

MINUTES

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

January 21, 2014

Present: Bill Cathcart, Joan Geiszler-Ludlum (Secretary), Dorsey Henderson, Larry Hitt, Steve Hutchinson, Sally Johnson, Tom Little, Diane Sammons (Chair).

Chair Diane Sammons called the meeting to order at 4:06 pm and called upon Dorsey Henderson for opening prayer. The meeting began with a brief check-in among the members.

Tom Little will post the notes from the previous conference call of November 19, 2013.

Diane Sammons began the discussion with a funding update. The Board of Directors of the Episcopal Chancellors Network has authorized \$12,000 to fund a face to face meeting of the White & Dykman Subcommittee in 2014.

Diane has spoken with Mark Duffy who reported he is working on a funding proposal for digitizing the Archives which he is preparing to present to Executive Council. He reported that there are funds available but the source is unclear. He is optimistic about the funding prospects. Steve Hutchinson, a member of Executive Council, is expecting lively discussion of new funding requests and priorities since there is an unexpected surplus available.

1994 and 1997 Commentary

Sally Johnson has posted a draft sample on Statute of Limitations issues as a sample Commentary. She reworked the November draft to separate canonical changes from commentary. The draft was well-received as to tone, depth and form. There was agreement to wait on detailed edits for style and continuity until more sections are drafted. Steve Hutchinson reported there are now four cartons of materials from the Title IV Task Force, covering 2000-2012 Title IV revisions, available. He suggested a comparison chart of the major changes along with analysis of the content of each Canon and commentary on why the changes were made might be more helpful than comparisons between the 1994 and 2009 revisions. There was agreement to focus on major themes, such as the list of offenses, intake process, use of Reference Panels, statutes of limitation.

Case Law

Diane Sammons reported that Mark Duffy has a three-step plan to digitize the case files he has received. April is the current target date for completion. The current budget of \$5,000 is adequate for what he has received. His staff will do the first pass on

prioritizing the case materials, which is then open for input from this Subcommittee. Sally Johnson recommended emphasizing the more recent cases and focus on the Court of Review cases. Sally will send a list to Diane of her thoughts on important cases for first attention.

Tom Little has sent a request by e-mail to Bob Royce, requesting an electronic or digital copy of his revisions of Titles II and V which SCCC reviewed in 2007 or 2008. As of this meeting, he had not heard back from Bob. Sally will check with Anne Karoly about any copy she might have. Tom can make the edited version he has available to the Subcommittee for review, scan and publication by Archives.

(Larry Hitt left the meeting at 5:06 pm.)

The Subcommittee reviewed the letter to Chancellors, drafted by Bill Cathcart on behalf of SCCC, seeking identification of cases tried to decision or considered by the Court of Review. Discussion of the effect of confidentiality agreements in Orders, whether pre-1994 cases should be included, and inclusion of dismissals as a judgment followed. This discussion led to agreement that the goal is all orders and decisions by Ecclesiastical Trial Courts and Courts of Review under new (post 1994). Bill advised that the goal of the letter is to identify cases and where the files may be found. Decisions on what to archive will come later. Bill will revise the letter to provide more introduction of the Subcommittee by identifying the members and clarifying the context for the case law work and post the revised letter for further review.

(Tom Little left the meeting at 5:22 pm.)

Discussion turned to renunciation/abandonment/involuntary renunciation proceedings which affect bishops only as there is no such process for priests or deacons. There was also discussion of reaching out to Bishops to coordinate with Chancellors, including retired bishops.

Process for Future Annotations

Diane Sammons posted a draft Process for Timely Annotation, dated January 20, which is still circulating for review. She will place it on the next agenda for review and discussion. She invited anyone to send comments back to her.

Next meeting will be in mid to late March. A face to face meeting in September/October was discussed, perhaps in conjunction with SCCC.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan C. Geiszler-Ludlum
Secretary