

Standing Committee Meeting
January 8, 2019, 6:40 p.m.
St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church, Pewaukee, WI

Present: Celia Fine, The Rev. Andy Jones, The Rev. Scott Leannah, The Rev. Gary Manning, Tammy Prather, Sheryl Slocum, The Rev. Elizabeth Tester, Ms. Jamie Cairo

Guest: The Right Reverend Bishop Stephen Miller

6:47 Meeting opened with prayer.

The role of the Standing Committee in the sale of property: Bishop Miller stated that it is clear that the SC must consent to parish sale of property or to a parish taking on debt, but it is not clear when the property in question is owned by the diocese. The Bishop sees two areas of question. 1) The Committee of Allied Architecture & Arts was supposed to approve property sale and renovation, but the committee asked to be dissolved. When did the canon arise? 2) Regarding the strategic use of property throughout the diocese, there is a process parishes are supposed to go through when they wish to sell property. The Commission on Mission and Development and Finance Committee have worked in tandem in some cases. However, there is no clear directive about the sale of property. The Bishop would like the SC to work with him on clarifying the questions; for example, could the COMD and the Finance Committee become sub-committees of Executive Council? Bishop Miller would like the SC to make a recommendation.

Bishop Miller brought up that another area we may be looking at: whether the Bishop of Milwaukee should be the Provisional Bishop of the Diocese of Eau Claire. Originally, the Diocese of Eau Claire came from the Diocese of Milwaukee; the dioceses continue to have similar cultures. The current Bishop of Eau Claire, who is part-time, is going to retire in two years. Of Eau Claire's 23 congregations only three are full-time. If the Bishop of Milwaukee became the Provisional Bishop of the Diocese of Eau Claire, after several years of the provisional arrangement, the dioceses would be able to decide what to do going forward.

Prather asked if there are any other issues that belong uniquely to SC. Bishop Miller responded that there are not, except if something happens to the Bishop or the SC wants to remove the Bishop. Manning added that the new Canon 8 has a role for SC. Tester pointed out that we haven't yet conducted a serious review of the diocesan canons to be sure we aren't missing some duty.

Manning asked specifically what the Bishop would like us to do relative to property. The Bishop responded that he is not sure yet; there are a number of issues including existing churches that have closed and whether we should keep or sell their property, and strategic decisions to be made about whether to acquire property for future church planting. Leannah proposed that the SC suggest a process for the

disposition of closed property. The Bishop responded that developing a process wouldn't hurt, but if it's not flexible it's not helpful.

Jones asked how soon the Bishop would like input from the SC. The Bishop stated that he would like to have something for the report to the Executive Council in June. Leannah stated that the SC can give the Bishop a status report by June.

Discussion continued on the importance of roles in the work of the Episcopal church. Leannah commented that he and Burch (Chair of the Commission on Ministry) will be meeting soon regarding the SC's role in ordinations. The Bishop stated that the important role of SC is in the candidacy hearing after an aspirant's first year of seminary. At this time, it's right for the SC to ask significant questions and include restrictions and conditions if necessary. But the purpose of the candidate's final interview is to meet with the SC one last time to be sure that the process has been followed and to wish the candidate well. Leannah will discuss the timing of the final interview with Burch when they meet and will also confirm with Burch that the timing of the candidacy interview will allow it to be substantive.

Discussion followed with Bishop Miller about recent and pending consents.

After Bishop Miller's departure, the SC discussed and voted on the following consents:

- The election of the Reverend Jennifer Anne Reddall as the Bishop of the Diocese of Arizona was consented to with 7 in favor and 1 opposed, and signed.
- The election of the Reverend Canon Cristóbal Olmedo León Lozano as the Bishop of the Diocese of Ecuador Litoral was unanimously consented to and signed.
- The election of the Reverend Kimberly D. Lucas as the Bishop of the Diocese of Colorado was unanimously consented to and signed.
- The election of the Reverend Mark D.W. Edington as the Bishop in Charge of the Convocation of Episcopal Churches Europe was unanimously consented to and signed.

Leannah announced that the next SC meeting will be at 6:45 p.m. on Tuesday, February 12 at St. Bartholomew church. At that meeting, we will begin work on the property issue, Leannah will report on his discussion with Burch, Tester will report about the Executive Council's discussions about property. To prepare for the meeting, all SC members should read the Canons about property issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Sheryl Slocum