

## **MINUTES**

### **White & Dykman Subcommittee Standing Commission on Constitution and Canons Video Conference**

**October 14, 2014**

**PRESENT:** Joan Geiszler-Ludlum (Secretary), Larry Hitt, Steve Hutchinson, Sally Johnson, Diane Sammons (Chair), Brian Murray (Staff Support)

Diane Sammons called the meeting to order and welcomed the members to this check-in meeting. Diane reviewed the agenda which was approved.

Sally Johnson and Steve Hutchinson have posted additional drafts on Title IV. Sally posted a piece on the 1994 changes affecting priests and deacons. She is working on the 1997 amendments. Steve is working on 2009 and 2012. Steve questioned whether presenting a comparison/annotation of old and new canons is helpful without commentary because the rewrite of 2009 is so different from the previous canon. Commentary is really necessary to navigate the changes. Sally noted that she is not sure she can continue a section by section comparison. A better approach may be to deal with things topically instead of tracing canon evolution. Steve agreed that he could build on Sally's topical comparison. It is when the work moves into commentary that controversy emerges. That is where case law can be helpful.

Steve reported he met with SCCC in Salt Lake City a week ago and worked with the members on Title IV revisions. He focused on maintaining the credibility of the themes. It is possibly too soon to attempt significant amendments in response to only a handful of experiences with Title IV so far. The most significant implementation issue is the lack of training and the Church is paying a price for that failure.

Steve asked about comparison of the Blue Book version against what is adopted. How would that fit and would it be useful? Sally felt that is not a big piece of this work but that would follow the White & Dykman pattern which notes what was proposed through the Blue Book and what was enacted. Joan noted that this is the experience she is having while working on the Marriage Canon history. Steve suggested putting the Blue Book Report in an appendix instead of embedding it in the text for readability. Diane noted the availability of more information on the 2006 to 2009 development via the Blue Book. The 43 page resolution was in the appendix. It would be good to quote the Blue Book on discipline of laity and the impairment canon, both of which were deleted in the 2009 version, yet the subjects keep coming up. The Diocese of Newark is dealing with complaints of bullying of clergy by laity where the Blue Book Reports on discipline of laity have been helpful references. Steve suggested another approach might be a new canon or title on Lay Ministry.

Diane reported finding the commentary helpful, encouraged more as better than less and could be edited down as necessary, and found the overall tone a good start. She asked the primary drafters to look for areas to hand off to others for research. Steve stated his need for research of the reported cases from 2000-12. Diane suggested letting the case law subcommittee focus on that and will get an update from Mark Duffy on the case law files at Archives.

Diane asked all to review and send their comments to Sally and Steve in time for the November meeting, as well as be prepared to discuss then. Sally noted it is difficult to deal with 8 sets of comments and edits. Discussion turned to the need for a technical editor and several suggestions were offered.

Diane will pursue funding for a face to face meeting which will facilitate discussion of the drafts.

Next meeting will be November 12, 2014 at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan C. Geiszler-Ludlum  
Secretary