

**Standing Committee Meeting**  
**April 9, 2019, 6:45 p.m.**  
**St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church, Pewaukee, WI**

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

6:45 p.m. - Opening prayer

**Old Business**

Discussion was had concerning both diocesan and national canons as they pertain to property and the standing committee. Some points of note:

- a number of other dioceses have produced a lot of clarification around these canons (*see Diocese of NC, Connecticut, Long Island, Massachusetts*)
- it was noted that the diocese holds property in trust for the diocese and the national church. Is this taken into consideration when property is sold? (*ref. The Dennis Canon*)
- The chancellor's comments on the canons do not preclude the bishop from seeking the advice of the SC concerning property sales
- SC may also be involved with the disposition of monies resulting from such sales

Discussion was had concerning other roles the SC is assigned via the national church canons:  
Some points of note:

- it was noted that compliance with some of these canons is questionable
- In the past, SC has not officially designated a secretary and has unofficially been designating a president. The current SC made these designations immediately and reflected them in the minutes below (*see National C&Cs Canon 12.1, Diocesan C&Cs Article XIII, Section 2*)
- It was also noted that the EC is currently addressing some of the work assigned to the SC through the canons. Discussion followed about how to address this (*see Diocesan C&Cs Canon 7, Section 2(a)*)
- It was noted that SC is also integral in conversations concerning partnerships/relationships with other dioceses (conversation concerning the diocese of Eau Claire should then include the SC: *see National C&Cs Article V Sec. 6*)
- Discussion was had concerning the SC's autonomy as its own body with authority given it by national church canons and may meet and designate its own business as necessary (*see National C&Cs Canon 12.1*)
- It was noted that in the past it seems as though SCs have not exercised the authority prescribed to them in both diocesan and national canons

Discussion was had concerning SC roles as assigned via diocesan canons. Some points of note:

- It was noted that any property transactions fall under WI laws for non-profit non-stock-corporations (*see chancellor memos*)
- How does our increasing knowledge of the national and diocesan canons affect the old Canon 28 and the new canon 8?

-It was noted that there is no clear process for handling either discussion or execution of property issues. The SC is currently researching best practices regarding communication and execution of property issues while keeping in mind that:

- We are doing this work in response to the Bishop's request
- We are trying to be sure we are in compliance with the National Church canons
- We are working to safeguard the diocese by bringing our procedures into compliance and meeting our fiduciary responsibilities

-Discussion was had about drafting a letter to the EC and Bishop's office regarding the SC current status as we research property issues

-Discussion was had about our role as SC in relationship to the Office of the Bishop, the EC, the Trustees, and the wider diocese

-It was noted that further work could be done to help clarify the roles of the SC and the EC

Discussion was had about the SC president's role. Some things of note:

- The president is a full voting member of EC
- how to begin increasing communication between the two bodies

Further property discussions of note:

-Who takes care of vacant properties?

-How to craft a canon regarding the maintenance, sale, and stewardship of the properties in our care?

-The SC would like to reserve the right to raise issues and to take the time to address them should they arise

-It will be helpful to build in a buffer of time to wisely discern property and encumbrance issues

Questions asked:

-what is the role of the Trustees concerning property sale and monies?

-where are SC meeting minutes recorded?

A sale of property occurred and the SC wishes to note that there was no consultation about this sale: St. Martin's Brown Deer (sold for \$30,000 over the asking price)

It was noted that St. Andrew's, Kenosha, St. Nicholas, Racine and St. Luke's, Whitewater are in process of being sold or that other arrangements are being explored and the SC has not been in any discussion regarding their status, potential sale, etc.

#### **Actions taken:**

-Release a letter to the EC and the Bishop's Office regarding the SC progress around property issues.

-Dr. Sheryl Slocum was elected as SC secretary

-The Rev. Scott Leannah was elected SC president

-The SC will begin requesting financial reports (and other reports) as necessary and as prescribed in the canons

-Track down SC binder which contains past SC docs

-January meeting minutes were approved with corrections

**New Business:**

- St Dunstan's wants clarification regarding the SC decision for St Dunstan's encumbering themselves
- documents have been finalized, and St Dunstan's wants clarification as to whether SC approval is needed before the document has been signed
- A follow-up meeting with St D's leadership is due
- Send a letter directly to the parish from the SC which puts into practice the SC's new understanding of the canons concerning encumbrance issues
- St. Dunstan's will send us evidence of banking relationship

**Meeting dates going forward** were noted: May 14, June 4 (1st Tues w/COM), July 9 (if needed), Aug. 13 with Bishop, Sept. 10, Oct. 8, Nov. 12, Dec. 10

**Meeting concluded with prayer**