

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

AUGUST 3, 2017

1:00 P.M. EDT

ADOBE CONNECT

I. Meeting Convenes

- A. In Attendance: Melodie Woerman, Brian Taylor, Christopher Hayes, Gia Hayes-Martin, Debby Stokes, Joan Geiszler-Ludlum, Jordan Hylden, Philip Dinwiddie, Ruth Meyers, Susan Russell, Caryle Hughes, Drew Keane, Tom Ely.
- B. Called to order: 1:07pm ET
- C. Opening Prayer: Caryle Hughes

II. June 29 Meeting Minutes approved to be posted.

III. Academic Working Group Report

- A. We have received 10 Individual Responses from a variety of persons.
 - 1. Overwhelmingly positive with a number of nuances and suggestions.
 - 2. Lots of appreciation especially for the essay on Race and Culture.
 - 3. Working Group will meet next week to plan work to be done before our next face-to-face meeting.
 - 4. Two concerns that we have:
 - (1) No responses have been received from US-based persons of color.
 - (2) No responses have been received from a more conservative perspective.
 - 5. Questions and Comments
 - a) Any response from UBE? No.
 - b) Suggestions for people to be invited to respond:
 - (1) Sandy Wilson
 - (2) Byron Rushing
 - (3) Broderick Greer
 - (4) Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows
 - (5) Jordan Hylden has some ideas of who else could be invited to give responses.

6. A Question for the Task Force — A seminary faculty person is interested in using some of the questions that we generated in our material. She would like our approval. Since we don't yet have a final form of the essays or of the questions we're seeking the wisdom of the Task Force about how to respond.
 - a) After some discussion it is suggested that she paraphrase the questions and not reference the Task Force. This approach is agreed to be the best way forward.

IV. Pastoral Working Group

- A. Work continues. Will be ready to share materials and fully participate at our face-to-face meeting later this month.

V. Ecclesial Working Group

- A. Ninety-three have approved these liturgies for trial use. Twenty of those dioceses have added conditions for use (for example vestry approval or informing the bishop) and eight dioceses have not approved — they have a variety of ways that they are interpreting and carrying out the charge to “make provision for all couples asking to be married in this Church to have access to these liturgies.”
 1. The data on how these eight dioceses are making provision is incomplete. Some is anecdotal, some from people negatively affected by the policy. This will be on the agenda at our face-to-face this month, so we can discuss how to approach this aspect of the work.
- B. The working group has identified a sample of congregations to seek from them specific information about their experience with these liturgies. These congregations have a deadline of August 15 to get back to the working group. Respondents and the congregations will be kept confidential.
- C. We are also surveying the broader church about the impact of these liturgies on them. This working group has drafted a letter inviting responses.
 1. A lengthy discussion concluded that a single broad question seems most appropriate. The working group will meet this week to discuss this question and edit the letter. They will share the product of that meeting with the Task Force for responses.

VI. Deputies

- A. Submit requests for legislative committees by August 7.
- B. We have been reminded that there is no guarantee that anyone will be appointed to any particular committee, as committees will be smaller than in the past.
- C. The work of this Task Force will likely be taken up by the SCLM legislative committee, because our primary product requiring action looks like it will be liturgical.

VII. SCLM Survey

- A. Received hundreds of responses monitoring feedback on the rites. 60% clergy, 40% lay. Less than 5% by couples who have been married using these liturgies. 55% had the rite authorized in their dioceses. 19% did not know if they were authorized or not. 52% said rites had not been used in their parish.
- B. There is much more data. See the spreadsheet shared on the extranet earlier this summer.
- C. A summary of the survey will be posted on the extranet.
- D. What do we expect SCLM will do with this survey data?
 - 1. At this time there appears to be no intention to propose any resolutions on this matter.
- E. REVISION: Specific suggestions to revise these rites could appropriately come from us. This may not be necessary, but we should look carefully at this data to see if there are areas we believe revision should be proposed.

VIII. Loose Ends

- A. Tom, Susan, and Ruth will compose an explanation for the resolution they have been working on, to have a draft ready for our August face-to-face.
- B. Look for further materials to be shared in the month leading up to our late August Meeting

Adjourned: 2:11 p.m. ET with a prayer by Debbie Stokes

Respectfully Submitted,
The Rev. Philip Dinwiddie, Secretary