

The Episcopal Diocese of Colorado Standing Committee
May 15, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Present: Chip Page, Nancy Jones, Melissa George, Matthew Frey, Darren Armstrong, Donna Colville, Kate Bradsen, Chuck Theobald, Matthew Frey, Bill Stanton, Amy Lythgoe, Bishop Kym Lucas, Karla Schapansky

9:07am: Meeting called to order by Darren Armstrong.

9:07: Opening Reflection: The Rev. Amy Lythgoe offered an opening reflection and invited responses.

9:42: Approval of Agenda: Chip Page moved to accept the agenda as posted with the addition of the agenda item for St. Luke's Ft. Collins. Karla Schapansky seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9:44: Approval of April 2024 Minutes: Donna Colville moved to accept the April 2024 minutes. Karla Schapansky seconded the motion. The motion carried with Kate Bradsen abstaining.

9:45: Treasurer's Report: Nancy Jones offered a Treasurer's report: Nancy reviewed the Profit and Loss statement, noting that congregational giving is strong, and that the Colorado Trust distribution is somewhat higher than projected. Nancy is working to compile information regarding congregational giving and hopes to present that to the Standing Committee in the near future. The Standing Committee will review the first draft of the 2025 proposed budget at the June 2024 Standing Committee meeting. Canon Jon and Nancy Jones will meet with auditors on Wednesday, May 22.

9:52: Cathedral Ridge Report: Nancy Jones offered a report on Cathedral Ridge; the camp is excited to welcome Abigail Jordan as program director and to have a full complement of staff. The camp is pleased to have more competitive property insurance coverage.

9:56: Regional Reports Regional Reports will be submitted by the regional representatives in collaboration with the regional missionary or regional executive committee starting in June. Nancy Jones will provide a template to members of the standing committee.

10:01: Loan Request: Scott Asper of The Episcopal Church Foundation joined the meeting to discuss a loan that St. Luke's, Fort Collins, is requesting from The Episcopal Church Building Fund (which is an entity of The Episcopal Church). The loan is for \$250,000 to assist with the replacement of the boiler. According to The Rev. Krista Diaz, the St. Luke's property will not be used to secure the loan. In some cases, The Episcopal Church Building Fund (ECBF) will be the lender, in other cases, ECBF contracts to banks or other lenders. (There has been one other proposed loan from our diocese through the Episcopal Church Building Fund: it was discussed in 2022, requested by Calvary Episcopal Church in Golden. The loan did not go through the system.) At this time, we do not have the final documentation/application for the loan, but the diocese would promise in the application that the diocese is willing to cosign on the requested loan.

Members of the group discussed the responsibility of the Standing Committee to do due diligence in reviewing the application (which Nancy shared electronically with Standing Committee members during the meeting), and exploring St. Luke's capacity to repay the loan. Very limited financial data is included in the application, and the group would like to see more data prior to making a decision. Scott Asper emphasized that the diocese could withdraw from the commitment at any point if the structure is not satisfactory. The Standing Committee may sign the application without co-signing the loan. At Darren Armstrong's request, Bill Stanton, Chuck Theobald, and Donna Colville will gather further information and will report to the committee on our next meeting or prior to that electronically if the information becomes available. Canon Jon will request the financial information from St. Luke's and get it back to the Standing Committee.

10:53: Diaconal Candidate Conversation: Wendy McAllister joined the Standing Committee for conversation and sharing in consideration of her candidacy for ordination to the diaconate.

11:12: The group recessed for a break.

11:33: Bishop's Time: The group reconvened, and Bishop Kym shared that St. Luke's will collateralize their loan from their endowment. Bishop Kym shared that she is preparing for the General Convention in June. She noted that there is a possibility that the diocese will receive a financial gift of about \$2 million in order to complete a feasibility study regarding an Episcopal Boarding School in Colorado. Bishop Kym will meet soon with Gay Jennings regarding the Mission Leadership Report and expects to share that report with the Standing Committee in June. Bishop Kym noted that Carrie Schofield-Broadbent will speak at the diocesan convention in the fall.

11:43am: Loan Request continued: The group discussed the requested loan, given the additional information we received showing that St. Luke's has the capacity to repay the loan with their endowment if necessary, and given Nancy Jones' calculation estimates regarding repayment. As part of the loan, the Standing Committee noted the possibility of requesting an annual report to the Standing Committee regarding the status of the loan. General concern was voiced that the process for seeking this loan application approval did not properly allow for advance review of the information prior to it being brought to the Standing Committee for approval. There was also concern expressed about the financial obligation of the Diocese as a co-signer to the loan. Darren also provided the information that any church real estate is considered the property of the Diocese and that the ECBF does not officially recognize any church structure below the Diocese.

Chuck Theobald made a motion to table the decision until the June 12 meeting pending receipt of complete financial information associated with the application and review by appointed by Darren Armstrong. Karla Schapansky seconded the motion.

In further discussion, Darren Armstrong suggested given the timeline hoped for by St Luke's to complete the boiler replacement, that we approve the request to submit the loan application and request the additional financial information for review before final approval is given by the Standing Committee once the ECBF approves the loans and provides the terms of such loan.

It was determined since Chuck's motion was still on the floor, that a vote should be held. Darren Armstrong called the question. The motion failed in a 4 to 3 vote.

Darren Armstrong moved that the Standing Committee approve the request by St Luke's to submit a loan application to ECBF for funding of the cost to replace their church boiler. That a request be made to St Luke's to submit complete financial information to the Standing Committee for review prior to 2nd approval of the loan should it be granted by the ECBF. Chip Page seconded the motion.

After brief additional discussion where it was noted that the Standing Committee may withhold future approval of this loan if we are not satisfied with the review of St. Luke's financial information or if we are not satisfied with the terms of the loan, a vote was held. The motion passed by a 5 to 2 margin.

Diaconal Candidate Conversation: Chuck moved to approve Wendy McAllister's candidacy to the Deaconate. Melissa George seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Following that vote, Karla Schapansky moved to adjourn, Chip Page seconded. With all in favor the meeting was adjourned.