela Velazquez, Mr. Jerry Witherspoon

11:10AM Opening prayer – Linda Taylor

11:15 Adoption of Agenda

Agenda adopted.

Minutes

Minutes of the December 2006 meeting were approved with corrections.

Action Items

All action items from the December meeting have been accomplished

11:25 Reports

Bishop’s Report (by Ann)

- Visitation to Santa Maria Virgen: Padre Efren Garza has requested a decrease in salary support from the diocese, as the congregation is increasingly healthy financially. He is actively involved in the community. The visitation included confirmations and receptions. Padre Efren is teaching the difference between Episcopal and Roman churches in Bible Study
- Visitations to St. John’s and Trinity did not include meetings with vestries.
- He has met with people hoping to be accepted into the process toward ordination.
- His interview for green card in December went well.

Administrator’s Report (by Ann)

- All Saints Carmel will be interviewing final three candidates in January. Met with St. Paul’s Search Committee and will report next month
- The Rev. Caro Hall has been Priest in Charge at St. Benedict’s, Los Osos, for one year. Brian Nordwick, Ann and the bishop will be visiting for Mutual Ministry Review.
- St. Stephen’s, Gilroy, has submitted a list of potential candidates.

Bishop Search Update – Joe Chouinard, Linda Taylor

The Bishop Search Committee has done the first inclusion, from 58 candidates to 16. Telephone interviews will be next week. The first interview information will be evaluated on the 20th and the remainder of the reports on Feb. 3. The group met with Rob Voyle last Saturday to prepare for the interview process.

Compensation Guidelines for the Third Bishop of ECR

Ann reviewed proposed guidelines. The members suggested some modifications. Ann will revise and send out for final approval

Transition Update – Mary Morrison

Things are going well. The Rev. Maly Hughes will coordinate devotions for the electing convention. Wendy Howe will assist in planning. The role of the contact person for the press is among topics to be discussed at the convention planning meeting next week.

Council – Keith Johnson

Council is moving forward under new leadership. We discussed the resolution regarding tithing passed by Council. The intended process is unclear, and we expressed our concern about the process that has evolved, and Ann will check in with Brian about intent for signatures affirming commitment to the tithe.

DIEM – Joe Chouinard

No meeting, no report

COM – Graciela Velazquez, Linda Taylor

Linda and Graciela reviewed the written report.

Visitation reports

Jerry Witherspoon was present for the visitation at St. Thomas and reported that the service went extremely smoothly. Vestry expressed upbeat feeling, good stewardship, and very positive response to the evangelism workshops Canon Britt presented.

Corporation – Jerry Witherspoon

There was a dual meeting on January 8. The first meeting was the annual meeting canonically required within 90 days of Convention. The meeting is currently in recess until April. There are two issues related to diocesan finances. First is that the initial draft of year end financial statements indicated we would come out about \$45,000 above preliminary estimates. It now appears that we are even. Second is the change in Fair Share projections for 2007. We have previously allocated \$200,000 for Fair Share shortfall. This year's budget allocates \$100,000 and Fair Share projections are showing a shortfall larger than that amount.

Susan Altig supported the regular meeting as recording secretary. Jesus del Valle has received a grant for a youth program, but the property in Gonzales needs repairs estimated at about \$25,000. Given the growth picture in the area, there is some question about whether the Gonzales property is the best venue for further investment. On behalf of the Corporation, Jerry is drafting a letter to leadership bodies requesting that we develop criteria for approval of movement from mission to parish status. Joe suggested that we need to answer a central question: do we expect all congregations to be self-supporting or do we believe that we are called to give money to bring people closer to Christ? Jerry pointed out that actions of Convention have shifted the amount of money available to support ministry. We discussed the need for a centralized approach to evaluating demographic projections in order to identify growth areas.

Foundation – Jerry Witherspoon

El Camino Real Foundation is sponsoring The Episcopal Academy on Feb. 9-10 at St. Andrew's, Saratoga.

Finance Committee – Jerry Witherspoon

No meeting, no report.

President's report

1. Consents

Diocese of Hawaii – Robert L. Fitzpatrick – consented

2. Visitation schedule

January 14 – Epiphany – No representative

January 21 – St. Stephen's, SLO – Joe

January 28 – St. Stephen's, San Jose – Ann

February 4 – Trinity – Jerry

February 11 – St. Luke's Atascadero – Joe

February 18 – St. Mary's, Pacific Grove – Ann

February 25 – St. Paul's, Cambria – Joe

March 4 – St. Joseph and Holy Child – Jerry

March 11 – St. Mark's -

March 18 – House of Bishops

March 25 – ???

April 15 – St. Timothy's

3. Communications

We are doing an online version of *Along the King's Highway* in February. The next wrap-around issue is in March. Laity must subscribe if they want to receive *Episcopal Life* when there is not a wrap-around.

4. CIA-Team report

The minutes of the recent meeting of this group were communicated to the diocese as a Standing Committee Update. Ann reviewed the update with the group.

5. Regional Faith Formation – St. Thomas

CERT has been working on developing an event for training and information distribution. This is scheduled for March 10 at St. Thomas, Sunnyvale. Education people from the Diocese of California will be participating, and they will be doing lay Eucharistic ministry training.

6. Letters to Clergy not attending Convention

Clergy who have not participated in the canonically required past conventions have been notified by letter that they will not be eligible to vote in the electing convention. The canonical process by which clergy can be reinstated includes application to the bishop and approval by the Council.

7. Youth Update

Programs are in place once again. Ann reviewed the roster of activities that have been established. Ann and Brian are calling all youth ministers in the diocese for a meeting, perhaps a conference call, to discuss plans and make sure that things continue to be in place.

8. Small Congregations Meeting

Ann Wright, Diana Lovelace and Keith Johnson will be meeting this week.

9. Fresh Start Facilitator Training

Ann announced that this training will be held in March 27-30 in Danville. There will also be deployment training at a later time. Fresh Start facilitators are able to work with new clergy and to facilitate mutual ministry reviews.

10. February meeting

Because of schedule conflicts, the next meeting will be February 15

11. Washington Post Article

We discussed the recent articles regarding the Virginia churches that are leaving the church. We expressed concern that the people of El Camino Real may not have a broad understanding of the issues, interests and positions at the root of the conflict we are experiencing in the greater church. We discussed the possibility of Jerry Witherspoon writing an article for *Along the King's Highway* outlining the major points of the controversy.

Recessed to retreat portion of meeting at 2:30

Correspondence

- **Inhibition**
The Rev. Robert Hails Seawell, Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast
- **Suspension upon Voluntary Submission to Discipline**
Frank Fenn Wilson, Diocese of Atlanta

Respectfully submitted,
(The Rev. Canon) Linda S. Taylor, Secretary