

The Standing Committee Minutes for December 13, 2023

Present:

Darren Armstrong, President
Bill Stanton+
Karla Schapansky, Recording Secretary
Nancy Jones, Diocesan Treasurer

Jon Anderson+
Wren Blessing+
Kate Bradsen+, Vice President
Donna Colville
Melissa George+

Bp. Kym Lucas+
Chuck Theobold

Absent:

Chip Page

The meeting was called to order by President, Darren Armstrong at 9:10 a.m.

The agenda was approved with the amendment that the review of the St. PJs request substitute for the Canon Review. A motion was made by Bill and seconded by Donna and approved unanimously.

The minutes were approved with a motion by Bill and seconded by Chuck and approved unanimously.

We welcomed our new clergy representative from the Sangre de Cristo Region. Karla commented on Kate's curly and long hair which was very pretty.

Nancy presented the Treasurer's report which included the draft for a Charter for the Finance Committee. The present Finance Committee had reviewed it, as well as Larry Hitt, the Diocesan Chancellor, and recommended approval. The motion to approve was made by Karla and seconded by Donna. The draft was approved unanimously. The Standing Committee names two members to the Finance Committee. Kate Bradsen is currently serving as one member and Donna Colville was nominated and unanimously elected after the motion was made by Karla and seconded by Chuck. Donna abstained from voting. She was grateful and accepted.

Scott Asper, Executive Director of The Colorado Episcopal Foundation, joined the meeting to present a grant request from St. George, Leadville, CO to the State Historical Society for \$250k. This grant will allow necessary updates, including a new roof. 10-15% of the Grant request is typically required of the applicant and St. George does have those funds in an account at the

CEF. Jon offered that the request was discussed by those in the Office of the Bishop and supports approving the Grant. The motion to approve was unanimous having been made by Bill and seconded by Donna.

Nancy continued to report that a bid for property insurance for Cathedral Ridge has been obtained. The company is the Integrity Master Program. Cathedral Ridge is required to have property insurance and this may be bound by December 20th. Nancy further reported that year-end cash flow for Cathedral Ridge is a work in progress.

Jon introduced the subject of Clergy Compensation. The policy has been and will be to increase compensation by the SS COLA annual rate for 2024 at 3.2%. The plan includes increasing the Supply Priest rate to an hourly rate. A compensation package for quarter-time clergy is a separate plan. Bill expressed concern for small churches' ability to include this increase in their budgets. Chuck supports incremental increases, perhaps, yearly, rather than waiting such a long span of years. Melissa offered examples of gender bias for women priests in this matter. The motion to approve the presented Clergy Compensation policy was made by Kate and seconded by Chuck. It was approved unanimously. Wren asked that compassion be shown in this matter especially this time of the year.

The subject of the minutes of The Standing Committee be available as public information was mentioned. It was decided that the minutes could/should be listed on the Diocesan website. Darren asked Wren to inquire about how to do that. Wren will make that report at the January meeting.

Nancy brought the proposal for additional funding for St. PJ's to the committee. This was presented in September and was brought for a vote today. In September TSC approved for \$20k of the funds from the sale of property to be used by St. PJs operating expenses.. St. PJ's is asking for an additional \$80k for continuing operating expenses for the next year. There, most likely, won't be additional funds. There is a new residential neighborhood being developed in the proximity of the church and the church leaders are optimistic that attendance and membership will result.

There is a precedent for a request like this. The Office of the Bishop supports this. Melissa made the motion and Bill seconded with Kate abstaining and the motion was passed. Nancy informed St. PJs that they have been approved to use a total of \$100,000 from the sale of property for operating expenses.

During the Bishop's time, she spoke to our goals for 2024. What do we do about churches in distress? How do we identify sustainable ministry in the Diocese? We must learn to live in this reality. The Diocese of Colorado is the people. There are 93 churches and 19,000 people. This will be tough work. An action from the Office of the Bishop is to schedule "Imaginative Workshops" during the first quarter. These will be Zoom meetings and all in the Diocese are invited to attend.

The dates are January 17th, February 21st and March 13th. These events and the dates will be announced in The Leadership Newsletter. The Bishop is asking for TSC's support to attend and encourage people of the churches to do so.

We have to identify our new reality.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karla Schapansky
Recording Secretary